

Paper VI

The Break-up of Proto-Indo-European (Draft)

Eastward migrations:

1. Tocharian. 2a. Indic. 2b. South Iranian. 2c. North Iranian. (3. East Slavic.)

Southward migrations:

1. Anatolian. 2a. Greek. 2b. Phrygian. 2c. Armenian. 2d. Thracian. 2e. Daco-Albanian.
(3. South Slavic.)

Westward migrations:

1a. Italic. 1b. Venetic. 1c. Celtic. 2. Germanic. (3. West Slavic.)

Once again it must be emphasized that many linguistic groups may have vanished without leaving any historical record

Eastern Tribes

Iran

India

Northern Tribes

Balts

Slavs

Western Tribes

The Achaemenid Persian Empire

The Alans

(B) The Teutoni

The Indo-European language or languages are characterised by the use of noun declensions, with eight cases or less. Adjectives and articles agree with the noun in case. Verbs are inflected to show tense, in the Active and Passive Voices and in the **nna** and subjunctive moods.

Indo-Europeans used the name 'Arya', meaning 'house-owner' or 'noble'. To identify the tribes which brought these languages west to Connemara and east to Bangladesh, the records made by Greek and Roman historians, at the start of the last millennium, are the most useful. Deciphered archaeological inscriptions too supply vital but limited information.

Eastern Tribes

Tribes, on the eastern edges of the Kurgan homeland, lived in Eurasia around 3,500 BC. They belonged to the Andronovo cultures, which spread to historical Transoxania at the end of the Eneolithic era. Those who went south became Indo-Iranians, around 2,500 BC. Some 500 years after this, they proceeded further into Eastern Iran and Afghanistan.

The tribes which remained in the Kurgan homeland were nomadic Indo-Iranians, whose language and customs were tied to those of the ancient Persians and Indians. These tribes, Scythians and Samartians, were the ancestors of the developed Indo-European culture. When they migrated from the homeland, they carried their religious beliefs, mythological histories, agricultural methods, horse-breeding and fighting skills both east and west.

The Saka (the Iranian name for Scyths) entered India. There, the Vedic period lasted from 1500 to 400 BC. The language was then codified and called Sanskrit. Vulgar languages (prakit) continued to develop, nonetheless, to provide the modern Northern Indian languages.

The aboriginal, Dravidian tongues are spoken in the South of the Sub-continent.

Under pressure from Altaic Turks and Mongols, a grouping of Indo-Europeans retreated eastwards from the steppes into the Chinese Tarim Basin and Transoxania. These latter entered India as the Kushans in the first century AD.

Several related Iranian languages show the extent of the Iranian spread: Persian, Kurdish and Ossetian in the Caucasus. Well known Iranian tribes were the Iazyges and the Alans, who penetrated western Europe.

Iran

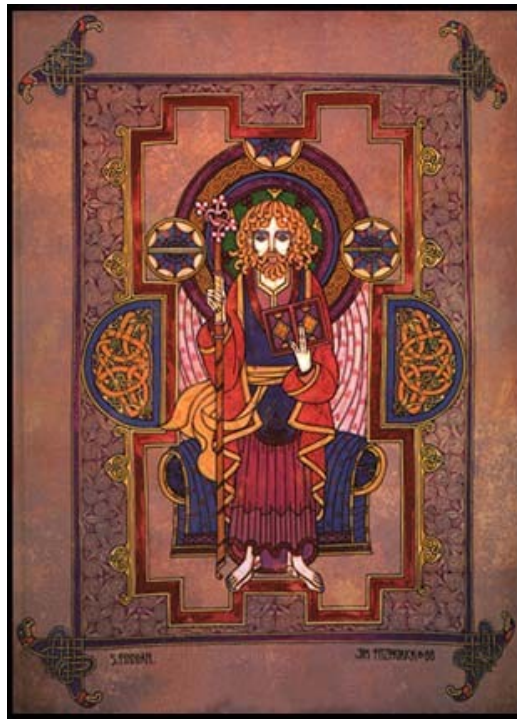
The first Indo-Iranian settlement, Iran-Vij, the location of which is shrouded in the mists of time, formed the capital of the last Indo-Iranian king. The western Proto-Iranians and the eastern Indo-Aryans spread apart probably around 1800 BC. Stories about King Yama foretell of the migrations to the Iranian Plateau and later into India. Folklore, the Rg Veda and the Avesta describe the advanced culture, which Indo-Iranians carried from the steppes.

