

Early 19th century: Indo-European studies

Friedrich von Schlegel: *Über die Sprache und Weisheit der Indier* (1808)

- Studied Sanskrit from Hamilton in Paris
- Book immensely influential → vogue of orientalism
- General discussion of Indian culture, literature, religion etc.; also language (*Volksgeist!*)
- "Organic" vs. "mechanical" languages
- Derives Latin, Greek, Germanic languages from Skt on the basis of grammatical structure/forms
- Brother August Wilhelm also famous linguist

Early 19th century: Indo-European studies

Franz Bopp: *Conjugationssystem* (1816, treatise on verbal morphology), *Vergleichende Grammatik* (1833–52, full comparative morphology)

- Isolates language from other aspects of culture, as opposed to Schlegel's Romantic holism
- Highly methodical and analytical:
 - morphological segmentation
 - comparison bw related languages
- Greek, Latin, Sanskrit, Persian, Germanic (1816)
- + Slavonic, Lithuanian (1833–52)

Early 19th century: Indo-European studies

© (Lantern),
Franz Bopp
über das

Conjugationssystem der Sanskritsprache

in Vergleichung mit jenem der griechischen, lateinischen,
persischen und germanischen Sprache.

Early 19th century: Indo-European studies

Franz Bopp: *Conjugationssystem, Vergl. Gr.*

Latin *amabam* 'I loved' = ama-ba-m

root 'to love'



Past = Skt *bhu-* 'to be'

(*to be* is the only real verb!)

1Sing = Skt *mam* 'me'...

Early 19th century: Indo-European studies

Jacob Grimm

- Professor of law, high-ranking diplomat
- Collector of folk tales (with brother Wilhelm)
- Founder of Germanic studies as a branch of comparative and historical linguistics
 - In his case historical rather than comparative
- Detailed analysis of practically all extant texts in all (Old, Middle and Modern) Germanic languages: High German, (Low) Saxon, Low German, English, Frisian, Scandinavian, Gothic, Franconian

Early 19th century: Indo-European studies

Jacob Grimm

- Deutsche Grammatik (1819, 2nd ed. 1822)
 - Huge comparative grammar of Germanic languages
 - New section on phonology added in 2nd edition, based partly on Rasmus Rask's observations → Grimm's Law; followed by Old High German consonant shift (two highly systematic series of changes in the consonant system)

Grimm's Law (partial)

PIE	>	Gmc	ex.: Latin ~ English	
p		f	<i>pater</i>	<i>father</i>
t		θ	<i>tres</i>	<i>three</i>
k		h	<i>cornu</i>	<i>horn</i>
b		p	(Cz <i>jablko</i>	<i>apple</i>)
d		t	<i>duo</i>	<i>two</i>
g		k	<i>ager</i>	<i>acre</i>

Old High German Consonant Shift (partial)

Gmc > OHG ex.: English ~ MoGerm

p	pf/ff	<i>pepper</i>	<i>Pfeffer</i>
t	ts/ss	<i>ten</i>	<i>zehn</i>
k	x (ch)	<i>break</i>	<i>brechen</i>
θ	d	<i>three</i>	<i>drei</i>

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- Deutsches Wörterbuch (1854–1960, with Wilhelm)
 - Huge historical dictionary of the language (31+1 vols)
 - Based on vast historical and comparative material
 - Model for other dictionaries

The Grimms' Dictionary

NIEDER, *adv.*, *ahd.* nidar, nider, *mhd.* nider, *nhd.* nieder (in der ältern zeit noch ungedehnt nider), *md.* nider, nidder, nēder, *alts.* niþar, niðar, *mind.* nēder, nēdder, *nd. nl.* nēder, *ags.* nider, *altfries.* nither, nēder, *altn.* nidr: gebildet aus ni (s. bei nied präpos.) und dem alten comparativsuffix tara (*skr.* nur im adverbialen accus. sing. fem. nitarâm von einem adj. nitara, s. nieder adj.). *gramm.* 3, 622 ff. FICK² 112. 784. CURTIUS² 289. — nieder bezeichnet die von oben nach unten gehende oder ausgeführte bewegung und bildet den gegensatz zum adv. auf.

