4. Nouns

4.1. Declension of Nouns

4.1.1. Declension is made by adding terminations to different stem endings, vowel or consonant. The various phonetic changes in the language have given rise to the several declensions. Most of the case-endings, as given in Europaio, contain also the final letter of the stem.

Adjectives are, in general, declined like nouns, and are etymologically to be classed with them; but they have some peculiarities of inflection.

4.1.2. Nouns are inflected in four Declensions, distinguished by the final phonemes, characteristic of the Stem, and by the opposition of different forms in irregular nouns.

Decl.	Stem ending	Nom.	Genitive
1	-i, -u, -i̯, -u̯ and Diphthongs	-s, -ø	-e/ois, ios ; -e/ous, -uos
2	Sonants and Consonants	-s, -ø	-e/os, -s
3	-a̱, -ia /-i̱ / -ia̱, -e̱, -o̱	-ø	-s
4	-e/o (thematic)	-s	-os, -osio, -oso, -i̱
(5)	*Variable Nouns*		

The Stem of a noun may be found, if a consonant stem, by omitting the case-ending; if a vowel stem, by substituting for the case-ending the characteristic vowel.

4.1.3. The following are General Rules of Declension:

a. The Nominative singular for animates ends in -**s** when the stem endings are -*i*, *i̯*, *u*, *u̯*, *diphthong*, *occlusive* and *thematic* (-**os**), or -*ø* in -a̱, -*a*, *sonant* and -*s*; while in the plural -**es** is general, -**s** for those in -a̱, and -**os** for the *thematic* ones.

b. The Accusative singular of all masculines and feminines ends in -**m**; the Accusative plural in -**ms**.

c. The Vocative singular for animates is always -*ø*, and in the plural it is identical to the Nominative.

d. The Genitive singular is common to animates and inanimates, it is formed with -**s**: -**s**, -**es**, -**os**. A very old possibility is -**osio**. The Genitive plural is formed in -**om** and -**em**, and also in -**am** in *a-stems*.

e. The Obliques singular end usually in -**i**: it can be -**i**, -**ei**, -**ei**, -**oi**, -**oi** or -**ai**. In the plural, there are two series of declensions, with -**bh** (general) and -**m** (only ger. and sla.), generally -**bhi**, -**bhis**, -**bhios**, -**mis**, -**mos**, and also some forms in -**si** (plural mark -**s-** plus oblique mark -**i**), mainly in the southern dialects.

f. Inanimates have a syncretic form for N.-Ac.-V. in -*ø* in *athematic*, or -**m** in *thematic*. The plural forms end in -**a** or -**a**.

g. All Animates have the same form in the plural for Nom.-Voc., in -**es**.

4.1.4. The *Oblique* cases, opposed to the *Straight* cases (Nom.-Acc.-Voc) are Genitive and Oblique.

4.2. First Declension

4.2.1. First Declension Paradigm

1. The Stem of nouns of the First Declension ends in -**i**, -**u**, -**i̱**, -**u̱** and **diphthong**. The Nominative ending is -*s*.

2. Europaio nouns of the First Declension are thus generally declined:

	Animate	*Inanimate*
NOM.	-s	
ACC.	-m	-Ø
VOC.	-Ø	
GEN.	- (e/o)s	
OBL.	-ei / -i	

3. The animates in -**i** and -**u** are masculine or feminine (indifferent to the distinction in adjectives); those in -**i̱** and -**u̱**, always feminine.

4. The -s can indicate Nominative and Genitive: the distinction is obtained through the full-grade of the vowel before the declension (Gen. -*ei*-*s* for -**i**, -*ou*-*s* for -**u**).

Another problem is that of the indistinctness between the Vocative of the animates and the Nom.-Acc.-Voc. of the inanimates. But in this case, distinction is guaranteed in the noun because they have different stem vowels. The problem comes in the adjective, where a Vocative singular animate -*i* can be an homophone with Nom.-Acc.-Voc. singular neuter -*i* (like in lat. *suaue, -i*). This is, though, a rare case, in which the context is generally enough for disambiguation.

4.2.2. In -i,-u

1. Nominative Singular Animate in -**s**; as in **o**wis, n**o**qtis, gh**o**stis, s**u**nus,

2. Accusative Singular Animate in -**m**; as in **o**wim, n**o**qtim, gh**o**stim, s**u**num

3. Vocative Singular Animate in -**ei** or -**i**, -**eu** or -**u**; as in **o**wei/**o**wi, s**u**neu-s**u**nou/s**u**nu.

4. The Nom.-Acc.-Voc. Singular Inanimate in -**i**, -**u**; as in p**e**ku, m**e**dhu, sw**a**d**u**

5. Genitive Singular in -**eis** (-**ois**) or -**ios**, -**eus** (-**ous**), -**uos**; as in egn**e**is, s**u**nous, p**e**kwos, adj. sw**a**d**e**us

6. Oblique Singular in -**ei**, -**ou**, also with long vowel, -**ei**, -**ou**, and also in ø-grade, -**i**, -**u**: egn**e**i, s**u**nu, ow**e**i.

