

***Noun Declension in Indo-European
(Sindhueuropaia Deklination nomnes)***

**Europaio: A Brief Grammar of the
European Language**

Table Of Contents

Copyright.....	1
License.....	3
4. Nouns.....	5
4.1. Declension of Nouns	5
4.2. First Declension.....	7
4.2.1. First Declension	7
4.2.2. In -i,-u.....	8
4.2.3. In -i,-u.....	9
4.2.4. In Diphthong.....	10
4.2.5. The Plural in the First Declension	11
4.3. Second Declension.....	13
4.3.2. In Occlusive, -m, -l.....	13
4.3.3. In -r, -n, -s	14
4.4. Third Declension.....	16
4.4.1. Third Declension	16
4.4.2. Third Declension in Examples	17
4.4.3. The Plural in the Third Declension.....	18
4.5. Fourth Declension	19
4.5.1. Fourth Declension.....	19
4.5.2. Fourth Declension in Examples	20

Copyright

Copyright © 2006 Carlos Quiles Casas

© 2006 Dnghu, © 2006 Europaio

Printed in the European Union.

Published by Dnghu, in association with Academia Biblos, Pl. Sta. Maria de la Cabeza, 3, Badajoz, 06004, Spain.

Dnghu books and licenses may be purchased for educational, business or sales promotional use. Online editions are also available for most titles (<http://tekstos.dnghu.org/>). For more information, contact us: (034) 924249383 or corporate@dnghu.org.

Dnghu and Europaio are registered trademarks, and Europaiom, as well as the Europaio, Dnghu and Europaiom logos are trademarks of Carlos Quiles Casas.

While every precaution has been taken in the preparation of this book, the publisher and authors assume no responsibility for errors or omissions, or for damages resulting from the use of the information contained herein.

License

Copyright © 2006 Carlos Quiles Casas

© 2006 Dnghu, © 2006 Europaio



All content on this book is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs2.5 License](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.5/), unless otherwise expressly stated.

If you have no direct Internet connection, please read the Creative Commons license (summary) text from another computer online in <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.5/> and the complete legal code in <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.5/legalcode>.

To put it simple, you can redistribute this work for free, if you do not modify it (not even translate it) nor have benefits with its redistribution. You could, however, ask for payments for the copies you redistribute, not to loose your own money.

If you want to publish this work for commercial purposes, please contact the Dnghu group for business licenses.

If you have a special interest in translating this work to your language for educational or business purposes, please contact us.

We recommend you to download texts, books, software and any other work directly from, or request copies directly to, Dnghu's web site or official Dnghu's licensees, and always redirect to Dnghu's [web site](#), if possible, for your users to download the latest, most stable releases.

Portions of this book are copied from the Public Domain book *New Latin Grammar*, © Allen and Greenough, 1903.

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 Indo-European, 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, -i, - <u>u</u> and Diphthongs	-s, -∅	-e/ois, ios ; -e/ous, -uos
2	Sonants and Consonants	-s, -∅	-e/os, -s
3	- <u>a</u> , -ia /-i / -ia, - <u>e</u> , - <u>o</u>	-∅	-s
4	-e/o (thematic)	-s	-os, -osio, -oso, - <u>i</u>
(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, i, u, u, diphthong, occlusive and thematic (-os)*, or **-∅** in *-a, -a, sonant* and *-s*; while in the plural **-es** is general, **-s** for those in *-a*, 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 **-∅**, 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.

Europaio: A Brief Grammar of the European Language

f. Inanimates have a syncretic form for N.-Ac.-V. in $-\emptyset$ 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 the Oblique cases, i.e. Dative, Locative, Instrumental and even Ablative. However, the Ablative was never independent, but for thematic stems in some dialectal areas. The other three cases were usually one local case in different contexts, although there are sometimes different declensions for groups or even for the three of them.

NOTE 1. There some traces (in the IE proto-languages which show divided Oblique cases) that could indicate a possible first division between Dat. and Loc.-Ins., and then another, more recent between Loc. and Ins.

NOTE 2. What we know with certainty is 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.

NOTE 3. Before we begin with declensions, it is necessary to point out that there was neither a homogene 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 the Slavic Bulgarian,... It is necessary, though, as with Europaio, to systematize to some extent this diversity, based on the obvious underlying old system.

