

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 different declensions. Most of the case-endings, as shown in this Modern Indo-European grammar, contain also the final letter of the stem.

Adjectives are generally declined like nouns, and are etymologically to be classed with them, but they have some peculiarities of inflection which will be later explained.

4.1.2. Nouns and adjectives are inflected in four regular Declensions, distinguished by their final phonemes – characteristic of the Stem –, and by the opposition of different forms in irregular nouns. They are numbered following Graeco-Latin tradition: First or **a-Declension**, Second or **o-Declension**, Third or **i/u-Declension**, fourth or **Consonant Declension**, and the variable nouns.

NOTE. The *Second* or *o-Declension* is also the **Thematic Declension**, opposed to the rest – and probably older in the evolution of PIE nominal inflection –, which form together the **Athematic Declension**.

Decl.	Stem ending	Nom.	Genitive
1.	ā, ia/ī/iā (ē, ō)	-∅	-s
2.	e/o (Thematic)	-s	-os, -os(i)o, (-ī)
3.	i, u and Diphthong	<i>m., f.</i> -s, <i>n.</i> -∅	-e/ois, -e/ous, -(t)ios, -(t)uos
4.	Sonants & Consonants	-s, -∅	-(e/o)s
(5)	<i>Heteroclites</i>	-∅, -r	-(e)n

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.

NOTE. Most Indo-Europeanists tend to distinguish at least two major types of declension, Thematic and Athematic. Thematic nominal stems are formed with a suffix **-o-** (in vocative **-e**), and the stem does not undergo *ablaut*. The Athematic stems are more archaic, and they are classified further by their *ablaut* behaviour: *acro-dynamic*, *protero-dynamic*, *hystero-dynamic* and *holo-dynamic*, after the positioning of the early PIE accent (*dynamis*) in the paradigm.

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, u, ī, ū**, Diphthong, Occlusive and Thematic (**-os**), or **-∅** in **ā, a**, Sonant and **s**; while in the plural **-es** is general, **-s** for those in **ā**, 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 \emptyset , 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 alternative possibility is extended **-os(i)o**. The Genitive plural is formed in **-ōm** (also **-ēm**), and in **-ām** in a-stems.
- e. The Obliques singular end usually in **-i**: it can be **-i**, **-ei**, **-ēi**, **-oi**, **-ōi** or **-āi**. In the plural, there are two series of declensions, with **-bh-** (general) and **-m-** (only Gmc. and Sla.), generally **-bhi**, **-bhis**, **-bhios**, **-bhos**, and (Gmc., Bal.-Sla.) **-mis**, **-mos**, and also some forms in **-si** (plural mark **-s-** plus oblique mark **-i**), found mainly in Graeco-Aryan dialects.
- f. Inanimates have a syncretic form for Nom.-Ac.-Voc. in \emptyset in Athematic, or **-m** in Thematic. The plural forms end in **-a** or **-ā**.
- g. All Animates have the same form in the plural for Nom.-Voc., in **-es**.

4.1.4. The so-called Oblique cases – opposed to the Straight ones, Nom.-Acc.-Voc –, are Genitive and the Obliques, i.e. Dative, Locative, Instrumental and Ablative. However, the Ablative seems to have never been independent, but for thematic stems in some dialectal areas. The other three cases were usually just one local case in different contexts (what we call the Oblique), although Late PIE clearly shows an irregular Oblique declension system.

NOTE 1. There are some traces – in the Indo-European proto-languages which show divided Oblique cases – that could indicate a possible first division – from a hypothetical five-case-IE II – between a Dat. and a Loc.-Ins., and then another, more recent between Loc. and Ins (see Adrados). Languages like Sanskrit or Avestan show 8 cases, while some Italic dialects show up to 8 (cf. Osc. Loc. *aasai* ‘in *ārā*’, or Ins. *cadeis amnud*, ‘*inimicitiae causae*’, *preiuatud* ‘*priuatō*’, etc.), while Latin shows six and a semisystematic Locative notion; Slavic and Baltic dialects show seven, Mycenaean Greek shows at least six cases, while Koiné Greek shows five, just as Germanic dialects.

NOTE 2. We know that the splitting and merging processes that affected the Obliques didn't happen uniformly among the different stems, and it didn't happen at the same time in plural and singular. Therefore, there was neither a homogeneous and definite declension system in IE III, nor in the dialects and languages that followed. From language to language, from stem to stem, differences over the number of cases and its formation developed. Firstly syncretism obscured the cases, and thereafter the entire system collapsed: after the time when cases broke up in others, as in most modern Slavic languages, another time came when all cases merged or were completely lost: so today in Romance languages, in Germanic like English, or in Slavic like Bulgarian. However, Modern Indo-European needs to systematize to some extent this diversity, based on the obvious underlying old system, which usually results in 6-case paradigms (normally with Dat.-Abl. and Loc.-Ins.) in most inflected forms.

Nominal Desinences (Summary)

	Singular	Plural
NOM.	-s, -∅, (n. Them -m)	<i>m., f. -es, n. -ǎ</i>
ACC.	-m/-m̃	<i>m., f. -ms/-m̃s; n. -ǎ</i>
VOC.	-∅	<i>m., f. -es, n. -ǎ</i>
GEN.	-(e/o)s; -(e/o)s(i)o	-ǎm (dial. -ēm)
OBL.	-i- (general Obl. mark)	-bh-i- , (dialectal -m-i-); -s-i/u
DAT.	-ei	-bh(i)os , (dial. -mos)
LOC.	-i	-su/i
INS.	-e, -bhi	-bhis , (dial. -mis); -ōis (Them.)
ABL.	-(e/o)s; -ēd/-ōd/-ād	-bh(i)os , (dial. -mos)

4.2. FIRST DECLENSION**4.2.1. FIRST DECLENSION**

1. They are usually Animate nouns and end in **ā**, and **ia/ī/iā**, and also rarely in **ē**, **ō**. Those in **ā** are very common, generally feminine in nouns and always in adjectives. Those in **ia/ī/iā** are always feminine and are also used to make feminines in the adjectival Motion. Those in **ō** and **ē** are feminine only in lesser used words. Those in **a** are etymologically identical to the Neuter plural in Nom.-Acc.-Voc.

a-Declension Paradigm

	<i>Animate</i>	<i>Inanimate</i>
NOM.	<i>-∅</i>	<i>-∅</i>
ACC.	<i>-m</i>	
VOC.	<i>-∅</i>	
GEN.	<i>-s</i>	
DAT.	<i>-i</i> [<i><*ei</i>]	
LOC.	<i>-i</i>	
INS.	<i>-∅, -bhi, (-mi)</i>	
ABL.	<i>-ād, (-s)</i>	

MIE First Declension corresponds loosely to the Latin First Declension (cf. Lat. *rosa, rosae*, or *puella, puellae*), and to the Ancient Greek Alpha Declension (cf. Gk. *χώρα, χώρας*, or *τῆμῃ, τῆμῆς*).

