

**Unit
3**

Language

Cultural Geography

The following information corresponds to Chapters 8, 9 and 10 in your textbook. Fill in the blanks to complete the definition or sentence. Note: All of the following information in addition to your reading is important, not just the blanks you fill in.

A Geography of Language

- _____ = a systematic means of communicating ideas or feelings by the use of conventionalized signs, gestures, marks, or especially articulate vocal sounds.
- _____ use symbolic calls, but only humans have developed complex vocal communication systems.



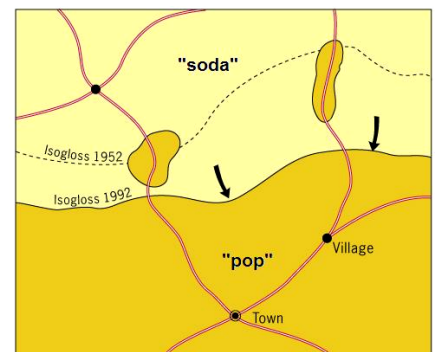
- Without written language, _____ could be transmitted from one generation to another, but there would be no foundation for cultural preservation for longer than one generation.
- * Language is a function of society's view of what constitutes a cultural community – certainly influenced by history and politics (e.g. ability of the Chinese to build and sustain a state of speakers of different languages (but similar Sino-Tibetan tongues) is why we often consider Chinese to be one language).

- _____ = variant of a language that a country's political and intellectual elite seek (or sought) to promote as the norm for use in 1) government, 2) schools, 3) the media, and 4) in other areas.
- _____ = a regional variance of a standard language; differences may be found in 1) vocabulary, 2) _____ (the way words are put together to form phrases), 3) pronunciation, 4) _____ (the rhythm of speech), and even 5) the pace of speech.

- _____ = a geographic boundary within which a particular linguistic feature occurs.

Language Classification and Distribution

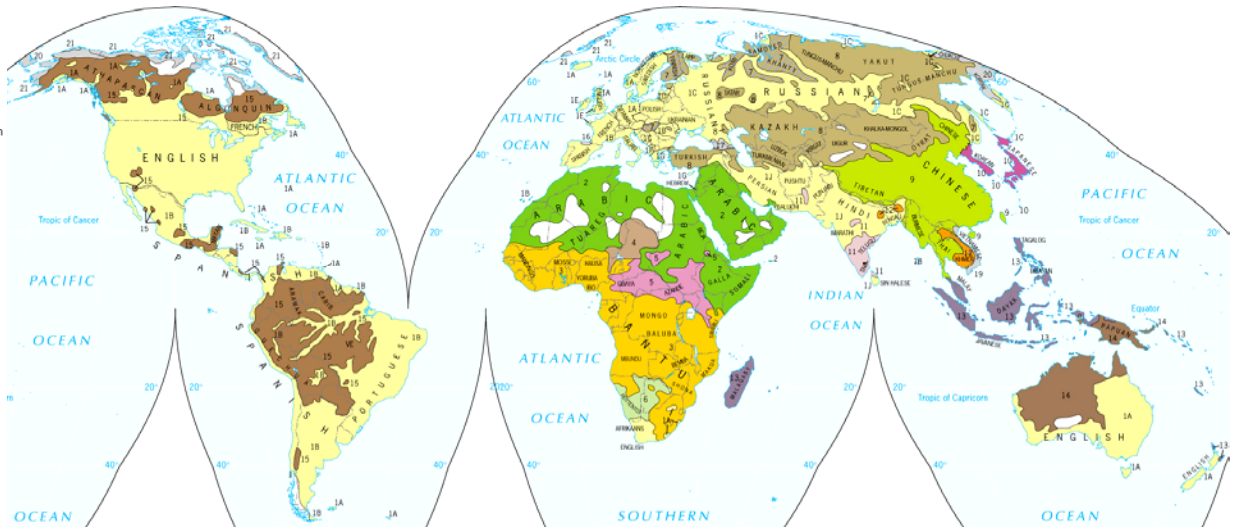
- Language _____ are thought to have a shared, but distant, origin;
- Language _____ have a more definite commonality;
- These subfamilies are divided into language _____, which consist of sets of individual languages.



