

THE GERMANIC LANGUAGES

Germanic – one of the largest subgroups of the Indo-European language family – comprises 37 languages with an estimated 470 million speakers worldwide. This book presents a comparative linguistic survey of the full range of Germanic languages, both ancient and modern, including major world languages such as English and German (West Germanic), the Scandinavian (North Germanic) languages, and the extinct East Germanic languages. Unlike previous studies, it does not take a chronological or a language-by-language approach, organized instead around linguistic constructions and subsystems. Considering dialects alongside standard varieties, it provides a detailed account of topics such as case, word formation, sound systems, vowel length, syllable structure, the noun phrase, the verb phrase, the expression of tense and mood, and the syntax of the clause. Authoritative and comprehensive, this much-needed survey will be welcomed by scholars and students of the Germanic languages, as well as linguists across the many branches of the field.

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to Myrlyn, Diane, and Jenny



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LANGUAGE ABBREVIATIONS

AF	Afrikaans	ME	Middle English
BN	Bokmål Norwegian	MHG	Middle High German
DA	Danish	NF	North Frisian
DU	Dutch	NN	Nynorsk Norwegian
EF	East Frisian	NO	Norwegian
EME	Early Middle English	OE	Old English
EN	English	OHG	Old High German
FA	Faroese	ON	Old Norse
FR	Frisian	OS	Old Saxon
GE	German	PG	Pennsylvania German
GMC	Germanic	SAE	Standard Average European
GO	Gothic	SW	Swedish
IC	Icelandic	WF	West Frisian
IE	Indo-European	YI	Yiddish



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