SINGULAR

	f. neqti	*m. sunu*	*f. owi*	*n. peku*
NOM.	n**e**qtis	s**u**nus	**o**wis	p**e**ku
ACC.	n**e**qtim	s**u**num	**o**wim	p**e**ku
VOC.	n**e**qti	s**u**nu	**o**wi	p**e**ku
GEN.	n**e**qteis	s**u**nous	**o**wios	p**e**kwos
OBL.	n**e**qtei	s**u**nou	**o**wei	p**e**kou

4.2.3. In -i,-u

1. Its inflection is similar to that of -**i**, -**u**, but they have no alternating vowels before the declension, and the -**i** and -**u** are substituted before vowel by -*ij*, -*uw*.

2. They are always feminine, and they cannot be inanimates nor adjectives.

3. These themes are most of the times roots.

4. Examples of this are:

SINGULAR

	f. br*u*	*f. dngh*u***
NOM.	br*u*-s	d*n*gh*u*-s
ACC.	br*u*-m	d*n*gh*u*-m
VOC.	br*u*	d*n*gh*u*
GEN.	bruw-**es**	dnghuw-**os**
OBL.	bruw-**e**i / bruw-**i**	dnghuw-**o**u

4.2.4. In Diphthong

1. There are long diphthongs -**au**, -**eu**, -**ou**, -**ei**, which sometimes present short vowels, as well as other endings without diphthong, i.e., -**a**, -**e**, -**o**.

NOTE. The last are probably remains of older diphthongs, from IE II. So, although from the point of view of the Europaio there are only stems with variants -**au**, -**eu**, -**a**, etc, these can all be classified as Diphthong endings, because the original stems were formed as diphthongs in the language history. This kind of irregularities is usual in today's languages, as it was already five millennia ago.

In zero grade, in Genitive, there are forms with -**i**- or -**ij**- or with -**u**- or -**uw**-, depending on the diphthongs.

SINGULAR

	*m. c**ou***	*m. dj**eu***
NOM.	c**o**us	dj**e**us
ACC.	c**o**m	dj**e**m, dij**e**m
VOC.	c**o**u	dj**e**u
GEN.	c**o**us	diu**o**s, dj**e**ues
OBL.	c**ow**i	dj**e**uei

2. These are root words, but there is a secondary formation of words, especially that of Greek origin, in -**eus**, -**euos**, as in Avestic *b**az**aus*, arm, or gr. *Basileus*, which are also so declined.

4.2.5. The Plural in the First Declension

1. The following table depicts the general system, common to the First and Second Declension.

	Animate	*Inanimate*
NOM.	-es	
ACC.	-ms	-a, -<u>a</u>
VOC.	-es	
GEN.	-<u>o</u>m, -<u>e</u>m	
OBL.	-bhis, -bhos; -mis, -mos; -si	

NOTE. The inanimate plural forms, -**a** and -<u>a</u>, correspond possibly to an older theme vowel of an earlier stage of the language, *-**h** and *-**eh** after the Laryngeals' Theory.

2. Unlike in the Singular, in which only some Nominatives have an -**s**, in Nom.-Voc. Plural the -**s** is general, and there is always one fix-grade vowel, **e**. So, the opposition Singular-Plural in -**s**/-**es** is actually a **ø**/**e** distinction. This opposition has also sometimes another mark, that of the vowel before the ending (see § [4.7](#)).

3. The Nom.-Voc. Plural Animate is normally in -**es**; as in c**o**wes

There are forms in -**eies** for -**i** themes, as in ow**e**ies; in -**eues** for -**u** themes, as in s<u>u</u>n**e**ues; in **ijes**, -**uwes** for -<u>i</u>, -<u>u</u>; as in bhr**u**wes;

4. The Accusative Plural Animate is in -**ms**: **o**wims, s<u>u</u>nums, coms/c**o**ums

NOTE. Many scholars reconstruct for IE III the accusative plural ending -**ns**, because most of the attested proto-languages show either -**ns** (as some endings in Sanskrit or Germanic) or long vowel, sometimes with -**s**. Most of them also admit an original, older -**ms** form (a logical accusative singular -**m** plus the plural mark -**s**), but they prefer to reconstruct the attested -**ns**, thus (implicitly) suggesting an intermediate phase (IE II -**ms**> **IE III *-ns**> proto-languages -**ns**/-_**s**), common to all proto-languages. We don't know if this intermediate phase happened, and if it was common to all languages, or even if it was common to those languages which present in some declensions -**ns**, and in other declensions another endings. What we do know is that the

form -**ms** is older than any other, and that it existed already in the IE II dialects, as the Anatolian shows.