NOTE. The entire stem could have been reduced to IE **a**, because this is the origin of the whole stem system before IE III, with an original ending **(e)h₂*.

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

4.2.2. FIRST DECLENSION IN EXAMPLES

1. Nominative Singular in **-ø**; as, **ékwā**⁷³, *mare*, **sénā**⁷⁹, *old*.

Example of **ia/i** stems are **pótniā/pótnī**⁴⁴, *lady*, **wíqiā/wíqī**, *she-wolf*, **djéwiā/djéwī**, *goddess* (maybe also Lat. *gallī* in the later extended *gallīna*, *rēgī* in *regīna*, etc.), as well as Pres.Part. feminines, as **prįjontiā/prįjontī**, “*who loves*”, *friend*, **wésntiā/wésntī**, “*who drives*”, *driver*, etc.

Those in **ē**, **ō**, which aren't found very often, can present an **-s** as well; as in Latin **bhídhēs** (Lat. *fides*, but also O.Lat. *fidis*), *trust*, **spékiēs**, *species*, etc.

Nouns in **ā** can also rarely present forms in **a**; as in Gk. Lesb. **Dika**.

2. Accusative Singular in **-m**; as, **ékwām**, **pótniām/pótnīm**, **bhídhēm**.

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

4. Genitive Singular in **-s**; as, **ékwās**, **sénās**.

The theme in **ia/i/iā** produces a Genitive Singular in **-ās**; as, **pótniās**.

5. Dative-Ablative Singular in **-āi**, probably from an original Dat. **-ei** ending.

There is also a form **-ei** for themes in **ē** and in **iā**.

6. Locative in **-āi**, Instrumental in **-ā**, **-ā-bhi**, **-ā-mi**.

	<i>f. ekwā</i>	<i>f. potnia/potnī</i>	<i>f. spekiē-</i>	<i>adj. f. cowijā</i>
NOM.	ékwā	pótniā/pótnī	spékiēs	cowijá
ACC.	ékwām	pótniām/pótnīm	spékiēm	cowijám
VOC.	ékwā	pótniā/pótnī	spékiē	cowijá
GEN.	ékwās	pótniās	spékiēs	cowijás
DAT.	ékwāi	pótniāi	spékiei	cowijái
LOC.	ékwāi	pótniāi	spékiei	cowijái
INS.	ékwā	pótniā	spékiē	cowijá
ABL.	ékwād	pótniās	spékiēd	cowijád

4.2.3. THE PLURAL IN THE FIRST DECLENSION

1. The following table presents the plural paradigm of the *a*-Declension.

NOM.	-s [[*] - <i>es</i>]
ACC.	-ms
VOC.	-s
GEN.	-m
DAT.-ABL.	-bh(i)os (-mos)
LOC.	-su/i
INS.	-bhis (-mis)

2. The Nominative-Vocative Plural in **-s**: **ékwās, nēwās, cowijās**.

This form could obviously be confused with the Genitive Singular. In equivocal contexts we change preferably the accent (**ékwās, ékwāms, ékwām**).

3. The Accusative Plural in **-ms**: **ékwāms, nēwāms**.

4. The Genitive Plural in **-m**: **ékwām, newām**.

5. The Dative and Ablative Plural in **-bhios, -bhios** (dial. **-mos**); as, **ékwābh(i)os, ékwāmos**.

6. The Locative Plural in **-su** (also **-si, -se**); as, **ékwāsi, ékwāsu**.

6. The Instrumental Plural in **-bhis** (dial. **-mis**); as, **ékwābhis, ékwāmis**.

The Obliques have also special forms Gk. **-āisi, -ais**, Lat. **-ais**; as, Lat. *rosīs* < **rosais*.

	<i>f. ékwā</i>	<i>f. potnia/potnī</i>
NOM.	ékwās	pótnias/pótnīs
ACC.	ékwāms	pótniams/pótnīms
VOC.	ékwās	pótnias/pótnīs
GEN.	ekwām	potniām
DAT.	ékwābhios	pótniabhios
LOC.	ékwāsi	pótniasu
INS.	ékwābhis	pótniabhios
ABL.	ékwābhios	pótniabhios

4.3. SECOND DECLENSION

4.3.1. SECOND DECLENSION

1. The Stem of nouns of the Second Declension ends in **e/o**, and they are usually called *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 in **-s**, are generally masculine in nouns and adjectives, but there are also feminine nouns and animate adjectives in **-os**, probably remains of the old indistinctness of declension.

2. MIE Second Declension is equivalent to the Second Declension in Latin (cf. Lat. *dominus, domini*, or *uinum, uini*), and to the Omicron Declension in Greek (cf. Gk. *λόγος, λόγου*, or *δῶρον, δῶρου*).

o-Declension Paradigm

	<i>Animate</i>	<i>Inanimate</i>
NOM.	<i>-os</i>	<i>-om</i>
ACC.	<i>-om</i>	
VOC.	<i>-e</i>	
GEN.	<i>-os, -os(i)o, (-ī)</i>	
DAT.	<i>-ōi</i> [<i><*oei</i>]	
LOC.	<i>-ei/-oi</i>	
INS.	<i>-ē/-ō</i>	
ABL.	<i>-ēd/-ōd</i>	

NOTE. This model could indeed have been written without the initial vowel **-o-**, given that the probable origin of this vowel is the ending vowel of some thematic stems, while other, primitive athematic stems were reinterpreted thereafter and this vowel was added to stem by way of analogy. So, for thematic stems, as **wlqo-**, this paradigm could be read Nom. **-s**, Acc. **-m**, Voc. **-e**, Gen. **-s, -sio, -so, -ī**, and so on.

