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A SCHOOL GRAMMAR OF MODERN GERMAN

BY

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PREFACE

In these days the study of German usually begins with a "Course" covering about a year's work, after which a systematic treatment of the grammar is necessary. It is for pupils at this stage that the present work is primarily designed.

It has been the author's endeavour to limit the scope of the book to the requirements of the first three or four years, while omitting nothing that a pupil can reasonably be expected to learn during that period.

As the book is intended for school use, explanations are brief: it is for the master to supplement them. At the same time it is hoped that there is enough explanatory matter to guide a student using it for independent work.

The syntax of each part of speech is dealt with immediately after its accidence, and a large number of cross-references are provided.

I am indebted to my old friend and former colleague, Mr E. W. Hallifax, for much valuable assistance.

F. R. H. M.

1928

INTRODUCTION

THE GERMAN LANGUAGE.

Both English and German belong to the Aryan or Indo-European family of languages, whose most ancient literary monuments are the Sanskrit Vedas, a collection of religious poems, preserved by oral tradition and dating from about the 15th century B.C. From these, and from other members of the family, we can obtain a fairly clear idea of the parent language.

The chief branches of the Aryan family of languages, arranged according to geographical distribution, are :

Germanic	Lithuanian
Celtic	Slavonic
Latin	Greek Armenian Persian Sanskrit.

The Germanic branch is characterised by a change or shifting of the consonants, which appears to have taken place during the three centuries preceding the Christian era. This process was first successfully investigated by the Brothers Grimm (famous not only as grammarians but as the compilers of Grimms Märchen), who called it the Erste or Germanische Lautverschiebung. The general principles governing this and the subsequent change (Zweite or Hochdeutsche Lautverschiebung) are known as Grimm's Law.

<i>Aryan</i>	<i>Germanic</i>
Tenues (Unvoiced Stops) become	Spirants (Fricatives)
P, T, K	F, TH, CH or H
Aspirates	become Mediae (Voiced Stops)
BH, DH, GH	B, D, G
Mediae (Voiced Stops) become	Tenues (Unvoiced Stops)
B, D, G	P, T, K.

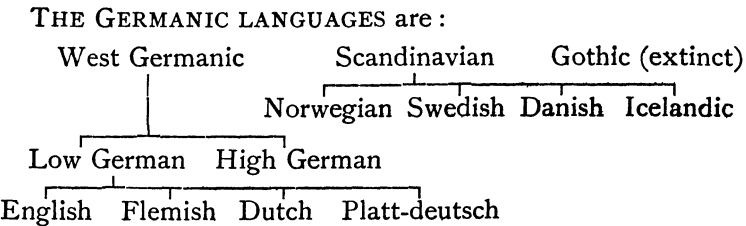
These changes may be illustrated by examples from Latin

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and English, in which the Aryan and Germanic consonants, respectively, have been preserved, though it will be noticed that Latin has lost the aspirates and replaces BH and DH by F, and GH by H; while English replaces the lost fricative CH by H, Y or W.

Lat.	Pater	Ten-uis	Corn-u
Eng.	Father	THin	Horn
Lat.	Fer-o (= bher-o)	For-is (= dhor-is)	Hort-us
Eng.	Bear	Door	Garden
Lat.	turB-a	eDo	juG-um
Eng.	thorP	eaT	yoKe.

There are two main exceptions to this rule:
(a) P, T, K following S, are not changed; thus *spec-ere*, *spy*; *scutula* (scutella), *scuttle*; *sta-re*, *stand*;
(b) P, T, K in many cases become B, D, G instead of the corresponding spirants. These cases were accounted for by Verner (1877) by a change of stress accent from the parent language. Thus Aryan paTér, Old Eng. fáDer; *father*.



The language now known as German is that which appears on the table as High German, and was separated from the Low German languages by a second shifting of the consonants, Zweite or Hochdeutsche Lautverschiebung, which took place between the 6th and 8th centuries after Christ, and affected the dialects spoken in Southern and Central Germany, the

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change being more marked as we go southward and reaching its maximum in Switzerland. From the time of Charlemagne these dialects were known as *diutisk* or *deutsch*, i.e. the language of the people.

The Germanic P, T, K	now became	F, S (TS, Z), CH.
„ F, TH, CH	„	B, D, G.
„ B, D, G	„	P, T, K.

This second change was not so far-reaching as the first, and the Germanic B and G seem to have been almost entirely unaffected, though they have been placed in the above table for the sake of symmetry. It should be realised however that B, D, G are in many cases pronounced P, T, K, especially in Central and Southern Germany.

A list of Cognates will make the kinship of Latin, English and German more evident.

Lat. T.	Tres	Turba	Tonitr-us	Torr-eo	Ten-uis	Teg-o
Eng. TH.	THree	THorp	THunder	THirst	THin	THatch
Ger. D.	Drei	Dorf	Donner	Durst	Dünn	Dach

Lat. P.	raPio	sePtem	suPer
Eng. F, V.	reaVe	seVen	oVer
Ger. B.	rauB	sieBen	üBer

Lat. K.	dec(em)	oC-ulus	seC-o
Eng. H.	(twe)n)tY	eYe	sAW
(gh, ow, y)			
Ger. G.	(zwan)ziG	auGe	säG-en

Lat. F.	Fer-o	Frater	Fag-us	Fod-io	Frang-o
Eng. B.	Bear	Brother	Beech	Bed	Break
Ger. (P) B.	ge-Bär-en	Bruder	Buch-e	Bett, Beet	Brech-en

Lat. (TH) F.	Fer-us	For-es	Fing-o	Fung-or
Eng. D.	Deer	Door	Dough	Dough-ty
Ger. T.	Tier	Tür	Teig	Taug-en

