

Chapter 1 : Chinese language History

The history of writing traces the development of expressing language by letters or other marks and also the studies and descriptions of these developments.. In the history of how writing systems have evolved over in different human civilizations, more complete writing systems were preceded by proto-writing, systems of ideographic or early mnemonic symbols.

History Four periods of Sumerian can be distinguished: Archaic Sumerian covered a period from about bc, when the first Sumerian records make their appearance, down to about bc. The earliest Sumerian writing is almost exclusively represented by texts of business and administrative character. There are also school texts in the form of simple exercises in writing signs and words. The Archaic Sumerian language is still very poorly understood, partly because of the difficulties surrounding the reading and interpretation of early Sumerian writing and partly because of the meagreness of sources. The Old, or Classical, period of Sumerian lasted from about to bc and is represented mainly by records of the early rulers of Lagash. The records are business, legal, and administrative texts, as well as royal and private inscriptions, mostly of votive character; letters, both private and official; and incantations. These sources are much more numerous than those of the preceding period, and the writing is explicit enough to make possible an adequate reconstruction of Sumerian grammar and vocabulary. During the period of the Sargonic dynasty , the Semitic Akkadians took over the political hegemony of Babylonia , marking a definite setback in the progress of the Sumerian language. At this time the Akkadian language was used extensively throughout the entire area of the Akkadian empire, while the use of Sumerian gradually was limited to a small area in Sumer proper. After a brief revival during the 3rd dynasty of Ur , the New Sumerian period came to an end about bc, when new inroads of the Semitic peoples from the desert succeeded in destroying the 3rd dynasty of Ur and in establishing the Semitic dynasties of Isin , Larsa , and Babylon. The period of the dynasties of Isin, Larsa, and Babylon is called the Old Babylonian period, after Babylon, which became the capital and the most important city in the country. During this time the Sumerians lost their political identity, and Sumerian gradually disappeared as a spoken language. It did, however, continue to be written to the very end of the use of cuneiform writing. This is the last stage of the Sumerian language, called Post-Sumerian. In the early stages of the Post-Sumerian period the use of written Sumerian is extensively attested in legal and administrative texts, as well as in royal inscriptions, which are often bilingual, in Sumerian and Babylonian. Many Sumerian literary compositions , which came down from the older Sumerian periods by way of oral tradition, were recorded in writing for the first time in the Old Babylonian period. Many more were copied by industrious scribes from originals now lost. The rich Sumerian literature is represented by texts of varied nature, such as myths and epics, hymns and lamentations, rituals and incantations, and proverbs and the so-called wisdom compositions. For many centuries after the Old Babylonian period, the study of Sumerian continued in the Babylonian schools. As late as the 7th century bc, Ashurbanipal , one of the last rulers of Assyria , boasted of being able to read the difficult Sumerian language, and from an even later period, in Hellenistic times, there are some cuneiform tablets that show Sumerian words transcribed in Greek letters. Rediscovery Around the time of Christ, all knowledge of the Sumerian language disappeared along with that of cuneiform writing, and in the succeeding centuries even the name Sumer vanished from memory. Unlike Assyria, Babylonia, and Egypt, whose histories and traditions are amply documented in biblical and classical sources, there was nothing to be found in non-Mesopotamian sources to make one even suspect the existence of the Sumerians in antiquity, let alone fully appreciate their important role in the history of early civilizations. When the decipherment of cuneiform writing was achieved in the early decades of the 19th century, three languages written in cuneiform were discovered: Only after the texts written in Babylonian had become better understood did scholars become aware of the existence of texts written in a language different from Babylonian. When the new language was discovered it was variously designated as Scythian, or even Akkadian that is, by the very name now given to the Semitic language spoken in Babylonia and Assyria. It was only after knowledge of the new language had grown that it was given the correct name of Sumerian. Characteristics The linguistic affinity of Sumerian has not yet been successfully

established. Ural-Altaic which includes Turkish , Dravidian, Brahui, Bantu, and many other groups of languages have been compared with Sumerian, but no theory has gained common acceptance. Sumerian is clearly an agglutinative language in that it preserves the word root intact while expressing various grammatical changes by adding on prefixes, infixes, and suffixes. The difference between nouns and verbs, as it exists in the Indo-European or Semitic languages , is unknown to Sumerian. In Classical Sumerian, the contrast between the consonants b, d, g, z and p, t, k, s was not between voiced with vibrating vocal cords and voiceless consonants without vibrating vocal cords but between consonants that were indifferent as to voice and those that were aspirated pronounced with an accompanying audible puff of breath. The semivowels y and w functioned as vocalic glides. In the noun , gender was not expressed. The Sumerian verb, with its concatenation of various prefixes, infixes, and suffixes, presents a very complicated picture. The elements connected with the verb follow a rigid order: In the preterite transitive active form, the order of object and subject elements is reversed. The verb can distinguish, in addition to person and number, transitivity and intransitivity, active and passive voice, and two tenses, present-future and preterite. Several Sumerian dialects are known. Of these the most important are eme-gir, the official dialect of Sumerian, and eme-SAL, the dialect used often in the composition of hymns and incantations see also cuneiform.

