Indo-European vs. Germanic

1. Given the following PIE roots, supply the underlined consonant sound you would expect in a Germanic language. (adapted from Smith & Kim 2018: 107; examples from Brinton & Arnovik 2006: 130 ff.)

\*: it means that it has been reconstructed

PIE (Proto-Indo-european) Germanic

\**pisk*- fisk- /f/ (fish in present english)

\**tenu* /Ɵ/ (thin)

\**grǝnom* /k/ (corn)

\**kan*(n*)abi*- /x/ like in “loch” (hemp)

\**ed-*  /t/ (eat)

Last 3 borrowings from Frech.

2. Comment on the relationship between the following pairs of words paying attention to the underlined consonants

Pro-Indo-European

Latin *genu* English *knee:* voiced plosive > voiceless plosive. GENUFLECTION

Latin *cutis* 'skin' English *hide* 'animal skin': voiceless plosive > voiceless fricative. “Hide” became a dipthong with the Great Vowel Shift.

Latin *plenus* English *full*: voiceless plosive > voiceless fricative. They era related

Sanskrit *bh ártum* English *bear* 'carry': voiced aspirated plosive > voiced plosive

All of them are cognates: words of similar meaning and similar form, whose similarity is attributed to a common origin.

/x/: voiceless fricative

Inherited or borrowed?

4. Consider the following Latin and English words and classify the English as (i) cognates with; (ii) borrowings from Latin. Support your answer

Latin Old English PDE

calx ‘chalk’ cealc /tʃealk/ chalk

Borrowing from Latin. There is no voiceless plosive > voiceless fricative

gelu 'cold, ice' cald cold

Cognate: voiced plosive > voiceless plosive.

portus 'port' ford ford 'shallow place in a river'

Cognate: voiceless plosive > voiceless fricative

portus 'port' port port 'town or place with a harbour'

Borrowing from Latin. There is no voiceless plosive > voiceless fricative

puteus 'pit' pytt pit

Borrowing from Latin. There is no voiceless plosive > voiceless fricative

tonare 'thunder' þunor /'θunor/ thunder

Cognate: voiceless plosive > voiceless (dental) fricative

Þ: this is called THORN.

OE words (both native and borrowed) present in the language in the 8th century show the effects of i-mutation and palatalization. Can you identify any cases of these two sound changes on the list above?

They are probably borrowed very early, as they are affected by i-mutation and palatalization.

**I-mutation:**

puteus 'pit' pytt pit

**Palatalization:**

calx ‘chalk’ cealc /tʃealk/ chalk