

CLASSIFICATION IN COMPARATIVE GERMANIC LINGUISTICS AND ITS DIDACTIC PRACTICAL ADEQUACY

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ABSTRACT. The awareness of the taxonomic principles that govern the classification of the linguistic historical phenomena represents a major step to build systematic professional knowledge, research and pedagogical competencies which are specific to the students in foreign languages. The article makes reference to the pedagogical potentiality of the language classifications for raising the students awareness on theoretical hypothesis of the Germanic languages genesis, and their geographical spread. The concern also lies with the sensible commitment of the students for the applicative understanding of the linguistic phenomena and processes that accompanied the Germanic split from the Indo European branch and formation of their nowadays standardized idioms. The unfold of the issue sheds split light on the impact that systematic genealogical and typological frameworking have on the study of the historical comparative linguistics of the Germanic languages, on one hand, and the applicative-didactic impact of the subject, on the other. The chronological account of the taxonomic principles governing the classification patterns of the Germanic languages and their theoretical and practical paradigms select the elements that can forge the students’abilities for research and information transfer. The practical component of the article suggests an analytical case study development of a contextualized set of English language samples for didactic purposes.

KEY WORDS: genealogic classification, typologic classification, historic variability, word formation, didactic development.

Motto:

“For it must be obvious to any one who has thought about the question at all or who has felt something of the spirit of a foreign language that there is such a thing as a basic plan, a certain cut, to each language. This type or plan or structural “genius” of the language is something much more fundamental, much more pervasive, than any single feature of it that we can mention, nor can we gain an adequate idea of its nature by a mere recital of the sundry facts that make up the grammar of the language.” [Sapir, 1921] [1]

Background

The Germanic languages are spoken by around 470 million people, mainly in Europe, and the Western Hemisphere of the world. The living Germanic languages have an extremely wide geographical distribution beyond the original Proto-Germanic territory: besides the colonial varieties (Afrikaans) and emigrant varieties (Texas German¹), many non-native varieties (Indian English²) pidgin and creoles (Tok Pisin³) are also based on Germanic languages. [Holm, 2000],

[2]. The development of the students insights in the domain of the historical comparative linguistics is fundamental for the maturation of research and didactic competences taking into consideration that the extension of the English language use – which belongs to the Germanic language family – is nowadays a major aspect of the linguistic globalization process.

The need to reconstruct linguistic archetypes of the hypothetical Germanic language family developed into two major approaches to language systematic framings based on distinct criteria and indicators: genealogical grouping and typological frameworks.

The scientific development of the Germanic languages relatedness that is subject to comparative-historical research was framed in evolutionary-genealogic theoretical classifications based on cross-subject reconstructions of the Indo-European linguistic common trunk and their further development. Similarities of the Germanic languages, grouped into typological working frameworks are used to develop linguistic awareness of the scholars and suggested for the benefit of academic education of the students in languages.

The awareness of the principles of classification is the basis to the academic understanding of the historical phonetic, morphologic syntactic and lexical innovations and their re-grouping on typological terms make comprehension the first step to professional formation and to the development of critical-applicative thinking of the students in foreign languages.

The article stands for and advocates the capacity of systematic analysis to develop the students’ openness to linguistic research of the language reconstruction and typological classification. It also aims the extension of knowledge capacity from one level subject to the pluri-and trans-dimensional understanding.

The aim of the abilities development process into professional competencies is dedicated to the refinement of the instructional process at academic level of languages by re-configuration of the curriculum content and teaching methods.

Taxonomies and taxonomic criteria

The diversity of the systematic instruments brought their practical and applicative contribution to the historical comparative linguistics and the typological study of the languages. The need of analytical examination of the independent language mutations, linguistic contacts that were processed under various extralinguistic criteria and factors, made the two models of organizing information meaningful instruments to produce academic thesis on the origins and development of languages and their reconstruction, and, undoubtedly, the advancement of cross-subject research with notable practical outcome.

The investigations started when archeological research revealed that the last homogenous linguistic changes that were operational with the Germanic languages took place on the nowadays territories of Southern Sweden, Danmark, Norway and river Elbe in the time of the Germanic migration in the second century b.C. [Askedal, 2006] [3].