Chapter 2 : History of Writing

A written record may encode a stage of a language corresponding to an earlier time, either as a result of oral tradition, or because the earliest source is a copy of an older manuscript that was lost.

Although it differs slightly in spelling, alphabet, and vocabulary between the two regions, Korean is the official language of both South Korea and North Korea. Outside of the Korean peninsula, there are about two million people in China who speak Korean as their first language, another two million in the United States, , in Japan, and , in the Russian regions of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Up to five letters join to form a syllabic unit. Professional Korean Translation Services Like in other Asian languages, the relationship between a speaker or writer and his or her subject and audience is paramount in Korean, and the grammar reflects this. If one is unsure as to how to use the language appropriately it is advisable to refer to professional Korean language services. On rare occasions like when someone wants to pick a fight , a speaker might talk to a superior or stranger in a way normally only used for, say, animals. But no one would do this without seriously considering the consequences to their physical safety firstâ€¦ There is a consensus among linguists that Korean is a member of the Altaic family of languages, which originated in northern Asia and includes the Mongol, Turkic, Finnish, Hungarian, and Tungusic Manchu languages. Despite the fact that Korean and Japanese have some similar grammatical structures, a historical relationship between the two languages has not been established so far. Because of its greater variety of sounds, Korean does not have the problem of the Japanese written language, which some experts have argued needs to retain a sizable inventory of Chinese characters to distinguish a large number of potentially ambiguous sounds. Although the Korean and Chinese languages are not related in terms of grammatical structure, more than 50 percent of all Korean vocabulary is derived from Chinese loanwords, a reflection of the cultural dominance of China over 2 millennia. Large numbers of Chinese character compounds coined in Japan in the nineteenth or twentieth centuries to translate modern Western scientific, technical, and political vocabulary came into use in Korea during the colonial period. Post United States influence has been reflected in a number of English words that have been absorbed into Korean. Unlike Chinese, Korean does not encompass dialects that are mutually unintelligible. There are, however, regional variations both in vocabulary and pronunciation. The North-South Divide It is unclear to what extent the honorific language and its grammatical forms have been retained in the north. The North Korean regime has a policy that has attempted to eliminate as many foreign loanwords as possible, as well as older terms of Chinese origin. Western loanwords are also being dropped. An attempt has also been made to create new words of exclusively Korean origin. Parents are encouraged to give their children Korean rather than Chinese-type names. Nonetheless, approximately Chinese characters are still taught in North Korean schools. Contact Us Click here to get in touch Copyright Notice: Third parties are allowed to use or reference information on this page for non-commercial use only if they acknowledge this website as the source by linking to it. Read detailed Terms and Conditions on how to apply for commercial use. Would highly recommend to anyone looking for a translation service to add value to your business or project. The use of the finest linguists and exceptional management make them the leaders in their field. Tom Kendon Deputy Head of International Programmes We were overall delighted with the standard of service and Today Translations delivered, in terms of translation quality, time and attentive customer care. They were highly responsive, creative and were central to the success of the translation and quality assurance process. The project managers we dealt with were collaborative and operated very much as part of the team. I would commend our experience of working with Today Translations to other organisations requiring professional translation services. Georgina Langdale Communications Manager Not only did you provide competitive quotes, but you also delivered each of our publications on time, and were very accommodating of last minute changes in some of the final files we sent through. You were great to deal with and I would have no hesitation in recommending your services. I look forward to working with you again in the future. Best in Class Customer Care.

Chapter 3 : Written language history Jobs, Employment | Freelancer

Writing is the physical manifestation of a spoken language. It is thought that human beings developed language c. 35, BCE as evidenced by cave paintings from the period of the Cro-Magnon Man (c. 50, BCE) which appear to express concepts concerning daily life.

The closest undoubted living relatives of English are Scots and Frisian. Frisian is a language spoken by approximately half a million people in the Dutch province of Friesland, in nearby areas of Germany, and on a few islands in the North Sea. The history of the English language has traditionally been divided into three main periods: Over the centuries, the English language has been influenced by a number of other languages.

Old English - AD: These tribes were warlike and pushed out most of the original, Celtic-speaking inhabitants from England into Scotland, Wales, and Cornwall. One group migrated to the Brittany Coast of France where their descendants still speak the Celtic Language of Breton today. Through the years, the Saxons, Angles and Jutes mixed their different Germanic dialects. This group of dialects forms what linguists refer to as Old English or Anglo-Saxon. The Angles were named from Engle, their land of origin. Before the Saxons the language spoken in what is now England was a mixture of Latin and various Celtic languages which were spoken before the Romans came to Britain BC. Many of the words passed on from this era are those coined by Roman merchants and soldiers. These include win wine , candel candle , belt belt , weall wall. In fact, very few Celtic words have lived on in the English language. But many of place and river names have Celtic origins: The arrival of St. Augustine in and the introduction of Christianity into Saxon England brought more Latin words into the English language. They were mostly concerned with the naming of Church dignitaries, ceremonies, etc. Some, such as church, bishop, baptism, monk, eucharist and presbyter came indirectly through Latin from the Greek. Around AD Danes and Norsemen, also called Vikings, invaded the country and English got many Norse words into the language, particularly in the north of England. Words derived from Norse include: The most famous is a heroic epic poem called "Beowulf". It is the oldest known English poem and it is notable for its length - 3, lines. Experts say "Beowulf" was written in Britain more than one thousand years ago. The name of the person who wrote it is unknown.

