

# Historical linguistics data citation & reusability

...or data management principles for (historical) linguists

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ICHL27, Santiago de Chile



# Focus of this presentation

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**Data design** is an *integral* part of historical linguistic work

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**Data structure** should reflect *design principles*

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**Data design** is an *integral* part of historical linguistic work

**Data structure** should reflect *design principles*

**Data management** is *not prohibitive* to the non-tech-savvy\*

(\*maybe just a little bit)

# Outline

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1. Data design principles  
(← yes, they really are helpful!)
2. Historical linguistics data structure
3. Structuring historical linguistics data
4. Usability of database tools
5. Concluding thoughts

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# Part 1: Data design principles

# Data design principles

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- 1. High cohesion** (Ku et al. 2006)
- 2. Low coupling** (Ku et al. 2006)
- 3. Atomicity** (Codd 1990)
- 4. Reflectivity** (Gwinn 1992)

# Data design principles

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## 1. High cohesion

— *every table should have one (and only one) job* —

- Example:
  - Different tables for *each source*: in SCD, one table for Soravia (2007) Alas wordlist, another for Akbar et al. (1985) dictionary, another for Kreemer (1922) ethnography, ...
- Issues this resolves:
  - Source-restricted edits, such as normalizing different orthographies for each source, fixing off-counting page numbers, ...

### Kreemer 1922

<ě>/<ö>/<ë>  
<é>/<è>  
<o>/<ò>  
<oe>

### Akbar et al. 1985

<e>  
<ē>  
<o>  
<u>

### Soravia 2007

<e>  
<é>/<è>  
<o>  
<u>

### Phonological

/ə/  
/e/  
/o/  
/u/

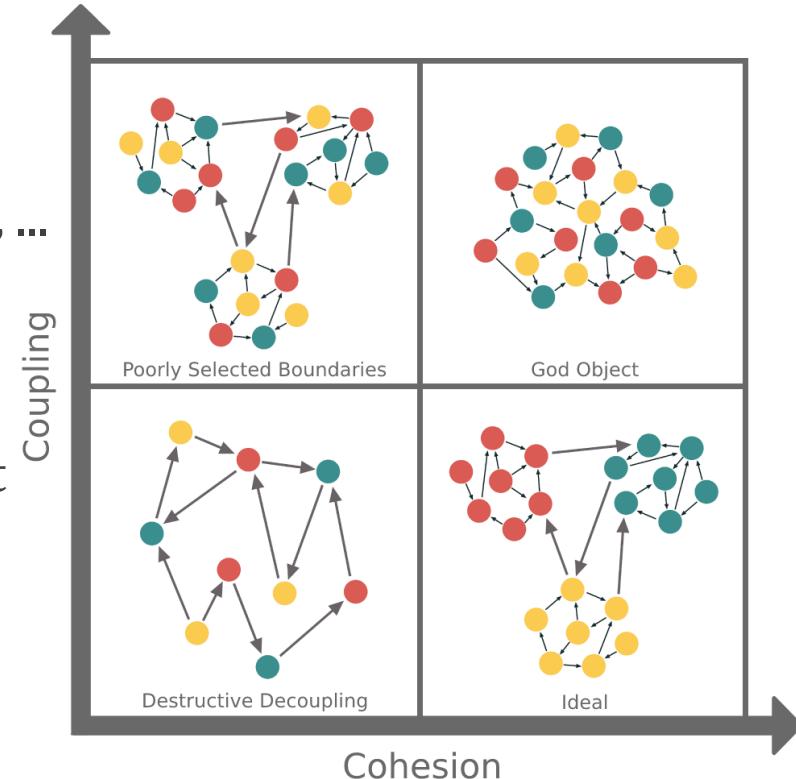
# Data design principles

1. High cohesion
2. **Low coupling**

- **Example:**

- Source tables do not need to be connected to one another, nor do reconstructions, but sources with languages, descendant languages with ancestor languages, ...
- *Exception:* Loan relationships should be reflected in inter-language table connections
- **Issues this resolves:**
- Making one change means updating many tables, need not know everything about a data point before entering it, ...

— *every table should have one (and only one) job* —  
— **tables should only be connected where necessary** —



# Data design principles

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1. High cohesion
2. Low coupling
3. **Atomicity**
  - Example:
    - Orthography and phonological transcription should not appear in the same cell, a cell describing loan influence should not contain everything about that loan but rather be a row in another table, ...
    - Issues this resolves:
      - Bulk editing specific data fields, (regular expression) searches for content, filtering and viewing subsets of data, ...

(Loans) Sanskrit लशुन (laśuna) ‘garlic (*allium sativum*)’

⇒ Sanskrit | लशुन | laśuna | garlic

(Search) Sanskrit.\*a\\$

⇒ Sanskrit                    a\$

(Edit) Sanskrit शिक्षा (shikṣa) ‘punishment’

⇒ sh → ś without editing gloss

# Data design principles

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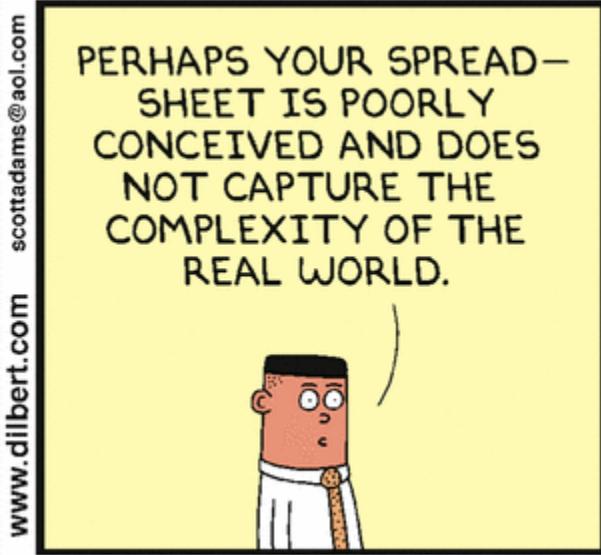
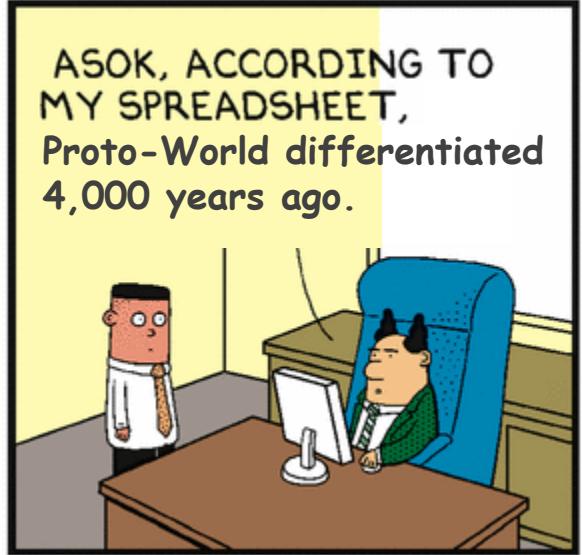
1. High cohesion
2. Low coupling
3. Atomicity
4. **Reflectivity**

— *every table should have one (and only one) job* —  
— *tables should only be connected where necessary* —  
— *each cell should only contain one part/type of data* —  
**— *data structure should reflect data reality* —**

... brief intermission ...

