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Finally, the invention of the Gutenberg printing press in 1445 made it possible to distribute written material much faster and more widely, maintaining communication in different languages despite political factors.

Some authors described the linguistic situation of that period as "tripartite". The first part of "linguistic geography" belonged to Latin, which was almost the only carrier of culture and language of religious and diplomatic activity of that period.

A few centuries later, Latin squeezed out the French language. The second part belonged to some "strong" national languages (Spanish, French, English, Swedish, etc.) that were united in newly formed national kingdoms and used as a tool to strengthen them. Finally, the third part was the rest of the languages spoken in these kingdoms, but which were not officially recognized by the authorities, although they were widely used in everyday social or religious life.

The "triangular" model was particularly common in Western Europe, while in many areas of Central and Eastern Europe, the national minority language, German, played a dominant role in cultural and economic life. Visit [Custom Writings](#) to get the best mark for your writing.

German was used alongside Latin (in the Hungarian and Polish kingdoms), or with other languages used in religious rites (e.g. Old Slavic and Arabic in the Balkans, under Ottoman rule). And since the consolidation of the national kingdoms of Eastern Europe was weaker, the process of official approval of national languages was extremely slow, mainly through religious rather than political methods.

There were two opposing trends at that time:

- The first one insisted on the compulsory introduction of a certain national language in new states, followed by the ousting of Latin and all small regional linguistic groups. For example, the Willers-Cotterets Decree made French official in 1539, the Union of England and Wales Act stripped Wales of its official status in 1536, and the activities of King Philip the Fifth in planting Spanish in Catalonia.
- The second reflected the position of Lutheran reformers, and partly of the Council of Trident, based on the humanist views of Erasmus of Rotterdam, on the equality of all Christian languages, regardless of their prevalence.