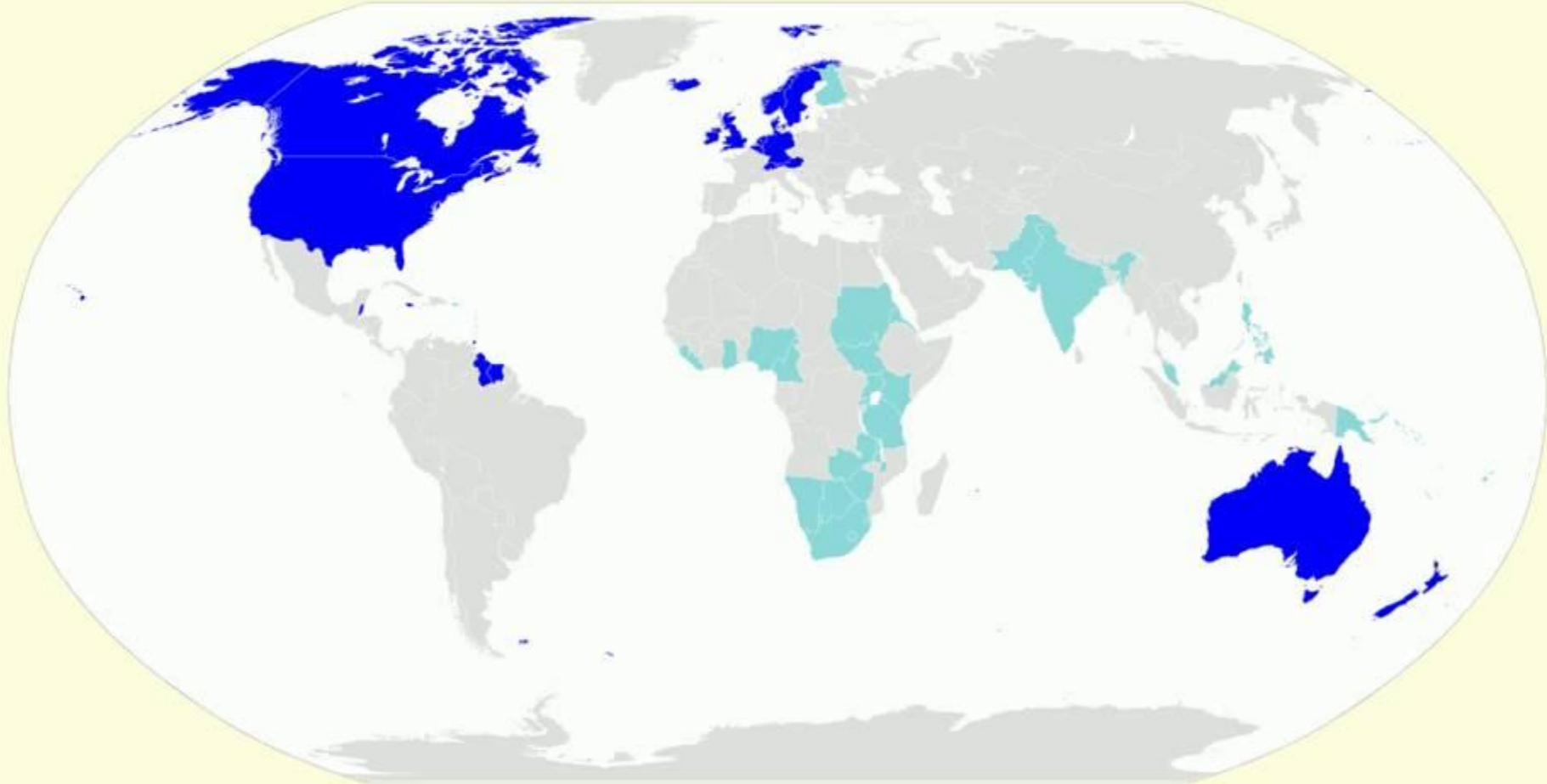
