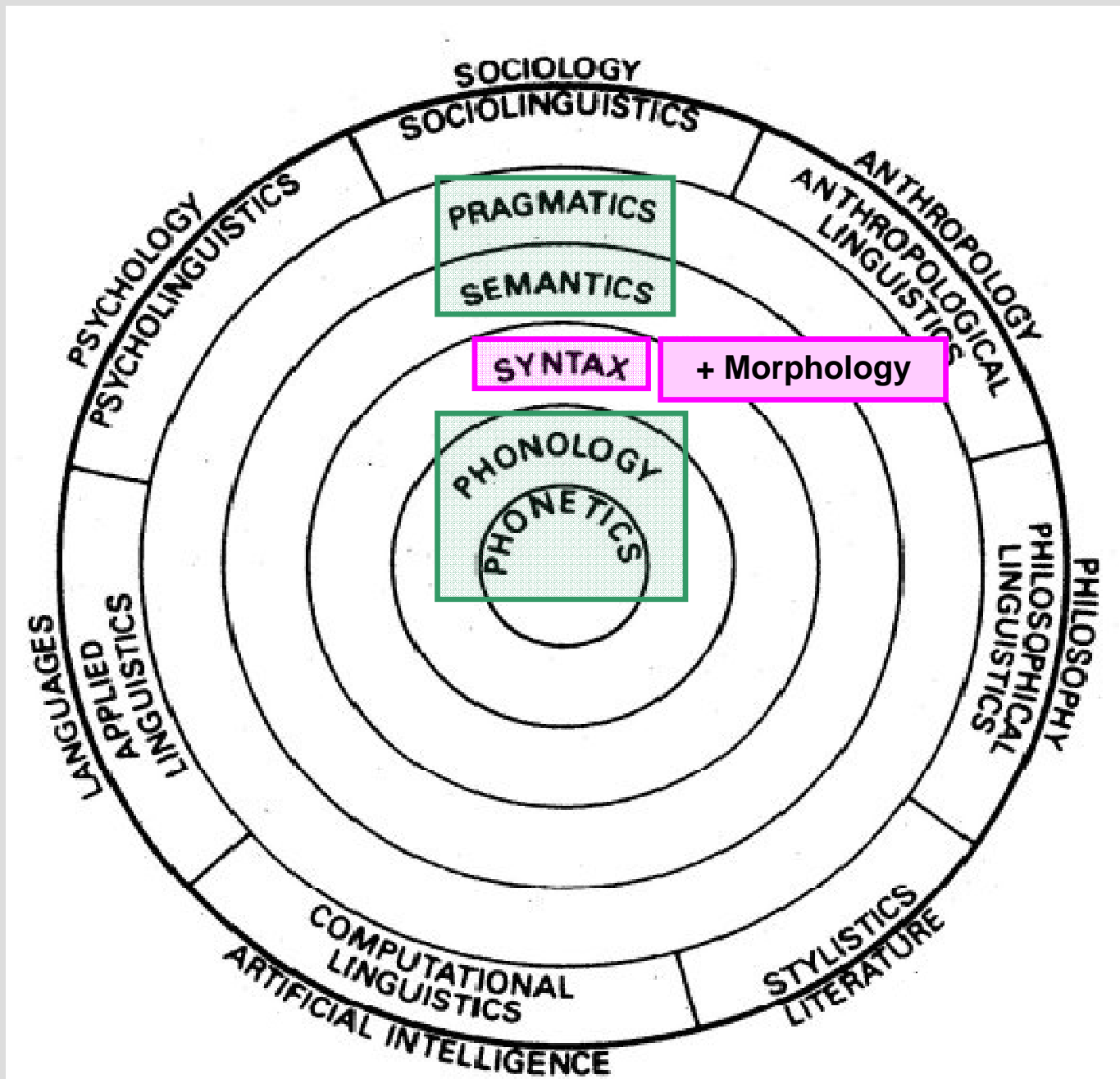


What is linguistics?

Holger Diessel
holger.diessel@uni-jena.de



Prescriptive vs. descriptive linguistics

- (1) Wegen dem Wetter
- (2) Weil ... der schläft noch
- (3) Dem seine Tante
- (4) Du brauchst nicht kommen

- (1) To boldly go where no man has gone before
- (2) I and me
- (3) Different than
- (4) Irregardless of

Prescriptive vs. descriptive linguistics

The linguistic approach to the study of language is descriptive.

A linguist is like a social scientist study human (i.e. verbal) behavior and cognition.

Prescriptive vs. descriptive linguistics

Language variation:

- ❑ regional
- ❑ social
- ❑ age-related
- ❑ gender-related

Prescriptive vs. descriptive linguistics

British

lift
telly
torch
bonnet (of a car)
boot (of a car)
biscuits
petrol
lorry
coach
tin

American

elevator
TV
flashlight
hood
trunk
cookies
gas
truck
bus
can

Prescriptive vs. descriptive linguistics

British

in hospital
in university
next day
have got

American

in the hospital
in the university
the next day
have gotten

Which variety is correct?

