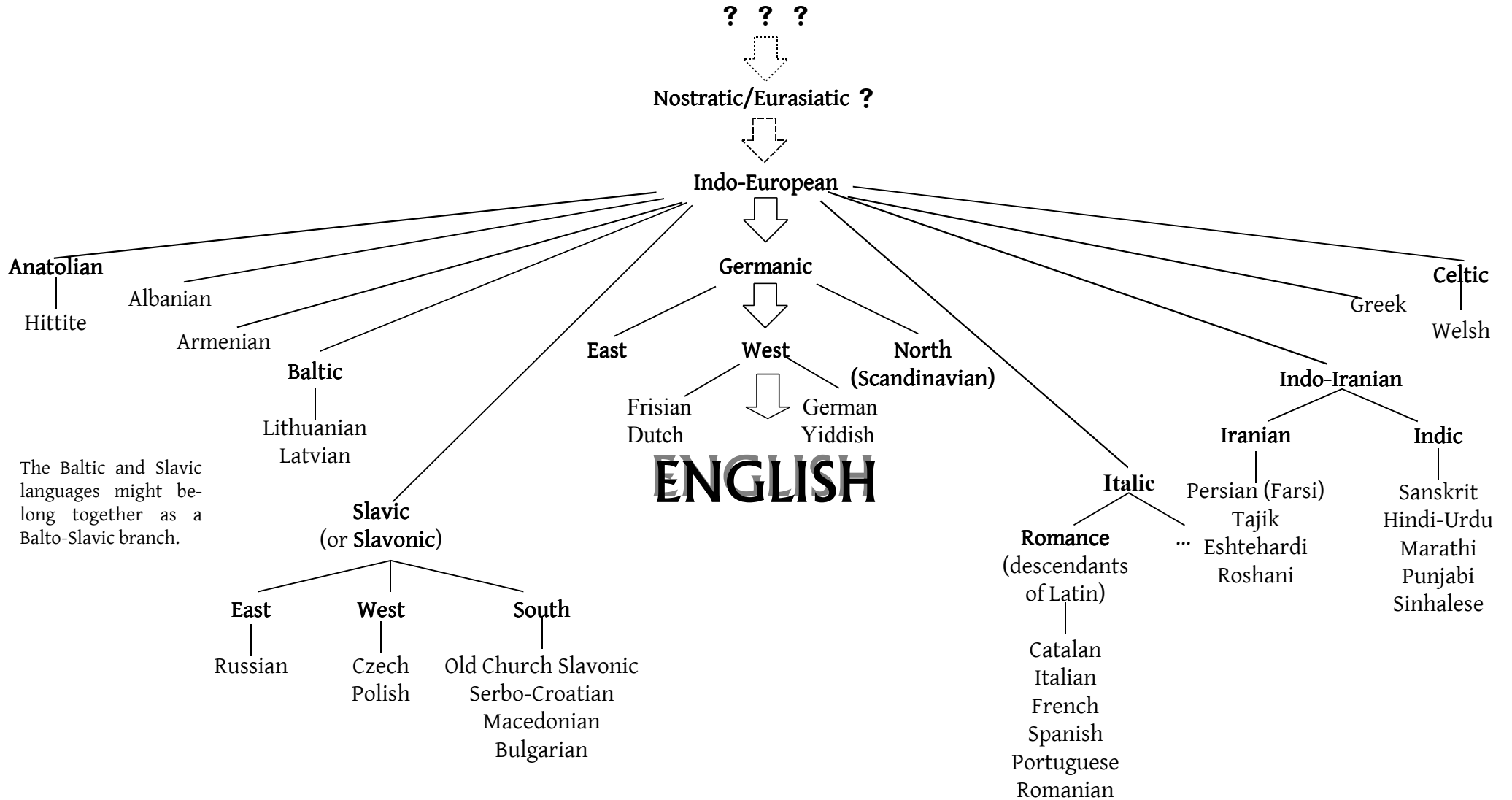


Languages of the World, p. 1



Languages of the World, p. 2

The chart on the previous page shows the genetic relations between English and other languages mentioned in the textbook. The remainder of this handout shows other language families and languages. A few explanatory comments:

- ① No attempt has been made here to be all-inclusive. The languages here are primarily those in the textbook. A few others of interest have also been included, such as languages that may come up in the course.
- ② The information given here is essentially that in the textbook's "Index of Languages." The textbook simplifies information about internal relations within language families. The charts on this handout are a little more detailed than the textbook, but not much. For a more detailed view, see the web site of SIL's Ethnologue (<http://www.ethnologue.com>). The textbook has a map showing "Location of Languages Cited."
- ③ As in any field, there are controversial theories in historical linguistics. For example, it is generally agreed that English can be traced back to the family known as Indo-European (or that it descends from the hypothetical language known today as Proto-Indo-European). However, some linguists believe that there is evidence relating Proto-Indo-European to other languages, in a larger family called either Nostratic or Eurasiatic. (For more, see the next page.) However, this is very controversial; most historical linguists reject the Nostratic hypothesis, and believe that, because of the amount of time that has passed, it is impossible to determine what Indo-European may be related to. Such language families are marked **?** to make it clear that their status is controversial. (I have used Ethnologue, which takes a relatively conservative position, as a guide to which of these larger families are accepted and which are not.) Even more controversial is the Proto-World hypothesis, which claims that there is evidence that ultimately all languages are related to each other.

Isolates:

Basque (some relate it to **Caucasian**; note "Ibero-Caucasian" on p. 11 of the textbook)