3. The Nominative and the Genitive in **-os** can be confused. This can only be solved with lengthenings, as in Gen. **-os-io** or **os-o**.

4.3.2. SECOND DECLENSION IN EXAMPLES

1. Nominative Singular Animate in **-os**; as in **wlqos**, *wolf*, **dómūnos**, *lord*, adj. **čiwós**, *alive*.
2. Accusative Singular Animate in **-om**; as in **wlqom**, **dómūnom**, **čiwóm**.
3. Vocative Singular Animate in **-e**; as in **wlqe**, **dómūne**, **čiwé**.
5. The Nom.-Acc.-Voc. Sg. Inanimate in **-om**; as in **jugóm**⁵, *joke*, adj. **néwom**, *new*, **mrwóm**, *dead*.
4. Genitive Singular in **-os, -osio, -e/oso** (also **-ī**); as in **wlqosio**, **mrwós**, **dómūnī**.

NOTE. The original form **-os** is rare, as the Genitive had to be distinguished from the Nominative. This disambiguation happens, as already said, by alternatively lengthening the ending or changing it altogether. The o-Declension is probably recent in IE III – even though it happened already in Anatolian – and that's why it is homogeneous in most IE dialects, without variations in vocalism or accent.

6. Dative Singular in **-ōi, -ō**: **wĺqōi, dómūnōi, nēwōi, mrwō.**
7. Locative Singular in **-oi, -ei**: **wĺqoi, dómūnoi, nēwai, mrwói.**
8. Instrumental Singular in **-ō**: **wĺqō, ċwō, nēwō, mrwō.**
9. The Ablative Singular is formed in **-ōd**, and sometimes in **-ēd**: **wĺqōd, ċwōd, nēwōd.**

	<i>m. wlqo</i>	<i>n. jugo</i>
NOM.	wĺqos	jugóm
ACC.	wĺqom	jugóm
VOC.	wĺqe	jugóm
GEN.	wĺqosio	jugós
DAT.	wĺqōi	jugói
LOC.	wĺqoi	jugói
INS.	wĺqō	jugó
ABL.	wĺqōd	jugód

4.5.3. THE PLURAL IN THE SECOND DECLENSION

1. The Thematic Plural system is usually depicted as follows:

	<i>Animate</i>	<i>Inanimate</i>
NOM.	<i>-ōs</i> [<i>< *-oes</i>], (<i>-oi</i>)	<i>-ǎ</i>
ACC.	<i>-oms</i>	
VOC.	<i>-ōs</i> , (<i>-oi</i>)	
GEN.	<i>-ǫm</i> , (<i>-ēm</i>)	
DAT.-ABL.	<i>-obh(i)os</i> , (<i>-omos</i>)	
LOC.	<i>-oisu/i</i>	
INS.	<i>-ōis</i>	

NOTE. The ending **-ōs** is usually considered as derived from the plural ending **-es**, i.e. ***-o-(s)-es > -ōs**.

2. The Nominative-Vocative Animate Plural in **-ōs**; as, **wĺqōs, dómūnōs, wĺrōs**.
3. The Accusative Animate Plural in **-oms**; as, **wĺqoms, dómūnoms, mrtóms**.
4. The Nom.-Voc.-Acc. Inanimate Plural in **-ā, -a**; as, **jugá/jugá, nēwa, mrwá**.

5. The Genitive Plural in **-ōm/-om** (and **-ēm**); as, **wĺqōm**, **dómūnōm**, **ceiwōm**, **jugóm**.
6. The Instrumental-Locative Plural in **-ois/-oisi**; **-ōis/-ōisi**, and also, as in the other declensions, Obliques in **-bhis**, **-bhos**, **-bhios** (**-mis**, **-mos**); as, **wĺqōisi**, **wírōis**, **néwoisu**, **mrwōis**.

	<i>m. wĺqo-</i>	<i>n. jugo-</i>
NOM.	wĺqōs	jugá
ACC.	wĺqōms	jugá
VOC.	wĺqōs	jugá
GEN.	wĺqōm	jugóm
DAT.	wĺqobhios	jugóbhios
LOC.	wĺqōisi	jugóisu
INS.	wĺqōis	jugóis
ABL.	wĺqobhios	jugóbhios

4.4. THIRD DECLENSION

4.4.1. THIRD DECLENSION PARADIGM

1. Third Declension nouns end in **i**, **u** (also **ī**, **ū**) and Diphthong. The Nominative ending is **-s**.
2. This declension usually corresponds to Latin nouns of the Third Declension in **-i** (cf. Lat. *ciuis*, *ciuis*, or *pars*, *partis*), and of the Fourth Declension in **-u** (cf. Lat. *cornū*, *cornūs*, or *portus*, *portūs*).

i/u-Declension Paradigm

	<i>Animate</i>	<i>Inanimate</i>
NOM.	-s	<i>-∅</i>
ACC.	-m	
VOC.	<i>-∅</i>	
GEN.	-s	
DAT.	-ei	
LOC.	<i>-∅, -i</i>	
INS.	<i>-ī/-ū, (-bhi)</i>	
ABL.	-s	

NOTE. Reduplication or combination with the alternating endings **-i**, **-ei/-oi** and **-u**, **-eu/-ou**, was a common resort in the attested dialects that distinguished Dat. and Loc. in this declension, as in **-i-ei**, **-ei-ei**, **-eu-ei**, and so on, to distinguish similar forms. A common distinction of Loc. **-i**, Dat. **-ei**, was known to most dialects of Late PIE, while a general Instrumental in lengthened **-ī**, **-ū** (from Ins. ending **-e-h_i*) was commonly used; the Ablative, when it appears, shows the same declension as the Genitive.

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

4. The **-s** can indicate Nominative and Genitive: the distinction is made through the full-grade of the vowel before the declension, i.e. Gen. **-ei-s** for **i**, **-ou-s** for **u** – but for those in **-ti**, **-tu** (type II), v.i.