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# **Part 2: Historical linguistics data structure**



# Historical linguistics timeline

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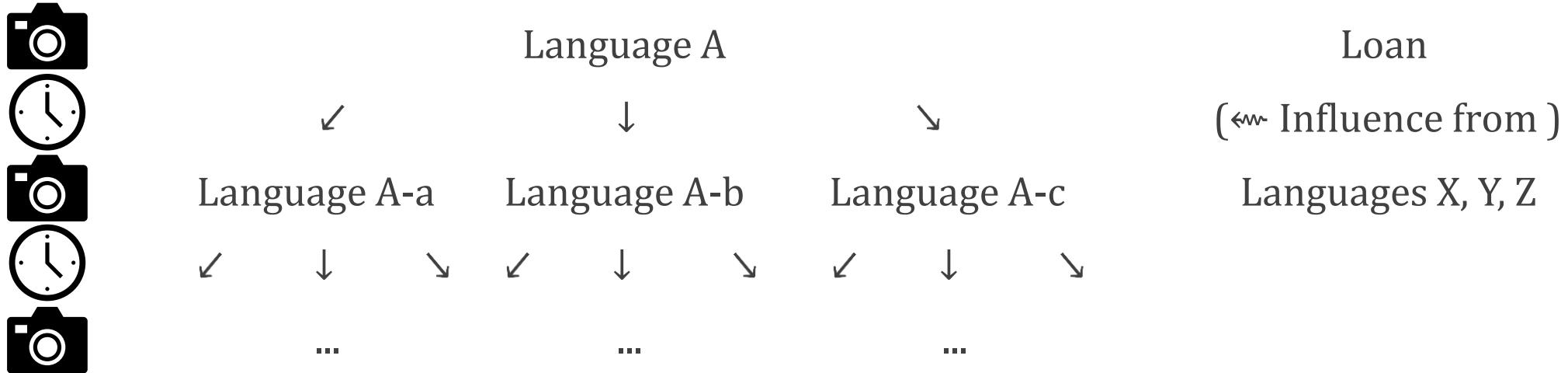
## Basic historical linguistics timeline:

1. Language A has a “lexicon” (synchronic) 
2. Lexical items in language A’s lexicon change over time
  - Changes can be in form, meaning, both
  - Changes can be innovations, losses,
  - Over time ancestor language A differentiates into descendant languages A-a, A-b, A-c, ...(diachronic) 
3. Languages A-a, A-b, A-c, ... have their own “lexica” (synchronic) 
4. ⌂ Cycle repeats, languages develop

**Additionally:** Different languages (and language *stages*) interact and lead to loan developments

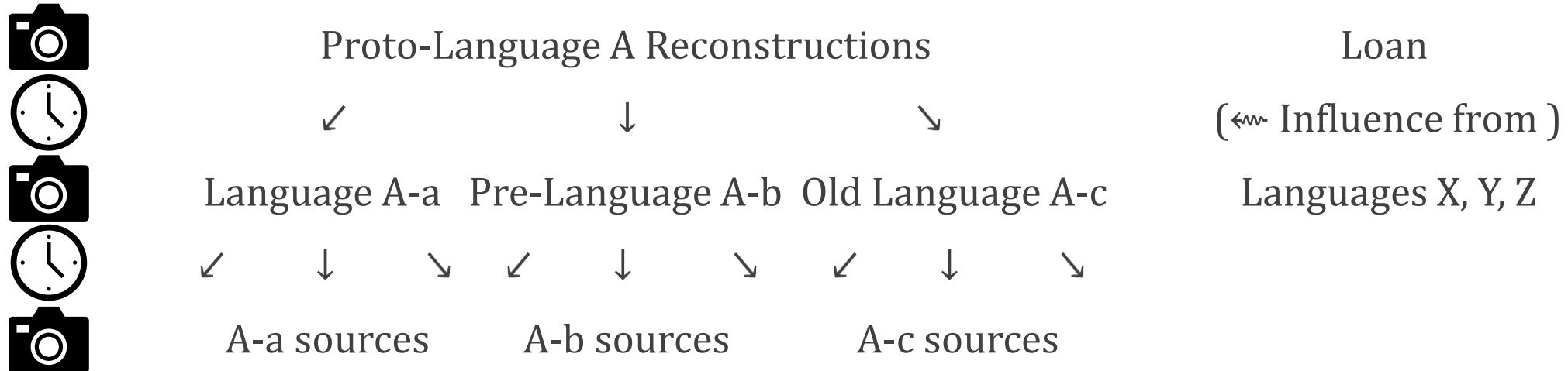
# Historical linguistics timeline

Basic historical linguistics timeline can be broken down graphically:



# Historical linguistics data

How does this look realistically, in terms of our data?



## Sources:

- Dictionaries
- Recordings
- Passing remarks in other documents
- “Personal correspondence” that never really occurred but that we use to support our data...

# Historical linguistics data

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Often, this data is converted into a spreadsheet with one of the following formats...

## Long form

|        |             |               |               |               |     |           |
|--------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----|-----------|
| Set #1 | Lang A form | Lang A-a form | Lang A-b form | Lang A-c form | ... | Loan form |
| Set #2 | Lang A form | Lang A-a form | Lang A-b form | Lang A-c form | ... | Loan form |

...

## Tall form

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| Lang A form | Lang A-a form |
| Lang A form | Lang A-b form |
| Lang A form | Lang A-c form |

...



