**March 2018
Linguistic Moment**

‘Woman’ in European languages

Amazingly, **Slavic** *žena* (and similar), **Greek** *gynaíka*, **Germanic** *kvinna* (and similar) and **Celtic** *bean* (and similar) all come from the same Proto-Indo-European root *\*gʷḗn* (also related to English “queen”, for instance).

**Romanian** *femeie* is derived from Latin *familia*, not *femina*, so it is not a cognate of French *femme*. **Polish** *kobieta* used to be derogatory, but it is now the neutral standard word. **North Frisian** *wüset* (or *wüv* in some dialects) is related to English “wife”, which itself is a cognate of “woman”. **Hungarian** *nő* is a cognate of Nenets *ńē*, but not a cognate of Finnish *nainen*.