Middle English circa AD: After William the Conqueror, the Duke of Normandy, invaded and conquered England in AD with his armies and became king, he brought his nobles, who spoke French, to be the new government. The Old French took over as the language of the court, administration, and culture. Latin was mostly used for written language, especially that of the Church. Meanwhile, The English language, as the language of the now lower class, was considered a vulgar tongue. By about , England and France had split. English changed a lot, because it was mostly being spoken instead of written for about years. The use of Old English came back, but with many French words added. This language is called Middle English. Most of the words embedded in the English vocabulary are words of power, such as crown, castle, court, parliament, army, mansion, gown, beauty, banquet, art, poet, romance, duke, servant, peasant, traitor and governor. It was a massive sound change affecting the long vowels of English. Basically, the long vowels shifted upwards; that is, a vowel that used to be pronounced in one place in the mouth would be pronounced in a different place, higher up in the mouth. The Great Vowel Shift occurred during the fifteenth to eighteenth centuries. The portraits that he paints in his Tales give us an idea of what life was like in fourteenth century England.

Modern English to the present: Modern English developed after William Caxton established his printing press at Westminster Abbey in The Bible and some valuable manuscripts were printed. The invention of the printing press made books available to more people. The books became cheaper and more people learned to read. Printing also brought standardization to English. There were three big developments in the world at the beginning of Modern English period: During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I there was an explosion of culture in the form of support of the arts, popularization of the printing press, and massive amounts of sea travel. England began the Industrial Revolution 18th century and this had also an effect on the development of the language as new words had to be invented or existing ones modified to cope with the rapid changes in technology. New technical words were added to the vocabulary as inventors designed various products and machinery. These words were named after the inventor or given the

name of their choice trains, engine, pulleys, combustion, electricity, telephone, telegraph, camera etc. They sent people to settle and live in their conquered places and as settlers interacted with natives, new words were added to the English vocabulary. See more borrowings from different languages. English continues to change and develop, with hundreds of new words arriving every year. But even with all the borrowings from many other languages the heart of the English language remains the Anglo-Saxon of Old English. The grammar of English is also distinctly Germanic - three genders he, she and it and a simple set of verb tenses.

Written language was the product of an agrarian society. These societies were centered around the cultivation of grain. A natural result of the cultivation and storage of grain is the production of beer.

Mesoamerican writing systems A stone slab with 3,000-year-old writing, the Cascajal Block, was discovered in the Mexican state of Veracruz, and is an example of the oldest script in the Western Hemisphere, preceding the oldest Zapotec writing dated to about 900 BC. The earliest inscriptions which are identifiably Maya date to the 3rd century BC, and writing was in continuous use until shortly after the arrival of the Spanish conquistadores in the 16th century AD. Maya writing used logograms complemented by a set of syllabic glyphs: Iron Age writing [edit] Cippus Perusinus, Etruscan writing near Perugia, Italy, the precursor of the Latin alphabet The sculpture depicts a scene where three soothsayers are interpreting to King Suddhodana the dream of Queen Maya, mother of Gautama Buddha. Below them is seated a scribe recording the interpretation. This is possibly the earliest available pictorial record of the art of writing in India. From Nagarjunakonda, 2nd century CE. The Phoenician alphabet is simply the Proto-Canaanite alphabet as it was continued into the Iron Age conventionally taken from a cut-off date of 1000 BC. This alphabet gave rise to the Aramaic and Greek alphabets. These in turn led to the writing systems used throughout regions ranging from Western Asia to Africa and Europe. For its part the Greek alphabet introduced for the first time explicit symbols for vowel sounds. The Brahmic family of India is believed by some scholars to have derived from the Aramaic alphabet as well. Several varieties of the Greek alphabet developed. The other variation, known as Eastern Greek, was used in present-day Turkey and by the Athenians, and eventually the rest of the world that spoke Greek adopted this variation. After first writing right to left, like the Phoenicians, the Greeks eventually chose to write from left to right. Greek is in turn the source for all the modern scripts of Europe. The most widespread descendant of Greek is the Latin script, named for the Latins, a central Italian people who came to dominate Europe with the rise of Rome. The Romans learned writing in about the 5th century BC from the Etruscan civilization, who used one of a number of Italic scripts derived from the western Greeks. Due to the cultural dominance of the Roman state, the other Italic scripts have not survived in any great quantity, and the Etruscan language is mostly lost. Latin, never one of the primary literary languages, rapidly declined in importance except within the Church of Rome. The primary literary languages were Greek and Persian, though other languages such as Syriac and Coptic were important too. The rise of Islam in the 7th century led to the rapid rise of Arabic as a major literary language in the region. Arabic script was adopted as the primary script of the Persian language and the Turkish language. This script also heavily influenced the development of the cursive scripts of Greek, the Slavic languages, Latin, and other languages [citation needed]. The Arabic language also served to spread the Hindu-Arabic numeral system throughout Europe. Renaissance and the modern era [edit] By the 14th century a rebirth, or renaissance, had emerged in Western Europe, leading to a temporary revival of the importance of Greek, and a slow revival of Latin as a significant literary language. A similar though smaller emergence occurred in Eastern Europe, especially in Russia. At the same time Arabic and Persian began a slow decline in importance as the Islamic Golden Age ended. The revival of literary development in Western Europe led to many innovations in the Latin alphabet and the diversification of the alphabet to codify the phonologies of the various languages. The nature of writing has been constantly evolving, particularly due to the development of new technologies over the centuries. The pen, the printing press, the computer and the mobile phone are all technological developments which have altered what is written, and the medium through which the written word is produced. Particularly with the advent of digital technologies, namely the computer and the mobile phone, characters can be formed by the press of a button, rather than making a physical motion with the hand. The nature of the written word has recently evolved to include an informal, colloquial written style, in which an everyday conversation can occur through writing rather than speaking. Written communication can also be delivered with minimal time delay e-mail, SMS, and in some cases, with an imperceptible time delay instant messaging. Writing is a preservable means of communication. Some people regard the growth of multimedia literacy as the first step towards a postliterate