| employees.txt - E:\work\temp\pipe |   |             |              |          |  |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------|--------------|----------|--|
|                                   | -   | 1           | -            | -        |  |
|                                   | -   | 2           | -            | -        |  |
| 1                                 | 'DEPARTMENT_ID'   | 'LAST_NAME' | 'FIRST_NAME' | 'JOB_ID' | 'SAL<br>'90' 'King' 'Steven' 'AD_PRES' '24000'  'SKING'  '  '  ' |
| 2                                 | '90' 'Kochhar' 'Neena' 'AD_VP' '17000'  'NKOCHHAR' '100   |             |              |          |  |
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| 8                                 | '60' 'Lorentz' 'Diana' 'IT_PROG' '4200'  'DLORENTZ'  '10  |             |              |          |  |
| 9                                 | '100' 'Greenberg' 'Nancy' 'FI_MGR' '12000'  'NGREENBE'    |             |              |          |  |
| 10                                | '100' 'Faviet' 'Daniel' 'FI_ACCOUNT' '9000'  'DFAVIET'    |             |              |          |  |
| 11                                | '100' 'Chen' 'John' 'FI_ACCOUNT' '8200'  'JCHEN'  '108'   |             |              |          |  |
| 12                                | '100' 'Sciarral' 'Ismael' 'FI_ACCOUNT' '7700'  'ISCIARRA  |             |              |          |  |
| 13                                | '100' 'Urman' 'Jose Manuel' 'FI_ACCOUNT' '7800'  'JMURM   |             |              |          |  |
| 14                                | '100' 'Popp' 'Luis' 'FI_ACCOUNT' '6900'  'LPOPP'  '108'   |             |              |          |  |
| 15                                | '30' 'Raphaelly' 'Den' 'PU_MAN' '11000'  'DRAPHEAL'  '100 |             |              |          |  |
| 16                                | '30' 'Khoo' 'Alexander' 'PU_CLERK' '3100'  'AKHOO'  '114  |             |              |          |  |
| 17                                | '30' 'Baida' 'Shelli' 'PU_CLERK' '2900'  'SBAIDA'  '114'  |             |              |          |  |
| 18                                | '30' 'Tobias' 'Sigal' 'PU_CLERK' '2800'  'STOBIAS' '114   |             |              |          |  |
| 19                                | '30' 'Himuro' 'Guy' 'PU_CLERK' '2600'  'GHIMURO'  '114'   |             |              |          |  |
| 20                                | '30' 'Colmenares' 'Karen' 'PU_CLERK' '2500'  'KCOLMENA'   |             |              |          |  |
| 21                                | '50' 'Weiss' 'Matthew' 'ST_MAN' '8000'  'MWEISS'  '100'   |             |              |          |  |
| 22                                | '50' 'Fripp' 'Adam' 'ST_MAN' '8200'  'AFRIPP'  '100'  '   |             |              |          |  |
| 23                                | '50' 'Kaufling' 'Payam' 'ST_MAN' '7900'  'PKAUFLIN'  '10  |             |              |          |  |
| 24                                | '50' 'Vollman' 'Shanta' 'ST_MAN' '6500'  'SVOLLMAN'  '10  |             |              |          |  |

| KEY   | Double GW |                   | Possible Double GW              |     | Double GW and Blank GW |      |         |      | Unrescheduled Blank |      |                          |      | Possible Future Postponements |     |     |
|---|-----------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----|------------------------|------|---------|------|---------------------|------|--------------------------|------|-------------------------------|-----|-----|
|   | Blank GW  | Possible Blank GW | Double GW and Possible Blank GW |     |                        |      |         |      |                     |      |                          |      | Gameweek:                     | 33  |     |
| Gameweek:   | 32        | 33                | 34                              | 35  | 36                     | 37   | 38      |      |                     |      |                          |      | Gameweek:                     | 33  |     |
| ARS   | vs        | BHA               | sou                             | che | MUN                    | whu  | LEE     | tot  | new                 | EVE  |                          |      | ARS                           |     |     |
| AVL   | vs        | TOT               |                                 |     | lei                    | NOR  | CRY?    | bur  | LIV                 | CRY? | BUR                      | mci  | AVL                           |     |     |
| BRE   | vs        | WHU               |                                 | wat | TOT                    |      | mun     | SOU  |                     | eve  |                          | LEE  | BRE                           |     |     |
| BHA   | vs        | ars               | tot                             | mci | SOU                    |      | wol     |      | MUN                 |      | lee                      | WHU  | BHA                           |     |     |
| BUR   | vs        | nor               | whu                             | SOU | WOL                    |      | wat     |      | AVL                 | tot  | avl                      | NEW  | BUR                           |     |     |
| CHE   | vs        | sou               |                                 | ARS | WHU                    | mun? |         | eve  | WOL                 | lee  |                          | mun? | LEI                           | WAT |     |
| CRY   | vs        | lei               |                                 | new | LEE                    |      | sou     | avl? |                     | WAT  |                          | avl? | eve                           | MUN |     |
| EVE   | vs        | MUN               |                                 | LEI | liv                    |      | CHE     | lei  | wat                 | BRE  | CRY                      | ars  | EVE                           |     |     |
| LEE   | vs        | wat               |                                 |     | cry                    |      | MCI     | ars  | CHE                 |      | BHA                      |      | LEE                           |     |     |
| LEI   | vs        | CRY               | new                             | eve | AVL                    |      | tot     | EVE  | NOR                 | wat  | che                      | SOU  | LEI                           |     |     |
| LIV   | vs        | mci               |                                 | MUN | EVE                    |      | new     | TOT  | avl                 | sou  | WOL                      |      | LIV                           |     |     |
| MCI   | vs        | LIV               |                                 | BHA | WAT                    |      | lee     | NEW  | whu/wol?            | whu? | wol?                     | AVL  | MCI                           | vs  | wol |
| MUN   | vs        | eve               | NOR                             | liv | ars                    | CHE? | BRE     |      | bha                 |      | CHE?                     | cry  | MUN                           |     |     |
| NEW   | vs        | WOL               | LEI                             | CRY |                        | nor  | LIV     |      | mci                 |      | ARS                      | bur  | NEW                           |     |     |
| NOR   | vs        | BUR               |                                 | mun |                        | NEW  |         | avl  | WHU                 | lei  |                          | wol  | TOT                           |     |     |
| SOU   | vs        | CHE               | ARS                             | bur |                        | bha  | CRY     |      | bre                 |      | LIV                      | lei  | SOU                           |     |     |
| TOT   | vs        | avl               |                                 | BHA |                        | bre  | LEI     | liv  | ARS                 |      | BUR                      | nor  | TOT                           |     |     |
| WAT   | vs        | LEE               |                                 | BRE |                        | mci  | BUR     | cry  | EVE                 |      | LEI                      | che  | WAT                           |     |     |
| WHU   | vs        | bre               |                                 | BUR |                        | che  | ARS     | nor  | MCI?                |      | MCI?                     | bha  | WHU                           | vs  | MCI |
| WOL   | vs        | new               |                                 |     |                        | bur  | BHA     | che  | MCI?                | NOR  | MCI?                     | liv  | WOL                           | vs  | MCI |
| Fixture formatting  |           | 1                 | 2                               | 3   | 4                      | 5    | 6       | 7    | 8                   | 9    | 10                       | 11   | 12                            | 13  |     |
| Easiest - best vs worst   |           |                   |                                 |     |                        |      | Average |      |                     |      | Toughest - worst vs best |      |                               |     |     |
| Created by @BenCrellin in partnership with Fantasy Football Hub |           |                   |                                 |     |                        |      |         |      |                     |      |                          |      |                               |     |     |