NOTE. The Vocative of the animates is the same as the Nom.-Acc.-Voc. of the inanimates. In nouns differentiation isn't necessary, because they have different stem vowels; in adjectives, however, a Vocative singular animate **-i** can be an homophone with Nom.-Acc.-Voc. singular neuter **-i**; as e.g. m.Voc. **albhí**, n.Acc. **albhí**. This is, though, a rare case, in which the context is generally enough for disambiguation.

4.4.2. IN I, U

1. Nominative Singular Animate in **-s**; as in **ówis**¹⁴⁹, *ewe*, **nóqtis**¹²⁴, *night*, **ghóstis**²⁶, *guest*, **sūnus**¹³⁰, *son* (cf. also Gk. **sújus**), **médhus**, *mead*, **egnís**, *fire*, **mánus**, *hand*, adj. **swādús**, *sweet*, etc.

2. Accusative Singular Animate in **-m**; as in **ówim**, **nóqtim**, **ghóstim**, **sūnum**, **mánum**, etc.

3. Vocative Singular Animate in **-ei** or **-i**, **-eu** or **-u**; as in **óweī-ówi**, **sūneu/sūnou-sūnu**, sometimes the same Nominative form, as systematically in Latin (cf. Lat. *hostis*).

4. The Nom.-Acc.-Voc. Singular Inanimate in **-i**, **-u**; as in **móri**, **pékū**¹⁵⁰, **médhu**, **swādú**¹²³.

5. Genitive Singular in **-eis** (**-ois**) or **-(t)ios**, **-eus** (**-ous**), **-(t)uos**; as in **egnéis**¹⁵¹, **sūnous**, **owéis** (also dial. **ówios**), **mánous**, **pékwos**, adj. **swādéus**.

6. Dative Singular in **-(ej)ei**, **-(ew)ei**, **-ou**, also with long vowel, **-ēi**, **-ōu**, **egnēi**, **nóqtei**, **owēi**, etc.

7. Locative Singular in **-(ē)i**, **-(ē)u**, Instrumental in **-ī**, **-ū** or dial. **-bhi**; as **sūn(ē)u**, **owí**, **owí**, etc.

	Type I		Type II		Neuter	
	<i>m. sūnu-</i>	<i>f. owi-</i>	<i>f. noq-ti-</i>	<i>m. senā-tu-</i>	<i>n. peku-</i>	<i>n. mori-</i>
NOM.	sūnus	ówis	nóqtis	senátus	péku	móri
ACC.	sūnum	ówim	nóqtim	senátum	péku	móri
VOC.	sūnu	ówi	nóqti	senátu	péku	móri
GEN.	sūnous	owéis	nóqtios	senátuos	pékeus	mórois
DAT.	sūnou	owēi	nóqtei	senátou	pékou	moréi
LOC.	sūnú	owí	noqtí	senátu	pekú	morí
INS.	sūnū	owí	nóqtī	senátū	pékū	móri
ABL.	sūnous	owéis	nóqtios	senátuos	pékeus	mórois

THE STRONG TYPE

1. Its inflection is similar to that of **i**, **u**, but they have no alternating vowels before the declension, and the **ī** and **ū** are substituted before vowel by **-ij**, **-uw**. They are always feminine, and they cannot be inanimates nor adjectives. They are mostly PIE roots, and found mainly in Indo-Iranian.

	<i>f. bhrū</i> ⁻¹⁵²	<i>f. dnghū</i> ⁻³	<i>f. swekrū</i> ⁻¹³²	<i>f. dhī</i> -
NOM.	bhrūs	dnghūs	swekrūs	dhīs
ACC.	bhrūm	dnghūm	swekrūm	dhijm
VOC.	bhrū	dnghū	swekrū	dhī
GEN.	bhruwés	dnghuwós	swekruwés	dhijós
DAT.	bhruwéi	dnghuwóu	swekruwéi	dhijéi
LOC.	bhruwí	dnghuwí	swekruwí	dhijí
INS.	bhrú(bhi)	dnghú(bhi)	swekrú(bhi)	dhijí(bhi)
ABL.	bhruwés	dnghuwós	swekruwés	dhijós

4.4.3. IN DIPHTHONG

1. There are long diphthongs **āu**, **ēu**, **ōu**, **ēi**, which sometimes present short vowels, as well as other endings without diphthong, i.e., **ā**, **ē**, **ō**.

NOTE. The last are probably remains of older diphthongs, from IE II. Therefore, even though from the point of view of Late Proto-Indo-European there are only stems with variants **āu**, **ēu**, **ē**, 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 four millennia ago.

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

	<i>m. cōu</i> ⁻¹¹⁷	<i>m. djēu</i> ⁻⁶³
NOM.	cóus	djéus
ACC.	cōm	djēm/dijém
VOC.	cóu	djéu
GEN.	cóus	diwós
DAT.	cowéi	diwéi
LOC.	cowí	djéwi/diwí
INS.	cóū	djéū
ABL.	cóus	diwós

NOTE. These are some IE words, usually secondary formations – especially found in Greek – in **-eus**, **-euos**, as in Av. *bāzāus*, Arm, Gk. *Basileus*, which are also so declined.

4.4.4. THE PLURAL IN THE THIRD DECLENSION

1. The following table depicts the general plural system, common to the Fourth Declension.

	<i>Animate</i>	<i>Inanimate</i>
NOM.	<i>-es</i>	<i>-ǎ</i>
ACC.	<i>-ms</i>	
VOC.	<i>-es</i>	
GEN.	<i>-ōm, (-ēm)</i>	
DAT.-ABL.	<i>-bh(i)os, (-mos)</i>	
LOC.	<i>-su/i</i>	
INS.	<i>-bhis, (-mis)</i>	

NOTE. The inanimate plural forms, **-a** and **-ǎ**, correspond to an older stem vowel of an earlier stage of the language, namely **-h₂* and **-eh₂*, following 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, the vowel before the ending (see § 4.7).

