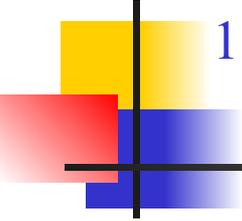


**The Germanic Languages.  
Proto-Germanic.  
Old English. Phonology.**

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**Lecture 1.**

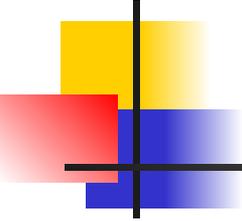


1. Principal Features of Germanic Languages

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2. The First consonant shift (Grimm's Law). Verner's Law
3. Periods in the History of English
4. OE Heptarchy. OE dialects
5. OE Vocalism
6. OE Consonant System

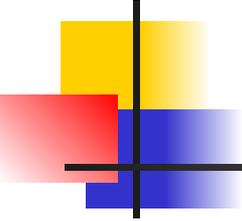
# 1. Principal Features of Germanic Languages



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**English belongs to:**

- **The Indo-European family of languages;**
- **The Germanic branch.**
- **West Germanic group**

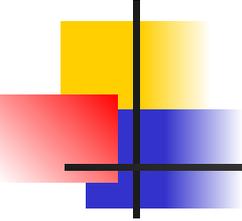


# Proto-Indo-European (PIE)

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- **Proto-Indo-European (PIE)** - some single language, which must have been spoken thousands of years ago by some comparatively small body of people in a relatively restricted geographical area

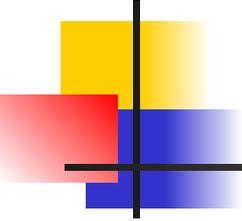
# Proto-Germanic (PG)



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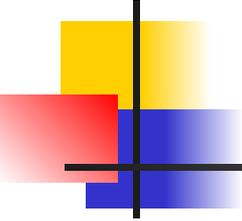
- **Proto-Germanic (PG)** - a dialect of Indo-European all Germanic languages are descended from;
- We have no records of the PG language.
- We can reconstruct it (Gothic).

# Proto-Germanic (PG)



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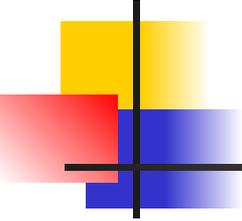
- PG is a highly **inflected** language;
- the word stress was put on the **1st syllable** (fixed accent);
- *PIE verb "bheronom" – PG beranan – OE beran – ME beren, bere – ME bear*



## 2. The First consonant shift. Grimm's Law

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- “the 1st sound-shifting”;
- after the early 19th c. **philologist Jakob Grimm**, who analysed it.



## 2. The First consonant shift. Grimm's Law

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- In **PIE** there was a rich array of stop consonants;
- This system underwent great changes in **PG**;
- It consists of **3 major consonant changes.**

# PIE aspirated voiced stops > Gmc voiced stops

---

- **Bh > b**

*Sans. bharami – ModE bear*

- **Dh > d**

*Sans. rudhiras – ModE red*

- **Gh > g**

*Gr. chen – Ger Gans*

# PIE voiceless stops > Gmc voiceless fricatives

---

- **P > f**

*L. pater – ModE father*

- **T > th**

*L. dentis – ModE tooth*

- **K > h**

*L. cornu – ModE horn*

# PIE voiced stops > Gmc voiceless stops

---

- **b > p**

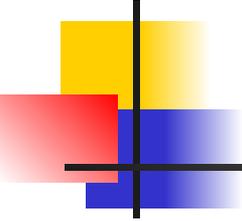
*L. turba – ModE thorpp*

- **d > t**

*L. dens – ModE tooth*

- **g > k**

*L. ager – ModE akre*



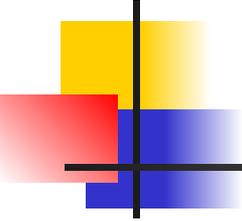
# Verner's Law.

## The Second Consonant Shift (1875)

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- Certain apparent exceptions to Grimm's Law were subsequently explained by **Karl Verner (a Danish scholar)** and others.

# Verner's Law.

- 
- 
- **Karl Verner** showed that voiceless fricatives became voiced **if the preceding syllable was unstressed**, but otherwise remained unchanged.
  - *Latin centum - English hundred.*

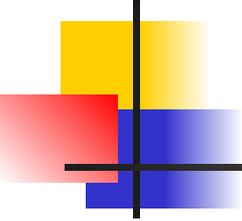
# Verner's Law.

