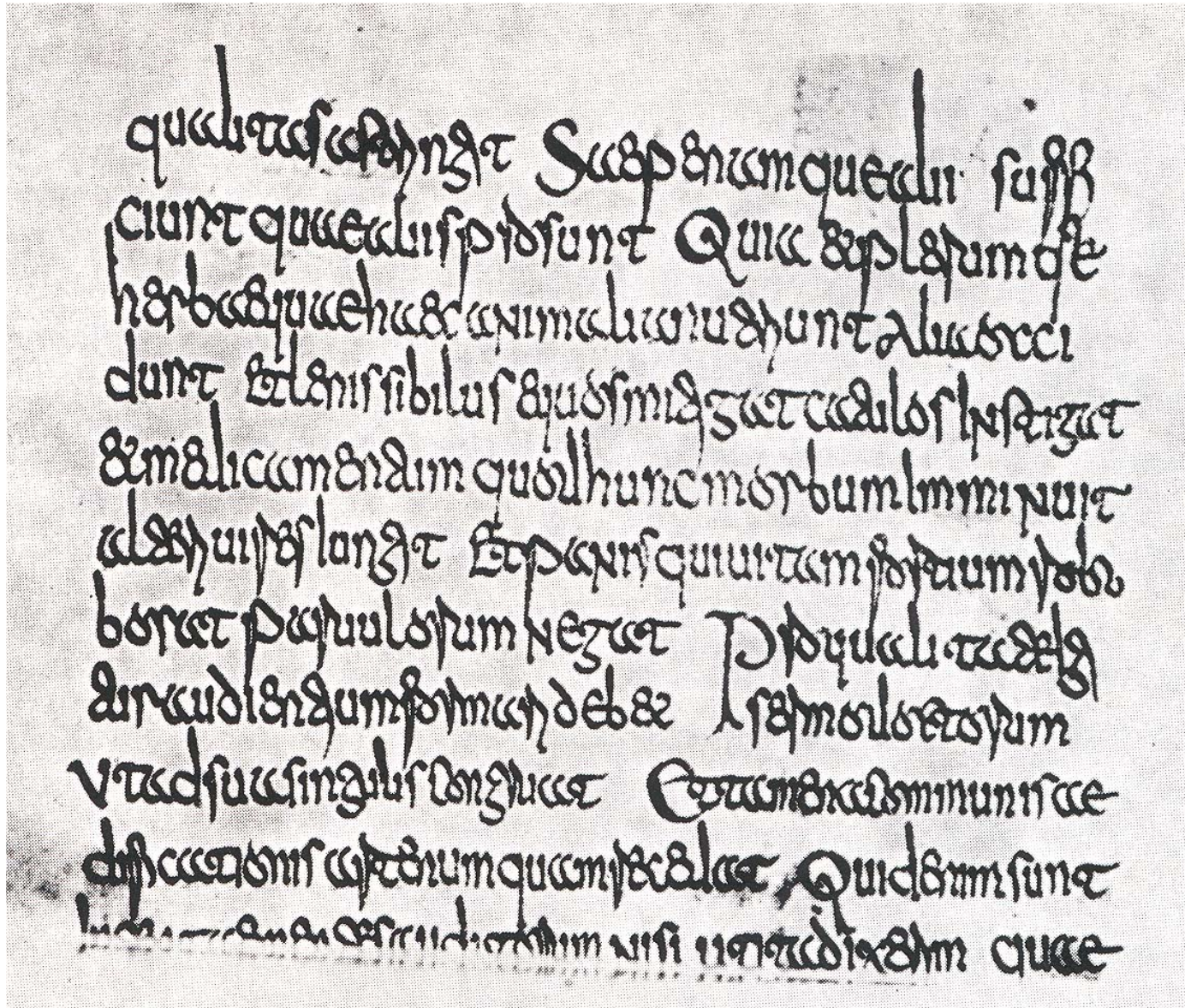**The Early Middle Ages: Carolingian era**

Chm. invited greatest scholars of his time to
his court, e.g. Paul the Deacon (Italy),
Theodulf of Orléans (Spain), **Alcuin of York**;
projects:

- all bishops required to open schools
- new editions of Bible and Benedictine Rule
- many classical texts unearthed, manuscripts
- form of writing standardised (Caroline
minuscule, clear and harmonious hand →
modern lowercase letters)

Caroline minuscule (9th c.)