1) auf und nieder, hinauf und hinunter, auf- und abwärts, auf und ab, *mhd.* ûf unde nider:

The Grimms' Dictionary

dar fuor er unde wider
die werlt ûf unde nider.
L. v. REGENSBURG *tochter Syon* 1800;
nhd. mit belegen unter auf th. 1, 605, dazu noch:
daz ihre brust . . .
wird auf und nieder reisen. HOFMANNSWALDAU 1, 327;
und wunderte sich nicht mehr, warum der elende galan die
gassen auf und nieder gestutzt. WEISE *erzn. 60 neudruck;*
gieng ich den mir bekannten steig . . .
in meinem garten auf und nieder. BROCKES 1, 141;
mit brummen wälzt er sich im felsan auf und nieder.
HAGEDORN 2, 36;
ich kenne das gute herz (*der Louise*) auf und nieder. SCHILLER
3, 424 (*kab. 3, 1*);
und die köpfchen auf und nieder
wiegen sie im tact dazu. P. HEYSE *ges. werke* 1, 32;
die welle schwankt am nachen auf und nieder. 3, 162.
substantivisch:
eh all mein weg, mein auf und nieder
allein an deinen wegen hieng. K. STIELER *wanderzeit* 19.

NB. this is ~ 7% of the headword *nieder* 'low'



Early 19th century: general linguistics

Wilhelm von Humboldt

- politician, accomplished diplomat
- responsible for reform in secondary education
- foundation of new university in Berlin, 1810 (now Humboldt University) → teaching & research, very successful model emulated all over the world
- vast knowledge of humanities, sciences, languages
- also unparalleled understanding of all these
- (brother of explorer, geographer, ethnographer, polymath Alexander v. H.)