When the Proto-Iranians (formed from elements of the nomadic Saka/Sythian tribes), settled on the Iranian Plateau, they formed three main tribes: the Medes (northwest), the Persians (south, southwest) and the Parthians (east, northeast). Earlier civilisations of the Mitanni and the Kassites were absorbed in the process.

The Iranians co-operated with the local tribes to repulse attacks from the Sumerians and Babylonians. They formed an association of local independent chieftains. The Iranians slowly evolved into a position of leadership in their new homeland. Confederations consisting of Aryan and non-Aryan tribes were forming new kingdoms, the earliest of which was Media.

Such an arrangement mirrors the formation of the historical Gaeltacht over Scotland, Ireland and the Isle of Man. By 1200BC, however, whilst exchanging blows with Elam, Babylon and Assyria, the Iranians learned to form powerful unifying kingdoms. This was something the Gael could not do (mainly for geographical reasons). The first of the great Iranian kingdoms was Media.

India



St. Finnian, 1988

Before the arrival of the Arya, the highly developed Harappan culture flourished along the Indus River in Pakistan. There were two great cities, Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro. The people spoke ancient Dravidian, but little of the scripts found have been deciphered. Excavations suggest that Harappans lived peaceful lives and did not have social classes.

Trade in gold, silver copper and turquoise was conducted with Mesopotamia, southern India, Afghanistan and Persia. Agricultural crops included wheat, barley, peas, melons and sesame. The use of cotton for cloth production was invented. Pottery in human and animal form was fashioned. The elephant was domesticated.

The Harappan civilisation went into decline around 2000 BC. From contacts with BMAC (Bactrian-Margiana Archaeological Complex) traders, Indo-Aryan clans drifted slowly into the Indus Valley. Recent evidence suggests that the Indus Valley inhabitants had largely dispersed before the nomadic Indo-Aryans arrived.

A decline in food production appears to have resulted from climatic influence on the annual swelling of the Indus. Earthen defences were overcome and topsoil erosion resulted from the ensuing flooding. The direction of the river flow became uncertain.

The Dravidian people sought refuge in the fertile northeast. As indicated in the later Vedas and in the Mahabharata, those who remained mixed with the newcomers but kept up their cultural practices – so influencing the future culture of South Asia. This essentially peaceful assumption of leadership mirrors what happened in Iran and in Ireland.

Northern Tribes

The Kurgans pushed from the Upper Dnieper, the Upper Volga and Oka rivers into Central Russia (today's Byelo-Russia and greater Russia). Here they became Proto-Slavs, with influences from the comb-marked and Pitted-ware peoples.

From the lower Dniepr, they went into Europe and to the Baltic coasts, to become the ancestors of the Balts.

In the eastern Baltic, the Globular Amphora hybrid of Funnel-Beaker and Kurgan elements gave way (after several centuries) to the Corded Ware or Battle Axe culture. This last was itself a Kurgan derivative with elements from the funnel beaker and Bell-Beaker folk. In the Upper Volga Basin, the new culture spread to sites classified as the Fat'janovo culture of Greater Russia.

Balts

The Balts were a branch of the Indo-European family which settled between the lower Vistula and the upper Daugava and Dnieper. Living in relative peace, their languages contain certain features of the original PIE.

At the start of the Mesolithic period, and at the end of the Ice Age, archaeological and archeogenetic studies put the prehistoric cradle of the Balts by the Baltic Sea, in Central Europe. They expanded eastwards to the Volga. The contiguous Slavic cradle lay in the

Danubian Krakowian sector. Following the Avar invasion of Europe, the Slavonic tribes moved to the Dnieper region (6th century) and assimilated the western Balts.

