

LING-UA 1 *Language*
Language Change, FRH 8

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Logistics

- ▶ **Exam 2:** Well done!
- ▶ **Random studying advice**
 - ▶ More memorization for Exam 3, less problem-solving
 - ▶ Active recall, spaced repetition
e.g.: flashcards, Anki

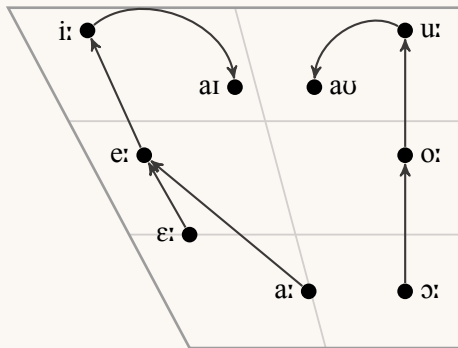
Questions from Exam/Lecture?

Language Change

- ▶ Languages change over time
- ▶ **How?**
 - ▶ Phonetics/Phonology (sound changes)
 - ▶ Morphology (case paradigm creation/leveling)
 - ▶ Syntax (word order changes)
 - ▶ Semantics (meaning change)
 - ▶ Lexicon (word changes)
- ▶ *Generally*, a regular process

Sound Changes (GVS)

Great Vowel Shift (English, c. 1400–1600)



Sound Changes (GVS)

- ▶ 'meet' [me:t] → [mi:t]
- ▶ 'name' [nam:ə] → [ne:m]
- ▶ 'meat' [mɛ:t] → [mi:t]
- ▶ 'bite' [bi:tə] → [baɪt]
- ▶ 'stone' [stɔ:nə] → [sto:n]
- ▶ 'moon' [mo:n] → [mu:n]
- ▶ 'house' [hu:sə] → [haus]

Morphology Changes (Greek Cases)

	Ancient Greek	Modern Greek
NOM	ho	o
ACC	tón	ton
GEN	tû:	tu
DAT	tô:î	—

Syntax Changes

Consider these lines from Shakespeare:

(1) a. He loves not you.

b. He **does** not love you.

[Lysander, MSND III.ii]

(2) a. Wrong I mine enemies?

b. **Do** I wrong my enemies?

[Brutus, JC IV.ii]

(3) a. Knows he not thy voice?

b. **Does** he not know your voice?

[First Lord, AWTEW IV.i]

- ▶ No *do*-support
- ▶ Inverted order of negation and lexical verb
- ▶ Inverted order of lexical verb and negation in Qs

Semantic Changes

*[H]e had never in his life witnessed such behaviour in a person of rank—such affability and **condescension**, as he had himself experienced from Lady Catherine.* [Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*]

*it's **giving** ...*

[TikTok]

Lexical Changes

- ▶ Loans/borrowings may coin new words or displace existing ones:
 - ▶ **Arabic:** admiral, albatross, alcohol, algebra, average, Betelgeuse
 - ▶ **Etruscan:** autumn (?) person, people (?)
- ▶ Less 'regular' than, e.g., sound change, but usually follows general patterns
 - ▶ Motivated by domains of use (inventions, skills, etc)
 - ▶ Often has social/identity components (Norman stratum in law/high cuisine)

Language Change

- ▶ Languages change over time
- ▶ **Why?**
 - ▶ “Imperfect” transmission/acquisition across generations
 - ▶ Innovation
 - ▶ Language contact
 - ▶ Population changes