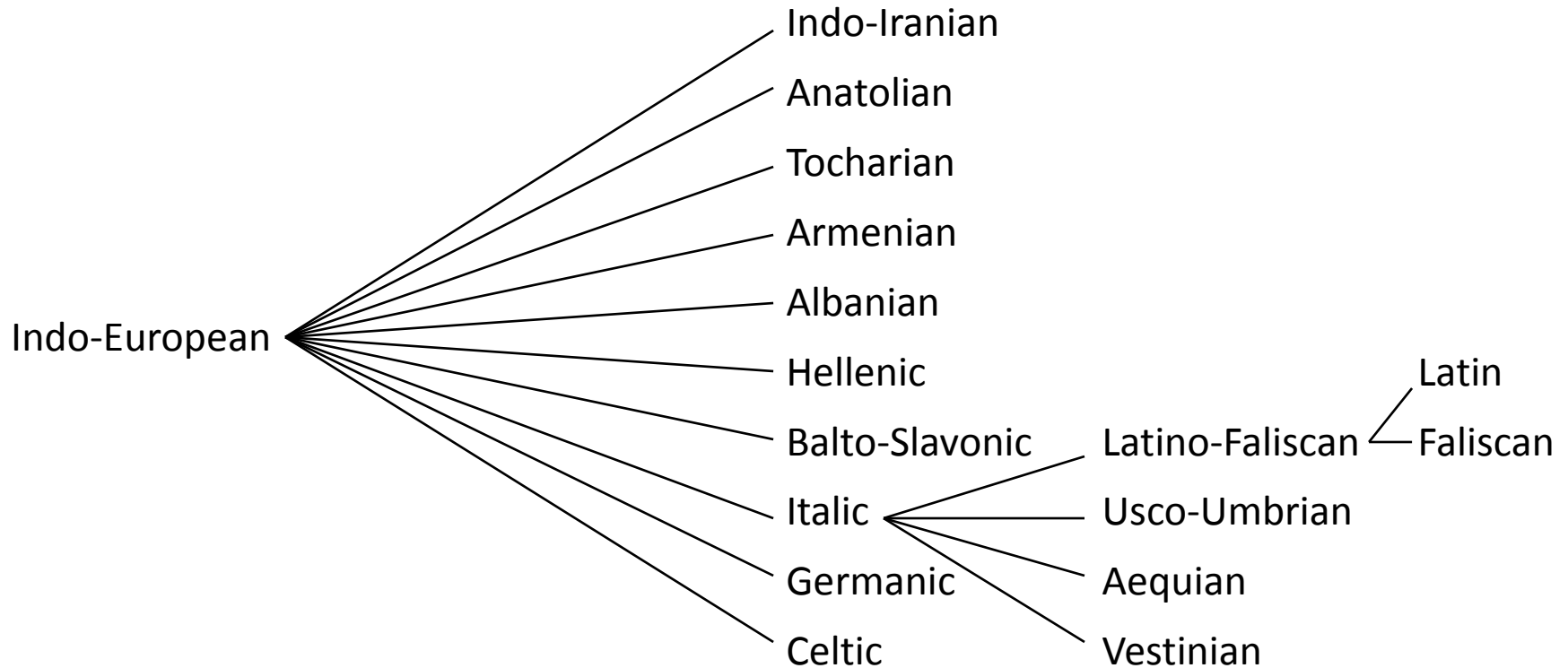# Historical Linguistics:
a history of sound changes