4.2. First Declension

4.2.1. First Declension

1. The Stem of nouns of the First Declension ends in **-i**, **-u**, **-ī**, **-ū** and **diphthong**. The Nominative ending is **-s**.
2. Indo-European nouns of the First Declension are thus generally declined:

	<i>Animate</i>	<i>Inanimate</i>
NOM.	-s	-
ACC.	-m	∅
VOC.	-∅	
GEN.	- (e/o)s	
OBL.	-ei / -i	

NOTE. The distinction within the Obliques cannot be traced back to an unitary Indo-European system, and happened thus differently in each IE language or dialect. Reduplication or combination is a common resort in the languages that distinguished Dat. and Loc. in this declension; as in *-i-ei*, *-ei-ei*, and so on.

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 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 **-ī** can be an homophone with Nom.-Acc.-Voc. singular neuter **-ī** (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 **owis**, **noqtis**, **ghostis**, **sunus**,
2. Accusative Singular Animate in **-m**; as in **owim**, **noqtim**, **ghostim**, **sunum**
3. Vocative Singular Animate in **-ei** or **-i**, **-eu** or **-u**; as in **owei/owi**, **suneu-sunou/sunu.**
4. The Nom.-Acc.-Voc. Singular Inanimate in **-i**, **-u**; as in **peḡu**, **medhu**, **swadu**
5. Genitive Singular in **-eis** (**-ois**) or **-ios**, **-eus** (**-ous**), **-uos**; as in **egneis**, **sunous**, **peḡwos**, adj. **swadeus**
6. Oblique Singular in **-ei**, **-ou**, also with long vowel, **-ei**, **-ou**, and also in \emptyset -grade, **-i**, **-u**: **egnei**, **sunu**, **owei**.

SINGULAR

	<i>f. neqti</i>	<i>m. s<u>u</u>nu</i>	<i>f. owi</i>	<i>n. pe<u>ḡ</u>u</i>
NOM.	neqtis	s <u>u</u> nus	owis	pe <u>ḡ</u> u
ACC.	neqtim	s <u>u</u> num	owim	pe <u>ḡ</u> u
VOC.	neqti	s <u>u</u> nu	owi	pe <u>ḡ</u> u
GEN.	neqteis	s <u>u</u> nous	owios	pe <u>ḡ</u> wos
OBL.	neqtei	s <u>u</u> nou	owei	pe <u>ḡ</u> ou

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>u</u>	f. dn <u>ghu</u>
NOM.	br <u>u</u> -s	dn <u>ghu</u> -s
ACC.	br <u>u</u> -m	dn <u>ghu</u> -m
VOC.	br <u>u</u>	dn <u>ghu</u>
GEN.	bruw- es	dn <u>ghuw</u> - os
OBL.	bruw- ei / bruw- i	dn <u>ghuw</u> - ou

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 Indo-European 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

	<i>m. cou</i>	<i>m. djeu</i>
NOM.	c <u>o</u> s	dj <u>e</u> s
ACC.	c <u>o</u> m	dj <u>e</u> m, dij <u>e</u> m
VOC.	c <u>o</u>	dj <u>e</u>
GEN.	c <u>o</u> s	di <u>u</u> os, dj <u>e</u> es
OBL.	c <u>o</u> wi	dj <u>e</u> ei

2. These are root words, but there is a secondary formation of words, especially that of Greek origin, in **-eus**, **-euos**, as in Avestic *bazaus*, 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.

	<i>Animate</i>	<i>Inanimate</i>
NOM.	-es	-
ACC.	-ms	a, - <u>a</u>
VOC.	-es	
GEN.	-om, -em	
OBL.	-bhis, -bhos; -mis, -mos; -si	

The obliques can also be specialized in

Dat.-Abl.	-bhios / -mos, bhos
Loc.	-si, -su, -se
Ins.	-bhis / -mis

NOTE. The inanimate plural forms, **-a** and **-a**, 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 *cowes*

There are forms in **-ies** for **-i** themes, as in *oweies*; in **-eues** for **-u** themes, as in *suneues*; in **ijes**, **-uwes** for **-i**, **-u**; as in *bhruwes*;

4. The Accusative Plural Animate is in **-ms**: *owims*, *sunums*, *coms/coums*

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 dialects show.

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

6. Genitive Plural Animate in **-om/-om** and **-em**: **owi-om**, **noqti-om**, **sunuw-em/sunuw-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 \emptyset .

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**: **sunubhis** / **sunubhos** / **sunubhios** / **sunumis** / **sunumos**.

NOTE. The forms are so divided into the different dialectal systems, that it is impossible to reconstruct a general system in which each of the Oblique cases have a particular ending.