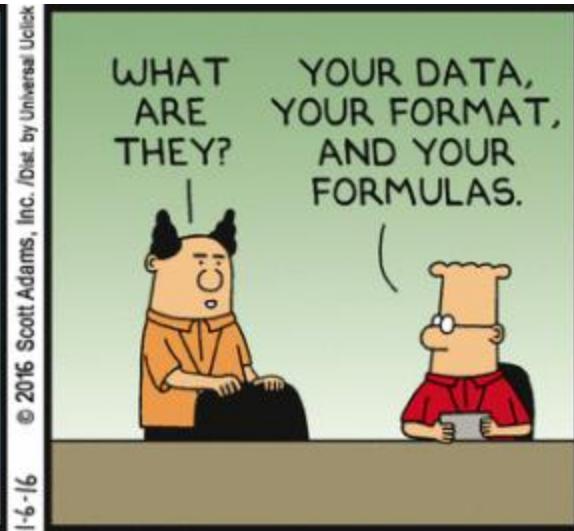
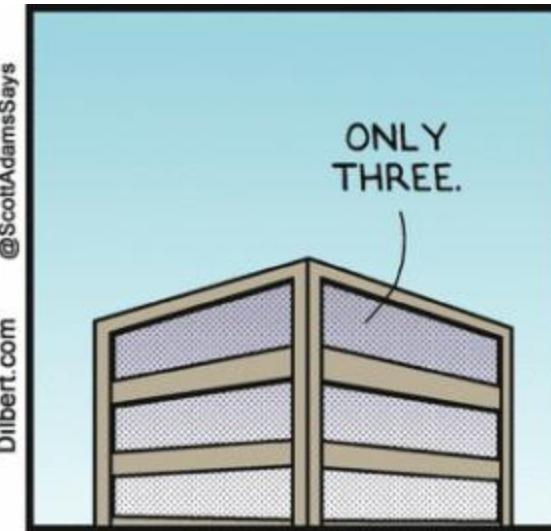
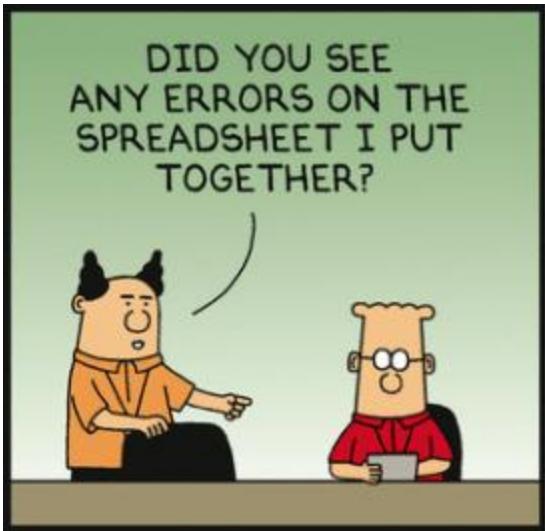
| employees.txt - E:\work\temp\pipe |  |   |   |   |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
|                                   | 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 |
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| 12                                |  |   |   |   |

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|-----------|-----------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----|------------------------|----------|-----|-----|---------------------|-------------------------------|
|           | Blank GW  | Possible Blank GW | Double GW and Possible Blank GW |     |                        |          |     |     |                     |                               |
| Gameweek: | 32        | 33                | 34                              | 35  | 36                     | 37       | 38  |     | Gameweek:           | 33                            |
| ARS       | vs        | BHA               | sou                             | che | MUN                    | whu      | LEE | tot | new                 | EVE                           |
| AVL       | vs        | TOT               |                                 |     | lei                    | NOR CRY? | bur | LIV | CRY? BUR            | mci                           |
| BRE       | vs        | WHU               | wat                             |     | TOT                    | mun      | SOU |     | eve                 | LEE                           |
| BHA       | vs        | ars               | tot                             | mci | SOU                    | wol      | MUN |     | lee                 | WHU                           |
| BUR       | vs        | nor               | whu                             | SOU | WOL                    | wat      | AVL | tot | avl                 | NEW                           |
| CHE       | vs        | sou               | ARS                             |     | WHU mun?               | eve      | WOL | lee | mun? LEI            | WAT                           |
| CRY       | vs        | lei               |                                 | new | LEE                    | sou avl? |     | WAT | avl? eve            | MUN                           |
| EVE       | vs        | MUN               |                                 | LEI | liv                    | CHE      | lei | wat | BRE CRY             | ars                           |
| LEE       | vs        | wat               |                                 |     | cry                    | MCI      | ars | CHE | BHA                 | bre                           |
| LEI       | vs        | CRY               | new                             | eve | AVL                    | tot      | EVE | NOR | wat che             | SOU                           |
| LIV       | vs        | mci               | MUN                             |     | EVE                    | new      | TOT | avl | SOU                 | WOL                           |