5. Nom.-Voc. Acc. Plural Inanimate in -*a*

6. Genitive Plural Animate in -*om*/-*om* and -*em*: **o**wi-om, n**o**qti-om, s**u**n**u**w-**e**m/s**u**n**u**w-om, cow-om

NOTE. The -**m** of the Acc. sg. An., Nom.-Acc.-Voc. sg. Inan. and this case could sometimes be equivocal. It is disambiguated with the vocalic grade, full or lengthened, which the Genitive takes - as the singular is always ø.

7. The Obliques are generally divided into two groups, that of the i.-i., gr., arm., lat., and cel. in -*bh*-; and another of the ger. and bsl. in -*m*-. There are, thus, -*bhis*, -*bhos*, -*bhios*, -*bhi*, and -*mis*, -*mos*: s**u**n**u**bhis / s**u**n**u**bhos / s**u**n**u**bhios / s**u**n**u**mis / s**u**n**u**mos.

There is also another possible ending, mostly (southern) dialectal, in -*si*: s**u**n**u**si

NOTE. This has probably an origin in the plural mark -*s*-, to which the local case ending -**i** is added. This is a general oblique ending in the thematic declension.

	f. owi	*m. sunu*	*f. bhru*	**m. cou**
NOM.	ow**e**ies	s**u**n**e**ues	bhr**u**wes	c**o**wes
ACC.	**o**wims	s**u**nums	bhr**u**ms	c**o**ums
VOC.	ow**e**ies	s**u**n**e**ues	bhr**u**wes	c**o**wes
GEN.	**o**wiom	s**u**n**u**w**e**m	bhr**u**w**o**m	c**o**wom
OBL.	ow**e**bhos	s**u**n**u**bhis	bhr**u**m**i**s	coum**o**s

4.3. Second Declension

4.3.1. Second Declension Paradigm

1. The Stem of nouns of the Second Declension ends in sonant and consonant, that is: -**n**, -**r**, (rarely -**l**, -**m**), -**s** and occlusive (especially -**t**). The flexion of the animates is substantially the same as that of the First Declension.

The Nominative ending is -**s** (with occlusive, and -**m**, -**l**), but there is also a Nominative singular with pure stem vowel (declension -ø and lengthened ending vowel), so that the full-grade Vocative is differentiated. And there is no confusion in Nom./Gen., as -**s** has a different vowel grade (Nom. -**s**, Gen. -**es** or -**os**)

2. Europaio nouns of the Second Declension have thus two models:

ANIMATES

	Occlusive, -m, -l	*-r, -n, -s*
NOM.	-s	-ø (long vowel)
ACC.	-m ['m]	-m ['m]
VOC.	-ø	-ø (full grade)
GEN.	-e/os	
OBL.	-i, -ei	

3. Inanimates have pure vowel stems with different vocalic grades. In nouns there can be no confusion at all, as they are different words, but the neuter adjectives could be mistaken in Nominative or Vocative Animate. Distinction is thus obtained with vocalism, so in animate -**on** / inanimate -**on**, animate -**es** / inanimate -**es** (neuter nouns with -**s** theme are in -**os**).

4.3.2. In Occlusive, -m, -l

1. Nominative Singular Animate in -*s*; as in p<u>o</u>ds/peds, bh**r**ghs [bh'**r**ghs], d<u>o</u>nts/dents

2. Accusative Singular Animate in -*[']m*; as in p<u>o</u>dm [p**o:**d'm] / p**e**dm [p**e**d'm], bh**r**ghm [bh'**r**gh'm], d<u>o</u>ntm [d**o:**nt'm] / d**e**ntm [d**e**nt'm]

3. Vocative Singular Animate in -*ø*; a sin p<u>o</u>d/ped, bhrgh, d<u>o</u>nt/dent

5. The Nom.-Acc.-Voc. Singular Inanimate in -*ø*, with various vocalisms; as in krd [k'rd]

4. Genitive Singular in -*e*/*os*; as in p<u>o</u>dos/p<u>o</u>d**o**s, p**e**des/ped**e**s, d<u>o</u>ntos/d<u>o</u>nt**o**s, d**e**ntes/dent**e**s, bh**r**ghos

6. Oblique Singular in -*i*, -*ei*: p<u>o</u>di, d<u>o</u>nti

SINGULAR

	m. ped	*m. d<u>o</u>nt*	*n. krd*
NOM.	peds	d<u>o</u>nts	krd
ACC.	pedm	d<u>o</u>ntm	krd
VOC.	p**e**d	d<u>o</u>nt	krd
GEN.	p**e**des	d<u>o</u>ntos	k**r**dos
OBL.	pedi	d<u>o</u>nti	k**r**di

4.3.3. In -r, -n, -s

1. Nominative Singular Animate in -*ø* (with lengthened vowel); as in m<u>a</u>t<u>e</u>r, kw<u>o</u>n.

Stems in -**s**, ndher-gen<u>**e**</u>s (*degenerate*); lat. p**u**b<u>e</u>s, h**o**n<u>o</u>s, *honor*

