

Die Geographie der Sprache

La Geografía del Idioma

The Geography of Language



La Geografia di Lingua

La Géographie de Langue

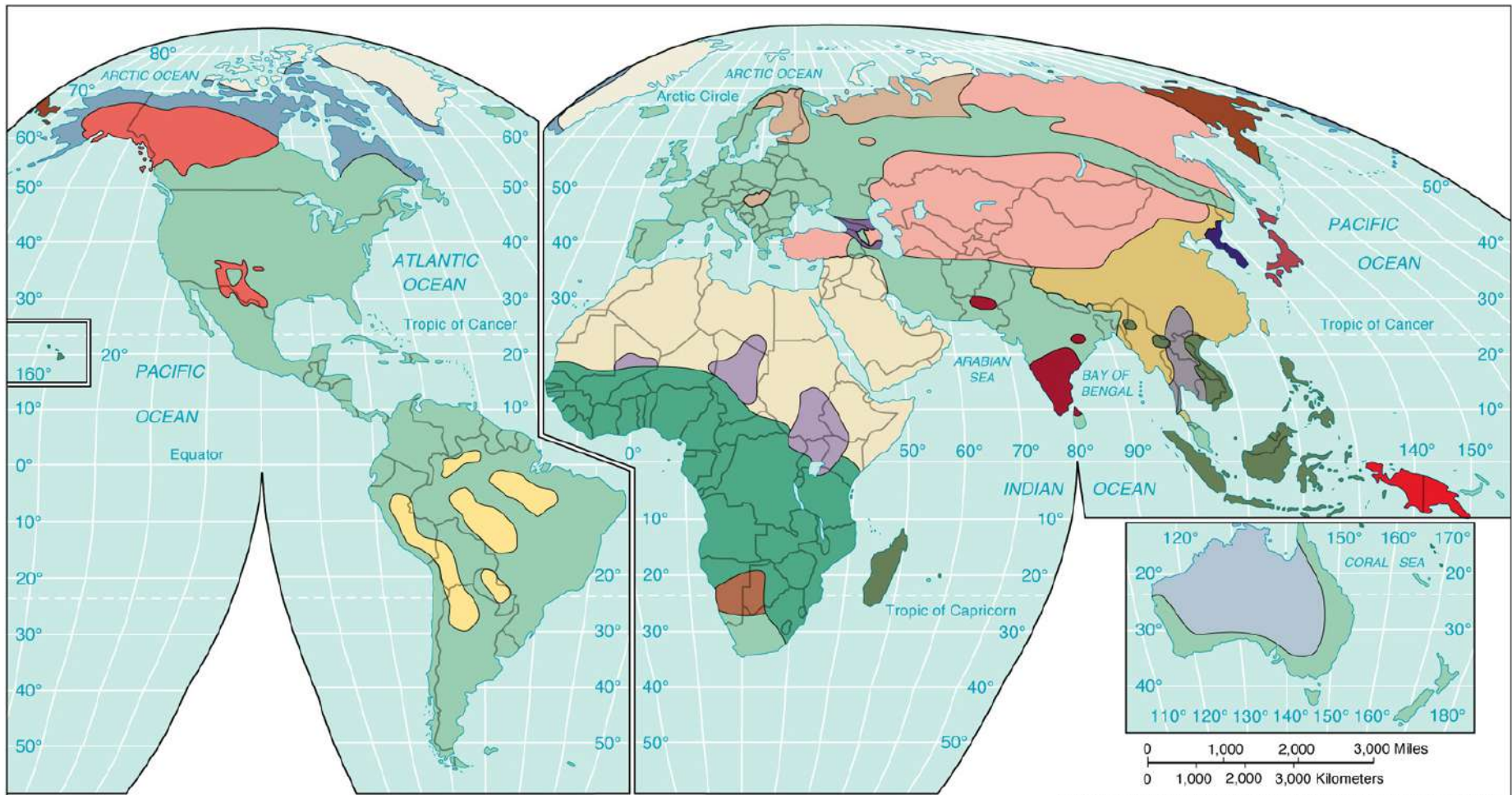
Language Overview

- Geographer's Perspective on Language (Language as Foundation of Culture)
- Linguistic Diversity
- Roots of Language
- Key Terms
- Language Divisions
- Spatial Distribution of Key Languages

Language Defined

Organized system of spoken words by which people communicate with one another with mutual comprehension (Getis, 1985).

- Languages subtly gradate one to another. **Dialects** and other regional differences may eventually lead to incomprehensibility - a new language.
- **Migration** and **Isolation** explain how a single language can later become two or more.



	Afro-Asiatic		Caucasian		Japanese		Nilo-Saharan
	Altaic		Dravidian		Khoisan		Paleosiberian
	Amerind		Eskimo-Aleut		Korean		Sino-Tibetan
	Australian-Aboriginal		Indo-European		Na-Dene		Tai
	Austronesian		Indo-Pacific		Niger-Congo		Uralic

Geographer's Perspective on Language

- Language is an essential element of culture, possibly the most important medium by which culture is transmitted.
- Languages even structure the perceptions of their speakers. Attitudes, understandings, and responses are partly determined by the words available.
- Languages are a hallmark of cultural diversity with distinctive regional distributions.

World's Leading Languages

About 50% of the planet speaks one of 12 out of the estimated 6000 languages worldwide

TABLE 7-1 The World's Leading Languages and the Number of Speakers of Each (in millions)

Language	Native speakers	Total speakers
Mandarin	885	1,075
Hindi	375	496
Spanish	358	425
English	350	514
Arabic	211	256
Bengali	210	215
Portuguese	178	194
Russian	165	275
Japanese	125	126
German	100	128
French	77	129
Malay-Indonesian	58	176

Note: A native speaker is one for whom the language is his or her first language.

Source: U.S. Department of State



English	1. Dutch	19. Sinhala
French	2. Danish	20. Nepali
Spanish	3. German	21. Dzongkha
Portuguese	4. Czech/Slovak	22. Burmese
Chinese	5. Italian	23. Thai
Turkic	6. Romansch	24. Vietnamese
Arabic	7. Catalan	25. Lao
Others (see list)	8. Hebrew/Arabic/English	26. Filipino
	9. Sango	27. Malay
	10. Swahili	28. Bahasa Indonesian
	11. Chichewa	29. Pidgin, Motu
	12. siSwati	30. Creole
	13. Georgian	31. Kurdish
	14. Armenian	32. Tamil
	15. Persian	33. French
	16. Pushtu	34. Tamazight (Berber)
	17. Hindi plus others	35. Tetum
	18. Dhivehi	