3. The Nom.-Voc. Plural Animate is normally in **-es**; as in **cówes**, **ówes**, **sūnes**, etc.

There are forms in **-ei-es** for **i** stems, as in **owéjes**; in **-eu-es** for **u** stems, as in **sūnéwes**; in **ijes**, **-uwes** for **ī, ū**; as in **bhrúwes**; etc.

4. The Accusative Plural Animate is in **-ms**: **ówims**, **sūnums**, **cōms/cóums**.

NOTE. Some 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 common to all proto-languages, i.e. IE II **-ms* > IE III **-ns* > proto-languages *[-n]s*. We don't know if such an intermediate phase happened, and if it did, if it was common to all languages, or if it was common only to those languages which present in some declensions *-ns*, and in other declensions another endings. What we do know with some certainty is that the form **-ms** existed, and at least since IE II, as the Anatolian dialects show.

5. Nom.-Voc. Acc. Plural Inanimate in **-ā, -a**: **pékwā**, **mórja**, **médhwā**, **swādwā**, etc.

6. Genitive Plural Animate in **-om/-ōm** (and Gmc. **-ēm**): **ówjom, nóqtjom, sūnuwēm/sūnuwom, cówōm**, etc.

NOTE. The **-m** of the Acc. sg. Animate, Nom.-Acc.-Voc. sg. Inanimate and this case could sometimes be confused. It is disambiguated with the vocalic grade of the Genitive, full or lengthened, as the singular is always \emptyset .

	<i>f. owi-</i>	<i>m. sūnu-</i>	<i>f. bhrū-</i>	<i>m. cou-</i>
NOM.	ówes	sūnes	bhrúwes	cówes
ACC.	ówims	sūnums	bhrūms	cóums
VOC.	ówes	sūnes	bhrúwes	cówes
GEN.	ówjom	sūnuwēm	bhrúwōm	cówōm
DAT.	ówibhios	sūnumos	bhrúbhos	cóubhios
LOC.	ówisi	sūnusu	bhrúse	cóusi
INS.	ówibhis	sūnumis	bhrúbhis	cóubhis
ABL.	ówibhios	sūnumos	bhrúbhos	cóubhios

7. The Obliques are generally divided into two groups, in **-bh-** (that of Lat., Gk., I.-I., Arm., and Cel.) and in **-m-** (that of Gmc. and Bal.-Sla.). There are, thus, **-bhis, -bhos, -bhios, -bhi**, and **-mis, -mos**; as, **sūnubhis, sūnubhos, sūnubhios, sūnumis, sūnumos**.

There is also another ending possible, that in **-s-i, -s-u, s-e**, generally Locative (in I.-I. and Bal.-Sla.), but also possibly general Dat.-Loc.-Ins. (as in Greek); as, **sūnusi, sūnusu, sūnuse**.

In the Oblique Plural specialized system, which is a common feature of Proto-Balto-Slavic and Proto-Indo-Iranian dialects, (and, to some extent, of Proto-Greek and Proto-Armenian), the Instrumental was probably formed adding the plural mark **-s** to the Instrumental Singular of the Second Declension, **-bhi, -mi**. The Dat.-Abl. was then opposed in vowel stem to the Instrumental: **-bhos** or **-mos** against **-bhis** or **-mis**. The Locative was made with an **-s** marking the plural, and an **-i** which is the Loc. mark.

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

4.5. FOURTH DECLENSION

4.5.1. THE PARADIGM

1. The Stem of Nouns of the Second Declension ends in Consonant or Sonant, i.e. **-n, -r, -s**, Occlusive (especially **-t**), and rarely **-l, -m**. The inflection of animates is essentially the same as that of the Second or Thematic Declension.

2. Nouns of the Fourth Declension in MIE correspond to Latin nouns of First Declension in **-r** (cf. Lat. *magister, magistrī*), and Third Declension in consonant (cf. Lat. *prīnceps, prīncipis, phoenīx*,

phoenīcis, cōnāmen, cōnāminis, etc.), and to the Ancient Greek Labial and Velar declension (cf. Gk. Ἄραυ, Ἄραβος, or Φρύξ, Φρυγός).

The Nominative ending is **-s** (with Occlusive, **-m**, **-l**), but there is also a Nominative Sg. with pure stem vowel (desinence -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**).

Consonant-Declension Paradigm

	Occlusive, -m, -l	-r, -n, -s
NOM.	-s	<i>-Ø (long vowel)</i>
ACC.	-m [m]	
VOC.	<i>-Ø</i>	<i>-Ø (full grade)</i>
GEN.-ABL.	-e/os	
DAT.	-ei	
LOC.	-i	
INS.	-bhi, (-mi)	

NOTE. These specialized Oblique endings were probably already splitting in Late PIE, at least in a dialect-to-dialect basis. Compare Indo-Iranian Dat. *-ei*, Loc. *-i*; Italic Dat. *-ei*, Loc.-Inst.-Abl. *-i*; Greek Inst. *-bhi*; in Balto-Slavic Inst. *-mi*, and so on. There is no exact original pattern that includes every dialect, but we may reliably imply an original Oblique declension **-i**, which had split into **-i** (Loc.) and **-ei** (Dat.) already in Late PIE.

3. Inanimates have pure vowel stems with different vocalic grades. In nouns there should be no confusion at all, as they are different words, but neuter adjectives could be mistaken in Nominative or Vocative Animate. Distinction is thus obtained with vocalism, as in Animate **-ōn** vs. Inanimate **-on**, Animate **-ēs** vs. Inanimate **-es** (neuter nouns in **-s** are in **-os**).

4.5.2. IN OCCLUSIVE, M, L

1. Nominative Sg. Animates in **-s**; as, **dóms**, *house*, **póds**³⁷, *foot*, **bhrghs**¹²⁸, *bury*, **dónts**¹⁷³, *tooth*.
2. Accusative Singular Animate in **-m [m]**; as, **dómm**, **pódm**, **bhrghm**, **dóntm**.
3. Vocative Singular Animate in *-Ø*; a sin **pōd**, **bhrgh**, **dōnt**.
4. The Nom.-Acc.-Voc. Singular Inanimate in *-Ø*, with various vocalisms; as in **krd**¹⁵³
5. Genitive Singular in **-es/-os**; as in **péd(e)s/pedés**, **dént(e)s/dentés**, **dém(e)s/demés**.
6. Dative Singular in **-ei**: **pedéi**, **dontéi**, **bhrghéi**, etc.
7. Locative Singular in **-i**: **pedí/pédi**, **dónti**, **bhrghí**, etc.