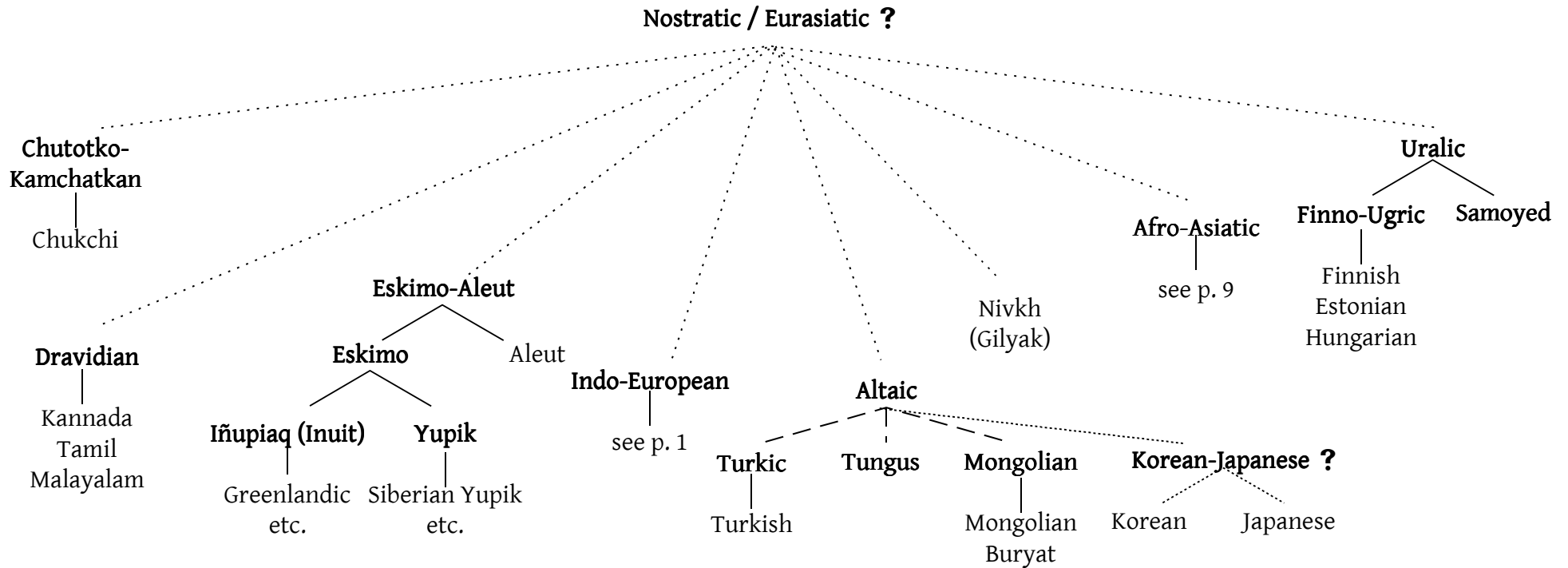
Burushaski

Ket (Yenisey Ostyak)

Nivkh (Gilyak) (but see p. 3 of this handout)

