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The History of Language

By Henry Sweet

Theclassics.Us, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1900 edition.

Excerpt: . alternation of direct and indirect narration, accusative with infinitive, and ablative absolute, and its finely-graded sequence of tenses, and the heavy and monotonous classical Sanskrit sentence overloaded with participles and gerunds, often to the almost complete exclusion of the finite verb, and its long compounds which usurp the functions of inflection. Greek, again, uses its inflections in a very different way from Latin, and more like the modern analytical languages of Europe. From this point of view the morphological classification of languages acts as a welcome corrective to the purely genealogical and historical classification. It teaches us both to recognize what are the really characteristic and more or less permanent features in the different periods of a language or in the members of a group of cognate languages, and also to realize that languages genealogically unconnected may develop similar morphological structure. But even...



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