Using etymological studies of river names, Marija Gimbutas derived a proto-Baltic homeland – north of a line stretching eastwards to Warsaw, Kiev and Kursk, northwards to Moscow and westwards north of Riga. In the first millennium AD, the tribes settled between the Vistula and the Daugava. They became the ancestors both of the western - Prussians, Yotvingians, Gallindians - and eastern tribes - Semigallians, Curonians, Lithuanians and Latvians/Latgalians. These latter two have survived to the present day.

Contrary to linguistic analysis, genetics show the closest relatives of the modern Balts not to be Russians and Poles but Estonians and the Mari. This may indicate that the Balts were originally of Finno-Ugric origin.

The Balto-Slavic Battle Axe people formed a spur to the north-west. Indigenous non-Kurgans were sparse and had no great cultural impact: they were takers of cultural advances. A secondary spur, the Corded Ware culture, moved on to Germany, home of the developing Funnel Beaker people.

Slavs

The Slavic people comprise the Czechs, Poles, Slovaks in the west, Belarussians, Russins Ukrainians and Rusins in the east and Macedonians, Slovenians, Bosnians, Croats, Serbs and Montenegrans in the south.

In the earliest documents in Old Slavonic (9th century), the term ‘slověne’ is used. ‘Slovo’ means word. ‘Slověne’ would then mean the ‘people who speak’.

Indo-European groups, which remained in the Indo-European homeland after the migrations west and east, became speakers of the ‘satem’ Balto-Slavic. The two halves of this then differentiated, 5 – 6 centuries before Proto-Slavic itself split into dialects.

The genetic haplogroup R 1a (Y-DNA) has the highest frequency in Poland (60%), in Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia (50%). Mass migrations westwards after the Last Glacial Maximum is thought to have been the cause. Germany has an 8% frequency, which is in line with the cultural boundary between Slav and German.

Certain western (Lech) Slavs – Sorbs and Polabians – lived in Germany. These tribes would add to the R 1a minority. Non-Slavic Swedan/Norway have 18-24% R 1a. This would suggest that the mobile Vikings were related to the (Lech) Ludzie. The Slavs did not understand German and called them ‘mutes’ (niemci).

The haplogroup I/M170 (Y-DNA) is abundant in the Balkans and western Caucasus (50%) and in non-Slavic areas (Sardinia, Adriatic islands). It is found in northern Iran but not India. It is thus not Slavic but is characteristic of Slavicised aboriginals..

The location of the Proto-Slavic people may be considered to be the same of Indo-Europeans generally. However, Slavic migrations came later and were less extensive.

In 98 AD, Tacitus referred to Magna Germania as the lands of the Elbe, Oder and west of the Vistula. Tacitus, Pliny the elder, and Ptolemy mention a tribe of the Venedes (or Vandals), east of the Vistula.

The Slavs stayed between the Vistula and the Dnieper until 50 BC. Then they expanded to the Elbe (Labe) river and the Adriatic. In the early 6th century BC, Byzantine records refer to Slavs under the names Ventets, Ants and Sklavens, descending from the Black Sea, the Danube and the Carpathians.

The first clearly Slavonic archaeological cultures are the Prague-Korchak and Pen'kovo cultures (6-7th century AD). They are linked directly to the Kiev culture (2 – 5th century AD). Slavs migrated extensively in and around the original Indo-European homeland, north of the Black Sea. They stayed in the region and mixed with cultures, which entered the steppe corridor.

Siberian and Eastern European Huns, Avars, Bulgars and Magyars necessitated the westward movement of Germans and Celts in the 5th and 6th centuries AD. The Slavs occupied lands, between the Oder and the Elbe, left by the retreating tribes. The Slavs also went southwards to Bohemia, Moravia, Austria and the Balkans (the Panonian plain). They went northward too, by the Dnieper. These substantive migrations led to the formation of the first Slavic states in the 7th century AD.