Prescriptive vs. descriptive linguistics

Linguistic norms are time-bound:

- (1) Im Walde
- (2) Ob des schlechten Wetters
- (3) Wegen des Wetters
- (4) Hopefully, we'll be there in time for lunch.
- (7) My car is being broken.
- (8) My house is being painted.
- (9) This problem is being discussed at today's meeting.
- (10) My car is repairing.
- (11) My house is painting.
- (12) This problem is discussing today's problem.

Some linguistics subfields

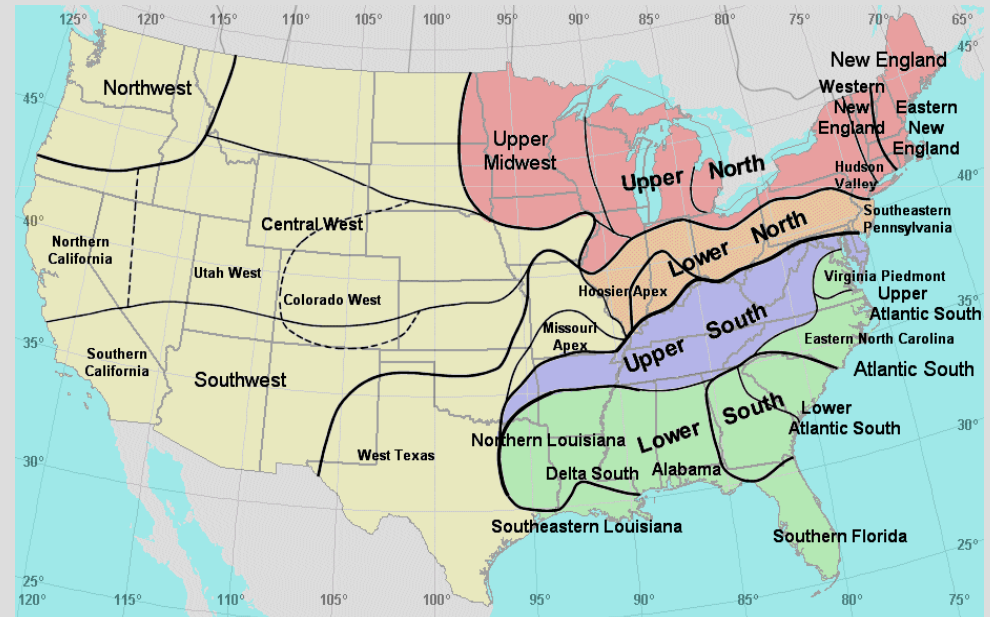
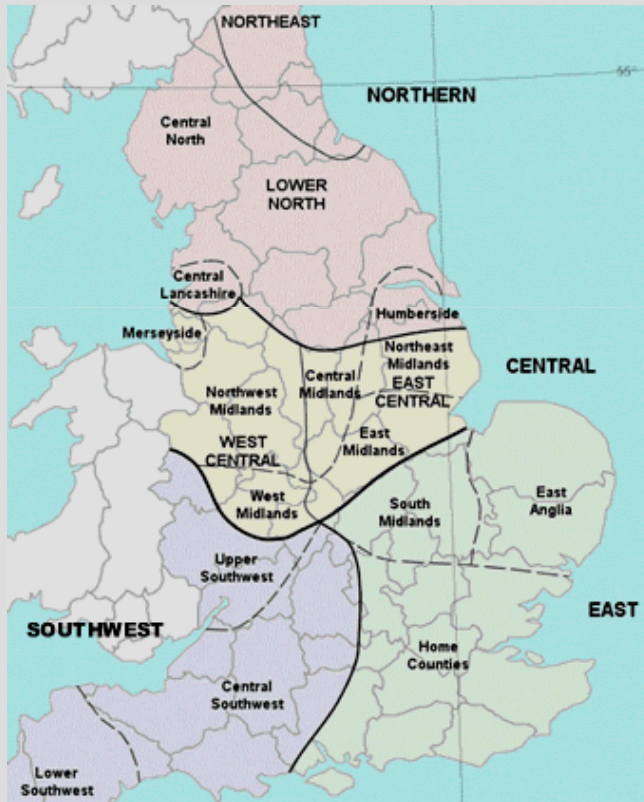
Socio-linguistics



Socio-linguistics

ENGLISH	GERMAN	ENGLISH	GERMAN	ENGLISH	GERMAN
pan	pfanne	book	Busse	bite	beizen
grip	Griff	shape	schaffen	plough	pflug
to	zu	path	Pfad	weaponless	waffenlos
foot	Fuz (Fuß)	rite	reiten	heart	Herz
book	Buch	hold	Holz	fret	fretsen
door	tur	rekon	rechnen	alike	gleich
pole	pfahl	hate	Hass	deed	tat
tame	zahn	often	offen	token	zeichen
make	machen	flood	Flut	plant	pflanze
dream	traum	ship	Schiff	tide	zeit