Sumerian

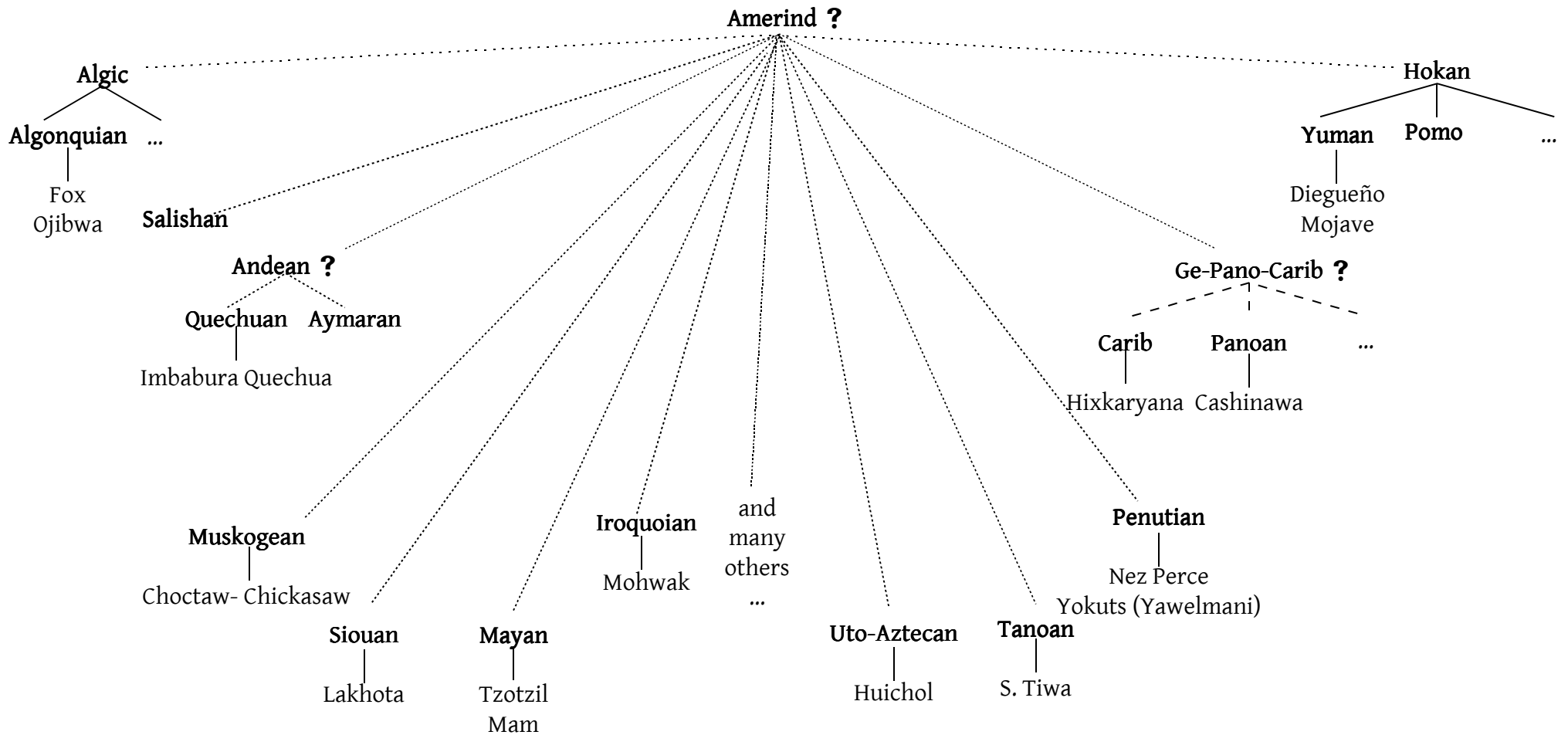
Languages of the World, p. 3



NOTE 1: There are different proposals as to the exact group of language families that are part of Nostratic/Eurasiatic.

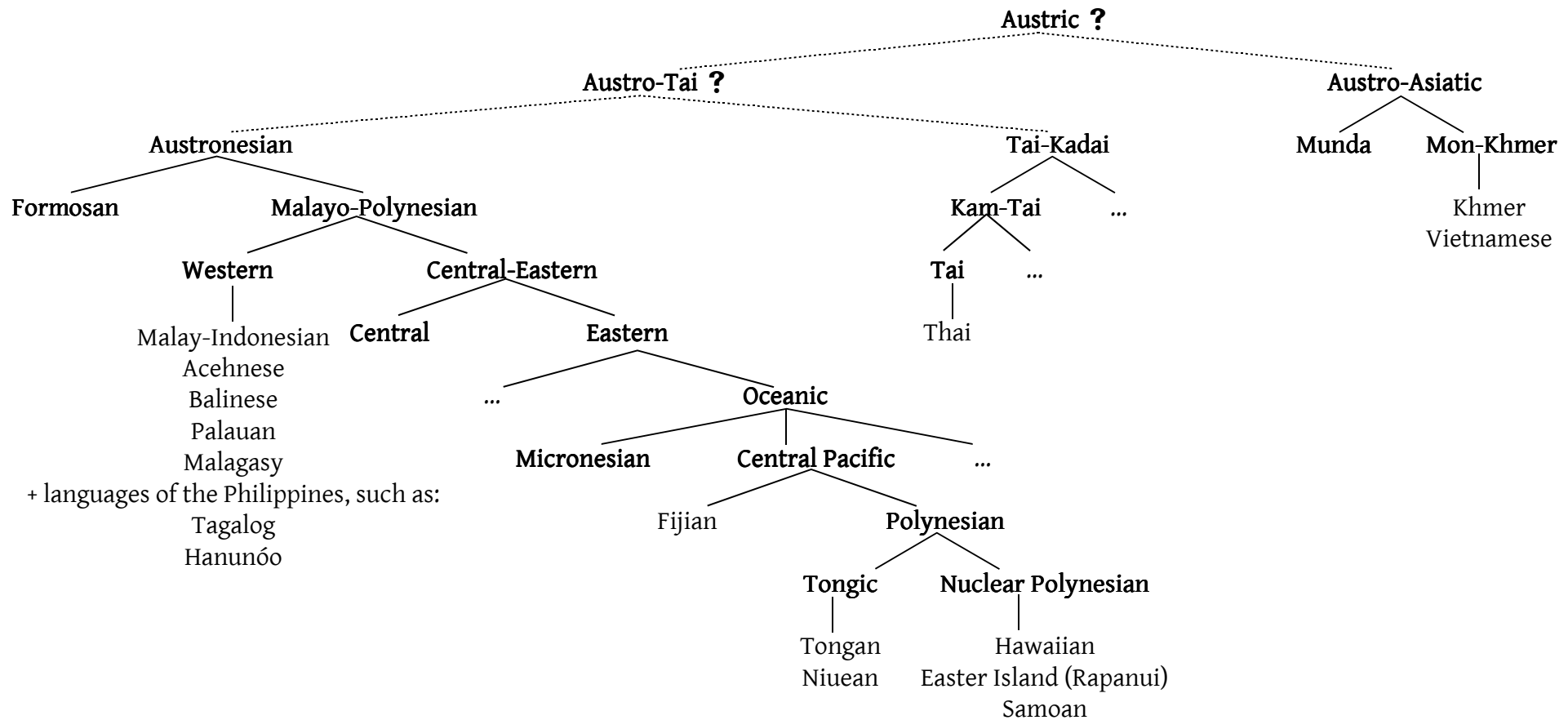
NOTE 2: The Altaic family is questioned by some, but it is generally accepted. At one time, it was thought that Uralic and Altaic were closely related to each other, in a family generally called “Ural-Altai”, but this is no longer accepted.