F amulif tuif dne caeleftif gratiae munuf inpertire·
ut quibuf beatae uirginif partuf extitit falutif
exordium· natiuitatif eiuf uotiua follemnitaf pa
aftribuat incrementum· per SUPER OBLATA
Unigeniti tui dne nobif fuccurrat humanitaf ut
qui natuf deuirgine· matrif integritatem nonmi
nuit fed facrauit· innatiuitatif eiuf follemniif·anof
trif nof piaculif exuenf·oblationem noftram fibi
faciat acceptam· pereund. POSTCOMMUNION·
Sumpfimuf dne caelebritatif annuae uotiua facra
menta· prefta qf·ut &temporalif nobif uitae reme
dia prebeant & aeternae· per

vs. Merovingian script a hundred years earlier

Merovingian cursive script (8th c.) vs. Caroline minuscule

btw the British Isles had their own script, called Insular Hand
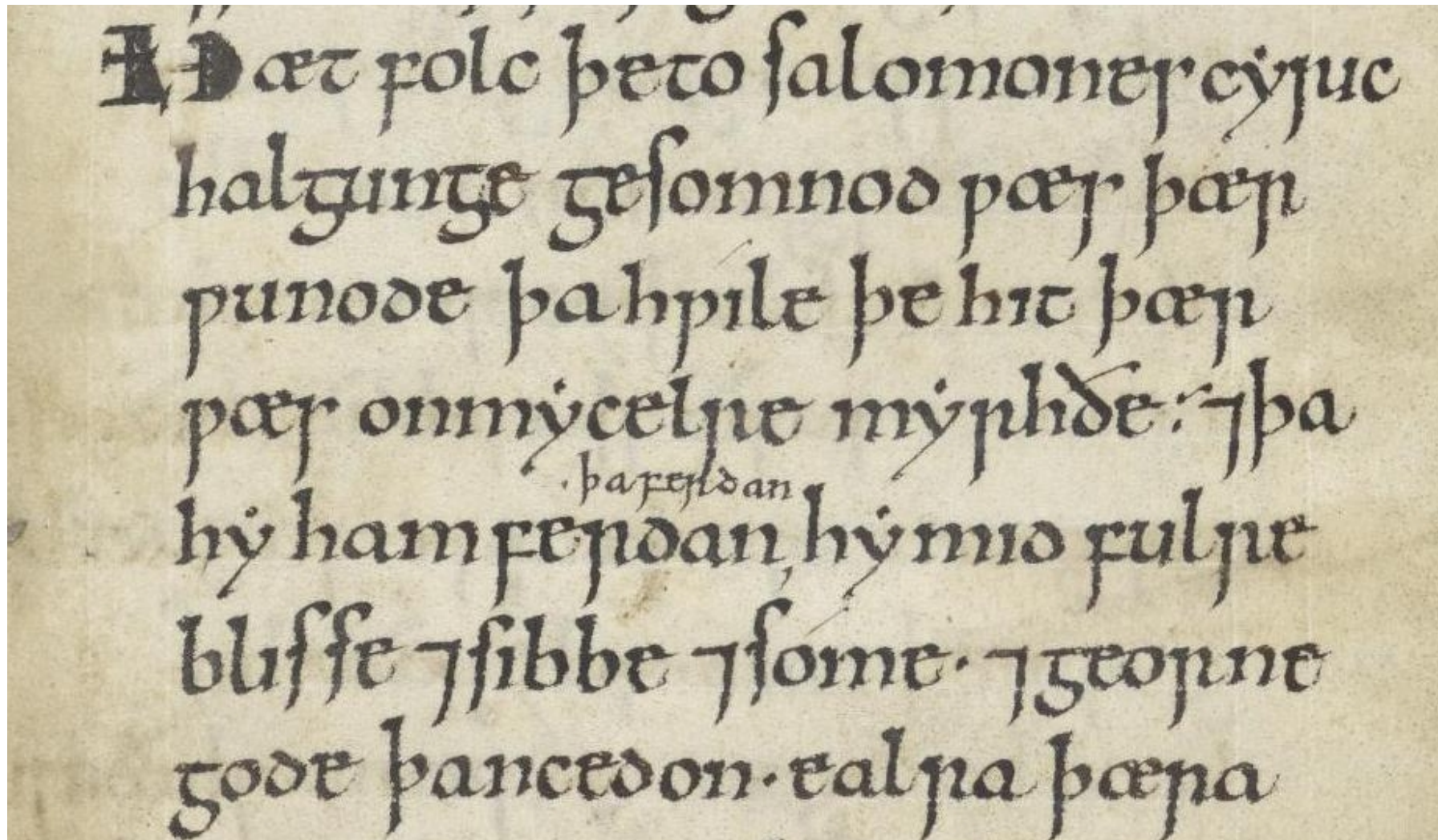
The Early Middle Ages: Carolingian era

