

**25m+Q&A**

**Using Language  
History to build a love  
of language**

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# The Storytelling of English

## *The Trad Story:*

- You **can** tell the old story: Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, Normans, Chaucer, Shakespeare, Renaissance loan words...(eg books by David Crystal)

## *The Deeper Story:*

- where did Anglo-Saxon come from? Where did Germanic languages come from? Where did Indo-European languages come from? Who spoke these ancient languages, and where? What happened to those people?

## *The Word stories:*

- Cognates, etymologies, borrowings, calques, endangered languages



# The Traditional story

- The Anglo-Saxons arrival and spread
- The Vikings: what they added to English
- The Normans: the status variants in English
- Chaucer's impact
- Shakespeare's impact
- The role of the King James Bible
- The Renaissance: science, art, Latin & Greek
- English changed by the Empire
- Hollywood & the American century

# Speaking Hittite in 2500 BC

Imagine a Hittite woman sitting by a river in Anatolia around 4500 years ago. She's sitting with her kids, trying to teach them basic numbers so they can count.

She sits and counts 1 - 2 - 3

But of course she doesn't speak English, she speaks Hittite

And so she counts like this - *as, dan, teries*

She asks the kids questions as she teaches:

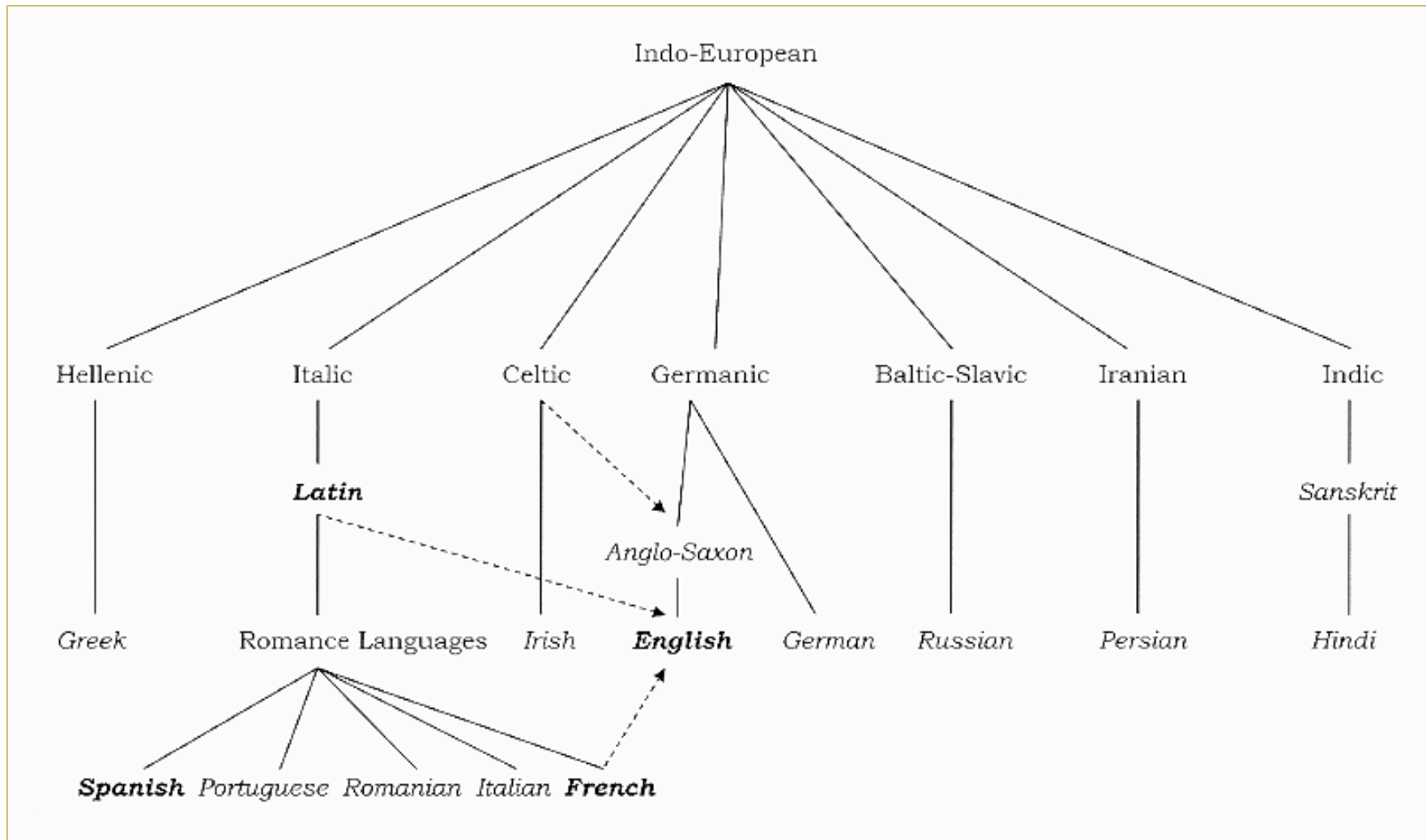
- KUIS? – ‘who is that?’
- KUIT? – ‘what is that?’
- WATAR – ‘this is water’