Languages of the World, p. 4

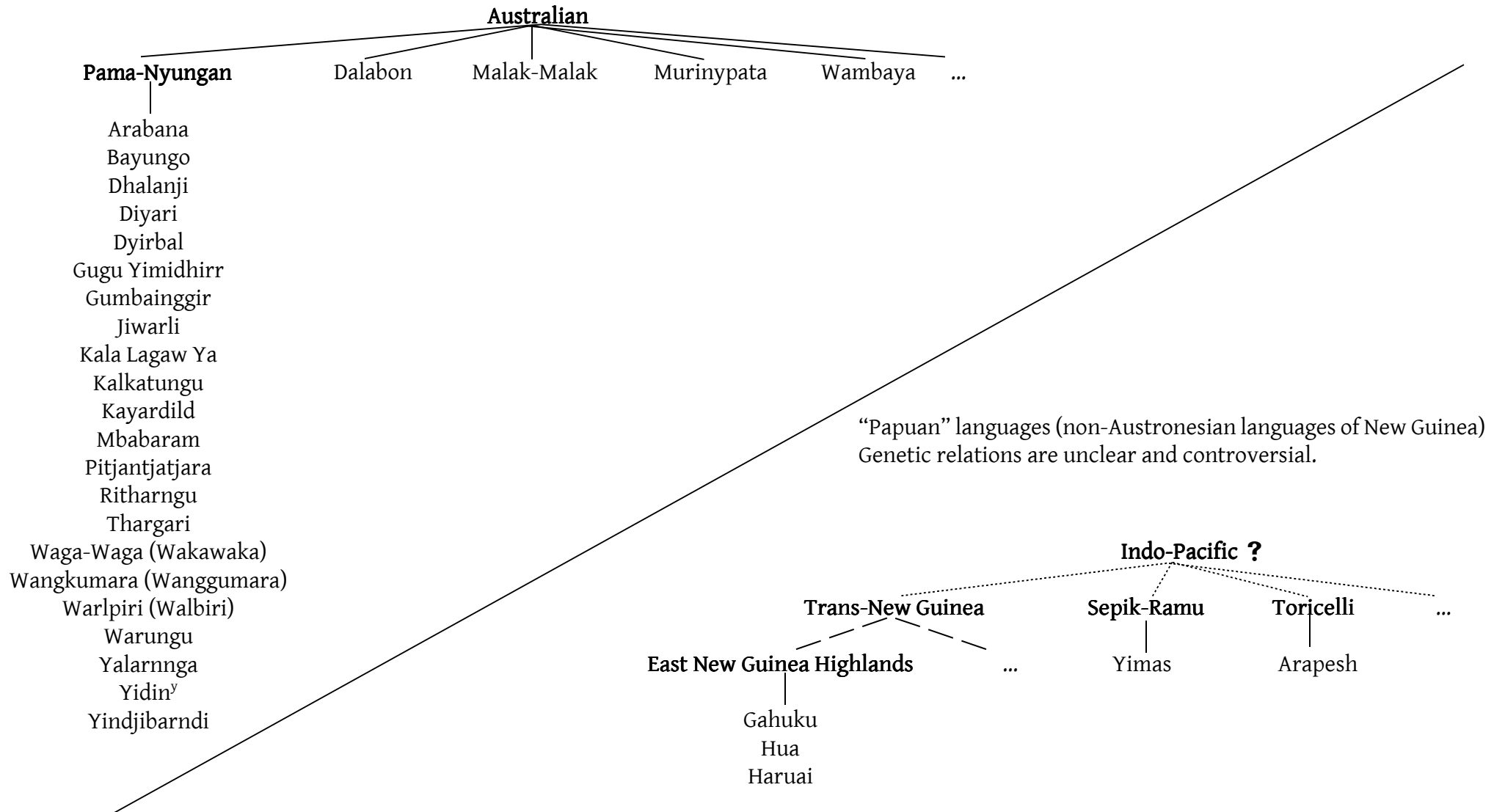


The Amerind family is *very* controversial! Most scholars of American Indian languages believe that the language families of the New World are unrelated to each other. Even more controversial than the Amerind family is the view that it is related to Nostratic/Eurasiatic.

