**Ch. 5 Languages**

**Key Issue Where Did English and Related Languages Originate and Diffuse?**

**Rubenstein, p.154-163**

1. Nearly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the world’s population speaks a language belonging to the Indo-European language family.

**I. DISTRIBUTION OF INDO-EUROPEAN BRANCHES**

1. Of the eight branches of the Indo-European Family, four are widely spoken:
2. a. Make and label a diagram illustrating the language groups and individual languages of the Germanic Branch.

b. Before 1000 CE, the principal language spoken throughout Scandinavia was Old Norse. How/why did four separate languages develop from Old Norse?

4. a. List the five most widely spoken Romance languages.

b. Why did these develop separately?

1. a. Which branch of the Indo-European family has the most speakers?

b. Make and label a diagram illustrating key language groups and individual languages in this branch. Additionally, take notes on key facts including where it is spoken and what alphabet is used.

c. Other important notes regarding languages in India:

1. a. Languages in the Balto-Slavic Branch are found primarily in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

b. The four groups in the Balto-Slavic Branch are:

c. The most widely spoken language in this branch is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, from the

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ group.

d. Remember this—this is a common act on the part of many governments, not just Russia. Why did

the Soviet Union force native speakers of other languages to speak in Russian?

e. Why did people in Eastern European countries learn Russian as a second language?

f. Identify common languages in the West Slavic group:

g. Identify common languages in the South Slavic group. Why are these languages, which were once

very similar to each other, becoming increasingly different today?

1. What alphabet does English use?

**II. ORIGIN AND DIFFUSION OF INDO-EUROPEAN**

1. Why is it that the origin of language branches, groups, and individual languages can be documented, but language families cannot?
2. From what language did all **Romance languages** descend? Why Are they called “Romance” languages?
3. Define **Vulgar Latin**:
4. Outline the origin and diffusion of Romance Languages from ancient times thru the 15th century.
5. What evidence suggests a common language origin for all languages in the Indo-European family?
6. What is the name of the (theoretical) common ancestral language for all languages discussed in this key issue of the chapter?

13. a. Contrast the two theories of the origin of this language in the table below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Nomadic Warrior Theory**  (Kurgan Conquest Theory)  By Marija Gimbutas | **Sedentary Farmer Theory**  (Anatolian/Agriculture Theory)  By Colin Renfrew, Russell D. Gray |
| Where?  Time frame?  Who are the Kurgans?  How did they diffuse this language? | Where?  Time frame?  Who are the Anatolians?  How did they diffuse this language? |

b. Which hypothesis appeals more to you: the “war” or the “peace” hypothesis? Why?

**III. ORIGIN AND DIFFUSION OF ENGLISH**

1. a. What three European peoples originally came together to form the English people and English

language? And, where did these people come from?

b. What two subsequent invasions added additional words to the evolving English language?

c. Although classified in Germanic branch, English actually has a higher percentage of romance

branch words. How/why?

1. How did English become so widely diffused? Give specific examples.
2. Identify each of the following:
3. **Franglais** –
4. **Spanglish** –
5. **Denglish** –

17. Good to know/remember: “Duetsch” does not refer to the Dutch/people from the Netherlands.

Rather, “Duetsch” = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**IV. GLOBAL IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH**

1. The most important language of international communication is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. a. Define a **lingua franca**:

b. Where did this term originate?

c. Identify four modern lingua francas and the countries/regions in which they are spoken:

1. Often, governments will adopt a lingua franca as an official language even though a majority of its people cannot speak it. Why?
2. a. Define **pidgin language**:

b. A pidgin language has no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. Rubenstein argues that many Americans fail to recognize the importance of learning other

languages. Why is learning other languages important?

1. a. How has the rise of the Internet impacted the dominance of English?

b. What change was made in 2009 regarding internet addresses?

1. Define **logograms** and explain how Chinese writing is different from phonetic alphabets (such as the English alphabet).

**V. OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**

1. English is the official language in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ countries. English is not the official language in the U.S., U.K., and Australia, but it is the **de facto** national language—what does this mean?