
Proto Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Common Slavic

Summary

Languages; Area; Centum and satem branch; The structure of Proto Indo-European; Common Balto-Slavic features; The Structure of Common Slavic

Homework

HW # 2 (due end of Week 2): Part 1: Go either [here](#) or [here](#) and find five common Indo-European roots. Identify phonetic correspondences between Slavic and Germanic languages. Then, go to [Vasmer's dictionary](#) and identify correspondences between at least five Slavic languages in those five roots you have selected. If you have problems with downloading the pages, e-mail me at: Danko.Sipka@asu.edu and I will send you the materials; Part 2: Study [the table of Indo-European Languages](#) and read [Indo-European dictionaries](#) to get a general idea about Proto Indo-European. Also, read the sections about Proto Indo-European, Balto Slavic and Common Slavic from either of your two textbooks.

Map Quiz - in class

Q # 1 (first 10 minutes of Week 3): Map quiz. You will be asked to identify IE families and Slavic Languages on a map.

Proto Indo-European (PIE)

- Reconstructed common language of the Proto Indo-Europeans.

If you are interested, take a look at the [the Wikipedia article about Indo-European studies](#) and [Indo-European database](#). U. of Texas [Indo-European Documentation Center](#) is yet another usefull resource.

- The reconstruction is based on structural and lexical similarities

The 19th century linguistic texts where the PIE is postulated are [here](#) [Click here](#) to explore common Indo-European lexical roots or take a look at the on-line [Indo-European etymological dictionaries](#).

- This proto language gave rise to most living and extinct European languages (not Basque, Finnish, Estonian, Hungarian, Turkish), as well as Iranian, Armenian, and Indian languages

See the [table of Indo-European \(IE\) Languages](#). In-depth information about IE families is [here](#).

- India and Europe are the final points of the present day geographical distribution of these languages, hence the name Indo-European
 - Principal structural differentiation (dialectal in the PIE period) on centum and satem languages

*k', *g' > velar (centum languages), dental (satem languages), e.g.:

Slavic Languages (satem): *sto* 'hundred' vs. Latin (centum): *centum* [kentum] 'hundred'

Slavic Languages (satem): Polish *ziarno*, S-Cr *zrno*, Rus *зерно* 'grain' vs. English *grain*

Satem (the word for one hundred in Avestan): Indo-Iranian, Armenian, Slavic, Baltic, Albanian

Centum (the word for one hundred in Latin): Germanic, Celtic, Italic, Hellenic, Tocharian

- Different homeland areas posited, mostly in Central and Eastern Europe

See the [Indo-European Archive](#) for the discussions about the homeland

- Different timelines postulated, most commonly: unity until the third millennium BC, migrations and the differentiation of Indo-European families in the second and first BC

[Here](#) is one possible timeline.

- Structural characteristics: rich vocalism, quality and quantity independent variables in the vocalic system, rich velar oppositions, liberal syllabic organization, rich inflection

Balto-Slavic (BS)

- There is a disputed idea that Slavic people entered a period of linguistic unities with Baltic people (ancestors of today's Lithuanians, Latvians and extinct Old Prussians) toward the end of the PIE period. The dispute over the existence of the common Balto-Slavic has produced huge body of literature. The participants were Brugman, Meillet, Porzezinski, Endzelin, Rozwadowski, Vaillant, and others.
- The common Balto-Slavic is postulated based on the following similarities between Slavic and Baltic languages, which make them distinct from other IE languages:
 - PIE $s > ch$ (Slavic) and \check{s} (Baltic)
 - Identical development of the diphthong eu
 - Simple de-aspiration, e.g., $bh, dh > b, d$
 - $_{v}\{r,l\}^* > _{r,l}^*$
 - $*m_ > *n_$
 - $*d\{m,v\}^* > *\{m,v\}^*$
 - $*[labial]v^* > *[labial]^*$
 - widely used predicative instrumental
 - Genitive of negation
- PIE vocalic r,l,n,m change into the groups ur,ir,ul,il,un,in,um,im , which are retained in the Baltic languages while evolving further in Slavic
 - de-gemination after both short and long vowels
 - $-jo$ as the formant of the definite adjectival form
 - $-mus$ (Lithuanian), $-mъ$ in the Dative Plural of the Nouns
 - various other correspondences in the inflectional endings

Click [here](#) to learn more about Lithuanian and its dialects. Click [here](#) to learn more about Latvian.

Common Slavic (CS)

- Lasted from the disintegration of the IE community at the end of the third millennium BC until 4-6th century AD, when today's Southern Slavs began to move southwards
- Homeland location disputed, most commonly in today's Belarus and NorthWest Ukraine: a rectangle delimited by the rivers of Bug (on the West), Priprjat (on the North), Don (on the

East) and Middle Dnepr (on the South)

- The following three branches of Slavic Languages have evolved from the CS:
 - East: Russian, Belarussian, Ukrainian with Ruthenian
- West: a) Lechitic: Polish with Kashubian, †Slovincian, b) Czecho-Slovak: Czech, Slovak, c) Sorbian: Upper Sorbian, Lower Sorbian
- South: a) Western: Slovenian, Serbo-Croatian, b) Eastern: Bulgarian, Macedonian, †Old Church Slavonic

The present-day distribution of these languages is as follows (the map taken from <http://www.geocities.com/indoeurop/aarchive.html>)



- Main structural features of CS: vocalism simplified as compared to PIE (esp. monophthongization), quality is tied to quantity, consonantal oppositions are moving toward the front of mouth cavity, syllables have to be open, still rich inflection