| A          | R    | S                   | U               | V         | W       | X             | Y          | Z             | AA         | AB           | AC      | AD         | AE       | AF         | AG       | AH      | AI      | AJ       | AK        | AL       | AM        | PNB1 | PNB2 | Sig. | Nias | P    |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|------------|------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------|---------------|------------|---------------|------------|--------------|---------|------------|----------|------------|----------|---------|---------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--|--|
| Category   | Hi   | Meaning             | PMP: 1656       | Gayo: 357 | Al: 532 | Ka: 631       | Da: 964    | PNB: 1094     | Simal: 587 | To: 720      | An: 640 | Ma: 630    | PSB: 776 | PCSB: 825  | PB: 851  | Ha: 203 | Le: 269 | Sim: 792 | PNB1: 726 | Sig: 277 | Nias: 743 | P    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
| Body Parts | 2.1  | Head, Upstream      | *quiu           | ulu       |         | ulu           | ulu        | *ulu          | :ulu       | ulu          | ulu     | ulu        | *ulu     | *ulu       | *ulu     | :ulu    | ulu     | ulu      | ulu       | ulu      | ulu       | ulu  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 2.2  | Head                |                 | takal     | takal   | takal         | *takal     |               |            |              |         |            |          |            |          |         |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 3.1  | Face                | *away           | awe       | ayo     | abe           | *awe       | awei          | ae         |              |         |            |          |            |          |         |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 3.2  | Face                |                 |           |         |               |            |               |            |              |         |            |          |            |          |         |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 5    | Skull               |                 |           |         |               |            |               |            |              |         |            |          |            |          |         |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 6.1  | Hair                | *buhèk          | (w)uk     | buk     | buk           | buk        | *buk          |            | obuk         | obuk    | obuk       | *obuk    | *obuk      | *buk     | wok     |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 6.2  | White Head Hair     | *gaban          | uban      | uban    | uban          | *uban      |               |            |              |         |            |          |            |          |         |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 7    | Bald                | *palpal         | pepal     | pal-pal | pal-pal       | *pal-pal   |               | pal-pal    | pal-pal      | pal-pal | *pal-pal   | *pal-pal | *pal-pal   | *pal-pal |         |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 8.1  | Crown               | *bubun          | ubun-ubun | bubun   | babon         | *bubu-an   | (sa(l)im)bubu | ombut      | suping       | suping  | suping     | *supinj  | *supinj    | *supinj  | wowot   | bufus   | bubuh    | *bubu-an  |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 8.3  | Fontanel            | *embut          |           |         | emptut-emptut | *emput     |               |            |              |         |            |          |            |          |         |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 8.4  | Fontanel            | *ubun           |           |         |               |            |               |            |              |         |            |          |            |          |         |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 9.1  | Ear                 | *kupinj         | cuping    | cuping  | coping        | pengel     | *cupinj       | pinggol    | pinggol      | pinggol | pinggol    | *pingol  | *pingol    | *pingol  | oyok    | xuyuk   | uyuh     | *kuyuk    | kukuyu   |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 9.2  | Ear                 |                 |           |         |               |            |               |            |              |         |            |          |            |          |         |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 9.3  | Ear                 |                 |           |         |               |            |               |            |              |         |            |          |            |          |         |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 9.4  | Ear                 | *taliqa         |           |         |               |            |               |            |              |         |            |          |            |          |         |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 11.1 | Eye                 | *mata           | mata      | mata    | mata          | *mata      | mata          | mata       | halimismison | mata    | halimismis | mata     | halimismis | *mata    | *mata   | mata    | mata     | mata      | mata     | mata      | mata | mata | mata | mata | mata | mata | mata |      |      |  |  |
|            | 11.2 | Sty on the Eye      | *mis.mis        |           |         |               |            |               |            |              |         |            |          |            |          |         |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 11.3 | Mucus in the Eye    | *mutaq          |           |         |               |            |               |            |              |         |            |          |            |          |         |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 11.4 | Cataract of the Eye | *putik          | putik     |         |               |            |               |            |              |         |            |          |            |          |         |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 11.5 | Eye, To Look        |                 |           |         |               |            |               |            |              |         |            |          |            |          |         |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 11.6 | To Blink            | *kizap          |           | kidep   | kidep         | singkerdep | *kidep        | hidop      |              |         |            |          |            |          |         |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 14   | Eyebrow             | seliben         | seliben   | seliben | seleben       | *saliben   | salibon       | salibon    | salibon      | salibon | salibon    | *salibon | *salibon   | *salibon |         |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 16.1 | Tear                | *iuhəq          | iuh       | iuh     | eluh          | *iluh      | iluh          | iluh       | iluh         | iluh    | iluh       | iluh     | *iluh      | *iluh    |         |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 16.2 | Tear                | *wahirR ni mata |           |         |               |            |               |            |              |         |            |          |            |          |         |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 18   | Nose                | *ijunj          | jung      | igung   | egung         | *igunj     | igung         | igung      | igung        | igung   | igung      | *igunj   | *igunj     | *igunj   | ixong   | ixong   | ihung    | *ixunj    | ixu      | ixu       | ixu  | ixu  | ixu  | ixu  | ixu  | ixu  | ixu  | ixu  |      |  |  |
|            | 20.1 | Mucus               |                 | ungei     | imen    | imen          | emen       | *imen         |            | mon-mon      | mon-mon | mon-mon    | *mon-mon | *mon-mon   | *mon-mon |         |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 20.2 | Mucus               |                 |           |         |               |            |               |            |              |         |            |          |            |          |         |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 20.3 | Mucus               | *juhuR          |           |         |               |            |               |            |              |         |            |          |            |          |         |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 21   | Cheek               | *pihpih         | pipi      |         |               | pipi       | *pipi         | pipi       |              |         |            |          |            |          |         |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 21   | Cheek               | *hasanj         |           |         |               |            |               |            |              |         |            |          |            |          |         |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 21   | Cheek               |                 |           |         |               |            |               |            |              |         |            |          |            |          |         |         |          |           |          |           |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|            | 22   | Mouth               | *baqbaq         | (b)abah   | kurum   | kurum         | kurum      | *kurum        | huyum      | hurum        | hurum   | urum       | *hurum   | *hurum     | *hurum   | wakba   | bakba   | ba2ba    | *bakbak   | bafa     | baða      | baða | baða | baða | baða | baða | baða | baða | baða | baða |  |  |

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# **Part 3: Structuring historical linguistic data**



# Historical linguistics data structuring

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This structure introduces a **number of issues**:

- It ***does not*** reflect language reality
- It ***does not*** abide by design principles
- It ***often*** must be transformed for reuse
- It is ***often*** not immediately understandable

So, how ***might*** we structure data?

# Historical linguistics data structuring

---

So, how *might* we structure data?

## Source

Entry

Definition

Page Number

# Historical linguistics data structuring

---

So, how *might* we structure data?