Socio-linguistics



Socio-linguistics

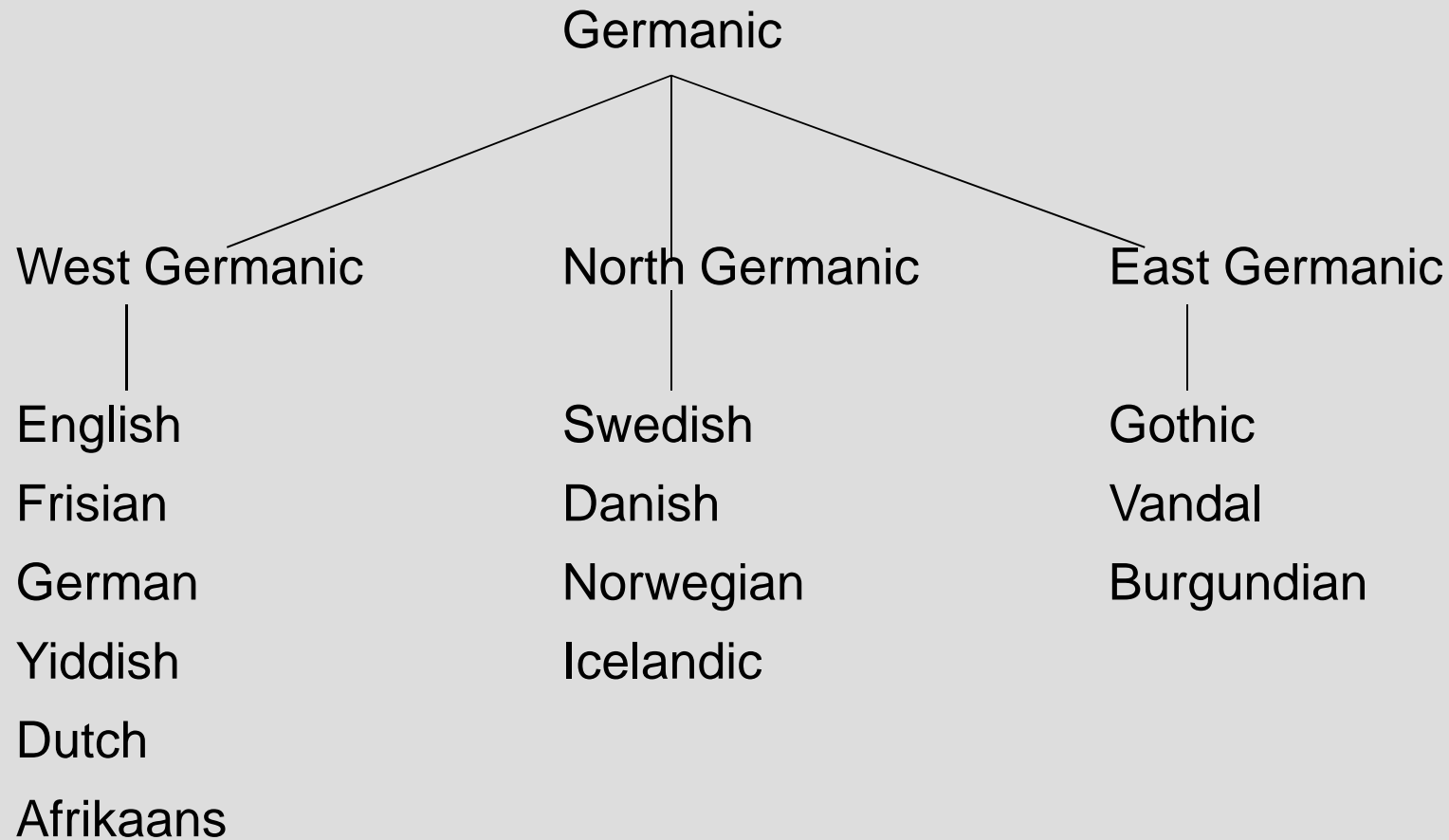
African American English

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----|----------------------|
| 1. Deletion of /r/ and /l/ | -> | guard |
| 2. Interdental fricative | -> | dis |
| 3. Double negation | -> | I don't know nothing |
| 4. <i>Be</i> deletion | -> | He nice, They mine |
| 5. Habitual <i>be</i> | -> | John be happy |
| 6. Omission of genitive-s | -> | Peter car |

Historical linguistics

450-1066	Old English
1066-1500	Middle English
1500-1700	Early Middle English
1700-present	Modern English

