



EUROPEAN DAY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

26 September, 2009

Celebrating linguistic diversity, plurilingualism, pluriculturalism,
lifelong language learning
at the

2nd Peiramatiko

Elementary School of Thessaloniki, ~~Central Macedonia,~~
Greece

Class: 6th Grade

Teacher:

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EFL teacher

Supervisor:

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EFL School Advisor



1) We began by talking about the language families of the World

Languages of the World:

The most widely spoken language group is **Indo-European**, a diverse group which besides English and most other European languages includes Persian, Hindi and Urdu.

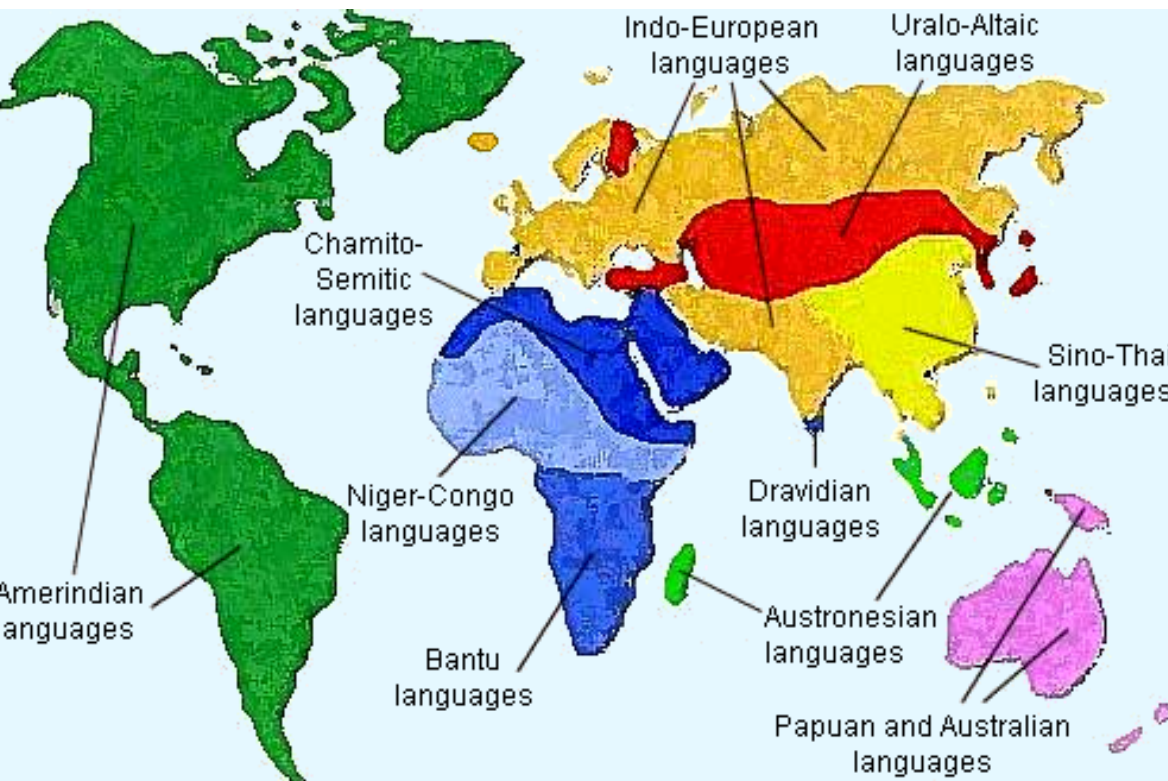
Other widely spoken language families are:

Afro-Asiatic, which includes Arabic;

