

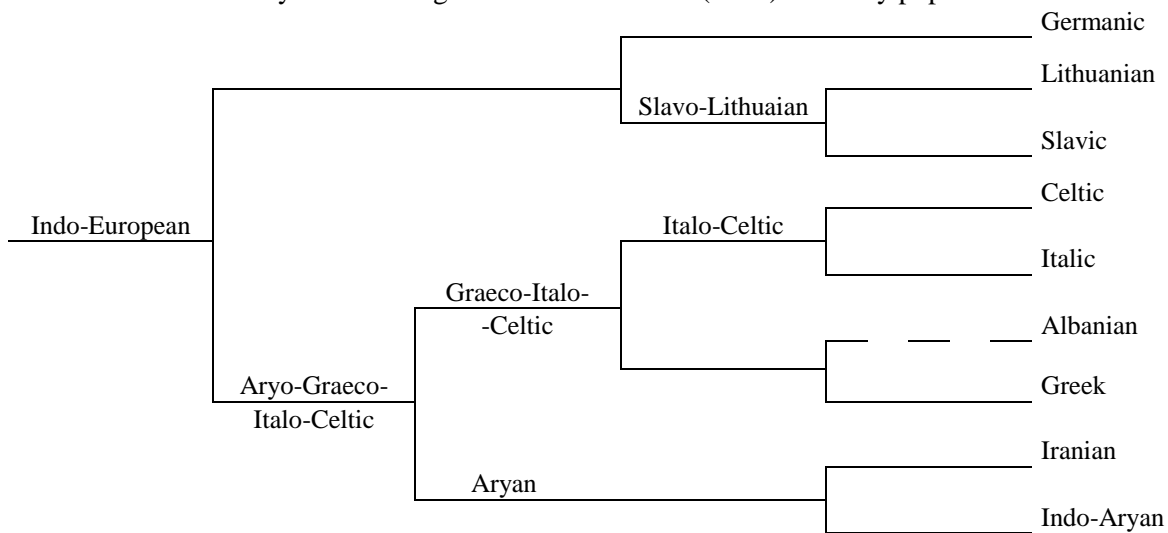
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## On the internal classification of Indo-European languages: Survey

The purpose of the present study is to confront most representative models of the internal classification of Indo-European languages and their daughter branches.

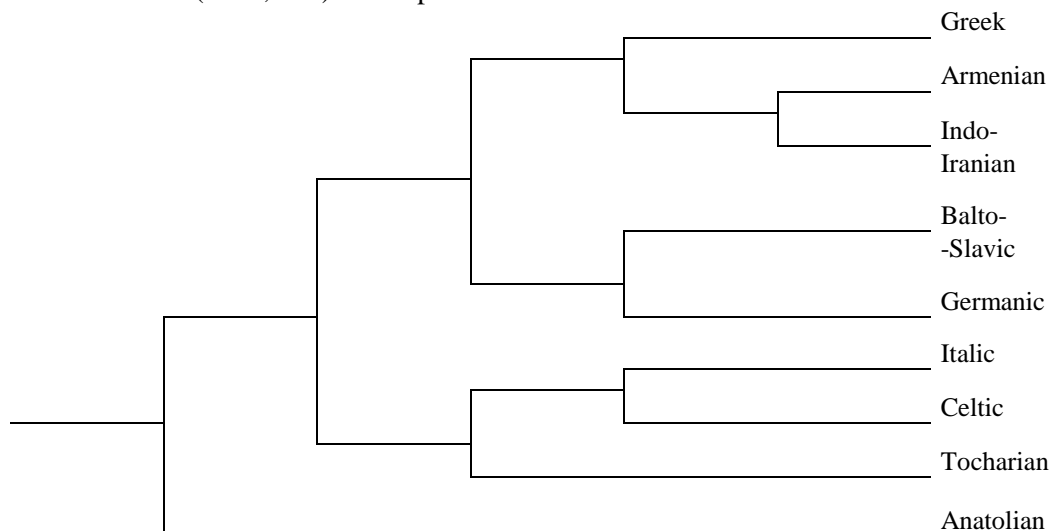
### 0. Indo-European

0.1. In the 19th century the tree-diagram of A. Schleicher (1860) was very popular:

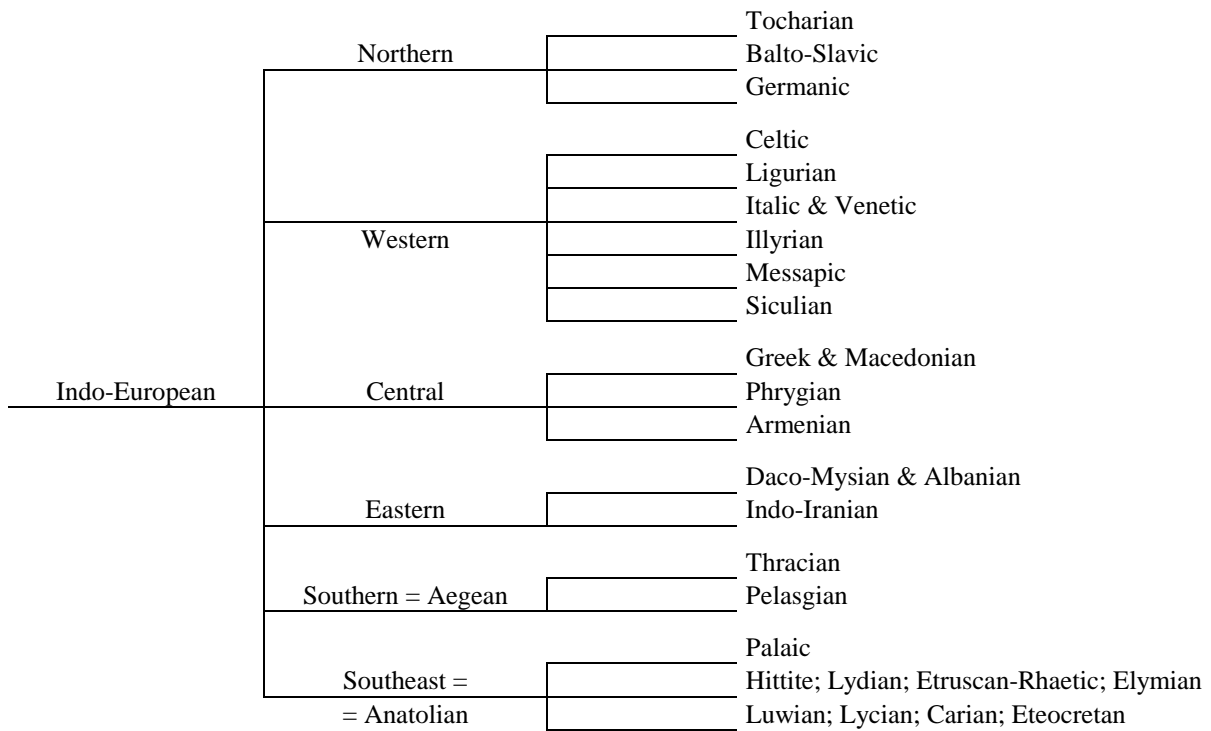


After the discovery of the Indo-European affiliation of the Tocharian A & B languages and the languages of ancient Asia Minor, it is necessary to take them in account. The models of the recent time accept the Anatolian vs. non-Anatolian ('Indo-European' in the narrower sense) dichotomy, which was first formulated by E. Sturtevant (1942). Naturally, it is difficult to include the relic languages into the model of any classification, if they are known only from several inscriptions, glosses or even only from proper names. That is why there are so big differences in classification between these scantily recorded languages. For this reason some scholars omit them at all.

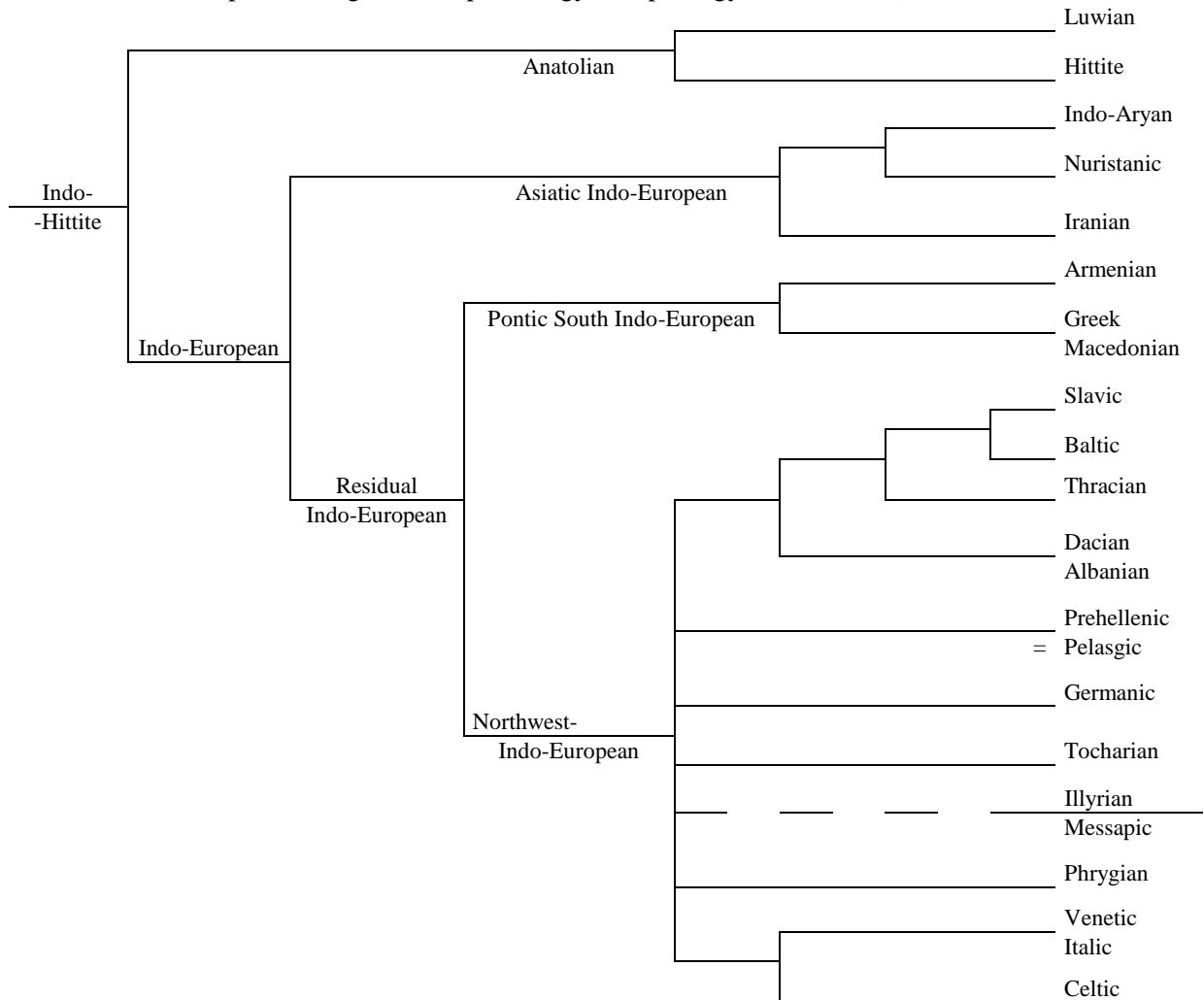
0.2. Gamkrelidze & Ivanov (1984, 415) developed the traditional ideas:



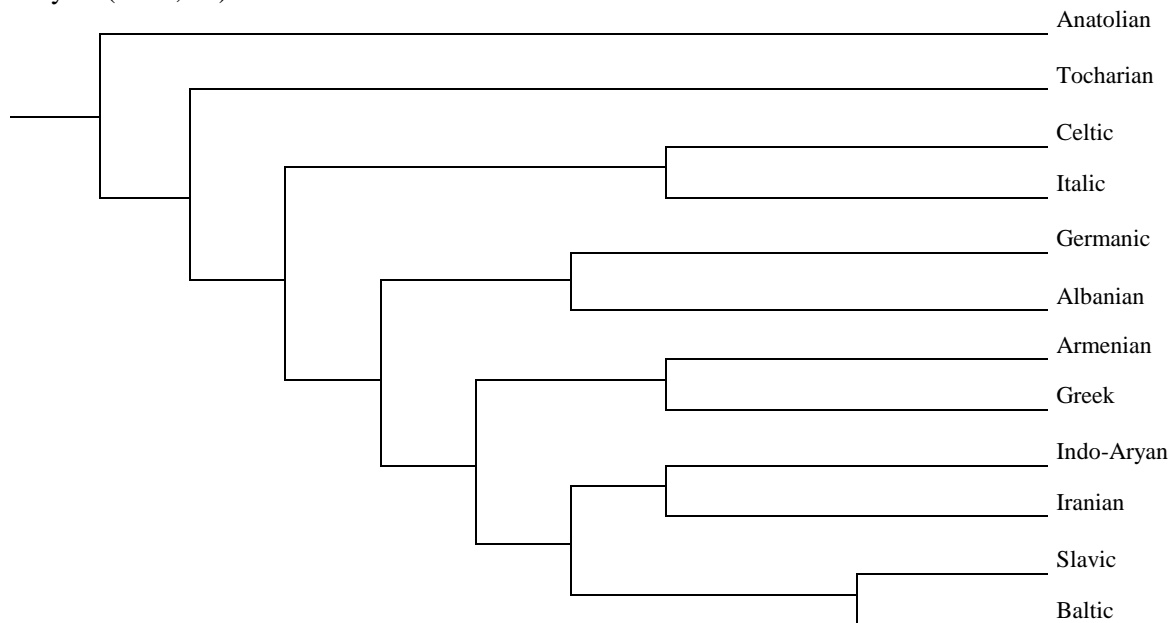
0.3. Vladimir Georgiev (1981, 363) included in his Indo-European classification some of the relic languages, plus the languages with a doubtful IE affiliation at all:



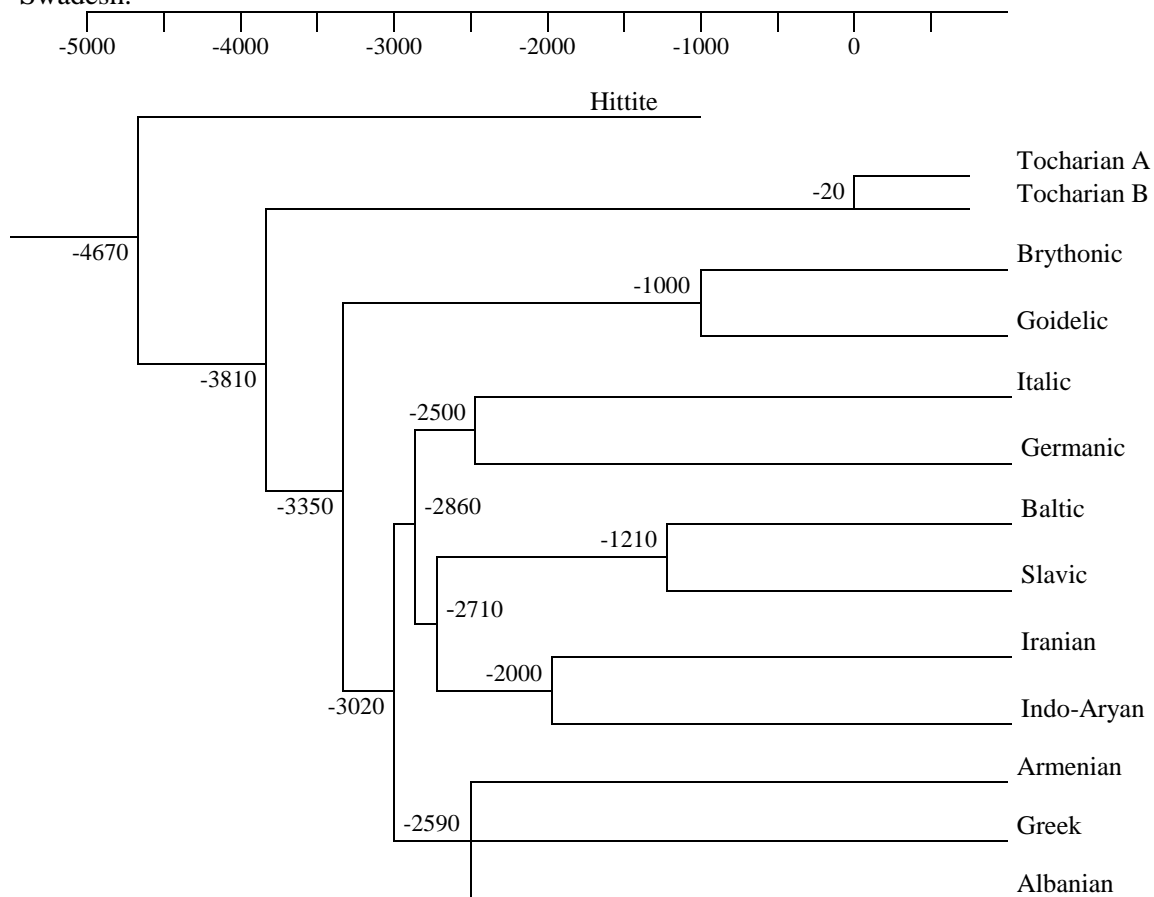
0.4. Eric Hamp proposed his original model of the Indo-European disintegration, including the relic idioms, based on specific isoglosses in phonology, morphology and lexicon (1990):



0.5. As the illustration of a realistic application of cladistics can serve D. Ringe, T. Warnow & A. Taylor (2002, 87):

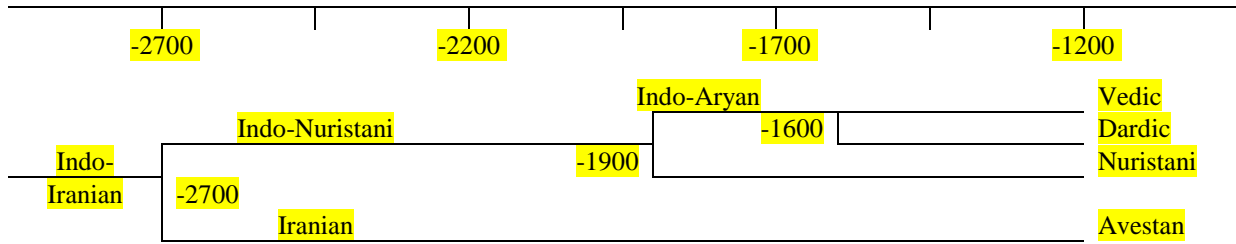


0.6. The absolute chronology is available only thanks to glottochronology. The most recent result of Sergei Starostin (*Workshop on the chronology in linguistics*, Santa Fe 2004) applies his own model of the 'recalibrated' glottochronology, where all borrowings are excluded before any calculation and the coefficient of changes is empirically recounted to 5% per millennium instead of 14% postulated by Swadesh.



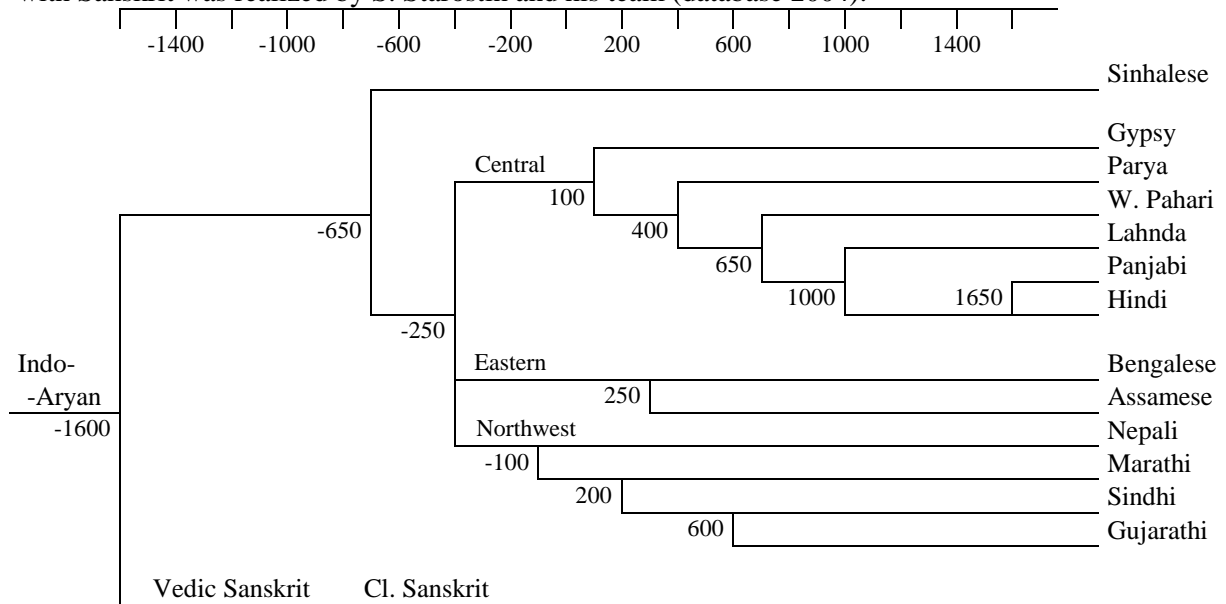
# 1. Indo-Iranian

The preliminary result of comparison of Avestan, Vedic, Dardic & Nuristani was proposed by Hegedús & Blažek (2010):



