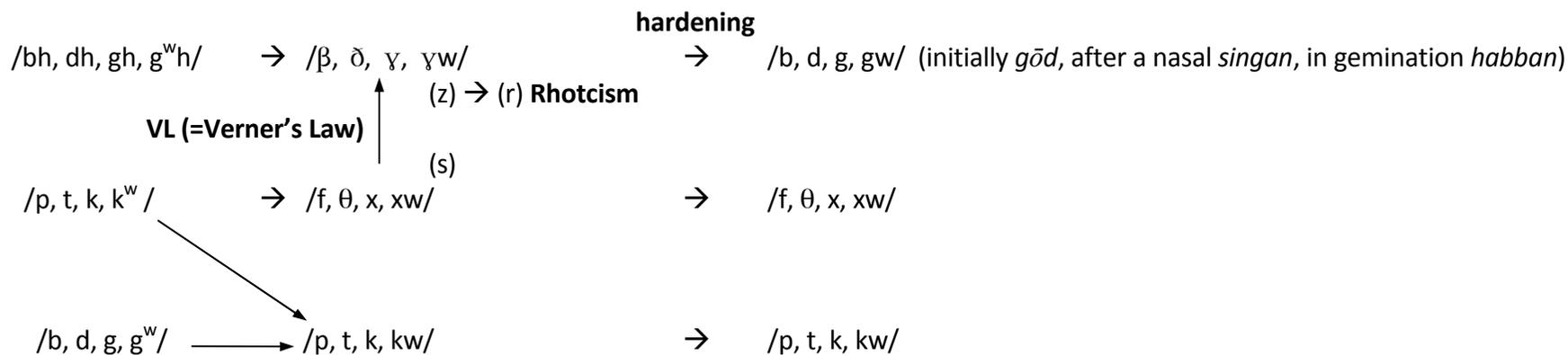**Grimm's Law**

- The IE voiced aspirates /bh, dh, gh, gʷh/ were shifted to the corresponding voiced fricatives /β ð γ γʷ/ in every position. Soon afterwards (after the operation of Verner's Law) in certain positions (initially except for γ, after nasals, and in gemination) they developed stop allophones /b, d, g, gw/.

- The IE voiceless stops /p, t, k, kʷ /, **if not preceded by /s/,** shifted to the corresponding voiceless fricatives /f, θ, x, xw/.

- **Verner's Law** The IE voiceless stops /p t k kʷ/ which by the preceding rule were shifted to the corresponding fricatives became voiced and merged with the voiced fricatives from Grimm's Law (i.e. those from IE bh, dh, gh, gʷh/) **if they were not originally (i.e. in IE and before the stress shift) preceded by a stressed vowel**.

- The IE voiced stops /b d g gʷ/ were shifted to the corresponding voiceless stops /p t k kʷ/

Indo-European   accent shift   Proto-Germanic

                                                  hardening
/bh, dh, gh, gʷh/   → /β, ð, γ, γw/   →   /b, d, g, gw/ (initially *gōd*, after a nasal *singan*, in gemination *habban*)
                                         (z) → (r) **Rhotcism**
          VL (=Verner's Law)
                                         (s)
/p, t, k, kʷ /   → /f, θ, x, xw/   →   /f, θ, x, xw/

/b, d, g, gʷ/ ———→ /p, t, k, kw/   →   /p, t, k, kw/

1. INDO-EUROPEAN *bh/* **(LATIN** *f-*, **GREEK** *ph*) **GERMANIC** *b*

bhrāter / frāter / brother
bhibhru- / fiber / beaver   /β/ during OE merged with /f/ ← IE /p/; as a result
bhlē / flāre / blow   /β/ became [v] medially and [f] word-finally (*beofor*, *græf*)
bhreg- / fra(n)go / break
bhudh- / fundus (*for* *fudnus*) / bottom

bhāgo- / fāgus / <u>beech</u>
bhag- / (Gr.) phōgein 'to roast' / <u>bake</u>

2. INDO-EUROPEAN *dh* (LATIN *f-*, GREEK *th*) GERMANIC d

dheigh- / fi(n)gere 'to mold' / <u>dough</u>   /ð/ became a stop /d/ in all positions
dhwer- / foris / <u>door</u>   (also medially) during the WGmc period
dhē- / (Gr.) thē- 'to place' / <u>do</u>
dhug(h)ətēr / (Gr.) thugatēr / <u>daughter</u>

3. INDO-EUROPEAN gh (LATIN *h-,* GREEK ch) GERMANIC g

ghordho- / hortus / OE geard 'yard'   /g^h/ > /ɣ/ > /g/; /g/ developed very early after a nasal (*hring*)
ghosti- / hostis / <u>guest</u>   and in OE initially *(gōs)* and in gemination *(docga)*
ghomon- / homo / gome (obsolete)
ghol- / (Gr.) chole *(whence* cholera) / <u>gall</u> 'żółć'
ghed- / (pre)he(n)dere 'to take' / <u>get</u>
ghaido- / haedus 'kid' / <u>goat</u>

4. INDO-EUROPEAN p/GERMANIC *f*

pətēr / pater / <u>father</u>
pisk- / piscis / <u>fish</u>
prtu- / portus / <u>ford</u>

5. INDO-EUROPEAN *t* /GERMANIC θ

treyes/trēs/<u>three</u>
tū/tū/OE þū <u>'thou'</u>

6. INDO-EUROPEAN *k* /GERMANIC *x*
krn-/cornū/<u>horn</u>
kerd-/cord-/<u>heart</u>
kwod/quod/<u>what (OE hwæt)</u>

7. INDO-EUROPEAN *b* /GERMANIC *p*
abel-/(Russ.) jabloko/<u>apple</u>

8. INDO-EUROPEAN *d* /GERMANIC *t*
dwō/ duo/<u>two</u>
dent-/dentis/<u>tooth</u>

9. INDO-EUROPEAN *g* /GERMANIC *k*
genu/ genu/<u>knee</u>
agro-/ ager 'field'/ <u>acre</u>

OE morphophonemic effects
some strong verbs
wēorÞan, wēarÞ, wurdon, worden - 'become'
cēosan, cēas, curon, coren -'choose'
contracted verbs
flēon, flēah, flugon, flogen - 'flee' ← PGmc. *fleohan

- Old High German differs from the general Germanic situation as a result of the **Second or OHG sound shift** — which occurred comparatively recently. It was nearing its completion by the end of the 8th century of our era. This shift began in the southern, mountainous part of Germany and spread northward, stopping short of the low-lying northern section of the country. The *high* in High German *(Hochdeutsch)* and the *low* in Low German *(Plattdeutsch)* refer only to relative distances above sea level. High German became in time standard German relegating Low German to the status of a peasant patois in Germany.

- The Continental home of the English was north of the area in which the High German shift occurred. But even if this had not been so, the English language would have been unaffected by changes that had not begun to occur at the time of the Anglo-Saxon migrations to Britain, beginning in the 5th c. Consequently English has the earlier consonantal characteristics of Germanic, which among the West Germanic languages it shares with Low German, Dutch, Flemish, and Frisian. We may illustrate the High German shift in part by contrasting English and High German forms.

Proto-Germanic /p/ appears in High German as [*pf*] or, after vowels, as [*ff*] *(pepper-Pfeffer).*
Proto-Germanic /t/ appears as [*ts*] (spelled z) or, after vowels, as [*ss*] *(tongue-Zunge; water-Wasser).*
Proto-Germanic /k/ appears after vowels as [ç]*(break-brechen).*
Proto-Germanic /d/ appears as [*t*] *(dance-tanzen).*