from Vulgar Latin to French and Spanish
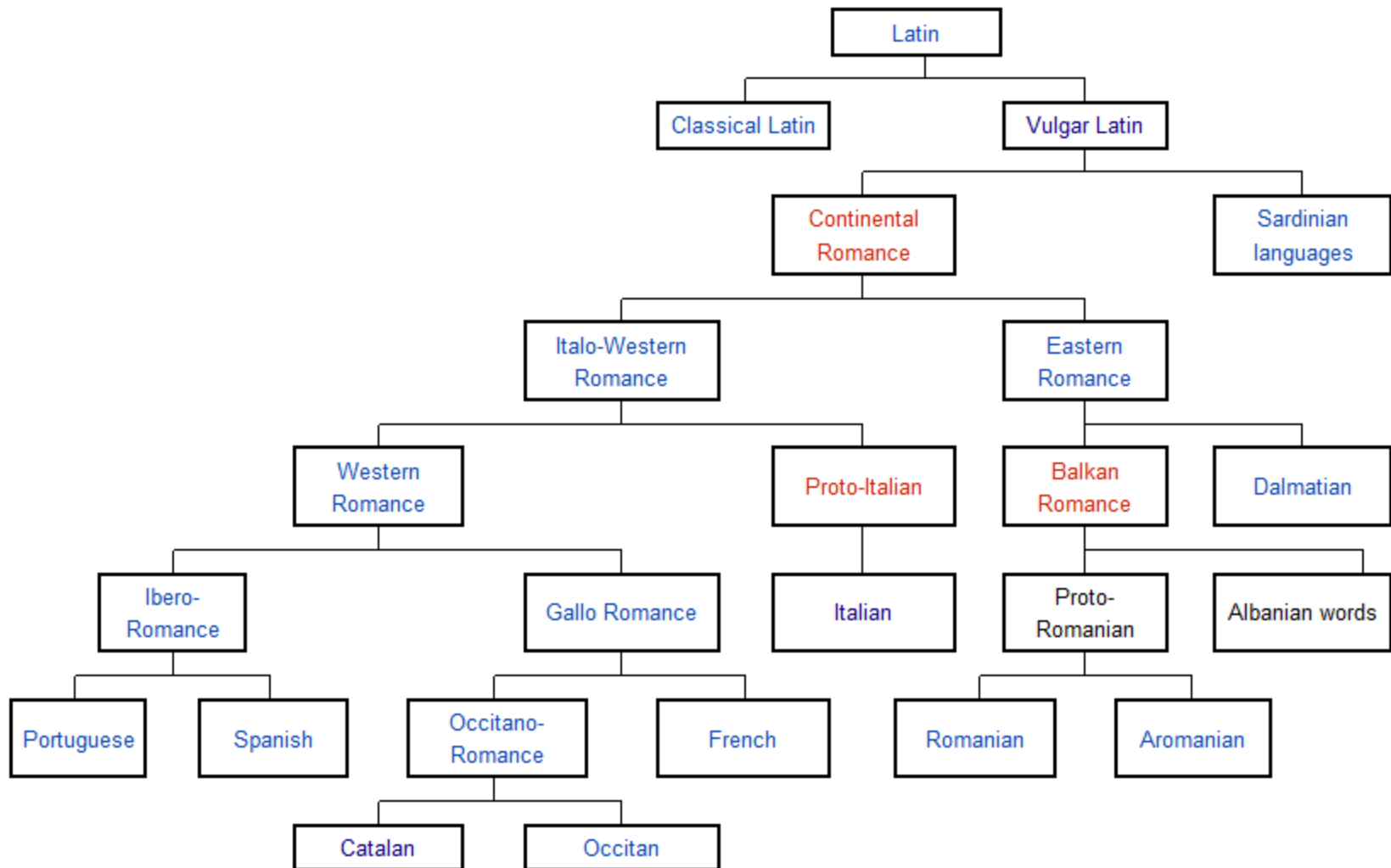
Ling 203