- PIE f > Gmc v
- PIE th > Gmc d

*Lat pater – Gth fadar*

- PIE k > Gmc g
- PIE s > Gmc z > r in North and West Germanic) = rotacism

*Gth. raisjan – OE ræran*

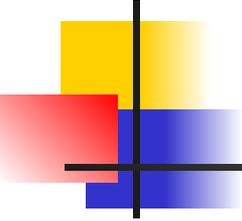


# 3. Periods in the History of English

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- Traditionally, the history of the English language is divided into **3 major periods**.
- This division was first proposed by an English philologist, **Henry Sweet**, in 1873.

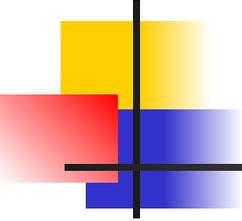
# Periods in the History of English



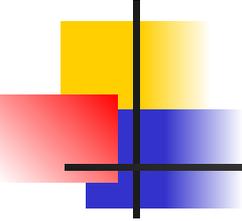
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- **Old English** (Anglo-Saxon) (5 c.-1066) = *the period of full inflexions*;
- **Middle English** (1066 – 1485) = *of levelled inflexions*;
- **Modern English** (1485 - ...) = *of lost inflexions*.

# 4. OE Heptarchy. OE dialects

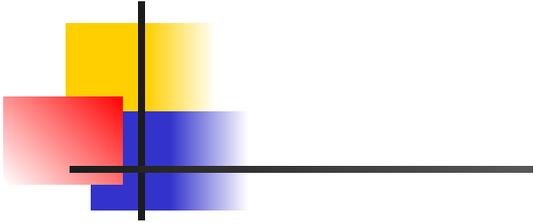
- 
- 
- The earliest inhabitants of the British Isles, were **Celtic** speakers.
  - The Celts had been living in England until being invaded by the **Romans** in 43 CE. and Latin never overtook the Celtic language.

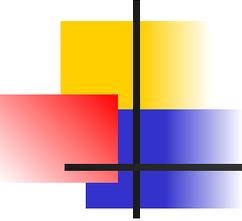
## 4. OE Heptarchy. OE dialects



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- About the year **449 AD** began the invasion of Britain by certain **Germanic tribes**, the founders of the English nation:
  - *Angles, Saxons, Jutes, Frisians*

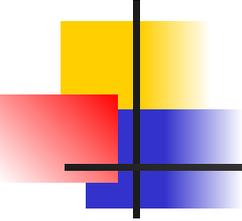




## 4. OE Heptarchy. OE dialects

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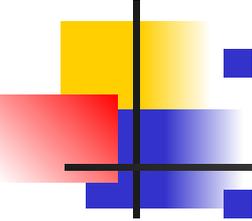
- **By 700**, the Anglo-Saxons had occupied most of England and a considerable part of southern Scotland (but for Cornwall and Wales).
- The language of Anglo-Saxons became the dominant one.



## 4. OE Heptarchy. OE dialects

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- **In the 7<sup>th</sup> c.** Germanic tribes set up seven kingdoms called the Anglo-Saxon **Heptarchy**, *rule of the seven kingdoms* .



- Kent

- Northumbria

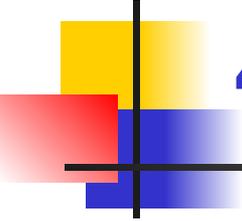
- Mercia (West Midlands)

- Wessex (central Southern England)

- East Anglia

- Essex

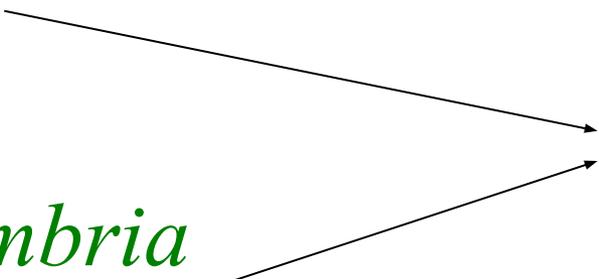
- Sussex

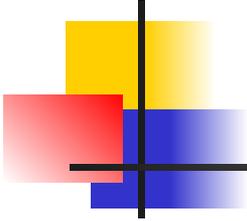


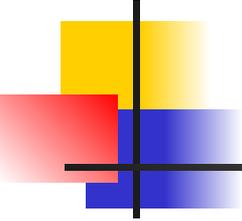
## 4. OE Heptarchy. OE dialects

---

The surviving texts from the OE period are  
in **4 main dialects**:

- *West saxon! (the literary standard)*
  - *Kentish*
  - *Mercia*
  - *Northumbria*
- Anglian*
- 

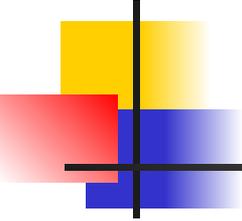




## 4. OE Heptarchy. OE dialects

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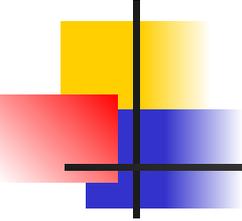
- Although *West Saxon* became the *literary standard of unified England*, it is not the direct ancestor of **modern standard English**, which is mainly derived from **an Anglian dialect**



## 4. OE Heptarchy. OE dialects

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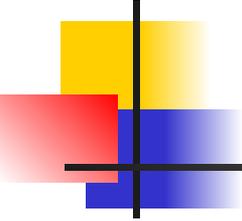
- The conversion of the English to Christianity began in **597** with **St Augustine**, and took a century to complete;
- *With Christianity came writing.*



## 5. OE Vocalism

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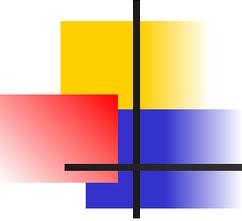
- *All living languages undergo changes.*
- *What causes such changes?*



# Alterations:

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- *Qualitative // quantitative;*
- *Dependent // independent*

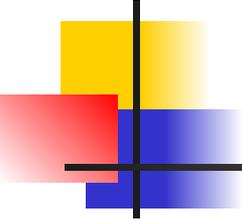


# Anglo-Frisian Brightening (or First Fronting).

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- The Anglo-Frisian languages underwent a sound change in their development from Proto-Germanic by which the vowel  $\bar{a}$  was fronted to  $\bar{æ}$ , unless followed by a nasal consonant (n, m).

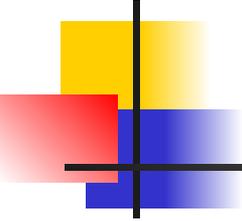
*Cf. OE mann and OE dæg*



## Restoration of a or Retraction

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- Later in Old English, short /æ/ (and in some dialects long /æ:/ as well), was backed to /ɑ/ when there was a **back vowel** in the following syllable.

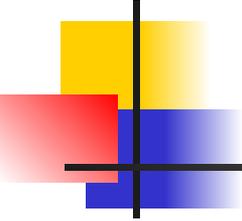


# Restoration of a or Retraction

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- **Nominative**      dæġ      dagas
- **Accusative**      dæġ      dæġ
- **Genitive**      dæġes      daga
- **Dative**      dæġe      dagum

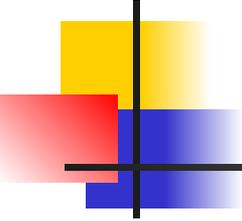
*For further references see pg. 76 // Rastorguyeva T. A. A History of English. - M.: Vysšaja Škola, 2003. - 347 p.)*



# OE Breaking or fracture

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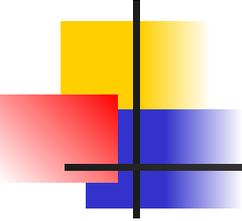
- it is **diphthongization** of short vowels before certain consonant clusters (*before r, l, h + consonant and before h final*).
- It is vowels **a** and **e** that underwent fracture.



# OE Breaking or fracture

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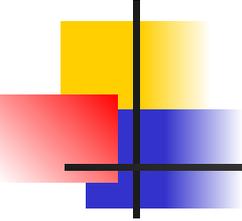
- *Gth. kalds – WS ceald*
- Breaking produced a new set of vowels in OE = /**ea**/ and /**eo**/.