AlsKr1922

Entry

Definition

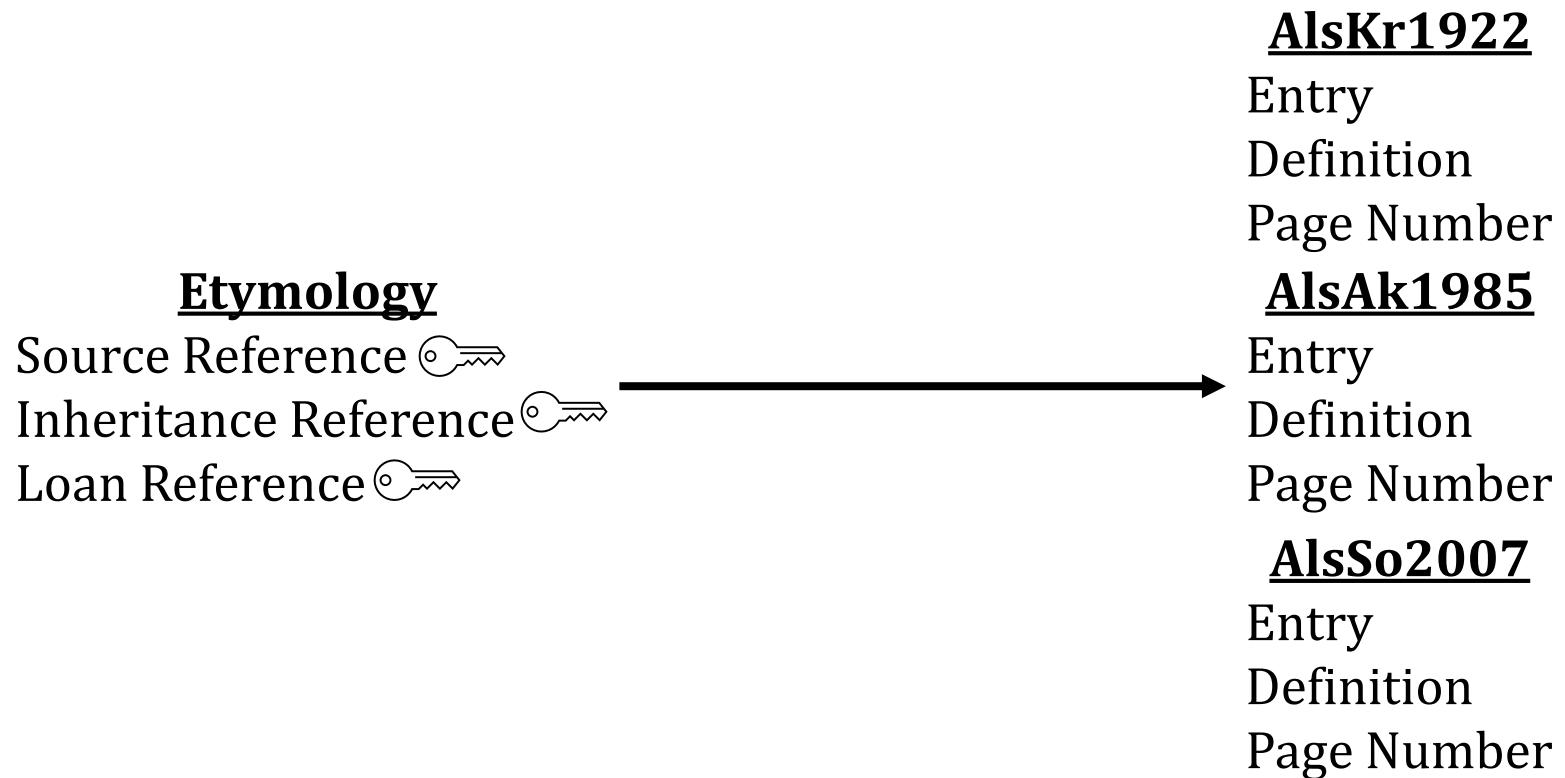
Page Number

| 123 page | A-Z entry | A-Z def-dutch                       |
|----------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 187      | kědih     | langstaartige slankapen, witbuikige |
| 209      | sigöm     | de gewone zwarte suikermier         |
| 187      | imbau     | de zwarte gibbon, of siamang        |

# Historical linguistics data structuring

---

So, how *might* we structure data?



# Historical linguistics data structuring

So, how *might* we structure data?

