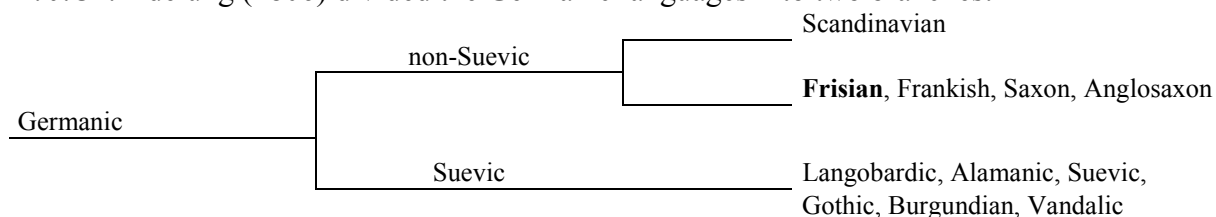


On position of Frisian within the West Germanic continuum

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0. The position of Frisian within Germanic has been determined variously, depending on the models of classification of the Germanic languages at all. The classifications are usually based on combination of historical phonetics and historical-geographical proximity. Most important models may be summarized as follows:

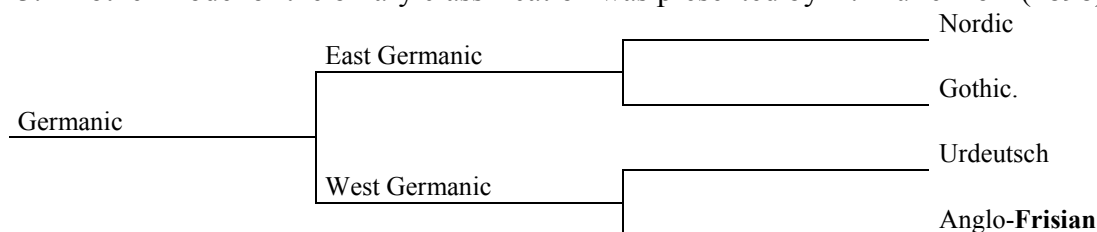
1. J.Ch. Adelung (1806) divided the Germanic languages into two branches:



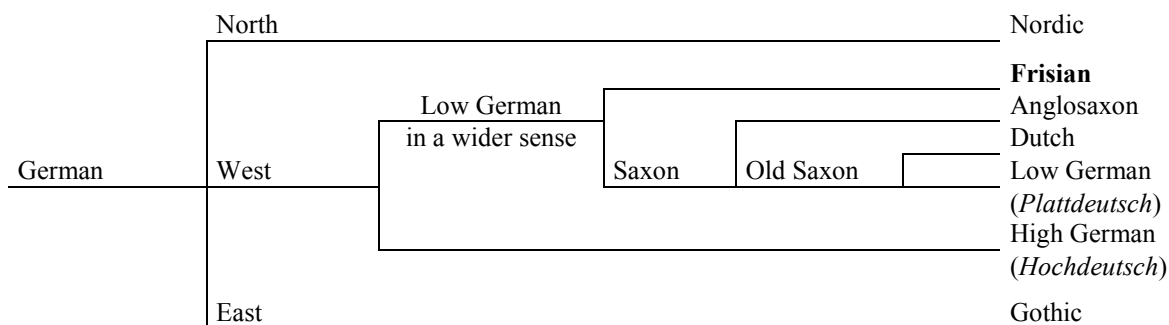
2. Similarly J. Grimm (1819) operated with the binary classification. For some of the tribal dialects he supposed the transit character, viz. Frisian & Anglian (1-2), Frankish (2-3), Quadic & Marcomanic (3-4). Alternatively he assumed the opposition of East Germanic vs. others.



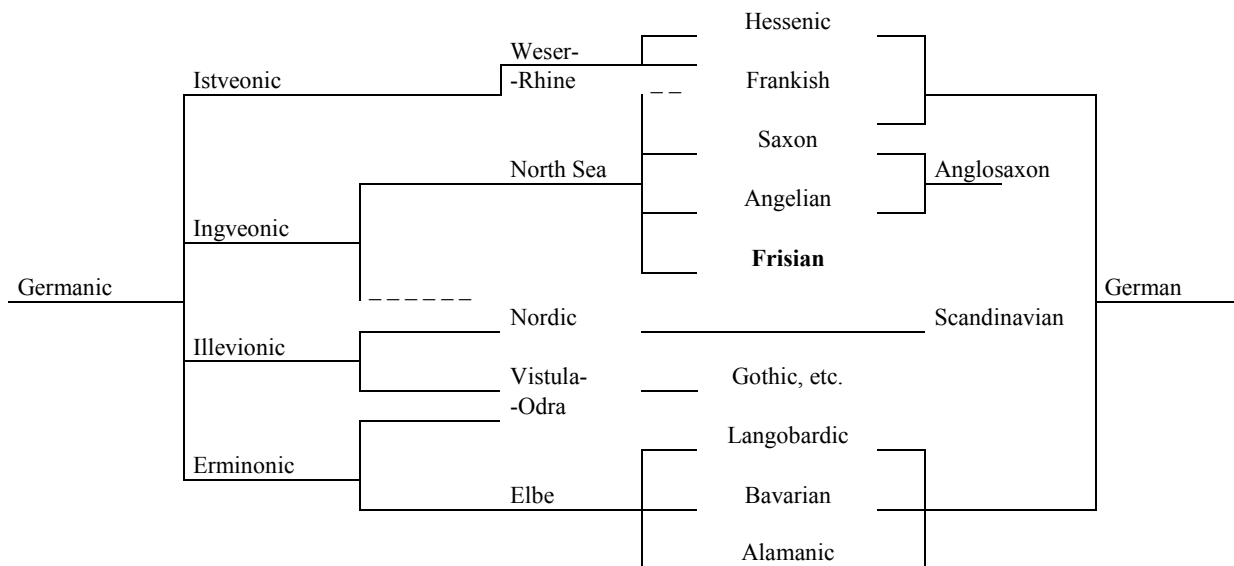
3. Another model of the binary classification was presented by K. Müllenhoff (1898):