Historical linguistics



Historical linguistics

English

sun

house

cat

apple

father

hand

go

see

hear

run

dream

German

Sonne

Haus

Katze

Apfel

Vater

Hand

gehen

sehen

hören

rennen

träumen

Swedish

sol

hus

kat

äpple

fader

hand

gar

sar

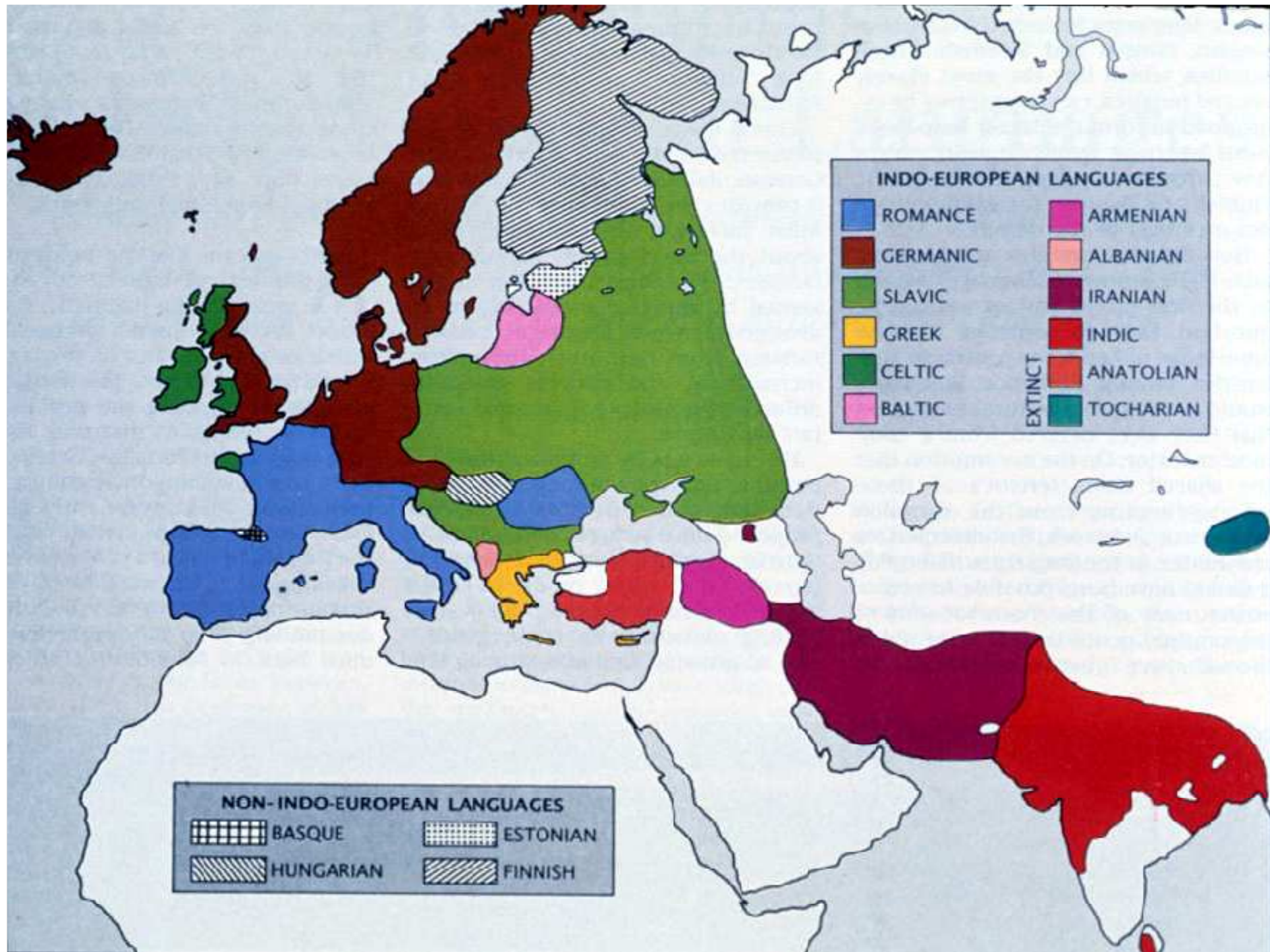
höra

rännar

drömar

Historical linguistics

English	Gothic	Latin	Greek	Sanskrit	Chinese	Japanese
one	ains	unus	heis	ekas	i	hitotsu
two	twai	duo	duo	dva	erh	futatsu
three	Trija	tres	treis	trayas	san	mittsu
four	fidwor	quattuor	tettares	catvaras	su	yottsu
five	fimf	quinque	pente	panca	wu	itsutsu
six	saihs	sex	heks	sat	liu	muttsu
seven	sibun	septem	hepta	sapta	ch'i	nanatsu
eight	ahtau	octo	okto	asta	pa	yattsu
nine	niun	novembe	ennea	nava	chiu	kokonotsu
ten	taihun	decem	deka	dasa	shih	to



Language form, function and communication

Holger Diessel
holger.diessel@uni-jena.de

Review

Core areas of linguistics:

- Phonetics and phonology
- Morphology
- Syntax
- Semantics
- Pragmatics

Linguistic subfields

- Sociolinguistics

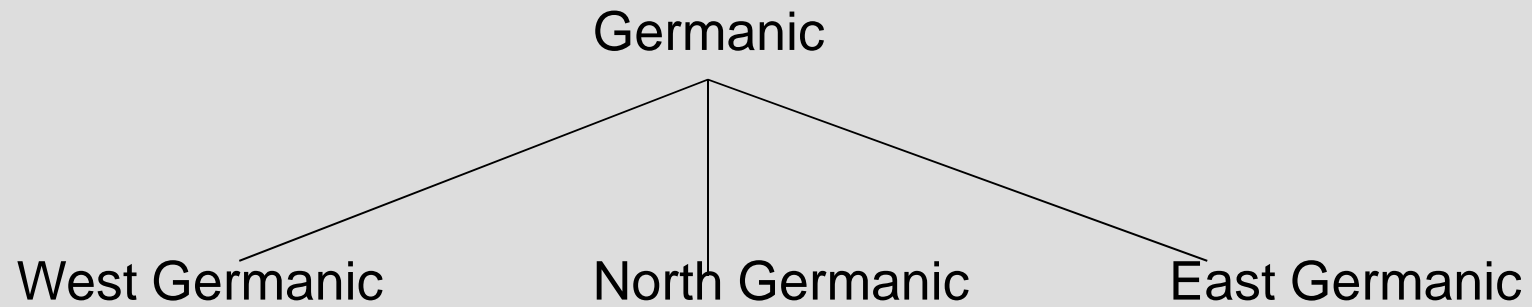
Socio-linguistics



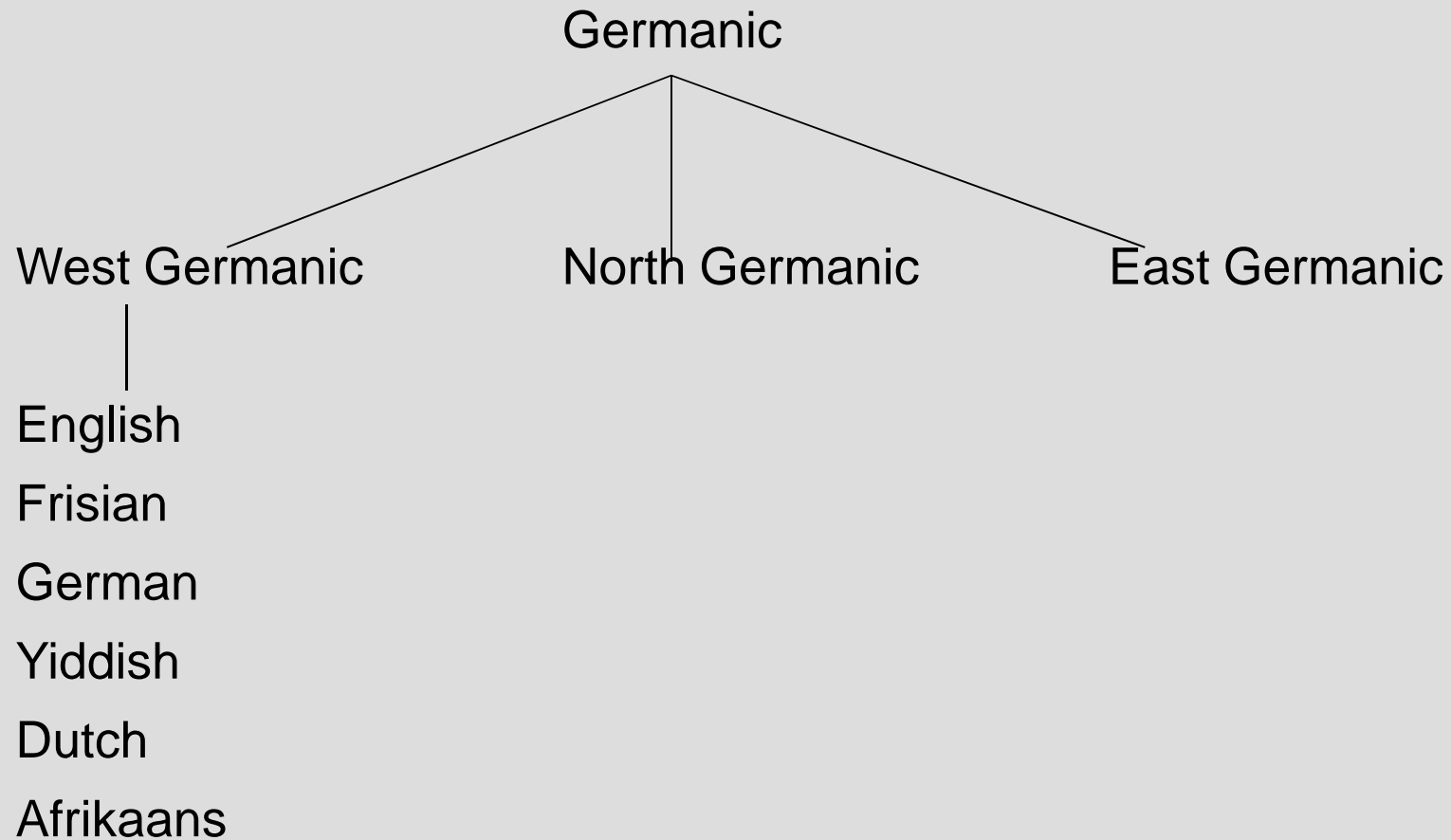
Linguistic subfields

- ❑ Sociolinguistics
- ❑ Historical linguistics

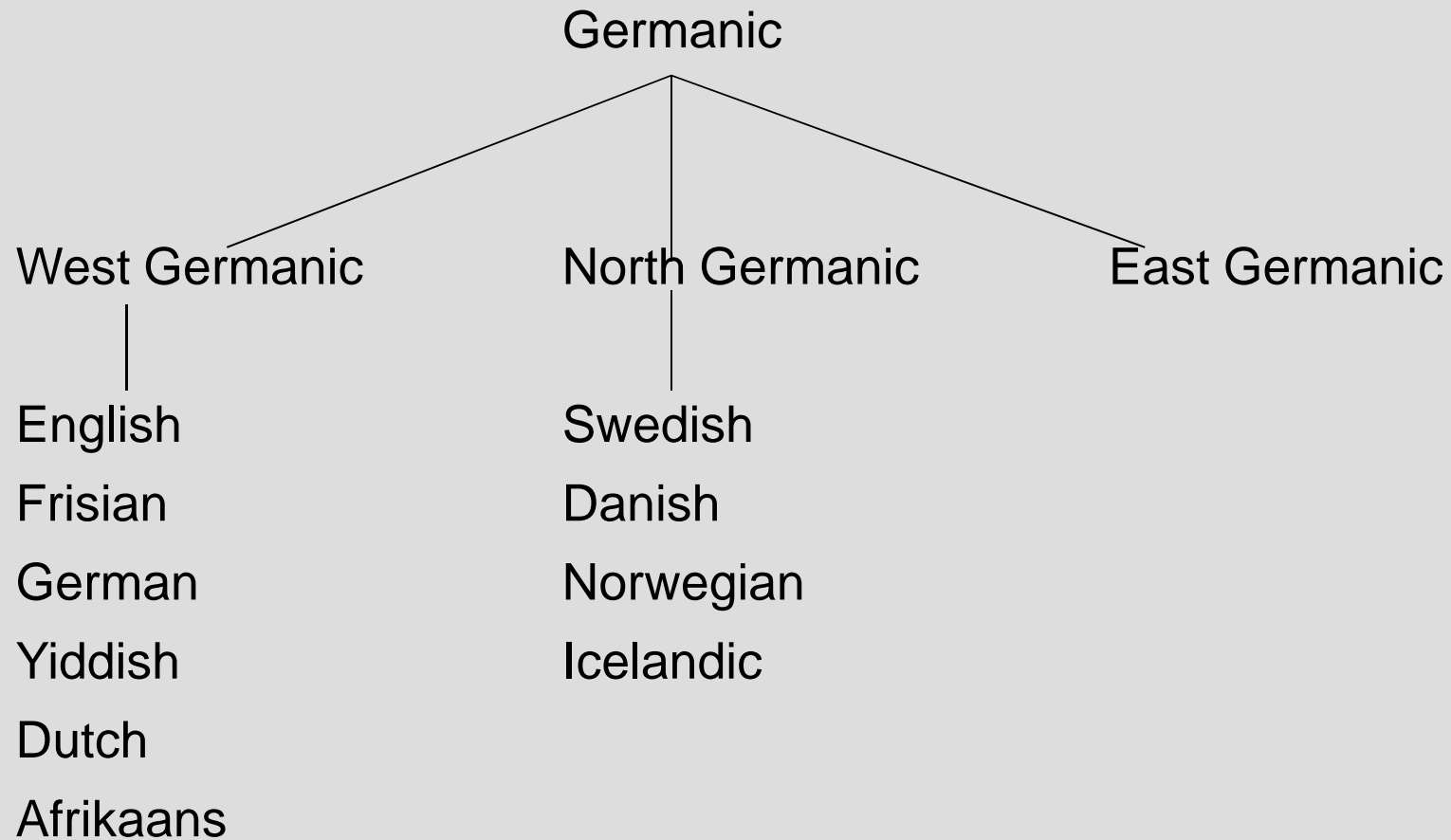
Historical linguistics