Consequence: knowledge of Latin greatly improved, new kind of contact with Antiquity

Very important discoveries:

- Aristotle's *Organon* (parts of), in Latin transl. with Porphyry's introduction (*Isagoge*)

- Priscian's *Institutiones grammaticae* (bw. 600–800 only *Institutio de nomine...* known), probably Alcuin brought a manuscript from England

The Early Middle Ages: Carolingian era

Porphyry' *Isagoge*: basic notions of philosophy
e.g. **definition**

species   **difference**   **category**   **shared feature**

Man is a rational animal that is mortal

and able to laugh

unique feature
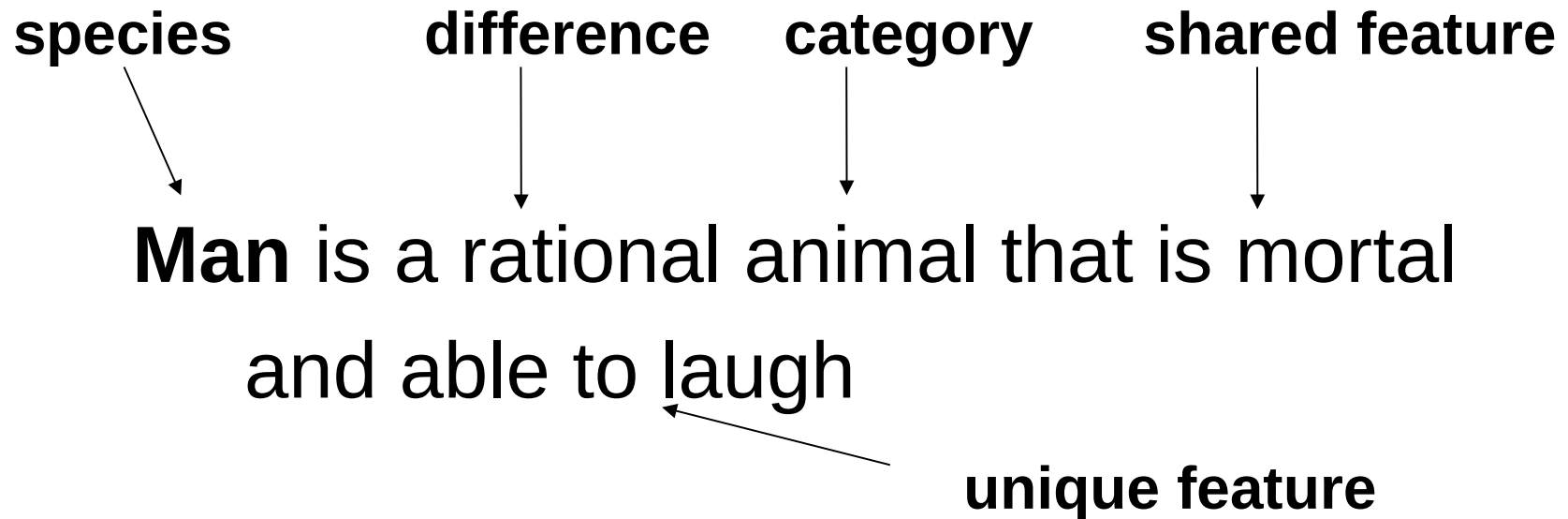
The Early Middle Ages: Carolingian era

Porphyry' *Isagoge*: basic notions of philosophy

e.g. **definition**: Donatus' verb (Peter of Pisa)

species   **category**   **shared feature**
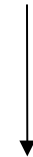
The verb is a part of speech with tense and person
without case, signifying action or passivity or neither

difference   **unique feature**
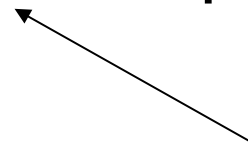
The Early Middle Ages: Carolingian era

Two important trends emerge:

- linking grammar with philosophy
- interest in syntax

Both have to do with the discovery of forgotten texts: Aristotle and Priscian, resp.

