

Word Roots: Classics 30

Thursday,
September 2, 2010:
Unit 10



**William the Conqueror
(Guillaume le Conquérant)
French-speaker who conquered
England in 1066**

Today's Goals

- To go over next week's final exam
- To look ahead at material from Unit 9
- To take a look at the active and passive voice
- To practice grammar
- To learn a few Biology Terms

Biology Term I

- protoplasm (an obsolete term)
 - {proto} = “first”
 - {plasm(a)} = “molded thing,” “created thing”
 - Protoplasm was a term for the oozy liquid material in a cell. Before modern microbiology, it was thought to be the source and first form of life.
- Compare
 - (blood) plasma, the liquid part of blood
 - cytoplasm
 - plastic

Biology Term II

- karyogamy
 - {kary} = “nucleus”
 - {gam} = “marriage
 - {y} = process
 - Karyogamy occurs when two nuclei merge into one, as when the nucleus of a sperm merges with that of an egg.
- Compare
 - Plasmogamy (when the cytoplasm of two cells merge) (In some fungi, the cytoplasm of two reproductive cells merge before their nuclei undergo karyogamy, which leads to a dikaryotic cell for a period of time.)

Unit 10: The Indo-Europeans

Introduction

- The Indo-Europeans are a people who spoke a language from which most European and many Near-Eastern and South Asian languages arose. They lived about 5000 years ago. They left no written records, so their existence is inferred from studying the languages that descended from theirs.
- The discovery of the Indo-Europeans is considered one of the greatest accomplishments of European humanistic scholarship
 - “Humanistic” means relating to the humanities: the humanities are the studies of philosophy, art, literature, and other products of human effort; they are usually contrasted with the sciences like biology, physics, and chemistry, which have natural objects as the focus of their study.

Unit 10: The Indo-Europeans

Background to their Discovery

- The two classical languages of Europe are Greek and Latin.
- People had always noticed that the two languages had striking similarities.
- Because Greek was more prestigious and was thought to be earlier than Latin, it was assumed that Latin was some sort of degenerate Greek.
- One more thing: Europeans were well aware that the modern Romance languages (Spanish, French, Portuguese, Italian, Romanian and others) had developed from Latin. They had seen that happen themselves.

Unit 10: The Indo-Europeans

Their Discovery

- Around 1500, Europeans started traveling regularly to India.
- Soon they noticed similarities between Indian languages and Greek and Latin.
- The Indians had their own classical language, Sanskrit, from which many North Indian languages have arisen, and the similarities between it and Greek and Latin were striking.
- By 1800, it was apparent that Greek, Latin, and Sanskrit had all developed from a common ancestor, just as the Romance languages had developed from Latin.
- Moreover, it was realized that many other European, Middle-Eastern, and South Asian languages came from the same source: these include Persian languages, Slavic languages, Germanic languages, and Celtic languages.

Unit 10: The Indo-Europeans

What to call them

- Since they did not write, we have little idea what the speakers of this ancestral language called themselves (or even if they had a name for themselves as speakers of a common language).
- Nowadays, we call them Indo-Europeans (after India and Europe, the extreme eastern and western portions of their spread) and their language Proto-Indo-European.
- But sometimes they have been called Indo-Germans.
- And they have even been called Aryans; Hitler gave this term a bad name, however, and it is no longer used.