Language Family	Major Language	Location
		Americas, Europe, Southwest Asia, Australia, South Africa
		China, Southeast Asia
		Japan, Korea
		North Africa, Arabian Peninsula
		India
		Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Madagascar
		Russia, Northern Asia, Finland, Turkey
		Sub-Saharan Africa

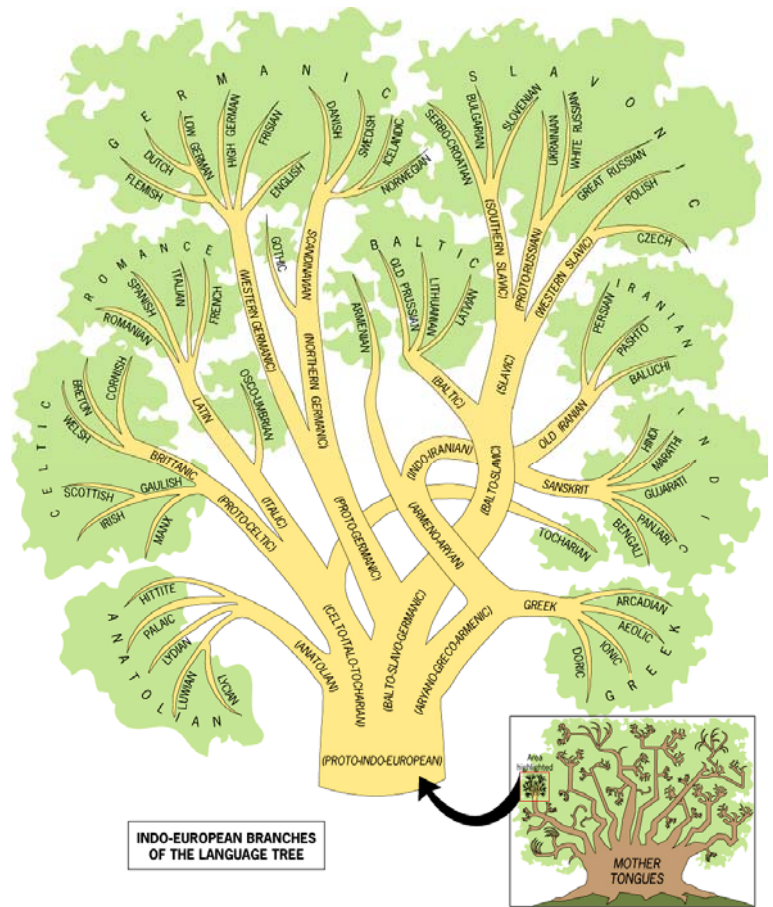
LANGUAGE FAMILIES OF THE WORLD

- 1 INDO-EUROPEAN
A Germanic B Romance C Slavic
D Baltic E Celtic F Albanian
G Greek H Armenian J Indo-Iranian
- 2 AFRO-ASIATIC
- 3 NIGER-CONGO
- 4 SAHARAN
- 5 SUDANIC
- 6 KHOISAN
- 7 URALIC
- 8 ALTAIC
- 9 SINO-TIBETAN
- 10 JAPANESE AND KOREAN
- 11 DRAVIDIAN
- 12 AUSTRO-ASIATIC
- 13 MALAY-POLYNESIAN
- 14 PAPIUAN AND AUSTRALIAN
- 15 AMERICAN INDIAN



Diffusion of Languages

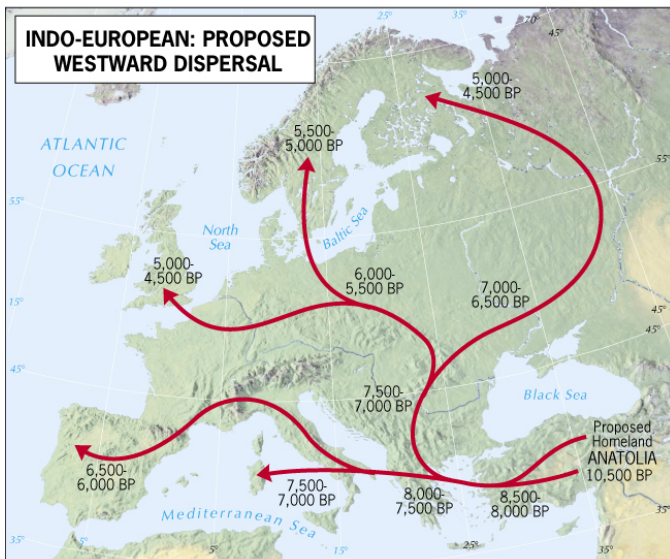
- _____ - one way of charting the diversification of languages over time (e.g. octo (Latin), otto (Italian), ocho (Spanish), huit (French), ... eight (English)); this is known as _____.
- _____ - observed that Sanskrit was closely related to ancient Greek & Latin (late 1700s)
- _____ - observed that related languages have similar (but not identical) consonants (1800s); they soften over time (e.g. vater (Ger) ... vader (Dut), father (Eng)).
- Several research tasks followed: 1) _____ the ancient language, 2) locate the _____, 3) identify the routes of _____, and 4) attempt to learn about the people's ways of _____.
- Language _____ - differentiation over time and space; languages branch into dialects, become isolated, then new languages develop.
- Language _____ - when long-isolated languages made contact; linked to human mobility (relocation diffusion); complicates the rules of reconstruction.
- Language _____ - modification or supplanting of a language by stronger cultures (acculturation); Ex) Hungarian surrounded by Indo-European, what proto language gave rise to Basque spoken around northern Spain is unknown (?)
- Linguists look for _____ clues in the vocabulary (landforms, vegetation,...).



INDO-EUROPEAN BRANCHES OF THE LANGUAGE TREE



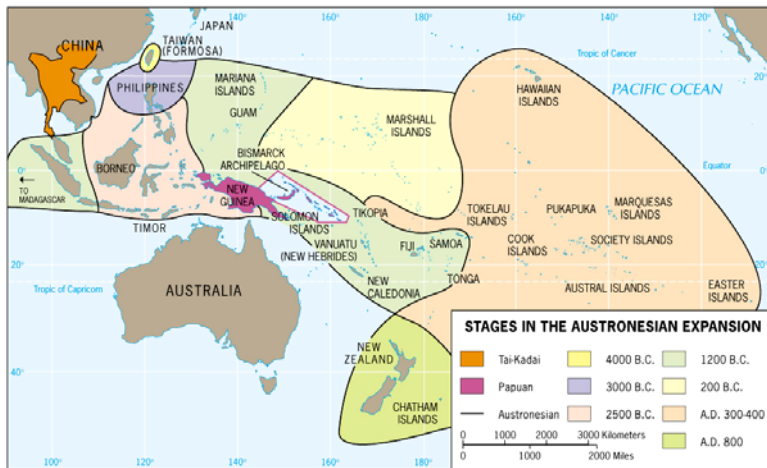
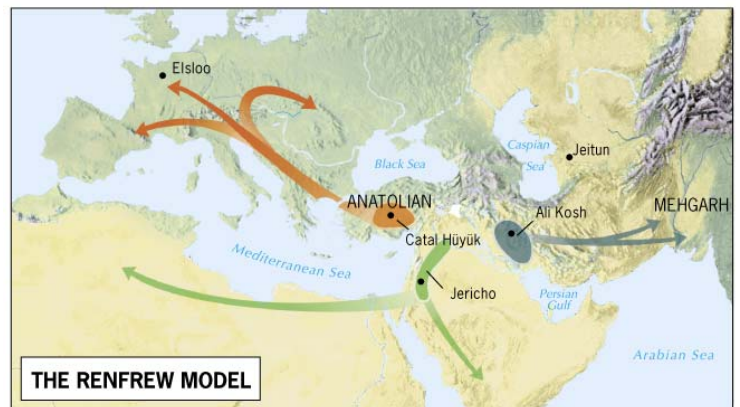
Diffusion of the Proto-Indo-European Language



- _____ theory: the hearth was modern-day Ukraine (>5,000 yrs. ago); people used horses, wheel, and trade, spread language westward toward Western Europe.
- _____ theory: the hearth was Anatolia (Turkey - >10,000 yrs. ago); Ukraine relied on nomadic pastoralism, not farming; more words for mountains and other high-relief landforms (few for plains); leading hearth for agriculture was Mesopotamia.
- Drawbacks: Anatolia was not ideal for farming, some evidence states Proto-Indo-European language spread eastward first (then westward into Europe)

The Search for a Superfamily

- _____ - a pre-Proto-Indo-European language hypothesized by Russian scholars, speakers were hunters-gatherers (no words for domesticated plants), source of many other language families as well
- _____ Model - proposes that three source areas of agriculture each gave rise to a great language family.



Diffusion to the Pacific and the Americas

- Diffusion to the Pacific originated from coastal _____ where farming was well established.
- The speed of _____ and simultaneous _____ of languages is remarkable considering the water-fragmented nature of the Pacific realm.
- The Americas are dominated by _____ - _____ languages (colonialism).

* There still remain many gaps in our knowledge of this region (Americas).

- If you accept the _____ land-bridge hypothesis (first Americans crossed over from Asia during the last ice age), it appears the American languages diverged into the most intricately divided branch of the language tree (may be more than 200 Native American language families).
- _____ - Joseph Greenberg proposed there are only three families of indigenous American languages in 1987. 1) _____ - the superfamily; most widely distributed, 2) _____ - was spoken in what is now NW Canada, Alaska & US Southwest, 3) _____ - concentrated along the Arctic (not totally proven).



Influences on Individual Languages

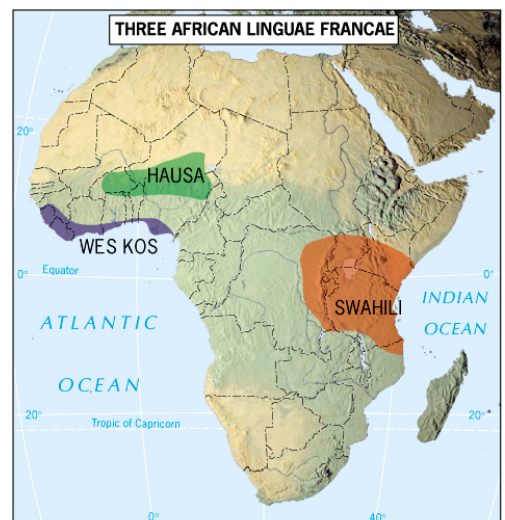
- Three fundamental forces have influenced the world's linguistic mosaic: _____ (texts are the primary means by which language can become stabilized), _____ (influences production of texts and the interaction of distant peoples), and _____ (affects both what people have access to and which areas are in close contact with one another).
- Two developments in the late Middle Ages were key in developing the modern language pattern:
 - 1) Johannes Gutenberg invented the movable-type _____ around 1450; allowed for an unprecedented production of written texts (e.g. Gutenberg Bible)
 - 2) The rise of _____ - _____ was important because they had a strong interest in promoting a common culture (more unity), and asserted their interests in faraway places at times (colonialism).

Language and Culture

- _____ are now the largest minority in the U.S. (according to the latest statistics); more than half are functionally _____ (many early immigrants in the 1800s were as well).
- There has been a growing interest in establishing English as the _____ language of the U.S.
- _____ = an artificial tongue that was developed in the early 1900s based on Latin and a combination of other European languages; attempt to bring cultures together (was even endorsed by the League of Nations); failed because it lacked a practical _____, and because it was actually another _____ - _____ language (not a global tongue).

Creolization

- _____ = "Frankish language"; traders from southern France (Franks) revitalized trade in the Mediterranean after the Crusades; began a process of convergence of several languages (e.g. French, Italian, Arabic,...); today it denotes any common language spoken by people of different native tongues.
- _____ = a lingua franca that has been simplified and modified through contact w/ other languages (e.g. English speakers met with speakers of African languages in the Caribbean - pidgin English).
- _____ = over time a pidgin may become the mother tongue of a region, becoming a lingua franca, and is referred to as a creole language.



Multilingualism

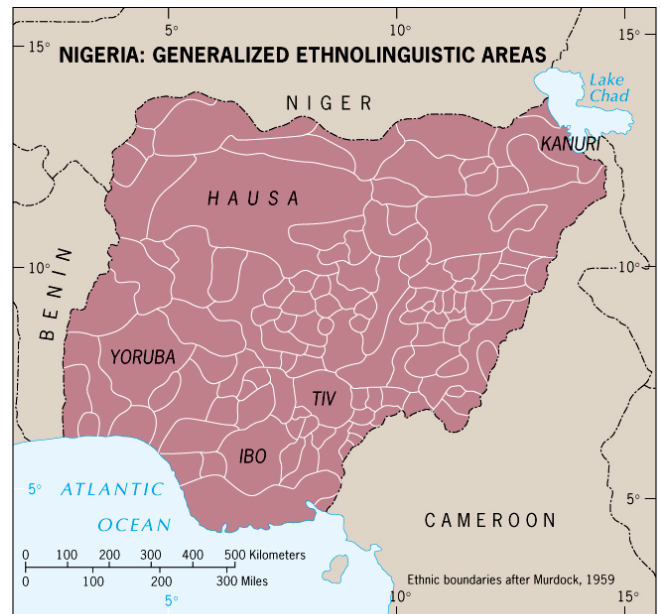


- Only a few _____ states (e.g. Japan, Venezuela, Iceland, Portugal, Poland, Lesotho)
- In bilingual Canada, regional divisions can be found between _____ and the rest of the country.
- The _____ have been diligent in passing several language laws (e.g. French signs, menus,...).
- 1995 - came within a few thousand votes of seceding from the rest of Canada.

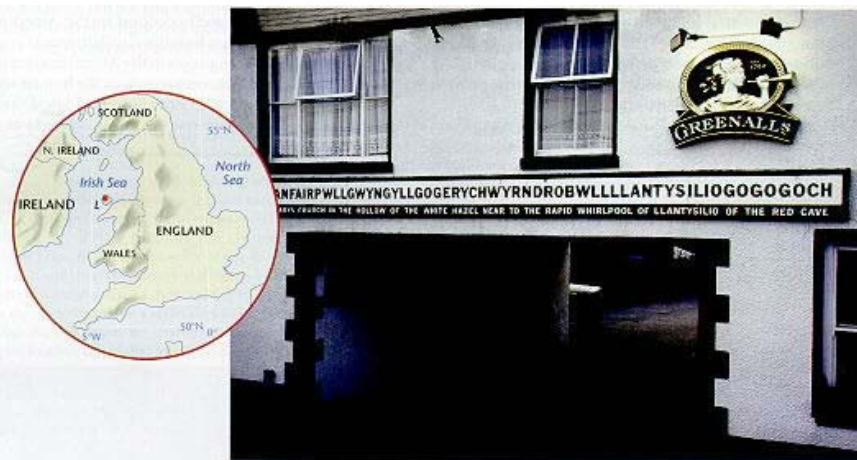


- Belgium is divided into a _____-speaking region in the north (Flanders) and a _____-speaking region in the south (Wallonia), with _____, the capital, officially bilingual.
- The existence of the separate language communities actually tends to foster _____, separating the citizens of the country.
- There is some speculation that they may wish to devolve into two separate countries, much the same way _____ broke away from the _____ (the Velvet Revolution).

- Nigeria is a much more complicated case study than either Canada or Belgium. It has _____ major languages, more than a _____ major local languages, and around _____ local tongues.
- The three major languages, _____ in the north (35 million speakers), _____ in the southwest (25 million), and _____ in the southeast (20 million) – are strongly associated with regional cultures and are unsuitable as national languages.
- When Nigeria became independent, its leaders chose _____ as its official language (India did this earlier)
- _____ – often selected by the educated and politically elite to promote national cohesion; commonly language of colonial power.
- _____ – systematic study of place-names (can elicit strong passions).



- When many African and Asian colonies became _____, they changed the names of places; this has even happened recently (e.g. Bombay was changed to Mumbai).



Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogoch
– “longest place name in the world”