These trends develop over time into a strong interest in the philosophy of language, also a new direction for pedagogical grammar

The Early Middle Ages: Representing form

Ex: a nominal paradigm (*virtus* 'manliness')

	Singular	Plural
Nominative	*virtus*	*virtutes*
Vocative	*virtus*	*virtutes*
Accusative	*virtutem*	*virtutes*
Genitive	*virtutis*	*virtutum*
Dative	*virtuti*	*virtutibus*
Ablative	*virtute*	*virtutibus*

The Early Middle Ages: Representing form
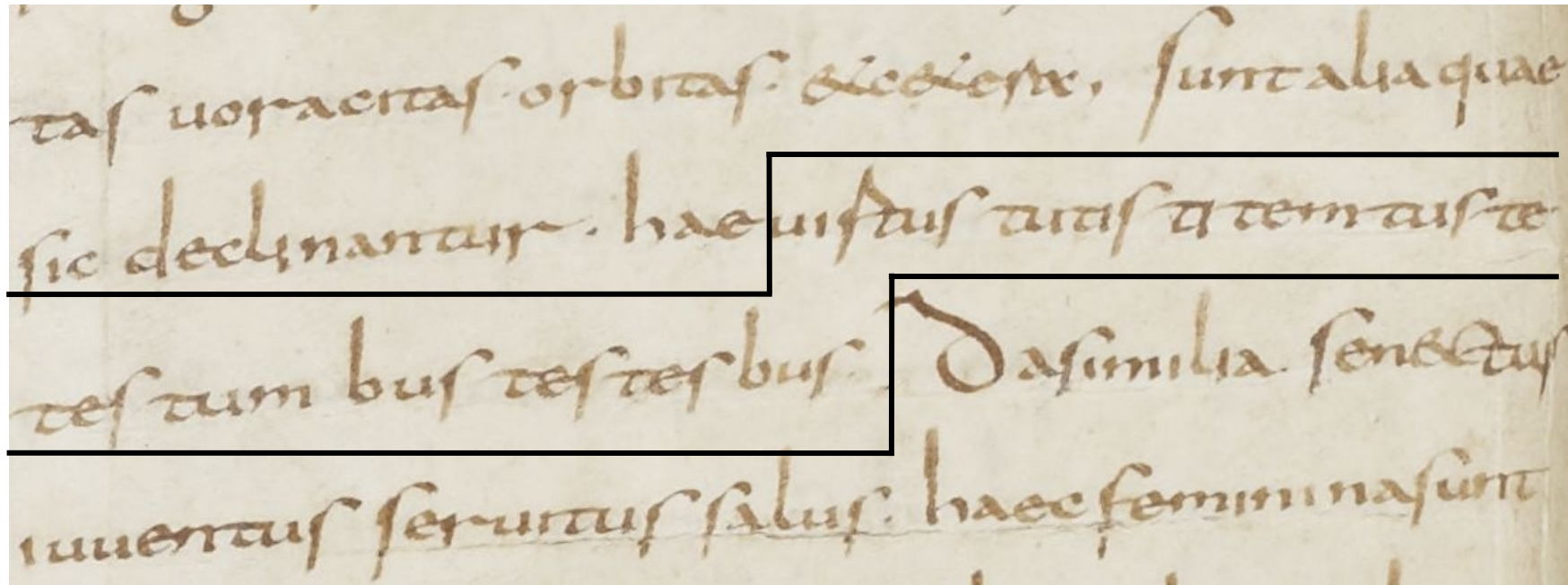
A manuscript from Corbie, early 9th c.

virtus tutis ti tem tus te

tes tum bus tes tes bus

The Early Middle Ages: Representing form

A manuscript from Corbie, early 9th c.