There is also another ending possible, that in **-s-i**, **-s-u**, **s-e**, generally Locative (in i.-i. and bsl.), but also possibly general Dat.-Loc.-Ins. (as in Greek): **sunusi** / **sunusu** / **sunuse**

In the Oblique Plural specialized system, which is a common feature of Proto-Baltoslavic and Proto-Indo-Iranian (and, to some extent, of the Proto-Greek and Proto-Armenian) dialects, 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 is constructed with an **-s** marking the plural, and an **-i** which is the locative 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.

	f. owi	m. sunu	f. bhru	m. cou
NOM.	oweies	suneues	bhruwes	cowes
ACC.	owims	sunums	bhrums	coums
VOC.	oweies	suneues	bhruwes	cowes
GEN.	owiom	sunuwem	bhruwom	cowom
OBL.	owebhos	sunubhis	bhrumis	coumos

4.3. Second Declension

4.3.2. In Occlusive, -m, -l

1. Nominative Singular Animate in **-s**; as in pods/peds, bhrghs [bh'rghs], donts/dents
2. Accusative Singular Animate in **-[']m**; as in podm [po:d'm] / pedm [ped'm], bhrghm [bh'rgh'm], dontm [do:nt'm] / dentm [dent'm]
3. Vocative Singular Animate in **-ø**; a sin pod/ped, bhrgh, dont/dent
5. The Nom.-Acc.-Voc. Singular Inanimate in **-ø**, with various vocalisms; as in qrd [q'rd]
4. Genitive Singular in **-e/os**; as in podos/podos, pedes/pedes, dontos/dontos, dentes/dentes, bhrghos
6. Oblique Singular in **-i, -ei**: podi, donti

SINGULAR

	<i>m. ped</i>	<i>m. d<u>o</u>nt</i>	<i>n. q<u>rd</u></i>
NOM.	peds	d <u>o</u> nts	q <u>rd</u>
ACC.	pedm	d <u>o</u> ntm	q <u>rd</u>
VOC.	ped	d <u>o</u> nt	q <u>rd</u>
GEN.	pedes	d <u>o</u> ntos	q <u>rd</u> os
OBL.	pedi	d <u>o</u> nti	q <u>rd</u> i

4.3.3. In -r, -n, -s

1. Nominative Singular Animate in - \emptyset (with lengthened vowel); as in mater, ξ won.

Stems in -s, *ndher- \acute{g} enes* (*degenerate*); lat. *pubes*, *honos*, *honor*

2. Accusative Singular Animate in -[']m; as in materm [ma:ter'm], ξ wonm [kwon'm], *ndhere \acute{g} enesm* [ndher \acute{g} enes'm]; lat. *honosm*

3. Vocative Singular Animate in - \emptyset (with full vowel); as in mater, ξ uon

5. The Nom.-Acc.-Voc. Singular Inanimate in - \emptyset ; as in *nomn* [nom'n], *\acute{g} enes*.

The adjectives in -s have the neuter in -es: *e \acute{g} enes*

4. Genitive Singular in -e/os; as in *m*atres/*m*atros, *ξ unes/ ξ unos*, *nomnes* [nom'nes] / *nomnos* [nom'nos]

Nouns and adjectives in -s have an e, not an o, as the final stem vowel: *\acute{g} eneses*, *e \acute{u} eneos*

6. Oblique Singular in -ei, -i: materi, ξ woni

SINGULAR

	<i>m. ξwon</i>	<i>f. m<u>a</u>ter</i>	<i>n. \acute{g}enes</i>	<i>n. nomn</i>
NOM.	ξ won	m <u>a</u> ter	\acute{g} enes	nomn
ACC.	ξ wonm	m <u>a</u> term	\acute{g} enes	nomn
VOC.	ξ won	m <u>a</u> ter	\acute{g} enes	nomn
GEN.	ξ uno/es	m <u>a</u> tre/os	\acute{g} eneses	nomne/os
OBL.	ξ woni	m <u>a</u> teri	\acute{g} enesi	nomni

	<i>adj. m. ndherǵen-</i>
NOM.	ndherǵen <u>es</u>
ACC.	ndherǵenesm
VOC.	ndherǵenes
GEN.	ndherǵen <u>eses</u>
OBL.	ndherǵenesi

4.4. Third Declension

4.4.1. Third Declension

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:

	<i>Animate</i>	<i>Inanimate</i>
NOM.	-∅	-∅
ACC.	-m	
VOC.	-∅	
GEN.		-s
OBL.		-ai
<i>Obliques can also be specialized in</i>		
Dat.-Loc.-Abl.		-ai, -ei
Ins.		-a, -a-bhi, -a-mi

NOTE 1. Like in the Second Declension, these specialized Oblique forms were probably already splitting in the IE III, but in this case it is the Instrumental the case which was already specialized in IE III, and probably long before.

