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0. PRAEFATIO

The boundaries of my language reflect the boundaries of my world.
Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889–1951)

0.1. LATIN IN 21st CENTURY. WHY?

The first thing that is usually remembered about the Latin language is that it is a language that is dead and ancient.

Right, **dead**. However, it is not dead because no one uses it. It is used, and a lot: most educated scholars in all countries of the world know Latin; there are books, newspapers and magazines published in this language; there are television and radio broadcasts, many websites on the Internet; and there is the Vatican state where Latin is the official language. At the same time, there are many small peoples, nationalities and tribes in the world who speak their own special language, which is different from the language of their neighbors. The language of the smallest tribe lives as long as these people are alive, as long as they think and communicate in it. The language becomes dead when the people cease to live. There are no Latin people now, and therefore their language remains dead, no matter how much people of other nations use it. Everyone, even those who use it a lot, have a different language, their own mother tongue (Russian, English ...) as their first language of thought and communication.

Yes, **ancient**. This language was spoken by a tribe that became known since 8th century BC in the middle part of the Apennine Peninsula (modern Italy); they called this region *Latium*, and themselves — *Latini* (Latins), their people — *populus Latinus* (Latin people), their language — *lingua Latina* (Latin).

The legend goes that in 753 BC the main city of the Latin people — *Roma* (Rome) — was founded and named after one of the founding brothers (Romulus and Remus) (in Russian they call it Rome). The inhabitants of the city of Roma, and later all the inhabitants of the Roman state, called themselves *Romani* (Romans). They were quite belligerent and conquered vast territories around the Mediterranean.

In the **1st century BC** the heir of Gaius Julius Caesar, Octavian Augustus, made the honorary military rank «imperator» a permanent title of the head of state, and the state began to be called the *Imperium Romanum* (Roman Empire). The empire lasted as a state until the 5th century AD (see 8. Additiones; 8.6. Map of Roman Empire).

However, the history of culture and language emphasizes a much longer time period than the political history of the Roman state.

Having conquered Greece, in the middle of the 2nd century BC, the Romans encountered a much more developed culture of Ancient Greece than their own culture was then; there are known written monuments in the ancient Greek language dating to the 15th century BC, the golden age of the Greek state and culture was in the 5th century BC. Showing themselves to be rather humane conquerors, the

Romans recognized the superiority of Greek culture and understood the need to learn from the defeated Greeks. Since that time the Greek language became the second official language in the state, the Romans necessarily knew the Greek language; they began to build beautiful houses decorated in Greek style; they wore Greek clothes, studied Greek arts and sciences, and developed them in their homeland in their Latin language¹.

Thus by the 1st century BC the Roman culture united the primordial Latin principles and the centuries-old remarkable achievements of the Greeks creating what later became known as the classical culture (Latin + Greek).

In the **2nd century AD** the Roman Empire reached the peak of its power and size. The empire united many ethnic groups, each of which originally had its own land, culture, history, customs, and beliefs. This was the strength of a single state, but this was also its weak point, since many peculiar ethnic groups inevitably show contradictions².

Understandably, the unity of any state, in addition to military, political and economic community, is necessarily associated with the unity of the official language, Latin in the Roman Empire. However, the status of the Latin language varied in different areas of the Empire.

In the east of the Roman Empire (east of Greece), the Greeks had settled on the islands and the shores of the Mediterranean and Black Sea long before the arrival of the Romans, adding their own Greek languages to the local tongues. After the conquest of these territories by the Romans, Latin did not supplant Greek and local languages, but always coexisted with them, remaining predominantly the language of policy-makers.

In the west of the Roman Empire (west of the Apennine Peninsula) the situation was completely different. The Romans came here after defeating Greece, after the flourishing of their own culture in the 1st century BC. In the war, the Romans were much more experienced than the small peoples of Western Europe, and so they conquered them. Likewise, the Latin language was the language of a much more powerful culture than that of the small local peoples, and gradually supplanted these languages, completely replacing them for all the numerous peoples.

In the **2nd to 5th century** the vast territory of the empire continues to engender internal contradictions. Management from one center is complicated by differences in mentality among different peoples, who gradually became more and more clearly aware of their identity and took the liberty of showing more and more active opposition to centralized rule from Rome. At the same time, the pressure of external enemies with their territorial claims was increasing.

5th century. The contradictions between the regions and the center and the effects provided by external forces did their job. In 476, the Great Roman Empire finally collapsed. And it was now that the ever-present difference between East and West manifested itself: further fate of the eastern and western peoples became strikingly

¹ See 8. Additions; 8.7. History of development of ancient Greek, Latin and Romance languages (diagram).

² See for animation on the development of Roman Empire http://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Roman_Republic_Empire_map.gif

different. In the East, where Latin was the language of power, once this power departed, Latin was no longer in active use. Life went on in the local and Greek languages as it had done before the Romans.

In the West, even when the power of Rome discontinued, the Latin language continued to be one and only. The languages of small peoples who inhabited the territory of Europe before the arrival of the Romans eventually fell out of use, giving way to a stronger Latin language. After the collapse of the Roman Empire, the peoples of the West, now with complete political independence, continued to speak the same common Latin language. Other languages did not survive during the five centuries of Roman rule in Europe.

For many centuries, Latin continued to be a living language. All living things move and develop. The Latin language also developed. Gradually, changes took place in it, as they do in any living language. These changes varied in different regions and among different peoples: the language of people living on the Iberian Peninsula (now Spain and Portugal) began to differ from the languages, for instance, of the peoples of France or the Black Sea region (now Romania and Moldova). These languages are still very close, preserving the legacy of their common ancestor, Latin (see 8. Additions; 8.8. Development of Romance languages from Latin).

In the **Middle Ages** in Western Europe, the Latin language and the languages that arose on its basis were almost equally used, but with their own changes and peculiarities: Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Provençal, Romanian... having originated from the language of the Romans (*Romani*) these languages are now called Romance. In total, 10 Romance languages, direct descendants of Latin, live and flourish now.

The last centuries of the Middle Ages in Western Europe were the period of formation of vocational education that used the Latin language. The famous medical school of Salerno (southern Italy) was known since the late 9th century; it existed for about a thousand years. The main provisions of the concept developed in Salerno are set forth in Latin in the Salerno Health Code written by Arnold of Villanova.

In the 12th century the first European university was founded in Bologna (Italy). Soon, by the early 13th century, universities were set up in Paris, Oxford, Cambridge, and Montpellier, famous for its medical school.

The **14–16th century** in Europe was the time of the Renaissance: a revival of interest in human feelings in all their individual originality, a return to the philosophy of humanism in its best traditions of ancient humanism, ancient culture, classical Latin and Greek language. The Renaissance philosophy and artistic humanistic New Latin literature extended the life of classical Latin, but by this time the national languages of the peoples of Europe had already reached such a degree of development that they were able to supplant Latin in the spheres of everyday communication and literature.

Nevertheless, in the 17–18th century the Latin language still retained its positions in science, education, Catholic service. Understandably, there can be no science without education, but science and religion themselves are international by nature, therefore they require one interethnic language. For everyday communication the Italian Andreas Vesalius (16th century), Englishman William Harvey (17th century), Russian M.V. Lomonosov (18th century) spoke and wrote in their native Italian, English, Russian correspondingly, because few people are interested in everyday