2. Accusative Singular Animate in -*[']m*; as in m<u>a</u>term [m**a:**ter'm], k**wo**nm [kw**o**n'm], ndheregen**e**sm [ndhergen**e**s'm]; lat. hon<u>o</u>sm

3. Vocative Singular Animate in -*ø* (with full vowel); as in m<u>a</u>ter, k**u**on

5. The Nom.-Acc.-Voc. Singular Inanimate in -*ø*; as in n**o**mn [n**o**m'n], g**e**n<u>e</u>s.

The adjectives in -**s** have the neuter in -**es**: eugen**e**s

4. Genitive Singular in -**e**/**os**; as in m<u>a</u>tr**e**s/m<u>a</u>tr**o**s, kun**e**s/kun**o**s, nomn**e**s [nom'n**e**s] / nomn**o**s [nom'n**o**s]

Nouns and adjectives in -**s** have an **e**, not an **o**, as the final stem vowel: geneses, eugen**e**os

6. Oblique Singular in -**ei**, -**i**: m<u>a</u>teri, kw**o**ni

	m. kwon	*f. m<u>a</u>t<u>e</u>r*	*n. gen<u>e</u>s*	*n. nomn*
NOM.	kw<u>o</u>n	m<u>a</u>ter	gen<u>e</u>s	n**o**mn
ACC.	kw**o**nm	m<u>a</u>term	gen<u>e</u>s	n**o**mn
VOC.	kwon	m<u>a</u>ter	gen<u>e</u>s	n**o**mn
GEN.	kun**o**/**es**	m<u>a</u>tr**e**/**os**	gen<u>e</u>ses	nomn**e**/**os**
OBL.	kw**o**ni	m<u>a</u>teri	gen<u>e</u>si	n**o**mni

	adj. m. ndhergen-
NOM.	ndhergen**e**s
ACC.	ndhergen**e**sm
VOC.	ndhergen**e**s
GEN.	ndhergen<u>e</u>ses
OBL.	ndhergen<u>e</u>si

4.3.4. The Plural in the Second Declension

1. This is the general plural system:

	Animate	Inanimate
NOM.	-es	
ACC.	-ms ['ms]	-a, -a̱
VOC.	-es	
GEN.	-o̱m, -e̱m	
OBL.	-bhis, -bhos; -mis, -mos; -si	

Note. For more information on the general Plural system, see § 4.2.5.

	f. ma̱te̱r	m. do̱nt	n. gene̱s	n. nomn
NOM.	ma̱teres	do̱ntes	genesa	nomna
ACC.	ma̱ter[']ms*	do̱nt[']ms	genesa	nomna
VOC.	ma̱teres	do̱ntes	genesa	nomna
GEN.	matro̱m	do̱ntom	geneso̱m	nomno̱m
OBL.	ma̱terbhos	do̱ntsu	genesmis	nomnbhis

* ma̱terms or ma̱terms

4.4. Third Declension

4.4.1. Third Declension Paradigm

1. They are usually Animate nouns and end in -**a**, -**ia** [iə] / **i** / **ia**, -**e**, -**o**. Those in -**a** are very common, generally feminine in nouns and always in adjectives. Those in -**ia**/ **i**/ -**ia** are always feminine and are used to make feminines in the adjectival *motion*. Those in -**o** and -**e** are feminine only in lesser used words. Those in -**a** are etymologically identical to the Neuter plural in Nom.-Acc.-Voc.

Note. The entire stem could have been reduced to -**a**, because this is the origin of the whole stem system before IE III, even before the II stage of the language. We sacrifice clarity for a thorough approach, but that doesn't mean that the Third Declension cannot be named *a-Declension*, just as the Second is the *Consonant Declension*, or the Fourth is the *Thematic Declension*.

2. Europaio nouns of the Third Declension have thus the following model, with the exception of the -**e**, -**o** stems:

	Animate	*Inanimate*
NOM.	-Ø	
ACC.	-m	-Ø
VOC.	-Ø	
GEN.	-s	
OBL.	-ai, ei; -a	

NOTE. Some argue (because of the obvious analogy with the other declensions) that the -*ai* in the Oblique could correspond to an older -*aei* or even -*aei* declension. This controversial issue is irrelevant for our system, though, as the situation we represent here is not that of the earlier stages of the language.

3. It is therefore identical to those in -**r**, -**n**, -**s** of the Second Declension, but for some details in vocalism: the Gen. has an -**s** and not -**e/os**; the difference between Nom. and Voc. is that of -**a** and -**a**. The ø-grade of the Nom.-Acc.-Voc. in the -**ia**/-**i** themes is different from the Gen. in -**ia**.