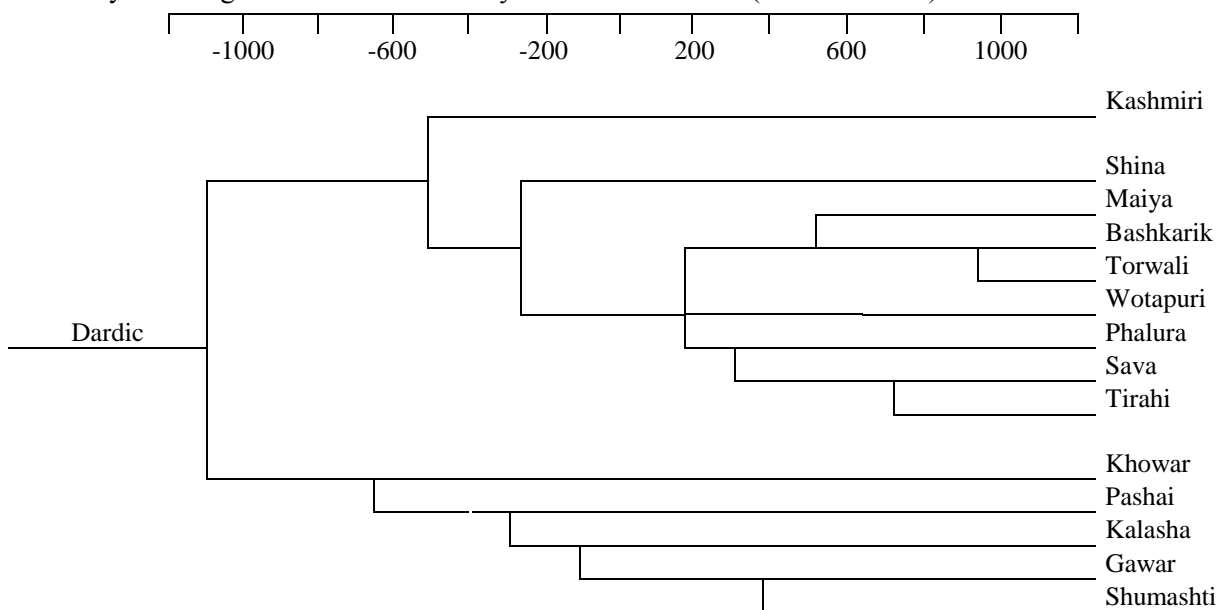
## 1a. Indo-Aryan

The only attempt to apply glottochronology for several modern Indo-Aryan languages in confrontation with Sanskrit was realized by S. Starostin and his team (database 2004):



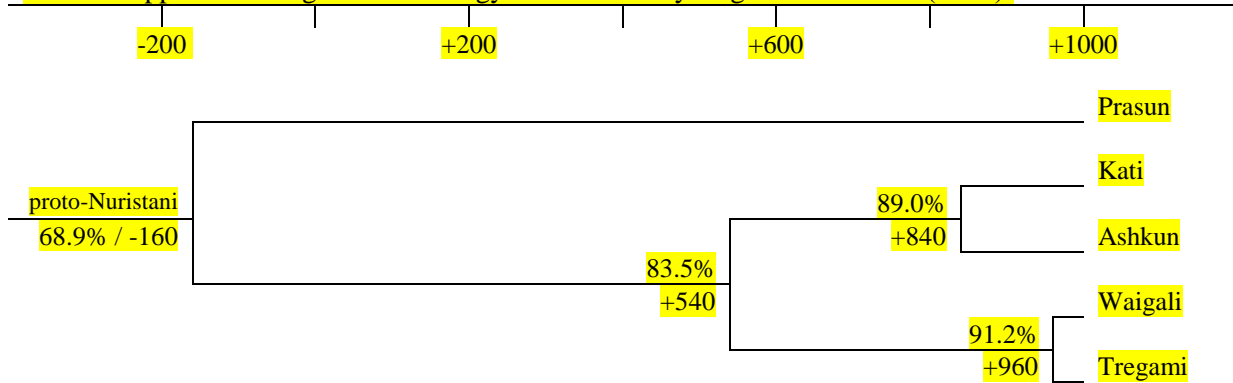
## 1b. Dardic

The only tree-diagram was constructed by S. Starostin's team (database 2004):



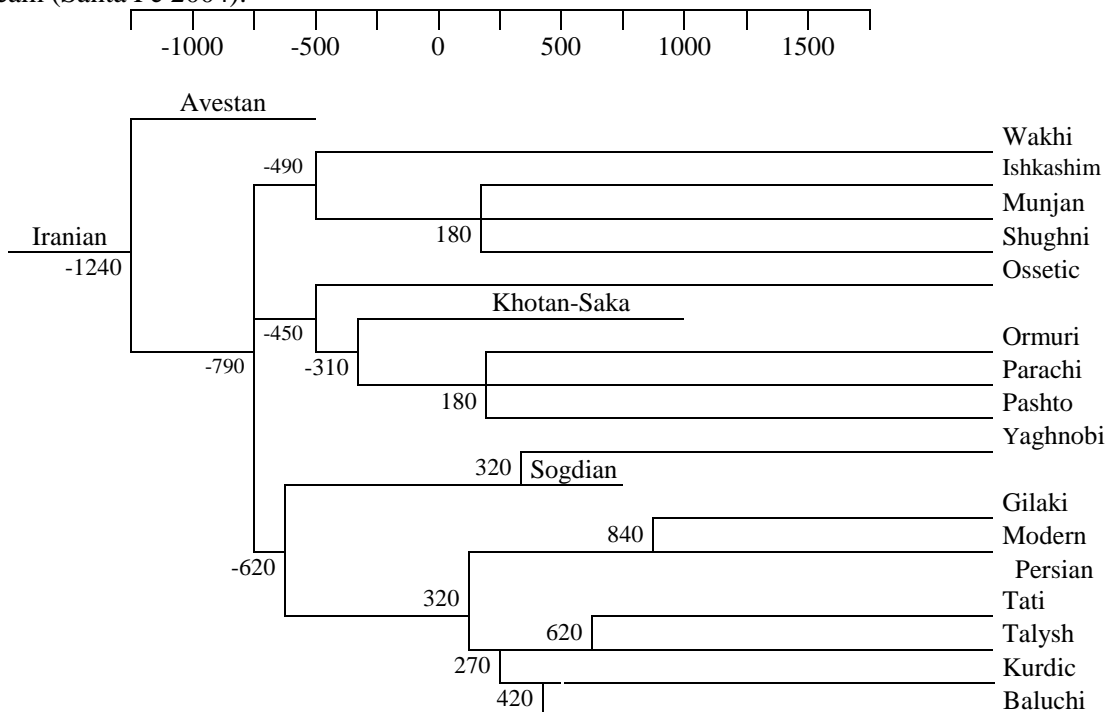
## 2. Nuristani

The first application of glottochronology to Nuristani by Hegedűs & Blažek (2010):



## 3. Iranian

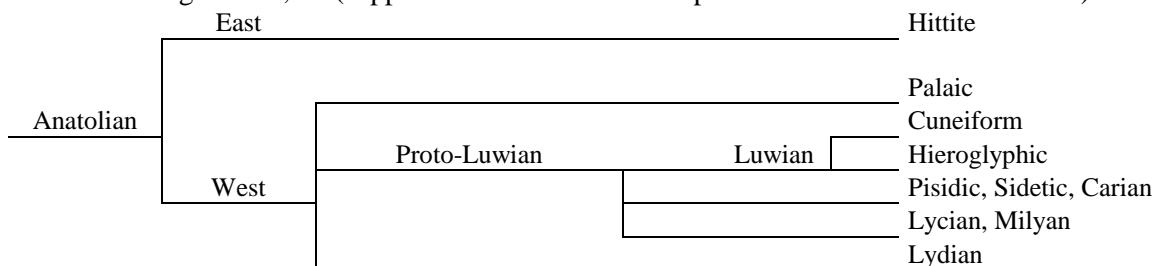
The only attempt to construct the tree-diagram for the Iranian languages was realized by S. Starostin and his team (Santa Fe 2004).



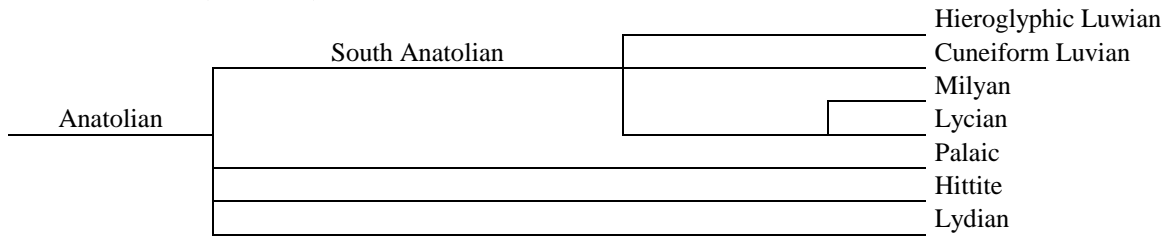
## 4. Anatolian

With exception of Hittite no Anatolian language allows to apply glottochronology for our limited knowledge of their lexical corpora. That is why the existing classifications are based on combinations of phonological, morphological and lexical isoglosses. In the recent time these three alternative models of the internal classification of the Anatolian languages were proposed.

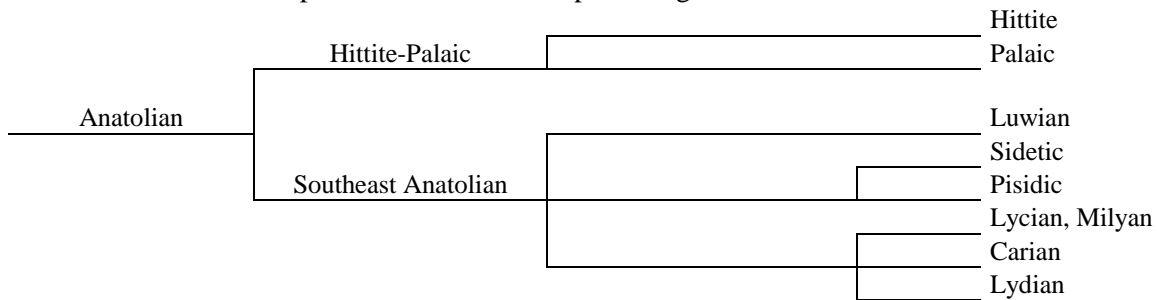
4.1. N. Oettinger 1978, 92 (supplemented on the basis of personal communication in 2001):