# OE Breaking or fracture

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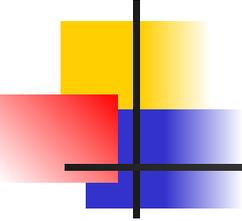
- *For further references see **pg. 78-80** // Rastorguyeva T. A. *A History of English*. - M.: Vysšaja Škola, 2003. - 347 p.*



# Palatal diphthongization

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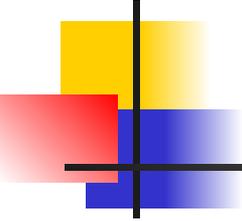
- OE vowels also change under the influence of the initial **palatal consonants** ʒ [j], c [kʰ] and cluster sc [scʰ].
- As a result of palatalization the vowel [e] and [æ] are diphthongized. E.g.:  
*OE scæmu > OE sceamu 'shame'*



# Palatal diphthongization

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- *For further references see pg. 78-80  
// Rastorguyeva T. A. *A History of English*. - M.: Vysšaja Škola, 2003. - 347 p.)*



# Front mutation or i-umlaut

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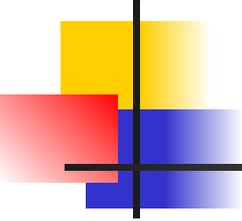
- It was a series of changes to vowels which took place when there was an *i*, *ī* or *j* in the following syllable.
- Subsequently, the *i*, *ī* or *j* disappeared, or changed to *e*.

in the process termed 'mutation'. Mutation is the change of one vowel to another through the influence of a vowel in the succeeding syllable.

Table 4

Palatal Mutation

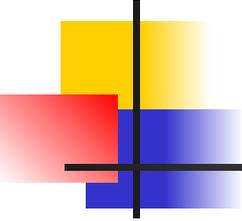
Change illustrated		Examples		
Vowels prior to palatal mutation	Mutated vowels	Gt or OE (without palatal mutation)	OE (palatal mutation)	NE
æ a o	e	Gt mats	mete	<i>meat</i>
		OE sala, Gt sal- jan	sellan	<i>sale, sell</i>
a:	æ:	Gt sandjan	sendan	<i>send</i>
		OE lār, Gt lais- jan	lāeran	<i>'teaching', 'teach'</i>
	e	OE ān	ānig	<i>one, any</i>
o		OE dohtor	dehter	<i>daughter (Nom. and Dat. sg)</i>
o:	e:	OE bōc	bēc	<i>book, books</i>
		OE dōm		<i>doom</i>
	y	Gt gadōmjan	dēman	<i>deem</i>
u		OE full		<i>full</i>
		Gt fulljan	fyllan	<i>fill</i>
u:	y:	OE mūs	mȳs	<i>mouse, mice</i>
ea	ie	OE eald	ieldra	<i>old, elder</i>
eo		OE feor	fierra	<i>far, farther</i>
ea:	ie:	OE zelēafa	zeliefan	<i>belief,</i>
eo:		Gt galaubjan		<i>believe</i>
		OE þeod	elþiedig <i>adj</i>	<i>'tribe', 'of a tribe'</i>



# Front mutation or i-umlaut

---

- Front mutation made considerable changes in the **pronunciation** of English.
- Examples of i-umlaut in Mod English: *food* and *feed*, *goose* and *geese*, *tooth* and *teeth*, *blood* and *bleed*, *man* and *men*.

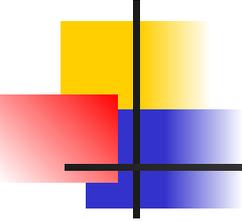


# Front mutation or i-umlaut

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i-umlaut led to the appearance of new vowels:

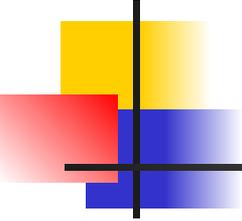
- [y] and [y:] arose from palatal mutation;
- Diphthongs [ie] and [ie:]



# Front mutation or i-umlaut

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- For further references see pg. 80-82 // Rastorguyeva T. A. A History of English. - M.: Vysšaja Škola, 2003. - 347 p.)

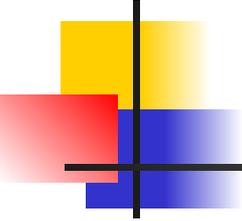


# Velar umlaut

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- For further references see pg. 82 //  
Rastorguyeva T. A. A History of  
English. - M.: Vysšaja Škola,  
2003. - 347 p.

## 6. OE Consonant System



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- For further references see pg. 85-90 // Rastorguyeva T. A. A History of English. - M.: Vysšaja Škola, 2003. - 347 p.