

## The history and development of German language

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**Аннотация:** Статья представляет собой всестороннее исследование истории и эволюции немецкого языка, начиная с его ранних корней в верхненемецком сдвиге согласных до сложностей средневерхненемецкого языка и становления современного немецкого языка. Он углубляется в лингвистические сдвиги, периоды и появление стандартизированных письменных форм. Автор подчеркивает разнообразные влияния на немецкий язык: от разделений Священной Римской империи до перевода Библии Лютера в ранний нововверхненемецкий период. Дискуссия распространяется на диалекты, орфографические правила и проблемы упрощения языка в наше время. Хотя упоминается призыв Марка Твена к радикальному упрощению, представлены мнения о предполагаемом ухудшении немецкого языка, особенно в онлайн-общении. В заключении подчеркивается динамичный характер языковой эволюции, отвергаются алармистские взгляды и подчеркивается важность немецкого языка в мировом бизнесе, учитывая экономическое значение Германии.

**Ключевые слова:** Немецкий язык, Старый германский, Средний германский, Современный германский, Раннее Средневековье, Старо-высоконемецкий, Средние века, Раннее новое высокогерманское, Мартин Лютер, Братья Гримм

**Annotatsiya:** Maqolada nemis tilining tarixi va evolyutsiyasi har tomonlama o'rganilib, uning dastlabki ildizlari yuqori nemischa undoshlarning o'zgarishidan boshlab o'rta oliy nemis tilining murakkabliklari va zamonaviy nemis tilining o'rnatilishiga qadar davom etadi. U lingvistik siljishlar, davrlar va standartlashtirilgan yozma shakllarning paydo bo'lishini o'rganadi. Muallif nemis tiliga Muqaddas Rim imperiyasining bo'linishidan tortib, erta yangi oliy nemis davridagi Lyuterning Injil tarjimasigacha bo'lgan turli xil ta'sirlarni

ta'kidlaydi. Munozara dialektlarga, orfografik qoidalarga va hozirgi zamonda tilni soddalashtirishga oid tashvishlarga to'g'ri keladi. Mark Tvenning tubdan soddalashtirishga chaqirig'i tilga olingan bo'lsa-da, nemis tilining yomonlashuvi, xususan, onlayn muloqotda bo'lganligi haqidagi fikrlar keltirilgan. Xulosa til evolyutsiyasining dinamik xususiyatini ta'kidlaydi, xavotirli qarashlarni rad etadi va Germaniyaning iqtisodiy ahamiyatini hisobga olgan holda nemis tilining global biznesdagi ahamiyatini ta'kidlaydi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** Nemis tili, Qadimgi olmoncha, O'rtaolmoncha, Modernolmoncha, Oldingi O'rtaasrlar, Staraya yuksak nemetskiy, O'rtaasrlar, Yangi yuksak olmoncha, Martin Lyuter, Grimm Akalar

**Annotation:** The article provides a comprehensive exploration of the history and evolution of the German language, spanning from its early roots in the High German consonant shift to the complexities of Middle High German and the establishment of Modern German. It delves into linguistic shifts, periods, and the emergence of standardized written forms. The author highlights the diverse influences on German, from the Holy Roman Empire's divisions to Luther's Bible translation during the Early New High German period. The discussion extends to dialects, orthographic rules, and concerns about language simplification in contemporary times. While Mark Twain's call for radical simplification is mentioned, and opinions on the perceived deterioration of German, particularly in online communication, are presented. The conclusion underscores the dynamic nature of language evolution, rejecting alarmist views and emphasizing the importance of German in global business, given Germany's economic significance.

**Key words:** German language, Old German, Middle German, Modern German, Early Middle Ages, Old High German, Middle Ages. Early New High German, Martin Luther, Brothers Grimm Languages possess origins(history), development, and... In our daily life, we have a social rule that we all need language. Language is a structured system of communication used by humans. Languages can be based on speech and gesture, sign, or writing. The structure

of language is its grammar and the free components are its vocabulary. Many languages, including the most widely spoken ones, have writing systems that enable sounds or signs to be recorded for later reactivation. Human language is unique among the known systems of animal communication in that it is not dependent on a single mode of transmission is highly variable between cultures and across time, and affords a much wider range of expression than other systems.

It is clear from obvious and reliable facts that German is one of the largest groups of Indo-Germanic languages. It is used as the official language of Germany, Austria and Liechtenstein, and is a co-official language in Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the European Union.. The history of the language begins in the Early Middle Ages with the High German consonant shift. During the migration period Old High German dialects were separated from Old Saxon.

