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Division and Classification Essay – Final Draft

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Languages

The earth is home to many different languages. In truth, there is no exact number since linguists are currently working to discover and categorize the dialects used by isolated peoples in places like New Guinea, Africa, and Latin America. (Rowe and Levine) Even when they are well-known, languages are not always clearly distinguishable from one another. The language known as Arabic really consists of a variety of closely related but different dialects, making Moroccan Arabic different from that spoken in Oman and Sudan. (Voegelin). Indeed, there is a plethora of world languages, and there are many you have never heard of. In this essay, the challenge to categorize a language and a dialect, a genetic classification, and the protolanguage effect of many popular and known-by-all languages will be discussed.

Similar to how closely related European languages like Spanish, Italian, French, and Romanian are to one another, "Chinese" refers to a collection of languages that includes Mandarin, Cantonese, Min, Hakka, and other varieties. The Chinese languages are only comparable in that they are written similarly. The complexity of the languages' micro-level differences and sheer number make them challenging to categorize. When we identify their connected families, the complexity of languages is clarified. (Ruhlen) A set of languages descended from a single previous dialect is referred to as a language family. There are between 30 and 100 such language families in the globe, according to various estimates. The families can be further split into sub-families, branches, or collections of dialects that are more closely linked. Latin was widely used throughout the Roman Empire about 2,000 years ago. Regional Roman dialects started to emerge throughout Europe after the fall of the Empire in the fifth century A.D. These Latin adaptations changed and developed throughout the course of the following few centuries, becoming the distinct "Romance" languages of contemporary Europe and the regions that its people conquered. These languages include Italian, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Romanian. Romance languages include Catalan, Sardinian, Moldavian, among others.

The link between languages can be determined by linguists. They connect because of the similarity of their language and syntax. (Harrison) Linguists can reconstruct older versions of words and finally identify a word's original form before it suffered modification and divergence by tracking the historical regularities of sound changes in various languages. Such an earlier form that has been rebuilt is referred to be a protolanguage. Latin was the well-known ancestor language of Romance languages; hence no such reconstruction is necessary. Similar word associations in other language families can be more tentatively traced back to their protolanguage origin. For instance, the Proto-Germanic language spoken by people in southern Scandinavia and along the North Sea and Baltic coasts from the Netherlands to Western Poland is related to the Germanic languages, such as English, German, and Dutch, as well as the Scandinavian languages. (Voegelin)

A genetic classification is the division of languages according to their historical relationships and places of origin. (Rowe and Levine) As was already mentioned, protolanguage is a term used to describe languages that are descended from a single common ancestor language. The languages may be categorized based on genesis, and this classification is known as a Senetic classification. A profusion of cognates (related terms) in the member language serves as the foundation for the genetic categorization. There are many members of the Indo-European language family in both the Old and New Worlds. Indian, Persian (Iranian), Armenian, Germanic, Italic, Hellenic, Albanian, Balto-Slavic, and Celtic languages are members of this family. The Germanic subfamily of Indo-European languages, which includes key tongues like German, English, Danish, Norwegian, and Dutch, is the most well-known. The Latin (Italic) language family, which includes the languages of French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Catalan, and Romania, is the next in line. Balto-Slavic languages, which include Slavic, Bulgarian, Czech, Polish, Russian, and Serbo-Croatian, are also quite important in Europe. Sanskrit, Bengali, Urdu, Hindustani, Punjabi, and other contemporary Indian languages are all members of the Indian sub-family. (Ruhlen)

In conclusion, learning the vast array of various languages is indeed exciting, but many people have never even heard of many of them. The article places a strong emphasis on some of the most widely spoken languages in order to make the reader feel at ease reading this piece. As we've seen, it's challenging to categorize all languages into families and groups, and it becomes even more challenging when we talk about different dialects. The vast family of Indo-European languages includes not just European but also Asian languages. Language acquisition, classification, and division have been the focus of linguists for a long, and despite the advancement of technology, their work is still tough.

# Works Cited

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