society. Writing material There is no very definite statement as to the material which was in most common use for the purposes of writing at the start of the early writing systems. In the latter case there is this peculiarity, that plaster sic , lime or gypsum was used along with stone, a combination of materials which is illustrated by comparison of the practice of the Egyptian engravers, who, having first carefully smoothed the stone, filled up the faulty places with gypsum or cement, in order to obtain a perfectly uniform surface on which to execute their engravings. To the engraving of gems there is reference also, such as with seals or signets. The tablets of the Chaldeans are among the most remarkable of their remains. Wooden tablets are found pictured on the monuments; but the material which was in common use, even from very ancient times, was the papyrus. This reed, found chiefly in Lower Egypt, had various economic means for writing, the pith was taken out, and divided by a pointed instrument into the thin pieces of which it is composed; it was then flattened by pressure, and the strips glued together, other strips being placed at right angles to them, so that a roll of any length might be manufactured. Writing seems to have become more widespread with the invention of papyrus in Egypt. That this material was in use in Egypt from a very early period is evidenced by still existing papyrus of the earliest Theban dynasties. As the papyrus, being in great demand, and exported to all parts of the world, became very costly, other materials were often used instead of it, among which is mentioned leather, a few leather mills of an early period having been found in the tombs. With the invention of wood-pulp paper , the cost of writing material began a steady decline.

Chapter 5 : History of writing - Wikipedia

Spoken language does not have to be taught; written language, by and large, does. Pictographic Writing The major division among types of writing systems is the division between phonologically-based systems (where the written symbols represent sounds of the languages) and non phonologically-based systems (where the written symbols represent.

During the construction of the Tower, God confused the language of man and scattered the nations Genesis It is at this time that the Sumerians from the land of Sumer, known as Shinar in the Bible - Genesis Tenney, William White, Jr. Thomas Nelson, At approximately the same time the Sumerians appeared in Mesopotamia, another civilization emerges in the South, the Egyptians. During the time of the Sumerians and the Egyptians, the Semitic peoples lived in Sumeria and traveled west into the land of Canaan. The descendants of Noah It would appear that after the Tower of Babel, the descendants of Japheth traveled north with their language, the descendants of Ham traveled southwest with their language and the Semites traveled west with their language. What was the one language spoken prior to the Tower of Babel? When God created Adam he spoke to him Genesis 2: For instance, Methuselah Genesis 5: For instance, the name Nimrod Genesis According to the Biblical record of names, Adam and his descendants spoke Hebrew. The language used by the descendants of "Eber" is called "Hebrew" Eevriyt in Hebrew , but is never called "Hebrew" in the Hebrew Bible, but is instead referred to as the "Language of Canaan" Isaiah While the Hebrew Bible may not refer to the language of the Hebrews as "Hebrew," we do know that their language was in fact "Hebrew," as attested to in the many discovered in the land of Israel from this period of time. During their captivity in Babylon, the Hebrews continued to speak the Hebrew language, but instead of writing the language with the Hebrew script often referred to as Paleo-Hebrew , they adopted the Aramaic square script to write the Hebrew language and the Hebrew script was used on a very limited basis such as a few Biblical scrolls and coins. When the Hebrews returned to the land of Israel, around BC, it was believed that the Hebrews had abandoned the Hebrew language and instead spoke the Aramaic language, the language of their captors in Babylon. The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church, in its first edition in , stated; "[Hebrew] ceased to be a spoken language around the fourth century B. Bar Kochba letter from A. One of the most compelling evidences for the continued use of Hebrew into the 2nd Century A. This letter, along with many others, was written in Hebrew, establishing the fact that Hebrew was still the language of the Jewish people, even into the second century AD. Because of the overwhelming evidence of Hebrews continued use, the Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church, in its third edition in now, states; "[Hebrew] continued to be used as a spoken and written language in the New Testament period. At this point most Jews adopted the language of the country they resided in, but Hebrew continued to be spoken in the synagogues and Yeshivas religious schools for the teaching and studying of the Torah and the Talmud.

