

Subgrouping Indo-European: A fresh perspective

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In terms of linguistic subgrouping the Indo-European languages are an interesting phenomenon seen from two different perspectives. On the one hand, the subgroups of individual branches, such as Germanic and Italic are generally more or less firmly established. On the other hand, however, top-level grouping is a contested subject. How Proto-Indo-European broke up and what the forerunners of daughter branches/languages looked like is considerably less clear. Consequently, Indo-European presents an excellent testing ground for new methodology in linguistic subgrouping.

This paper aims at comparing the implications the Automated Similarity Judgment Program has for subgrouping Indo-European to the standard models which have been proposed using traditional methodology, in particular the Comparative Method.