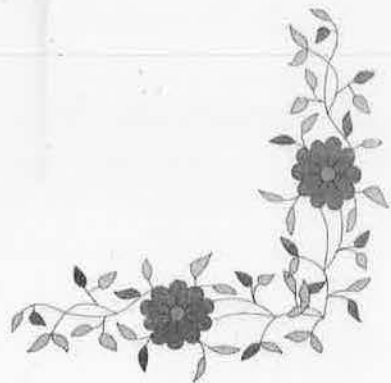


Section I

Story of English Language

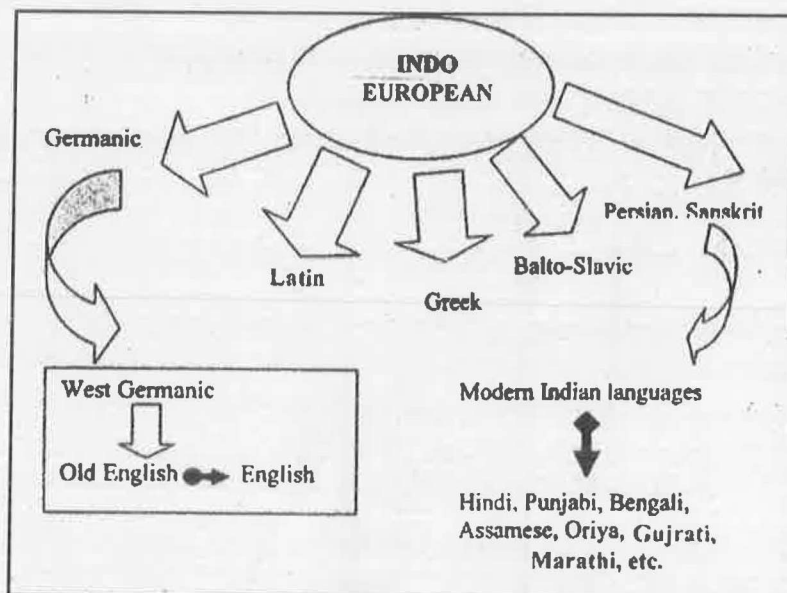


CHAPTER 1

HOW ENGLISH BEGAN

The English language is much 'younger' than Sanskrit, Persian, Greek, Latin, and other great classical languages of the past. When these European and Asian languages were ruling the world, the names English and England did not exist. The English we speak today came from the speech of the Germanic tribes: Angles, Saxons and Jutes (together called the Anglo-Saxons) who invaded England in the fifth century and gave the country its name and its language.

The Anglo-Saxons were Germanic people who lived in North and West Europe (present day Denmark, Germany and Holland). The languages they used were Germanic or Teutonic. These languages were closely related to Latin, Greek Sanskrit and other languages of the Indo- European family (or group) of languages. Thus, through Germanic, English belongs to the ancient Indo-European family of languages. The 'roots' of English are shown in the diagram given below:



The Germanic invaders were called Saxons by the natives of England. The Saxons, on the other hand, called the natives of England "Wealas" or foreigners. They, however, began to call their languages *Englisc*. This word was derived from the name : Angles (Old English: *Engle*). The country was given the name Anglecynn (or Angle-kin, that is, the race of the Angles). From about AD 1000, the name *Englaland* (or the land of the Angles) came into use in place of Anglecynn. Thus both the name of the country England , and the language, English, are not native to English.

Exercises

1. Complete the statements given below:

- English language is than Persian.
- English we speak today has come from of tribe.
- The Anglo- Saxons were people.
- Through English belongs to the ancient family of languages.

2. Answer these questions very briefly:

- Who did the natives of England call Saxons?
- What did the Saxons call the natives of England?
- Which languages were called 'Englisc'?
- When did the name 'Englaland' come into use? Which word did it replace?

