

oldest danish language; they shorten the radical letter so that *i* is dropped and *ð* is hardened into *d* or *t*, in words the characteristic letter of which is a hard consonant as:

bart, barðr, bürð; tamt, tamdr, tömd; vakt, vaktr, vökt.

In this manner we find in some of these words a double or triple form, of which the contracted one is the oldest; those in *it*, *inn*, *in*, are modern Icelandic. — The words of double form receive the general mixed declension after the euphony, as:

<i>Sing.</i>	<i>Nom.</i> vakit (<i>wakened</i>)	vakinn	vakinn	vakinn
	<i>Acc.</i> vakit	vakinn	vakinn	vakinn
	<i>Dat.</i> vöktu	vöktum	vöktum	vöktum
	<i>Gen.</i>	vakins	vakinnar	vakinnar
<i>Plural</i>	<i>Nom.</i> vakin	vaktir	vaktir	vaktir
	<i>Acc.</i> vakin	vakta	vakta	vakta
	<i>Dat.</i>	vöktum	vöktum	vöktum
	<i>Gen.</i>	vakinna	vakinnar	vakinnar
<i>Def. Form.</i>	<i>Nom.</i> vakta	vakti	vakta	vakta etc.

As a proof of the real use of contractions by the ancients, we cite:

kraft (Fms. 4,122 and 176), þaktr (Fms. 2,305); but, þakiðr, (Grimmism. 9), dult (Isländingas. 2,243); huldr (Snorra-Edda 136), skilt (Fms. 6,220).

The modern forms are:

krafit, þakinn, dulit, hulinn, skilit.

96. There is another kind of words which contracts as:

auðigt, rig-t, *Plur.* auðug, auðgir, auðgar; málugr, málgir; öflugr, öflgir etc., but it is rare and not irregular. Heilagt, -lagr, -lög contracts in the shortened forms *ei* into *e*, *Plur.* heilög, helgir, helgar, *def. Form* helga, helgi, helga. The root *ill* is accented in the n. g. illt, illr, ill, and *sann* contracts *nn* with *t* into *tt*: satt, sannr, sönn; allt, allr, öll wants the *def. form*, because it is definite in itself.

97. Compound Adjectives in *a* are not declinable as: *einskipa* (Fms. 7,123), *sundrskila* (Fms. 11,131). But there are some, in which the gender is shown in the *Nom.* in the m. g. in *-i*, f. g. in *-a* as: *sammæðri* (Fms. 6,50),