4.2. R. Werner (1991, 17)

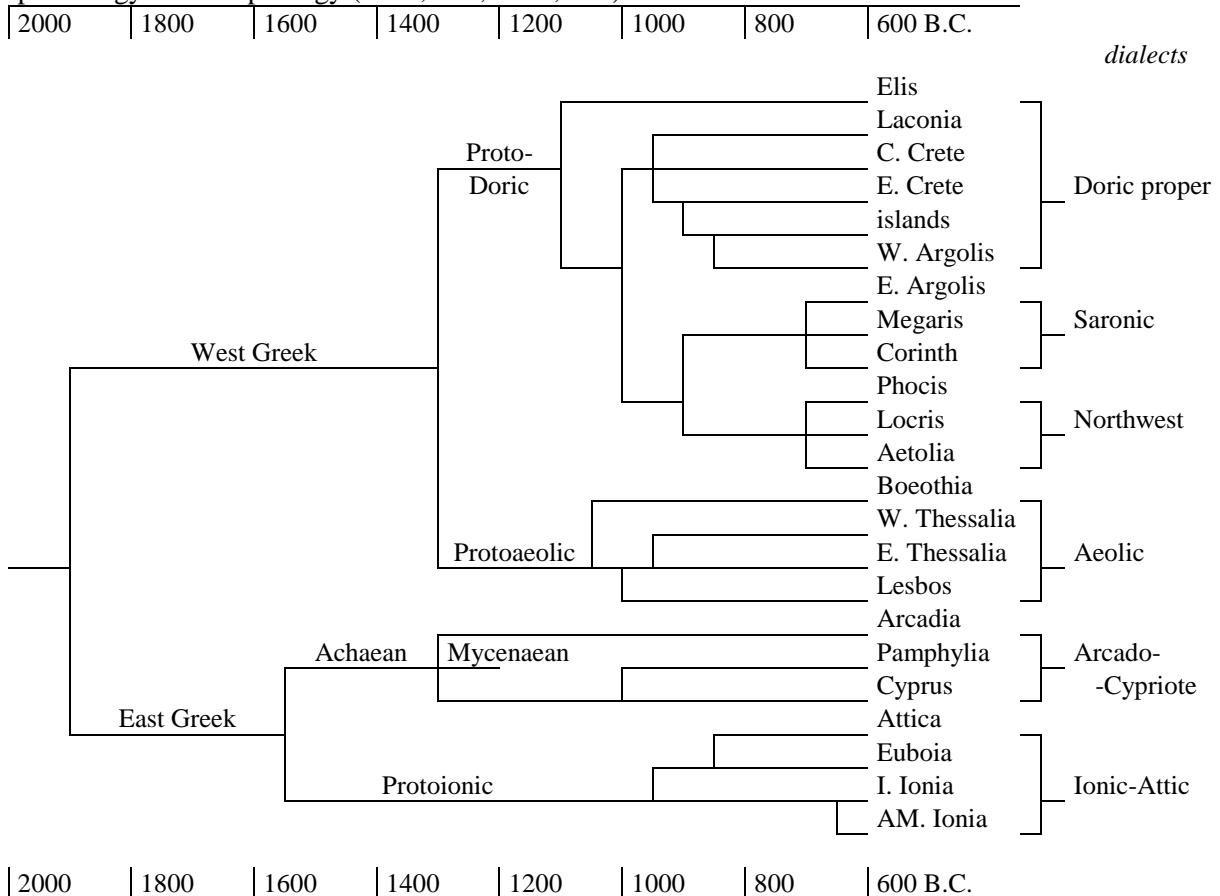


4.3. C. aan de Wiel <<http://iiasnt.leidenuniv.nl/pie/ielangs/anatolian.html>>



**5. Greek**

The most detailed scheme classifying the Greek dialects was proposed by A. Bartoněk on the basis of phonology and morphology (1987, 104; 2003, 494):



Abbreviations: AM Asia Minor, C. Central, E. East, I. Insular, W. West.

The application of the 'recalibrated' glottochronology gives almost the same result, dating the disintegration of West and East Greek to the 38th cent. BP (Blažek 2010).

Note: Greek can be classified as one of the **Hellenic** languages, together with Phrygian / Brygian, ancient Macedonian, and perhaps also Messapic, if the hypothesis of M. Huld (1995, 147-55; cf. also Blažek 2009b) is accepted. Unfortunately, the lexical corpora do not allow any quantification.

## 6. Paleo-Balkanian

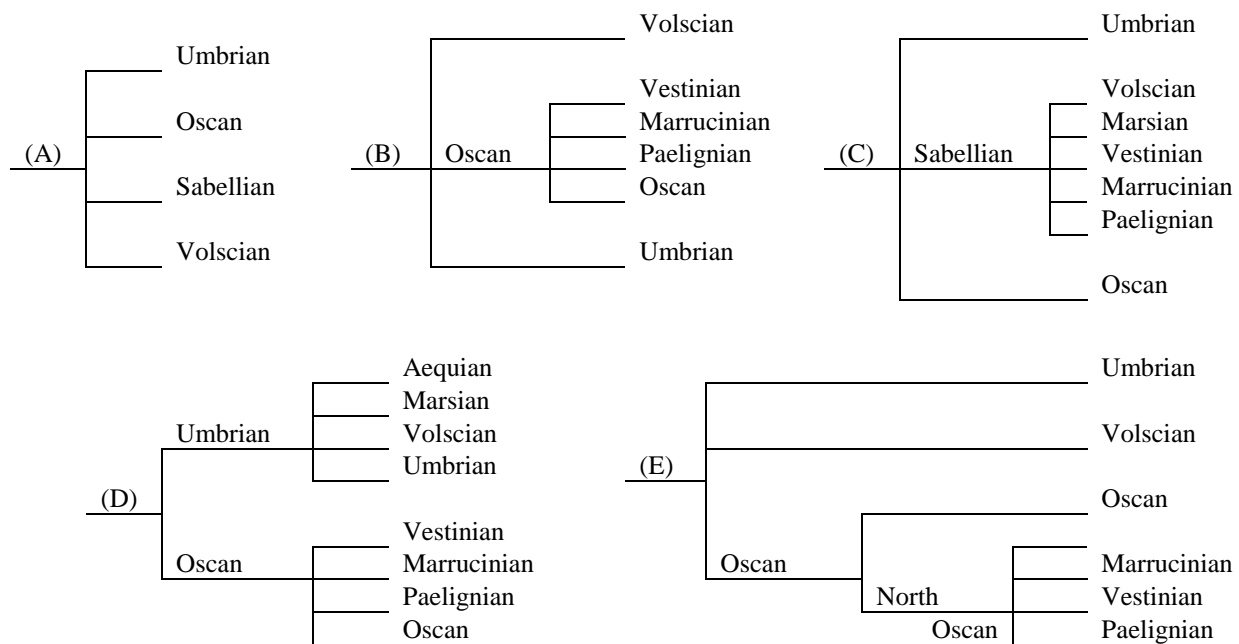
Extremely poor data and their ambiguous interpretations lead to various hypotheses. The present author finds as probable following: In Prehellenic = Pelasgian the *Lautverschiebung* operated; the language was of the *centum*-type (Hamp) rather than of *satem*-type (Georgiev). If Thracian & Bithynian were *satem*-languages with *Lautverschiebung*, their closer relation with Armenian is expectable (so Kortlandt 1988). Albanian is a descendant of Illyrian, both the *satem*-languages. The change  $*g^w > b$  (Pisani 1957) in Dacian indicates more probably the *centum*-type, regarding the complementarity of the  $*k : *k^w$  and  $*k : *k'$  distinction (similarly Witczak, p.c.).

## 7. Italic

7.0. The ancient Italic languages are only fragmentarily recorded, naturally with exception of Latin. For this reason, their classification cannot use the lexicostatistic methods and so only the qualitative analysis of phonology bring some results. The present model does not reflect any grade of a mutual relationship.

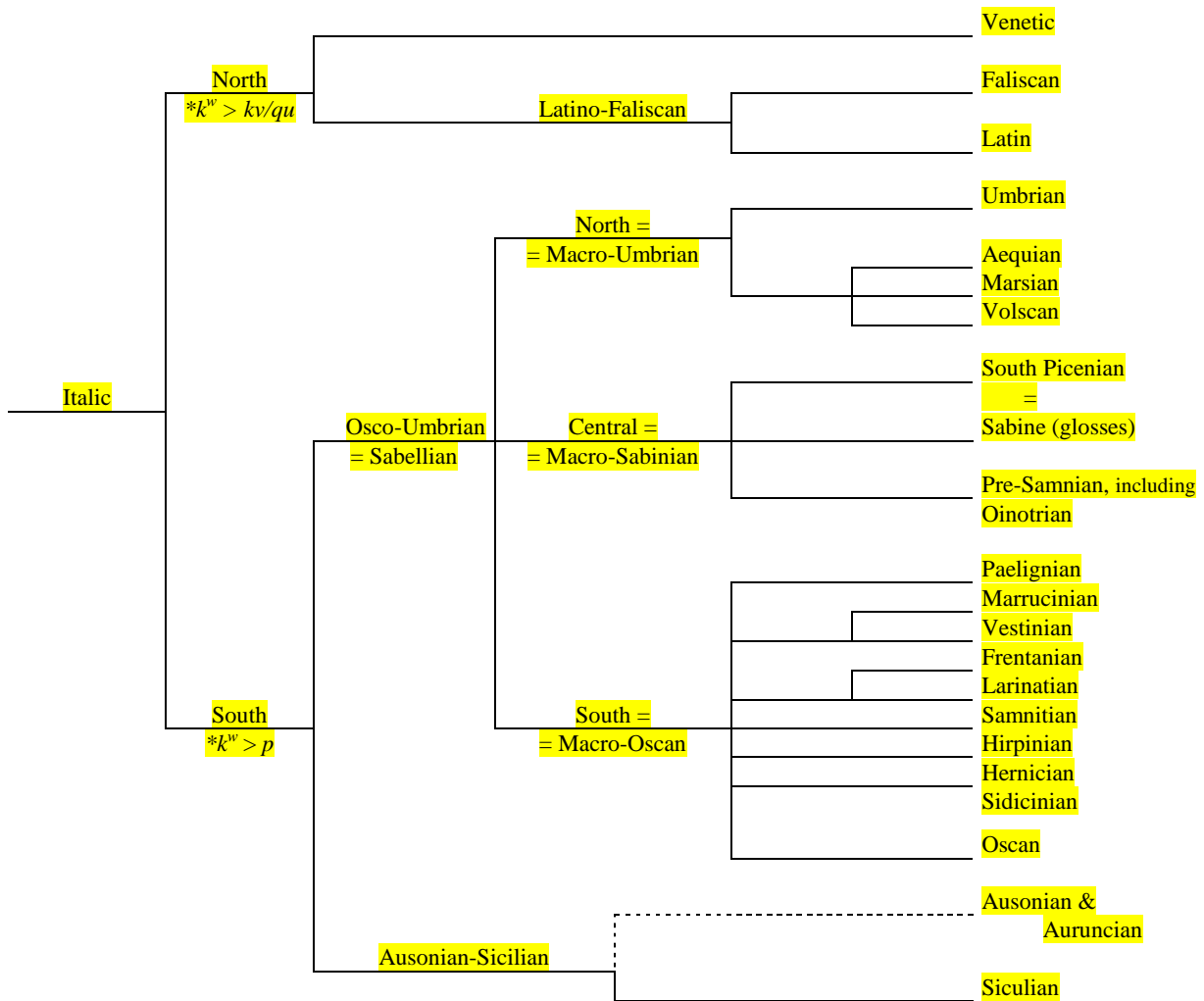
Wallace (1984, 123-51) discusses five scenarios of classification of the **Osco-Umbrian** languages:

- (A) Planta 1892; Sommer 1948; Krahe 1966.
- (B) Palmer 1954.
- (C) Buck 1928; Kent 1945.
- (D) Poultney 1951; Durante 1978.
- (E) Conway 1897.



### Synthesis of contemporary views on the classification of the Italic languages:

The following model (Urbanová & Blažek 2008, 34) represents an attempt to find a synthesis based on conclusions of various scholars, who are in agreement in a close position of Venetic to the Latino-Faliscan branch, with the idea of H. Rix (2002, 3-9) about an internal structure of the Osco-Umbrian branch. The constitution of a special Ausonian-Sicilian branch is based on a witness of the antique authors, documenting that in past the Siculians-Ausonians were pushed away from Italy for Sicily (Thukydides; Dionysius Halicarnassensis referring to Hellanicus; see Schmoll 1958, 96). The change  $*k^w > p$  assumed for Siculic connects the hypothetical Ausonian-Sicilian branch with the Osco-Umbrian languages.