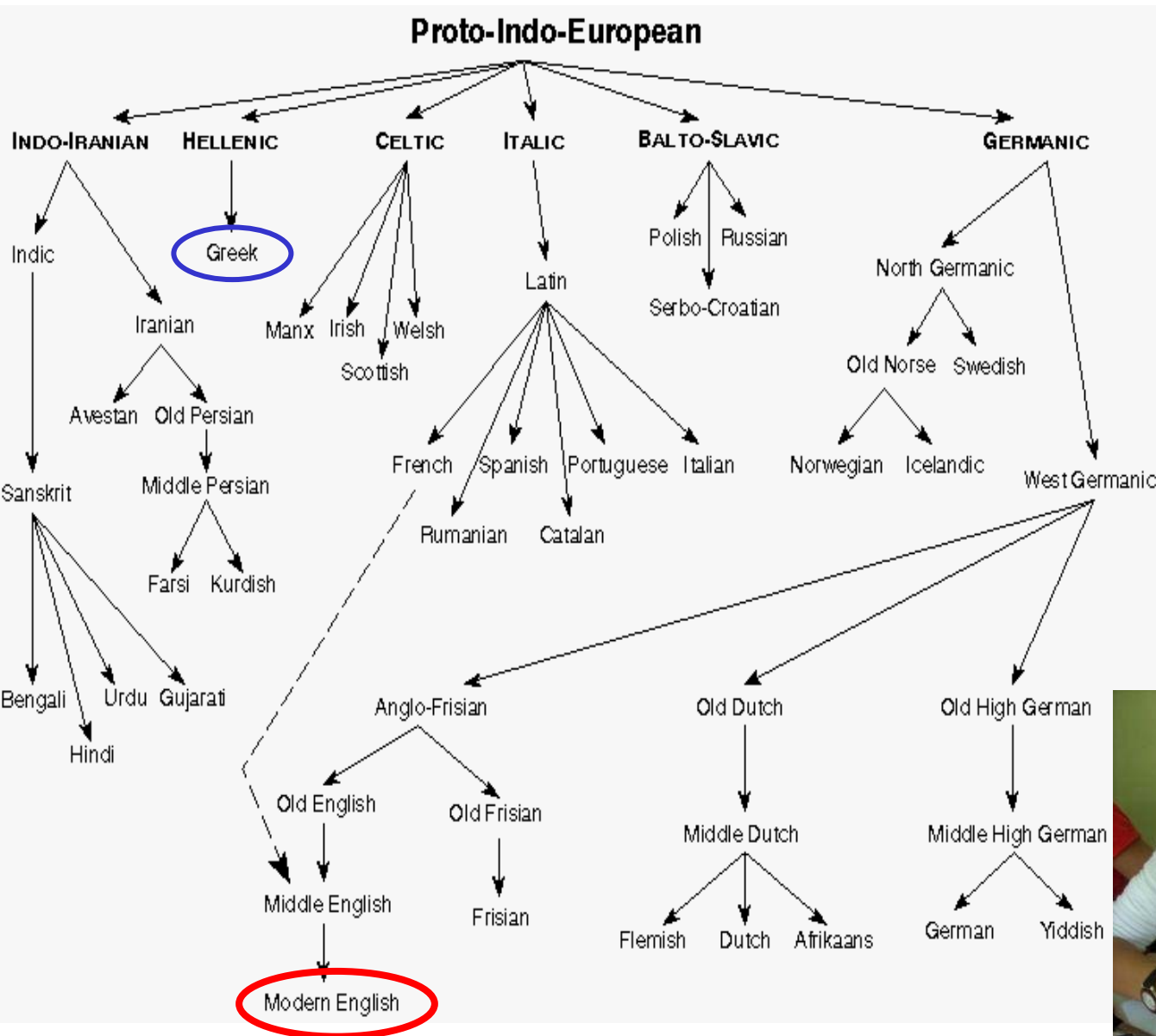
Niger-Congo, languages of sub-saharan Africa;

Altaic, which includes Turkish and other Turkic languages spoken in Central Asia.

Chinese is the most spoken language in the world, its strength comes (so far) from the size and growth of its domestic population rather than from its spread around the world.



