

## LESSON 14

### PHONOLOGY

#### Lengthening of *a* and shortening of *ā*.

Changes in vowel length that are found frequently throughout the corpus and therefore must be genuine linguistic features include shortening of *ā* > *a* and lengthening of *a* > *ā*, both in initial and internal position:

*a* is lengthened:

for rhythmic reasons (?) in initial syllable in:

*āiia* < *\*aiia* in the expression *āiia zāmā* “throughout this earth,” *ākārən-* < *\*akārən-* “did” (augmented form, see Lesson 19), *ārəitimca* (= *ašimca*, P.39), *āfrasāṅha-*, *āfrasāṅhaṅt-* < *a-fra-sāh-* “uninterrupted,” *āsītō.gātu-* < *a-sita-* “who has not lain on a bed”;

*xštāuuaiiō* vs. *xštəuuiβiiō*;

after *ii* in *mašiiāka-* for *\*mašiiaka-* and *mašiiānqm* for *\*mašiiānqm*.

*ā* is shortened:

often before *ii*: *aiiaoš* < *āiiu-*, OInd. *āyu-*; *zaiia-*, OInd. *jāya-*;

probably before *uu* in *nauuāza-*, cf. OInd. *nāvājā-*;

sometimes in the middle participle in *-āna-* and other words in *-āna-*: *aojana-*, *stauuana-*, etc.; *gaōdana-*;

in initial syllable when an enclitic is attached to the word: *apəmca* < *āpəm*; *haθrəmcit* < *hāθrəm* (N.91), *starasca* < *stārō*; *zauuarəca* < *zāuuarə* (Y.71.8);

in the course of declension or when receiving suffixes in antepenultimate or earlier syllables or when the word was unaccented (e.g., vocative): *azinqm* from *āzī-* “fertile/pregnant (cow)” (FO.3h), *pazaṅhaṅt-* “(broad-)chested” < *\*pāzah-* “chest,” *Spitāmō* but *Spitama*, *Spitamāhe*; *Sauuaṅhe* but *Sāuuvaṅhē*; *aḍuuō* < *āḍu-*;

occasionally elsewhere: *apuθrā-* “having no sons” (V.3.24) or “pregnant” < *\*āpuθrā-* (V.15.5, 8).

Note: The first three changes are common also in eastern Middle Iranian (Sogdian and Khotanese).

*ā* becomes *āa* or *a* in the thematic ending of the ablative *-āt*, which becomes *-āat* before enclitic *°ca* > *-āatca*, but (not consistently) *-at* before the postposition *haca* > *-at haca* (but always *ašāt haca*, and some others).

#### Consonant alternations: *š* ~ *rət*

The letter <š> was originally designed to represent the combination of unvoiced allophone of *r* (*hr*) + following *t* (see Lesson 3). It must therefore originally have alternated in regular fashion with *rət*, but in the extant texts we only see remnants of this alternation, such as in *aša-* “Order” ~ *astuuat.ərata-* “he through whom Order will have bones” (Vocabulary 3) and *ašim* “reward” ~ *ārəitimca* (P.39), beside *ašimca*.

### NOUNS

#### Ablative

The characteristic ending of the ablative singular is *-t*, before which the stem vowel of the *a*-stems is lengthened to give *-āt*. This ending—with the preceding *-aii*—was also used by fem. *ā*-stems. There are no examples of abl. sing. of masc. *ā*-stems.

In the other declensions the ablative is obtained by substituting *-t* for the original *-h* (*-s°*)/*-š* of the genitive, e.g., *bərəzant-* “high”: *bərəzatō* (< *°-ta-h*) ⇒ *bərəzata-t*; *gairi-* “mountain”: *garōi-š* ⇒ *garōi-t*; *barəsmān-* “barsom”: *\*barəsmān-h* (> *barəsmā*) ⇒ *\*barsman-t* > *barəsmən*; *nar-* “man”: *\*nṛ-š* (> *narš*) ⇒

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\**nṛ-t* (> *nərə-t*).