NOTE 2. 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 **-a~~a~~ei** 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 ∅-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 \emptyset ; as, eḱwa, sena.

Examples of **-ia/-i** stems are potnia/potni

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

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

2. Accusative Singular in **-m**; as, eḱwam, potniam/potnim, bhidhem

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

4. Genitive Singular in **-s**; as, eḱwas, senas

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

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

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

SINGULAR

	<i>m. e<u>ḱ</u>w<u>a</u></i>	<i>m. potn<u>i</u>a/<u>i</u></i>	<i>m. bhidh<u>e</u>-</i>
NOM.	e <u>ḱ</u> w <u>a</u>	potn <u>i</u> a/ <u>i</u>	bhidh <u>e</u> s
ACC.	e <u>ḱ</u> w <u>a</u> m	potn <u>i</u> a/ <u>i</u> -m	bhidh <u>e</u> m
VOC.	e <u>ḱ</u> w <u>a</u>	potn <u>i</u> a/ <u>i</u>	bhidh <u>e</u>
GEN.	e <u>ḱ</u> w <u>a</u> s	potn <u>i</u> a/ <u>i</u> -s	bh <u>i</u> dhes
OBL.	e <u>ḱ</u> w <u>a</u> i	potn <u>a</u> i	bh <u>i</u> dei

	<i>adj. f. sen-</i>
NOM.	sen <u>a</u>
ACC.	sen <u>a</u> m
VOC.	sen <u>a</u>
GEN.	sen <u>a</u> s
OBL.	sen <u>a</u> 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.

	<i>Animate</i>
NOM.	-s
ACC.	-ms
VOC.	-s
GEN.	-m
OBL.	-bhis, -bhos; -mis, -mos; -si; ais-i, <u>ais-i</u>

The obliques can also be specialized in

Dat.-Abl.	-bhios / -mos; ais-i, <u>ais-i</u>
Loc.	-si, -su, -se; ais-i, <u>ais-i</u>
Ins.	-bhis / -mis

2. The Nominative-Vocative Plural in **-s**: eḵwā-s.

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

3. The Accusative Plural in **-ms**: eḵwā-ms

4. The Genitive Plural in **-m**: eḵwā-m

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

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

	<i>m. eḵw<u>ā</u></i>	<i>m. potnia/<u>i</u></i>
NOM.	eḵw <u>ās</u>	potnias
ACC.	eḵw <u>ā</u> ms	potniams
VOC.	eḵw <u>ās</u>	potnias
GEN.	eḵw <u>ā</u> m	potn <u>i</u> asom
OBL.	eḵw <u>ā</u> bhis	potniamos

4.5. Fourth Declension

4.5.1. Fourth Declension

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** stem is the newest in Indo-European, and this has an obvious consequence in the Oblique desinences, the most specialized of the four. IE nouns of the Fourth Declension are thus declined:

	<i>Animate</i>	<i>Inanimate</i>
NOM.	-os	om -
ACC.	-om	
VOC.	-e	
GEN.	-os, -osio, -oso, -i	
DAT.	-oi, -o	
LOC.	-oi, -ei	
INS.	-o, -e	
Abl.	-od, -ed	

The obliques can also be generalized in

OBL.	-oi, -oi, -o
-------------	--------------

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 *wlqos*
2. Accusative Singular Animate in **-om**; as in *wlqom*
3. Vocative Singular Animate in **-e**; as in *wlqe*
5. The Nom.-Acc.-Voc. Singular Inanimate in **-om**; as in *jugom*, *newom*
4. Genitive Singular in **-os**, **-osio**, **-e/oso**, or **-i**; as in *wlqosio* / *wlqeso* / *wlqi*,

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. Dative Singular in **-oi**, **-o** : *wlqoi*, *newoi*
7. Locative Singular in **-oi**, **-ei** : *wlqoi*, *newoi*
8. Instrumental Singular in **-o** : *wlqo*, *newo*
9. The Ablative Singular is formed in **-od**, and sometimes in **-ed**: *wlqod*, *newod*

SINGULAR

	<i>m. wlqo</i>	<i>n. jugo</i>
NOM.	<i>wlqos</i>	<i>jugom</i>
ACC.	<i>wlqom</i>	<i>jugom</i>
VOC.	<i>wlqe</i>	<i>jugom</i>
GEN.	<i>wlqosio</i>	<i>jugos</i>
DAT.	<i>wlqoi</i>	<i>jugoi</i>
LOC.	<i>wlqoi</i>	<i>jugoi</i>
INS.	<i>wlqo</i>	<i>jugo</i>
Abl.	<i>wlqod</i>	<i>jugod</i>