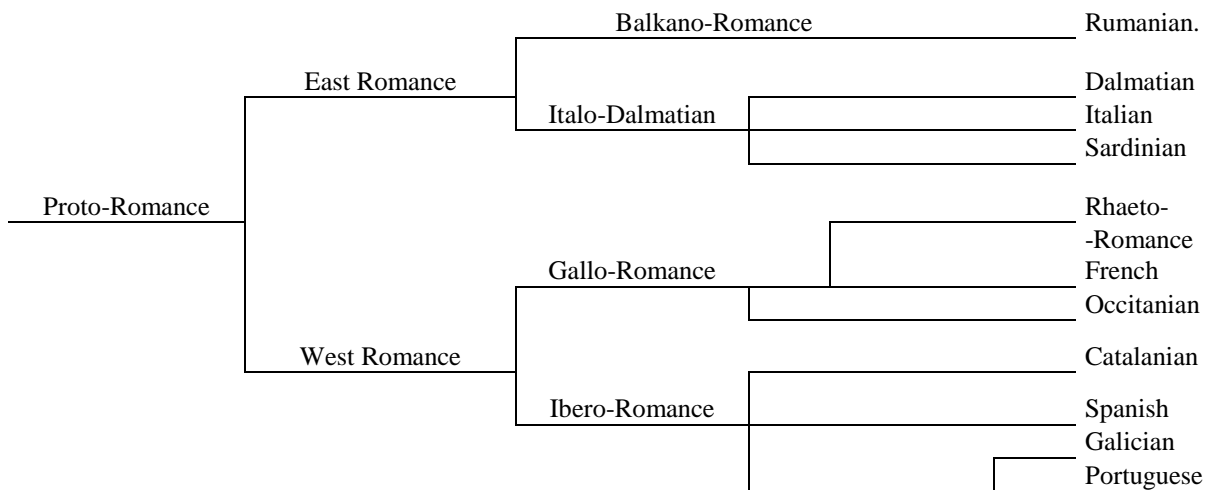


Note: Rix (2002) differentiated the following local varieties of Oscan: from Capua, Pompeie, Cetera Campania, Central Oscan, Lucania & Bruttium, Messina.

### 7A. Romance

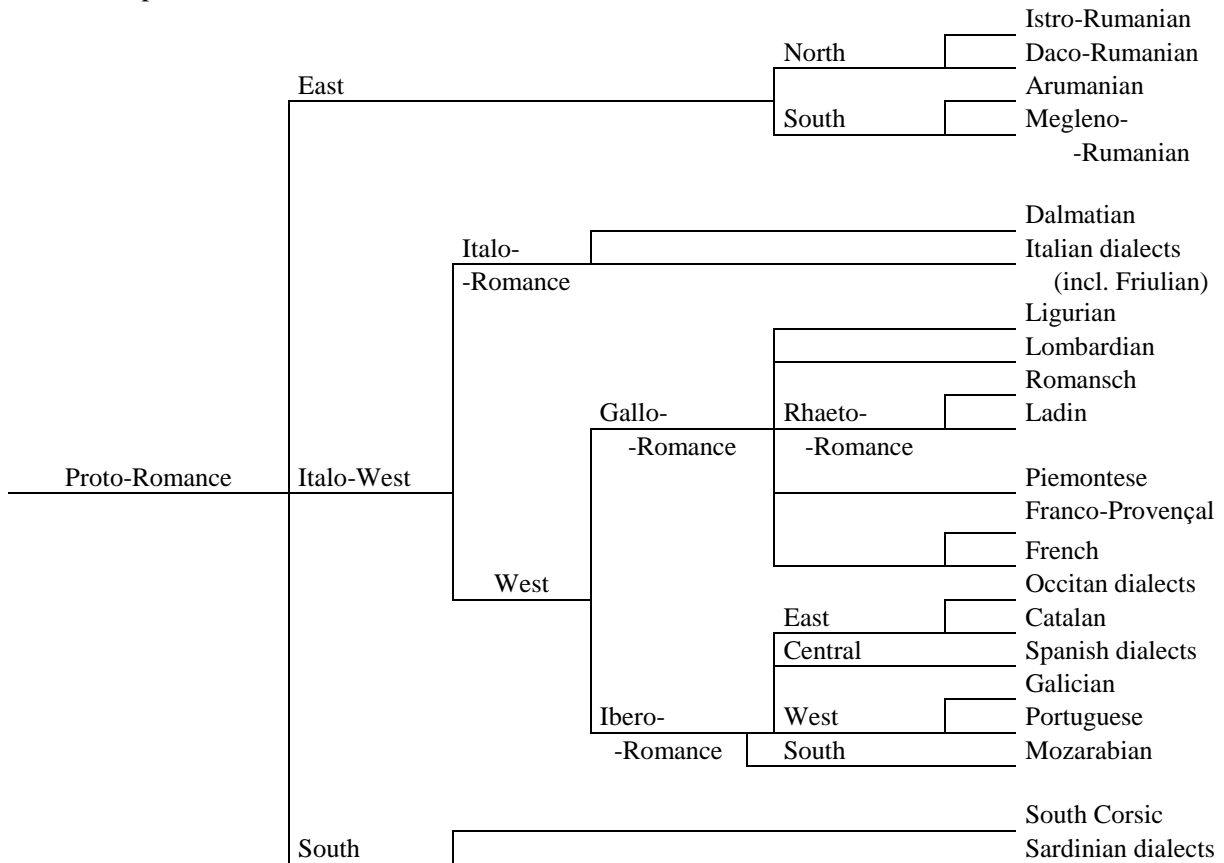
On the other hand, the lexical material of the Romance languages served for determination of the basic constants in glottochronology. Let us confront several models of their disintegration:

7A.1. Suzanne Fleischman. The Romance Languages, in: William Bright (ed.), *International Encyclopedia of Linguistics*, vol. 3. Oxford: University Press 1992, 339:

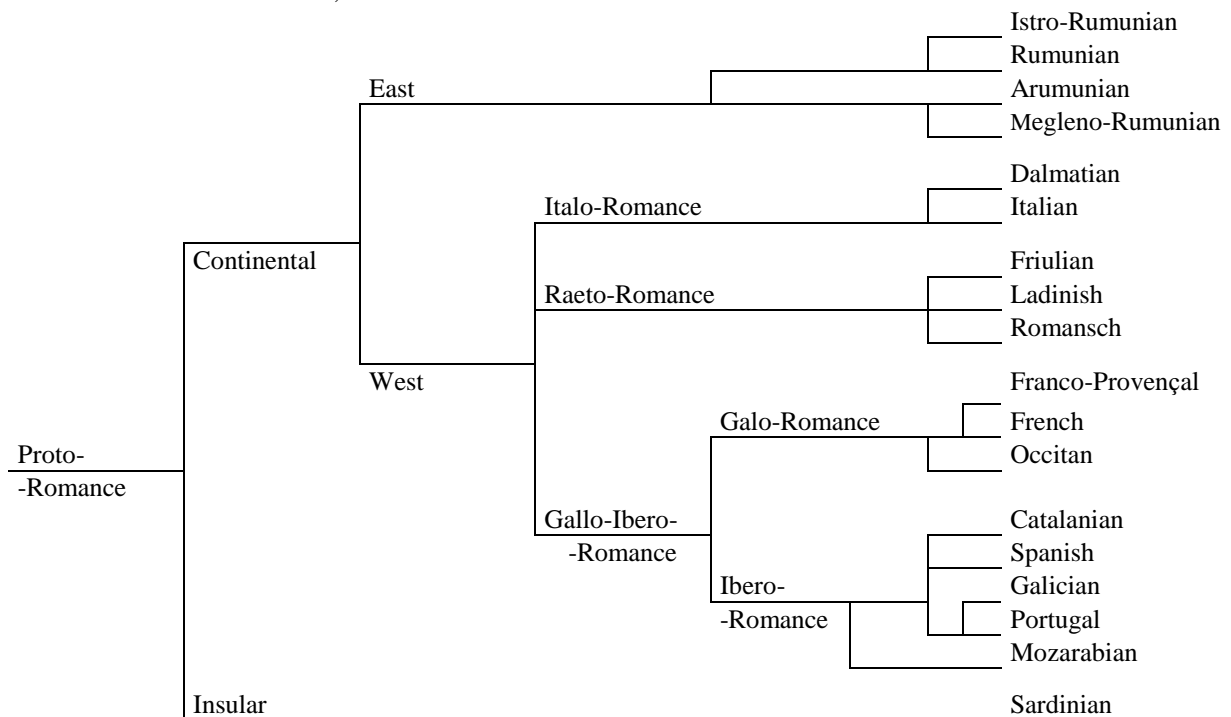




7A.2. Joseph E. & Barbara F. Grimes 1996, 57-58.

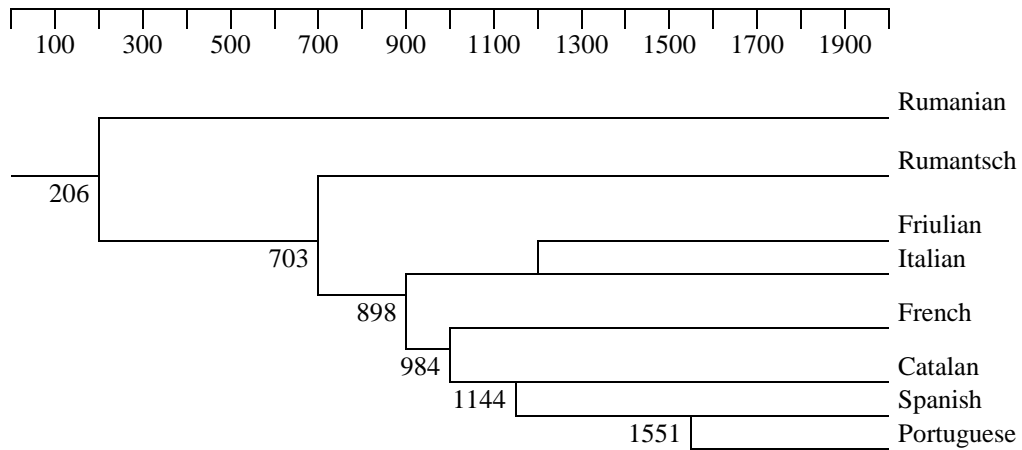


7A.3. Merritt Ruhlen 1987, 326:

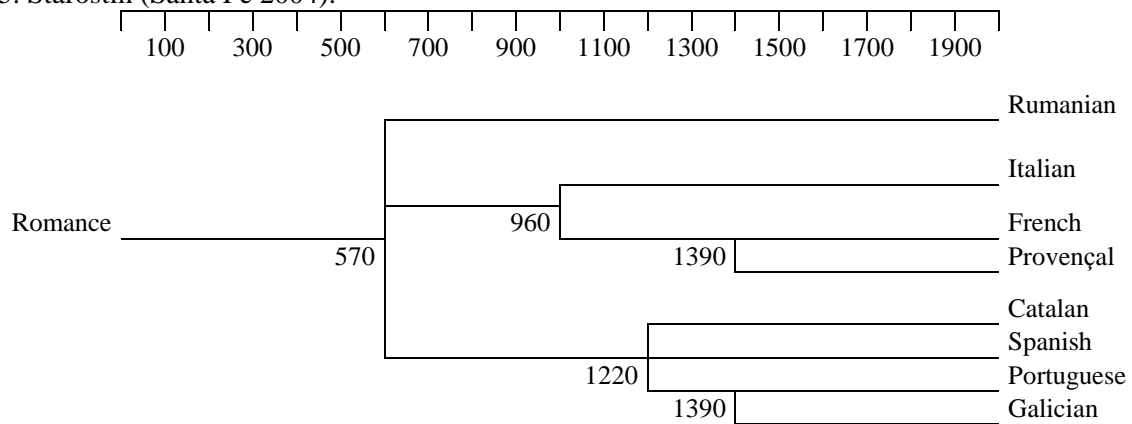


7A.4. It is natural that glottochronology was also applied for Romance languages. Let us confront two attempts from the recent time:

Embleton (1986, 142):



7A.5. Starostin (Santa Fe 2004):

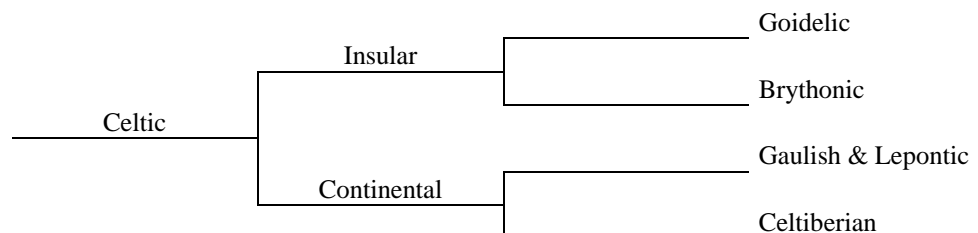


8. In the area between Italic and Celtic there were at least two relic languages which could form a closer unit in the genealogical sense: **Ligurian** and **Lusitanian**, former reconstructed on the basis of proper names attested by classical authors in northern Italy, latter known from several inscriptions written in the Latin alphabet, discovered in south Portugal and Spain (cf. Urbanová & Blažek 2008, 178-81; Witczak 2005; Blažek 2006).

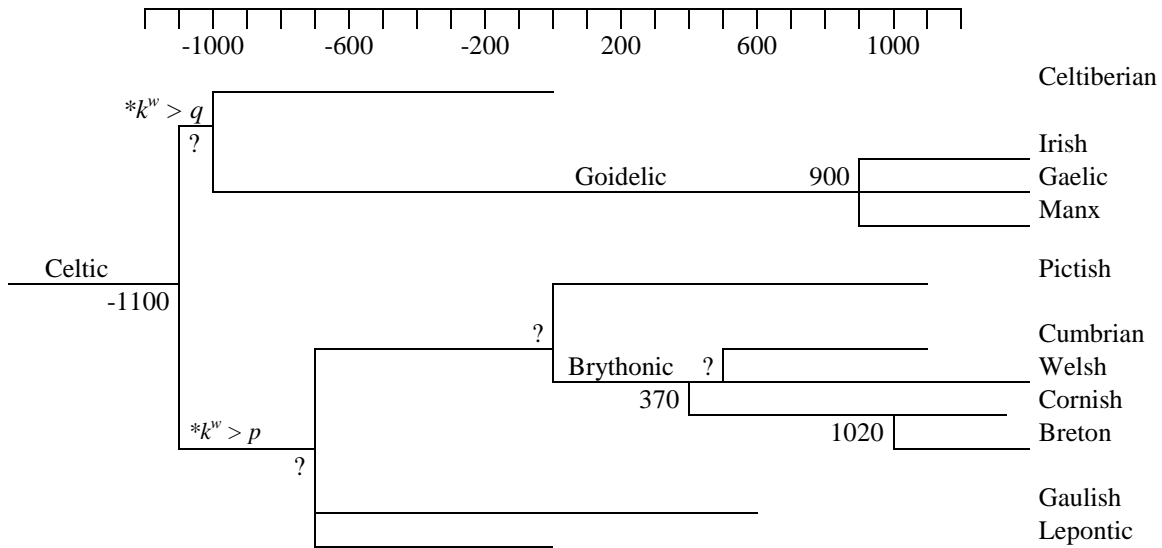
## 9. Celtic

There are two alternative models of disintegration of the Celtic languages.

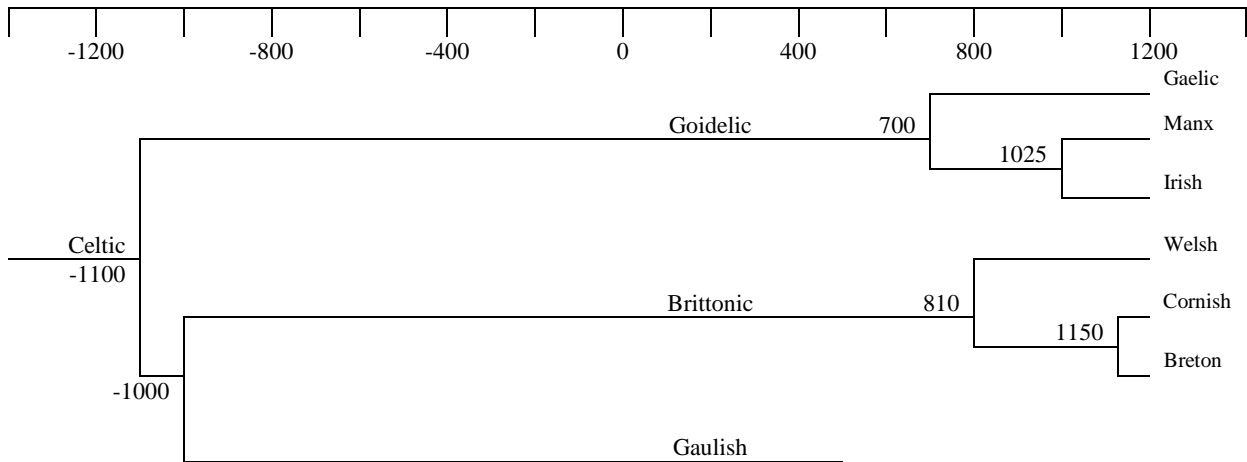
9.1. The first model has to reflect the opposition between the insular and continental languages. It is defended e.g. by W. Cowgill (1975) or P. Schrijver (1995, 463).



9.2. The alternative and more traditional model is based on the *q/p*-isogloss in the reflexes of the Indo-European labiovelar *\*kʷ*. The figures for living languages (plus Cornish) and the age of the divergence of Goidelic vs. Brythonic were calculated by S. Starostin and his team (Santa Fe 2004). The positions of other nodes indicated by question marks represent only rough assessments:



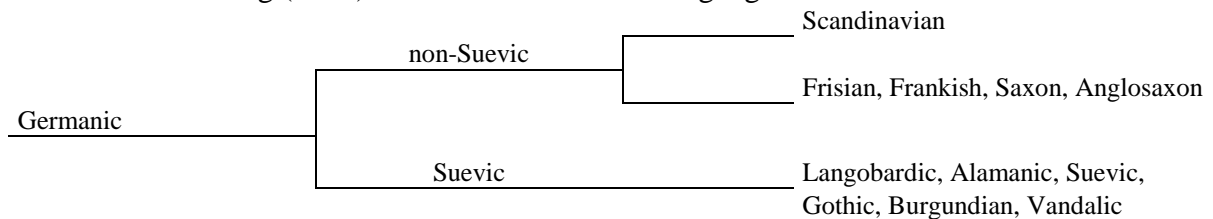
9.3. Applying the Starostin's approach with one modification, namely the systematic inclusion of synonyms for all sufficiently described languages, i.e. all Goidelic, Brythonic, plus Gaulish, the internal structure of the Celtic tree diagram is in principle the same, the differences occur only in details. Let us mention that the time depth of the divergence of Gaulish vs. Brythonic (1000 BC) is practically the same as Goidelic vs. Gaulish-Brythonic (Novotná & Blažek 2006, 91; Blažek 2009a):



## 10. Germanic

The best summarization of various ideas concerning the classification of the Germanic languages is the study of W. Mańczak (1992; cf. also Blažek & Pirochta 2004).

10.1. J.Ch. Adelung (1806) divided the Germanic languages into two branches:

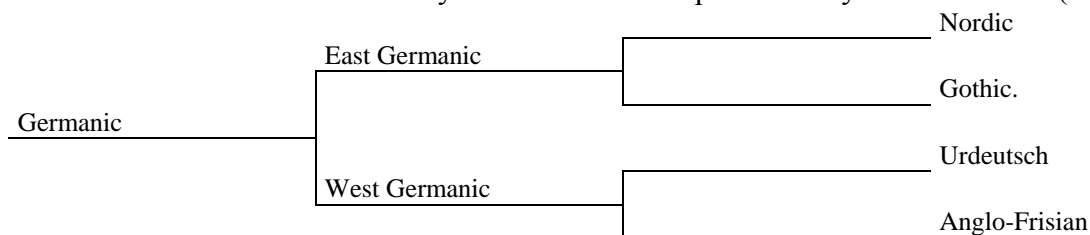


10.2. Similarly J. Grimm (1819) operated with the binary classification. For some of the tribal dialects he supposed the transit character, viz. Frisian & Anglian (1-2), Frankish (2-3), Quadic & Marcomanic (3-4). Alternatively he assumed the opposition of East Germanic vs. others.

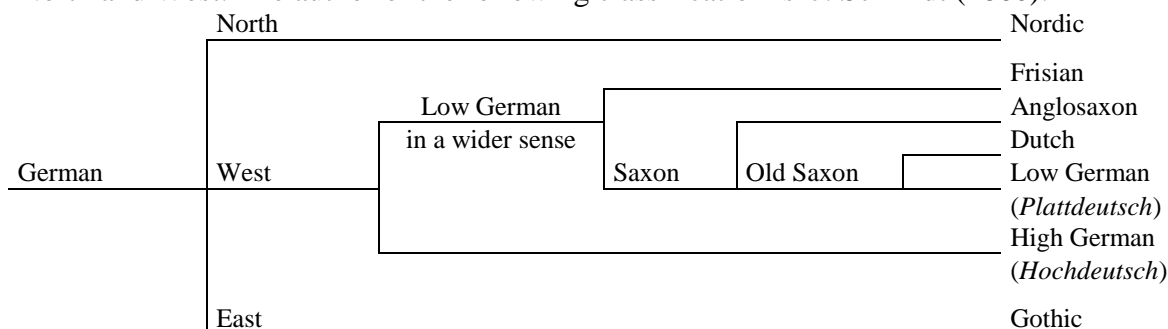


10.3. Applying his original method based on the lexicostatistic analysis of parallel texts, Mańczak (1992) formulated a similar conclusion. He ordered the languages decliningly according their relationship with Gothic: the closest has to be Old High German, further Old Saxon, finally Scandinavian languages.

