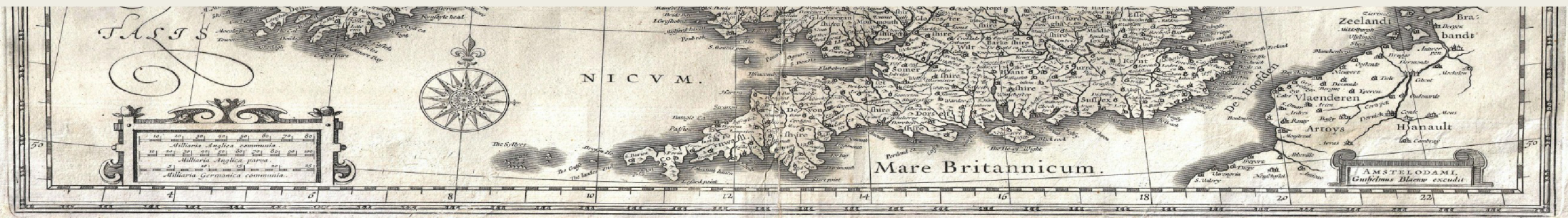




HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF ENGLISH

Kristína Macejová



POSITION OF ENGLISH IN THE WORLD

- 3rd most common native language
- Global lingua franca
- Official language of 60 states, EU, world organizations
- Most popular second language



Periodization of the English Language

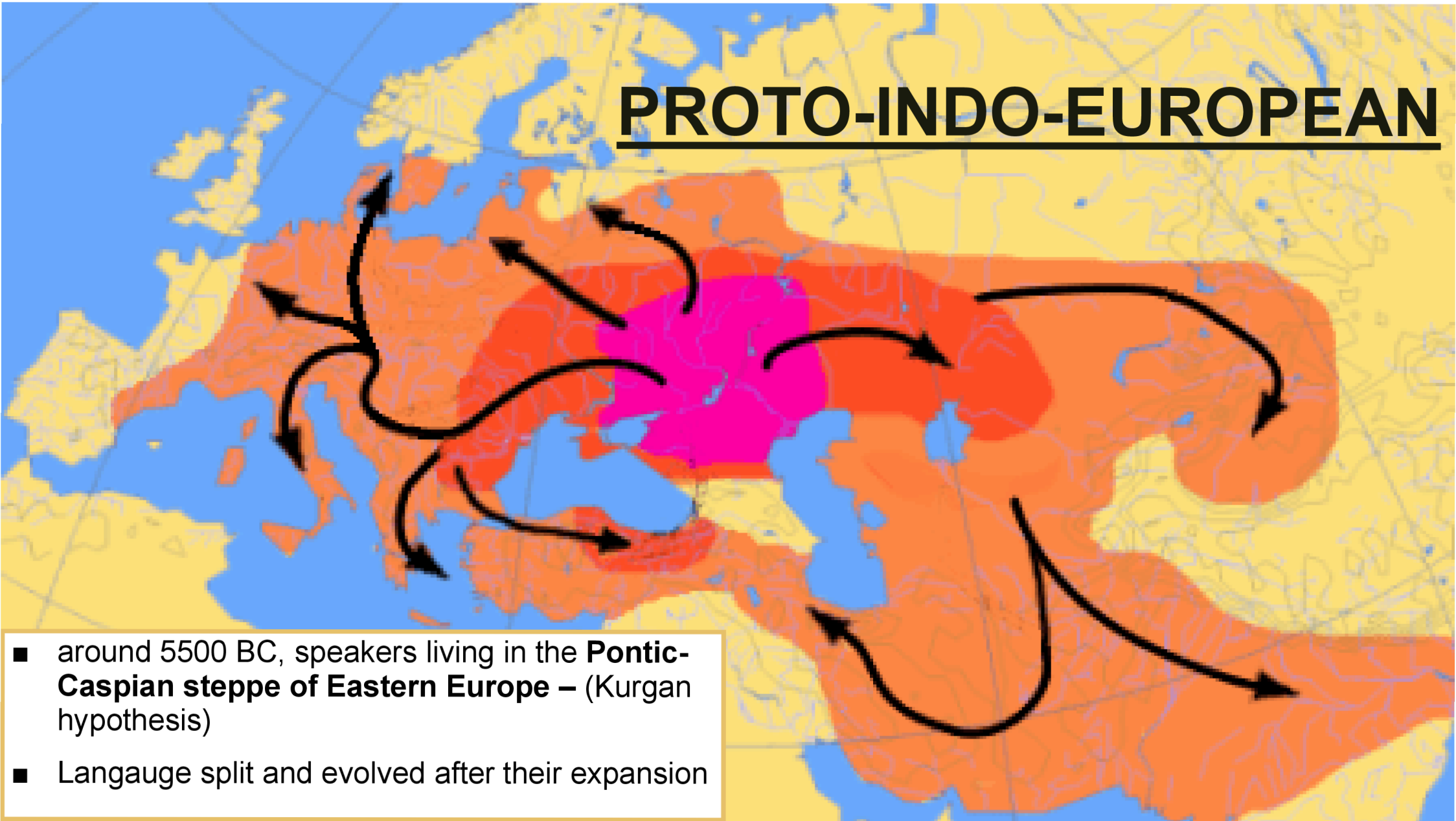
BC *Before Christ* (= BCE *Before the Common Era*)