Early 19th century: general linguistics

Wilhelm von Humboldt

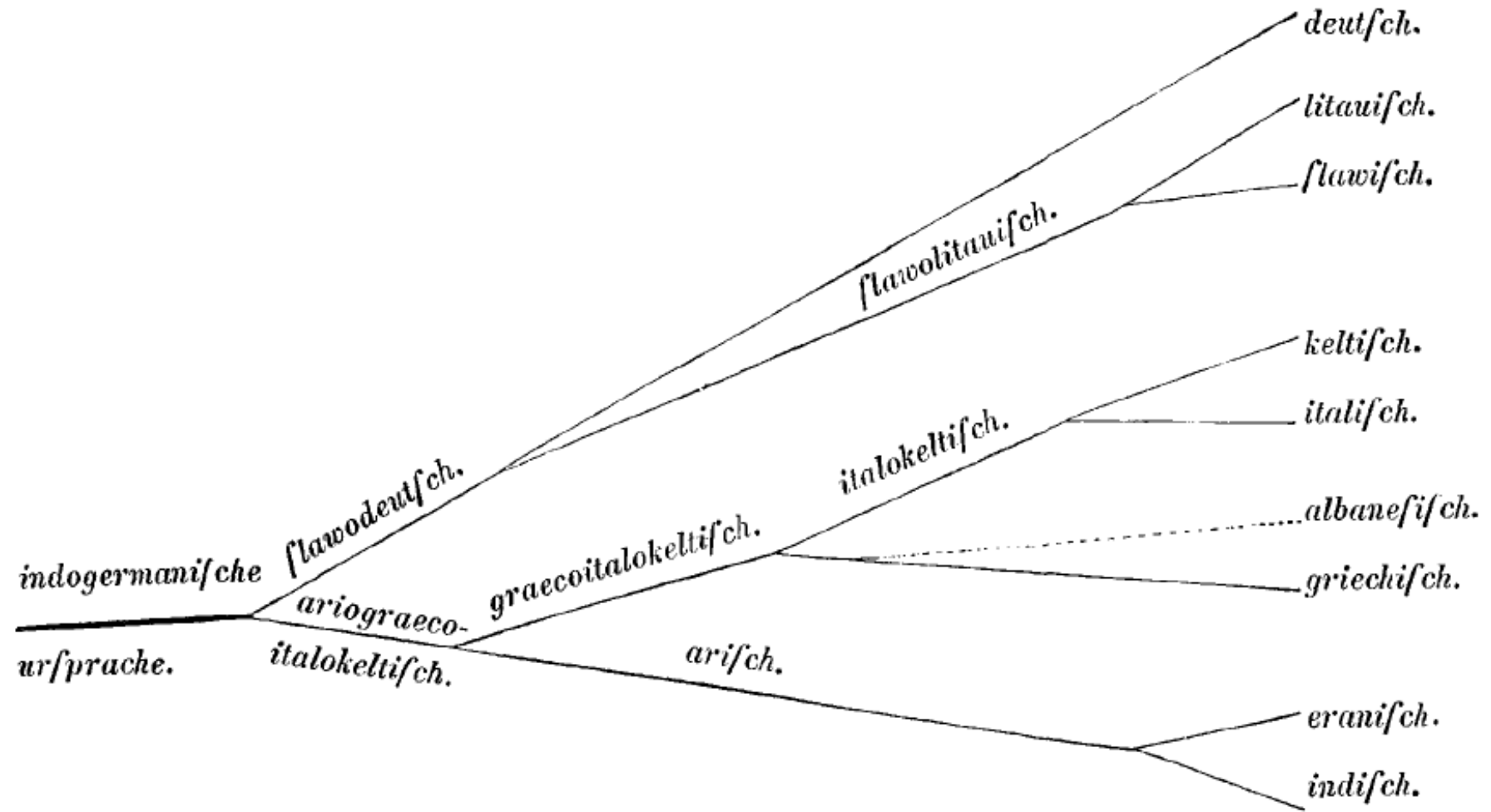
- description and history of languages, including American Indian languages and Kawi (Javan)
- language typology (distinction between historical, structural and contact-induced similarities/features)
- relation between language and perception of the world, *Weltansicht*; independence from logic!
- language as coherent whole, ~ organism
- creativity (language is *energy*, not a product; the creative organ of thought)

