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## LANGUAGES AND COMMUNITIES IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE

In this magisterial new study, Peter Burke explores the social and cultural history of the languages spoken or written in Europe between the invention of printing and the French Revolution, arguing that, from a linguistic point of view, 1450 to 1789 should be regarded as a distinct period.

One major theme of the book is the relation between languages and communities (regions, churches, occupations and genders, as well as nations) and the place of language as a way of identifying others, as well as a symbol of one's own identity. A second, linked theme is that of competition: between Latin and the vernaculars, between different vernaculars, dominant and subordinate, and finally between different varieties of the same vernacular, such as standard languages and dialects.

Written by one of Europe's leading cultural historians, this book replaces the history of the many languages of Europe in a large variety of contexts.

PETER BURKE is Professor of Cultural History and a Fellow of Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge. He has published over twenty books, which have been translated into over thirty languages.

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*The 2002 Wiles Lectures given at Queen's University, Belfast*

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*PARA  
MARIA LÚCIA*

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Looking further back, it is impossible not to mention the late and much lamented Roy Porter, with whom I collaborated on three volumes of essays on language and who should have been around to comment on this one in his inimitable way. Still further back, I think of my father, a sometime professional translator, whose boast it was that he had been introduced at a party as ‘the man who had forgotten twenty languages’. I suppose that I have been trying to emulate him all this time without realizing it.

Returning to the present and the future, I dedicate this book to my wife, Maria Lúcia, with whom I began the adventure of introducing a foreign language into everyday life.

## *Chronology 1450–1794*

1461	first printed book in German
1468	first printed book in Czech
1471	first printed book in Italian
1474	first printed book in English
1474	first printed book in Catalan
c. 1476	first printed book in French
1477	first printed book in Flemish
1483	first printed book in Croat
1483	first printed book in Church Slavonic
c. 1483	first printed book in Spanish
1489	first printed book in Portuguese
1492	Nebrija, <i>Gramática castellana</i> (the first printed grammar of a vernacular)
1495	first printed book in Danish
1495	first printed book in Swedish
1499	first printed book in Breton
1501	first printed book in Provençal
1515	Castellesi, <i>De sermone latino</i>
1522	first printed book in Polish
1522–34	Luther's Bible
1525	Bembo, <i>Prose della vulgar lingua</i>
1525	first printed book in Latvian
1526	first printed book in post-classical Greek
1527	first printed book in Hungarian
1529	Amaseo, <i>De latinae linguae usu retinendo</i>
1529	Dante, <i>De vulgari eloquentia</i> , published
1529	Trissino, <i>Poetica</i>
1529	Tory, <i>Champfleury</i>
1530	Palsgrave, <i>Lesclaircissement de la langue francoyse</i>
1532	Welsh forbidden in court



## Chronology

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- 1533 Optát, *Grammatika česká*  
 1534 Ickelsamer, *Teutsche Grammatica*  
 1535 first printed book in Estonian  
 1535 first printed book in Yiddish  
 1536 Oliveira, *Grammatica de linguagem portuguesa*  
 1537 'Act of the English Order, Habit and Language' in Ireland  
 1539 Edict of Villers-Cotterêts  
 1539 Polish Sejm ruled that laws and edicts should be in Polish  
 1539 Sylvester, *Grammatica Hungarolatina*  
 1540 Barros, *Louvor de nossa linguagem*  
 1540 Dolet, *La ponctuation de la langue française*  
 1540 first printed book in Icelandic  
 1541 Swedish Bible  
 1542 Speroni, *Dialogo della lingua*  
 1544 first printed book in Romanian  
 1545 first printed book in Basque  
 1546 Tolomei, *Il Cesano*  
 1546 first printed book in Welsh  
 1547 first printed book in Lithuanian  
 1549 Du Bellay, *Deffense et illustration de la langue françoise*  
 1550 L. Meigret, *Tretté de la grammaire françoese*  
 1550 Danish Bible  
 1551 first printed book in Slovene  
 1553 Werve, *Tresoor der Duitsche Tale*  
 1554 Perion, *De linguae gallicae origine*  
 1555 first printed book in Albanian  
 1557 first printed book in Romansh  
 1557 R. Estienne, *Grammaire français*  
 1560 French replaced Latin in courts of Savoy  
 1563 Polish Bible (Protestant)  
 1565 first printed book in Gascon  
 1566 first printed book in Bulgarian  
 1567 first printed book in Scottish Gaelic  
 1567 Pragmatic of Philip II against use of Arabic  
 1567 first printed book in Irish  
 1568 Statorius, *Polonicae grammatices institutio*  
 1570 Varchi, *Ercolano*  
 1574 Viziana, *Alabanças de las lenguas . . . Castellana y Valenciana*  
 1578 Estienne, *Deux dialogues*  
 1579 Estienne, *Precellence de la langue française*