She indicates their group, sitting by the river:

- 4 • WES KA – ‘we (are) here’



# Indo-European family tree



# PIE to Germanic to Old English to now

Proto-Indo-European	Germanic (Gothic)	Old English	Modern English
3000 BC	100 BC	600 AD	2023
*phter	fadar	faeder	father
*dughter	dauhtar	dohtor	daughter
*ghostis	gasts	giest	guest
*regs	reiks	rice	king (Latin: rex)
*tu	thu	thu	thou, you
*oinos	ains	an	one
*dont	tunthus	toth	tooth
*kerd	hairto	heorte	heart

# Deep history 1: language, people and DNA

## *Out of Africa:*

- Homo Sapiens left north-east Africa around 50,000-60,000 years ago
- It is probable that they had language skills like ours
- What was that language?

## *The Ice Age:*

Ended 12,000 years ago  
Refuges in Iberia & Ukraine  
Migration to re-populate Europe

What languages did they speak?

Nostratic?  
Eurasianic?

# Deep history 2: into the Steppe

## *Middle East to Steppe*

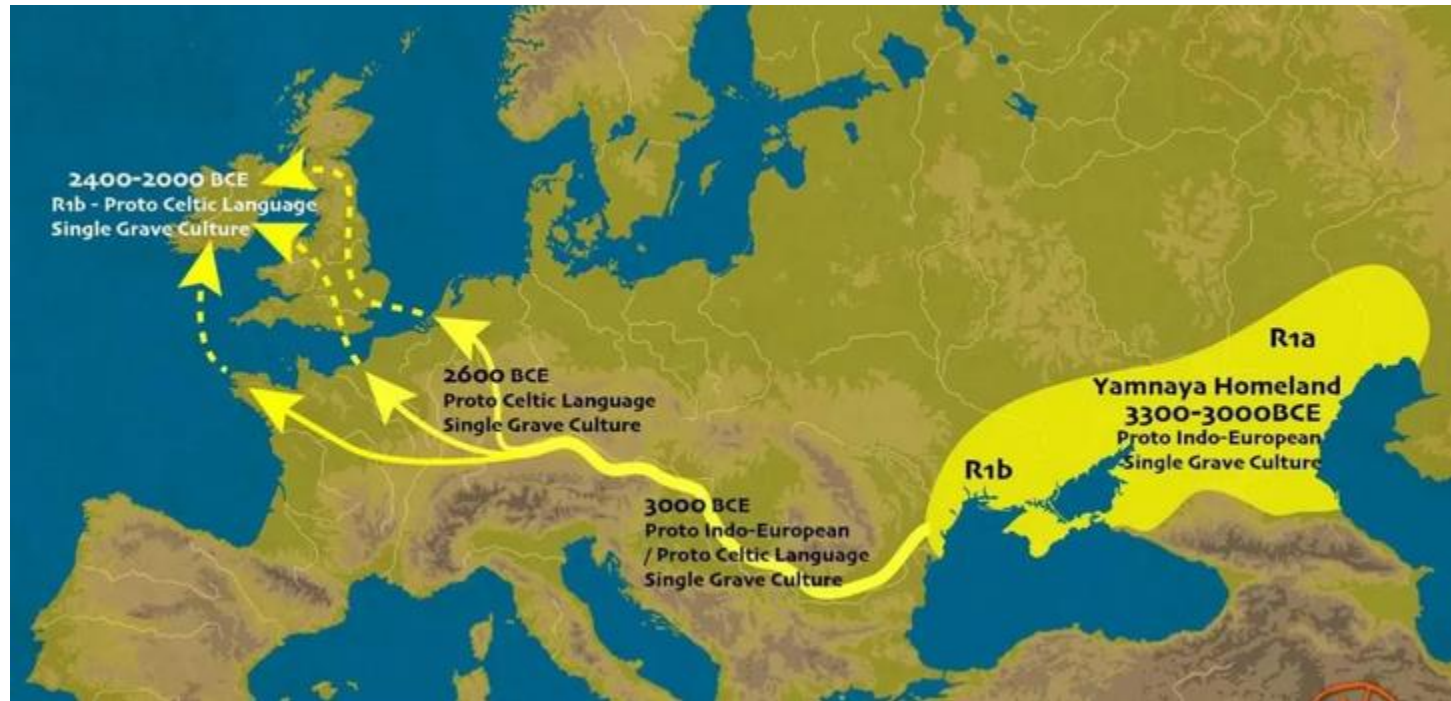
- Migration from Levant to the Caucasus & the steppe
- What languages did they speak?
- Not Indo-European