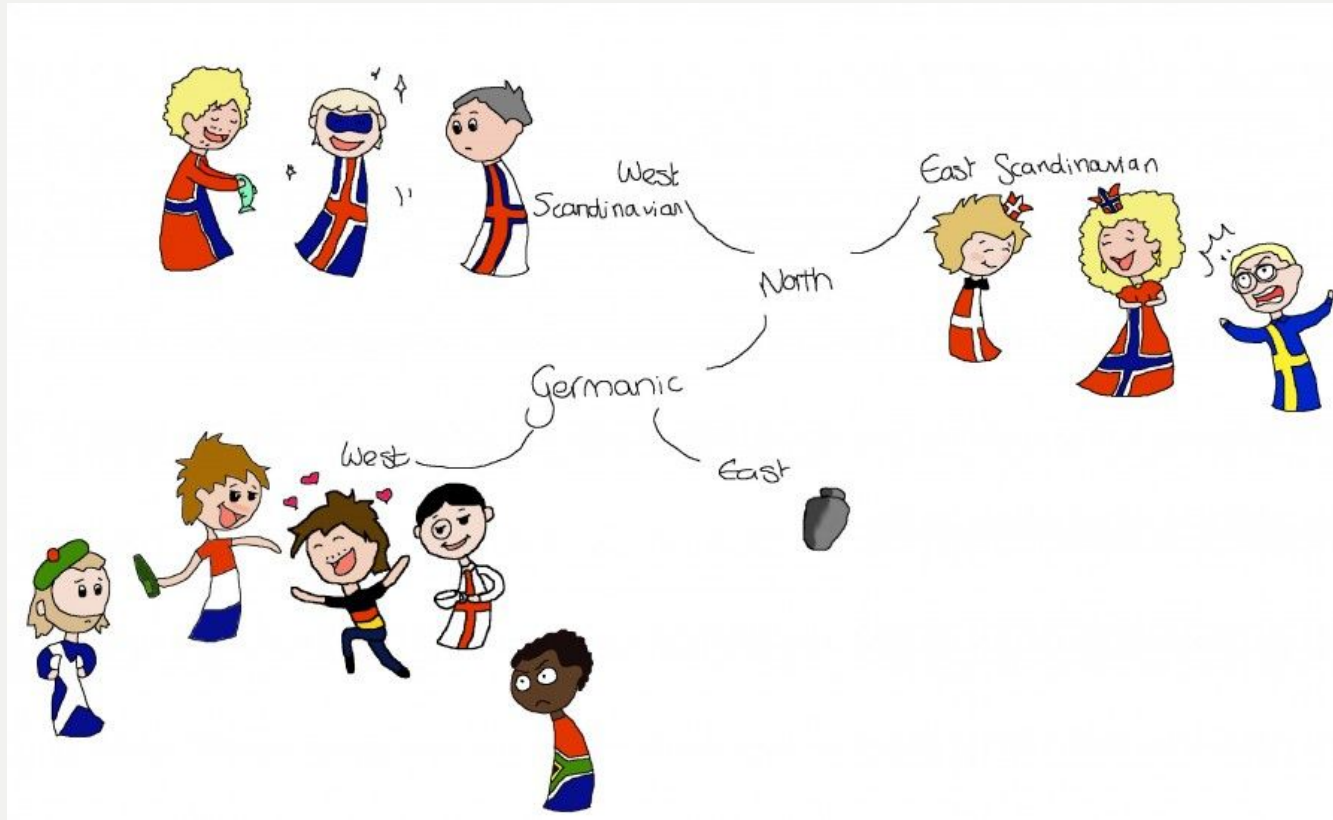