4.4.2. Third Declension in Examples

1. Nominative Singular in *ø*; as, **e**kw**a**, s**e**n**a**.

Examples of -**ia**/-**i** stems are p**o**tnia/p**o**tn**i**

Those in themes -**e**, -**o**, which aren't found very often, can present an -**s** as well; as in bh**i**dh**e**s (lat. fides)

Those in -**a** can also rarely present forms in -**a**; as in gr. lesb. Dika

2. Accusative Singular in -**m**; as, **e**kw**a**m, p**o**tniam/p**o**tn**i**m, bh**i**dh**e**m

3. Vocative Singular in -*ø*. It is normally identical to the Nominative, but disambiguation could happen with distinct vowel grades.

4. Genitive Singular in -**s**; as, **e**kw**a**s, s**e**n**a**s

The theme in -**ia**/-**i**/-**ia** produces a Genitive Singular in -**a**s; as, potni**a**s

5. Oblique Singular in -**a**i, -**a**

There is also a form -**ei** for themes in -**e** and in -**ia**.

	m. ekwa	*m. potnia/i*	*m. bhidhe-*
NOM.	**e**kw**a**	p**o**tnia/**i**	bh**i**dh**e**s
ACC.	**e**kw**a**m	p**o**tnia/**i**-m	bh**i**dh**e**m
VOC.	**e**kw**a**	p**o**tnia/**i**	bh**i**dh**e**
GEN.	**e**kw**a**s	p**o**tnia/**i**-s	bh**i**dhes
OBL.	**e**kw**a**i	p**o**tn**a**i	bh**i**dei

	adj. f. sen-
NOM.	s**e**n**a**
ACC.	s**e**n**a**m
VOC.	s**e**n**a**
GEN.	s**e**n**a**s
OBL.	s**e**n**a**i

4.4.3. The Plural in the Third Declension

1. The following table presents the plural paradigm of the *a-Declension*, all of them animates.

	Animate
NOM.	-s
ACC.	-ms
VOC.	-s
GEN.	-m
OBL.	-bhis, -bhos; -mis, -mos; -si;

2. The Nominative-Vocative Plural in -***s***: **e**kw**a**-s.

This form could obviously be confused with the Genitive Singular. In equivocal contexts we change preferably the accent (ekw**a**-s, ekw**a**-ms, ekw**a**-m).

3. The Accusative Plural in -***ms***: **e**kw**a**-ms

4. The Genitive Plural in -***m***: **e**kw**a**-m

5. The Obliques Plural in -***bhis***, -***bhos***, -***bhios***, -***mis***, -***mos*** and -***si***: **e**kw**a**-bhis, **e**kw**a**-bhos, **e**kw**a**-mis, **e**kw**a**-mos, **e**kw**a**-si, **e**kw**a**-su

The Obliques have also special forms in Greek, -***aisi***, -***ais***, and Latin -***ais***: as in lat. *ros**i**s<*rosais*.

	m. ekwa	*m. potnia/i*
NOM.	ekw**a**s	potni**a**s
ACC.	ekw**a**ms	potni**a**ms
VOC.	ekw**a**s	potni**a**s
GEN.	ekw**a**m	p**o**tni**a**som
OBL.	ekw**a**bhis	potni**a**mos

4.5. Fourth Declension

4.5.1. Fourth Declension Paradigm

1. The Stem of nouns of the Fourth Declension ends in -**e**/**o**, i.e. they are thematic. They can be animates and inanimates, as well as adjectives. The inanimates have an ending -**m** only in Nom.-Acc.-Voc. The animates, with a Nominative -**s**, are generally masculine in nouns and adjectives, but there are also feminine nouns and animate adjectives in -**os**, as remains of the old indistinctness of declension.

2. The **e**/**o** stems are declined:

	Animate	*Inanimate*
NOM.	-os	
ACC.	-om	-om
VOC.	-e	
GEN.	-os, -osio, -oso, -i̠	
OBL.	-o̠i, -oi, -ei; -o̠, -e̠	

NOTE. It is obvious that this model could have been written without the initial vowel -**o-**, given that the probable origin of this vowel is the theme vowel of some thematic stems, while other, primitive athematic stems were reinterpreted thereafter and this vowel was added to them by way of analogy. So, for thematic stems, like **wlqo**-, this system should be read Nom. -**s**, Acc. -**m**, Voc. -**e**, Gen. -**s**, -**sio**, -**so**, -*i*.

3. There is obviously a possible confusion between the Nominative and the Genitive in -**os**. This can only be solved with lengthenings, as in -**os-io** or **os-o**.

4.5.2. Fourth Declension in Examples

1. Nominative Singular Animate in -**os**; as in w**l**qos

2. Accusative Singular Animate in -**om**; as in w**l**qom

3. Vocative Singular Animate in -**e**; as in w**l**qe

5. The Nom.-Acc.-Voc. Singular Inanimate in -**om**; as in jug**o**m, n**e**wom

4. Genitive Singular in -**os**, -**osio**, -**e**/**oso**, or -**i̯**; as in w**l**qosio / wlq**e**so / w**l**qi̯,

NOTE. The original form -**os** is rare, as the Genitive has to be distinguished from the Nominative. This disambiguation happens, as already said, by alternatively lengthening the ending or changing it altogether. This Declension is probably recent in IE III - even though it happened already in IE II - and that's why it is homogeneous, without variations in vocalism nor in accent; the major problem is the distinction between Genitive and Nominative.

