



History of Languages

Most probably all languages had a common origin. One man, Alfredo Trombetti of Rome, claims that he has proven it.

There are three stages which are evident in the history of languages:

Isolating: These are languages in which the meaning of words and sentences are determined by their position in the sentence and the tone of voice. (Chinese, Burmese and English)

Agglutinative: These languages depend on various prefixes, infixes, and suffixes to give certain meanings. (Hungarian and Turkish)

Inflectional: These are languages which use stem and endings which no longer exist separately. There are two great families of these inflectional languages. The Semitic family: one being the Hebrew of the Old Testament. The Indo-Germanic or Indo-European language: one being the Greek of the New Testament.

The Indo-European family has eight major divisions:

The Aryan Group: Within this group is Sanskrit, pre-1500 BC. The Sanskrit as a spoken language died out before the Christian era.

Armenian: Inscriptions in the Phrygian language still exist. Armenian is an offshoot of Phrygian, so considered by Herodotus.

Greek: There are many dialects and a long history: Pelasgians, Achaeans, Dorians, Aeolians, Ionians, Attic, Koine, Arcadian, Boeotian, Northwest, Thessalian, etc.

Albanian: Language of Illyria,

Latin and kindred dialects: Oscan, Umbrian, etc. From these the romance languages of the modern day: French, Italian, Provençal, Spanish, Portuguese, Rumanian, etc.

Keltic: Old Gaulish of Caesar's time, Welsh, Cornish, Breton, Manx, Irish, Scotch Gaelic, etc.

Germanic or Teutonic: this falls into three major divisions, Gothic, West German and our modern English. Gothic: Scandinavian, Danish, Icelandic, Norwegian, Swedish. West Germanic Dialects: Anglo-Saxon, Frisian, Old Saxon, or Low German, Old High German, Old Low Franconian, later Dutch and Flemish. Modern English: a combination of Anglo-Saxon and Norman-French.

The periods of history of the Greek languages:

Mycenaean Age: 1500-100 BC

Age of Dialects: 1000-330 BC Homer to Alexander

Koine Greek: 330 BC to 330 AD

Byzantine Greek: 330 AD to 1453 AD. 1453 is the date when the Turks captured Constantinople.

Modern Greek: 1453 to present time.

The dialects related to geographical locations:

West Greek divisions: Northwest Greek: Phocian, Locrian, Elean, etc. Doric: Laconian, Corinthian,



Argolic, Cretan, etc.

East Greek division: Attic: Ionic, Aeolic: Lesbian, Thessalian, Boeotian, Arcado: Cyprian or Achaean.

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT CHART
 (Indo-European Languages (Classification by Language))



CHRONOLOGICAL PERIODS OF GREEK LANGUAGE