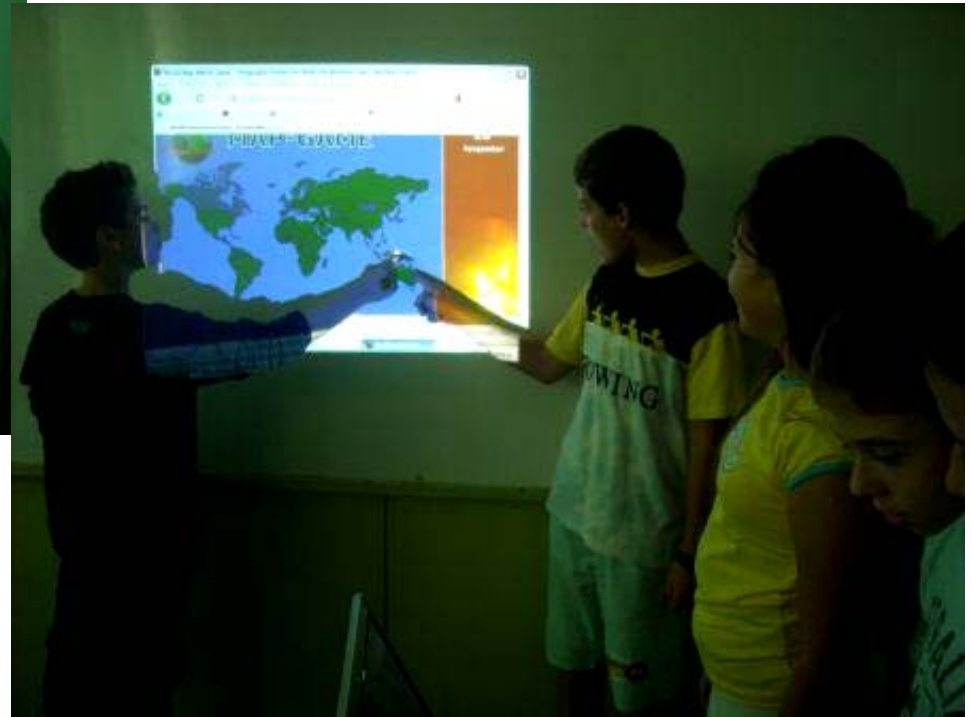
2) We talked about the European languages and their connections to each other



We particularly discussed the origins and development of **English**, which is our target language in our FL classes and of course, we talked about our mother tongue, **Greek**, which seems to be pretty unique.



3) We played a game on the internet, trying to locate countries on a world map.



We found the game at <http://www.kidsgeo.com/geography-games/world-map-game.php>

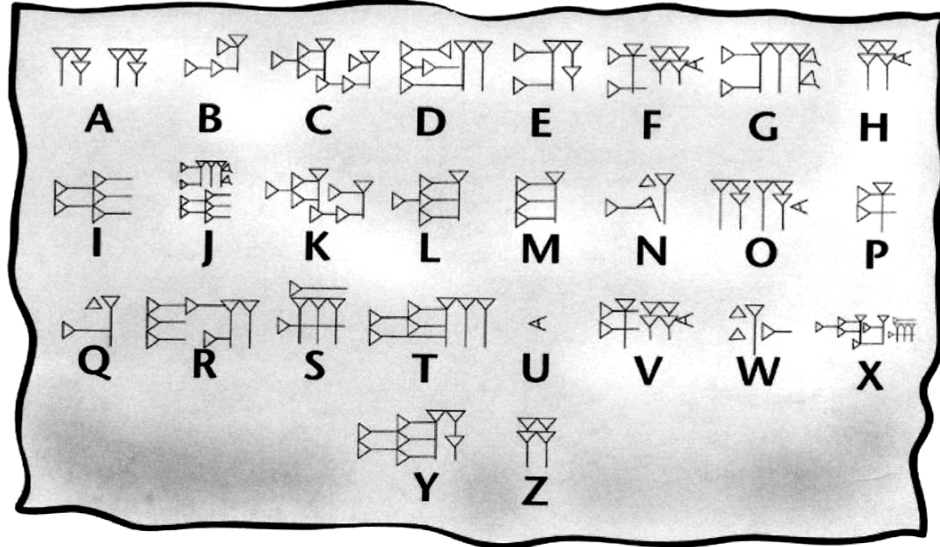
and it was really great fun.

4) And because one can never have enough fun, we decided to go further, both geographically and chronologically, and look into the early writing of human civilization

Beginning of Writing

West Asia is probably the first place where people figured out how to write, though Egyptian people began writing very soon afterwards. People seem to have begun to write in Mesopotamia about 3000 BC, during the time of the Sumerians. The Sumerians, and their successors down to about 1000 BC, wrote in a kind of signs called cuneiform (pronounced koo-NEIGH-uh-form), and each sign stands for a syllable of a word (consonant plus vowel).

The cuneiform alphabet



Some words in cuneiform writing:
































Write your name in Sumerian cuneiform (from left to right):

Can you write a message to the king or to a friend?

