



Cognate Words In The Indo-European Languages

- Words of a similar structure and of similar or in many instances identical meanings in various languages of the Indo-European group.
- Cognate means common origins (Lat. co- and gantus which means 'born together')

The Verb 'bear, carry'

Sanskrit	Greek	Latin	Gothic	Old English
bhar	pher	fer	bair	ber
Are all the development of the Indo-European word 'bher'				

Cognate Words

- Cognate words DO not necessarily look much alike: their resemblance may be disguised by sound shifts that have occurred in the various languages of the Indo-European group.
- English '**work**' and Greek '*ergon*', for example, are superficially unlike, but they both developments of Indo-European '*wergom*' and therefore are cognates.

Cognate Words

- Numerals from one to ten; the word meaning the sum of ten tens (Latin “centum,” Avestan “satem,” English “hundred”)
- Words for certain bodily parts (heart, lung, head, foot)
- Words for certain natural phenomena (air, night, star, snow, sun, moon, mind)
- Certain plant and animal names (beech, corn, wolf, bear)
- Certain cultural terms (yoke, mead, weave, sew)
- monosyllables that pertain sex and excretion (e.g. modern English “fart” likely derived from Indo-European “perd”).

LATIN	GREEK	WELSH	ENGLISH	ICELANDIC	DUTCH
ūnus	oinē ¹	un	one	einn	een
duo	duo	dau	two	tveir	twee
trēs	treis	tri	three	þrír	drie

- Non-Germanic: Latin, Greek, Welsh
- Germanic: English, Icelandic, Dutch
- Non-Germanic *d* corresponds to Germanic *t*
- Non-Germanic *t* corresponds to Germanic *θ*

Inflection in The Indo-European Languages

- All the Indo-European Language are inflective—that is, all are characterized by grammatical system based on modifications in the form of words, by means of **inflection** (that is, endings and vowel changes) (e.g. **Sing, sings, sang, sung, singing**), to indicate such grammatical functions as case, number, tense, person, mood, aspect, and the like.

Case	Changes related to nouns and pronouns	Person	First person, second person
Number	Singular, plural	Mood	Imperative, inductive, question
tense	Past, present, ...	aspect	Time and verb: perfect, continuous, ...

- The older inflection system is very imperfectly represented in most modern languages: English, French, and Spanish, for instance, have lost much of the inflectional complexity that was once characteristic of them; German retains considerably more, with its various forms of the noun and the article and its strong adjective declension. Sanskrit, however, retains much that has been lost or changed in other Indo-European languages' inflectional system.

Verb Inflection

SANSKRIT	
bhara-mi	I bear
bhara-si	thou bearest
bhara-ti	he/she beareth
bhara-mas	we bear
bhara-tha	you bear
bhara-nti	they bear

Verb Inflection

Greek	Latin
phero	fero
pherei-s	fer-s
pherei	fer-t
phero-mes (Doric)	feri-mus
phere-te	fer-tis
phero-nti (doric)	feru-nt

Noun Inflection

- Indo-European nouns were inflected for eight cases (declension):
- Nominative: subject of a sentence (They saw me.)
- Vocative: person addressed (Students, listen!)
- Accusative: direct object (They bought a car.)
- Genitive: possessor or source (Jack's pen)
- Dative: indirect object or recipient (give her a hand)
- Ablative: what is separated (he abstained from it)
- Locative: place where (we stayed home)
- Instrumental: means, instrument (she ate with chopsticks)

Indo-European noun declension

	INDO-EUROPEAN	SANSKRIT	GREEK	LATIN	OLD IRISH	OLD ENGLISH
Singular						
Noun	*ekwos	asvas	hippos	equus	ech	eoh
Voc.	*ekwe	asva	hippe	eque	eich	
Acc.	*ekwom	asvam	hippon	equum	ech n-	eoh
Gen.	*ekwosyo	asvasya	hippou	equi	eich	eos
Dat.	*ekwoy	asvaya	hippoi	equo	ech	eo
Abl.	*ekwod	asvad		equo		
Loc.	*ekwo	asve				
Ins.	*ekwo	asvena				
Plural						
N.-V.	*ekwos	asvas	hippoi	equi	eich	eos
Acc.	*ekwons	asvan (s)	hippous	equos	echu	eos
Gen.	*ekwom	asvanm	hippon	equorum	ech n-	eona
D.-Ab.	*ekwobh(y) os	asvebhya	hippios	equis	echaib	eom
Loc.	*ekwoysu	asvesu				

Word order in IE languages

- Recent focus on other grammatical matters such as word order.
 - VO languages e.g English
 - OV Languages e.g. Japanese
- Proto Indo-European languages were mainly OV
- Existing Indo-European languages are generally VO

IE Culture

- IE culture was advanced than that of some groups of people living today
- They had complex sense of family relationships
- They could court
- They made use of gold, silver, copper, iron
- they were small farmers not nomads
- They had domesticated animals
- They had religious feelings

IE Homeland

- The difficulty of the exact Indo-European homeland
- Names of plants and animals give clues:
 - Cognates of words for trees that grow in certain climates
 - alder, apple, ash
 - olive, cypress, palm
 - Cognates of animals living in certain areas
 - Wolf, bear, lax (Old English: Leax Salmon)
- They
 - combined farming with herding and were mobile people,
 - Built fortified palaces on hilltops,
 - Had a highly developed belief in life after death.