## *The first farmers*

- Developed in Levant ca. 8000 BCE
- Spread into Anatolia ca. 6000 BCE
- These first farmers migrated into Europe ca. 6000-4000 BCE
- What languages did they speak?
- Not Indo-European



# Deep History 3 - The Yamnaya



The Yamnaya people lived in the steppes of southern Ukraine from approximately 3600 to 2300 BCE

**Genetic evidence** suggests that much of the European population still carry Yamnaya DNA (R1b).

## **Key features:**

- highly mobile pastoralists
- Kurgan burial mounds
- domesticated horses for milk, meat & chariots
- trade connections with other cultures
- skilled metalworkers - bronze weapons & tools
- spoke Indo-European

# Anglo-Saxon words today

Anglo-Saxon words comprise around 20-30% of Modern English words, possibly up to 70% of informal everyday speech:

- **Unchanged:** *and, for, of, in, to, under, on ;*
- **Minor change:** *æfter, beforan, behindan, bi, eall, ofer, uppan, æt, socc, scoh, scyrte, hætt, mete, butere, milc, hunig, cese*
- **Key change:** *hwæt (what), hwy (why)*
- **Family words:** *faeder, moder, sunu, dohtor, sweoster, brothor*

# What have the Vikings done for us?

Anglo-Saxon	Old Norse	English
hie	they	they
shank	leggr	leg
hide	skinn	skin
niman	tacan	take
ey	egg	egg
steorfan	die	die
scyrte	skirt	skirt / shirt
sind	ar	are
hlaf	bread	bread
eagduru	vindauga	window

# Why we don't like the Normans



Old English	Today	Norman English
swin	pig, pork	porc
sceap	sheep, mutton	mutun
cu	cow, beef	beof
hus	house, mansion	mansiun
libban	live, reside	resider
deor	deer, venison	veneisun
thincan	think, pensive	penser
cynellic	kingly, royal	real

# Activity types

## *Tasks:*

- Find loan words from English in your language
- Find words from your language in English
- Google 'The Yamnaya' & find out what animals they herded
- Find out what the Yamnaya burial places are called

<b>Speaking</b>	<b>Listening</b>
re-tell one of the stories (Anglos or Vikings or...)	Listen to YouTube reconstruction of old languages
<b>Writing</b>	<b>Reading</b>
summarise one era of the language history	Text + Fill in the gap / Cloze Matching 2 halves of sentence Matching words between languages

# Worksheet

## Reading

The English language has evolved over time from various sources, including the Germanic languages spoken by Anglo-Saxon and Viking settlers in England, French brought to England by the Norman Conquest of 1066, and later influence from Latin and Greek during the Renaissance.

The earliest form of English, called Old English or Anglo-Saxon, was spoken in England from the 5th century until the Norman Conquest. It developed out of the languages of the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes who settled in England from northern Germany and Denmark.

After the Norman Conquest, French became the language of the ruling class in England, and Latin continued to be used as a written language for religious and scholarly purposes.