The two instruments - the genealogical type of grouping and the typological classification were put to sort out linguistic and extralinguistic information that was made operational and productive. The spectacular scientific findings started to appear in the domain of historical-comparative linguistics in the 19th century and they still forge ahead.

Linguistic and extralinguistic elements in the processes of Germanic split from the Indo-European stem and language diversification were made evident when they were regulated by the

taxonomic principles of genetic affiliation and typological grouping to the benefit of historical linguistic hypothesis and their practical applications.

The historical linguistics would be reduced to a very learned form of speculation if the comparative method were not served by the efficiency of these instruments. The comparison study of internal and external linguistic units (phonemes) and meaning (morphemes) lined up with social, political, economic and cultural contributing factors created the ground for further research accomplishment. In the last two centuries the domain of the historical and comparative linguistics developed into the more sophisticated fields of synchronic linguistics, anthropology and sociology.

Genealogical Grouping of the Germanic Languages

The stem-tree grouping pattern was originally promoted by August Schleicher⁴ based on the genetic theories⁵ which claimed that language branching off from older languages is a similar process by which plants branches stem from an original common trunk. It was the time when the impetus of the archeological search revealed linguistic findings on the development of Indo European language families from an original proto-language parent in the 3rd millennium B.C. due to the territorial spread of the populations gaining specificity from extralinguistic geographical and historical conditions.

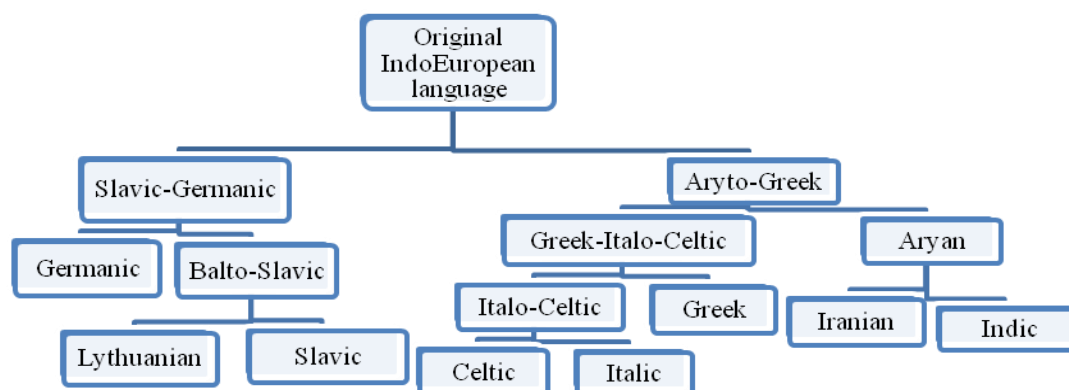


Figure 1 Adapted from the original Indo European language family flow chart of August Scheilcher presented in *Winfred Lehmann's Reader in Ninetenth Century Historical Indo-European Linguistics*, Indiana University Press, 1967

The debates on the tree-stem grouping of the Germanic languages deriving from the Indo European family that started in the 19th century fathered dissenting new views on it. There were not two linguists that agreed on the basic criteria that produced the patterns of the phylogenetic stem tree classification of the Germanic languages subfamily. The diversification theory of the substratum language criteria [Quak& Boutkan, 2000] [4] contributed to the further diversification of the Germanic linguistic branches. The analysis of the common phonetic, morphological and lexical boundary features outlined some other distinct historical affinity between related idioms manifested in the geographical area they covered.

The linguistic features that made the languages split off were identified by scholars as presumed innovations producing daughter languages which distinguished themselves in a clear-cut manner led to new theories and specific language of the newly established academic subject

of the historical comparative linguistic research⁶. The evidence of the relationship established between languages acknowledged the ancestor language as a parent language, and a daughter language as a descendant from the parent language, whereas a sister language was a derivation at the same level. The group or branch of related languages that belong to the same linguistic family was composed of the parent language and its daughters. [Campbell, 2004] [5].

The genetic relationships of the Germanic languages to their mother branch of the Indo-European, on one hand, and the relationship between the Germanic branches, on the other, were further exploited by new academic subjects of comparative and historical linguistics [Antilla, 2009] [6] giving the isoglosses insights of the mutual intelligibility between native speakers of the Germanic genetically grouped languages⁷.