Language and Perception - Eskimo

Inuit - 10 Words or more

Words for Snow

'ice' sikko

'bare ice' tingenek

'snow (in general)' aput

'snow (like salt)' pukak

'soft deep snow' mauja

'snowdrift' tipvigut

'soft snow' massak

'watery snow' mangokpok

'snow filled with water'
massalerauvok

'soft snow' akkilokipok



West Greenlandic - 49 Words Eskimo Words for Snow

'sea-ice' siku (in plural = drift ice) 'pack-ice/large expanses of ice in motion' sikursuit, pl. (compacted drift ice/ice field = sikut iqimaniri) 'new ice' sikuliaq/sikurlaaq (solid ice cover = nutaaq.) 'thin ice' sikuaq (in plural = thin ice floes) 'rotten (melting) ice floe' sikurluk 'iceberg' iluliaq (ilulisap itsirnga = part of iceberg below waterline) '(piece of) fresh-water ice' nilak 'lumps of ice stranded on the beach' issinnirit, pl. 'glacier' (also ice forming on objects) sirmiq (sirmirsuaq = Inland Ice) 'snow blown in (e.g. doorway)' sullarniq 'rime/hoar-frost' qaqurnak/kanirniq/kaniq 'frost (on inner surface of e.g. window)' iluq 'icy mist' pujurak/pujuq kanirnartuq 'hail' nataqqurnat 'snow (on ground)' aput (aput sisurtuq = avalanche) 'slush (on ground)' aput masannartuq 'snow in air/falling' qaniit (qanik = snowflake) 'air thick with snow' nittaalaq (nittaallat, pl. = snowflakes; nittaalaq nalliuttigattaartuq = flurries) 'hard grains of snow' nittaalaaqqat, pl. 'feathery clumps of falling snow' qanipalaat 'new fallen snow' apirlaat 'snow crust' pukak 'snowy weather' qannirsuq/nittaatsuq 'snowstorm' pirsuq/pirsirsursuaq 'large ice floe' iluitsuq 'snowdrift' apusiniq 'ice floe' puttaaq 'hummocked ice/pressure ridges in pack ice' maniillat/ingunirit, pl. 'drifting lump of ice' kassuq (dirty lump of glacier-calved ice = anarluk) 'ice-foot (left adhering to shore)' qaannuq 'icicle' kusugaq 'opening in sea ice' imarnirsaq/ammaniq (open water amidst ice = imaviaq) 'lead (navigable fissure) in sea ice' quppaq 'rotten snow/slush on sea' qinuq 'wet snow falling' imalik 'rotten ice with streams forming' aakkarniq 'snow patch (on mountain, etc.)' aputitaq 'wet snow on top of ice' putsinniq/puvvinniq 'smooth stretch of ice' manirak (stretch of snow-free ice = quasaliaq) 'lump of old ice frozen into new ice' tuaq 'new ice formed in crack in old ice' nutarniq 'bits of floating' naggutit, pl. 'hard snow' mangiggal/mangikaajaaq 'small ice floe (not large enough to stand on)' masaaraq 'ice swelling over partially frozen river, etc. from water seeping up to the surface' siirsinniq 'piled-up ice-floes frozen together' tiggunnirit 'mountain peak sticking up through inland ice' nunataq 'calved ice (from end of glacier)' uukkarnit 'edge of the (sea) ice' sinaaq

Language as Element of Cultural Diversity

- 6000+ Languages spoken today, not including dialects
- 1500+ Spoken in Sub-Saharan Africa alone
- 400+ in New Guinea alone
- 100+ in Europe

However, this diversity is diminishing:

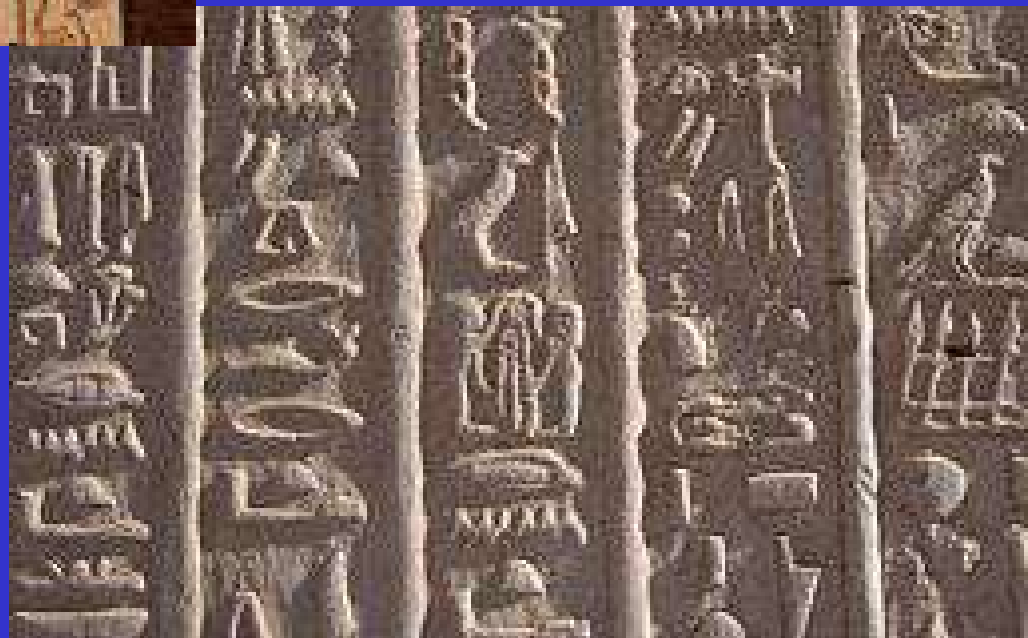
- 2000+ Threatened or Endangered Languages

Roots of Language

- **Spoken Languages**
 - **Origins? Evidence?**
 - **Competitive Value for Culture?**
- **Written Languages**
 - **Value for Culture?**
 - **Sumerian 3000 B.C., Mesopotamia (Iraq)**
 - **Soon also the Assyrians, Babylonians, Hittites.**
 - **Libraries established by 2500 B.C. (more than 200,000 of the tablets have been preserved.**
 - **Connection to Neolithic Revolution?**



How to Write Down a Language?



How to Write Down a Language?

Ideograms

- Sumerian, Chinese, Egyptian, Japanese

Phonetic

- Most languages

Urdu in Arabic script

Greek

Japanese

Malayalam in
Dravidian script

Hindi in Devanagari script

Korean

Hebrew

Russian in Cyrillic script

Chinese

From basic characters:



Sun



Person



White, clear (Sun peeping out)



Big (person with arms extended)



Heaven (above the biggest person)