However, northern and southern Slavs were separated by Romanian and Bulgarian expansions. (The Turkic Bulgars were Slavified later.) The Croats, originally from the Sea of Azov, had the same fate too losing their unique Indo-Iranian tongue almost completely. The Illyrians held on to their heritage, protected by the mountainous territory in which they lived.

The Croats merged with elements of the Alans. The Serbs assimilated with the Serboi, a Sarmatian tribe, and later with Celtic remnants.

The Proto-Slavs occupied southeastern Poland and northeastern parts of the Ukraine around 1500BC. The tribes stayed in the 'Slavic Cradle' for centuries, speaking a common language. It produced many variants, most of which have disappeared. Linguistic differences between today's Slavic groups reflect the admixture of aboriginal cultures in the different destinations after the mass migrations.

As Slavic words for beech, larch, and yew are of German origin, this points to the ancestral Slav homelands as being in the ripet Marshes of northeastern Ukraine. The Polish historian, Jan Peisker said: "the Slav was the son and product of the marsh". The harsh marsh environment stunted the growth of civilisation but allowed for social equality and democracy. The centralisation of power was limited, as it was in Ireland and originally in Iran.

In 1300 BC, an early Slav culture in Lusatia (Silesia) prospered and spread out. The fortified village of Biskupin (450 BC) was a peak in Proto-Slavic culture. Indo-European Scythians, migrating west after 400 BC, destroyed the village.

Despite marauding onslaughts, the Slavs did not move around nor mix extensively with other populations but stayed in their ancestral homeland for 2000 years. The Asiatic Huns finally caused the great mass migrations west, east and south, from the 'Slavic Cradle', lasted from the 3rd to the 7th century AD.

Uncontested, the Slavs went into the lands abandoned by Vandals, Visigoths and Ostrogoths who had gone to take on Rome. When the Huns from Central Asia arrived in 370AD, they scattered the Slavs. After the fall of the Hun empire in 453 AD, the Slavs poured back south to the Black Sea and to the north of the Danube and the Balkans. The Slovaks did not move during all the strife and to this day still live close to the centre of the 'Slavic Cradle', speaking the language closest to Old Slavonic.

Western Tribes

(A) The Cimmerians

The Cimmerians were equestrian nomads who, according to Herodotus, lived in the Ukraine in the 8th century BC, where they have been associated with the Catacomb culture. Assyrian records place them in Azerbaijan in 714 BC.

Cimmerians may have had an Iranian ruling class. [In Ireland, in Gaelic times, a powerful clan would have had lesser clans to performing specific duties, eg medicine.] They came under pressure from the Srubna culture, which arrived from the East, and were forced slowly to retreat. This process was brought to rapid completion, some hundreds of years later, by the marauding Scythians.

Assyrians record the Cimmerians as 'Gimirri', a people which lived in a state called Mannae. The tribe conquered Phrygia in 695 BC and, in 679 BC, they took Cappadocia. In 652 they captured Sardis, the capital of Lydia, bringing terror to the Greeks. There, however, the victors are thought to have suffered from the Plague. Remnants of the tribe may have remained in Cappadocia. Frankish traditions put them at the mouth of the Danube.

The names of a few kings are known, possibly indicating a language intermediate between Iranian and Thracian:

Dug-dam-me - he was a nomad king. In Ossetian, related to Iranian, 'tux-domaeg' means 'ruling with strength'.

Sandarsatra was the name of his son.

What is known about ancient tribes are the records of contemporary historians who depended upon their best sources at the time. There is other evidence to show that the influence of certain tribes, even though they may have eventually disappeared, was great even beyond their assumed borders.

Small bands of warriors were always ready to go their own way and to seek their fortune in faraway places. There would often leave a lasting impression. The Armenian city of Gyamri is perhaps the legacy of minor migrations in the 8th century.

The Celtic Cimbri lived for a while in northern Germany, before going to fight the Romans. The tribe went to Gaul with Helvetian and Teutonic allies, where they suffered crushing defeat at the hands of the Romans. The tribe then disappeared as a cultural entity. Farther west, however, Cymru was adopted as the name of a country. The name of nearby anglicised Cumbria underscores the unwritten influence of these people. The meaning of the ancient word, 'companions', is reflected in modern, related Welsh. The overall influence of the Cimmerians is thought to have triggered the cultural changes which brought Europe from the Bronze Age (3000 – 100 BC) into the Iron age.