Early 19th century: Schleicher

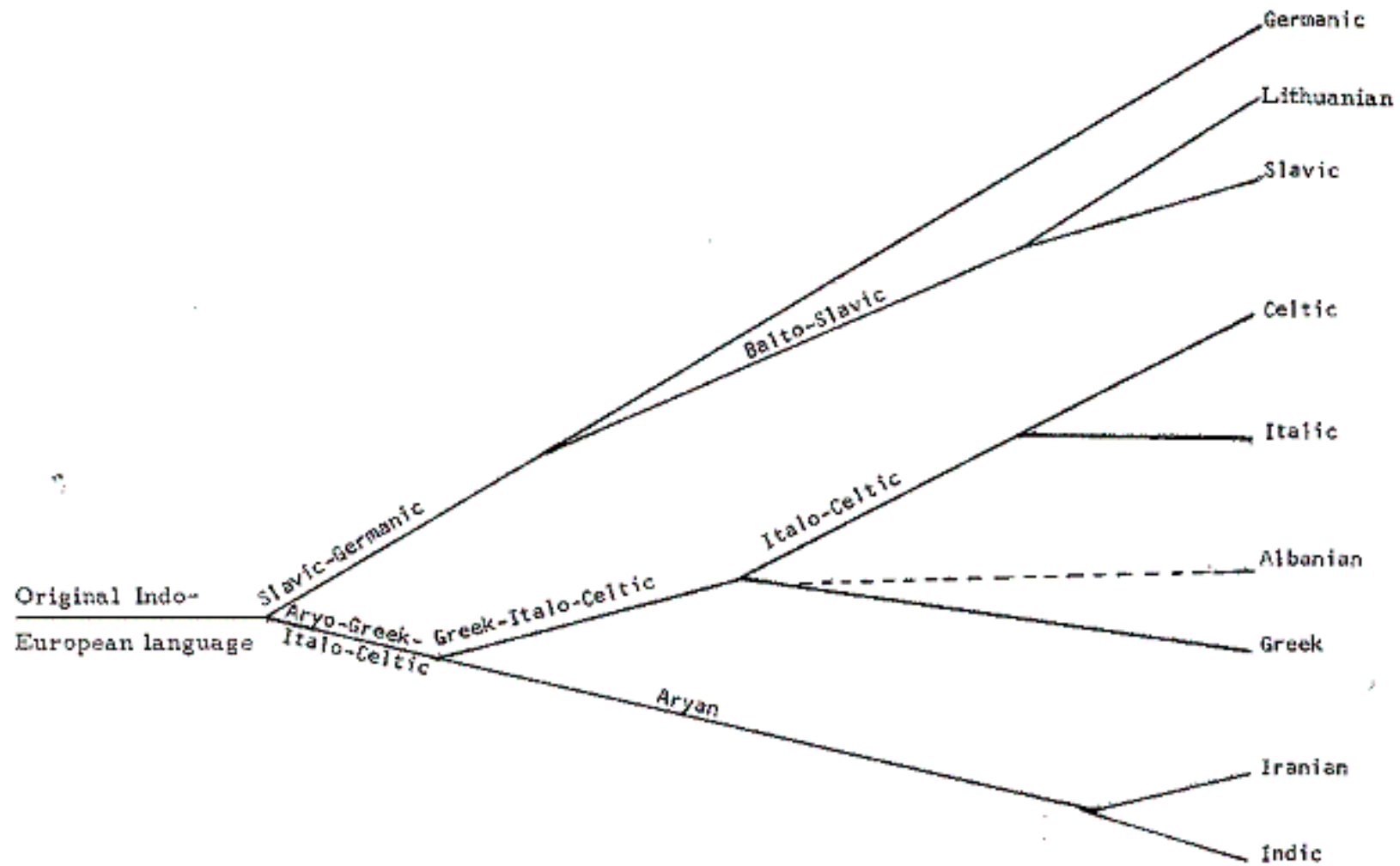
August Schleicher

- Last hero of old-school Indo-European linguistics
- *Compendium* (1861) and several minor works
- First ever explicit reconstructions
- First ever explicit modern family tree →