The debates on the tree-stem grouping of the Germanic languages deriving from the Indo-European family that started in the 19th century fathered dissenting new views on it. There were not two linguists that agreed on the basic criteria that produced the patterns of the phylogenetic stem tree classification of the Germanic languages subfamily. But the recent literature refers to the stem-tree grouping model of the Germanic languages as much more fluid especially within the West Germanic due to the dialectum continuum that relate to local data and extralinguistic criteria as well. [Stein, 2014] [7]. Genealogic classification has proven a boon to historical linguistics that permitted a superstructure of theoretical hypotheses on language development over the last two centuries. It also provides information of considerable historical value.

Tree-pattern historic variability of the linguistic classification

The presentation it follows makes reference to some of the genealogical classifications that take into consideration the diversity of the criteria observed by scholars. The traditional Germanic language categorization of East, North, and West Germanic originally carried out by August Schleicher resulted from his research work on the oldest surviving literary preserved records written in Gothic although the Burgundian, Gothic, and the Vandalic languages, belonging to the East Germanic branch group were then extinct. [Fox, 1995] [8].

The further development of the Germanic language classification gave the names to the language branches according to the geographical areas where they were spoken. Thus, the North Germanic languages were given the name of the Northern European area, Scandinavia, where they developed, or Norse languages after their original speakers, the Norsemen. Their further subdivisions went on to the West Scandinavian dialects that are used by the inhabitants of the lands facing the Atlantic Ocean and East Scandinavian dialects used in the lands facing the Baltic Sea. The Western branch is made up of the Icelandic, Norwegian, and Faroese and the Eastern branch is subdivided into Danish and Swedish. These languages are spoken by about 20 million people in Island, Norway, the Faroese Islands, Denmark and Sweden. The modern North Germanic languages descend from Old Norse and distinct themselves by their common grammatical features.

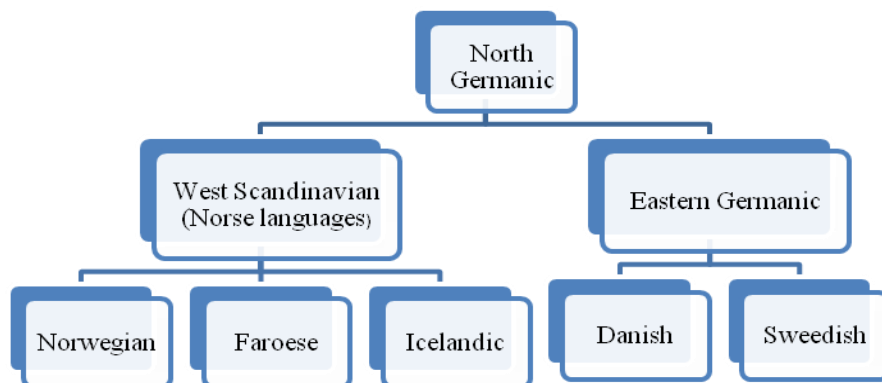


Figure 2. *The Northern Branch of the Germanic languages in August Schleicher’s view*

The Western branch of the Germanic languages were named English, Frisian, Dutch, Afrikaans, German, and Yiddish, according to the lands and peoples used them. Among the dead West Germanic languages are Old Franconian, Old High German, and Old English (or Anglo-Saxon) from which Dutch, German, and English respectively developed.

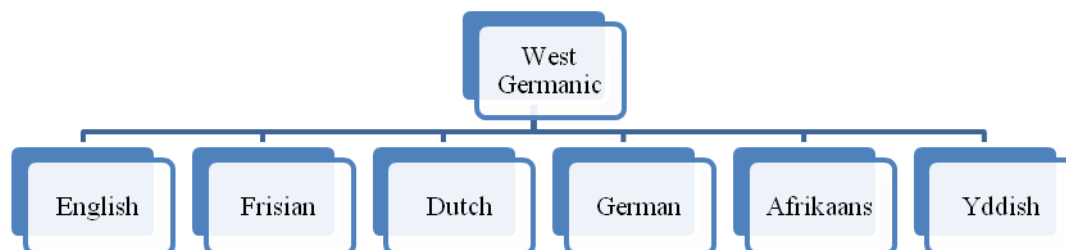


Figure 3 *West Germanic languages in August Schleicher’s view*

The historical stem-grouping approach on the Germanic languages was diversified by Rasmus Rask whose research led him to clump together what he called Moesogothic, High German and Saxon branch. Jacob Grimm developed a four branch Germanic diagram based on ethnic considerations. [Weiss, 2015], [9].