	<i>m. ped-</i>	<i>m. dōnt-</i>	<i>n. krd-</i>
NOM.	pōds	dōnts	krd
ACC.	pódm	dóntm	krd
VOC.	pōd	dōnt	krd
GEN.	pedés	dentós	krdós
DAT.	pedéi	dentéi	krdéi
LOC.	pedí	dentí	krdí
INS.	pedbhí	dentmí	krdbhí
ABL.	pedós	dentós	krdós

4.5.3. IN R, N, S

1. Nominative Singular Animate in $-\emptyset$ with lengthened vowel; as in **māter**/**mātēr**¹⁴, *mother*, **kwōn**¹⁵⁴, *dog*, **ghēsōr**, *hand* (cf. Hitt. *kišsar*, Gk. *kheirí*), **órōn**¹³⁹, *eagle*.

Stems in **s**, **ndher-genēs**, *degenerate*, **génōs**³², *kin*, **áusōs**⁶⁹, *dawn*, **nébhōs**³¹, *cloud*.

2. Accusative Sg. Animate in **-m**; as in **māterm**, **kwónm**, **ndhergenésm**, **áusosm**, **ghesérm**.

3. Vocative Singular Animate in $-\emptyset$ with full vowel; as in **māter**, **kúon**, **áusos**.

4. The Nom.-Acc.-Voc. Singular Inanimate in $-\emptyset$; as in **nómn**, **génos**.

The adjectives in **-s** have the neuter in **-es**: **(a)sugenés** (cf. Gk. *eugenes*, O.Ind. *suganaḥ*)

5. Genitive Singular in **-es/-os**; as in **mātrés**/**mātrós** (also **mātrś**, **patrś**, **bhrátrś**, etc.), **kunés**/**kunós**, **nomnés**/**nomnós**, **ornés**.

Nouns and adjectives in **-s** have an **e**, not an **o**, as the final stem vowel: **genesés**, **ausosés**.

6. Dative Singular in **-ei**, Locative Singular in **-i**: **mātérei**, **mātéri**, **kwónei**, **ausoséi**, **ghésri** etc.

8. Instrumental Singular in **-bhi** (dialectal **-mi**): **mātrbhí**, **kunbhí**, **ausosbhí**, etc.

	<i>m. kwon</i>	<i>f. māter</i>	<i>n. genos</i>	<i>n. nomn</i>	<i>adj. m. ndhergenes</i>
NOM.	kwōn	māter	génōs	nómn	ndhergenés
ACC.	kwónm	māterm	génōs	nómn	ndhergenésm
VOC.	kwon	māter	génōs	nómn	ndhergenés
GEN.	kunés	mātrós	genesós	nomnós	ndhergenésés
DAT.	kunéi	mātréi	geneséi	nomnéi	ndhergenéseí
LOC.	kwóni/kuní	māt(é)rí	genesí	nomní	ndhergenési
INS.	kunmí	mātrbhí	genesmí	nomnbhí	ndhergenésmi
ABL.	kunós	mātrós	genesós	nomnós	ndhergenésos

4.5.4. THE PLURAL IN THE FOURTH DECLENSION

With a paradigm common to the Third Declension, here are some inflected examples.

	<i>m. kwon</i>	<i>f. māter</i>	<i>n. genos</i>	<i>m. dōnt-</i>	<i>n. nomn-</i>
NOM.	kwónes	mātéres	génesa	dóntes	nómna
ACC.	kwónms	mātrms	génesa	dóntms	nómna
VOC.	kwónes	mātéres	génesa	dóntes	nómna
GEN.	kunóm	mātróm	genesóm	dōntóm	nōmnóm
DAT.	kunmós	mātrbhiós	genesbhós	dōntbhiós	nōmnbhiós
LOC.	kunsú	mātrsú	genessí	dōntsí	nōmnsí
INS.	kunmí	mātrbhís	genesbhís	dōntbhís	nōmnbhís
ABL.	kunmós	mātrbhiós	genesbhiós	dōntbhiós	nōmnbhiós

4.6. VARIABLE NOUNS

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

Note. i.e., “nouns of different inflections” (ἕτερος, “another”, κλινω, “to inflect”)

4.6.2. Heteroclitic forms are isolated and archaic, given only in Inanimates, as remains of an older system, well attested in Anatolian.

4.6.3. They consist of one form to mark the Nom.-Acc.-Voc, and another for the Obliques, as e.g.

a. Opposition **Ø-n**: **dérus**, **drunós**⁵⁴, *tree*; **ōs**, **ōsónos**, *mouth*.

b. Opposition **r-(e)n**: **ághōr**, **aghnós**⁶⁰, *day*; **bhēmōr**, **bhēm(e)nés** *thigh*, **jěqr(t)**, **jěqn(t)ós**, *liver*, **wódōr**, **wodonós** (cf. Got. *wato/watins*), **údōr**, **udn(t)ós** (cf. Gk. *údōr*, *údatos*), *water*, etc.

NOTE. For PIE root **bhed(h)**, cf. Slav. *bedro*, Lat. *femur*, *feminis/femoris*; for PIE **jěqr**, cf. Gk. *hēpar*, Lat. *iecur*, Av. *yākarā*, for **jěqr** cf. Ved. *yákr̥t*, and compare its Obl. Skr. *yakn-ás*, Gk. *hēpat-os* < **hēpn̥(t)*.

4.6.4. The *Heteroclites* follow the form of the Genitive Singular when forming the Obliques. 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 Nom. **patér**⁵⁷ (< older ***patér-s**) has a long predeclensional vowel; that the Vocative **patér** has a full one, and that **patr̥s** has it Ø. Other examples of the three possibilities are **pōd**, **pod** and **-pd-**.

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**, **u**, and that of the participles of Reduplicates.