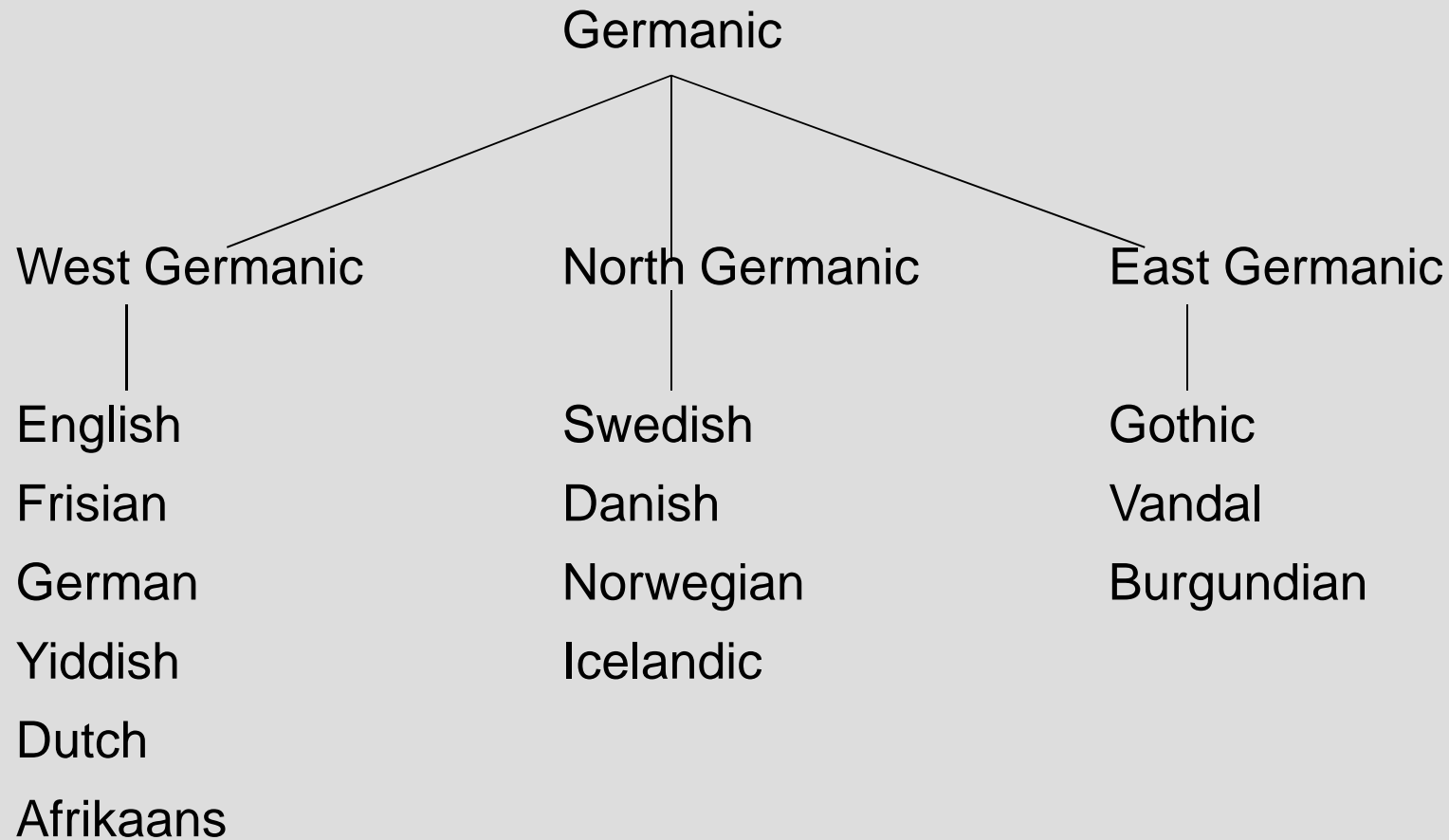
Historical linguistics

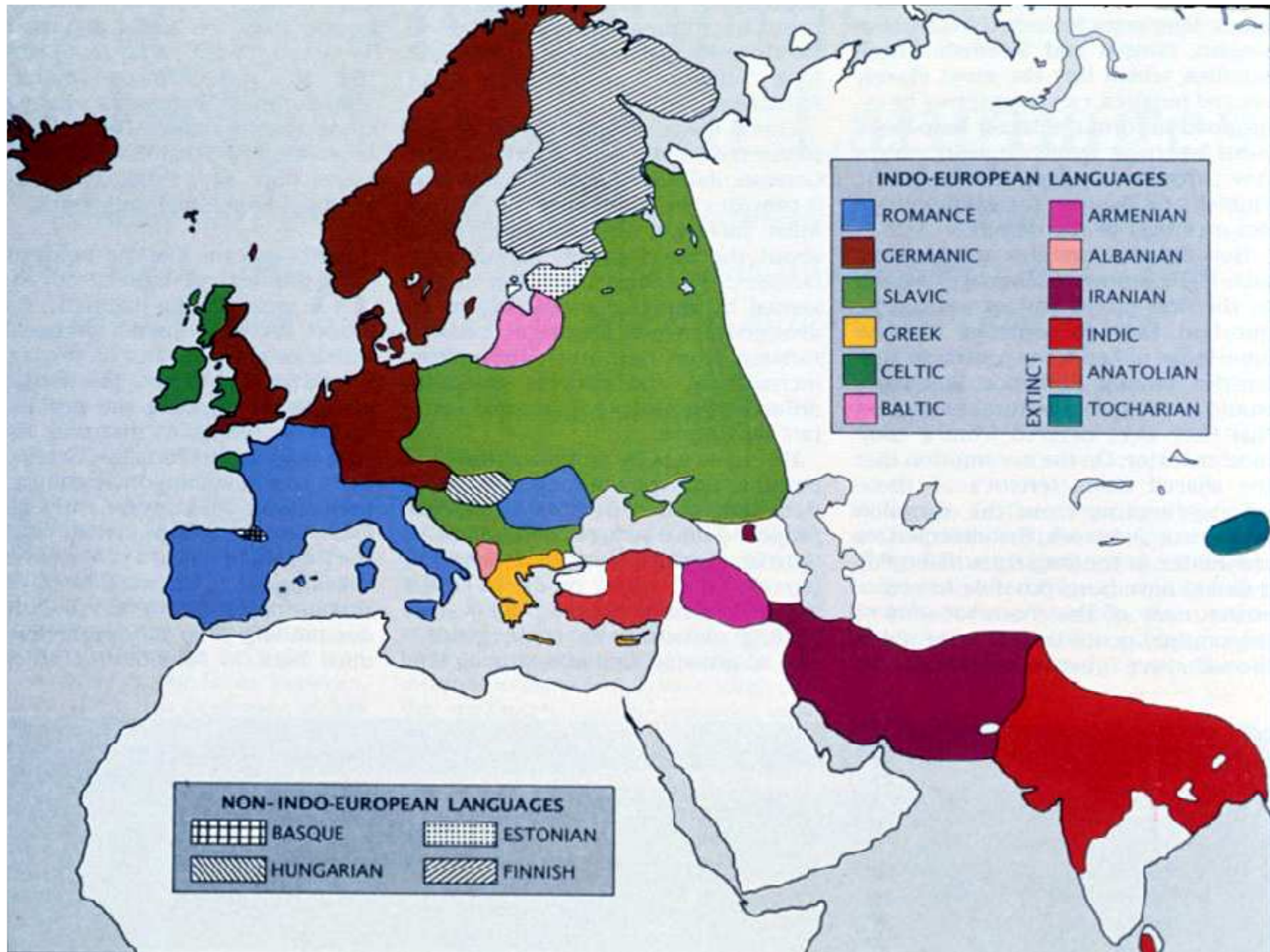


Historical linguistics



Historical linguistics





Linguistic subfields

- ❑ Sociolinguistics
- ❑ Historical linguistics
- ❑ Cognitive linguistics

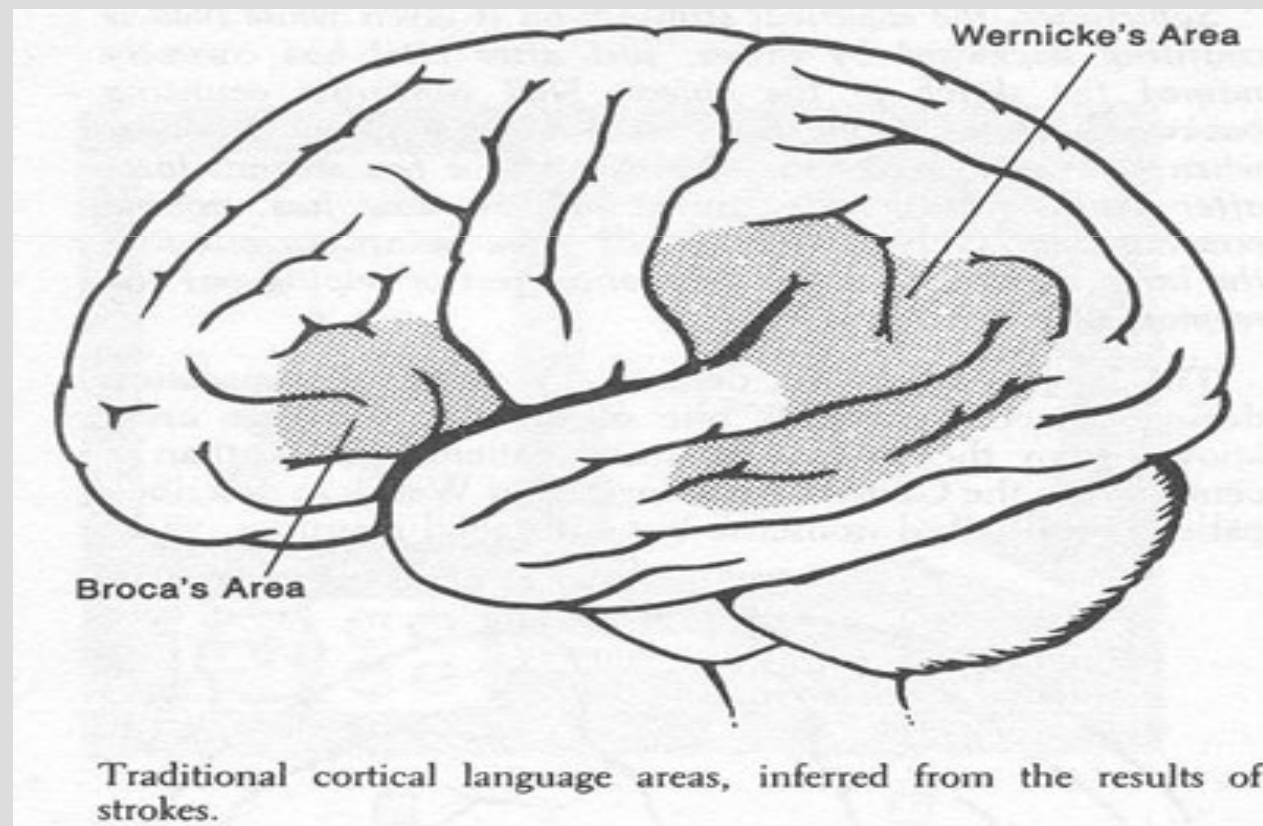
Is language innate?

Cognitive linguistics

Do animals use language?



Cognitive linguistics



Linguistic subfields

- ❑ Sociolinguistics
- ❑ Historical linguistics
- ❑ Cognitive linguistics
- ❑ Language acquisition

Language acquisition

The cognitive foundations
of language acquisition



de
dure

Review

Linguistic subfields:

- ❑ Sociolinguistics
- ❑ Historical linguistics
- ❑ Cognitive linguistics
- ❑ Language acquisition
- ❑ Contrastive linguistics

Contrastive linguistics

How do English and German indicate grammatical relations?

- (1) The man saw the boy.
- (2) The boy saw the man.

- (3) Der Mann sah den Jungen.
- (4) Der Junge sah den Mann.

- (5) Den Mann sah der Junge.
- (4) Den Jungen sah der Mann.