1. Goths, Gepids, Vandals, and Herules
2. Longobards, Burgundians, Allemans, Franks, Bavarians
3. Angles, Saxons, Frisians, Westphalians
4. Nordic peoples

He connected East Germanic to High Germanic with tribes regarded to have a direct Danish and Nordic origin, but then he left the different groups influence each other in a quite confusing way. [Nordgren, 2004] [10].

Ernst Schwarz⁸ followed a different pattern for his Germanic languages branching as he believed that the North Germanic languages were more closely related to Gothic. He named them Gotho-Nordic in his book *Goten, Nordgermanen, Angelsachsen* (1951) based on the combination of historical and archaeological and linguistic evidence, largely lexical. His theory

gave a floating position to the North Sea Germanic in the 2nd century B.C. and to the South Germanic dialects in the following five centuries. The Germanic dialects he grouped are now considered to belong to the divisions of

- North Germanic,
- North Sea Germanic,
- Rhine-Weser Germanic,
- Elbe Germanic and
- East Germanic,

sharing linguistic innovations aiming to level down the 19th century theories of over emphasised split between the Germanic languages.

Recent research that took over older classification hypothesis, opened ways to new results by considering additional linguistic arguments and criteria for further developments of stem tree classification of the West Germanic languages. The example of the contribution that the study of the consonantal and accentuated vocalic roots in Old English favoured the development of a different stem-tree classification of the West Germanic languages is successful in supporting the sociological theory of the North-sea Germanic language speakers emerging prior to the Anglo-Saxon exodus from the continent. [Nielsen, 1989] [11]. The new grouping version points out that North and West Germanic were more closely related than Gothic is to the North Germanic based on the common innovations including umlaut, rhotacism, and intensified demonstratives.[Robinson, 1992] [12].

Although the tree diagram has universally pervaded the scholarly Germanic languages branching, it became obvious that either of them and their criteria failed to reveal the full complexity of the phenomena. Either of the variability of the criteria and patterns of language affinities, such as phonetic, morphophonemic, lexical and grammatical isoglosses, could not embrace the manifold social, cultural and political factor frames. It is the main reason that scholars felt the need of a different type of classification.

Typological grouping framework

Typological classification refers to the ways languages differ from each other, although the contrast is not too sharp in terms of language universals⁹. Language typology is concerned with variations and their degree of variation. It is due to these limitations that languages may be meaningfully divided into various types, as it follows the insights into the fundamental nature of the human language.

The typological classification of languages refers to distinct types of shared characteristics of the languages and makes use of the genetic grouping to explain similarities and differences of languages and to reveal cross-linguistic evidence. Clearly defined categories make language differentiate according to their fundamental structural features and reinforce genetic groupings, as historical linguistic innovations may also result in typological swich, and hence, the two forms of classification add information to each other. The value and usefulness of the typology will depend on the appropriateness of the criteria used. Various norms have been used by scholars in their search for the language evolution understanding. The criteria system of the typological classification includes structural linguistic elements, historical, social, political, geographical factors that forge classifications to highlight the level of relatedness of the

languages or the various types of their relationship. The discourse of our article is limited to the morphological-structure type of classification.