Egyptian Hieroglyphs or hieroglyphics

Hieroglyphs means "sacred-drawings" in Greek, and that's pretty much what hieroglyphs are. Hieroglyphs are basically drawings of familiar objects, simplified to make them easier to draw. The Egyptians used them to write with from the beginning of anybody being able to write, around 3000 BC, down to about 300 AD. Between about 3000 BC and 300 BC, the Egyptians used hieroglyphics for all different kinds of writing. But after the Greeks conquered Egypt under Alexander the Great, people began to use the Greek alphabet to write the Egyptian language. Then hieroglyphs were only used for religious things (*ta hiera* in Greek), things that were too holy for the ordinary Greek alphabet, which is why they are called "sacred-drawings."

The hieroglyphics alphabet

A		H		N		U	
B		I		O		V	
C	 or 	J		P		W	
D		K		Q		X	 
E	 or  or 	L		R		Y	 or 
F		M		S		Z	
G		T		SH			

Can you read this message? (Start from right to left).



It's Ancient Egypt

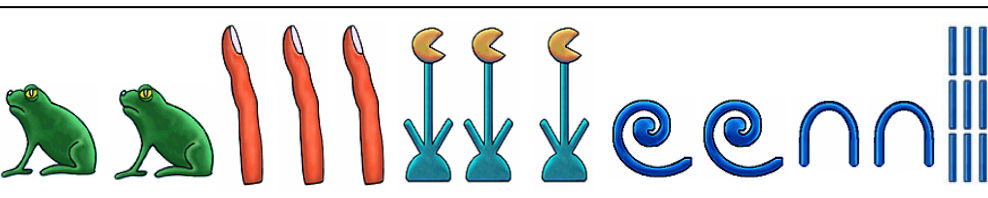
Can you write your name or a short message?

5) And since we are very clever we also did some Maths in ancient Egyptian



This number is 115.639

Can you figure out how much the following number is?



Some more words in ancient Egyptian spelling



Examples of Hieroglyphics			
		grain	
	king		boat, ship navigation
	eat, drink speak, think, feel		air, wind, sail
	mummy, likeness, shape		in, from, as with (of instrument)
	move backwards		goddess, queen
	snake, worm		enemy, death
			vine, fruit, garden
			fire, heat, cook
			live, life
			calf
			envelop, embrace

6) We also went to <http://www.free-chinese-names.com> and wrote our names in Chinese

(We, the Greeks, when we do not understand something say: “It’s all Chinese to me!”
What do the Chinese say, we wonder?)

Here is our teacher’s name in Chinese.
In Greek it means “wisdom”



友

This is the word “friendship” in Chinese, depicting so well the closeness of friends.

In Greek, “friendship” is called “φιλία” (phiLiA), deriving from the ancient Greek verb “φιλώ” (phiLO = I am a friend of), which in modern Greek means “to kiss”.

And the message of this word, so well given in both languages, is our wish and message to all the people of the world. And that is why we, also, tried to learn “I love you” in a number of languages.

Some pictures of us,
working in the classroom,
and of the team work we
produced.



Language families 

This is our own Language family



Languages of the world

There are 14 language families in the world. Indo-European, Afro-Asiatic, Niger-Congo, Altaic, Uralic, Sino-Tibetan, Austronesian, Dravidian, Kartvelian, and others.

The most widely spoken language group is Indo-European. A major group which includes English and most other European languages includes Russian, Hindi, and Urdu.

Alex found the word “peace”
in different European
languages and we prepared
this poster.

In Greek it is “Ειρήνη”
(pronounced /iRini/)



A good site for translating words and phrases in a
lot of languages is:
<http://www.athropolis.com/translate.htm>

Our names in Chinese!



凱特裏娜
Katerina

多明尼克

Dominique

Ανδρέας:
安德烈

教師
Alex

克裏斯蒂娜
Cristina

阿納斯塔西婭
Anastasia

比利

Billy

格蕾斯

Grace

喬伊

Joy

伊麗莎白
Elisabeth

瑪莉亞

Maria

Our names in Mesopotamian cuneiform

NAFSIKA

The name of the goddess Inanna

ALEX

EIPHLH

Billy

Christina

Xpianos

204

XEUHA

MYKSTI

QANUS
CHANA

D M U A





Here we are, watching a short video presenting “I love you”, in different languages.

In Greek it is «Σ’ αγαπώ»
(pronounced /sagarO/)

«Ένα καλύτερο αύριο για όλους»

“A better tomorrow for all”

This is how we epitomized all our wishes and aspirations for Greece, Europe and the whole world.



«Ένα καλύτερο αύριο για όλους»