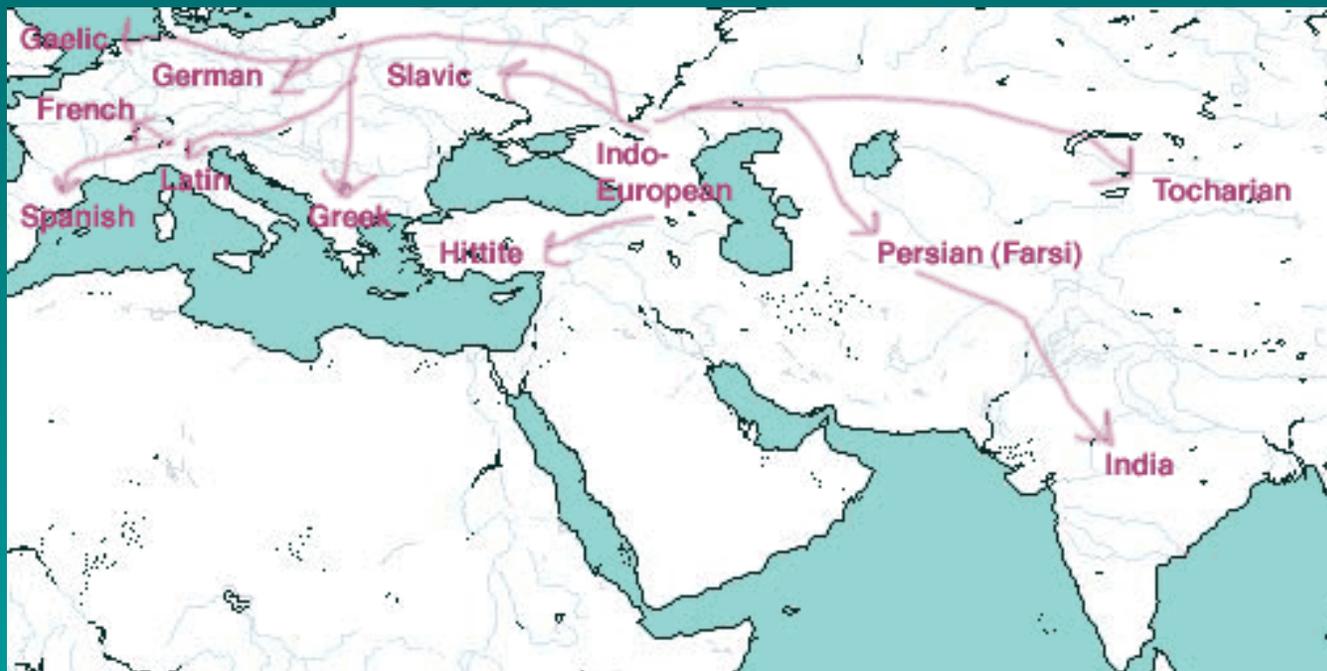
Unit 10: The Indo-Europeans

Who were they? How did they spread?

- If you carefully examine the vocabulary of the languages descended from theirs, you can conclude they probably lived somewhere in around modern Ukraine around 3000 B.C.
- From there, peacefully or through violence, they spread.
- Some people think their mastery of horses gave them an advantage, but it's all very unclear.

Unit 10: The Indo-Europeans

Their Spread



(This is highly speculative)

Unit 10: Indo-Europeans

Significance for Etymology

- Most English words are Indo-European in origin.
 - Directly from Indo-European because English descended from Indo-European
 - Indirectly through Latin and Greek, which are not direct ancestors of English
- Careful study of Indo-European languages has allowed us to reconstruct many aspects of Proto-Indo-European.
- That means that nowadays, many English words can be traced back to 3000 B.C. or so.

Unit 10: French and English

- Many Greek and Latin words come into English more or less directly because educated Europeans have traditionally studied and respected Greek and Latin as languages of education.
- However, there is another major way that words of Latin origin came into English.
- They came through French.

Unit 10: French and English

- In England, Anglo-Saxon [=Old English], was spoken from about 500 A.D.
- However, in 1066, French speakers conquered England.
- For centuries afterward, the rich tended to speak French and the poor English.
- French is descended from Latin.
- Many words of Latin origin entered English through French. These words tend to be more everyday things and less intellectual than the words that come directly from Latin.

An Fun Fact about English

- To this day, some animals on a farm are called by English names, while they are called by French names when we eat them. (The poor English-speakers raised them; the rich French-speakers ate them)

French	English
pork	pig, swine, hog
veal	calf
beef	cow, ox, steer
mutton	sheep

Voice

- The voice of verb refers to whether its subject is acting or is being acted on.
- A verb that says the subject is acting is active.
- A verb that says the subject is being acted on is passive.
 - Active: I eat the cake.
 - Passive: The cake is eaten by me.

Voice

- Usually (there are many exceptions), only transitive verbs can be made passive, because, in a passive expression, the direct object of an active transitive verb becomes the subject of the passive verb.
 - I see the man => The man is seen by me.
 - I will sell the chair => The chair will be sold by me.

Clause Patterns

- A. S-TV-DO
- B. S-TV-IO-DO
- C. S-TV-DO-OC
- D. S-IV
- E. S-LV-N
- F. S-LV-A
- G. S-TV-A-I

Practice

What are the patterns of these clauses?

- Although I want to go to Paris.
- If you want me to take a bus.
- Mary cut Bill a piece of cake.
- It's strange to see you here.
- I heard him walk through the door.
- I like visiting my family.
- The woman who bought the Honda Civic came back.
- I didn't know that you let the cat out last night.
- I saw your sister the pediatrician last night.
- Don't let her do that!

Practice

What are the patterns of these clauses?

- Although I want to go to Paris, I'm going to New York this year.
- If you want me to take a bus, I'll do it.
- Mary cut Bill a piece of cake.
- It's strange to see you here.
- I heard him walk through the door.
- I like visiting my family.
- The woman who bought the Honda Civic came back.
- I didn't know that you let the cat out last night.
- I saw your sister the pediatrician last night.
- Don't let her do that!