**ER 12.1 *Germanic German***

Here are some examples from modern German of the characteristics of Germanic languages discussed in the text:

(a) strong initial stress: the Germans call it *Anfangsbetonung* (literally ‘beginning stress’), and the word itself illustrates the point, with the main stress on the first syllable).

(b) verb second: You can say *Ich war gestern in Berlin* (literally ‘I was yesterday in Berlin’) and *Gestern war ich in Berlin* (‘Yesterday was I in Berlin’). In both cases the verb is the second item.

(c) strong verbs: the verb *gehen* (‘to go’) has the forms: *geht* (present), *ging* (past) *gegangen* (past participle). These are not the forms which ‘regular’ verbs follow.

(d) inflections: the adjective *neu* (‘new’) has six forms: *neu, neuer, neuen, neuem, neues, neue*. Which one to use depends on the gender, number and grammatical function of the noun.

(e) affixation for lexis creation: common (and extremely productive) suffixes in German are *-bar* (*essbar* = ‘edible’; *-haft*  (*glaubhaft* = ‘credible’); *-ig* (*sonnig* = ‘sunny’); *-voll* (*kraftvoll* = ‘powerful’). There are many more.

(f) ‘compounding’ for lexis creation: the German noun *Luft* means ‘air’. My German dictionary gives over a hundred compound nouns using *Luft*, including *Luftabwehr* (‘air defence’), *Luftballon* (‘air balloon’), and *Luftkurort* (‘health resort’).

(g) Germanic vocabulary: though (like English), German has words orginiating from other languages, a good percentage of modern German words are Germanic in origin.