6. Oblique Singular in -**o̯i**, -**oi**, -**o** : w**l**qoi, n**e**wo̯i

SINGULAR

	m. wlqo	*n. jugo*
NOM.	w**l**qos	jug**o**m
ACC.	w**l**qom	jug**o**m
VOC.	w**l**qe	jug**o**m
GEN.	w**l**qosio	jug**os**
OBL.	w**l**qoi	jug**o̯i**

4.5.3. The Plural in the Fourth Declension

1. The table of the Thematic Plural system is this:

	Animate	Inanimate
NOM.	-os, -oi	
ACC.	-oms	
VOC.	-os, -oi	-a, -a
GEN.	-om/-om, -em	
OBL.	-ois, -oisi; -ois, -oisi	

NOTE. The plural, -*es*, if compared with the other declensions, could indicate that the original form was *-*o*-*es*>-*os*. This discussion is not relevant for our system, though, as the situation we look for is that of the third stage and not the etymology of every single case.

2. The Nominative-Vocative Animate Plural in -*os*: w**l**qos/w**l**qoi, w**i**ros

3. The Accusative Animate Plural in -*oms*: w**l**qoms

4. The Nom.-Voc.-Acc. Inanimate Plural in -*a*, -*a*: jug*a*/jug**a**

NOTE. Even though this ending is similar to other declensions, please notice that it has no theme vowel. This happens probably because, as we said in the general model section, the inanimate ending is an independent older form of an earlier stage, later modified. The possible *-*h* and *-*eh*, therefore, changed the themes altogether, by changing the vowels.

5. The Genitive Plural in -*om*/-*om*, -*em*: w**l**qom/w**l**qem

6. 5. The Obliques Plural in -*ois*, -*oisi*; -*ois*, -*oisi*, and also, as in the other Declensions, -*bhis*, -*bhos*, -*bhios*, -*mis*, -*mos* and -*si*: w**l**qois/ w**l**qoisi

	m. wlqo	n. jugo
NOM.	w**l**qos	jug**a**
ACC.	w**l**qoms	jug**a**
VOC.	w**l**qos	jug**a**
GEN.	w**l**qom	jug**a**
OBL.	w**l**qois	jug**ois**

4.6. Variable Nouns

4.6.1. Many nouns vary in Declension, and they are called *Heteroclites*.

Note. i.e., "nouns of different inflections" (*ετερος*, *another*, *κλινω*, *to inflect*))

4.6.2. These forms are isolated and archaic, given only in Inanimates, as remains of an older system. They normally consist of one form to mark the Nom.-Acc.-Voc, and another to mark the Oblique cases.

4.6.3. Examples of these forms are:

a. Opposition *-ø / -n*: d**e**ru /drun**o**s, *tree*; jus / jus**o**nos, *soup*

b. Opposition *-r / -n*: ai. **a**gor, **a**gnos, *day*. dh**e**mor / dh**e**mnis, *thigh*

4.6.4. The Heteroclites follow the form of the Genitive Singular when forming the Oblique cases. That is so in the lengthening before declension, vocalism and in the accent, too.

4.7. Vocalism before the Declension

4.7.1. The Predeclensional vowel is that which precedes the ending, even the **ø** ending; i.e., we say that p**a**t**e**r has a long predeclensional vowel; that the Vocative p**a**ter has a full one, and that m**e**dhu has it ø. Examples of the three are **p**o**d**-**s**, **pod**-**os** or **owi**-**os**.

NOTE. The vocalic changes in timbre and grade aren't meaningful by themselves, they are multifunctional: they can only have meaning in a specific declension, and it is not necessarily always the same. They are thus disambiguating elements, which help distinguish homophones (i.e., words that sound alike).

4.7.2. Two kinds of nominal inflection have no alternating vowel: that in -**i** or -**u**, and that of the **reduplicate** participles.

4.7.3. Stems in -**r** and -**n** have two possibilities, both with a Nominative singular in **ø** and lengthened vowel.

1. Nom. with lengthened vowel, Acc. and Voc. with full vowel, and Gen. ø. The timbre can be **e** or **o**, depending on the words.

a. In -**r**, as in Nom. m**a**t**e**r, Acc. m**a**term [m**a:**ter'm], Voc. m**a**ter, Gen. m**a**tr**o**s.

b. In -**n**, in root stems, as in *dog*: Nom. kw**o**n/kuw**o**n, Acc. kw**o**nm [kw**o**n'm] / kuw**o**nm [kuw**o**n'm], Voc. k**u**on/k**u**won, Gen. kun**o**s.