Sometimes we find *-a* added to the ending (*-āda*, *-aēda*?, *-māda*) with the specific meaning “all the way to, up to and including(?), throughout”: *xšaθrāda* “throughout (Yima’s) reign,” *paitiš.xʷarənāda* “up to and including the jaw(?),” *drujō vaēsmāda* “(all the way) to the entrance hall (*vaēsman-*) of the Lie” (Yt.10.86). Forms in *-aēda* are less certain (perhaps *\*aiβišitaēdaca* and *\*upašitaēdaca* in Yt.19.6 < °*šiti-*, but *āxštaēda* in V.3.1 may be a verbal form < *ā-stā-*).

[The ablative singular was originally identical with the genitive in all declensions except the *a*-declension. In Young Avestan, however, there are no certain examples of genitive forms used as ablative.]

The ablative plural and dual are identical with the dative plural and dual.

The endings of the sing. are:

|       |                                 |                    |                  |   |                        |
|-------|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|---|------------------------|
|       | <i>a</i> -stems                 | <i>ā</i> -stems f. | <i>ī</i> -stems  |   |                        |
| Sing. | <i>-āt</i> , <i>-āda</i>        | <i>-aiiāt</i>      | <i>-iiāt</i>     |   |                        |
|       | <i>i</i> -stems                 | <i>u</i> -stems    | <i>au</i> -stems | <i>u</i> <sup>2</sup> - and <i>ū</i> -stems | cons.-stems            |
| Sing. | <i>-ōit</i> , [ <i>-aēda</i> ?] | <i>-aot</i>        | <i>-aot</i>      | <i>-uuat</i> ( <i>-βat</i> )                | <i>-at</i> , <i>-t</i> |

Vowel stems

|       |                   |                    |   |                             |                 |
|-------|-------------------|--------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------|
|       | <i>a</i> -stems   | <i>ā</i> -stems f. | <i>ī</i> -stems f.  |                             |                 |
| Sing. | <i>haomāt</i>     | <i>daēnaiiāt</i>   | <i>ašaoniiāt</i> , <i>vaṇhuiiāt</i> , <i>amauuaiθiīāt</i> |                             |                 |
|       | <i>i</i> -stems   | <i>u</i> -stems    | <i>ao</i> -stems  | <i>u</i> <sup>2</sup> stems | <i>ū</i> -stems |
| Sing. | <i>frauuāšōit</i> | <i>zaṇtaot</i>     | <i>gaot</i> , <i>daṅhaot</i>                              | <i>raθβat</i>               | <i>tanuuat</i>  |

Notes:

The masc. *paṇtā-* has the thematized abl. sing. *paṇtaṭ*.

The *ā*-stem *haēnā-* has dat.-abl. plur. *haēnēbiiō* in Yt.10.93 in anticipation of the following *draomābiiō* < *draoman-* “deception.”

The fem. *ušā-* has abl. sing. *ušaiiāt*.

The *aē*-stem *Rayaē-/Raji-* has the abl. sing. *Rajōit* (Y.19.18).

The form *ziiānaiiaēca* in Y.12.2 may be for *ziiānaiiataca* (cf. *auuatbiiō* for *auuaēbiiō*, lesson 13), instead of *ziiānōitca*(?).

Consonant stems

|       |               |                             |               |                              |              |                    |
|-------|---------------|-----------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
|       | <i>druj-</i>  | <i>ap-</i>                  | <i>xšap-</i>  | <i>zam-</i>                  | <i>vis-</i>  | <i>tāt</i> -stems  |
| Sing. | <i>drujaṭ</i> | <i>apaṭ</i> ( <i>āpaṭ</i> ) | <i>xšapaṭ</i> | <i>zamaṭ</i> , <i>zamāda</i> | <i>visaṭ</i> | <i>iriθiiqstāt</i> |

Notes:

The thematic ablative *zamāda* (or *paiti zamāda*) is used in the meaning of “throughout the earth, all over the earth.” There are no examples of abl. forms of *ziiam-*.

