

lykill (key). Sometimes the *i* of the Dative drops in the words ending in *ll* as:

hæl, hól for hæli, hóli.

In the last radical letters *r* and *s* the use fluctuates between *r* and *rr*, *s* and *ss*. Þórr, herr, hauss, íss, óss, is often found because of little consequence.

Both kinds of words, if they are monosyllabic in the Nom. lose the *i* in the Dative, as: her, ís, for heri, ísi.

The *r* is altogether dropped after *n* and *l* when it comes into collision with other consonants as in: vagn, hrafn, fugl, karl (Nom. and Acc.) also after *s* and *ss*, as in háls, kross (in the Nom. Acc. and Gen.).

53. Words in two syllables are contracted when the pronunciation allows it, as:

Neut. sumar (summer), sumri — *Plur.* sumur sumrum, sumra.
höfuð (head), höfði, höfðum, höfða.

Masc. hamri, hamrar, hamra, hömrum
drottni, drottnar — lykli, lykklar etc.

Some words receive an uncommon vowel in the contracted forms, as:

megin, *might, power*; D. magni, G. megin. *Pl.* megin or mögn (as: goðmögn), D. mögnum, G. magna.

g. m. ketill (*kettle*), D. katli, *Plur.* katlar, A. katla, D. kötlum,
g. f. alin (*the ell-measure*) G. álnar, - álnir, álnum, álna

54. To the contracted belong the *Mascul.* jöfurr, fjöturr, they keep *ö* throughout jöfri, fjöttri *Plur.* jöfrar, fjötrar.

The others of this class of all three genders have only an *r* by the ancient writers (not *ur* or *urr*), they must not therefore be looked upon as contracted, as:

Neu. silfr² (silver), silfri,

Mas. akr² (acre), akri, *Plur.* akrar,

Fem. fjöðr² (feather) fjaðrar, *Plur.* fjaðrir (ar) fjöðrum, fjaðra.

55. The polysyllabic neuters ending in *-að*, *-an* or the *fem.* ending in *an* are not contracted, as:

Sing. Nom. Acc. mannlikan (*human being*) skipan (*order*),

Dat. mannlikani skipan

Gen. mannlikans skipanar (-onar)

Plur. Nom. Acc. mannlikun (on) skipanir,

Dat. mannlikunum (onum) skipunum (onom)

Gen. mannlikana skipana.