10/6/2010

Indo-European Family

Latin family

Italic

- The Romance languages descended from Latin are the only Italic languages still spoken today

- Languages in Italy during 6th century BCE.

- Indo-European languages include:
    1. Italic languages
        - Latin
        - Umbrian
        - Oscan
        - S. Picene (?)
    2. Celtic
        - Lepontic
        - Ligurian (?)
    3. Hellenic
        - Ancient Greek
    4. Other
        - Venetic (close to Italic)
        - Liburnian
        - Illyrian
        - Messapic
        - Sicel (?)
- Non-Indo-European languages include:
    1. Tyrrhenian (?)
        - Etruscan
    2. Other
        - N. Picene
        - Raetic

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Iron_Age_Italy.svg

Latin*

- Classical Latin
  - language of Romans between c. 100 BCE and 200 CE
  - literary, administrative language
  - spoken by upper classes
- Late Latin
  - literary, administrative and liturgical language from c. 200-900 CE
- Vulgar Latin
  - refers to colloquial dialects of Latin until about 900 CE
  - spoken by common people, including soldiers, slaves, etc.
  - spread to conquered lands
  - not a literary language

*Information in the sections on history of French mainly from Walter (1994).

'France'

- Inhabited largely by the Gauls before Roman conquest
  - speak Gaulish, a Celtic language
  - Gaulish itself has multiple dialects
  - spoken alongside Latin until died out c. 6th century
  - speakers were likely bilingual (or trilingual)

Gaulish in French

– about 70-200 words remain in French and close dialects

- deal with agriculture, fishing, hunting
- a number of place-names
  1. fortified places (suffixes *-dunum, durum, rato*)
  2. market towns (suffix *-magus*)
  3. holy places (*nemeto*)
  4. other (*lano* 'plain', *bona* 'port')
- *Paris* comes from *Parisii* tribe

– various Gaulish accents influence Latin of the area

Romans in Gaul

- Found *Provincia Narbonesis* in 120 BCE

- Series of wars with Gallic tribes from 58-51 BCE

- Victory at Battle of Alesia in 52 BCE expands Roman Empire over all of Gaul

'France' c. 58 AD

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Map_Gallia_Tribes_Towns.png

Romans in Gaul

- Even before conquest, some nobility in Gaul sent children to Roman schools.

- Merchants learned Latin early as well.

- Esp. outside of cities, Gaul remained widely spoken for hundreds of years.

- Roman culture, infrastructure introduced

- The Romanized Gauls are referred to as Gallo-Romans.

Roman empire at peak, circa 117

Franks in Gaul

- Present in Gaul before invasions of 5th cent.
    - enrolled in Roman army as mercenaries
    - many landowners fled in 2nd cent. CE, and the Romans let the Franks occupy the territory
    - Franks becomes sedentary farmers
    - nobility returns beginning 4th century
- During this time period, at least 200 Germanic words are borrowed into the regional Latin

Germanic Invasions

- 443, Burgundians flee the Rhine after Hun invasion. The settle in modern-day Burgundy.

- 507, Franks conquer Visigoths, extending their rule.