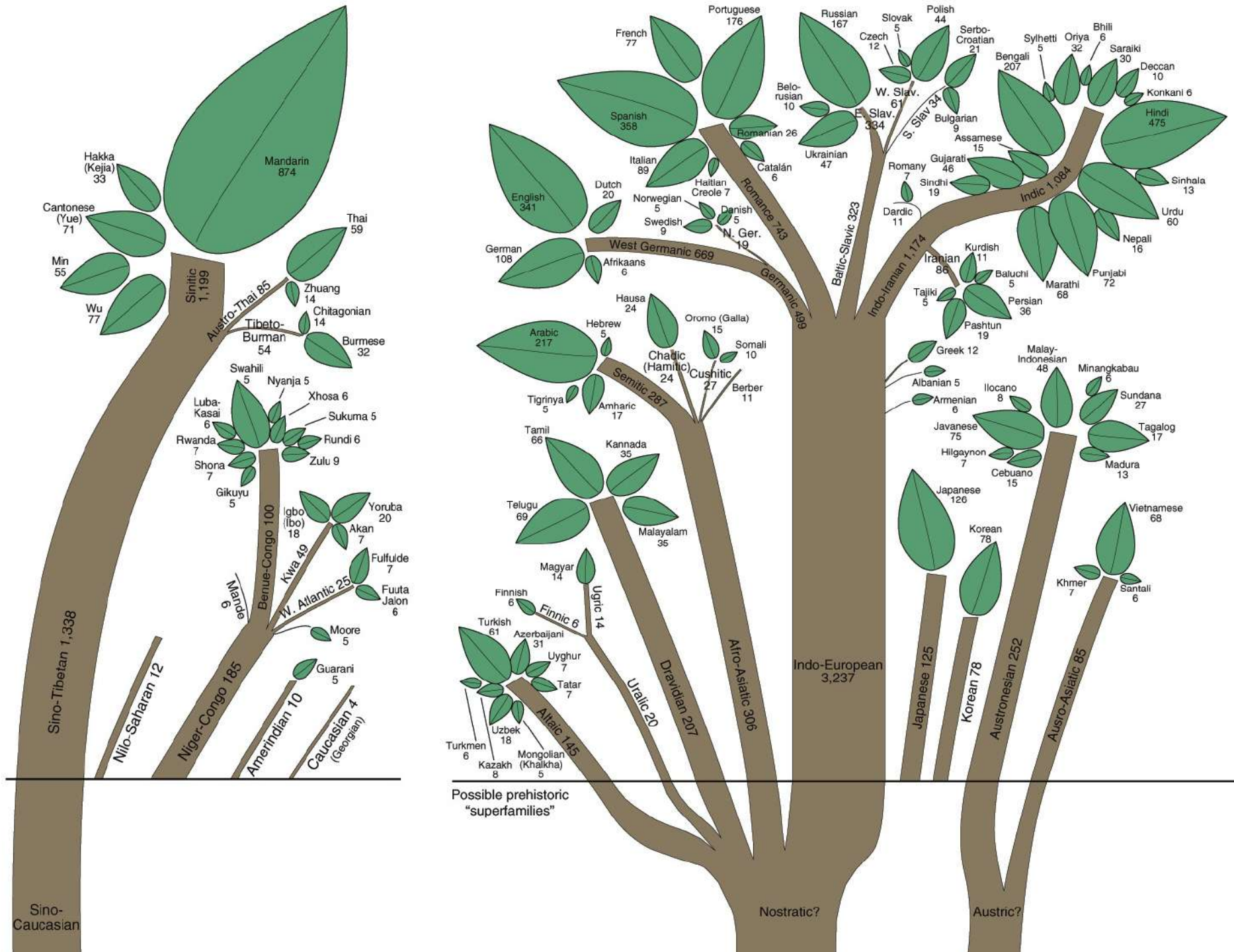
White person



Daytime (clear and heaven)

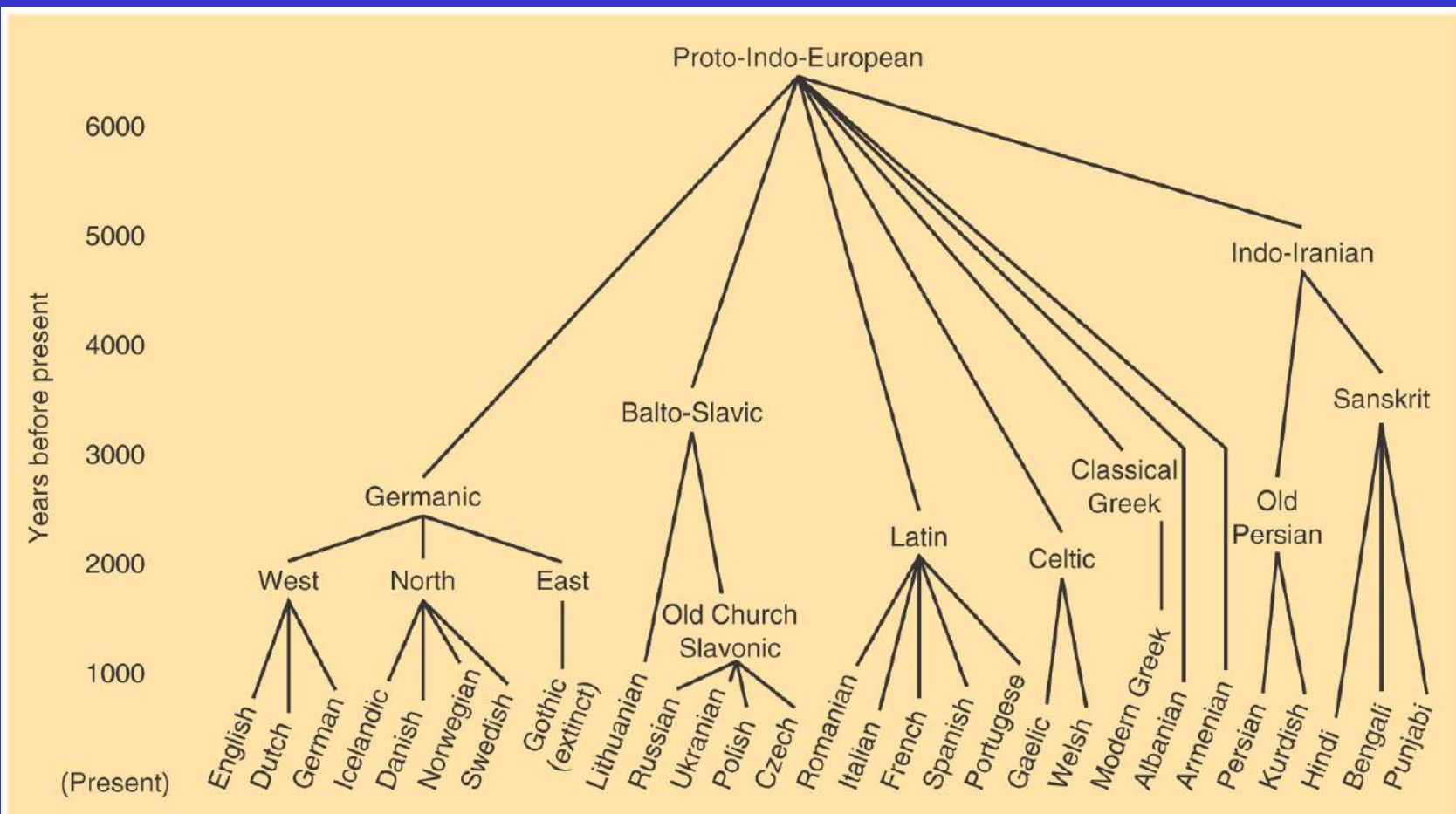


Daytime (clear and Sun)



Language Divisions

- Language Families
- Language Branches
- Language Groups
- Languages
- Dialects
- Accents



Language Divisions for English

- Language Families
 - Indo-European
- Language Branches
 - Germanic
- Language Groups
 - West Germanic
- Languages
 - English
- Dialects
 - Northeastern
- Accents
 - Boston (Pak da ka o-fa dere, please!)

Which languages share a common ancestor?

Some Indo-European Shared Words

English	Sanskrit	Greek	Latin	Armenian	Old Irish	Lithuanian
me	mam	eme	me	is	-	mane
father	pitar	pater	pater	hayr	athair	-
mother	matar	mater	mater	mayr	mathair	motina
brother	bhratar	-	frater	elbayr	brathair	brolis
daughter	duhitar	thugater-	-	dustr	-	dukter
cow	gav-	bous	bos	kov	bo	guovs(Latv)
eoh (OE)	asvas	hippos	equus	-	ech	asva, mare
hound	svan	kuon	canis	sun	con	sun
foot	pad	pod-	ped-	otn	-	-
new	navas	ne(w)os	novus	nor	nue	naujas
bears	bharati	pherei	fert	bere	berid	-
two	duva	duo	duo	erku	do	du
three	trayas	treis	tres	erek	tri	trys

Many Indo-European languages have common words for snow, winter, spring; for dog, horse, cow, sheep bear but not camel, lion, elephant, or tiger; for beech, oak, pine, willow, but not palm or banyan tree.

Indo-European Language Family (50% of World)

Main Branches:

- **Germanic**
 - Dutch, German
- **Romance**
 - Spanish, French
- **Baltic-Slavic**
 - Russian
- **Indo-Iranian**
 - Hindu, Bengali



Indo-European Language Family - Germanic Branch

West Germanic

- English (514 million)
- German (128)
- Dutch (21)

East Germanic

- Danish (5)
- Norwegian (5)
- Swedish (9)



Germanic Branch - Icelandic

Iceland colonized by Norwegians in AD 874.

