**PG CHANGES**

**1. VOWEL CHANGES**

There were couples of long and short vowels a, ā, o, ō, e, ē, i, ī, u, ū. There were several diphthongs au, au, eu, ai, oi, ei in IU that were inherited by the Germanic language. Long and short vowels changed differently. Unstressed vowels underwent the process of shortening until many of them were lost.

1) Their main characteristic feature of Germanic languages is THE MIX OF THE INDO-EUROPEAN SHORT VOWELS **O** AND **A** AND THE LONG VOWELS **Ō** AND **Ā.**

Indo-European short **o** and **a** became short **a** in Germanic languages.

Russ ночь – Goth nahts – *Germ Nacht*

IE long **ō** and **ā** became **ō** in Germanic Languages.

frāter (L) – brōþar (Goth) – brōþor (OE) – *brother*

flōs (L) – blōma (OE) – *blossom*

Thus, as a result of these changes, the Germanic languages lacked two sounds (a short **o** and a long **ā)**. Later on these sounds appeared from different sources.

**2)** GERMANIC FRACTURE

**Fracture or breaking** is the dependence of the quality of a stressed vowel on a following sound. Fracture concerns two pairs of vowels: the pair **e** and **i** and, the pair **u** and **o**.

a). An Indo-European **e** in the root syllable changes into Germanic **i**, if it is followed by **i**, **j**, or the **cluster "nasal + consonant**". Otherwise the change didn’t take place.

*Lat.* medius 'middle'.— *OE* middle

*Lat.* ventus 'wind' — *OE* wind

*Lat.* edere 'eat' — *OE* etan

2. An Indo-European **u** changed into Germanic **u**, if it was followed by **u** or **cluster "nasal + consonant**". Otherwise it was changed into Germanic **o**.

*Sanskr.* sunus — *OE* sunu– son

**2. GERMANIC CONSONANT CHANGES**

An essential feature of Germanic languages is their consonantal system, namely the result of the so-called **first consonant-shift**.

The phenomena was noticed by Rasmus Rask and systematized by Jacob Grimm in 1822, that is why it is also called the **Grimm's law**. It explains regular consonants correspondences of Germanic and other Indo-European languages.

If we compare words of Germanic languages with the corresponding words of other Indo-European languages (e.g. Latin, Greek, Sanskrit, Russian), we find correspondences between them, which can be represented in the following way:

1. Indo-European voiceless stops (p, t, k) changed into Germanic voiceless fricatives (f, þ, h). pater (L) – father, trēs (L) – þres (Goth), octō (Gr) – eight.

2. Indo-European voiced stops (b, d, g) changed into Germanic voiceless stops (p, t, k). bala (Lith) – pool, duo (L) – two, grānum (L) – Kaurn (Goth) – corn.

3. Indo-European voiced aspirated stops (bh, dh, gh) lost their aspiration and changed into Germanic voiced stops (b, d, g). bhrātar (S) – brother, madhu (S) – medu (OE) –mead.

There are some exceptions to this law:

1. the changes didn’t take place after sound **s**. stare (L) – standan (Goth) – stand.

2. in a group of two consonants only the first one was changed. octō (Gr) – acht (Germ) – eight.

3. in some Germanic words IE voiceless stops developed into voiced stops and not into voiceless fricatives. This particular case is explained by **Verner’s law**. At the time of free stress voiceless fricatives were voiced after unstressed vowels.

dEka (Gr) – десять – tai**h**un, but

dekAs (Gr) – десяток – ti**g**us.

**3. WEST- GERMANIC CONSONANT CHANGES**

1) West-Germanic languages have a peculiar phenomenon in the sphere of consonants **West-Germanic lengthening of consonants** or **gemination**. Every consonant (except **r**) is lengthened if it is preceded by a short vowel and followed by the consonant **j**. For example, in old English sætian – *settan* 'set'. stæpian – steppan 'step'.

No lengthening took place after long vowels.

fōdjan – fēdan – feed.

2) According to Verner’s law, if the preceding vowel was unstressed, **s** in Germanic languages became voices, so it changed into **z**. Eventually this **z** became **r** in West and Northern Germanic languages but not in East Germanic languages. The latter change **z** – **r** is termed **Rhotacism**.

hausjan (Goth) – hīeran (OE) – hear

laisjan (Goth) – læran (OE) – learn

**4. EAST-GERMANIC CHANGES**

Germanic phoneme **a** changed differently depending on its position.

1. before nasal consonant it was slightly labialized and raised – it became intermediate between **a** and **o**.

land, lang – land, long

1. in other positions it was slightly palatalized and became **a** – **æ**

dags (Goth) – dags (OE) – day

1. Breaking. **a** was diphthongized before **h, r, l** + some other consonant and became **ea**.

hardus (Goth) – hart (Germ) – heard (OE) – hard

1. Nasal consonants were lost in the position between the vowels and one of the fricatives. The preceding vowel was lengthened.

finf (Goth) – finf (OHG) – fif (OE) – five