Walter (1994)
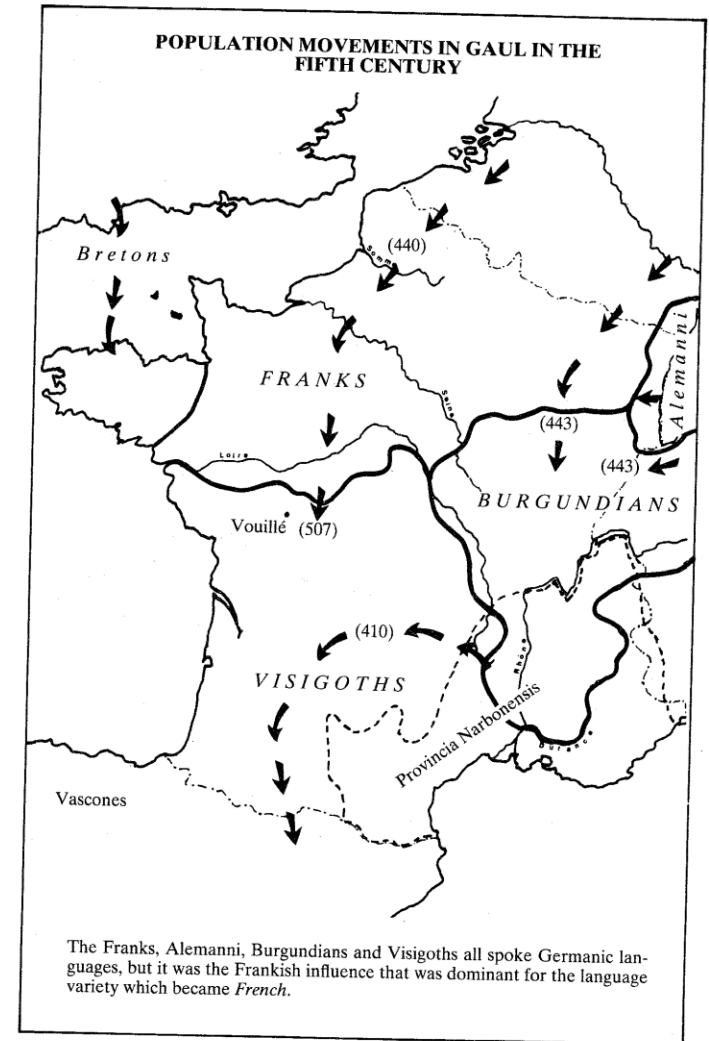
Invasions of the Roman Empire
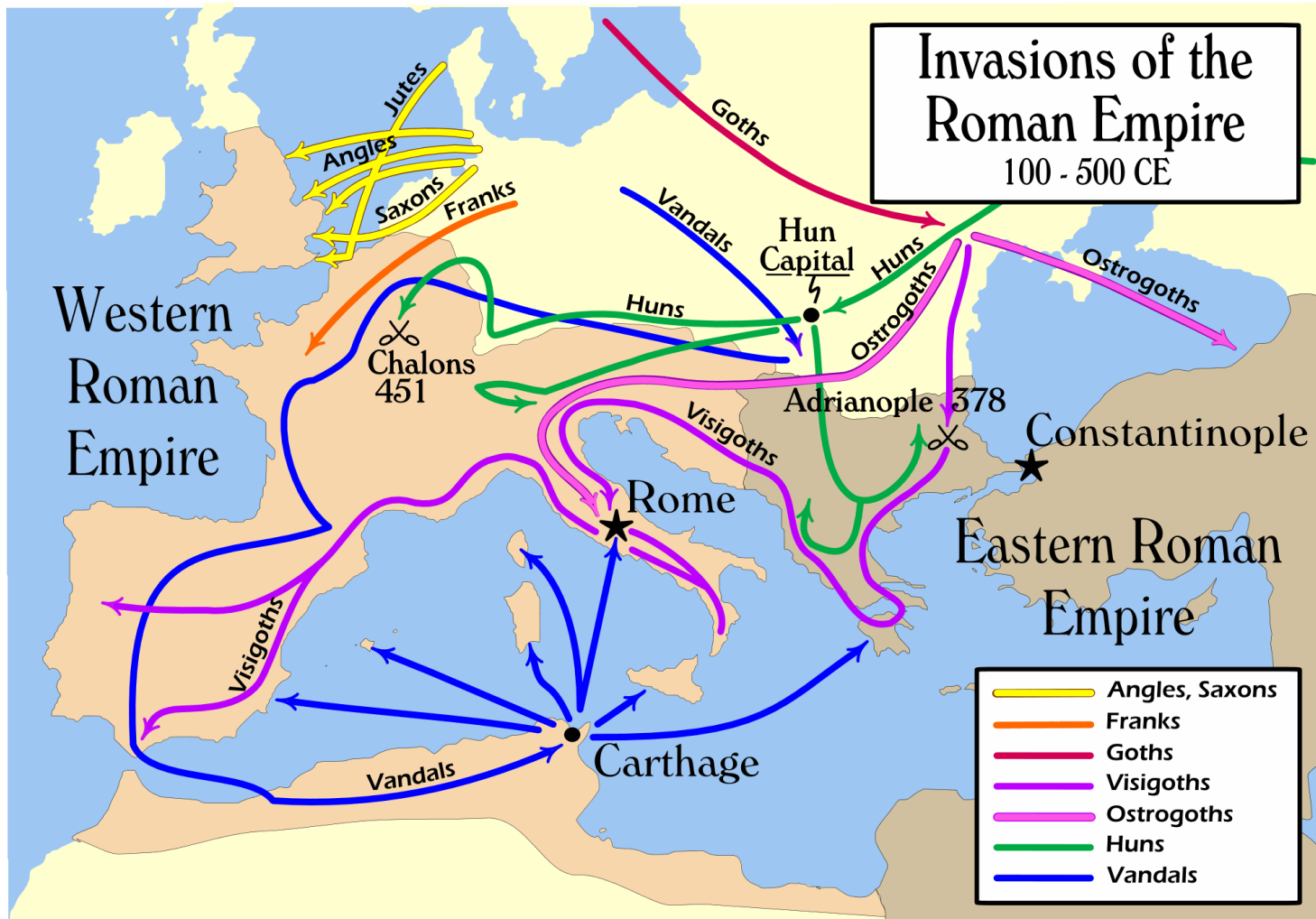
Dialectal Division in France

- Three major dialect regions correspond largely to the three residing Germanic tribes.