Germanic languages



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Germanic_languages.svg



The Germanic languages branch Indo-European family. Distributed on the territory of several countries of Western Europe (UK, Germany, Austria, Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein), North America (USA, Canada), southern Africa (South Africa, Namibia), Asia (India), Australia, New Zealand. The total number of speakers as native languages

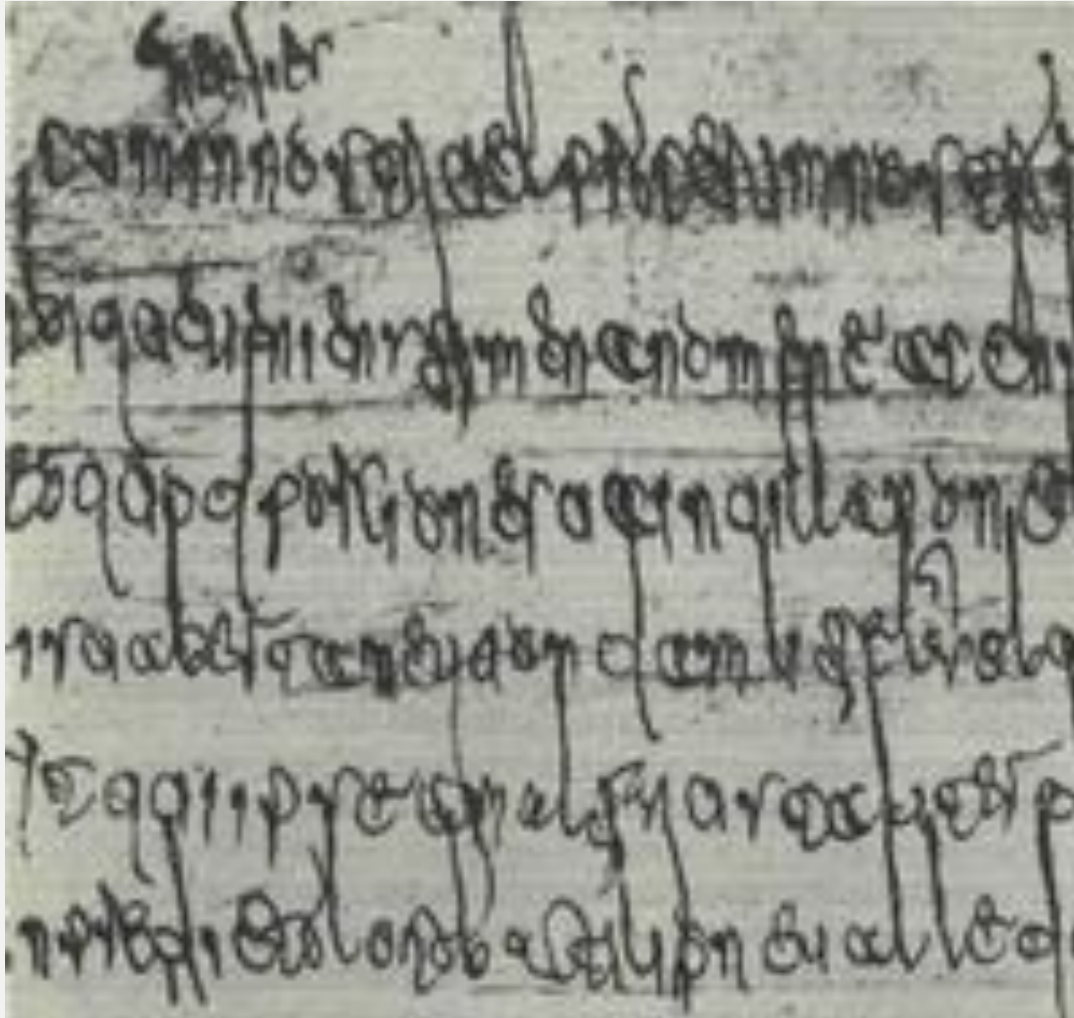
HISTORY



- The history of the development of the Germanic languages are traditionally divided into 3 periods:

ancient (from the appearance of writing to the XI century) — the establishment of separate languages;
intermediate (XII—XV century) — the development of writing in the Germanic languages and the extension of their social functions;
new (from the XVI century to the present) — the formation and normalization of the national language.

WRITING



- The most ancient monuments of German literature made runes — senior (VIII—IX centuries), Junior (IX—XII centuries), punctured (XI—XIII centuries), in Gothic language. Gothic — letter (IV century). Latin letter appears together with the introduction of Christianity in England since the seventh century, Germany, VIII century, in the Scandinavian countries since the end of the XI century (Iceland, Norway) and the XIII century (Sweden, Denmark). Used Anglo-Saxon and Carolingian minuscule with the addition of a number of symbols for the transmission of sounds not found in Latin.

West Germanic Languages Interrogative Pronouns

Phonetic Comparison



English



Nederlands



Deutsch

what = /wɒt/	→	wat = /vat/	→	was = /vas/
when = /wɛn/	→	wanneer = /vane:r/	→	wann = /van/
where = /wɛr/	→	waar = /va:r/	→	wo = /vo/
who = /hu:/	→	wie = /vi/	→	wer = /vɛ:r/
why = /wai/	→	waarom = /va:rɔm/	→	warum = /va:rʊm/
how = /haʊ/	→	hoe = /hu/	→	wie = /vi:/

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Among Indo-European languages

- Distinctive features of the Germanic languages, and distinguishes them from other Indo-European:

dynamic accent on the first (root) syllable,

reduction of unstressed syllables,

assimilative vowel variation,

the movement of German consonants

the widespread use of ablaut as Phono-morphologically funds

the formation of the weak preterit with the help of the dental suffix

2 declension of adjectives: strong and weak.

The largest Germanic languages

- Speaking of Germanic languages, tend to think of the largest number of media which exceeds 1 million people. Such languages are only nine, the rest very few.

English is the most common among all the Germanic languages. It is spoken by more than 340 million people as a native language and over 180 million people speak it as a second. Less common, but quite popular language is German. Other languages of the "big nine":

Dutch language — 25 million native speakers;
Swedish language — 10 million native speakers;
Afrikaans — 6 million people speak it as a native language and a further 16 million as a second;
Danish language with 5.5 million speakers;
Norwegian language — 5 million speakers (Bokmal and Nynorsk);
Low German language — about 5 million (for example, it is also a separate language);
Yiddish — more than 3 million people.


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