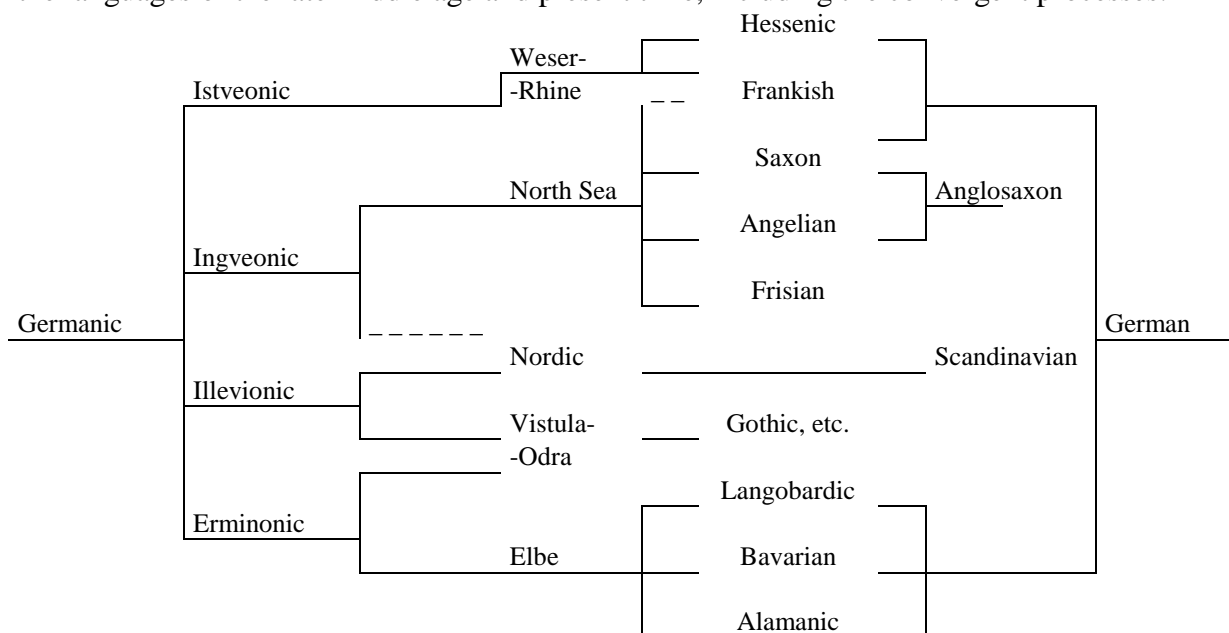
10.4. Another model of the binary classification was presented by K. Müllenhoff (1898):



10.5. The most frequent model divides the Germanic languages into three branches: East, North and West. The author of the following classification is J. Schmidt (1860):



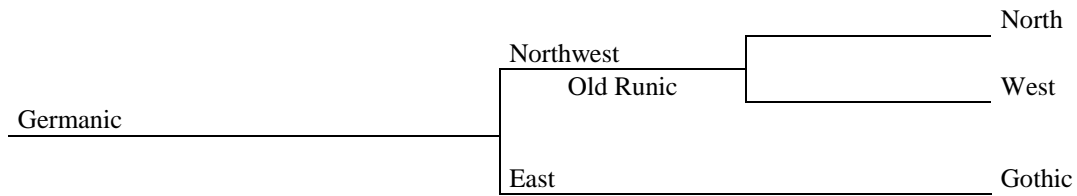
10.6. F. Maurer (1943) tried to depict the development from the tribal Germanic dialects to the languages of the late middle age and present time, including the convergent processes:



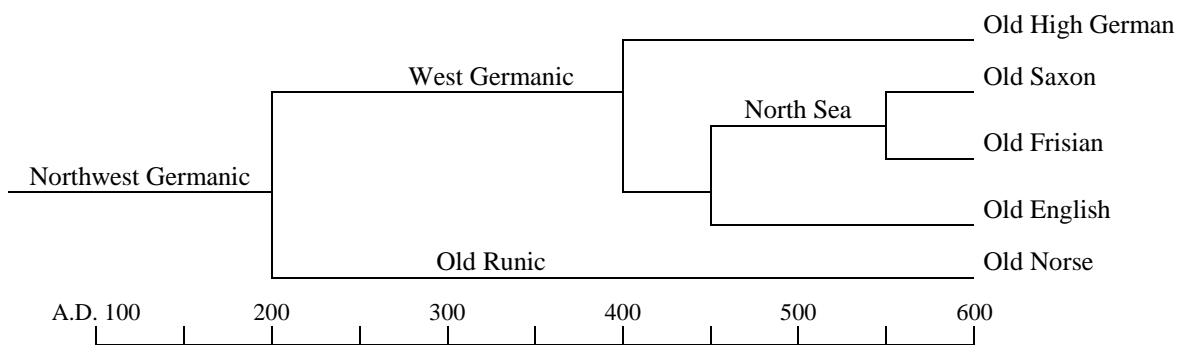


Abbreviations: C Central, dial. dialect, E East, Erm. Erminonic, Germ. Germanic, Ingv. Ingeveonic, Istv. Istveonic, L Low, M Middle, Nor. Norwegian, O Old, S South, Scand. Scandinavian, W West.

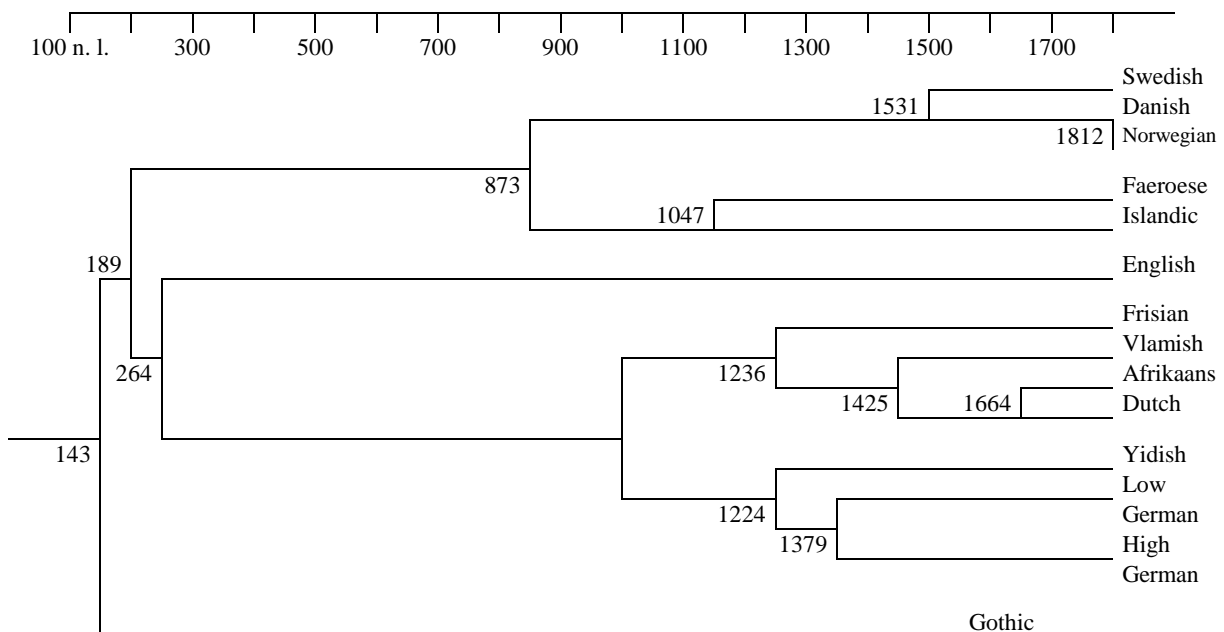
10.9. E. Antonsen (1975) assumed the opposition of the east and northwest branches:



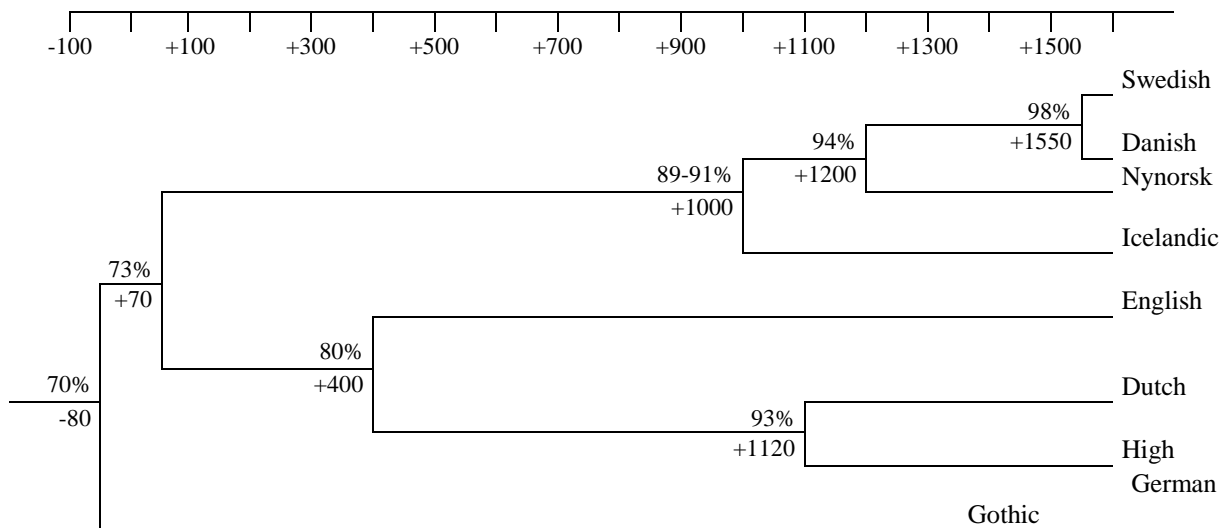
10.10. H. F. Nielsen (2000) returned to the traditional idea, identifying in Old Runic a direct ancestor only of the Scandinavian languages:



10.11. For her classification of the Germanic languages Sheila Embleton (1986, 117) used her modification of glottochronology:

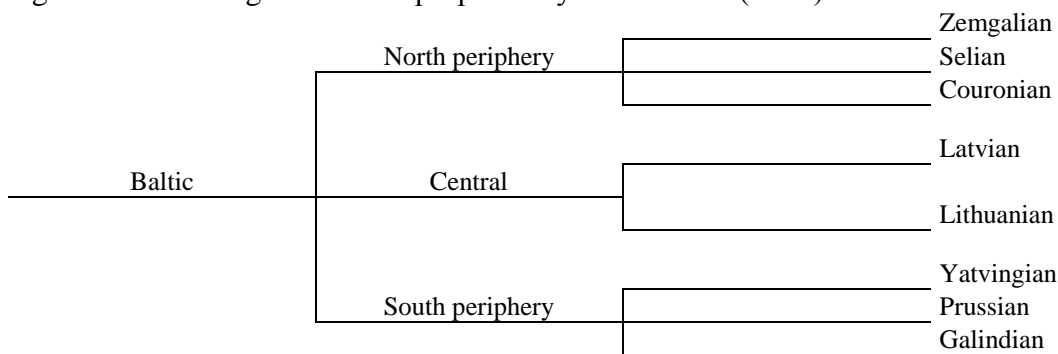


10.12. The most recent attempt to classify the Germanic languages was published by Starostin & Burlak (2001, 82-105). They applied Starostin's recalibrated glottochronology for 7 literary living languages and Gothic.