- Franks had considerable influence on *oïl* dialects (=source of Modern French)

- Visigoths had little influence of *oc* dialects

THE MAJOR DIVISIONS OF THE ROMANCE DIALECTS

Oïl region

(oïl = yes)

Saintonge

Francoprovençal region

Oc region

(oc = yes)

Catalan

Tuscan region

It should be noted that these major dialect divisions relate only to the differentiation of Latin into Gallo-Roman dialects, and that *Catalan* is a member of the Ibero-Roman group of languages whilst the dialects of *Corsica* are related to the dialects of Italy.

Furthermore, the *oc* region originally extended to the north of Bordeaux, taking in the Saintonge region.

Walter (1994)

Germanic Borrowings

- About 400 words borrowed from Germanic (1/2 before Germanic invasions)
- Approximately 1/3 exist in Modern French
  - many from the following categories
    - war and chivalry
    - life in the fields
    - crafts
    - life of the seafarer
    - domestic life

Frankish influence on pronunciation

- Latin [h] is lost in all Romance dialects

- Frankish words had [h], thus sound was newly introduced

- cf. English words of Latin origin (hour, honest, honor) and words of Anglo-Saxon origin (holly, holy, hoof, horse)

Frankish influence on pronunciation

- Over time, the [h] of Frankish words disappears, but leaves an interesting dichotomy.

	Modern French					
Latin origin	le + homme /lə + ɔm/	→	l'homme /lɔm/	les hommes /lez + ɔm/	→	les hommes [lezɔm]	'man'
Frankish origin	le + hêtre /lə + hɛtʁ/	→	le hêtre /lə.ɛtʁ/	les hêtres /lez + hɛtʁ/	→	les hêtres /le.ɛtʁ/	'beech tree'

Frankish influence on pronunciation

- In Germanic languages, a syllable with strong stress tends to weaken neighboring syllables
    - cf. English _átom_ vs. _atómic_; _márginal_ vs. _marginálity_
- These weak sounds often got deleted
    - cf. English _interest_ [ɪntʃɹəst]

Latin	Italian	Provençal	Francoprovençal	Spanish	French	gloss
tēla	tela	telo	tala	tela	toile [twal]	'cloth'

- Speakers in southern France frequently continue to pronounce this dropped vowel

8-9th Century

- By 9th century, Latin no longer understood

- Latin used in liturgical formulae and prayers

- Preaching frequently done in local languages

- Charlemagne Renaissance promotes scholarship, leading to rebirth of Latin

Re-Latinization

- Words newly borrowed from Latin exist alongside forms which has undergone changes over time.

Latin	French (derived)	French (borrowed)
hospitalis	> hôtel	hôpital
fraternalis	> frère	fraternel
fragilis	> frêle	fragile

Vikings

- Scandinavians begin attacking in 9th century
- In 911, Duchy of Normandy given to Normans

