Deterrorizing Sanskrit
Introduction

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What is this course about

- Idea: make Sanskrit easier to learn by taking the Indo-European perspective
- History of Indo-European studies
- Language trees
- Sound laws
- Strong and weak forms
- Declinations
- Word formation
- ...

Sequence

- Introduction
- (Indo-European Studies (without Sanskrit))
- Syllabic nasal
- Vowels, diphthongs, and vowel gradation
- Infinitive and future forms
- Verbal classes with nasal infix
- Second-class verbs
- Third-class verbs
- Fifth-class verbs
- Seventh-class verbs
- Perfect
- Aorist
- Declinations
- ...

History of Indo-European studies

- Perhaps, both western Indology and Indo-European studies have been initiated by Sir William Jones (1746-1794).
- Went to India (which was under British colonial rule) as a judge.
- Came into contact with Sanskrit, relevant to him as the language of ancient law texts.
- In 1786, Jones gave a presentation at the Royal Asiatic Society in Calcutta:
  - Sanskrit is very similar to Latin and Greek.
  - These similarities cannot be explained by mere chance.
  - All three languages stem from a common language which may not be in existence any more. Apart from these languages, Jones conjectures that Gothic and Celtic languages are also related.

History of Indo-European studies

- Friedrich von Schlegel was student in Leipzig.
- In 1808, he publishes the monograph „Über die Sprache und Weisheit der Indier".
- He expresses the hope to kindle the love for Indian language and philosophy in Germany. He suggests a new renaissance.
    - In the 15th and 16th centry, the study of Greek language and culture grew prominent.
    - Similarly, the Indian cultural heritage should be made fruitful for the presence.
    - (The new renaissance (with Yoga, Hare Krishna and Bollywood) might not have resonated well with Schlegel's aspirations.)
- Indology as a university subject gathered momentum (Bonn, Leipzig) and Indo-European linguistics was exercised in Berlin, Jena, Halle, and Leipzig.

History of Indo-European studies
Franz Bopp

- Schlegel: „die innere Structur der Grammatik oder die vergleichende Grammatik" best suited to clarify Jones's idea.
- Franz Bopp takes up Schlegel's suggestion in a systematic manner.
- He holds chair of "Orientalische Litteratur und allgemeine Sprachkunde" in Berlin.
- The range of languages accepted as Indo-European is steadily increasing. Bopp's major work is called

  Vergleichende Grammatik des Sanskrit, Zend, Griechischen, Lateinischen, Litauischen, Altslavischen, Gotischen und Deutschen

- Bopp is considered the founder of Indo-European studies. He did not express sound laws.

History of Indo-European studies

- Sound laws and reconstruction of the Indo-European language by
    - August Schleicher (1821 - 1868), professor in Prag and Jena
    - August Friedrich Pott (1802 – 1887), professor in Halle
- Schleicher's uses an asterisk to indicate reconstructed forms
- Schleicher invents language trees.
- The title of Schleicher's main work is

    Compendium der vergleichenden Grammatik der Indo-Europeanen Sprachen. Kurzer Abriß der Indo-Europäischen Ursprache, des Altindischen, Alteranischen, Altgriechischen, Altitalischen, Altkeltischen, Altslawischen, Litauischen, und Altdeutschen

- Schleicher composed an Indo-European fable.

History of Indo-European studies

- Leipzig school = Junggrammatiker (neogrammarians):
  - Schleicher's pupil August Leskien (1840 – 1916), a renowned slavicist
  - the younger philologist Karl Brugmann (1849 – 1919)
- Leipzig world-wide center of Indo-European studies from about 1890 to 1920.
- Lautgesetzstreit:
  - "Junggrammatiker" slightly derogative term earned in their quarrel with Friedrich Pott from Halle and Brugmann's teacher Georg Curius.
  - The bone of contention: The older researchers distinguished between regular and irregular sound changes. In contrast, the younger generation insisted on the "Ausnahmslosigkeit der Lautgesetze" (sound laws valid without exception).
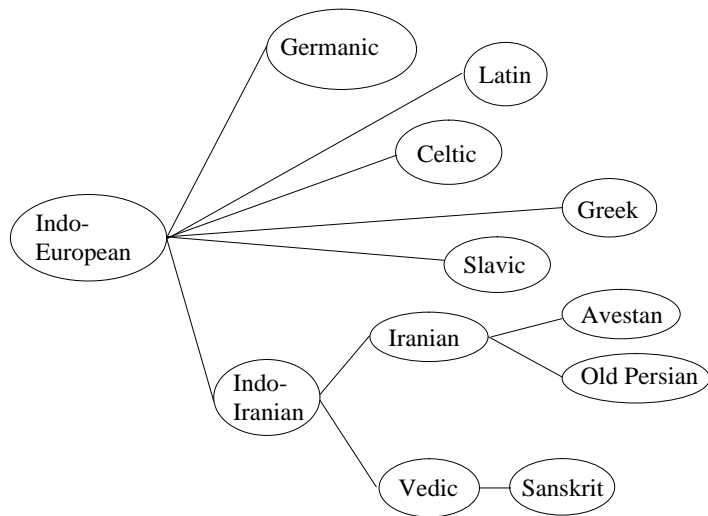
History of Indo-European studies

- Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913) (a Swiss) studies in Leipzig
- Being 21 years of age, he published the „Mémoire sur le système primitif des voyelles dans les langues indo-européennes".
  - Laryngeals in Indo-European
  - Argument: peculiarities of the Old Indian verbal classes
  - Hittite (discovered in Anatolia after de Saussure's death) confirms laryngeals.
  - Nowadays, laryngeals are accepted.
- After leaving Leipzig, de Saussure went to Paris and finally became professor in Geneva.
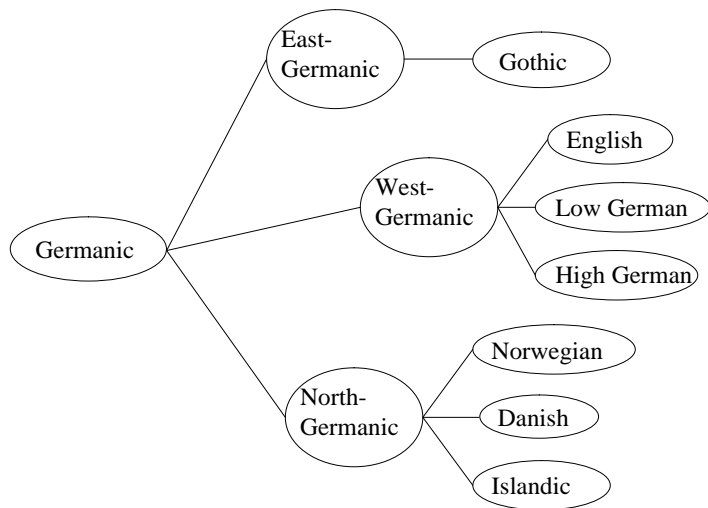- Nowadays, de Saussure is known to many as the founder of modern linguistics.

Indo-European = "indogermanisch"

- Both terms make sense:
  - "Indogermanisch" refers to languages between India (Sanskrit) and Iceland (old Icelandic as a Germanic language)
  - "Indo-European" makes clear that nearly all European languages (in fact, without Finnish, Estonian and Basque) together with Indo-Iranian languages are cognate
- Both terms are not quite correct because Tocharian has been identified as an Indo-European language which was spoken in (what is nowadays) China.

Indo-European language tree

Germanic language tree

Sound laws

The Junggrammatiker's dictum was the "Ausnahmslosigkeit der Lautgesetze". In their own words:

> *Aller lautwandel, soweit er mechanisch vor sich geht, vollzieht sich nach ausnahmslosen gesetzen, d.h. die richtung der lautbewegung ist bei allen angehörigen einer sprachgenossenschaft, außer dem fall, daß dialektspaltung eintritt, stets dieselbe ...*

Not mechanic:

- Analogy and levelling
  pattern gets transferred from one occurrence to another one.
- Foreign words or loan words travel from another language.

Indo-European vowel system

- Following Franz Bopp, August Pott and Georg Curtius assumed that the Indo-European language knew three short vowels, $^*a$, $^*i$ and $^*u$ also found in Sanskrit.
- The Junggrammatiker contradicted.
  - Indo-European vowels $^*a$, $^*e$ and $^*o$ collapsed into Indo-Iranian a,
  - while Old Greek preserved the Indo-European vowels particularly well.
  - Their argument was based on the Ausnahmslosigkeit.
    - If Sanskrit a were to reflect the Indo-European state of affairs, sound laws should tell under which conditions Indo-European $^*a$ turned into Greek a, e or o.
    - However, such sound laws are not to be found. Hence, the Leipzig-school researchers claimed

$$\text{ie. } a/e/o \rightarrow \text{oi. } a$$

Some tips for learning Sanskrit I

- Synonyms
  There are (at least) six words meaning friend:
  mitram, *vallabhas*, *vayasyas*, *suhṛt*, *sakhā* and *bandhus*.
- Similar words
  - *talam* ("ground")
  - *tālas* ("palm tree")
  - *tilas* ("sesame corn/tree")
  - *tailam* ("oil" which **is** related to *tilas*)
- *sūtas* $\neq$ *sutas* = *sūnus* = *tanayas* = *putras*
- Compounds
  - *hutabhuk* (stem *hutabhuj*) means "fire" but literally "enjoyer of offerings"
  - *sūktam* is a hymn, to be understood as *su-uktam*

Some tips for learning Sanskrit II

- ie. *ed developed into
  - oi. *ad*
  - English (e.) *eat* and New High German (nhg.) *essen*
- negating prefix
  - *a* in oi. *a-gas* ("not going → tree")
  - Greek foreign words (FW) like *a*-theist
  - Latin FW like *im*-possible
  - e. *un*-true
- oi. *dáśa* ← ie. *deḱ‹m* → gr. FW *decade* ∼ lat. FW *dean* ∼ e. *ten* ∼ nhg. *zehn*
- oi. *tad* ← ie. *tod* → e. *that* ∼ nhg. *das*

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