Early 19th century: Schleicher



Early 19th century: Schleicher



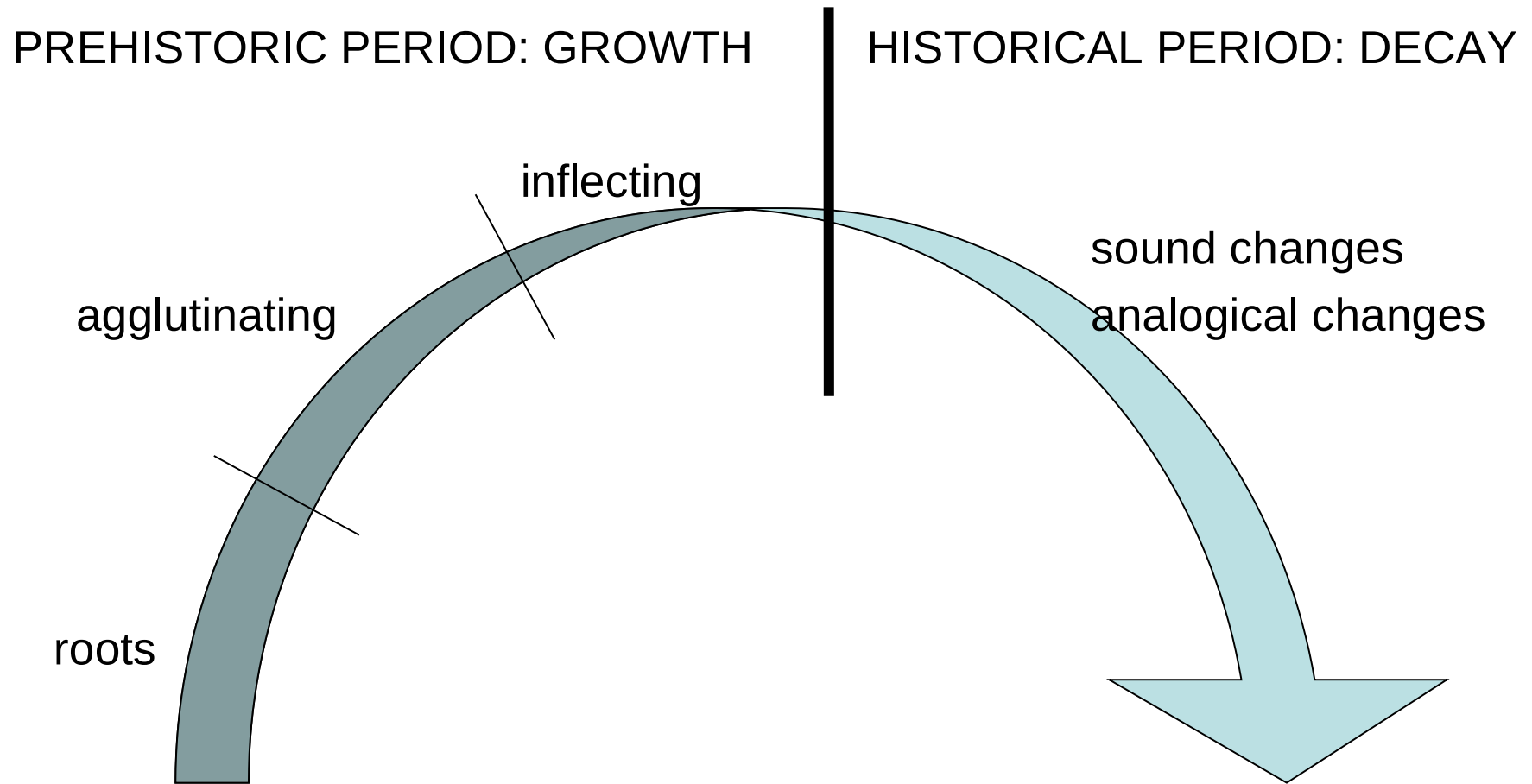
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- Focus on morphology
- Strongly organic view of language →

Early 19th century: Schleicher

The "life" of language



Early 19th century: Schleicher

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- *Compendium* (1861) and several minor works
- First ever explicit reconstructions
- First ever explicit modern family tree
- Focus on morphology
- Strongly organic view of language
 - in general: life cycle like for animals & plants
 - in particular: inflecting morphology, cf. Greek
leip-o ~ *le-loip-a* ~ *e-lip-on* 'I leave ~ I have left ~ I left'

Early 19th century: Summary

- Comparative & historical linguistics emerges; Indo-European studies established, then sub-branches
- Languages studied are mainly old & archaic Indo-European languages
- General linguistics also makes leaps forward
- Beginnings of institutionalisation
 - professors at universities; chairs
 - mainly in Germany (Göttingen, Berlin, Jena, Leipzig)

Early 19th century: Summary

BUT:

- philosophical ideas inherited (e.g. only verb: *to be*)
- arbitrariness not fully embraced
- notion of relatedness ill-defined before Schleicher
- focus on morphology; evaluative models
 - theories of language = evolutionary theories of morphology
- organic view:
 - language as organism
 - words as organisms
 - organic relation bw. language & speakers (*Volksgeist*)
- *a priori* difference between national and foreign lgs