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a1/Duchy_of_Normandy.png
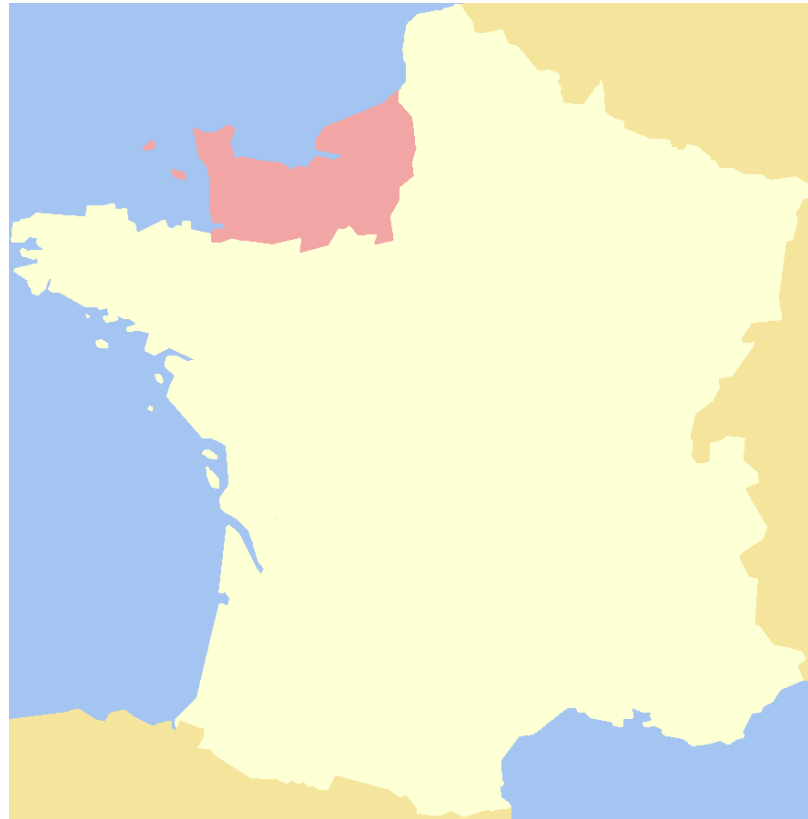
Vikings

- Normans marry native women.
- Children learn mothers language.
- William, Duke of Normany, attacks England in 1066.
- French becomes languages of upper class, law courts and church.
- English borrows many French words.
- Not until the 14th cent. is there another native-English-speaking king in England.

Viking influence on French

- Little
  - some place-names
  - some words related to sea

Middle Ages

- System of feudalism continues

- Little contact between fiefdoms

- Gave rise to more dialects and dialectal variation

Parisians gain ground

- Paris was geographically well-situated by three major waterways
- Close to agriculturally-fertile region
- Literary movement begins
    - Literature from south (*oc* dialects) influenced northern literature, and led to borrowings.
- Heightened prestige of dialect around Paris initiates spread as common language (beginning around the 12th century)

Goodbye, Latin

- 1530 - François I founds Collège des Trois Language
  - some lectures done in French rather than Latin
- 1539 - French is only language in administrative documents
  - prior, dialects had often been used in place of Latin
- Scholars begin using French in publishing
- First French grammars are written

Goodbye, dialects

- In 19th century, 80% of people still spoke dialects for more purposes

- In late 18th -19th centuries, push for French to be taught in all regions of country

- Compulsory schooling increases knowledge of French

- Aristocrats, bourgeoisie speak French

- Many people become bilingual

World War I and French

- French taught in schools, but children still spoke dialects outside of class until WWI
- WWI begins
  - regional regiments suffer casualties
  - new regiments formations mixes people from different regions
  - French was used as common language
- Post-WWI
  - returning men continue to speak French at home
  - children hear less of regional dialects as a result

From Latin to French and Spanish

Notes:

ˉ over a vowel indicates it is long (as does : after a vowel)

˘ over a vowel indicates it is short (as does lack of any diacritic)

´ over a vowel indicates that it is accented

Sound changes from
Latin to French and Spanish

- Sound change in language is *regular*, not random
    - two identical sounds in an identical environment will change in the same manner
    - a group of sounds undergoing the same change in the same environment belong to a natural class
        - [p, t, k] = natural class of voiceless stops
        - [f, k, ʒ, l] ≠ natural class (except for the class [consonant])

- In the following slides, some rules have been simplified; however, all examples are genuine.

Latin - Accent

- Proto-Italic: accent was on the initial syllable
- Latin: (c. 250 BCE), accent on penultimate syllable
  - If penultimate vowel was short and in an open syllable, accent was on antepenult
  - Retained in many Romance dialects, lost in French.

fác 'make!' fácis 'you make'   fácilēs 'easy' (nom.pl.)
             fḗcit 'he made'   fēcístic 'you made' (pl.)
             fáctō 'made' (abl.)   factū́ruō 'about to make' (abl.)