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Lat. H.	Haed-us	Host-is	Hort-us			
Eng. G.	Goat	Guest	Gard-en			
Ger. (K) G.	Geiss	Gast	Gart-en			
Lat. B.	turB-a	laB-o		luBric-us		
Eng. P.	thorP	sleep		slipPery		
Ger. F.	dorF	schlaF-en, schlaFF	schlüPFrig			
Lat. D.	eD-o	Duo	quiD	viDi	peD-em	Decem
Eng. T.	eaT	Two	whaT	wiT	foot	Ten
Ger. S, TS.	ess-en	zwei	waS	weiss	fuss	Zehn
Lat. G.	franG-o	juG-um	viG-ilo	eGo		
Eng. K.	break	yoKe	waKe	L. G. iK		
Ger. CH.	breCH-en	joCH	waCHen	iCH.		

THE VOCABULARY of the German language contains a large number of words borrowed from other languages, though it is in this respect much purer than English.

From contact with the neighbouring tribes, a few *Celtic words* found their way into the language, including *Amt*, *office*, *Düne*, *dune*, *Falke*, *falcon*, *Reich*, *kingdom*, *welsch*, *foreign*.

From the ROMANS, who planted colonies on German soil (e.g. Cologne, Köln = *colonia*; Strassburg, the fortress on the road), came terms relating to *architecture*, such as *Fenster*, *fenestra*, *Kammer*, *camera*, *Keller*, *cellarium*, *Mauer*, *murus*, *Pforte*, *porta*, *Turm*, *turris*.

Military terms:

Kaiser, Strasse.

Domestic terms:

Tisch	<i>discus</i>	Tafel	<i>tabula</i>	Schüssel	<i>scutula</i>
Spiegel	<i>specula</i>	Sack	<i>saccus</i>	Korb	<i>corbis</i>
Kiste	<i>cista</i>	Leinen	<i>linum</i>	Butter	<i>butyrum</i>
Käse	<i>caseus</i>				

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Many *plants and fruits* introduced by the Romans still bear their Latin names:

Pfeffer	<i>piper</i>	Senf	<i>sinapi</i>	Minze	<i>mentha</i>
Kohl	<i>caulis</i>	Rettich	<i>radix</i>	Wein	<i>vinum</i>
Kirsche	<i>cerasus</i>	Pflaume	<i>prunum</i>	Birne	<i>pirum</i>
Rose	<i>rosa</i>	Lilie	<i>lilium</i>	Veilchen	<i>viola</i> .

Religious terms introduced by the early missionaries include:

Kloster	<i>claustrum</i>	Priester	<i>presbyter</i>	Mönch	<i>monachus</i>
Münster	<i>monasterium</i>	Abt	<i>abbas</i>	Kreuz	<i>crux</i>
Kirche	<i>cyriace</i>	Pfarre	<i>parochia</i>	Teufel	<i>diabolus</i> .

In the 12th century FRANCE was the centre of chivalry, and added to the vocabularies of its neighbours a number of words dealing with *the court and the field*. Such are:

Posaune	<i>buisine</i>	Flöte	<i>flûte</i>	Tanz	<i>danse</i>
Turnier	<i>tournoi</i>	Lanze	<i>lance</i>	Harnisch	<i>harnais</i>
Abenteuer	<i>aventure</i>	Sold	<i>solde</i>	Koppel	<i>couple</i>

(leash of hounds).

Some words originally German were re-imported in French guise, e.g. Herold, O.F. *héralt*; Banner, *bannière*.

With the Renaissance a flood of LATIN and GREEK words swept over Europe, and German did not escape. In 1572 a grammarian was able to count no fewer than 2000 Latin words in common use. These were, mainly,

Terms relating to Study:

Aula	<i>college</i>	Kathedr	<i>lecturer's</i>	Podium	<i>dais</i>
	<i>hall</i>		<i>desk</i>		
Glossar	<i>glossary</i>	Karzer	<i>cells</i>	Examen	<i>examination</i>

Botanik, Geographie, Geometrie, addieren, subtrahieren, etc.

Medical terms:

Abszess, Indisposition, Katarrh.

Legal terms:

Klient, Magistrat, Prozess, Advokat, Majorität.

Political terms:

Kommissar, Regent, Monarch, Majestät (first used by Charles V).

Even *Proper Names* were latinised. Schneider was changed to Sartor, Weber to Textor, Schmied to Faber. Peters became Petri, Jacobs Jacobi. Melanchthon is a Greek rendering of Schwarzerd.

The predominance of FRANCE in the 17th century has left its mark on the German language. Germans with any pretention to elegance loaded their speech with French words, such as:

elegant, brillant, charmant, galant, honett,
 nett, nobel, Kabale, Intrige, Schikane,

all of which are still current. Even the family circle was invaded by Onkel and Tante, Cousin and Cousine, while Grossvater and Grossmutter are translated from *grand-père* and *grand'mère*.

Many *military terms* were adopted from the French, including: Armee, Parade, Bataillon, Brigade, General, Artillerie, Infanterie

ITALIAN has contributed *musical terms*, e.g. Sopran, Alt, Bass, Piano, etc., and many commercial terms, e.g. franko, netto, bankrott, Conto.

ENGLISH has given words connected with *sport*, e.g. Handikap, Steeplechase, Sport, boxen, starten, Dogge, Tennis; and *political terms*, e.g. Bill, Strike, Meeting.

Although non-German terms are being constantly introduced for new inventions, e.g. Auto, Aeroplan, Radio, Kinematograph, there is a healthy tendency, which should be observed by all who write German, never to use a foreign term when there is a convenient native word to express the same idea.