

- ▶ The distinction between the two basically different ways in which language may be viewed is the **historical** or **diachronic** (Gr *dia* ‘through’ and *chronos* ‘time’) and
  - ▶ **the descriptive or synchronic** (Gr *syn* ‘together’, ‘with’). We may study the language synchronically at a given stage of the language’s development or diachronically in the context of the processes through which it develops.
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