Chapter 6 : The Written Word | History Detectives | PBS

I need you to write 3 blog post on fashion history, one blog catering to one decade from You can use fashion icons, or some particular fashion designer or popular fashion trends of the time, also you have to include business aspect to the blog.

For example, Chinese uses a logographic system in its writing which represents words or phrases. These characters can represent things, sounds or abstract concepts. Even though China has many spoken languages due to it is large country, most of them use the same writing system. The following are the four important periods of Chinese writing: Jia-gu wen Oracle Bone - - A. Chinese Language A large number of people around the world want to learn Chinese, because it is the most spoken language around the world. On the other hand, China has a high level of internal varieties of Chinese; for instance there are around 13 main regional groups such as Mandarin, Cantonese, Wu and Min. It is also one of the official languages in United Nations and it is considered as the fourth official language of Singapore. Therefore, approximately millions of people speak some form of Chinese. Cantonese is another important Chinese language; it is one of the official languages of Macau and of Hong Kong. History of the Chinese Language Chinese is the oldest language of the world due to a large number of researchers said that this language is thousands of years old. Moreover it is considered as the only language with a consistent written language for about 3 thousands consecutive years. Usually people have a wrong idea about Chinese, because they think about it as many languages. Chinese is a group of dialects more than a group of languages. Currently, a lot of researchers think that all types of Chinese belong to the Sino Tibetan language family which had the Proto Sino Tibetan as an original language. Moreover researchers are still investigating the relation between Sino Tibetan languages and Chinese, because they want to reconstruct the Proto Sino Tibetan language. Although Chinese dialects are all phonetically different, they have the same writing system. There are approximately 70, phonetics sounds and characters, so if you want to read a newspaper, you must learn around 3, characters. You should know that 5, characters are taught in secondary schools. Although Nanjing Mandarin became the official language of China, most southern Chinese only spoke their local language until the midth century. Moreover people in Southern China still spoke their native languages, after that Mandarin was declared as the standard language. On the other hand, Cantonese was the native language of Hong Kong, however, today Mandarin is becoming more influential. Nowadays, around million of inhabitants in China speak Mandarin.

Chapter 7 : What are the origins of the English Language? | Merriam-Webster

Although spoken language is believed to have developed tens of thousands of years ago, the written word emerged much later, as hunter-gatherers developed more permanent agrarian societies.

See Article History Japanese language, a language isolate. It is primarily spoken throughout the Japanese archipelago; there are also some 1. Since the mid-19th century, no nation other than Japan has used Japanese as a first or a second language. General considerations Hypotheses of genetic affiliation Japanese is the only major language whose genetic affiliation is not known. The hypothesis relating Japanese to Korean remains the strongest, but other hypotheses also have been advanced. Some attempt to relate Japanese to the language groups of South Asia such as the Austronesian, the Austroasiatic, and the Tibeto-Burman family of the Sino-Tibetan languages. Beginning in the second half of the 20th century, efforts were focused more on the origins of the Japanese language than on its genetic affiliation per se; specifically, linguists attempted to reconcile some conflicting linguistic traits. An increasingly popular theory along that line posits that the mixed nature of Japanese results from its Austronesian lexical substratum and the Altaic grammatical superstratum. As the Yayoi culture was introduced to Japan from the Asian continent about 300 bce, a language of southern Korea began to spread eastward from the southern island of Kyushu along with that culture, which also introduced to Japan iron and bronze implements and the cultivation of rice. Because the migration from Korea did not take place on a large scale, the new language did not eradicate certain older lexical items, though it was able to change the grammatical structure of the existing language. Thus, that theory maintains, Japanese must be said to be genetically related to Korean and perhaps ultimately to Altaic languages, though it contains Austronesian lexical residues. The Altaic theory, however, is not widely accepted. Different dialects are often mutually unintelligible; the speakers of the Kagoshima dialect of Kyushu are not understood by the majority of the people of the main island of Honshu. Likewise, northern dialect speakers from such places as Aomori and Akita are not understood by most people in metropolitan Tokyo or anywhere in western Japan. Japanese dialectologists agree that a major dialect boundary separates Okinawan dialects of the Ryukyu Islands from the rest of the mainland dialects. The latter are then divided into either three groups—Eastern, Western, and Kyushu dialects—or simply Eastern and Western dialects, the latter including the Kyushu group. A standardized written language has been a feature of compulsory education, which started in 1871. Modern mobility and mass media also have helped to level dialectal differences and have had a strong effect on the accelerated rate of the loss of local dialects. If the history of the language were to be split in two, the division would fall somewhere between the 12th and 16th centuries, when the language shed most of its Old Japanese characteristics and acquired those of the modern language. It is common, however, to divide the 1,000-year history into four or five periods; Old Japanese up to the 8th century, Late Old Japanese 9th–11th century, Middle Japanese 12th–16th century, Early Modern Japanese 17th–18th century, and Modern Japanese 19th century to the present. Despite that stability, however, a number of features distinguish Old Japanese from Modern Japanese. Some maintain, however, that Old Japanese had only five vowels and attribute the differences in vowel quality to the preceding consonants. There is also some indication that Old Japanese had a remnant form of vowel harmony. Vowel harmony is said to exist when certain vowels call for other specific vowels within a certain domain, generally, within a word. That possibility is stressed by the proponents of the theory that Japanese is related to the Altaic family, where vowel harmony is a widespread phenomenon. The wholesale shift of p to h and to w between vowels also took place relatively early, such that Modern Japanese has no native or Sino-Japanese word that begins with p. The remnant forms with the original p are seen among some Okinawan dialects; e. Syntax Japanese syntax also has remained relatively stable, maintaining its characteristic subject–object–verb SOV sentence structure. A notable change in that domain is the obliteration of the distinction between the conclusive form—the finite form that concludes a sentence—and the noun-modifying form exhibited by certain predicates. The distinction between conclusive forms and noun-modifying forms played an important role in the phenomenon of syntactic concord that, for example, called for the noun-modifying forms of predicate even in concluding the predication when a subject or some