The morphological measure classified languages into isolating, (languages with few or no affixes, like the Chinese, where the words consists only in their roots) agglutinating (like Turkish where words contains string of morphemes with one affix for each grammatical function), and inflecting (Latin, Greek and other Indo-European languages where the affixes added to roots are multi-functional and indicate several grammatical functions simultaneously). [Fox, 1995] [13]. Typological classification can be interpreted diachronically, where the various types are seen as different stages of the evolution of a language, or synchronically when different languages are compared. The typological taxonomy makes the salient differences and interrelationships between the main Germanic standard languages of Europe. These are the case marking parameters, [Greenberg, 1963] [14] the finite and non-finite form chains, [Maas, 2004] [15] the case markings, the linearity of the arguments ordering to the verb, the positional licensing of the oblique subjects [Kiparsky, 1997] [16] are paradigms and parameters that vary typological linguistic classifications of the Germanic languages. The distinction between synthetic and analytic features covering the noun and verb morphology in Old and modern German, Dutch and English, the expletive subject and the replacement of case structures, the grammatical words provide more comparative typological case analysis of the Germanic languages. Scholar interest was also developed on the independent evolution of the analytic auxiliary verb constructions vs. the synthetic features of the morphological structure comprising the periphrastic perfect and passive verbal structure, the agreement or non-agreement of the supine forms, future auxiliaries and the modals. [Askedal, 2006], [17]. Geographical reference is not always likely to relate to genetic relationship, although languages can share similar features due to long time contact of the speaking communities that made them converge.

Historical benchmarks of typological grouping outcome

According to Atilla [1] the concept of typology gained wide currency in linguistic research in early 20th century, but the research brought under this rubric has a long history. It is the same brilliant 18-19th century that was marked by the findings of British and German scholars, like Adam Smith¹⁰, Franz Bopp, Wilhelm von Humboldt, Karl Wilhelm Friedrich Schlegel¹¹ and many others who concentrated mainly on the association of language types to the level of social and cultural development of their speakers. A typical equation of the relationship between language type and their speakers was the following:

isolating language	savagery
agglutinative	barbarianism
inflectional	civilization

Although Edward Sapir criticized and rejected the evolutionary prejudice and did not accept the dependency of language variability on the process of thinking, he developed the philosophical approach of his forerunner that promoted the intimate relationship between content of language and culture experience. His vision was extended by Benjamin Lee Whorf (1897-1941) into the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis that oriented and limited cognition to linguistic categories that a native language can offer. The divergent dimensions of their typologies refer to the syntactic and morphological language structure. Their relational classified languages correspond

to the facility capacity of making connections through syntactic relationship; the language complexity aligns to its tendency to adjust meanings to their major concept by affixation; the synthetic/analytic capacity of language capacity to combine grammatical categories into one or more words producing polymorphemic words. [Yonek, 2001] [18]. The late semantic criteria added more complexity to the typological classification of languages. In the 20th century a quantitative evaluation of languages were suggested [Greenberg, 1954] [19].

New approaches to typological classification of languages came from the School of Prague represented by Roman Jakobson that implied relationship of certain typological linguistic characteristics to the theoretical thinking. [Yonek, 2001] [20]. The influential work of André Martinet (1908-1999) approaches language from functional perspective making the difference in communication behavior that point to the role of written culture as a whole. [Martinet, 1962] [21]. Typological classification of languages played a major role in generativist theories that develop relationship between universals and linguistic parameters which permitted ranges of variations for certain grammatical phenomena.

But the exceptional contribution of Noam Chomsky to the language typological vision deliberately broke with the classical and traditional forms and methods. His revolutionary typological hierarchy of the formal grammars went for the understanding and the use of computer science models for meaningful linguistic goals. The Chomskyan typology of logical linguistic structure opened arguments to the biological approach and other cross-subject research to language that led to the universal grammar and its extension to generative grammar patterns explained by reference to human cognition as part of the genetic endowment which determines built-in innate properties of the mind and mediate language acquisition. [Chomsky, 1965] [22]

The account of the historical benchmarks of typological grouping outcome revealed the divergent directions of the scholarly investigations of languages. The early half of the 20th century emphasized the uniqueness of the languages and their categorical differences, the late half pointed to the assumption that languages do not differ in their basic categories. The two directions are not at all contradictory, as language specific analysis is not incompatible with cross-linguistic comparison. The structuralistic concern for language-internal justification of categories add up and top the large scale cross linguistic comparison and both contribute to the further effectiveness of the cross-subject scientific exploration.