4.7.3. Stems in **r** and **n** have two possibilities, both with a Nom. sg. in -Ø and lengthened vowel.

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

a. In **r**, as in Nom. **mā́tér** (< older ***mā́tér-s**), Acc. **mā́tér̃m**, Voc. **mā́tér**, Gen. **mā́trós**.

b. In **n**, in PIE root stems, as in *dog*: Nom. **kwṓn/kuwṓn** (< older ***kwon-s**), Acc. **kwóñm/kuwóñm**, Voc. **kúon/kúwon**, Gen. **kunós**.

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 made in the adjectives and participles in **-nt**, which present long vowel in the Nominative, full vowel in Accusative and Vocative, and zero-grade in the Genitive; cf. **bherónts/bheróntm/bherntós** or **bherénts/bheréntm/bherntós**.

NOTE. There are remains of what seems to be an older alternating vocalism in monosyllabics. The variants **ped/pod**, **neqt/noqt**, etc. suggest an original (i.e. IE II) paradigm Nom. **pṓd-s**, Acc. **pṓd-m**, Gen. **ped-ós**. This is, again, mostly irrelevant for Modern Indo-European, in which both alternating forms may appear in frozen vocabulary, either with **o** or **e**.

4.7.5. Stems in **s** do not present a zero-grade. Animates, as already said, oppose a lengthened-vowel Nominative to the other cases, which have full vowel, i.e., Nom. **-ēs**, rest **-es**, Nom. **-ōs**, rest **-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 zero-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 represents the Ø-grade; as in **djéus**⁶³, **djēm**, **diwós**; or **náu-s**¹²⁷, **naw-ós**. Uniform vocalism (i.e., no vowel change) is generalized, though.

NOTE. These diphthongs reflect a possibly older situation, of a vowel plus a laryngeal (as **-eh₂*) and they are probably related to nouns in **a**, and also to those in **e** and **o**.

4.7.8. Stems in **ā** usually maintain an uniform vocalism: Nom.-Voc. **-ā**, Acc. **-ām**, Gen. **-ās**. But those in **iā/ī** may alternate Nom.-Voc. **-iā/-ī**, Gen. **-iās**.

There are also remains of **-ā** in Voc. (and even Nom.), as well as **-ai**, cf. Gk. γυναι (*gunai*, an example also found in Armenian), Gk. Ευρωπαί (*Eurōpai*) and other forms in **-ai** in Latin (as *rosae* < **rosai*), Old Indian and other IE dialects. The **-ē** and **-ō** endings have also traces of alternating phonetic changes.

NOTE. In O.Gk. Εὐρώπη (*Eurōpē*), Εὐρώπα (*Eurōpā*), the Genitive is *Eurōp-ai*, which gives also the thematic adjective *Eurōpai-ós*, hence Modern Indo-European adjective ***Eurōpaiós***, ***Eurōpaiá***, ***Eurōpaióm***, and nominalized forms (with accent shift) ***Eurōpáios***/***Eurōpaíos***, **-om**, **-ā**. In Latin this **-ai-o-** corresponds to *-ae-u-*, and so *Europae-us*, *-a*, *-um*. See also § 1.7.5.

4.7.9. Finally, the Neuter stems distinguish the Nom.-Acc.-Voc. forms by having a predeclensional vowel, normally \emptyset (the ending is also \emptyset , but for thematic stems), as we have seen in nouns ending in **i**, **u**, **r**, **n** and Occlusive; as **mádhu**, **nōmn**, **krd**. There are exceptions, though:

1. Nouns with lengthened or full vowel; as, Gk. **údōr**⁶¹ (from **údros**, cf. also O.Ind. *áhar*)
2. Nouns in **s** cannot have \emptyset -, they have **-o-** in nouns, **-e-** in adjectives; as in **génōs**, *race*; adj. **eugenēs**, *of good race*.
3. Finals **e/o** have a uniform predeclensional vowel, normally **o**, plus Nom.-Acc.-Voc ending **-m**.

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 common plural nouns, as e.g. n. **Búbliā**, *Bible*, lit. “*the books*”, from Gk. **búbliom**, *book*.

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. There are examples of full vowel in Nom.-Voc.; stems in **-ei-es** and **-eu-es** (in **i**, **u** stems); in **-er-es**, **-or-es**; **-en-es**, **-on-es**; **-es-es**.
2. Sometimes, the vowel timbre varies; as, **ákmōn/ákmenes**, (*sharp*) *stone*, which gives Lith. *akmuö/akmenes*, O.C.S. *kamy/kamene*, and so on.
3. There are also some zero-grades; cf Gk. *óies*. Also some analogical forms, as Gk. *kúnes*, Lat. *carnes*.

4.8.2. The \emptyset -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**.

As a general rule, then, the Plural has a full vowel: **ákmenes**, **mātéres**, etc.

4.8.3. The stems in **s** of Inanimates in the Nom.-Acc.-Voc. Plural present **-es-a**, **-es-ā**: they follow the vowel timbre in the whole inflection, but for the Nom.-Acc.-Voc. Singular in **-os**. The rest are in \emptyset .

4.8.4. The general vocalism of the Genitive Plural is \emptyset . But the full grade is sometimes found, too; as in **ákmenom**. The most common stems in which the full grade can be found are **n** and sometimes **r**; as in **mātróm**, which could also be **mātérom**.

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 \emptyset 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 \emptyset -grade, they take the last. An example of Animates is **pod**, which gives Nom. **pōds**, Gen. **pedós**, Obl. Plural **podbhís**. In Inanimates it happens with **s** stems which have **-os** in Nom.-Acc. and **-es** in the other cases; as in **génōs**, **genesí**, **genesbhós**. And in Heteroclites that oppose an **-n** in the cases that are not Nom.-Acc.-Voc. with **r**, **s** or \emptyset .

The zero-grade in the predeclensional syllable is very common, whether it has the Genitive vocalism or the full one; as, **kwōn/kunsí**. This \emptyset -grade is also found in **r** stems, as in **patrós**, **patrbbhiós**. And so in **i**, **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 \emptyset ; as, **egníbhios**, **egnísi**, **egníbbhis**; **ghóstibhis**, etc.