The earliest testimonies of Old High German are from scattered Elder Futhark inscriptions, from the 6th century AD; and the oldest coherent texts (the Hildebrandslied, the Muspilli and the Merseburg Incantations) date back to the 9th century. During a period of several hundred years Germany was divided into many different states. Within the Holy Roman Empire the Germanic speaking area was divided into Alemannic, Bavarian, Frankish, Saxon and Frisian. The writers of that time tried to write in a way that could be understood by the people of the largest possible area. It was an important road to a unification of the language. There are three main periods in the history of the German language:

1. Old German (c. 750 – c. 1050);
2. Middle German (c.1050 – c.1500);
3. Modern German (c.1500 to the present).

In the first period there was no standard language. The formation of the language system was influenced by the High German consonant shift. The result of this sound change is the peculiar consonant system of German, which remains

different from all other West Germanic languages. But it must be admitted, that grammatical system of Old High German has much in common with Old English, Old Dutch and Old Saxon. By the mid-11th century there was a simplification of the inflectional grammar of German, caused by the reduction of vowels in unstressed syllables. That's why 1050 is considered to be the start of the Middle High German period.

In the middle period a relatively uniform written language developed in government, but Middle High German had no standardized spelling. Different combination of certain dialects of Middle High German replaced the Latin that had been widely used in official writings of that time. Texts were written in the Latin alphabet, in Gothic minuscules.

The main features were:

1. The absence of the marking of vowel length;
2. The absence of the marking of umlauted vowels;
3. The usage of the semi-vowels /j/ and /w/ in the original texts.

The Middle Saxon language was spoken from about 1100 to 1500, splitting into West Low Saxon and East Low Saxon. The neighbor languages were Middle Dutch in the West and Middle High German in the South, later substituted by Early New High German.

The period of Early New High German started with the Martin Luther's translation of the Bible (the New Testament in 1522 and the Old Testament, completed in 1534). This work was based on already developed language, which was the most widely understood at this time.

Copies of the Bible had a long list for each region, where unknown words were translated into the regional dialect. Roman Catholics tried to create their own Catholic standard, which differed from 'Protestant German' only in some minor details. A widely accepted standard was created in the middle of the 18th century; it was the end of Early New High German.

Until about 1800, standard German was almost solely a written language. During the 18th century a number of outstanding writers gave modern standard German

its modern form – the language of church and state, education and literature. The written standard influenced a corresponding norm for spoken High German, used in education, theater, and broadcasting. There are also many German dialects that differ substantially from standard German, not only in pronunciation but also in grammar. The first dictionary of the Brothers Grimm remains the most comprehensive guide to the lexicon of the German language. It was issued in 16 parts between 1852 and 1860.

Grammatical and orthographic rules first appeared in the Duden Handbook in 1880. Later, in 1901, this was declared the standard definition of the German language. Standard German orthography went unrevised until 1998, when the German spelling reform of 1996 was officially promulgated by governmental representatives of Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland.

According to Mark Twain, in his 1880 essay *The Awful German Language*, he called for radically simplifying the German language. It's a process that is well underway today — and unfortunately so, in the opinion of many Germans. As early as 2008, two-thirds of Germans believed that their language was deteriorating quickly. Online communication, insufficient reading, Anglicisms and youth slang were some of the reasons they named as contributing to this decline.

In 2012, then chairman of the Council for German Orthography, Hans Zehetmair, said language decay was primarily occurring among younger generations that generally use simple vocabulary in text messages and tweets. "German is being reduced to a 'recycling language' in new media. It is being increasingly shortened and simplified and rehashed without any creativity."

According to Andrea-Eva Ewels, the director of the Association for the German Language, one of the Germany's most important government-sponsored language institutions, the reality isn't nearly that dire: "No, our language is not disappearing. It's just consistently changing, in part because the world is changing more rapidly and extensively than ever before," she told DW. "Today, for one, we no longer speak like we did in the 6th century or the Middle Ages."

One of the most essential is the future of the language whether it can be or not worthy communicating. Gone are the days when businesses and corporations were only limited to their country of origin. Today's world has shrunk to a global village—weaving together different nationalities, cultures, and countries and globalization have been the biggest tool in taking business operations across continents. Investors in England are funding startups in the Netherlands, who work with contractors in Japan and sell to customers in Portugal and Spain. This is just one example of the extent to which companies have gone global. And one of the key facilitators in this process is—you guessed it right, language. Languages such as English, Mandarin, and Russian have dominated the global landscape for as long as we can remember but these might not be the only important languages to see the light of the next century with the surfacing of other languages on the global front.

Although learning the German language may seem like a hard task to the learners of this language, for the rest of the business community, the German language means only one thing—money. Germany is Europe's largest economy and the 5th largest in the world as 80 million Germans generate an astonishingly high global GDP of 4.5%—enough to prove the point that German is the most useful language for future businesses. Surely, with these estimates on the horizon, companies would be ignorant if they do not invest in learning and commercializing in German.

In conclusion it is obvious that despite the worldwide roots of this language it should have bright future so that it can exist as future language of nations and institutions. To own prosperous life, German need to be flexible but original with it's rich history and development.

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