Genealogy of English typologic features: Case-study

The case-study we investigate aims the didactic grounds exploitation based on the systematic classification of languages applied to the practical assessment of English language contextualized samples that can be adequately applied for the benefit of the curricular subject of historical comparative linguistics of Germanic languages. We suggest the dynamic articulation of the language historical and typological theoretical framework to the sources of the linguistic phenomena and proceses for the improvement of the the students’s ability to think critically and support debates on sensible and systematic justifications.

We chose to investigate the issue of English word formation typology on the genealogical development grounds through the illustration of English language contextualized samples. We follow the mechanism of the complex inflectional system loss in the historical evolution of English language which started long before the time defined as Old English. The linguistic phenomena and process changed the typological classification of English gradually from an

inflectional language type to an isolating and eventually to the synthetic-incorporating language type. The process is evidenced through word formation patterns which are associated with the linguistic and extra-linguistic factors classified within the historical and typological groupings. The lexemic features that make scholars frame modern English language in all the three typological groupings are highlighted historically from morphological, syntactical and semantical point of view.

We count on the assumption that the loss of case distinction was produced by the replacement of the Old English predominant V2¹⁶ word order with a more rigid SVO¹⁷ order that determined the long-term development of cross-influence of various linguistic domains: intonation (Germanic initial stress)>phonology>inflectional morphology>syntax. [Mengde: 2012] [23]. The analysis of the following sentence samples showing the distinctiveness of the three typological approaches to the English language aims the legitimacy of their historical traceability.

- inflecting language type. Research that has been carried on the present participles in adverbial functions proved its non-prolificity in Old English, but it turned into a creatively rich source of suffixed adverbs formation in the Middle English only. The phenomenon remained specific for English, but not for other languages in the family, like Norwegian, Swedish and German. Most of the current suffixed verbs in English derive from French and Latin verbs and entered English word stock in the centuries following the Norman Conquest or in the time of Renaissance, when participles became the root of the adverbial derivation. Research shows that English adverbial morphology has undergone a substantial change between the year 1000, when the -ly adverbial suffix pattern is only sporadic, but in the 14th century English yields a steady growth of new adverbial derivatives, but it was not in common use until Early Modern times. [Killie, 1996] [24].

Ex: Any man who can drive safely while kissing a girl is simply not giving the kiss the attention it deserves. (Albert Einstein)

Grammatical relationship reveals a changing of the internal word structure through native inflectional endings: -ly, -ing, -ly, -ing, -es. Inflectional endings point for different grammatical meaning (-ing = a gerund as a subject)

- Isolating language type. The absence of any ending of the words shows that only root words are used in the sentence making the meaning reveal only from the word order and independent grammatical units (will). English is sometimes quoted as an isolating language, although it is not purely isolating, but weakly fusional. The classification derives from the same historical tendency of word linearity as a linguistic phenomenon caused by inflections loss historical process. The language sample provided shows that word order plays a large role in English grammar as it lacks almost completely grammatical gender and makes minimal use of case and number. Declension, conjugation, gradation gender are restricted or they do not operate at all. One of the major facts that prevented modern English from becoming a pure isolating language was the same rich morphology introduced by the massive borrowings from Latin and Greek via Norman French or in the time of Renaissance. Affixes like -able came into English through French words like debatable, capable that extended to native words to indicate the possibility to engage in the action indicated by the verb.

a)When you fall, I will be there to catch you.

b)Explore and engage in riveting education debateble topics, including debates about school uniforms, testing and much more.

- Synthetic/incorporating language type. The attributive adjectives of the noun is integrating the adjective onto the noun which results in the creation of a complex word. The polysynthetic feature of the syntax was gained by English in the same Norman times of the major diachronic shift. The free position of the adjectives in the nominal phrase was lost in the Middle English when adjective-noun order gained momentum under the infleunce of Old Norman French which gradually took the path of diachronic organization by which adjective-noun order became less prevalent as it was associated with semantic restrictions. This old influence is still to be noticed in samples like lords temporal, lords spiritual, Governor general, Princess Royal, etc. The increasing fix word order of the Middle English and the loss of the morphological case and gender, other formal means came to be used, to indicate the functional nature of the adjective. Their attributive positions generally identify something as being of a particular type, as in a financial decision which distinguishes itself from another type of decision. This development made it possible for adjectives to be placed regularly before the head noun, in an attributive position, even when more than one adjective was involved. [Ingham, 2012] [25].

