

A Note on Notation

 <https://doi.org/10.1075/cilt.191.note>

Pages xiv–xv of

Language History: An introduction

Andrew L. Sihler

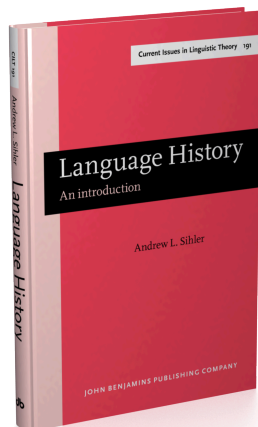
[**Current Issues in Linguistic Theory**, 191]

2000. xvi, 298 pp.

© John Benjamins Publishing Company

This electronic file may not be altered in any way. For any reuse of this material written permission should be obtained from the publishers or through the Copyright Clearance Center (for USA: www.copyright.com).

For further information, please contact rights@benjamins.nl or consult our website at benjamins.com/rights



A NOTE ON NOTATION

For the values of phonetic symbols and definitions of phonetic terms see the Appendix on phonetics (p. 209) and the charts on pp. 230 ff.

All forms cited or mentioned (rather than used) are printed in *italics*. Glosses or translations are presented between 'single quotes'.

For emphasis, words in running text are printed in SMALL CAPS.

Square brackets [] enclose phonetic symbols, virgules / / enclose phonemic transcriptions, thus: NE *span* /spæn/ [sp=æ̃n].

A few times, the standard notation < > is used to enclose letters qua letters, as <s> = 'the letter s', though usually italics serve the same purpose.

The symbol > means 'becomes, gives'; < means 'comes from'.

An asterisk (*) marks forms unattested as such, usually because they are reconstructed. For example: PIE **deḱmt* 'ten' > PGmc **tehun* > OE *tīen* 'ten', where both the Proto-Indo-European and Proto-Germanic forms are hypothetical.

If the form is unattested because it is thought never to have existed, it is marked thus: NE **wenten*.

Modern languages are cited in standard native orthography, occasionally with phonetic or phonemic notes.

Latin forms are cited in normalized native orthography, with the addition of indications of vowel length by macrons, *ā ē* and so on.

Greek is transliterated from normalized native orthography into Latin characters following the usual conventions (*ϕ θ χ* = *ph th kh*, *ξ ψ* = *ks ps*, *ᾱ ῆ ὠῦ* = *ā ē ōū*, *ᾱ ῆ ὠῦ* = *ha, hē, hu*, and so on).

Gothic: *e o* are long vowels corresponding to short *ai, au*; and *ei* is a high front long vowel corresponding to short *i* (see 131 for further discussion of Gothic vowels). *þ* is a voiceless apical slit fricative, and *h* is a consonant in all positions.

Old English: forms are usually cited in a normalized West Saxon orthography. Fricatives (*f þ s*) are voiced between vowels and voiceless elsewhere; *sc* /ʃ/ is always voiceless, and *h* is pronounced in all positions (probably as [χ] in some of them, as still in present-day Scots).

The letter *c* stands for /k/ but occasionally for /č/ or possibly /k̟/, in which case it will be spelled *ċ*, as in *ċinn* ‘chin’. The letter *g* has the value /y/ before a front vowel: *giest* /yiest/ ‘guest’, *geoc* /yok/ ‘yoke’. After a front vowel it has the value [ɣ]; between back vowels, [ɣ]: OE *dæg* [dæɣ] ‘day’, *dagas* nom.pl. [dayaʃ]. The letter *ȳ* stands for a high front rounded vowel: *cynn* /kūnn/ ‘kinsman’. Long vowels are indicated with an acute accent: *á* = /ā/.

Indic (Vedic and Sanskrit) forms are cited according to a widely-used system of transliteration. Retroflex (apico-domal) consonants are rendered *ṭ ṭh ḍ ḍh ṇ ṣ*. Stop symbols with a following *h* (e.g. *th dh bh*) are phonemes, distinguished from plain stops by an aspirated release. (The sounds written *gh ḍh dh bh* and *h* are usually called *voiced aspirated* but are more likely to have been *murmured*.) The letters *c j* represent palatal stops; *ś* is a palatal fricative. The short vowels of Indic are *a i u*; the letters *e o* are officially diphthongs, reflecting PinIr. **ai* **au*, but from an early time were phonetically [e· o·]. Other long vowels are written with macrons. The symbol *ṛ* represents a syllabic liquid.

Old Irish orthography is complicated and all cited forms will be accompanied by phonemic transcriptions. Long vowels are indicated by an acute accent.

In transcription, Irish consonants are indicated as follows. Palatalized consonants are indicated by a following ^y. Plain consonants are written in Latin letters, lenited consonants are indicated by letters from the Greek alphabet, as follows:

plain: /t k b d g m n r l/
lenited: /θ χ β δ γ μ ν ρ λ/

Examples: *fer* nom.sg. ‘man’ /fep/; *fir* gen.sg. /fip^y/; *siur* ‘sister’ /s^yiup/; *én* ‘bird’ /ēn/; *cóic* ‘five’ /kōg^y/; *in tain* ‘when’ /intav^y/; *teng(a)e* ‘tongue’ /t^yenɟe/.