The Scythians

To the west, north of the Caspian Sea, lay the Srubna culture, associated with the Cimmerians and Saka/Scythians, who feature in recorded history as nomadic horsemen. Assyrian records in the 9th century BC, show them proceeding across the Caucasus into Anatolia and then Assyria. The associated Thracians and Sigynnae migrated west, and were identified as Iranian by both Herodotus and Strabo. These treks exemplify how migrations, such as those of Indo-Iranians to South Asia, are not simple, straight-line movements.

The Scythians are first described in the 'Histories' of Herodotus around 440BC. These horse-riding Indo-European nomads occupied the Pontic Steppe. They are known for exquisite gold artefacts found in burial mounds in the Ukraine and south Russia.

Scythians spoke an Iranian tongue. They comprised the Auchatae, Catiaroi, Traspian and Paralatae tribes. This last, the ruling tribe or 'Royal Scythes', governed a vast swathe of land from the Ukraine to Russia and to Central Asia. Herodotus notes that the Scyth nation was bested in battle by the Massagetae and must retreat across the Araxes river into Cimmara. They suppressed the autochthonous Cimmerian tribe, which was slowly assimilated by their closely related Sarmatians.

Around 770 BC, Scythians and Mannaens attacked Assyria unsuccessfully. Assyrian and Babylonian texts thereafter mention Scyths in connection with Media. During the Achaemenid period, Greek sources locate them again in the steppe region between the Dnieper and the Don rivers.

King Darius the Great of Persia attacked the Scythians in 512 BC from the western Danube front. In one of the most unique military events of all time, he was not engaged by the Scythians and proceeded as far as the Volga without meeting resistance. For hundreds of years the Scythians prospered: they grew and exported grain and wheat to Greece, as well as cheese and fowl. The slave-trade was another lucrative activity, which they controlled.

Strabo records a misadventure by the Scythians in 339 BC against Macedonia. They were attempting to expand from between the Danube and the Maeotian marshes. The Celts moved to dislodge the weakened scythians from the Balkans. In southern Russia, the Sarmatians slowly assimilated them. The Scythian people, in the Crimea, set up a new kingdom stretching to the Dnieper. It lasted unmolested until the 5th century AD when the Goths sacked the

In the 2nd century BC, Indo-Scythians migrated into Bactria, Sogdiana and Arachosia. The Kushan tribes, which lived in Xiongnu (Gansu) before the Huns, displaced the Indo-Scythians from Central Asia. They fled to Pakistan and Kashmir around 85 BC, where they overcame the Indo-Greek kingdom. The expanding Kushan power, however, again clashed with them. Remnants held sway, in northern India, until the 5th century AD.

Scythian influence was waning. The Goths displaced the related Sarmatians. In the 2nd century AD the Turkic migrations assimilated the Iranian Saka and pushed the eastern Iranian dialects to extinction.

The Achaemenid Persian Empire

The Achaemenid period (559-338 AD) was the first real Persian Empire. It spread from Greater Iran to Central Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Anatolia (NW Turkey), Trace (upper Balkans) and the Black Sea coasts. To the southwest, it covered Iraq, northern Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel and Levant, Syria, Egypt and Libya. The empire was the largest in classical antiquity. The Medes founded the first empire of Greater Iran. The name of the Achaemenid Empire refers to a small tributary state which rebelled to conquer the older Medean Empire.

The Alans

The Alans were Iranian nomads, related to the Sarmatians. The name Alan, like Iran (as used by the descendents of the Alans in Ossetia) are Iranian forms of Arian. This name was generally used by Indo-Iranians and their descendents. Ammianus Marcellinus wrote: "Almost all of the Alans are tall and good-looking. Their hair is generally blond and their eyes are frighteningly fierce." He considered them to be descended from Massagetae. Late Sarmatian sites were identified with Alans. An Iranian group, they entered the Sarmatian lands from the 1st to the 2nd century AD

A group of western Alans, following defeat by the Huns in 370 AD, fled west to the Vandals and the Suebi. Some settled in Gaul, as indicated by placenames in Brittany. Others followed the Vandals into Iberia and proceeded with them into North Africa, only to disappear from subsequent record.

