Historical Milestones in Linguistics

Linguistics · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. Which scholar is credited with the 1786 proposal that Sanskrit, Greek, and Latin descended from a common source, later known as Proto-Indo-European?

A) William Jones
B) Franz Bopp
C) Rasmus Rask
D) August Schleicher

2. The decipherment of Egyptian hieroglyphs was made possible primarily through the analysis of which artifact discovered in 1799?

A) The Behistun Inscription
B) The Rosetta Stone
C) The Phaistos Disc
D) The Code of Hammurabi

3. In 1822, which scholar published the first systematic formulation of the sound change now known as Grimm's Law?

A) Jacob Grimm
B) Karl Verner
C) Hermann Grassmann
D) Rasmus Rask

4. The 'Voynich manuscript', a codex written in an unknown script, has been carbon-dated to approximately which time period?

A) 11th century
B) 15th century
C) 17th century
D) 19th century

5. Which language family was first officially classified as a distinct genetic group by the 19th-century linguist Matthias Castrén?

A) Austronesian
B) Uralic
C) Altaic
D) Dravidian

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6. The 'Great Vowel Shift' was a massive sound change affecting which language, occurring roughly between 1350 and 1700?

A) Old French
B) Middle English
C) High German
D) Old Norse

7. Who published 'Cours de linguistique générale' in 1916, a work that founded the structuralist approach to linguistics?

A) Noam Chomsky
B) Roman Jakobson
C) Ferdinand de Saussure
D) Leonard Bloomfield

8. The Behistun Inscription, which provided the key to deciphering Babylonian cuneiform, was carved under the orders of which Achaemenid King?

A) Cyrus the Great
B) Darius the Great
C) Xerxes I
D) Artaxerxes II

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