AD *Anno Domini* (= CE *the Common Era*)

Periods of development	Beginning
Proto-Indo-European	5500 BC??? diverging cca 4 000 BC
Proto-Germanic → Pre-Proto-Germanic Proto-Germanic	3500 BC 3500 BC 500 BC
Old English	450 AD
Middle English	1100/1150 AD
Modern English Early Modern English Modern English	1500 AD 1500 1700/1800 →

PROTO-INDO-EUROPEAN

- around 5500 BC, speakers living in the **Pontic-Caspian steppe of Eastern Europe** – (Kurgan hypothesis)
- Language split and evolved after their expansion



BRANCHES OF PIE

	Indo-European Branches	Indo-European Languages	
1.	Anatolian	Hittite, Luwian, Lydian	
2.	Tocharian	Tocharian	
3.	Germanic	East	Gothic
		North	Eastern Group: Swedish, Danish, Norwegian Bokmål Western Group: Icelandic, Norwegian Nynorsk
		West	Anglo-Frisian Group: English, Frisian Low Germanic Group: Flemish, Dutch, Afrikaans High Germanic Group: German, Yiddish
4.	Italic (< Latin)	East	Romanian
		Central	Italian, Sardinian
		West	French, Catalan, Spanish, Portuguese
5.	Celtic	Continental	Gaulish, Lepontic, Celtiberian
		Insular	Goidelic Group: Irish Gaelic, Scots Gaelic, Manx Brythonic Group: Cumbrian, Welsh, Cornish, Breton
6.	Armenian	Armenian	

7.	Balto-Slavic	Baltic	Latvian, Lithuanian
		Slavic	Eastern Group: Belarusian, Russian, Ukrainian Southern Group: Bulgarian, Macedonian, Serbian, Croatian, Slovene Western Group: Polish, Slovak, Czech, Upper & Lower Sorbian
8.	Hellenic		Greek
9.	Indo-Iranian	Indo-Arian	Sanskrit, Bengali, Hindi, Marathi, Panjabi
		Iranian	Avestan, Pashto, Persian, Kurdish
10.	Albanian		Albanian

- The division into the:
- branches – based on genetic relationship – a **common ancestor**
 - subdivision – **shared innovations**

PROTO-GERMANIC (500 BC)

- Common ancestor to all Germanic languages
- Runic Vimose inscriptions from 200 AD (Denmark) – only written records available
- Grammar:
 - 6 cases: (*N, G, D, A, Vocative, and I*)
 - 3 numbers – *sg, pl, dual,*
 - 3 genders – *feminine, masculine, neuter*
 - *Two voices*
 - *Three moods*



SOUND CHANGES FROM PIE TO PG AND OLD ENGLISH

Grimm's Law

Proto-Indo-European			Proto-Germanic		
1	2	3	1	2	3
p	b	b ^h	f [f]	p	þ [v]
t	d	d ^h	þ [θ]	t	ð [ð]
k	g	g ^h	χ [x]	k	ʒ [ɣ]
k	g	g ^h			
k ^w	g ^w	g ^{wh}	χ ^w [x ^w]	k ^w	ʒ ^w [ɣ ^w]

- (1) PIE **voiceless stops** transformed into **voiceless fricatives** (spirants)
 p > f: lat. piscis > OE fisc (“fish”)
- (2) PIE **unaspirated voiced stops** transformed into **unaspirated voiceless stops**
 d > t: lat. duo > OE twā (“two”)
- (3) PIE **aspirated voiced stops** transformed into **unaspirated voiced fricatives** (spirants)
 b^h > ʒ : sans. bhrātar > OE brōþor (“brother”)



OLD ENGLISH (450 AD)