Largely unchanged because of isolation.

Highly developed literary tradition.
Ancient sagas can be read by modern speakers of Icelandic.



Germanic Branch - English

Diffused throughout the world by hundreds of years of British colonialism. Brought to New World by British colonies in 1600s. Has become an important global *lingua franca*.



Development of English

Germanic Tribes (Germany/Denmark)

- Jutes
- Angles
- Saxons

Vikings (Norway)

- 9th - 11th Centuries

Normans (French)

- Battle of Hastings, 1066
- French was official language for 150 years.





Development of English - Adopted Words

Germanic Tribes (Germany/Denmark)

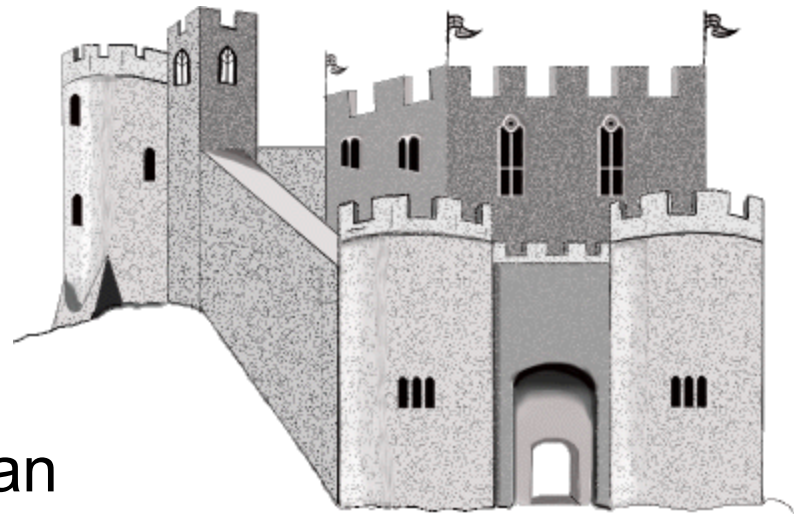
- kindergarten, angst, noodle, pretzel

Vikings (Norway)

- take, they, reindeer, window

Normans (French)

- renaissance, mansion, village, guardian



Indo-European Language Family - Romance Branch

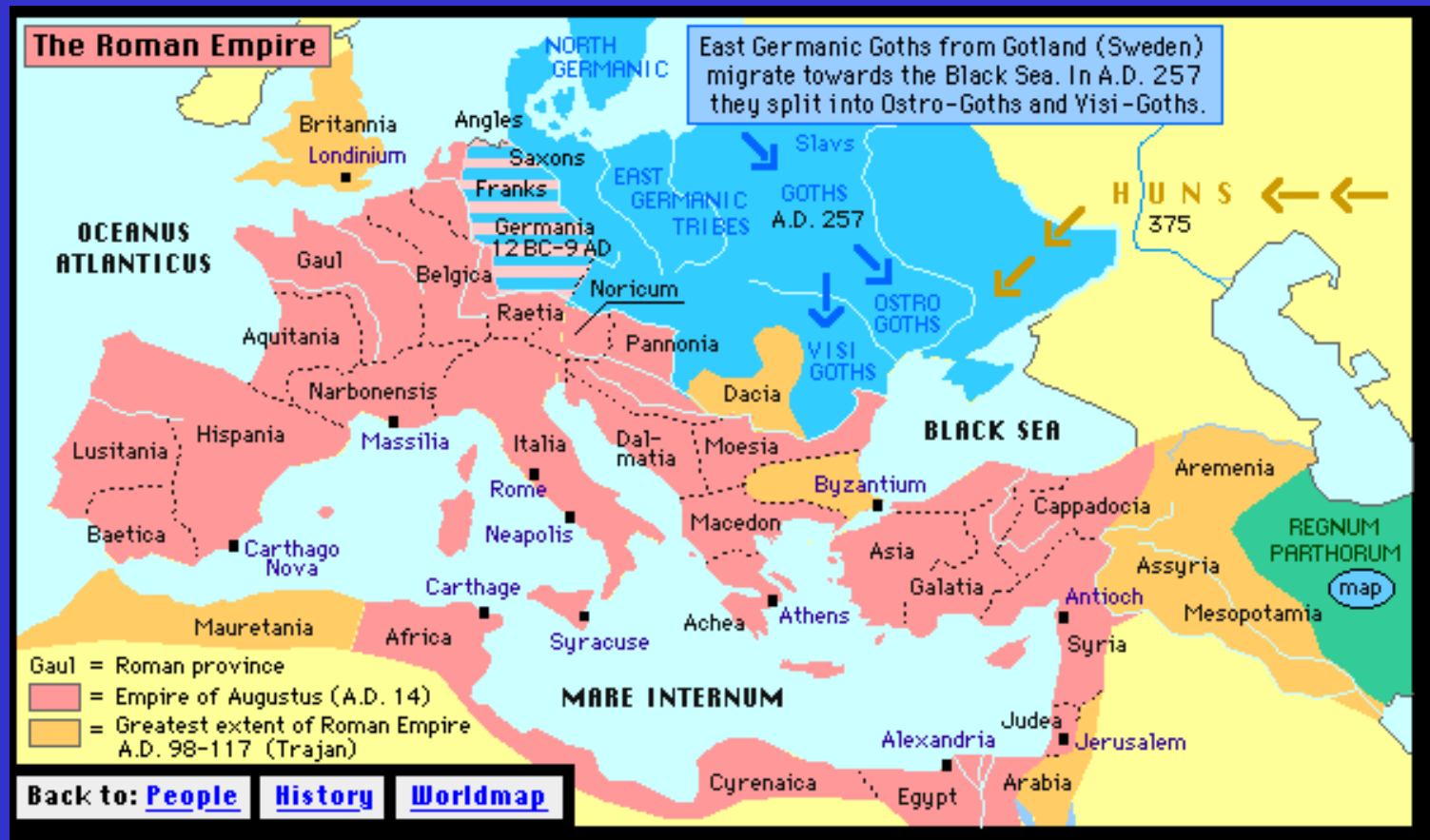
Like English these languages have been spread by Colonialism.

- Spanish (425 million)
- Portuguese (194) - most in Brazil
- French (129)
- Italian (62)
- Romanian (26)



Indo-European Family - Romance Branch

The Roman Empire, at its height in 2nd century A.D., extinguished many local languages. After the fall of Rome in the 5th century, communication declined and languages evolved again.



Literature was all written in Latin until the 13th and 14th centuries.

- Dante Alighieri's 1314 *Inferno* written in **vulgar latin** (Florentine).

Sino-Tibetan Language Family (20%)

Branches:

- **Sinitic**
 - Mandarin (1075), Cantonese (71),
- **Austro-Thai (77)**
 - Thai, Hmong
- **Tibeto-Burman**
 - Burmese (32)



- SINO-TIBETAN**
- Mandarin
 1. Northern
 2. Eastern
 3. Southwestern
 - Southern
 1. Wu
 2. Gan
 3. Xiang
 4. Min
 5. Hakka
 6. Yue

- INDO-EUROPEAN**
- Tajik

- AUSTRO-ASIATIC**
- Mon-Khmer

ALTAI

- Turkic
 1. Kazakh
 2. Uygur
 3. Kirghiz

- Mongolian
- Manchu-Tungus
- Korean

Chinese languages based on 420 one syllable words with meaning inferred from context and tone.