n-stems

|       |                    |                 |                    |  |
|-------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|
|       | ° <i>jan-/°γn-</i> | <i>asan-</i>    | <i>xšapan-</i>     | <i>marətān-</i>                          |
| Sing. | ° <i>γnaṭ</i>      | <i>ašnāaṭ</i> ° | <i>xšafnāaṭ</i> °  | <i>marəθnaṭ</i>                          |
|       | <i>uuan</i> -stems |                 | <i>man</i> -stems: |  |
| Sing. | <i>ašaonaṭ</i>     | <i>yunaṭ</i>    | <i>cašmanaṭ</i>    | <b><i>barəsmən</i>, <i>vaēsmanda</i></b> |

nt-stems

Sing.        *druuataṭ*            *tbišiiantaṭ*

r-stems

Sing.        *āθraṭ*                    *nəraṭ*

h-stems

Sing.        *manaṇḥaṭ*                *daḍuuah-  
daθušaṭ*

Note: The abl. sing. of *nāh* “nose” is *nāḡhanaṭ* (*haca*), cf. gen. sing. *āḡhānō* < *āh*- “mouth.”

iih-stems

Comparatives in *-iih* are declined like regular *h*-stem, with long stem only in the nom. sing. masc. and nom.-acc. plur. neut. Not all forms are attested. Examples (*maziih*- “greater,” *frāiih*- “more (numerous),” *āsiih*- “faster”):

|           |                   |               |
|-----------|-------------------|---------------|
|           | m.                | n.            |
| Sing.     |                   |               |
| nom.      | <i>maziīā</i>     | <i>maziīō</i> |
| acc.      | <i>maziīaḡhəm</i> |               |
| dat.      | <i>maziīaḡhe</i>  |               |
| Plur.     |                   |               |
| nom.-acc. | <i>maziīaḡhō</i>  | <i>maziīā</i> |
| gen.      | <i>maziīaḡhəm</i> |               |
| dat.-abl. | <i>frāiīābiiō</i> |               |
| Dual      |                   |               |
| nom.-acc. | <i>āsiiāḡha</i>   |               |

**ADJECTIVES**

**Feminine of h-stems**

The feminine of *h*-stem adjectives is formed by adding *-ī-* to the (weak) stem, e.g.: *yātumanahī-*; *maziiehī* < \**maziiahī-*, but *vahehī-* < \**vahiihī-*; *daḍuši-* < *daḍuuah-/daḍuṣ-* (perfect participles, see Lesson 20).

**The comparative**

Comparatives are made with the suffixes *-tara-* or *-iih-* (< *-iāh-*). These two kinds of comparative correspond to the two kinds of superlative in *-tāma-* or *-išta-* (Lesson 12).

The comparative in *-tara-* is formed by attaching this ending to the stem of the adjective with appropriate *sandhi* before the ending. Adjectives with ablauting suffixes take the weak stem (cf. the superlatives, lesson 12).

The comparative in *-iih-* is made from the root in the full grade, also with appropriate *sandhi*. Adjectives with suffixes lose these in this type of comparative.

1. Examples of comparatives in *-tara-* (cf. the corresponding superlatives in Lesson 9):

|                             |                        |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>amauuāṭ-</i> “forceful”  | <i>amauuastara-</i>    | <i>amauuastāma-</i>    |
| <i>baēšaziia-</i> “healing” | <i>baēšaziīō.tara-</i> | <i>baēšaziīō.tāma-</i> |
| <i>hubaoiḍi-</i> “fragrant” | <i>hubaoiḍitara-</i>   | <i>hubaoiḍitāma-</i>   |

|                                       |                        |                        |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>huiiašta-</i> “well sacrificed to” | <i>huiiaštatar-</i>    |                        |
| <i>vərəθrajan-</i> “victorious”       | <i>vərəθrajaštara-</i> | <i>vərəθrajaštama-</i> |
| <i>yāskərət-</i> “competitive”        | <i>yāskərəstara-</i>   | <i>yāskərəstama-</i>   |