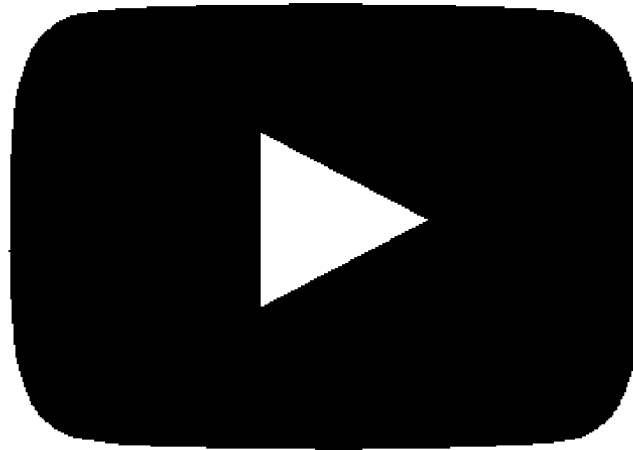
- arrival the **Germanic tribes** in 449 AD from the north-west part of Europe
 - *Angles, Saxons, Jutes*
- Anglo-Saxons – most influential in the further development of the country and language
 - **terms of kinship** (*brōðor, mōdor, sunu*)
 - **names of natural phenomena** (*sunne, mōna, mere* ‘sea’)
 - *scīrgerēfa* (*scīr* ‘shire, county’ + *gerēfa* ‘chief’, ultimately shortened to *sheriff*)

OTHER INFLUENCES



- **Romans** (43 AD – 409 AD)
 - *towns, e.g. OE ceaster 'Roman fortified town' from L castra,*
 - survives in place-names: Chester, Winchester, Leicester
- **Christianization** in 7th-8th cent
 - *Religion and the Church: abbot, apostle, balsam, creed, disciple, font, martyr, mass*
 - *Household and clothing: candle, cap, silk, sponge*
- **Viking invasion**
 - *introduction of non-palatalized pronunciations in words like skirt, kettle, give, or egg*

LORD'S PRAYER
IN OLD AND MIDDLE ENGLISH



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lol78Eh3UD8>

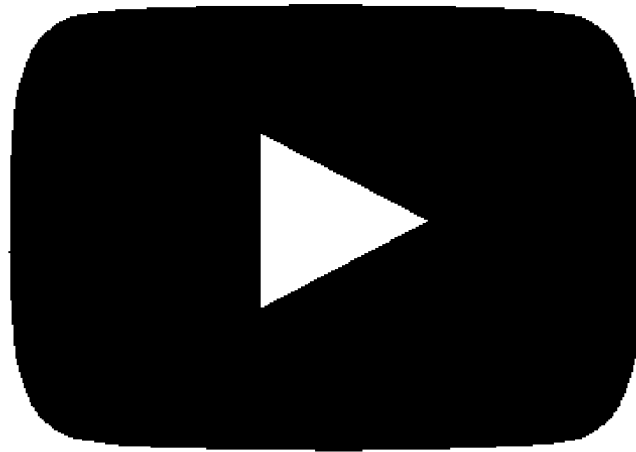
MIDDLE ENGLISH (1100/1150 AD)

- **Norman Conquest of 1066** – strong influence on language and culture
- Normans seized political, economic, military, and religious power
- Population continued to speak Eng, as the Norman Lords spoke French
- After loss of Normandy – **forced to adapt to English**

CHANCERY STANDARD

- After 1400, London has become the new political and cultural centre, replacing Winchester → **Chancery Standard**
- Reduction of unstressed syllables
 - *Inflectional system simplified*
 - *Word order → less flexible*

The Canterbury Tales (Prologue) in Middle English



[https://www.yo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnVG77xTPH6E)

[nVG77xTPH6E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnVG77xTPH6E)

EARLY MODERN ENGLISH (1500 AD)

- 16th – 17th – centuries of reformation but also of learning and discovery
 - *New science, expansion of the colonial empire, colonization of North America*
→ *American English*
- Rapid expansion of printing industry



SOURCES

Chamonikolasová, J. (2014). *A Concise History of English*. Masaryk University.

Pictures from the book:

- Periodization of English language: study materials from the course: Historical Development of English by Jana Chamonikolasová, '*Origin, development and global spread of English*' presentation, 2023
- Grimm's Law table – study materials from the course: Historical Development of English by Jana Chamonikolasová, '*Sound changes from Proto-Indo-European To Proto-Germanic and Old English*' - Jiří Lukl, Jana Chamonikolasová, 2023

Thank you for your attention !

