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Da un secolo, oltre.

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Comparative and (micro-)typological approaches to the analysis of Germanic languages

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Instead of comparing the Germanic languages among themselves with the aim of finding shared characteristics, similarities and differences, these languages can now be subjected to multiple comparisons with the aim of assessing their characteristic properties within large, representative samples of the world's languages (typological comparison), within the languages of Europe (areal typology) or within other small convenience samples suitable to highlight specific contrasts (micro-typology). Moreover, contrastive analyses between pairs of this family can enable us to add depth of comparison to the breadth predominant in the more comprehensive comparative studies.

One of our central questions for current and future research on Germanic, therefore, is what kind of new insights into the characteristic properties of these languages have been gained, or can be gained, through different methods of comparison and the choice of different standards of comparison. What do cross-linguistic comparisons and fine-grained in-depth studies reveal about the commonalities and differences between the members of this family? Reversing the direction of the comparisons, can we investigate possible contributions of Germanic linguistics to cross-linguistic studies, to the study of diversity, to the identification of parameters of variation and to insights into general cross-linguistic tendencies?

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