2. Sometimes, the Genitive has a full grade as the Accusative and the Vocative. This grade is redundant, not necessary for the disambiguation of the Genitive from the Nominative. There are, as above, different timbres **e** and **o**, sometimes **o** in Nom.-Acc.-Voc and **e** in Gen., sometimes **o** in Acc.-Voc.-Gen. and **e** in Obl.

4.7.4. There is usually the same vocalism in nouns ending in **occlusive**.

An exception is that of the adjectives and participles in -**nt**, which presents long vowel in the Nominative, full vowel in Accusative and Vocative, and ø in the Genitive: bh**e**r**o**nt/bh**e**rontos or bh**e**r**e**nt/bherentos

NOTE. There are remains of what seems to be an older alternating vocalism in monosyllabics. The variants of *ped/pod* suggest that it comes from a paradigm Nom. p**o**d-s, Acc. p**o**d-m [p**o**d'm], Gen. ped-**o**s. This is, again, mostly irrelevant for modern Europaio, in which both alternating forms are given.

4.7.5. Stems in -**s** do not present a ø-grade. Animates, as already said, oppose a lengthened vowel Nominative to the other cases, which have full vowel; as in -*es* / -*es*, -*os* / -*os*

4.7.6. We know already what happens with stems in -**i**, -**u**, which have two general models:

1. Nom. -*i-s*, Acc. -*i-m*, Voc. -*ei* or -*i*, Gen. -*i-os* / Nom. -*u-s*, Acc. -*u-m*, Voc. -*ei* or -*i*, Gen. -*u-os*

2. Nom. -*i-s*, Acc. -*i-m*, Voc. -*eu* or -*u*, Gen. -*ei-s* / Nom. -*u-s*, Acc. -*u-m*, Voc. -*eu* or -*u*, Gen. -*eu-s*

NOTE. This is an inversion of the normal situation: the Nom.-Acc.-Voc. has ø grade (but for some Voc.), the Gen. ø or full. Distinction is obtained through alternating forms; as in Voc., in which the ending -*ei* distinguishes it from Neuters in -*i*; or with changes of **e**/**o**.

4.7.7. Those in **long diphthong** alternate the diphthong (or long vowel) with *j* or *w*, which represent the ø grade; as in dj**e**us, dj**e**m, diw**o**s. Uniform vocalism (i.e., no vowel change) is generalized, though; as in n**a**us, n**a**w-**o**s.

NOTE. These diphthongs reflect a possible older situation of a vowel plus a laryngeal (as *-*eh*) and they are probably related to nouns in -**a** and also to those in -**e** and -**o**. It is a matter of speculation, though, as we can only know with some certainty the IE III.

4.7.8. Stems in -**a** usually maintain an uniform vocalism: Nom.-Voc. -**a**, Acc. -**am**, Gen. -**as**. But those in -**ia**/-**i**/-**ia** can alternate Nom.-Voc. -**ia**/-**i** / Gen. -**ias**.

There are also remains of -**a** in Voc. (and even Nom.), as well as -**ai**, cf. gr. gúnai (and derived forms in -**ai** in Old Indian and other dialects). The -**e** and -**o** endings have also traces of alternating phonetic changes.

NOTE. In gr. *Europe* / *Europa*, the Genitive is *Europ-ai-os*, which gives also the adjective (and hence the Europaio nominalized form *Europaios*/*m*). In lat. this *-ai-o-* is *-ae-u-*, and so *Europae-us*, *-a*, *-um*. See § [1.7.5.](#)

4.7.9. Finally, the **neuter** stems distinguish the Nom.-Acc.-Voc. forms by having a predeclensional vowel normally **ø** (the ending is also ø, but for the thematic), as we have seen in nouns ending in -**i**, -**u**, -**r**, -**n** and occlusive; like in m**a**dhu, n**o**mn, k**r**d. There are exceptions, though:

1. Nouns with lengthened or full vowel; as, gr. **u**d**o**r and oi. **a**har.

2. Nouns in -**s** cannot have ø, they have **o** in nouns, **e** in adjectives; as in g**e**nos, *race*; eugen**e**s, *of good race*.

3. Finals -**e**/**o** have a uniform predeclensional vowel, normally **o**, plus the ending -**m** of Nom.-Acc.-Voc.

NOTE 1. In the Oblique cases, neuters are declined like the animates.

NOTE 2. There are no neuters in -**a**, but for those which became plural.

4.8. Vocalism in the Plural

4.8.1. Vocalism in the Plural is generally the same as in the Singular. In Nominative-Vocative and Accusative, the straight cases, the full vowel grade is general (there is no Nominative with lengthened vowel), and in the Genitive the zero-grade is general. But there are also some special situations:

1. In the Nom.-Voc. there examples of full vowel: stems in -**ei-es** and -**eu-es** (-**i**, -**u** stems), in -**er-es**, -**or-es**, -**en-es**, -**on-es**, -**es-es**, also in words like p**o**d-es.