Latin - Phonemic Inventory

	labial	labio-dental	dental	alveolar	velar	labio-velar	glottal
plosive	p b		t d		k g	kʷ (gʷ)	
fricative		f		s			h
nasal	m		n				
liquids			l, r				
glides	w			j			

Vowel Inventory:

i   u
e   o
          a

all vowels contrast for length

leuis 'light' *lēuis* 'smooth'

rosa (nom.) *rosā* (abl.) 'rose'

Dipthongs:

ai
au
oi
(eu)
(ui)

Latin - Phonetic Vowels

- The [length] contrast was accompanied by [tenseness] contrast.

- Short vowels (crosslinguistically) tend to be more 'lax' than long vowels.
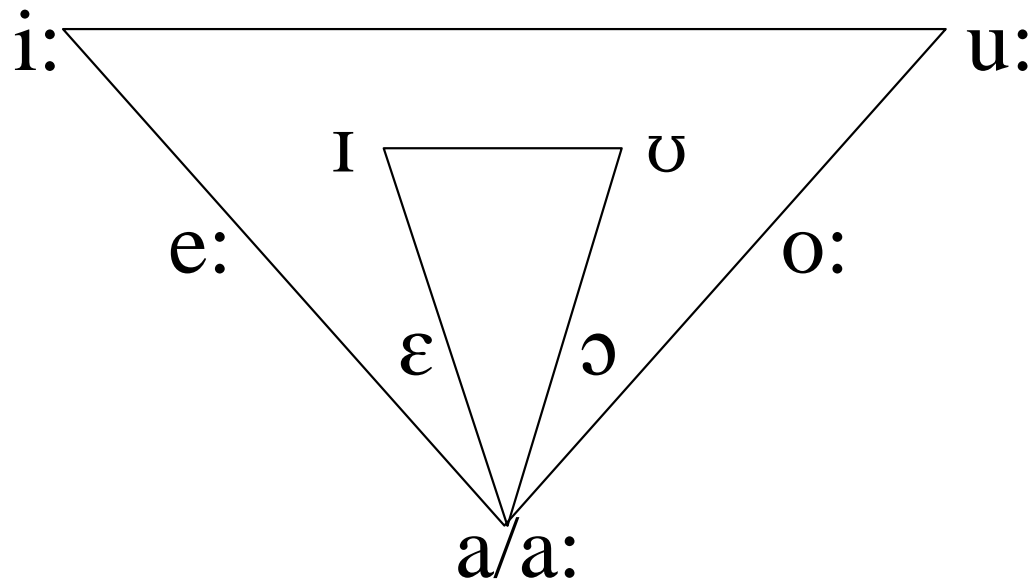
Vulgar Latin - Vowels

- 10 accented vowels reduced to 7

Latin	iː	ɪ	eː	ɛ	a/aː	ɔ	oː	ʊ	uː
	|	\	/	|	|	|	\	/	|
Proto-Western-Romance	i		e	ɛ	a	ɔ		o	u

Latin	ī	ĭ	ē	ĕ	ă/ā	ŏ	ō	ŭ	ū
	|	\	/	|	|	|	\	/	|
Proto-Western-Romance	i		e	ɛ	a	ɔ		o	u

- Many unaccented vowels changed or were deleted as well.

- Some diphthongs become monophthongs.

Latin > Spanish (data from Campbell 1999)

- Intervocalically, Latin had 3 series of plosives.
- Shifted from Latin to Spanish ('push chain')

	Latin		Spanish	Latin		Spanish	Latin		Spanish	
1.	geminate	>	simple voiceless	pp tt kk	>	p t k	cuppa gutta bucca	>	copa gota boca	'cup' 'drop' 'mouth'
2.	simple voiceless	>	simple voiced	p t k	>	b (β) d (ð) g (ɣ)	sapere wīta amīka	>	saber vida amiga	'to know' 'life' 'friend'(f.)
3.	simple voiced	>	(nothing)	b d g	>	b (β) ∅ ∅	caballu crēdere rēgīna	>	caballo creer reina	'horse' 'to believe' 'queen'

*This change only applies to plosives when intervocalic; e.g., in word-initial position the change does not occur (cf. Latin *taurum* > Spanish *toro* 'bull')