Language Families of Africa

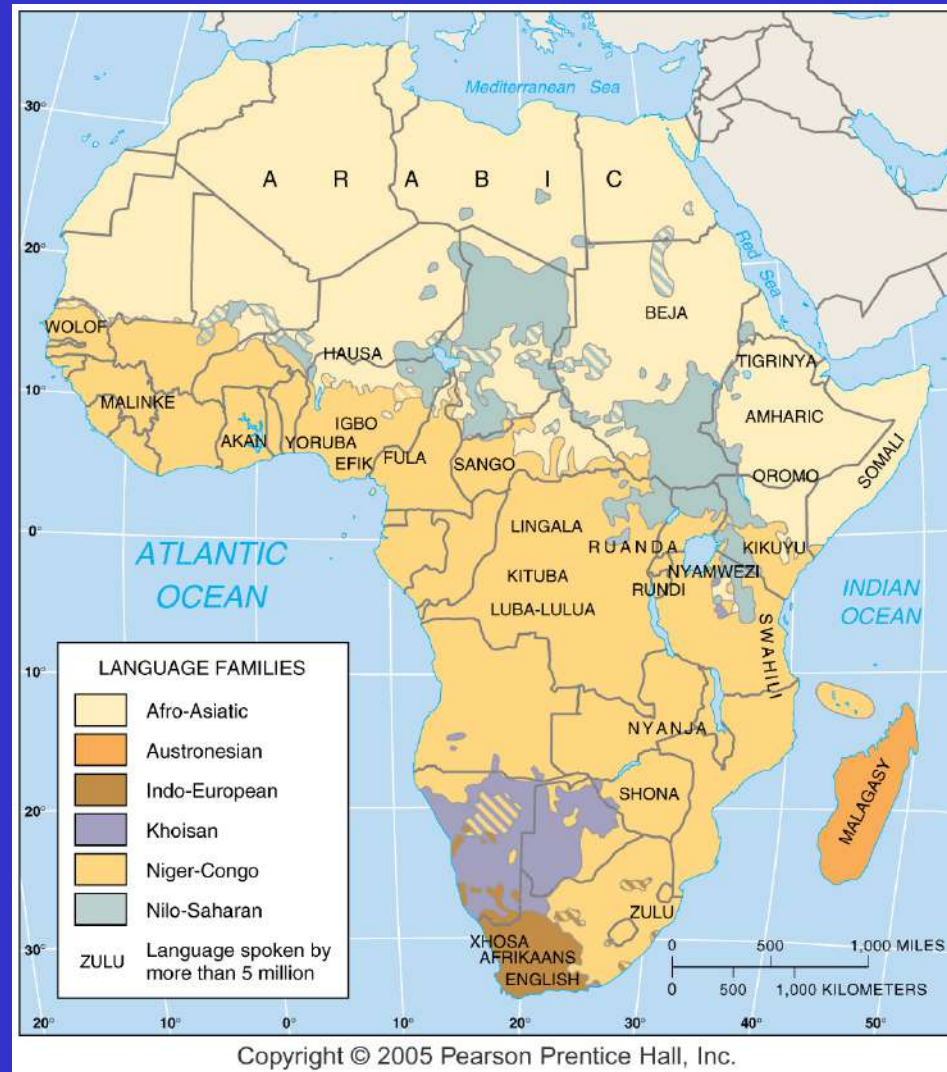


Fig. 5-14: The 1,000 or more languages of Africa are divided among five main language families, including Austronesian languages in Madagascar.

Afro-Asiatic Language Family

Main Branch:

Semitic

- Arabic(256)

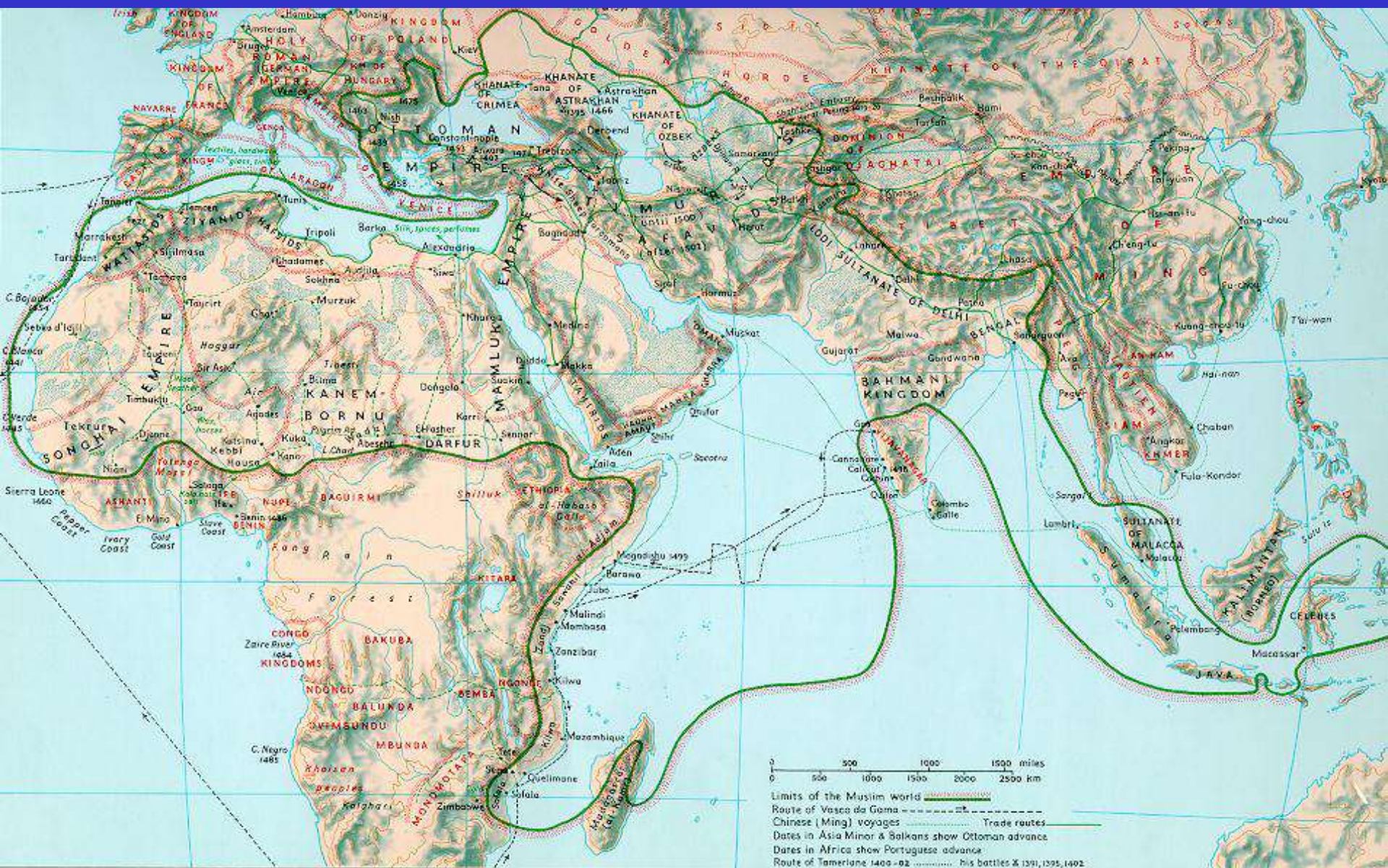
Language of the Koran;
spread by Islamic Faith and
Islamic (Ottoman) Empires

- Hebrew (5)

Language of the old
Testament (with Aramaic);
completely revived from
extinction in Israel, 1948.