## Comprehension

- 1 What did the Norman Conquest bring to England?
- 2 When was the earliest form of English first spoken?
- 3 Where did the Jutes come from?
- 4 Who used French in England after the Norman Conquest?

## Matching

Match these words with their meaning:

evolved	different
various	Place where something comes from
source	first
settler	People in control of a country
earliest	developed
ruling class	Person who moves to live in a new place

## Task

Work with a partner. Use Google to find out the answer to these questions:

- 1 Find the name of a famous poem written in Anglo-Saxon
- 2 Find the name of a famous Anglo-Saxon king
- 3 Find the original Anglo-Saxon words for modern 'mother', 'daughter', 'father'

## Lexical practice

The English --1-- has evolved over time from various --2--, including the Germanic languages spoken by Anglo-Saxon and Viking --3-- in England, French brought to England by the Norman --4-- of 1066, and later influence from Latin and --5-- during the Renaissance.

The earliest --6-- of English, called Old English or Anglo-Saxon, was --7-- in England from the 5th century until the Norman Conquest. It --8-- out of the languages of the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes who --9-- in England from --10-- Germany and Denmark.

## Fill in the gaps with these words:

Greek northern language developed sources settlers spoken settled Conquest form

**Download  
Worksheets:**

**[www.michaelcarrier.com](http://www.michaelcarrier.com)**



# Borrowing

“We don't just borrow words;  
on occasion, English has pursued  
other languages down alleyways  
to beat them unconscious  
and rifle their pockets  
for new vocabulary.”

*James D. Nicoll*

# Loan words

French	<i>café, garage, cliché, ballet, champagne, déjà vu, clique, résumé, government, person</i>
Italian	<i>piano, alto, soprano, tempo, fresco, studio, zucchini, umbrella, balcony, regatta</i>
Spanish	<i>ranch, stampede, canyon, tornado, alligator, mosquito, patio, breeze, tequila</i>
Arabic	<i>average, lemon, tariff, zero, alcohol</i>
Hindi	<i>bungalow, pyjamas,</i>
Chinese	<i>tea, monsoon, tycoon, ketchup (kê-chiap)</i>



# Linguistic calque

A literal translation of the components of a word/phrase rather than a borrowing of the foreign word:

From:	Original:	Into English:
French	<i>marché aux puces</i>	flea market
	<i>pomme d'Adam</i>	Adam's apple
Dutch	<i>ijsberg</i>	iceberg
	<i>meesterstuk</i>	masterpiece
German	<i>Standpunkt</i>	standpoint
	<i>Biergarten</i>	beer garden
Greek	<i>evangelion</i>	gospel
Mandarin	<i>tiánsuānjiàng</i>	sweet&sour sauce
Spanish	<i>sangre azul</i>	blue blood
Turkish	<i>derin devlet</i>	deep state

# Etymologies – “magazine”

- Arabic *khazana* = to store up, hence *makhazan* = storehouse, plural *makhazin* = storehouses
- Borrowed by Italian as *magazzino* = storehouse
- Borrowed from Italian by French as *magasin*
- Borrowed from French by English as *magazine* (still as storehouse)
- Edward Cave (1731) started a publication that contained interesting stuff (like a storehouse): The Gentleman’s Magazine.
- Hence the magazine of rifle stores ammunition & retains original meaning

*From: The Etymologicon (Forsyth)*

# Activity - matching

Match the words in the table with the languages they were borrowed from.

Write one of these languages in the right-hand column:

Arabic, Chinese, Czech, French, German, Greek, Hindi, Italian, Latin, Spanish, Welsh

Modern English	Borrowed from:
bungalow	
admiral	
robot	
chocolate	
leisure	
agenda	
anonymous	
loot	
penguin	

# Thanks!

## *Summary*

- Build a love of language
- Build awareness of where words come from
- Build motivation to learn more
- Help students explore and play with words
- Help students see links from English to own language – this can aid lexis retention
- Build an understanding of our shared humanity via shared language history

***Worksheets and Powerpoint:***

**[www.michaelcarrier.com](http://www.michaelcarrier.com)**

***Comments:***

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## *References*

Luigi Cavalli-Sforza

Colin Renfrew

David Reich

Stephen Oppenheim

David Anthony

- see more on website

QR link to  
website:

