Discuss the relation between morphophonemic alteration and internal reconstruction with examples from English.
OR
Write a note on internal reconstruction.

The technique of internal reconstruction about a single language at a single stage of its development say modern English or classical Latin. The fundamental assumption is that some events in the history of language leave discernible trace in the design so that by finding its traces one can draw inferences as to the earlier incidents which are responsible for them.

A careful examination of morphophonemic irregularities in a language, and of the distributional aspects of its phonological system should yield reasonable deductions of its earlier history. Because phonemic restructuring brought about by sound change tend to make for irregularities of morphophonemic alteration and conversely many morphophonemic irregularities found in a language at a given stage, reflect an earlier regularity disrupted by phonemic reconstructing.

Internal reconstruction proposes that, what passes is purely a synchronic view, as a statement of morphophonemic alteration, may in a historical view be a description of a chronological sequence of events. The method of internal reconstruction yields results of varying value. The historical linguist does not work exclusively with internal reconstruction but rather this technique to any and every other which circumstances allow.

WHAT IS A RECONSTRUCTED FORM?

Bloomfield states "a reconstructed form is a formulae that tells us which identities or systematic correspondences of phonemes appear in a set of related languages; moreover, since these identities and correspondences reflect features that were already present in the present languages. The reconstructed form is also a mind of the Germanic languages. We find the following forms of the word father:

1. Gothic   4th century A.D.   [fa ar]
                 (text)
2. Old Norse   13th century A.D.   [fa er]
3. Old High German   9th century A.D.   [fater]

We sum up the above facts by putting down the primitive Germanic prototype as [fater]. This summarizing formulae also shows us the phonemic structure of the pre-historic form. This formulae embodies the following observation. All the Germanic languages stressed the first syllable of this word as of the most others. This means that the word shared with morphemic feature which appears in all the actual Germanic languages as a high stress on the first syllable of the word.

A procedure which takes outside language into account for reconstructing is called the method of internal reconstruction which is based on the occurrence of sound change without regard to morphological classes. A sound may undergo change in a number of morph of a morpheme in which it occurs in specific surroundings; in others it may remain unchanged.