Islamic World circa A.D. 1500



Niger-Congo Diffusion

- proto-Bantu peoples originated in Cameroon-Nigeria

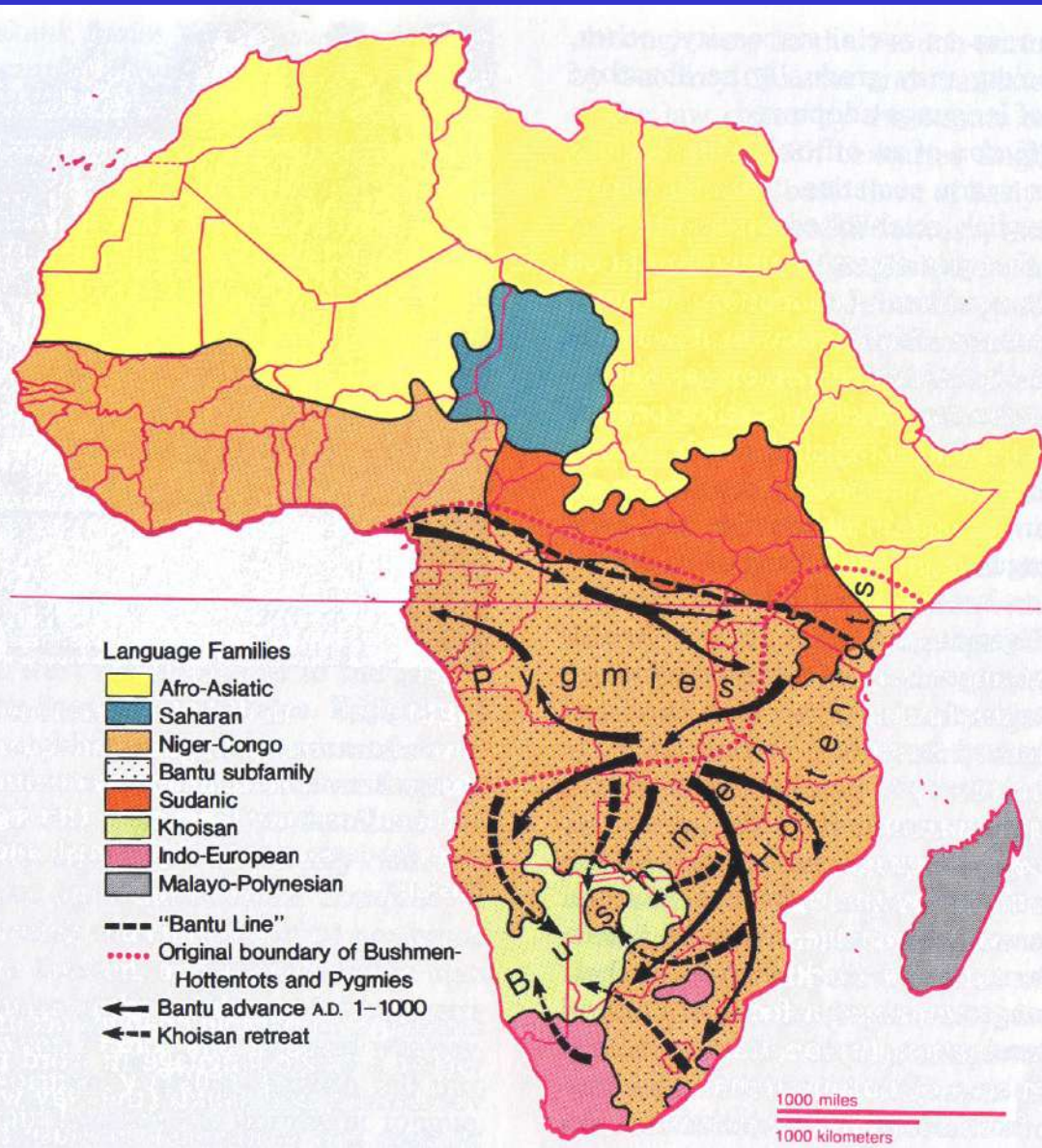
- They spread throughout southern Africa AD 1 - 1000

- Bantu peoples were agriculturalists who used metal tools

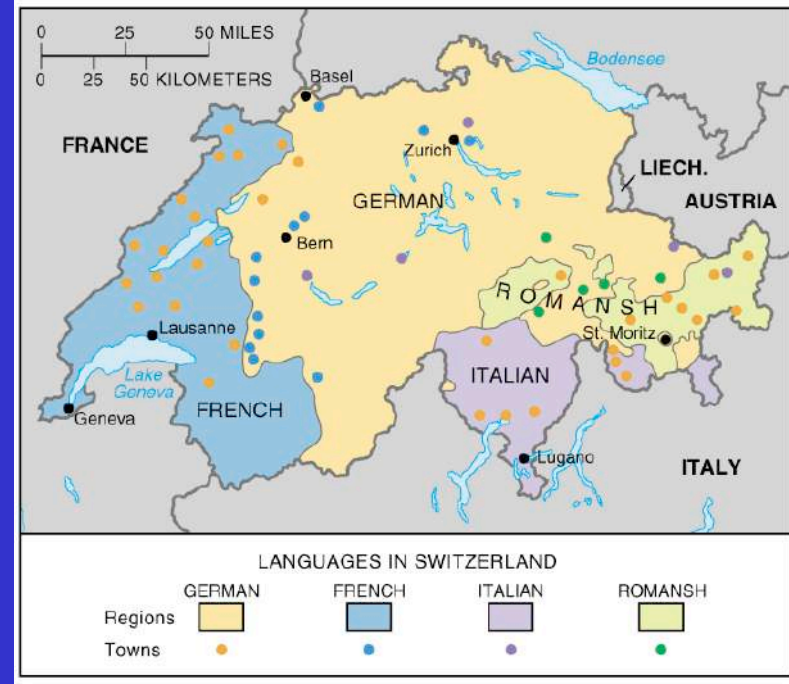
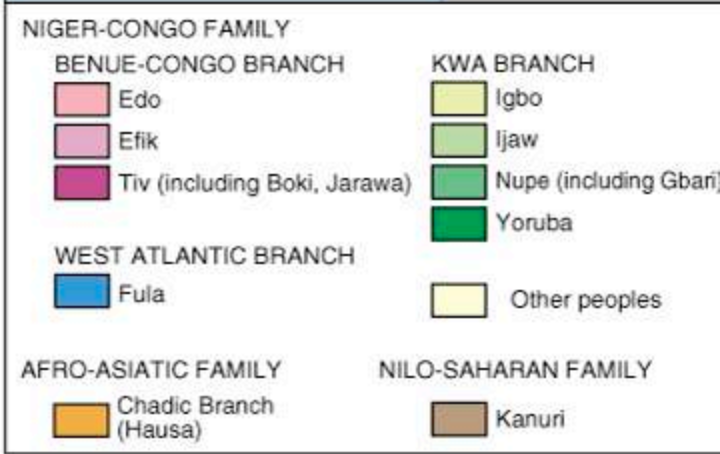
- Khoisan peoples were hunter-gatherers and were no match for the Bantu.

