Introduction to P-I-E
Comparative Method

- Chance: *deus*, θεός
- Borrowing
- Language Universals: onomatopoeia, sound-symbolism
- Unlikely that a language would borrow a complete paradigm, especially an irregular one, nor is it likely that four language would borrow the same paradigm from one verb
- If similarities cannot be attributed to chance, borrowing, or linguistic universals, then they must be derived from the same parent language
Historical/Comparative Linguists

- Interested in reconstructing the parent language through a comparison of the descendant languages.

- Correspondence Set: Diente (Spanish), dente (Italian), dent (French), dente (Portuguese) < *dente in Proto-Romance.

- One set is not enough. There must be several sets of sound correspondences in order to establish a regularity of sound correspondences necessary for establishing a reconstruction.
Change

- Regular and Exceptionless (neogrammarian hypothesis)
- Sound change accounts for the differences between correspondence sets
- Morphological change (-ness instead of -th)
- Lexical change (cows instead of kine)
- Syntactic change
- Semantic change (grammaticalization of ‘like’; ‘literally’)

Indo-European

- Sir William Jones, 1786

- British expansion in India leads to an interest in Sanskrit and the new knowledge that Latin cannot have been derived from Greek.

- Branches of Indo-European: Indo-Iranian, Greek, Italic, Celtic, Germanic, Balto-Slavic, Armenian, Albanian, Anatolian (Hittite, mid-second millennium BCE), Tocharian

- Earliest evidence of IE languages is still two millennia younger than PIE

- 6000-8000 years old
Terminology

- Proto-language
- Daughter languages
- Correspondence Set
- Congnate
- Genetically related
Sound correspondence set

- Foot
- nut
- Nit
- White
- Great
- Eat
- Hate
- Bite
- Forget
- Grit
- gate
- Fuss
- Nuss
- Niss
- Weiss
- gross
- essen
- Hass
- beissen
- Vergessen
- Griess
- Gasse