The Indo-European Language Family

Modern languages like English, Spanish, Russian and Hindi as well as ancient languages like Greek, Latin and Sanskrit all belong to the Indo-European language family, which means that they all descend from a common ancestor. But how, more precisely, are the Indo-European languages related to each other? This book brings together pioneering research from a team of international scholars to address this fundamental question. It provides an introduction to linguistic subgrouping and offers comprehensive, systematic and up-to-date analyses of the ten main branches of the Indo-European language family: Anatolian, Tocharian, Italic, Celtic, Germanic, Greek, Armenian, Albanian, Indo-Iranian and Balto-Slavic. By highlighting that these branches are saliently different from each other, yet at the same time display striking similarities, the book investigates the early diversification of the Indo-European language family, spoken today by half the world’s population. This title is also available as open access on Cambridge Core.

THOMAS OLANDER is Associate Professor in the Department of Nordic Studies and Linguistics at the University of Copenhagen. He is the author of Balto-Slavic Accentual Mobility (2009) and Proto-Slavic Inflectional Morphology (2015) and has edited several books on Indo-European linguistics and the linguistics–archaeology interface.
University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University’s mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108499798
DOI: 10.1017/9781108758666

© Cambridge University Press 2022

This work is in copyright. It is subject to statutory exceptions and to the provisions of
relevant licensing agreements; with the exception of the Creative Commons version the
link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part of this work may take place
without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

An online version of this work is published at doi.org/10.1017/9781108758666 under
a Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0 which permits re-use,
distribution and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing
appropriate credit to the original work is given. You may not distribute derivative works
without permission. To view a copy of this license, visit https://creativecommons.org
/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0

All versions of this work may contain content reproduced under license from third
parties. Permission to reproduce this third-party content must be obtained from these
third-parties directly. When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI
10.1017/9781108758666

First published 2022

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Title: The Indo-European language family : a phylogenetic perspective / edited by
Thomas Olander.
Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University
Press, 2023. | This book has grown out of a workshop held in Copenhagen in February
2017, The Indo-European Family Tree. | Includes bibliographical references and index.
9781108731522 (paperback) | ISBN 9781108758666 (ebook)
Subjects: LCSH: Indo-European languages. | BISAC: FOREIGN LANGUAGE
STUDY / Ancient Languages (see also Latin) | LCGFT: Essays.
LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2022032515


Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of
URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication
and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain,
accurate or appropriate.