- Pygmies adopted Bantu tongue and retreated to forest

- Hottentots and Bushmen retained the clicks of Khoisan languages



Language Complexity

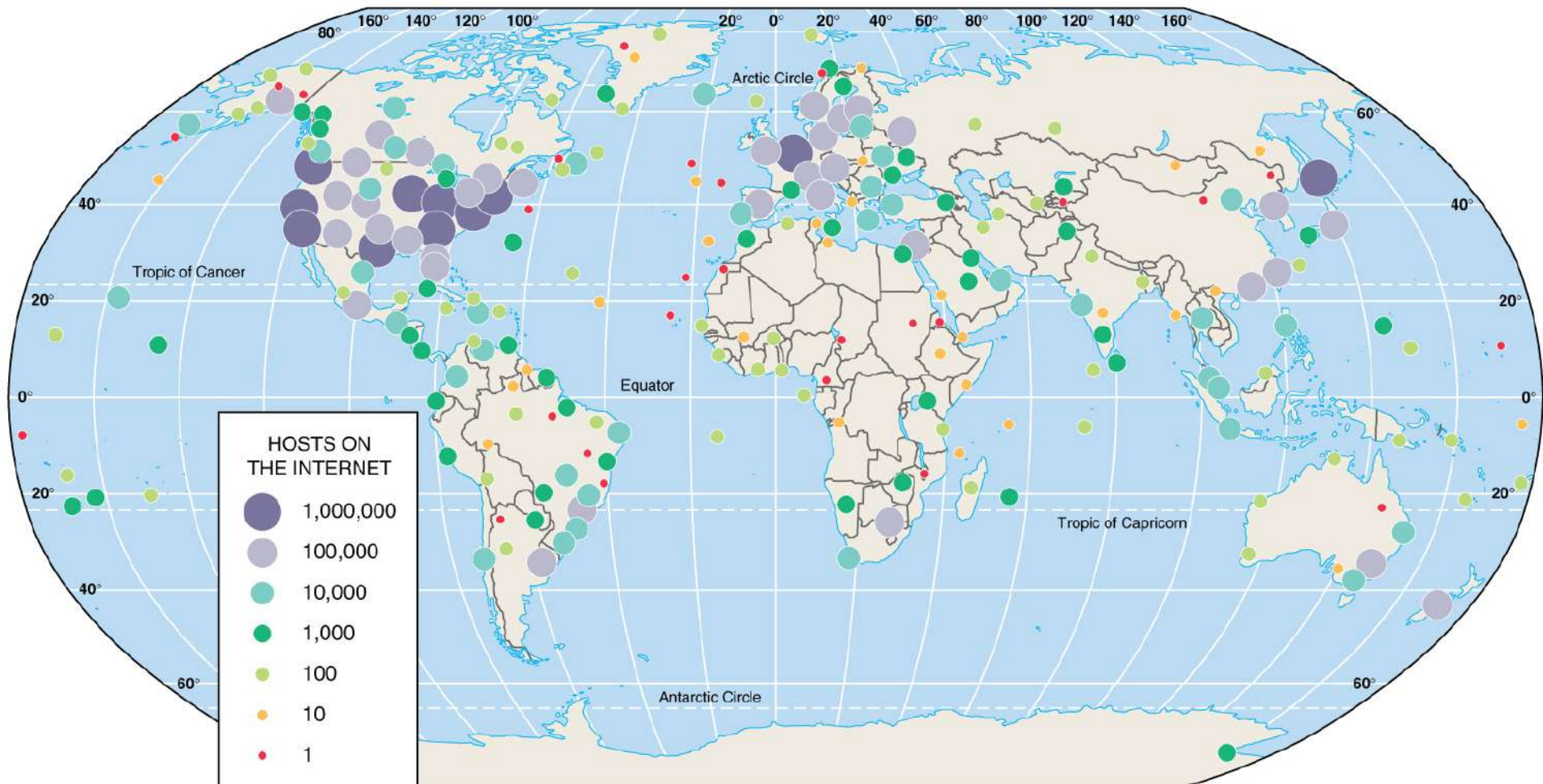


In Nigeria ethnic conflict between southern Ibos and western Yoruba led the government to move the capital to a more neutral central location (Abuja). Many other ethnic battles rage continuously.

In Switzerland, four official languages, a history of peace and tolerance, and a political system that puts power in the hands of local leaders ensure peace.

Nigeria has more than 200 individual languages!

Internet Hosts



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Fig. 5-1-1: A large proportion of the world's internet users and hosts are in the developed countries of North America and western Europe.

Internet Hosts, by Language

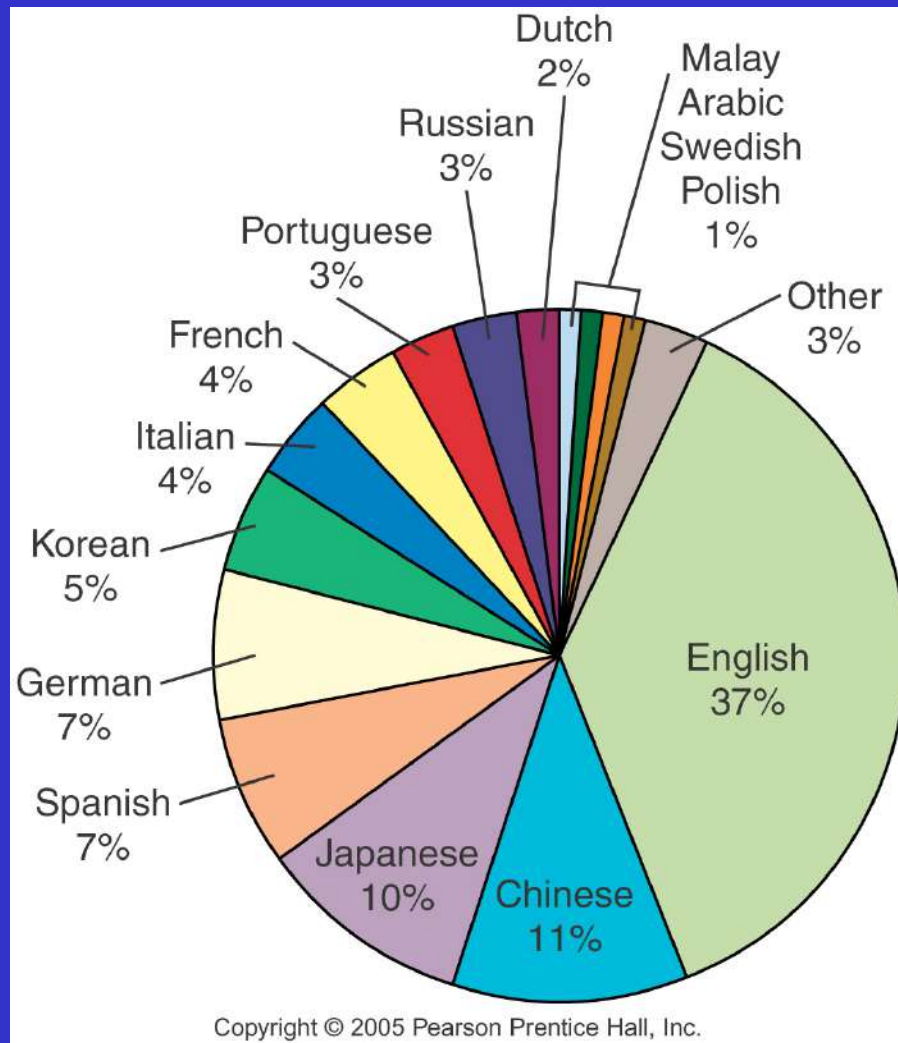


Fig 5-1-1a: The large majority of internet hosts in 1999 used English, Chinese, Japanese, or European languages.

Key Terms

PIDGIN - a form of speech that adopts simplified grammar and limited vocabulary from a lingua franca, used for communication between speakers of two different languages.

Examples include **Hawaiin Pidgin** and the **creoles of West Africa** that resulted from the slave trade.