## AlsKr1922 Etymology

AlsKr1922 Reference 

Alas Reference 

Loan Reference 

## AlsKr1922

Entry  
Definition  
Page Number

## AlsAk1985 Etymology

AlsAk1985 Reference 

Alas Reference 

Loan Reference 

## AlsAk1985

Entry  
Definition  
Page Number

## AlsSo2007 Etymology

AlsSo2007 Reference 

Alas Reference 

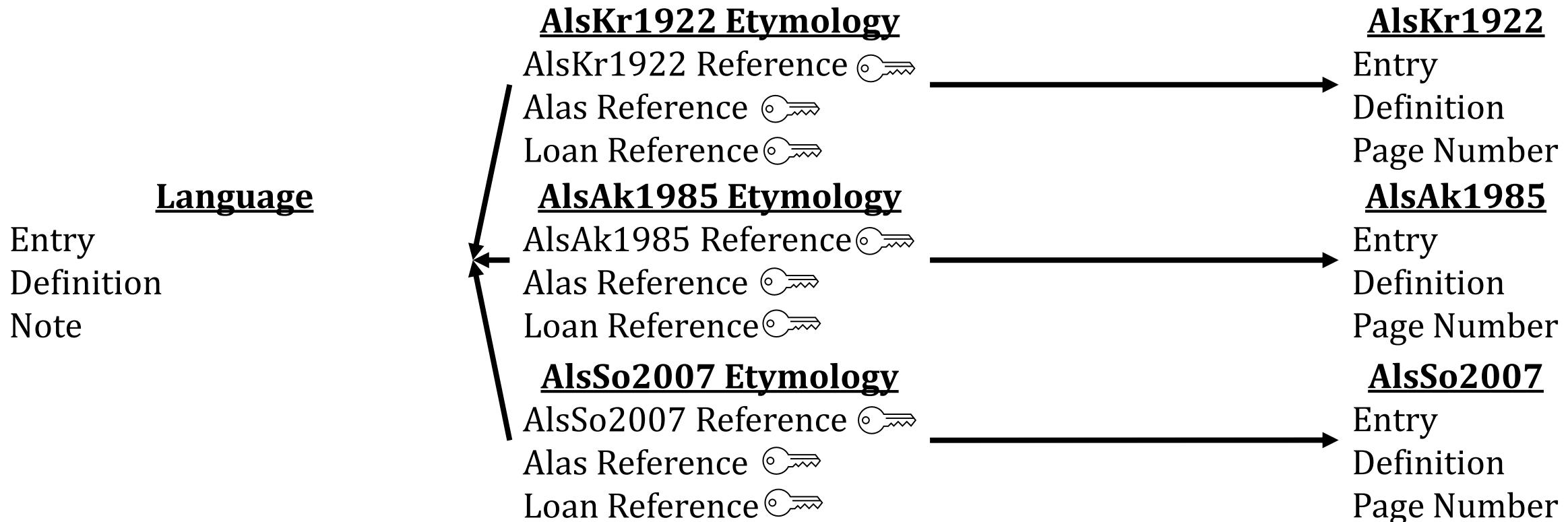
Loan Reference 

## AlsSo2007

Entry  
Definition  
Page Number

# Historical linguistics data structuring

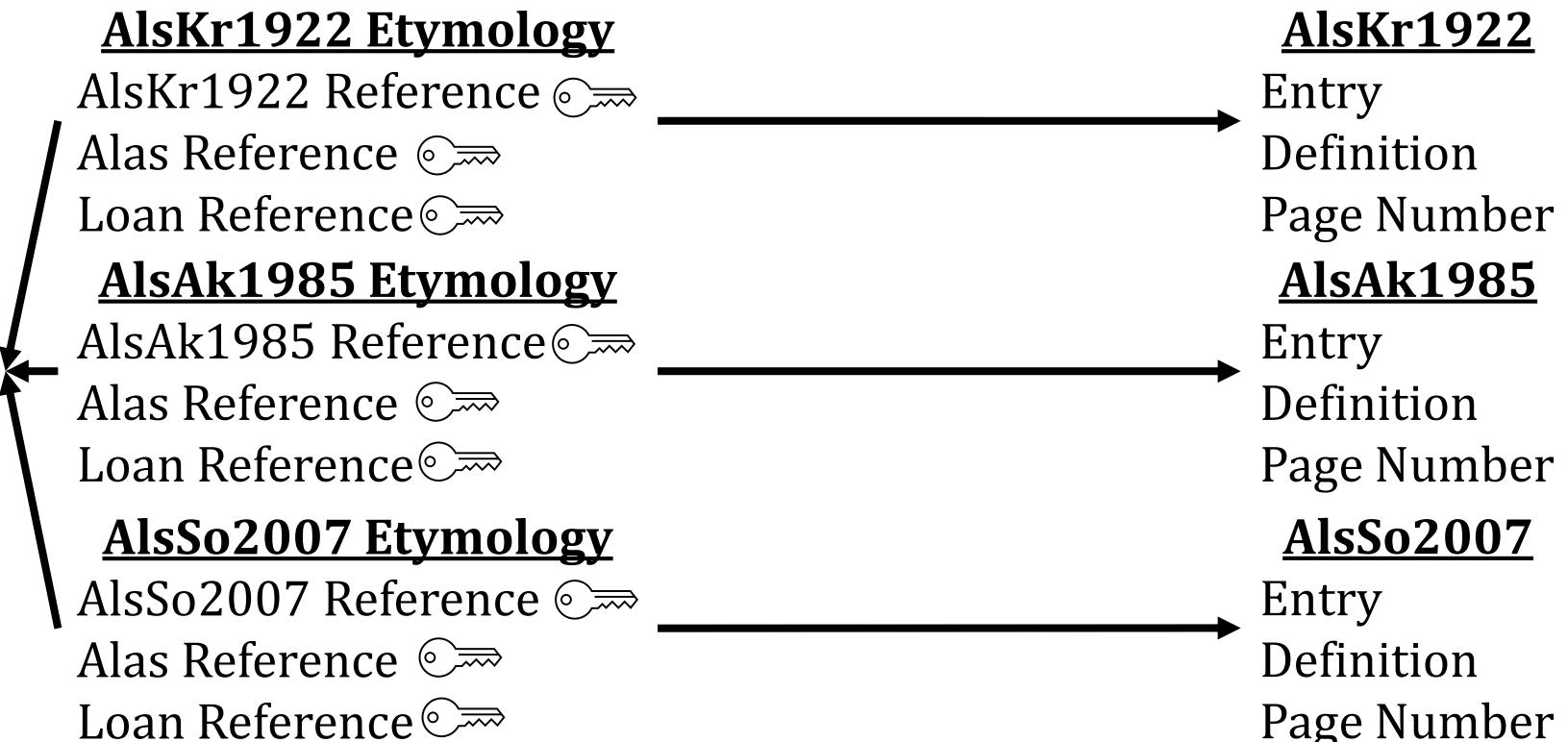
So, how *might* we structure data?



# Historical linguistics data structuring

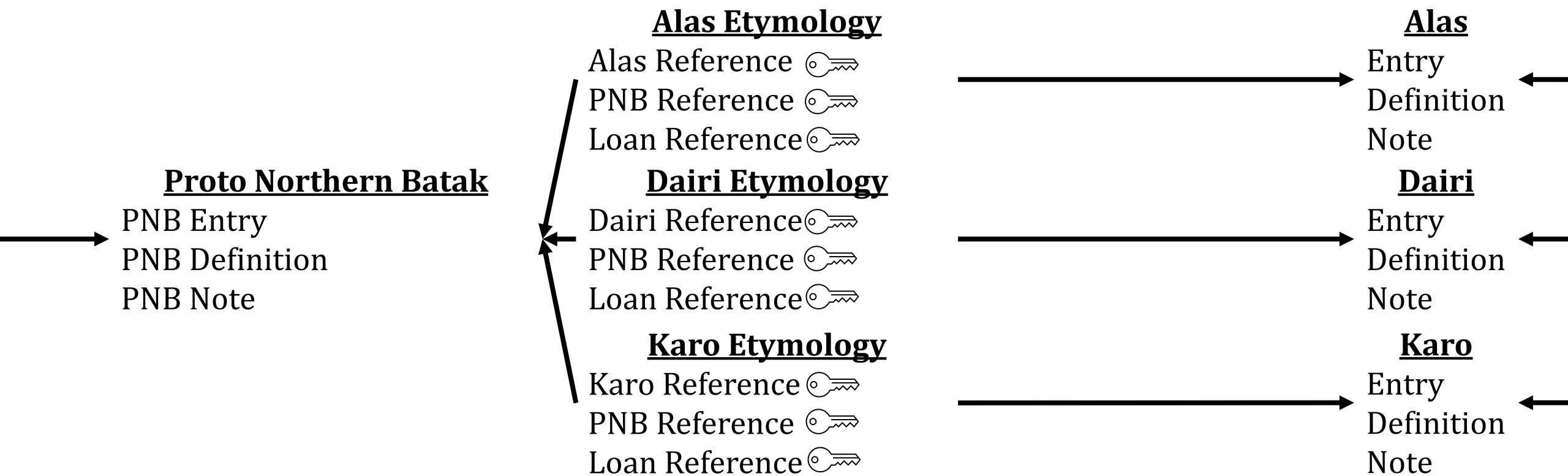
So, how *might* we structure data?

**Alas**  
Alas Entry  
Alas Definition  
Alas Note



# Historical linguistics data structuring

So, how *might* we structure data?



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# **Part 4: Usability of database tools**

# Relational databases

---

## What are databases?

- Includes *flat files*
- Includes *XML files*
- Includes *database management systems (DBMSs)*



database

/'dætəbeɪs/

noun

plural noun: **databases**

a structured set of data held in a computer, especially one that is accessible in various ways.

**DBMSs:** Essentially fast, efficient, and secure storage of large, organized data

## Relational DBMSs (RDBMSs):

- Organizational system akin to multiple sheets on a spreadsheet (but they need not all be open)
- RDBMSs are ubiquitous in nearly all other domains (Miedema et al. 2023: 16)

*"Relational databases are ubiquitous and conceptually simple for all majors to understand based on the analogy of a spreadsheet with named columns." — (Goelman & Dietrich 2018: 320)*

# Relational databases

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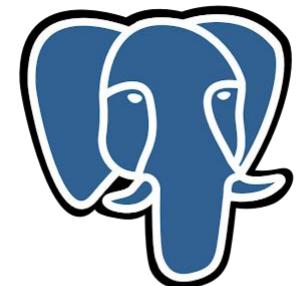
Many RDBMSs are *free, open-source, and extensively documented*

- MySQL, MongoDB, [PostgreSQL](#)

Many are available for *all platforms* (Windows, Mac, Linux)

They can be *edited directly* (like your favorite spreadsheet editor!)