- 1579–93 Kralice Bible  
 1579 Czech reaffirmed as the language of courts in Bohemia  
 1581 Fauchet, *Origine de la langue française*  
 1582 Stevin, *Weerdigheyt der duytsche tael*  
 1583 Accademia della Crusca founded  
 1584 Bohorič, *Arcticae Horulae* (Slovene grammar)  
 1584 Spieghel, *Nederduitsche Letterkunst*  
 1585 Morales, *Discurso sobre la lengua castellana*  
 1588 Geneva Bible  
 1588 Welsh Bible  
 1589 Rybinski, *De lingua polonica praestantia*  
 1590 Hungarian Bible  
 1592 Rhys, Welsh grammar  
 1596 Zizanič, *Gramatika slovenska*  
 1600 Cittadini, *Formazione della lingua toscana*  
 1604 Aldrete, *Del origen y principio de la lengua castellana*  
 1604 Kašić, *Institutiones linguae illyricae*  
 1606 Biffi, *Prissian da Milan*  
 1606 Nunes de Leão, *Origem da língua portuguesa*  
 1608 Estates of Bohemia declared Czech to be the official language  
 1611 Authorized Version  
 1612–23 *Vocabolario della Crusca*  
 1612 Beni, *Anticrusca*  
 1615 Carew, *On the Excellency of the English Tongue*  
 1617 Fruchtbringende Gesellschaft founded  
 1619 Smotrickii, *Grammatiki slavenskija syntagma*  
 1625 first printed book in Russian  
 1626 Banchieri, *Discorso della lingua Bolognese*  
 1635 foundation of Académie Française  
 1637 Dutch States' Bible  
 1638 St-Evremond, *Comédie des académistes*  
 1641 sermons in Castilian prohibited in Catalonia (after revolt)  
 1641 governor-general's edict that slaves could only wear hats and caps if they could speak Dutch  
 1642 Finnish Bible  
 1642 Rist, *Rettung der edlen Teutschen*  
 1643 Stiernhielm, *Gambla svea*  
 1644 Rehehusen, *Manuductio ad linguam lettonicam*  
 1646 Pontoppidan, *Grammatica danica*

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- 1647 Vaugelas, *Remarques sur la langue française*  
 1649 first printed book in Sami  
 1649 *Lingua finnica institutio*  
 1651 Jonas, *Grammatica islandica*  
 1651 Dupleix, *Liberté de la langue française*  
 1653 Klein, *Grammatica Lituanica*  
 1659 Maunoir, Breton grammar  
 1660 Gösekenius, *Manuductio ad linguam Oesthonicam*  
 1662 'Partenio Tosco', *Eccellenza della lingua napoletana*  
 1663 Schottel, *Lob der Teutschen Haubtsprache*  
 1670 Balbín, *Dissertatio apologetica pro lingua slavonica praecipue bohemica* (written)  
 1674 Ray, *Collection of English Words*  
 1677 Rudbeck began lecturing in Swedish  
 1678 Karl XI ordered the former Danish provinces to use Swedish  
 1684 French used in court in Flanders  
 1685 French the administrative language of Alsace  
 1687 Thomasius announced lectures in German  
 1693 Callières, *Mots à la mode*  
 1694 *Dictionnaire de l'Académie Française*  
 1694 Sperling, *De danicae linguae antiqua gloria*  
 1696 Polish the sole administrative language of the Commonwealth  
 1696 Ludolf, *Grammatica russica*  
 1700 first printed book in Cornish  
 1707 first printed book in Manx  
 1708 reform of Russian alphabet  
 1713 Real Academia Española founded  
 1716 Egenolff, *Historie der Teutschen Sprache*  
 1726–39 Spanish Academy, *Diccionario de la lengua castellana*  
 1729 first printed book in Turkish  
 1734 chair in Italian eloquence founded at Turin  
 1735 Trediakovsky, speech in praise of Russian  
 1743 Richey, *Idioticon hamburgense*  
 1751 Ribinyi, *De cultura linguae hungaricae*  
 1755 Johnson, *A Dictionary of the English Language*  
 1755 Lomonosov, *Russian Grammar*  
 1757 Trediakovsky, *O pervenstve slovenskago yazyka pred teutonicheskim* (written)

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1757	Portuguese made official language in Brazil
1767	Russian declared the language of instruction at Moscow University
1768	Charles III required Castilian in administration and education
1779	Galiani, <i>Del dialetto napoletano</i>
1783	Russian Academy founded
1784	German made official language in Habsburg Empire
1784	Rivarol, <i>Discours sur l'universalité de la langue française</i>
1786	Swedish Academy founded
1786	<i>Linguarum totius orbis vocabularia</i>
1789–94	Russian Academy's <i>Russian Dictionary</i>
1790	Joseph II revoked decree of 1784
1792	Dobrovský, <i>Geschichte der böhmischen sprache</i>
1793	Chair of Czech founded at Prague University
1793	J. Vargas y Ponce, <i>Declamación contra los abusos introducidos en el castellano</i>
1794	Gregoire, <i>Rapport</i>