other word was marked by particles such as the emphatic *zo* or the interrogative *ka* or *ya*. That system of syntactic concord deteriorated in Middle Japanese, and the distinction between the conclusive forms and the noun-modifying forms was also lost, the latter dominating the former. A single most important development in the history of Japanese is the acquisition of the nativized writing systems that took place between the 8th and the 10th centuries. The Japanese vocabulary has been constantly enriched by loanwords from Chinese in earlier times and from European languages in more recent history. Linguistic characteristics of modern Japanese Phonology In Japanese phonology, two suprasegmental units—the syllable and the mora—must be recognized. A mora is a rhythmic unit based on length. It plays an important role especially in the accentual system, but its mundane utilization is most familiar in the composition of Japanese verse forms such as haiku and waka, in which lines are defined in terms of the number of moras; a haiku consists of three lines of five, seven, and five moras. These are the first of the double consonants. The word-pitch accent system Both moras and syllables play an important role in the Japanese accentual system, which can be characterized as a word-pitch accent system, in which each word is contrasted with each syllable as in the prototypical tone languages of Southeast Asia is associated with a distinct tone pattern. The accentual system is one of the features that distinguishes one dialect from another, as each dialect has its own system, though certain dialects in the Tohoku region of northeastern Honshu and in Kyushu and some other areas show no pitch contrast. In the majority of dialects, the pitch change occurs at the mora, not the syllable, boundary. Thus, a monosyllabic word such as *e* can be either accented or unaccented and can be realized as a high-tone word if accented or as a low-tone word if unaccented. In other words, in the Tokyo dialect the number of potential accentual contrasts equals the number of syllables plus one. The absence of stress accent of the English type, the sequences of high-pitched moras as well as those of low-pitched moras, rather than alternating stressed and unstressed syllables, and the mora-timed characteristic together render Japanese speech rather monotonous compared to a stress-accent language like English or a true tone language like Chinese. Phonemes Japanese has the following phonemes: That and the other high vowel *i* tend to be devoiced between voiceless consonants or in final position after a voiceless consonant. The effects of these processes are seen in inflected forms of verbs as well as in foreign loans. Grammatical structure The first major part-of-speech division in Japanese falls between those elements that express concrete concepts. Japanese verbs and adjectives conjugate and function as predicates without involving a copula linking verb, whereas non-conjugating nouns and adjectival nominals. Nouns do not decline and do not indicate number or gender, while case distinctions are marked by enclitic particles that is, particles attached to the end of the previous word, as in the examples above. Japanese, as a consistent subject-object-verb SOV language, places modifiers before the modified, so that adjectives and relative clauses precede the modified nouns and adverbs come before verbs. A predicate complex consists of the stem followed by various suffixal elements expressing relational concepts. The order of these and other end-of-sentence, or sentence-final, elements reflect the ordering of meaning types from concrete to subjective to interpersonal; e. What do you think? Some clues for recovering missing elements are provided for by means of honorific forms. On the other hand, when the humble form *o-kaki suru* is used, the referent is likely to be the speaker. The addressee honorific form *kakimasu* is an index of the social relationship of the speaker to the listener, whereas the plain form *kaku* is used in addressing an equal, a social inferior, or an indefinite audience as would be used, for example, in newspaper articles and books. *Ze* and *zo* are final particles used by male speakers, while *wa* and *wa yo* are used exclusively by females. The Japanese language exhibits a number of characteristic grammatical constructions not found in English and other European languages. An English sentence such as *John came* translates into two different expressions in Japanese. The sentence exhibiting the topic construction *John-wa kita* *John*-[topic] *came* contrasts with the basic sentence *John-ga kita* *John*-[nominative] *came*, and the former is used when the referent of the *wa*-marked nominal *i*. In addition to its basic identificational function. In addition to the regular passive of the type found in English, transitive verbs also produce adversative passive sentences. Examples of repetition include the use of syllable reduplication in various onomatopoeic expressions. Additionally, the repetition of phrases yields a number of characteristic constructions of Japanese. Each stratum is associated with phonological and semantic characteristics. The native vocabulary reflects the socioeconomic