- Datagrip (✓ open-source, ~ free – for students & faculty)
- DBVisualizer (✗ open-source, ✓ free)
- [DBeaver](#) (✓ open-source, ✓ free)



PostgreSQL



| A         | B          | C             | D    | E               |                     |
|-----------|------------|---------------|------|-----------------|---------------------|
| semdomnum | semdomdesc | hollenumber   | page | entry           | def-dutch           |
| 1         | semdomnum  |               |      |                 |                     |
| 2         | 2.1.1      | Face          | 3    | bangòn          | gezicht, aangezicht |
| 3         | 2.1.1      | Skull         | 5    | lalar oeloe     | schedel             |
| 4         | 2.1.5      | Hair          | 6    | bó oeloe        | hoofdhaar           |
| 5         | 2.1.1.2    | Ear           | 9    | kójó kójó       | oor                 |
| 6         | 2.1.1.1    | Eyelid        | 12   | -               | ooglid              |
| 7         | 2.1.5      | Crown of Head | 8    | boefoes         | kruin               |
| 8         | 2.1.1.1    | Eyebrow       | 15   | ling-ar mata    | wenkbrauw           |
| 9         | 2.1.1.1    | Eye           | 11   | mata            | oog                 |
| 10        | 2.1.1.1    | Eyelash       | 13   | -               | oogharen, wimpers   |
| 11        | 2.1.1.1    | Eyebrow       | 14   | -               | wenkbrauwen         |
| 12        | 3.5.6.5    | Tears         | 16   | -               | tranen              |
| 13        | 3.5.6.5    | Tears         | 17   | òwil mata       | traan               |
| 14        | 2.1.1.3    | Nostril       | 19   | -               | neusgat             |
| 15        | 2.2.4      | Mucus         | 20   | bèngòh bèngòh   | snot                |
| 16        | 2.1.1.3    | Nose          | 18   | ichóng          | neus                |
| 17        | 2.1.1.4    | Mouth         | 23   | -               | uitwendige mond     |
| 18        | 2.1.1.4    | Palate        | 32   | teumbah teumbah | verhemelte          |
| 19        | 2.1.1      | Cheek         | 21   | asang           | wang                |
| 20        | 2.1.1.4    | Mouth         | 22   | babah           | mond                |
| 21        | 2.1.1.4    | Mouth         | 24   | -               | inwendige mond      |
| 22        | 2.1.1.4    | Lip           | 26   | -               | lip                 |
| 23        | 2.1.1.4    | Lip           | 25   | bifil           | lippen              |
| 24        | 2.1.8      | Brain         | 36   | -               | hersenen            |
| 25        | 2.1.5      | Mustache      | 27   | koemi           | knevel              |
| 26        | 2.1.5      | Goatee        | 28   | djanggoet       | sik                 |
| 27        | 2.1.1      | Chin          | 29   | seungeu         | kin                 |
| 28        | 2.1.5      | Beard         | 30   | baoe            | baard               |
| 29        | 2.1.1.4    | Tongue        | 31   | dilah           | tono                |

|    | A-Z semdomnum | A-Z semdomdesc | A-Z hollenumber | 123 page | A-Z entry       | A-Z def-dutch       |
|----|---------------|----------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1  | 2.1.1         | Face           | 3               | 32       | bangòn          | gezicht, aangezicht |
| 2  | 2.1.1         | Skull          | 5               | 32       | lalar oeloe     | schedel             |
| 3  | 2.1.5         | Hair           | 6               | 32       | bó oeloe        | hoofdhaar           |
| 4  | 2.1.1.2       | Ear            | 9               | 32       | kójó kójó       | oor                 |
| 5  | 2.1.1.1       | Eyelid         | 12              | 32       | -               | ooglid              |
| 6  | 2.1.5         | Crown of Head  | 8               | 32       | boefoes         | kruin               |
| 7  | 2.1.1.1       | Eyebrow        | 15              | 32       | ling-ar mata    | wenkbrauw           |
| 8  | 2.1.1.1       | Eye            | 11              | 32       | mata            | oog                 |
| 9  | 2.1.1.1       | Eyelash        | 13              | 32       | -               | oogharen, wimpers   |
| 10 | 2.1.1.1       | Eyebrow        | 14              | 32       | -               | wenkbrauwen         |
| 11 | 3.5.6.5       | Tears          | 16              | 32       | -               | tranen              |
| 12 | 3.5.6.5       | Tears          | 17              | 32       | òwil mata       | traan               |
| 13 | 2.1.1.3       | Nostril        | 19              | 32       | -               | neusgat             |
| 14 | 2.2.4         | Mucus          | 20              | 32       | bèngòh bèngòh   | snot                |
| 15 | 2.1.1.3       | Nose           | 18              | 32       | ichóng          | neus                |
| 16 | 2.1.1.4       | Mouth          | 23              | 32       | -               | uitwendige mond     |
| 17 | 2.1.1.4       | Palate         | 32              | 32       | teumbah teumbah | verhemelte          |
| 18 | 2.1.1         | Cheek          | 21              | 32       | asang           | wang                |
| 19 | 2.1.1.4       | Mouth          | 22              | 32       | babah           | mond                |
| 20 | 2.1.1.4       | Mouth          | 24              | 32       | -               | inwendige mond      |
| 21 | 2.1.1.4       | Lip            | 26              | 32       | -               | lip                 |

# Database tools: Benefits

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Easy to download and get started (**talk to me or email me!**)

Same old, familiar spreadsheet look and feel (with *more* and *better* functionality)

Form the basis for nearly all data-heavy web-based applications

Lots of advanced functionality, but nothing you need to learn to use it

Save database dumps, give version numbers, and upload for version control

All uses of a lexical item automatically linked to its citation if stored in the source file

Exceptionally fast for data access and editing

...

\*\*\*You can always **easily** back out! (⇒ convert it all to CSVs)\*\*\*

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# **Part 5** (finally): Concluding thoughts

# Conclusion

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**Final Notes:** CLLD, CLDF, Other existing databases (Bowern 2014, Greenhill 2015)

Assessing data organization methods early can assist greatly in analysis of historical data

Databases are accessible and familiar(-ish) format for organizing data

RDBMSs are the standard in all other domains

Database tables are easily exportable to other formats



# Thank you!!!

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# Questions? Comments?

(Threats?)

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# References

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## Picture Credits:

**Coupling & cohesion diagram:** <https://medium.com/@granthopkins0315/beyond-the-monolith-embracing-flexibility-with-n-tiered-architectures-b87209528e9c>

**Terrible text file:** <https://www.withdata.com/blog/datafilesplitter/split-pipe-delimited-text-by-column-value.html>

**Terrible excel spreadsheet 1:** <https://x.com/BenCrellin/status/1511368354363289604?lang=ar>

**Dilbert #1:** <https://www.applicoinc.com/blog/spreadsheets-sabotaging-business/>

**Dilbert #2:** <https://www.auditexcel.co.za/blog/dilberts-understanding-of-spreadsheets/?srsltid=AfmBOop59JpTKmr350Ec0CzOhY4LsiUIj4L1NaHvkeZka9hrEID2GFvA>

**PostgreSQL logo:** <https://www.arbin.com/software-solution/introduction-postgresql.html>

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