

# Today's topic:

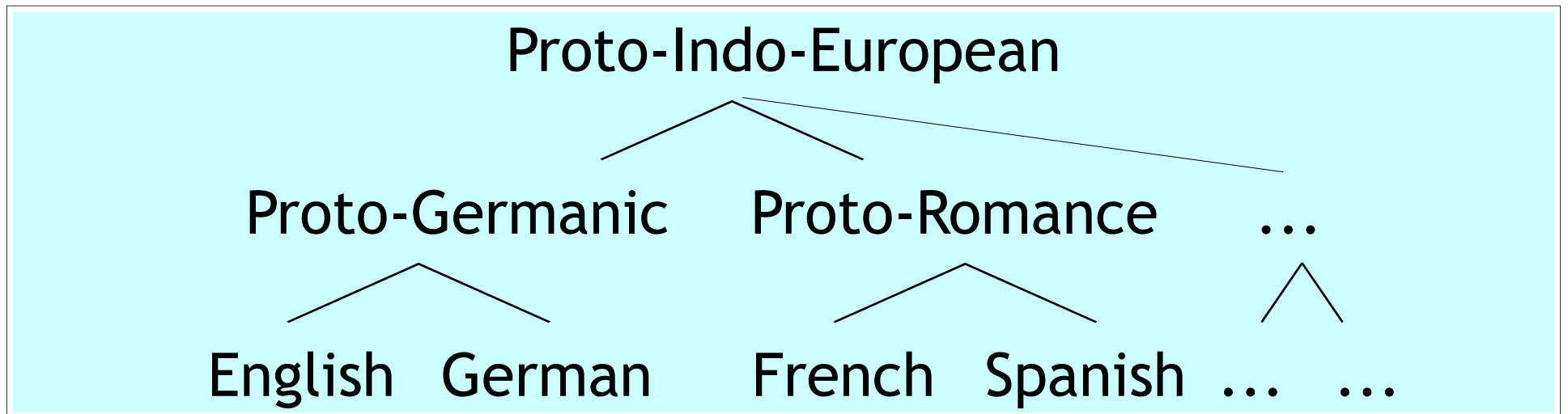
- **Subgrouping**

# Subgrouping

- If an ancestor language has multiple descendant languages, those descendants may not all be equally closely related
  - Example: Consider English, German, French (and what do we have to be careful about in considering these cases?)

# Subgrouping

- Shared similarities are good evidence for a subgroup within a larger group
  - For each subgroup, a separate **protolanguage** can be reconstructed



- But, how can we be sure that similarities we find are evidence for subgrouping?

# Subgrouping

- Shared **retention** from the protolanguage
  - Is this evidence for subgrouping?
- Shared **innovation** (something different from what the protolanguage had)
  - Is this evidence for subgrouping?

# Subgrouping

- Shared innovations that provide the strongest evidence for subgrouping (*IHL*, p 113)
  1. Changes that are particularly unusual.
  2. Sets of several phonological changes, especially unusual changes that would not ordinarily be expected to have taken place together.
  3. Phonological changes that correspond to unconnected grammatical or semantic changes.

# Subgrouping

- From *IHL* (p 111)

In summary, here is a set of procedures for doing subgrouping:

1. Gather data from languages known to be related. (Subgrouping tells you *how* various languages are related, not whether or not they are related.)
2. Reconstruct the protolanguage using the comparative method.
3. Note the sound changes which have occurred in the history of each language.
4. Make careful note of the relative chronology inherent in your reconstructions.
5. Group together the languages which have undergone shared changes (a period of common development).
6. Remember that the best diagnostic evidence for subgrouping is unusual change.
7. Draw a family tree which reflects the subgrouping you have worked out.
8. Don't forget to check your rules.

# Subgrouping

- Example for discussion: Proto-Gazelle Peninsula (*IHL* Ch 6 / Dataset 17)
  - What can we conclude about subgrouping here?