concerns of traditional Japanese society, which were centred on farming and fishing. The words associated with rice, a staple food in Japan, clearly delineate the form or state of the rice to which they refer; the rice plant is *ine*, raw rice is *kome*, and cooked rice is either *gohan* or *meshi*. Some Chinese words are generally believed to have been introduced into Japan during the 1st century ce, or possibly before that. A systematic introduction of the Chinese language, however, occurred about ce, when Korean scholars introduced Chinese books to Japan. Sino-Japanese words now constitute slightly more than 50 percent of the Japanese vocabulary, a proportion comparable to that of Latinate words in the English vocabulary. Both Chinese or Chinese-based words in Japanese and Latin or Latin-based words in English are also similar in their tendency to express abstract concepts and to make up a great part of the academic vocabulary. As illustrated in the last example, foreign loans are phonologically fully Japanized, with vowels appropriately inserted or appended and with occasional consonantal adjustments, although an initial *p*, which is lacking in Japanese, is left intact. In fact, only the vocabularies of the native and the Sino-Japanese strata of Modern Japanese lack an initial *p*. It occurs quite frequently in the onomatopoeic vocabulary. As these examples suggest, Japanese sound symbolism encompasses not only mimetic expressions of natural sounds but also those that depict states, conditions, or manners of the external world as well as those symbolizing mental conditions or sensations. Sound-symbolic words permeate Japanese life, occurring in animated speech and abounding in literary works of all sorts.

Writing systems The earliest attempts to write Japanese involved the use of not only Chinese characters but also Classical Chinese grammar, as is evident in the preface to the 8th-century *Kojiki*. *Katakana*, which is angular in appearance, developed from the abbreviation of Chinese characters, and *hiragana*, rounded in appearance, by simplifying the grass cursive style of writing. Originally used as mnemonic symbols for reading Chinese characters, *kana* were eagerly adopted by women with literary aspirations; these women had been discouraged from learning Chinese characters, which belonged to the male domain of learning and writing. In contemporary Japanese writing, Chinese characters *kanji* and *hiragana* are used in combination, the former for content words and the latter for words such as particles and inflectional endings that indicate grammatical function. *Katakana* are used largely for foreign loanwords, telegrams, print advertising, and certain onomatopoeic expressions. The use of *kana* made it possible to write a word in two ways. That possibility helped to establish a relation between the Chinese character and its Japanese semantic equivalent and led to the practice of assigning a dual reading to Chinese characters: Because Chinese words and their pronunciations were borrowed from different parts of China as well as during different historical periods, Modern Japanese includes many characters having more than one on-yomi reading. The complexity of reproducing the strokes for each character and the multiple readings associated with it have stimulated movements to abolish Chinese characters in favour of *kana* writing or even more radical movements for completely romanizing the Japanese language. All these, however, have failed. Despite their complexity, Chinese characters retain a number of advantages over phonetic writing systems. For one thing, many homophonous words are visually distinguishable. For another, the meanings of unknown words written in Chinese characters can be surmised through the ideographic nature of these characters. That semantic transparency and the characteristic configurations of characters enable easy recognition and understanding of a passage. Nevertheless, the shapes of Chinese characters have been simplified, and the number of commonly used characters has been limited. In the Japanese government issued a list of 1, characters for that purpose. That basic list of Chinese characters is to be learned during primary and secondary education. When newspapers use characters not on the list, they also supply the reading in *hiragana*.

Chapter 8 : Chinese Language – EthnoMed

The forerunners to writing systems are pictograms in every culture. When early people wished to convey an idea in a permanent medium, they simply drew the concept.

Introduction to Language Language is a system of symbols with an agreed upon meaning that is used by a group of people. Language is a means of communication ideas or feelings by the use of conventionalized sounds and signs, thus, being the spoken and written language. The History of Language It is a human tendency to communicate with others and this could underlie the emergence of language. The evolution of the human language began when communication was done through pictograms or pictures and drawings. It then developed into ideograms when pictures began to turn into symbols. Later, these symbols became words, words involved letters, vowels emerged, one symbol came to represent one sound, an alphabet was created, and then came the alphabet we now use today. And just as language evolved hundreds of thousands of years ago, it also changes with each generation. Unneeded words are dropped and new words come into use. Language rose and continues to rise with the collective intelligence. He has already constructed the spoken language and with his entry into the classroom, he will begin to consolidate the spoken language and begin to explore the written forms of language. Because language is an intricate involvement in the process of thinking, the child will need to be spoken to and listened to often. The child will need a broad exposure to language, with correct articulation, enunciation, and punctuation. The child will need to experience different modes of language and to hear and tell stories. Most importantly, the child needs to feel free and be encouraged to communicate with others. He will become fully articulate, he will be able to express himself in writing, he will be able to read with ease, and have a full comprehension of the thoughts of others. The Prepared Environment To help the child in his development in language, the Montessori classroom is designed to help the child reach the 3rd period of consciousness. Because the learning of language is not done through subjects as in a normal classroom, the child is learning at his own rhythm. This allows the child to concentrate on the learning of each important step in language so that each progressive step is done easily and without any thought on the part of the child. The special material also plays an important role in aiding the child develop the powers of communication and expression, of organization and classification, and the development of thought. She must support the child in his learning, give him order to classify what he has learned, to help the child build self-confidence, and to provide the child with meaningful activities. Language Completions of the First Plane As the child leaves the Montessori classroom after the age of six, he will have become an articulate person, being able to communicate his feelings in well-formed sentences and in writing. He will be able to write these thoughts and feelings in a skillful handwriting. He will have the ability to write in different styles and about a variety of subjects. The child will have total reading and a sense of the home language at a level where he will be the master of his words.