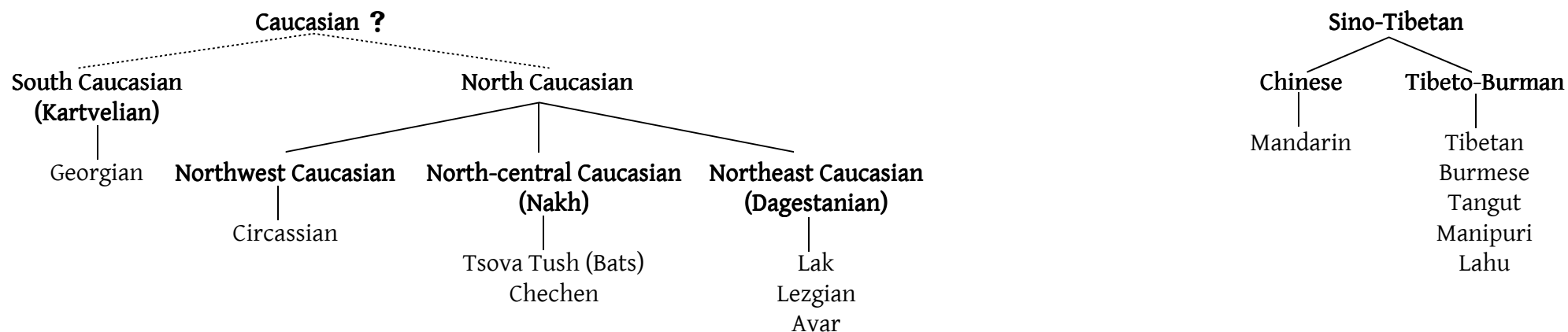
Languages of the World, p. 5



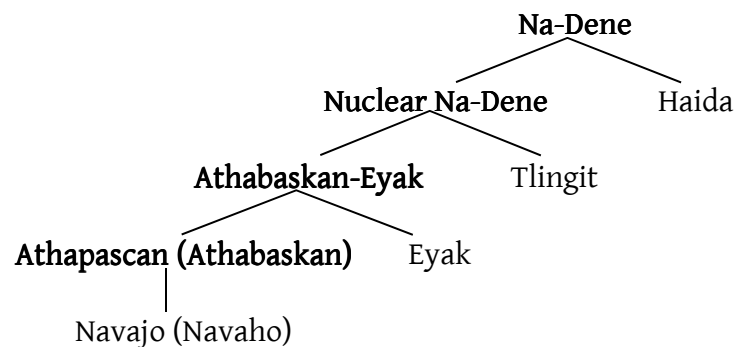
Languages of the World, p. 6



Languages of the World, p. 7

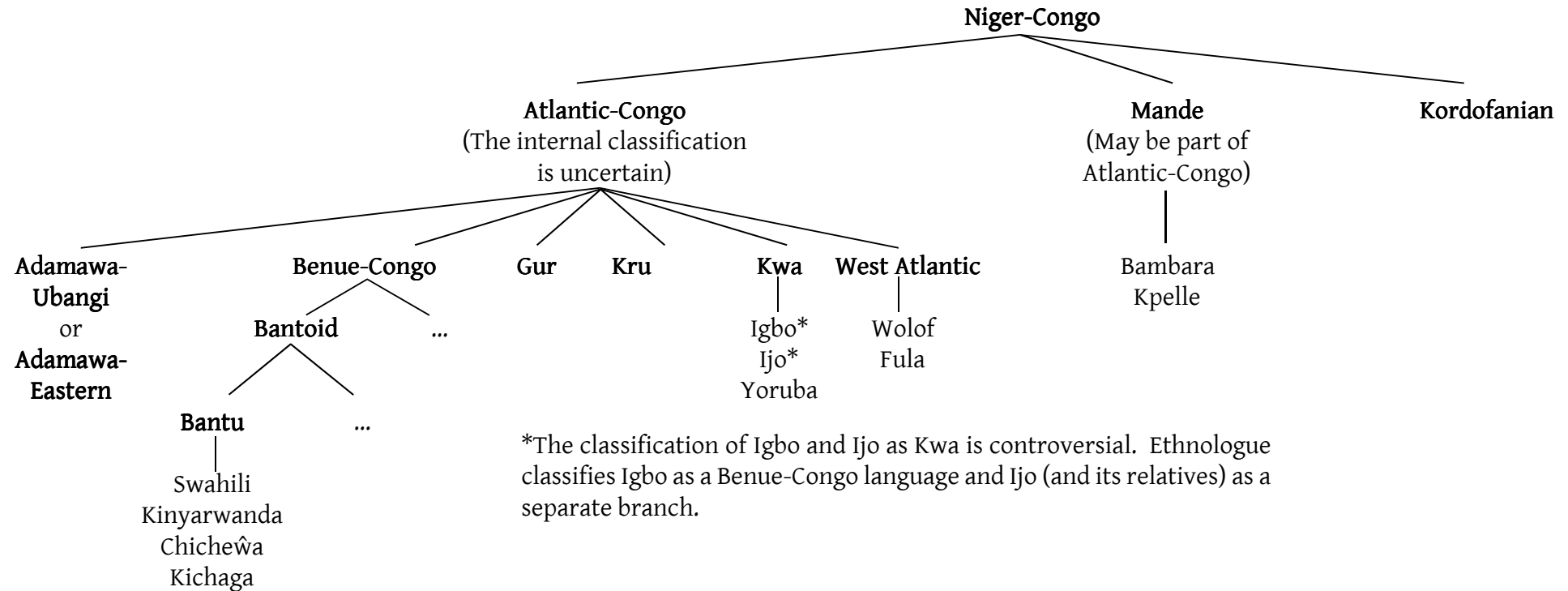


NOTE: This is the division of North Caucasian shown in the textbook. More recently, it has been thought that the Nakh and Dagestanian languages are grouped together.



Very controversially, some believe that the language families on this page are related to each other.

Languages of the World, p. 8



NOTE ON TERMINOLOGY: The term “Niger-Congo” is sometimes used for the smaller family here labeled “Atlantic-Congo” (often including Mande). When this is done, the larger grouping (here called “Niger-Congo”) is instead called “Niger-Kordofanian”. This alternative terminology is used in the textbook (see pp. 252–253). The terminology used here is more current.

Other African language families:

Khoisan
Nilo-Saharan (including Songhai)
Afro-Asiatic (see next page)

Languages of the World, p. 9