Ex. chemical reaction; phonetic alphabet; My neighbour has a nice black and white cat.

Conclusion

The study collected linguistic issues that were framed theoretically by scholars to mirror the relationship of Germanic languages that integrate the historical comparative research with the systematic typological approach.

The article showed that the variation of Germanic languages can be clamped into theoretical frameworks as the linguistic developments affect them in similar ways and can be described using the same variables. The approach of presentation of the comparative Germanic languages growth from the Indo European branch to the nowadays mature standard languages through theoretical classification and practical evidence overcomes the difficulty of not mastering all the languages involved by the students and by the teacher as well. The typological differences testify to the diversity of the solutions chosen by the human societies when adapting their languages to the expression of the world. The clear-cut definition of the language category and criteria is needed for the theoretical analysis of the languages differencies and specificities. Typological and genealogical classification suport each other and contribute to a better understanding of language relatedness and their historical typological progress.

Our discourse was limited to the historical grouping of the Germanic languages typologies which are mirrored by contextualized English language samples in the case-study which makes the difference between the isolating typology- defined by the limited number of affixes, the synthetic/incorporating type by which affixation incorporates several grammatical functions, and the inflecting language type by which the affixes are associated to distinct grammatical functions. [Fox, 1995] [26].

The didactic grounds exploitation aims the benefit of the curricular subject of historical comparative linguistics of Germanic languages through the dynamic articulation of the language

historical and typological framework of the the linguistic phenomena and proceses sources targeting the improvement of the students’ability to think critically and support debates on sensible and systematic justifications.

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¹ German language dialect spoken by the descendants of the German emigrants who settled in Texas in the mid 19th century

² A group of English dialects or regional language varieties, used primarily on the Indian territory

³ Creole official language of the Papua New Guinea

⁴ German linguist (1821-1868) His Compendium of the Comparative Grammar of the Indo-European languages tries to reconstruct Proto-IndoEuropean language based on vocabulary. He was influenced by the philosophy of G.W.F. Hegel and by the pre-Darwinian principles of natural science.

⁵ We make reference to Charles Darwin (1809-1882) who developed the evolutionary branching pattern theory on species based on the process of a natural selection. The principles of his classification were applied in many other scientific domains.

⁶ The introduction of historical comparative linguistics as a major subject at the University of Berlin in the 19th century

⁷ a line on a map marking the limits of an area within which a feature of speech occurs, or the use of a particular word or pronunciation <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/isogloss>

⁸ Professor of historical linguistics at the Australian National University his research in archaic linguistic properties of early Germanic preserved in the alliterative verse of Beowulf

⁹ features that are common to all human languages in the world' which were analysed by Noam Chomsky. Despite the differences between languages, he explained the underlying unity to human languages based on the linguistic universals

¹⁰ the founding father of modern Economics. He was very much interested in the development of economics specific language, as a distinct professional domain

¹¹ breakpoint representatives of the 19th century research in linguistics

¹² American anthropologist and linguist, widely considered to be one of the most important figures in the early development of the discipline of linguistics. He highlighted language in “relation to other fundamental interests-the problem of thought, the nature of the historical process, race, culture, art.” He showed that Language is not only a study of language and culture, but ultimately on relations and influences [19]

¹³ The linguistic relativity of the Whorf-Sapir hypothesis gained its widest audience through the work of Benjamin Lee Whorf. His moving target is the likelihood of the dramatic cognitive differences determined by the differences lying with the languages.

¹⁴ Russian-American linguist (1896-1982), a pioneer of structural analysis of language. He left Russia for his doctoral studies in Prague where he became one of the founders of the Prague School of linguistic theory on the structure and function of language

¹⁵ The founder of the transformational generative grammar related to an adequate language theory. His ground breaking approach highlighted the relationship between thinking and language [1965] [4]

¹⁶ verb-second (V2) word order is a specific restriction on the placement of the finite verb inflected for person which appears in second position of a declarative main clause.

¹⁷ language structure subject–verb–object (SVO) where the subject comes first, the verb second, and the object third

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