Northern Alans moved into Poland from the Black Sea to merge with the Slavs as ancestors of the Serbs and Croats. In 620, the Romans invited these two tribes to the Balkans to engage the Turkic Avars. Serbs who remained in Germany are called Sorbs.

Eastern Alans, who remained under Hunnic rule, were the ancestors of the Ossetians. They were forced into the Caucasus by expanding Mongols in the mid-400s AD.

The Massagetae

The Massagetae were an Iranian people, mentioned by Herodotus. They were a Scythian offshoot, originating from Uzbekistan. They worshipped one god (the Sun). They practiced horse-sacrifice. They are thought to be the ancestors of the Alans.

(B) The Teutoni

As the pioneering Celtic star waned, in the 4th century BC, the related Germans began to take centre stage. Celts in their homeland were readily assimilated in the cognate culture. Germans spread from northern Germany and the Baltic region to the east, west and south. In the 1st century BC, they come into recorded history in Caesar's 'Commentaries'. Vandals to the west and Ostrogoths to the east commenced serious combat with the Romans.

The Vandals

These were Germanic tribes from between the Vistula and Oder in the 3rd century BC. In 270 AD, they invaded Pannonia and Dacia and proceeded to devastate the Balkans. They migrated to the western Mediterranean and Africa. They disappear from record after 534 AD.

The Goths and the Huns

The successful Huns eventually forced western Visigoths to enter the Roman Empire, which they did following negotiation. However, in 410, conflict erupted and Rome was sacked – for the first time in nearly 800 years. With Rome itself preparing to go into history, the Ostrogoths came from the Ukraine to take most of Italy, Greece and the Balkans. The Vandals took the north African possessions and retreating elements of the Angles, Saxons and Jutes wrested England (Angle-land) from the Celts.

Other Germanic tribes included the Alemanni, Angles, Saxons, Burgundii, Lombards, Goths (east Germans) and Scandinavians. Later, the Chamavi are placed near Holland and the Franks in eastern France.

The Suebi

This tribe and their allies gave their name to Swabia. Swabian identity is still a matter of pride in Germany. Lesser tribes included the Marcomanni, Alemanni, and Quadi.

The Marcomanni

This tribe lived north of the Danube. In 180 AD, Marcus Aurelius triumphed over them.

Their language probably came from the dialect continua between the German and the Celt. The tribe took refuge in the lands of the Celtic Boii (Cattle Herders) and were later called the Boiarii – ancestors of the Bavarians. Interestingly, the Aryan Celtic influence is evident both in the names of the tribe and of their Roman conqueror: the Irish ‘marcach’ means ‘horseman’.

The Quadi

This tribe was Germanic and originated from north of the Main river. Towards the end of the 1st century BC, they occupied Slovakia and northern Hungary. With the Marcomanni, they devastated the Balkan peninsula. They joined up with the Vandals, who were proceeding towards Italy, after which they disappear from record.

The anglicised name (Mac)Quaide come from the Irish name ‘Mac Uaid’. It comes from the Old German ‘vald’ meaning ‘to rule’. Forms of the name predate the Norman influence and again point in the direction of a product of Celtic-German dialect continua.

The Heruli

. The tribe then settled in Austria. .

The Heruli were Germanic nomads in the 3rd to the 5th century BC. They were banished from southern Sweden by the Dani. In the 3rd century AD, from Jutland, the Heruli joined the Goths in the Maeotian Marshes at the confluence of the Tanais (Don) and the Sea of Azov (ancient Scythia) to counter the Huns. The Heruli fought on foot but, when going into battle, they could run at great speed.