- no tables/charts to represent paradigms
- no sense of stem–affix articulation

The Early Middle Ages: Representing form

Ex: a nominal paradigm (*virtus* 'manliness')

	Singular	Plural
Nominative	**virtus**	virtu**tes**
Vocative	vir**tus**	virtu**tes**
Accusative	virtu**tem**	virtu**tes**
Genitive	vir**tutis**	virtu**tum**
Dative	virtu**ti**	virtuti**bus**
Ablative	virtu**te**	virtuti**bus**

The High Middle Ages: Universities

Up to 11th c. intellectual life in West takes place in monasteries

City schools set up from 9th c. onwards (cathedral schools, Charlemagne)

Cathedral schools grow in size & importance (Reims, Chartres, Notre Dame de Paris, Salisbury, Canterbury...)

~ 1200 some of these develop into universities: Paris, Oxford, later Cambridge, Naples, Lisbon, Toulouse...

The High Middle Ages: Universities

What made these universities?

- structured course spread over several years
- well-defined stages
- core of prescribed texts, on which lectures were given a set number of times
- the granting of degrees
- public recognition (charter from Pope)

The High Middle Ages: Universities

What were the stages?

- Arts: Priscian's Institutiones, Aristotle's logic, ethics, physics

- After graduation: Master of Arts

- Higher faculties: theology, law or medicine

- At a few universities (e.g. Oxford, Cambridge), faculty of grammar dedicated to training teachers

The High Middle Ages: Universities

Gregorius Reisch: Margarita philoso-
phica nova (1515)

Peter of Lombardy (theology)

Plato (Physics), Seneca (moral philos.)

Pythagoras (music), Euclides (geom.)
Ptolemy (astronomy)

Aristotle (logic), Cicero (rhetoric,
poetics), Boethius (arithmetic)

Priscian (advanced grammar)

Donatus (elementary grammar)

The High Middle Ages: Universities

What were the influences?

- primarily newly discovered texts by Aristotle

- including rest of his Organon, Physics, Metaphysics and others

- often translated from Arabic, with Muslims, Jews and Christians collaborating in South

  (Greek to Arabic to Old Spanish to Latin?)

The High Middle Ages: Universities

What happened in the study of language?

- Speculative grammar (~ Modistic grammar)
  - (meaning of term: theoretical!)
  - (practically only at Paris university, but spreads)
  - great interest in syntax, based on Priscian
  - philosophical interest in linking language to universals of reality and workings of the mind
- Practical grammar
  - pedagogical grammar, verse grammars

Speculative Grammar

Syntax: government and agreement
   (*regimen & congruitas*)

- word-based, dependency-relations
  - adjectives depend on nouns
  - verbs also depend on nouns (both S and O)
    - mainly for ontological reasons
- notion of subject and predicate appear but grammar remains word-based (as opposed to logic)

Speculative Grammar

Linking language, mind and reality;
   universal properties of language

- nothing essential about language can be found in sounds & sound shapes because those are arbitrary and language-specific

- really important (=universal, non-arbitrary) properties can be found in meaning