4.9. ACCENT IN DECLENSION

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

NOTE. This is one of the worst reconstructed parts of Proto-Indo-European, as each language has developed its own accent system. Only Vedic Sanskrit, Greek and Balto-Slavic dialects appear to have more or less retained the oldest accent system, and even these have undergone different systematizations, which obscure still more the original situation in Proto-Indo-European

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

Nom. **pōds**, Acc. **pódsm**, Gen. **pedés**.

Nom. **kwōn**, Acc. **kwónsm**, Gen. **kunós**.

4.9.3. In polysyllabics, there is e.g. **dhúg(a)tēr**¹³¹, **dhug(a)trós**, etc., but also **bhráter**, **bhrátrs** (cf. Skr. *bhartuḥ*, O.N. *bróðor*), or **mātr̥s** (cf. O.Ind. *matúr*), **pat̥rs** (cf. Got. *fadr̥s*), and so on.

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

2. Those in **ā** are not clearly reconstructed, therefore the alternating system is maintained.

3. The Vocative could be distinguished with the accent. The general rule, observed in Skr., Gk. and O.Sla., 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 the intonation of the sentence.

4.9.4. In the Plural system no general accent pattern can be found. Each Indo-European dialect 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 **patr̥bhiós**, **mātr̥bhís**, etc.

NOTE. The so-called *qetwóres*-rule had been observed by earlier scholars, but has only recently attracted attention. It is a sound law of PIE accent, stating that in a word of three syllables **é-o-X** the accent will be moved to the penultimate, **e-ó-X**. Examples include **qetwóres**<**qétwores**, *four*, singular accusatives of r-stems (cf. **swesórm**<**swésorm**, *sister*), of r/n-heteroclitica (cf. **ghesórm**<**ghésorm**, *hand*), of s-stems (cf. IE **h₂ausósm*<**h₂éusosm*, *dawn*). This rule is fed by an assumed earlier sound law that changes **e* to IE *o* after an accented syllable, i.e. **qetwóres**<**qétwores**<**qétweres*. Rix (1988) invokes this rule to explain why in the PIE Perfect the o-grade root is accented, e.g. **gegón-**/**gégñ-** < **gégen-**/**gégñ**, *created*, *engendered*.

4.10. COMPOUND WORDS

4.10.1. *Nominal Compositum* or nominal composition is the process of putting two or more words together to form another word. The new word, called a Compound Word, is either a Noun or an Adjective, and it does not necessarily have the same meaning as its parts.

4.10.2. The second term of a Compound Word may be

- a) a Noun (Gk. *akró-polis*, “*high city, citadel*”)
- b) an Adjective (Gk. *theo-eíkelos*, “*similar to the gods*”) or
- c) a Noun adapted to the adjectival inflection (Gk. *arguró-tozos*, “*silver arc*”)

NOTE. Sometimes a suffix is added (cf. Gk. *en-neá-boios*, “*of nine cows*”), and the Compound Noun may have a different gender than the second term (cf. Lat. *triuium*, “*cross roads*”, from *trēs* and *uia*).

4.10.3. The first term is a Pure Stem, without distinction of word class, gender or number. It may be an Adverb, a Numeral (Gk. *trí-llistos*, “*suppllicated three times*”, *polú-llistos*, “*very suppllicated*”) or a

Pronoun (cf. O.Ind. *tatpuruṣa*, “that man”), as well as a Nominal-Verbal stem with Nominal (Gk. *andra-phónos*, “who kills a man”), Adjetival (Gk. *akró-polis*), or Verbal function (Gk. *arkhé-kakos*, “who begins the evil”), and also an Adjective proper (Gk. *polú-tropos*, “of many resources”).

4.10.4. Usually, the first term has zero-grade, cf. O.Ind. *ṇr-hán*, Gk. *polú-tropos*, Lat. *auī-(caps)*, etc. Common exceptions are stems in **-e/o**s, as Gk. *sakés-palos*, “who shakes the shield” (Gk. *sákos*, “shield”), and some suffixes which are substituted by a lengthening in **-i**, cf. Gk. *kudī-áneira*, “who glorifies men” (Gk. *kudrós*), Av. *bərəzi-čaxra-*, “of high wheels” (Av. *bərəzant-*).

In Thematic stems, however, the thematic **-e/o** appears always, as an **o** if Noun or Adjective (Gk. *akró-polis*), as an **e** if Verb (Gk. *arkhé-kakos*).

4.10.5. The first term usually defines the second, the contrary is rare; the main Compound types are:

A. Formed by Verbs, cf. O.Ind. *ṇr-hán*, Gk. *andra-phónos* (Gk. *andro-* is newer) Lat. *auiceps*, O.Sla. *medv-ědī*, “honey-eater”, bear, and also with the second term defining the first, as Gk. *arkhé-kakos*.

B. Nominal Determiners (first term defines the second), with first term Noun (cf. Gk. *mētro-pátōr*, “mother’s father”, Goth. *þiudan-gardi*, “kingdom”), Adjective (cf. Gk. *akró-polis*, O.Sla. *dobro-godŭ*, “good time”, O.Ir. *find-airgit*, “white plant”, Lat. *angi-portus*, “narrow pass”), or Numeral (cf. Lat. *trium*, from *uia*, Gk. *ámaza*, “chariot frame”, from *ázōn*).

C. Adjectival Determiners (*tatpuruṣa-* for Indian grammarians), with first term Noun (cf. Gk. *theo-eíkelos*, Goth. *gasti-gods* “good for the guests”), Adverb (cf. O.Ind. *ájñātas*, Gk. *ágnōtos*, “unknown”, *phroudos*, “who is on its way”, from *pró* and *odós*).

D. Possessive Compounds (*bahu-vrihi-*, “which has a lot of rice”, for Indian grammarians), as in Eng. *barefoot*, “(who goes) with bare feet”, with the first term Noun (cf. Gk. *arguró-tozos*, O.Sla. *črŭno-vladŭ*, “of black hair”), Adjective (cf. Lat. *magn-animus*, “of great spirit”), Adverb (cf. O.Ind. *durmanás*, GK. *dus-menés*, “wicked”).

The accent could also distinguish the Determiners from the Possessives, as in O.Ind. *rāja-putrás*, “a king’s son”, from O.Ind. *rajá-putras*, “who has a son as king, king’s father”.