After the fall of the Huns in 454, the Heruli established themselves in southern Slovakia. The name disappears, in the 6th century, After the Lombards had destroyed the kingdom The kingdom was overcome and the remnants of the tribe went with the Lombards into Italy or sought refuge with the Gepids. The Gothic Gepidae had moved from the Baltics into Hungary. They suffered a series of military defeats, In 566 AD, following an onslaught from the combined Lombards and Avars, this tribe too disappears from the pages of history. The Romans allowed the arrivals to resettle depopulated areas in Moravia, near Belgrade, in 512. Again unable to repulse attack, Heruli remnants fled back to Scandinavia and faded from record.

Persian and Irish – linguistic Connections

Special Words

Gaeltacht (Gaelic homeland, area of Gaelic authority)

Paitacht (capital city - two syllables: pai tacht originally ‘near daïs’, or ‘area of king’s authority’)

Éire (goddess), Ir (hero), aire (leader)

Iran (of the Aryans)

- all related to Old Turkic ‘arya’ or ‘house-owner’ (ie Aryan)

Fenius Farsa (first Irishman in mythology, or Persian Fenius, or the Persian Nobleman)

Numerals

In the numbers 1-10, the q/p divide is evident in the number five:

aon dó trí ceathar cúig sé seacht ocht naoi deich
yek do se chahar panj shesh haft/hasht noh nah dah

Other vocabulary

Modern Irish has the masculine and feminine genders, having lost the neuter of Old Irish. Farsi has lost all three genders.

abha (f, river. Pronounced ‘au’ in Donegal)	ab (water –pronounced ‘au’ in SW Luristan)
Ainm (m, name– epenthetic vowel between ‘n’ and ‘m’)	nam (name)
ar (on)	ru (on)
ara (truly!)	ari (yes)
arán (m, bread)	nan (bread; dental exchange)
athair (m, father)	pedar (father, loss of ‘p’, lenition of ‘d’)
bac (m, obstacle)	bak (fear)
barr (m, top)	bala (high; dental exchange)
beag (a, small)	bache (child)
bod (m, lout)	bod (master)
borradh (v, to surge)	bote (shrub; dental exchange)
bother (road – two syllables: bó/thar)	rah (path; metathesis)
bráthar (m, brother)	baradar (brother)
breith (v, to bring)	bordan (to carry; consonant cluster)
dair (f, oak)	daracht (tree; ch in Scotts ‘Loch’)
cac (m, excrement)	chaq (fat)
cad (what?)	che (what?)
cé (who?)	ki (who?)
dán (m, poem)	danai (wise man)
do (to)	tu (to, into)
daor (m, condemned person, a, expensive)	dard (pain)
doras (m, door)	dar (door, tree product)
dorcha (a, dark)	tarik (dark)
duine (m, person)	tan (person)
gasúr (m, young boy)	pesaru (little boy, p/q change)
gorm (blue, associated with warm, eg blue sky)	garm (warm)
fál (m, a stone which gave a royal omen; feara Fáil/Páil - men of Ireland)	fal (omen)
gadaí (m, thief)	gada (beggar)
gadhar (m, mastiff)	gav (cow, four-legged beast)

gearán (m, complaint)	gele (complaint, dental exchange)
gorta (m, famine)	gorosne (hungry, dental exchange)
guí (f, prayer)	gui (one would say)
guth (m. voice. ‘guf’ in Mayo)	gush (ear)
gualainn(f, shoulder)	kul (shoulder)
is (is)	ast (he is)
labhairt (v, to speak)	lab (lip)
marbh (a, dead)	mordan (v, to die)
margadh (m, market)	markaz (centre)
máthair (f, mother)	madar (mother)
nimh (f, poison)	nish (sting. v/f to sh – see ‘guth’)
nua (a, new)	nou (new)
péas (m, police)	pasban (police. Two syllables: watch keeper)
sámh (a, serene)	saf (pure)
sár (m, highest degree of anything, eg prince)	sar (leader)
sean (a, old)	senn (age)
seanacháí (m, story-teller)	shenidan (v, to listen)
tafann (m, barking)	tufan (big noise)
taobh (f, side)	taraf (side)
tú (thou)	tu (thou)