Language

Chapter 5
Language

What is the distribution of English?

- How did it become the modern lingua franca?

How is English related to other Languages?

How are the Indo-European languages related?

Why do people preserve local Languages?
Language

- 6,800 Languages
- 18 go extinct each year
- By 2100 there will be 3000
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Language Name</th>
<th>Primary Country</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>CHINESE, MANDARIN</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>885,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Bangladesh</td>
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<td>HINDI</td>
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<td>5a</td>
<td>ARABIC</td>
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<td>TELUGU</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>URDU</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
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</table>
Language

A system of communication through speech, a collection of sounds that a group of people shares
Language

A set of words and pronunciation and methods of combining them used by a group of people
Language

- Dialect – regional version of a language
- Language – distinct?
- Official language – set by law?
- Lingua franca – trade language
  - Bambara in west Africa
Language

- **Pidgin** – language made up from two different languages for trade
- **Creole** – pidgin with rules, or pidgin learned as mother tongue
Language
- Divisions
- Family
  - Branch
    - Group
      - Language
      - Dialect
Finno-Ugric languages

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.


The "Urheimat" of the [proto-language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proto-Finno-Ugric_language) of the modern Finno-Ugric languages, the so-called [Proto-Finno-Ugric](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proto-Finno-Ugric_language), is believed to be on the western side of the [Ural mountains](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ural_Mountains) 5000 years ago. There is evidence that before the arrival of Slavonic tribes to their present territory in Russia, a sprinkling of Finno-Ugrians inhabited the whole territory from the Urals to the [Baltic Sea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baltic_Sea).
The beginnings of the Uralic Peoples

About 25,000 years ago groups of modern humans began migrating from the Near East into Central Europe. They were Racially similar to the Sami (Lapp) peoples. They spoke a language very remotely related to the Uralic, Basque and Caucasian languages. Some of these tribes began migrating east, who became the Proto-Uralic peoples. They settled the area between Scandinavia and the Ural Mountains. Those who remained were assimilated by the Proto-Indo-Europeans during the spread of the Proto-Indo-European languages into Europe 10,000 to 7,000 years ago. When the ancestors of the Proto-Uralics remained behind they learned the Proto-Indo-European languages, they learned the languages incorrectly because of there different accent, these errors remained in many of the Indo-European languages, and are still traceable today.

According to the linguist Janos Pusztay, Proto-Uralic was never one language but a Language Union or a chain of language contact. Which had a Western and Eastern center. The Eastern center was where the Mordvin, Ugric and Samoyed languages originated from. The Finnic languages originating from the western center. Permic and Mari originated in the middle of the Language Union. The Eastern center was a connecting link between the Uralic languages and non-Uralic Siberian languages.

A more traditional theory is that the homeland of the Uralic Peoples is thought to have been in the area of the central Ural mountain range, possibly slightly west of the mountains. Where they migrated from originally is uncertain. Part of the Uralic peoples origin probably originated with the Proto-Altaic, Paleosiberian and other Siberian language speaking people, there are undeniable linguistic and racial features (more with Samoyeds and other eastern Uralic peoples) in common with these peoples.

Proto-Uralic is thought to have been spoken around 5,000 - 8,000 BC in the central Ural mountain range. Knowledge of this location is partially based on shared cognate (related words) words that are common in modern Uralic languages of elements found in the Ural Mountain range, such as plants, animals etc. For example certain types of spruce are found in all Uralic languages excluding Hungarian (Finnish: kuusi, Lapp: guossa, Mordvin: Kuz, Khanty: Kol, Komi: Koz, Selkup: Kut, Nenets: xady, etc. This fur tree is found in more northern climates, it can be assumed that the widespread use of the name of the tree suggests a period in which Proto-Uralic was spoken within the zone.
Proto-Indo-European

How do we know?

Root words for starters

Beech, oak, bear, deer, pheasant, bee, winter, snow, ice

But not elephant, camel, rice, bamboo or ocean
Kurgan hypothesis

- Mean nasty people from steppes of Russia/Kazakhstan
- Language spread by conquest
- Began 5000-4000 BC
Anatolian hypothesis

- Language spread with idea of agriculture
- Began 6000-5000 BC
- Current leader
Written Languages

- Alphabetic or Phonetic
  - Symbol stands for sound
- Non-alphabetic
  - Ideograms - 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)