

A Brief Analysis of the Migration of the Ancient Indo-European People and Their Language's Dissemination

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ABSTRACT. *The ancient Indo-European people are the ancestors of many nations in the world today. In prehistoric times, they started a large-scale migration movement by domesticating horses and inventing wheelbarrows. Nowadays, their descendants are all over the world, and they are one of the most important ethnic groups in the world. This paper mainly analyses their migration process and the spread of their civilization.*

KEYWORDS: *The ancient Indo-European; Ethnic migration; civilization; National language; Indo-European language group*

1. Introduction

The South Russian grassland extends eastward from the low-lying Danube River Basin, along the north coast of the Black Sea, through Southern of Russia, to the north of Asia and the east coast of the Black Sea. In the ancient world, there were many nomadic peoples wandering on this grassland. Over time, just as the southern Semites settled in fertile Mesopotamia, these northern herdsmen continued to pour into Europe and Western Asia. This group of nomads, known as the ancient Indo-European people, is a white race and can be regarded as the ancestor of modern Europeans. They were eager to find a suitable place to live, to end their nomadic life, and large-scale migration began. At first, they chose several different migration routes, and later they opened up a main line of migration.

2. Migration process

The main line starts from the eastern Indian border, then to the west, across Europe, and then reaches the Atlantic Ocean. Along this main line, they arrived at the place where Europeans live today and settled there. The southern Semites also had a similar migration route, from Babylonia in the east across Phoenicia and Hebrew to Chaldea and the western Mediterranean, where the Phoenicians settled.

Tracing back to the ancient history of the world, we can see that after the Semite migration line originating from the southern grassland and the ancient Indo-European line originating from the northern grassland, a protracted struggle broke out between the two. In the vast region between Asia and the Atlantic, these two brave nations are like two swordsmen, maintaining hostility in the Mediterranean. Rome and Carthage fought on the left side of the Semite migration line, Persia and Chaldea fought on the right, and eventually Rome and Persia won.

In the end, the descendants of the ancient Indo-European people won, conquered the central and flanking regions, and became the absolute rulers of the Mediterranean world in the Greek and Roman times. After the victory of the Semites, there was a prolonged tug-of-war between members of the Indo-European family, in order to compete for domination. The rule gradually shifted from the eastern end of the northern line to the western end, from Persians to Greeks, and finally to Romans.

Now, let's go back to the period before the Indo-European people left the northern grasslands. So far, researchers have not been able to determine the exact location where the original Indo-European nomads lived. The evidence suggests that the ancestors of the Indo-European people may have lived in the vast grasslands of the eastern and northeastern Black Sea. Initially, they were a people who spoke a common language, the language used by modern European civilized inhabitants, including English, which evolved on the basis of this language.

Before migration, the ancient Indo-European peoples were still in the Stone Age. Although copper had already appeared at that time, they had not yet learned how to smelt it. We infer from this that it was not until about 2500 B.C. that they dispersed and moved around. They are divided into many tribes, which live on water and grass and live on cattle and sheep. At that time, they invented wheels, domesticated horses, and owned cattle, sheep and other livestock, mainly horses. It was not until the Hammurabi era that horses were known to exist in other regions, including the civilized peoples of the East. These early Indo-European people not only used horses as mounts, but also used them to pull bicycles.

During the migration, some tribes settled down and began to grow grain, mainly barley. When they were plowing, they put yokes on bulls and pulled ploughs with them. They had no written language, and the size of their social units was very small, but throughout the ancient world, they were still a highly gifted and imaginative people.

With the continuous migration and dispersal, the relationship between tribes and tribes gradually decreases, and the geographical differences between language and customs are increasing day by day. If we compare the differences between English and American from the same language, we can easily understand why the differences between tribes from the same race are so great. Initially, if the two tribes of Indo-European language family met, they could understand each other. However, as the linguistic differences between the two tribes increased, it was difficult to understand each other's expressions when the two tribes met again. Over time, their common memory of their ancestors became blurred. It was not until modern times

that researchers rediscovered their kinship. It was in this process that modern European languages developed.