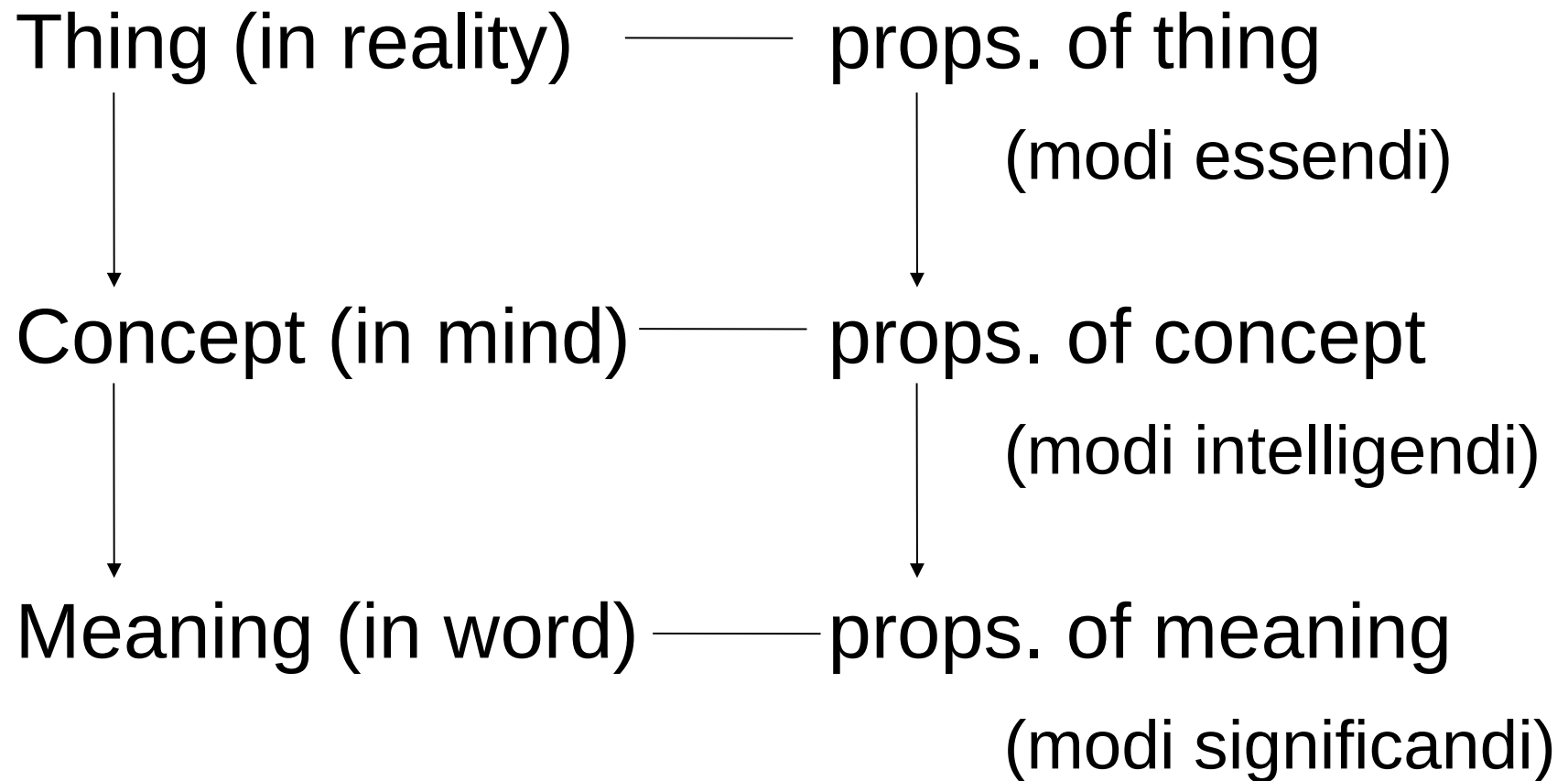- basic problem: why eight parts of speech and why those specifically?

Speculative Grammar

Answer to be found in meaning, but not meaning as such (e.g. *laugh* and *laughter* have the same meaning) →

- **Modes of meaning** (*modi significandi*)
  - substance with quality: noun
  - substance without quality: pronoun
  - action or passivity: verb
  - ...

Speculative Grammar

Later extended to level of mind and reality:

Thing (in reality) ——— props. of thing

(modi essendi)

Concept (in mind) ——— props. of concept

(modi intelligendi)

Meaning (in word) ——— props. of meaning

(modi significandi)

Speculative Grammar

Also extended to lower level of grammar (categories like gender, tense etc. are all refashioned as *modi*, practically unchanged)

Problems: 'stone' – *lapis* masc., *petra* fem.

why two genders for same meaning?

Martinus Dacus' answer:

lapis = laedens pedem 'hurting the foot'

petra = pede trita 'rubbed away by the foot'

active (masc.) vs. passive (fem.) meaning

Practical Grammar: Verse grammars

Donatus taught to beginners, Priscian at
  advanced level; at lower levels experimen-
  tation continues (form-based grammars not
  copied any more!)

Verse grammars become very popular,
  incorporate bits and pieces of morphological
  and sytanctic information in unsystematic
  manner; verse form makes them easy to
  memorise

Practical Grammar: Verse grammars

Most famous: Alexander de Villa Dei's
   Doctrinale (~1200, survives in 500+
   manuscripts!)

   "Est adjectivum substantivo sociandum

   in simili genere casu simili numeroque."

      'The adjective is to be joined to the noun

      in the same gender, number and case.'