á

	Latin	French	Spanish
closed syllable	á	[a]	[a]
open syllable	á	[e]/[ɛ]	[a]

Latin	French		Spanish		gloss
cám.po	champ	[ʃã]	campo	[kampo]	'camp; champion'
pás.su	pas	[pa]	paso	[paso]	'step'
grán.de	grand	[gʁã]	grande	[gʁande]	'grand, big'
flám.ma	flamme	[flam]	llama	[ʎama]	'flame'
má.re	mer	[mɛʁ]	mar	[mar]	'sea'
prīvã.tu	privé	[pʁive]	privado	[pʁiβaðo]	'private'
prá.tu	pré	[pʁe]	prado	[pʁaðo]	'meadow'
pá.tre	père	[pɛʁ]	padre	[padɾe]	'father'

(data from Boyd-Bowman 1954)

[aw]

Latin	French	Spanish
aw	o	o

Latin	French		Spanish		gloss
auru	or	[oʁ]	oro	[oɾo]	'gold'
thesauru	trésor	[tʁezoʁ]	tesoro	[tesoɾo]	'treasure'
autumnu	automne	[otɔm]	otoño	[otoɲo]	'autumn'
tauru / taurellu	taureau	[toʁo]	toro	[toɾo]	'bull'

(data from Boyd-Bowman 1954)

[k] / _a

Latin	French	Spanish
k / _a	ʃ	k

Latin	French		Spanish		gloss
capra	chèvre	[ʃɛvʁ]	cabra	[kabɾa]	'goat'
piscāre	pêcher	[pɛʃe]	pescar	[peskaɾ]	'to fish'
caballu	cheval	[ʃəval]	caballo	[kaβaʎo]	'horse'
vacca	vache	[vaʃ]	vaca	[baka]	'cow'

(data from Boyd-Bowman 1954)

[k] / _o, u

Latin	French	Spanish
k / #_o, u	k	k
k / C_o, u		
k / V_o, u	Ø	k

Latin	French		Spanish		gloss
cūra	cure	[kyʁ]	cura	[kuɾa]	'cure'
corpu(s)	corps	[koʁ]	cuerpo	[kwerpo]	'body'
curtu	court	[kuʁ]	corto	[korto]	'short'
scūto	écu	[eky]	escudo	[eskuðo]	'shield'
accūso	(j')accuse	[akyz]	acuso	[akuso]	'(I) accuse'
saccu	sac	[sak]	saco	[sako]	'sack'
amicu	ami	[ami]	amigo	[amiɣo]	'friend'
sēcūru	sûr	[syʁ]	seguro	[seɣuɾo]	'secure,
	(> O.F seür)				sure'

(data from Boyd-Bowman 1954)

[ts] / _i, e

Latin	French	Spanish
ts / C_i, e	s	θ / s
ts / #_i, e		
ts / V_i, e	z	θ / s

Latin	French		Spanish		gloss
centu	cent	[sã]	ciento	[θjento]	'hundred'
caelu	ciel	[sjɛl]	cielo	[θjelo]	'sky'
cēra	cire	[siʁ]	cera	[θeɾa]	'wax'
dulce	douce	[dus]	dulce	[dulθe]	'soft'
placēre	plaisir	[pleziʁ]	placer	[plaθeɾ]	'pleasure'
cocīna	cuisine	[kɥizin]	cocina	[coθina]	'kitchen'
vīcīnu	voisin	[vwazɛ̃]	vecino	[beθino]	'neighbor'
racēmu	raisin	[ʁezɛ̃]	racimo	[raθimo]	'grape'

*Vulgar Latin [ts] < Earlier Latin [k]. The progression was [k] > [kj] > [tj] > [tʃ] > [ts]

Word-final [m]

Latin	French	Spanish
m / _#	Ø	Ø

Latin	French		Spanish		gloss
septem	sept	[sɛt]	siete	[sjete]	'seven'
novem	neuf	[nøf]	nueve	[nweβe]	'nine'
crēdam	croie	[kʁwa]	crea	[krea]	'believe'
cantābam	chantais	[ʃɑ̃te]	cantaba	[kantaβa]	'was singing'

(data from Boyd-Bowman 1954)

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