Primitive Indo-European languages were formed about 4500 B.C. Since about 3500 BC, the thriving Indo-European people began to split into tribes and migrate abroad. The conquerors brought their families, customs and weapons to unfamiliar places, as well as their languages. The conquered nation is forced to accept the language and customs of the conqueror. Most of the time, the two languages interact and mix with each other to some extent. As a result, after migration and settlement, the language of each tribe began to change greatly, and with the passage of time, it became more and more distant from the dialects of other relatives until it became a language far from each other. Of course, although these languages have embarked on different paths of development, because of their common origins, there are still great similarities among the homologous languages. The comparative study of these similarities leads to the study of Indo-European etymology. It has covered hundreds of languages, many of which are still very important languages in the modern world, such as English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Hindi, Swedish and Irish.

In the second millennium B.C., Indo-Europeans seized many parts of Eurasia by force during their migration, and their languages were thus divided into different ancient languages, which later developed into some sub-languages. Later scholars called the language system of these languages the Indo-European Language Family, while the various branches of the Indo-European Language Family were called various language families, such as Indian, Greek, Germanic, Iranian and Slavic, as follows:

1) The Aryans invaded and conquered the ancient Indians, and their descendants established the classical civilization of India. The Aryan language eventually developed into Sanskrit and passed down through various religious classics, becoming an important ancient language for the study of common Indo-European languages. Sanskrit later developed modern languages such as Hindi and Bengali. So there are also Hindi speakers of Indo-European languages.

2) Achaeans and Dorians invaded Greece, and their descendants established Greek classical civilization. Its language eventually developed into ancient Greek and became the carrier of brilliant and profound ancient Greek culture, which also profoundly influenced the languages of the descendants of Europe. So there are also Greek families of Indo-European languages.

3) The Italians invaded the Apennines Peninsula, and one of them established the famous Roman civilization. The latter language eventually developed into Latin and became the carrier of ancient Roman civilization. After the collapse of the Roman Empire, Latin split into various dialects, and later derived from French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian and so on. These languages are collectively referred to as Roman because they are derived from Latin. So there are also the Italian families of the Indo-European language family.

4) Old Germanic people migrated to Central and Nordic Europe, and their

language eventually developed into Old Germanic. When the Germanic nation grew stronger, it split into three branches: the east, the West and the north. The West Branch derived from English, German and Dutch, while the North Branch derived from Swedish, Norwegian, Danish and Icelandic. These languages are collectively called Germanic because they originated from ancient Germanic. So there are also Germanic families of Indo-European languages.

5) Persians invaded the Iranian Plateau and established ancient Persian civilization. Its language eventually developed into ancient Persian, which evolved into modern Persian, the official language of Iran. So there are also Iranian families of Indo-European languages.

6) Celtic migrated to Central Europe, and their language eventually developed into ancient Celtic. The latter derives from today's Welsh and Scottish Gaelic languages. So there are also Celtic families of Indo-European languages.

7) Slavs migrated to the eastern part of the European continent, and their language eventually developed into Slavic. The latter derives from today's Russian, Polish, Bulgarian, Ukrainian and other languages. So there are also Slavic families of Indo-European languages.

After the collapse of the Western Roman Empire, the Germanic tribes stationed on the eastern and northern frontiers of the Empire began their great migration and established numerous kingdoms in the former territory of the Roman Empire. The invaders and the local inhabitants merged culturally and linguistically, so in areas close to the center of the Roman Empire where Roman civilization was deeper, the barbarian language succumbed to the advanced Latin language, thus developing the Roman language families, thus having later French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian and so on. Latin was subordinate to the language of barbarian rulers in the borders of the Roman Empire and the areas under the control of the Roman Empire, so there were Germanic languages, such as English, German and Dutch. Some of the Germanic peoples in Nordic Europe grew up in Scandinavia Peninsula and gradually developed into various independent kingdoms. As a result, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Iceland and other countries came to use languages derived from Germanic.

When the Germanic barbarians on the eastern border of the Empire migrated to the territory of the Empire, the Slavs who originally lived in the eastern part of the Germanic Empire quickly came to fill the vacancies left by the eastern border. Thereafter, the Slavs began to grow and split into many tribes. Their languages also derive from today's Russian, Ukrainian, Czech, Slovak, Polish, Bulgarian and so on. These languages also influenced other civilizations, and many words were borrowed to.

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