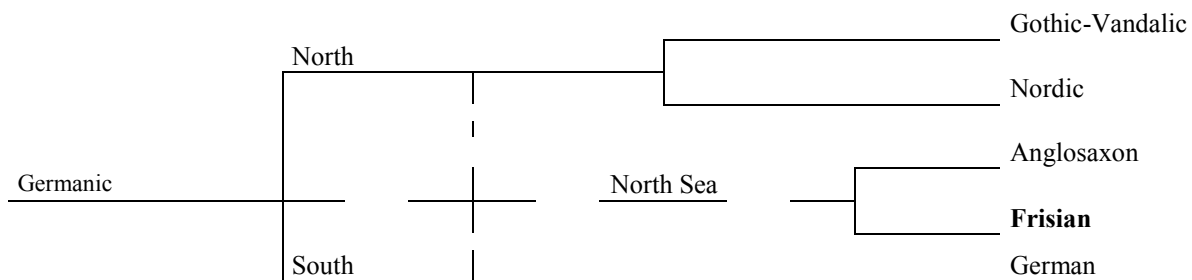
4. The most frequent model divides the Germanic languages into three branches: East, North and West. The author of the following classification is J. Schmidt (1860):



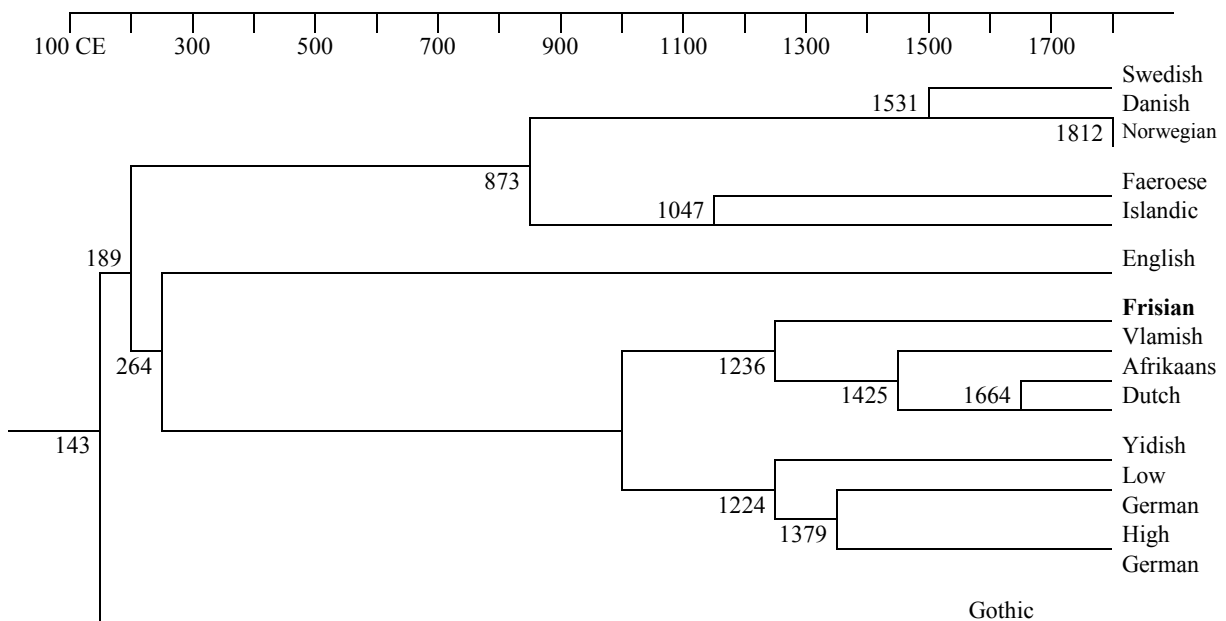
5. F. Maurer (1943) tried to depict the development from the tribal Germanic dialects to the languages of the late middle age and present time, including the convergent processes:



6. E. Schwarz (1951) assumed that c. 200 B.C. the Germanic language continuum was already divided into the North zone, generating the later Scandinavian languages and Gothic, and the South zone, where the later German dialects were formed. About 4 cent. later the third, transit zone, cristalized, developing in the languages of Angels and Frisians.



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



8. Our approach is based on combination of historical phonetics and lexicostatistics. We will discuss all present models from perspective of our results.