Chapter 9 : the|digital Â» History of Written Language | The Information by Gleick

Sumerian language, language isolate and the oldest written language in existence. First attested about bc in southern Mesopotamia, it flourished during the 3rd millennium bc. About bc, Sumerian was replaced as a spoken language by Semitic Akkadian (Assyro-Babylonian) but continued in written usage almost to the end of the life of.

Help What are the origins of the English Language? The history of English is conventionally, if perhaps too neatly, divided into three periods usually called Old English or Anglo-Saxon , Middle English, and Modern English. The earliest period begins with the migration of certain Germanic tribes from the continent to Britain in the fifth century A. By that time Latin, Old Norse the language of the Viking invaders , and especially the Anglo-Norman French of the dominant class after the Norman Conquest in had begun to have a substantial impact on the lexicon, and the well-developed inflectional system that typifies the grammar of Old English had begun to break down. The following brief sample of Old English prose illustrates several of the significant ways in which change has so transformed English that we must look carefully to find points of resemblance between the language of the tenth century and our own. Gregory the Great" and concerns the famous story of how that pope came to send missionaries to convert the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity after seeing Anglo-Saxon boys for sale as slaves in Rome: The sense of it is as follows: Gregory] asked what might be the name of the people from which they came. It was answered to him that they were named Angles. Others, however, have vanished from our lexicon, mostly without a trace, including several that were quite common words in Old English: Other points worth noting include the fact that the pronoun system did not yet, in the late tenth century, include the third person plural forms beginning with th-: Several aspects of word order will also strike the reader as oddly unlike ours. In subordinate clauses the main verb must be last, and so an object or a preposition may precede it in a way no longer natural: Nouns, adjectives, and even the definite article are inflected for gender, case, and number: The system of inflections for verbs was also more elaborate than ours: In addition, there were two imperative forms, four subjunctive forms two for the present tense and two for the preterit, or past, tense , and several others which we no longer have. Even where Modern English retains a particular category of inflection, the form has often changed. Old English present participles ended in -ende not -ing, and past participles bore a prefix ge- as geandwyrd "answered" above. The period of Middle English extends roughly from the twelfth century through the fifteenth. The influence of French and Latin, often by way of French upon the lexicon continued throughout this period, the loss of some inflections and the reduction of others often to a final unstressed vowel spelled -e accelerated, and many changes took place within the phonological and grammatical systems of the language. It is fiction in the guise of travel literature, and, though it purports to be from the pen of an English knight, it was originally written in French and later translated into Latin and English. In this extract Mandeville describes the land of Bactria, apparently not an altogether inviting place, as it is inhabited by "full yuele [evil] folk and full cruell. Moreover, in the original text, there is in addition to thorn another old character ȝ, called "yogh," to make difficulty. It can represent several sounds but here may be thought of as equivalent to y. Even the older spellings including those where u stands for v or vice versa are recognizable, however, and there are only a few words like ipotaynes "hippopotamuses" and sithes "times" that have dropped out of the language altogether. All the same, the number of inflections for nouns, adjectives, and verbs has been greatly reduced, and in most respects Mandeville is closer to Modern than to Old English. The period of Modern English extends from the sixteenth century to our own day. The early part of this period saw the completion of a revolution in the phonology of English that had begun in late Middle English and that effectively redistributed the occurrence of the vowel phonemes to something approximating their present pattern. Other important early developments include the stabilizing effect on spelling of the printing press and the beginning of the direct influence of Latin and, to a lesser extent, Greek on the lexicon. Later, as English came into contact with other cultures around the world and distinctive dialects of English developed in the many areas which Britain had colonized, numerous other languages made small but interesting contributions to our word-stock. The historical aspect of English really encompasses more than the three stages of development just under consideration. English has what might be

called a prehistory as well. As we have seen, our language did not simply spring into existence; it was brought from the Continent by Germanic tribes who had no form of writing and hence left no records. Philologists know that they must have spoken a dialect of a language that can be called West Germanic and that other dialects of this unknown language must have included the ancestors of such languages as German, Dutch, Low German, and Frisian. They know this because of certain systematic similarities which these languages share with each other but do not share with, say, Danish. However, they have had somehow to reconstruct what that language was like in its lexicon, phonology, grammar, and semantics as best they can through sophisticated techniques of comparison developed chiefly during the last century. Similarly, because ancient and modern languages like Old Norse and Gothic or Icelandic and Norwegian have points in common with Old English and Old High German or Dutch and English that they do not share with French or Russian, it is clear that there was an earlier unrecorded language that can be called simply Germanic and that must be reconstructed in the same way. Still earlier, Germanic was just a dialect the ancestors of Greek, Latin, and Sanskrit were three other such dialects of a language conventionally designated Indo-European, and thus English is just one relatively young member of an ancient family of languages whose descendants cover a fair portion of the globe.