“No eat da candy, Bruddah, it's pilau. Da thing wen fall on da ground.”



Give us da food we need fo today an every day.
Hemmo our shame, an let us go
Fo all da kine bad stuff we do to you,
Jalike us guys let da odda guys go awready,
And we no stay huhu wit dem
Fo all da kine bad stuff dey do to us.
No let us get chance fo do bad kine stuff,
But take us outa dea, so da Bad Guy no can hurt us.
Cuz you our King.
You get da real power,
An you stay awesome foeva.
Dass it!”

Matthew 6:9-13 “The Lord’s Prayer”

- Taken from Da Jesus Book, a twelve year effort
by 6 linguists to translate the New Testament into
Hawaiian Pidgin, published 2001



Key Terms

CREOLE - a language that results from the mixing of a colonizer's language with an indigenous language. Often they are pidgins.

Can you guess which colonizing language is the base for each of the following creole examples?

- a. mo pe aste sa banan
- b. de bin alde luk dat big tri
- c. a waka go a wosu
- d. olmaan i kas-im chek
- e. li pote sa bay mo
- f. ja fruher wir bleiben
- g. dis smol swain i bin go fo maket

I am buying the banana
they always looked for a big tree
he walked home
the old man is cashing a check
he brought that for me
Yes at first we remained
this little pig went to market



New Orleans'
French Quarter

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French based Seychelles Creole

English based Roper River Creole

English based Saran

English based Cape York Creole

French based Guyanais

German based Papua New Guinea Pidgin

German English based Cameroon Pidgin

Key Terms

DIALECT - a regional variety of a language distinguished by pronunciation, spelling, and vocabulary.

Social Dialects - can denote social class and standing.

Vernacular Dialects - the common, slang, speech of a region.

Accents – Check out this cool webpage where you can listen to English accents: <http://classweb.gmu.edu/accent/>

<i>Term</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Location</i>
Is he fair dinkum?	Is he real or genuine?	Australia
Why I declare!	That's remarkable!	Deep South (U.S.)
Fishin' in the crick	Fishing in the creek	Middle Atlantic States
snap peas	beans eaten in the pod	South (U.S.)
mosquito hawk	dragon fly	South (U.S.)
darning needle	dragon fly	Northern (U.S.)

Key Terms

ISOLATED LANGUAGE - a language that is not related to any other languages and thus not connected to any language families. Examples include Basque and Icelandic.



Basque Spain



Language and the Environment (Linguistic Ecology)



Mt Cook, New Zealand

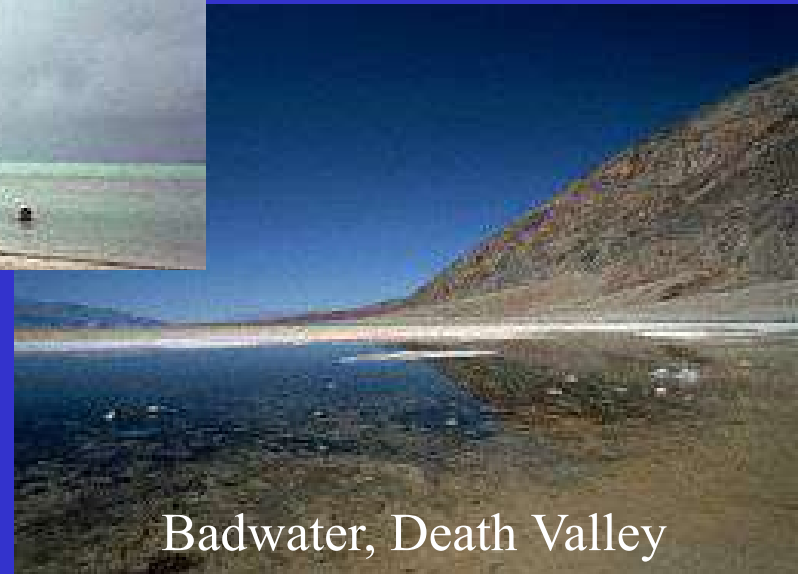
TOPONYM - a place name. These are language on the land, reflecting past inhabitants and their relation to the land.



Devil's Tower, WY



Cook Islands, Polynesia



Badwater, Death Valley



Andes Mountains, Peru

Spanish Words for Mountains and Hills



Pyrenees Mountains, Spain

Candelas
cerrillo

“candles” - collection of needlelike hills
small *cero*, or hill

cerro

a single eminence between hill and mountain

cordillera

a mass of mountains

cumbre

highest peak in a *sierra* or *cordillera*

eminencia

mountainous or hilly protuberance

loma

a hill in the midst of a plain

mesa

literally “table”; a flat-topped feature

Montana

equivalent to English “mountain”

pelado

a barren, treeless mountain

pena

a needlelike eminence

sierra

an elongated mass with a serrated crest

teta

a solitary, conical mount with shape of breast

Ethnolinguistic Groups in the Caucasus Region



Endangered Languages

As recently as 3,000 years ago, there were 10,000 to 15,000 languages in the world.

Now: about 6000 left.

Of those, 1/2 will be gone by the year 2100 and all but 500 of the rest will be endangered.

More than 90 percent of the languages in existence today will be extinct or threatened in little more than a century if current trends continue.

Extinct or Endangered Languages - Cameroon (11)

BIKYA BISHUO

BUNG

BUSUU

DULI

GEY

LUO

NAGUMI

NDAI

NGONG

YENI

ZUMAYA



Extinct Languages - USA (93)

ABNAKI-PENOBSCOT ACHUMAWI AHTENA APACHE, KIOWA
APACHE, LIPAN ATAKAPA ATSUGEWI BILOXI CADDO
CAHUILLA CATAWBA CHEHALIS, LOWER CHEROKEE
CHETCO CHINOOK CHINOOK WAWA CHITIMACHA
CHUMASH CLALLAM COEUR D'ALENE COOS COQUILLE
COWLITZ CUPEÑO EYAK FLATHEAD-KALISPEL GALICE
GROS VENTRE HAN HAWAII PIDGIN SIGN LANGUAGE
HOLIKACHUK HUPA IOWA-OTO KALAPUYA KANSA
KASHAYA KATO KAWAII SU KITSAI KOYUKON LUMBEE
LUSHOOTSEED MAIDU, NORTHEAST MAIDU, NORTHWEST
MAIDU, VALLEY MANDAN MARTHA'S VINEYARD SIGN
MATTOLE MENOMINI MIAMI MIWOK MOBILIAN
MOHEGAN MONO NANTICOKE NATCHEZ NISENAN
NOOKSACK OFO OSAGE POMO POWHATAN QUAPAW
QUILEUTE QUINAULT SALINAN SALISH SERRANO
SHASTA SIUSLAW SNOHOMISH TANAINA TILLAMOOK
TOLOWA TONKAWA TUBATULABAL TUNICA TUSCARORA
TUTELO TUTUTNI TWANA UNAMI WAILAKI
WAMPANOAG WAPPO WASCO-WISHRAM WINTU WIYOT
WYANDOT YANA YOKUTS YUKI YUROK

Endangered Languages

Why are they disappearing?

Globalization

Migration (Urbanization)

Economic Development

- Lingua FrancasMedia

Internet (Requires Arabic Character Set)

Lingua Franca - a language used for trade by two people who speak different native tongues.

Key Points

- Language is a fundamental element of cultural identity.
- Languages diverge via **migration** and **isolation**.
- Small languages are disappearing as a result of globalization.
- Languages that share a common ancestor belong to the same family.
- Language diversity is a source of political conflict in the world.



McDonald's, Israel