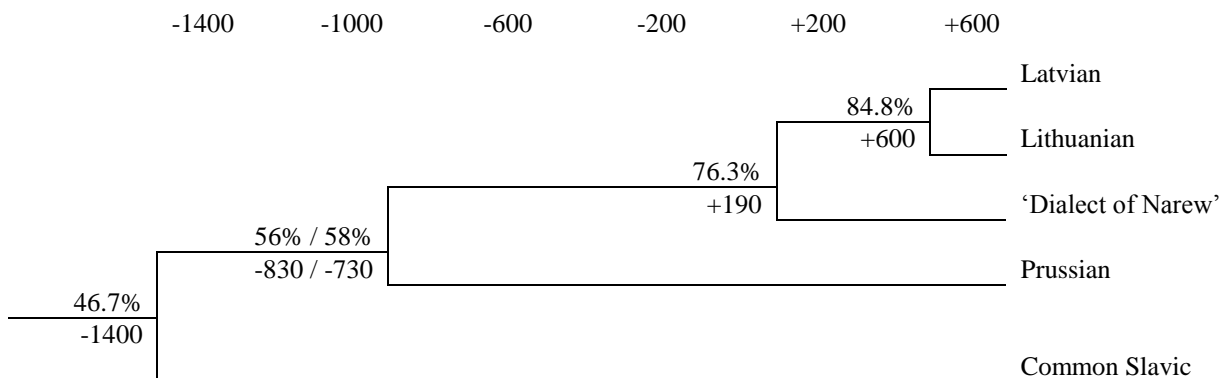


### 11. Baltic

According to tradition, the Baltic languages are divided into the west part represented by Old Prussian, from c. 1700 extinct, and eastern part, represented by the living languages, Lithuanian and Latvian. But the Baltic dialectology was much more complex a millennium ago. The following model was proposed by V. Mažiulis (1981):



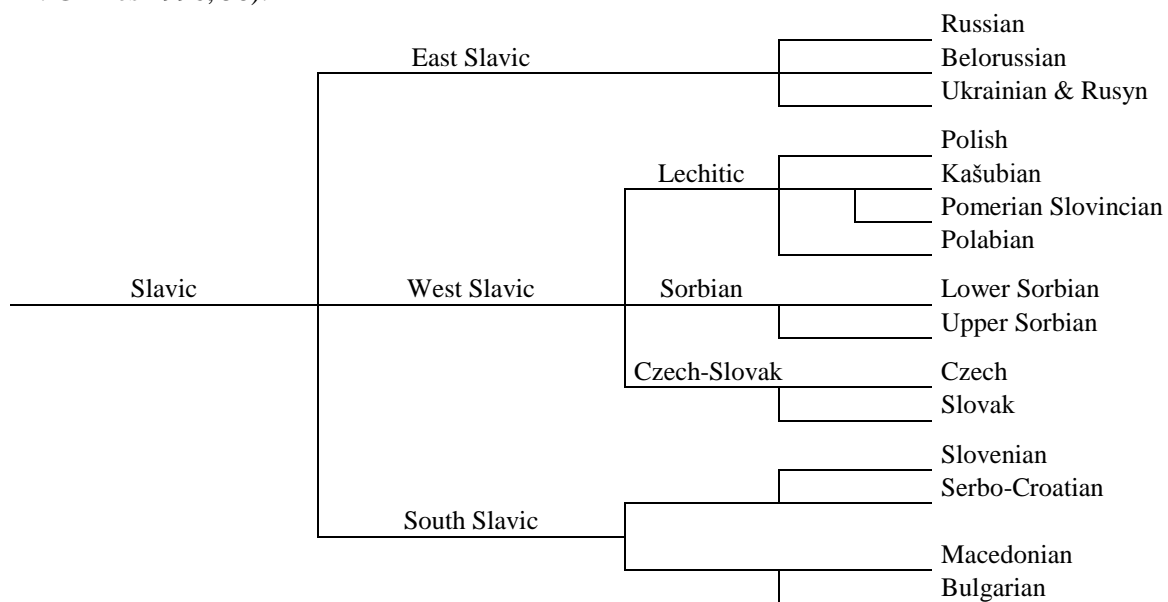
The first serious application of the classical glottochronology was used by Lanszweert (1984, xxxii-xxxvii), who has found 58,6% for Prussian vs. Lithuanian and 55,2% for Prussian vs. Latvian. The results of Girdenis & Mažiulis (1994, 9) are lower: 68% Lithuanian vs. Latvian, 49% Lithuanian vs. Prussian, 44% Latvian vs. Prussian. Starostin (Santa Fe 2004 and p.c., June 2005) dated the separation of Lithuanian and Latvian to 80 B.C., Lithuanian and the 'Dialect of Narew' to 30 B.C., Latvian and the 'Dialect of Narew' to 230 B.C. The position of Prussian in his calculations is rather strange, it has to be closer to Slavic than to Baltic. Novotná & Blažek (2007, 205), calculating the synonyms too, have reached the following results:



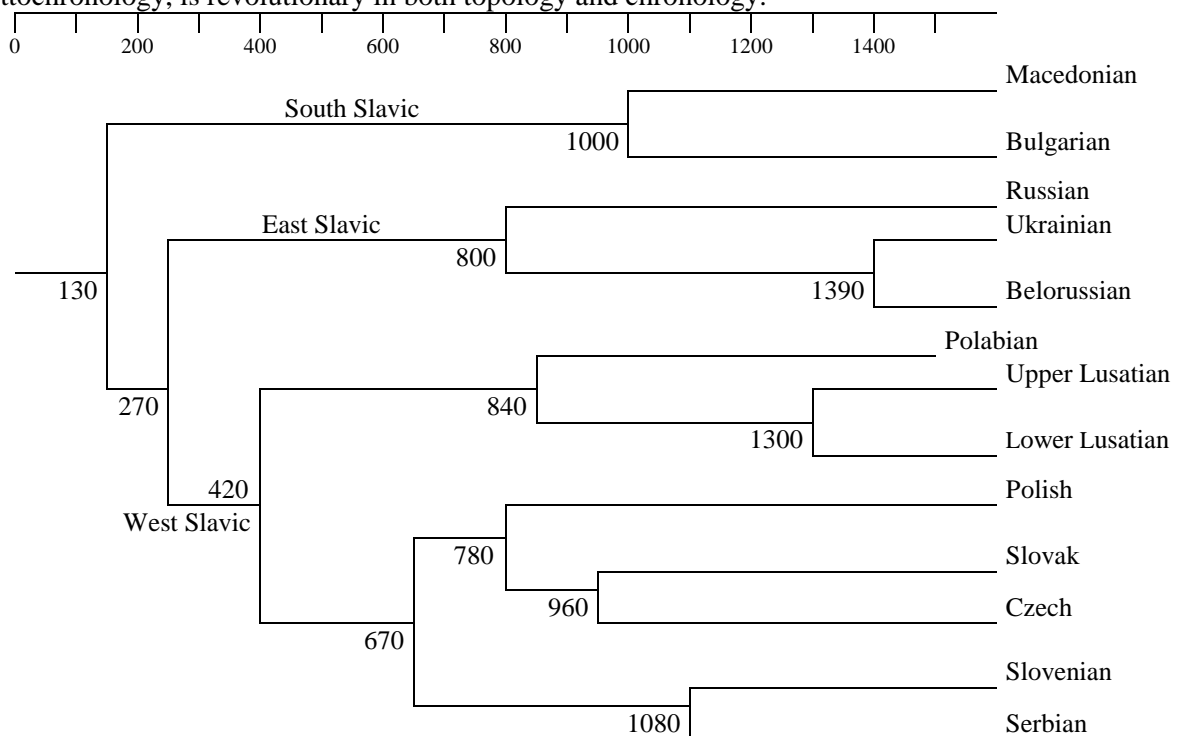
The double-result 58/56% for Prussian vs. other Baltic languages reflects the calculation without / with the ‘Dialect of Narew’. The score 43% between Prussian and the ‘Dialect of Narew’ (*Pogańska gwara z Narewu*; see Zinkevičius 1984) in confrontation with 62% and 55.2% for Prussian vs. Lithuanian and Prussian vs. Latvian respectively, excludes the identification of the ‘Dialect of Narew’ with the historical Yatwingians, known from the Middle Ages, if their language had to be connected with the other Baltic idioms of the southern periphery, including Prussian. Regarding this big difference, it seems better to accept the explanation of Schmid (1986) who identified in the ‘Dialect of Narew’ a strong influence of Northeast Yiddish, spoken in the big cities of Lithuania and Latvia, hence the hybrid East Baltic - German idiom.

## 12. Slavic

12.1. According to the traditional model the Slavic languages are divided into three parts (cf. e.g. J. & B. Grimes 1996, 58):

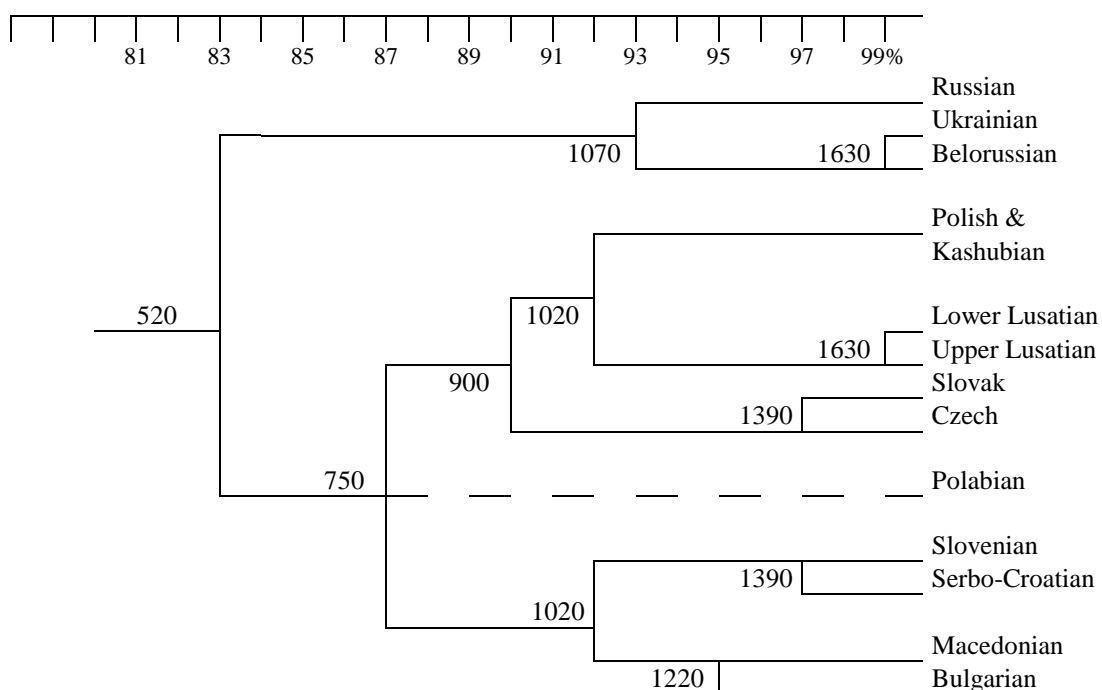


12.2. The classification of the Slavic languages by Starostin (Santa Fe 2004), using his recalibrated glottochronology, is revolutionary in both topology and chronology:





12.3. Using the principles of Starostin's recalibration of glottochronology, Novotná & Blažek (2007, 201) proposed another model of the internal grouping of the Slavic languages which seems to be in better agreement with historical data and archaeological research:



### 13. Tocharian

The beginning of the disintegration between Tocharian A and B can be dated to c. 400 BC according to the glottochronological test (Blažek & Schwarz 2008: §8, Appendix 1).

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