# The Language Situation in the Low Countries

Lecture 1. The languages of the Netherlands and Belgium

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11th February 2016

## Aims for today

#### **Preliminaries**

- about this course
- · practicalities

The Saxon and Franconian elements — the languages of the Netherlands and Belgium — their status and vitality.

- terminology: a few definitions
- the territory
- · Dutch and its neighbours

### A few house rules

#### **Attendance**

- 80% attendance
- come on time
- running late? → enter quietly, don't knock, don't apologise

#### In-class interaction

- · you're encouraged to ask questions
- · as well as answer my questions

### **Course topics**

11/02/2016 Introduction: the languages of the Netherlands and Belgium

18/02/2016 Essentials of the Dutch language

25/02/2016 continued from 18th February

03/03/2016 The history of Dutch

10/03/2016 continued from 3rd March

17/03/2016 Dutch orthography

14/04/2016 Purism and school grammar

21/04/2016 Dialects of Dutch; Frisian

28/04/2016 Dutch-based creole languages; Afrikaans

05/05/2016 Dutch sociolinguistics

#### Exam

• There will be a written exam in May.

#### **Course book**

Willemyns, Roland. 2013. Dutch: biography of a language. New York: Oxford University Press.

#### **Nestor**

Nestor > The Lang. Situation in the Low Countries

- announcements
- · course documents
- · weekly schedule

# A couple of definitions: The Low Countries



Figure 1: Locating the Low Countries

# **Dutch and its neighbours**

- Dutch vs. Flemish
- flamand vs. hollandais vs. néerlandais
- Nederlands vs. Vlaams vs. Hollands

## **Dutch and its neighbours**

- French
- German
- Frisian

## Relation to other languages

## Official status

- in the Netherlands
- in Belgium

. . .

European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML)

- The Netherlands: both signed and ratified
- · Belgium: neither signed nor ratified

## **Useful links on Dutch**

- Taalportaal http://taalportaal.org/taalportaal/topic/
- more to come

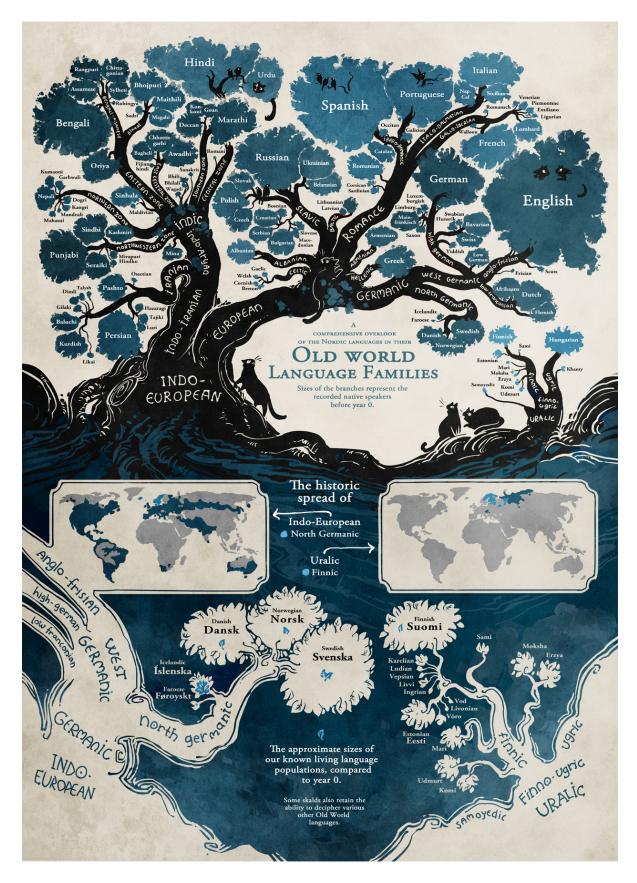


Figure 2: Indo-European and Uralic languages