2. Sometimes, the vowel timbre varies; as, **a**kmen/k**a**men, (*sharp*) *stone*, which gives lit. *akmuö / akmenes*, osl. *kamy / kamene*.

3. There are also some cases of ∅-grade vowel: cf gr. *oies*. Also some analogical forms gr. *kunes*, lat. *carnes*.

4.8.2. The ∅-grade, an exception in the Nom.-Voc., is usual in Accusative Plural in -**i**, -**u** stems; as in derivatives with forms -**i-ns**, -**u-ns**.

Apart from this stems, it has generally a full vowel: **akmenes**, **m<u>a</u>teres**.

4.8.3. The stems in -**s** in the Nom.-Acc.-Voc. Plural Inanimate present -**es-a**, -**e-s-<u>a</u>**: they follow the vowel timbre in the whole inflection, but for the Nom.-Acc.-Voc. sg. in -**os**. The rest are in -**ø**.

4.8.4. The general vocalism of the Genitive Plural is ø. But the full grade is sometimes found, too; as in **akmenom**. The most common stems in which the full grade can be found are -**n** and sometimes -**r**; as in m<u>a</u>tr<u>o</u>m, which could also be m<u>a</u>t**e**r<u>o</u>m.

To sum up, Nominative Plural is usually opposed to Nominative Singular, while Genitive and Accusative tend to assimilate Singular and Plural. When the last are the same, full vowel is found in the Accusative, and ∅ in the Genitive.

4.8.5. In the Obliques, where there is a distinction, the form is that of the Nominative Singular Animate or Nom.-Acc.-Voc. Singular Inanimate; and when, in any of them, there is a distinction between full- and ∅-grade, they take the last. An example of Animates is

pod, which gives: Nom. p**o**ds, Gen. p**o**d**o**s, Obl. Plural p**o**dbh**i**s. In Inanimates it happens with -**s** stems which have -**os** in Nom.-Acc. and -**es** in the other cases; as in g**e**nesi, gen**e**sibhos. And in Heteroclites that oppose an -**n** in the cases that are not Nom.-Acc.-Voc. with -**r**, -**s** or -ø.

The zero-grade in the predeclensional syllable is very common, wether it has the Genitive vocalism or the full one; as, kwon/ kuns**i**. This ø-grade is also found in -**r** stems, as in patr**o**si/ p**a**tromos, p**a**trobhos. And so in -**i** and -**u** stems, too, in Nom. and Acc. sg., while **e** is otherwise found (in Nom. pl., and sometimes in Gen. sg. and pl.). The Obliques Plural have ø; as, egn**i**bhios/ egn**i**si/ egn**i**bhis; ghost**i**mis,

4.9. Accent in Declension

4.9.1. Just like vocalic grades, the accent is used, usually redundantly, to oppose the *Straight* cases (Nom.-Acc.-Voc.) to the *Obliques*.

NOTE. This is one of the worst reconstructed parts of the Europaio, as each language has developed its own accent system. Only Vedic Sanskrit, Greek and Baltoslavic dialects have more or less retained the old accent, and these have undergone different systematizations, which obscure still more the original situation.

4.9.2. In monosyllabics, the alternating system is clearly observed:

Nom. p<u>o</u>ds, Acc. p<u>o</u>dm [p**o**d'm], Gen. pod**o**s;

Nom. kw<u>o</u>n, Acc. kw**o**nm [kw**o**n'm], Gen. kun**o**s.

4.9.3. In polysyllabics there are some well-known Greek examples:

dhug**a**t<u>e</u>r / dhugatr**o**s, (/dhugəter/, daughter)

cn<u>e</u> [G'na:] / cnai**o**s [G'nai**o**s] (cf. Eur**o**p<u>e</u>, Europai**o**s)

NOTE. The above forms in Europaio are cn<u>a</u> (woman) and Europ<u>a</u>. See § <u>1.6.5</u>.

1. Stems in -**i** and -**u** had a probable root accent in Nom.-Acc., and Genitive with accent on declension, as in the rest of examples.

2. Those in -<u>**a**</u> are not clear, therefore the alternating system is maintained.

3. The Vocative could be distinguished with the accent. The general rule (observed in ved., gr. and osl.) is that it is unstressed, but for the beginning of a sentence; in this case, the accent goes in the first syllable, to differentiate it from the Nominative with accent on declension.

NOTE. The accent in the Vocative is also related to that of the intonation of the sentence.

4.9.4. In the Plural system no general accent pattern can be found. Each Europaio-derived language developed its own system to distinguish the homophones in Singular

and Plural. In the Obliques, however, the accent is that of the Genitive, when it is opposed to the Nom.-Acc; as in patr**o**mos, m**a**tr**o**bhis, etc.