2. Examples of comparatives in *-iih-*:

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <i>aka-</i> “evil”                                   | <i>ašiih-</i> (< *ač- <i>īah-</i> )       | <i>acišta-</i>   |
| <i>āsu-</i> “fast”                                   | <i>āsiih-</i>                             | <i>āsišta-</i>   |
| <i>pouru-</i> “much” (< *pṛH- <i>u-</i> )            | <i>frāiih-</i> (< *praH- <i>īah-</i> )    | <i>fraēšta-</i> (< *praH- <i>išta-</i> )               |
| <i>vaṅhu-</i> “good”                                 | <i>vahiih-</i> , <i>vaṅhah-</i>           | <i>vahišta-</i>  |
| <i>masita-</i> “long”                                | <i>masiih-</i>                            | <i>masišta-</i>  |
| <i>mazānt-</i> “big”                                 | <i>maziiah-</i>                           | <i>mazišta-</i>  |
| <i>spənta-</i> “beneficial”                          | <i>spaniih-</i>                           | <i>spəništa-</i>                                       |
| <i>taxma-</i> “firm” (< *tṅ- <i>k-ma-</i> )          | <i>tāšiih-</i> (< *tanč- <i>īah-</i> )    | <i>tañcišta-</i>                                       |
| <i>srira-</i> “beautiful” (< *sriH- <i>ra-</i> )     | <i>sriiih-</i> (< *sraiH- <i>īah-</i> )   | <i>sraēšta-</i> (< *sraiH- <i>išta-</i> )              |
| <i>stura-</i> “stout, strong” (< *stHu- <i>ra-</i> ) | <i>staoiih-</i> (< *stHau- <i>īah-</i> ?) | <i>stāuuišta-</i> (< *staHu- <i>išta-</i> )            |
| <i>uṅra-</i> “strong”                                | <i>aojiih-</i>                            | <i>aojišta-</i>  |
| <i>bui-ri-</i> “plentiful” (< *dbuH- <i>ri-</i> )    | <i>baoyiih-</i> (< *dbauH- <i>īah-</i> )  | <i>dbōišta-</i> (< *dbəuišta- < *dbauH- <i>išta-</i> ) |

PRONOUNS

Pronouns in the ablative

Personal pronouns:

|       |              |                              |                             |              |
|-------|--------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
|       | 1st          | 2nd                          | 3rd pers. = “this”          |              |
|       |              |                              | masc., neut.                | fem.         |
| Sing. | <i>maṭ</i>   | <i>θβaṭ</i>                  | <i>ahmāṭ</i> , <i>ahmaṭ</i> | <i>aṅhāṭ</i> |
| Plur. | <i>ahmaṭ</i> | <i>yušmaṭ</i> , <i>xšmaṭ</i> | <i>aēibiiō</i>              | <i>ābiiō</i> |

The demonstrative pronoun *ima-* “this” = 3rd pers.

The demonstrative pronoun *auua-* “that”:

|       |                  |                 |
|-------|------------------|-----------------|
|       | masc., neut.     | fem.            |
| Sing. | <i>auuahmāṭ</i>  | <i>auuaṅhāṭ</i> |
| Plur. | <i>auuaēbiiō</i> | <i>yaēibiiō</i> |

The relative pronoun *ya-* “who, which”:

|       |               |               |
|-------|---------------|---------------|
|       | masc., neut.  | fem.          |
| Sing. | <i>yahmāṭ</i> | <i>yeṅhāṭ</i> |
| Plur. | <i>yābiiō</i> |               |

The interrogative pronoun *ka-* “who, what?”:

|       |                 |      |
|-------|-----------------|------|
|       | masc., neut.    | fem. |
| Sing. | -               | -    |
| Plur. | <i>kaēibiiō</i> | -    |



















- framən.nara-: \*encouraging the men, \*giving back hope (??)  
framən.narō.vira-: \*encouraging the men (and) servants(?), \*giving them back their hope (??)  
fra.stairiia- < fra.stərənao- < √star: which is to be spread out  
frastərəta- < fra.stərənao- < √star: spread out  
fraθβaršta- < fraθβərəsa- < √θβars: fashion forth  
\*frā.nəma- < √nam mid.: to yield (before: parō + abl.)  
frāšmō.dāiti- f.: sunset  
gaoḍana- n.: udder, milk pail(?)  
hazah- n.: violence, violent act  
həm.hišta- < √stā mid.: to stand (together), gather (intr.)  
həm.varəiti- f.: \*valor  
huiiašta-, comp. huiiaštatarā-: well sacrificed to  
huška-: dry  
iriθiiaštāt-: (the fact of) dying, mortality  
iṣāna- pres. part. of isa-: ruling  
kaiia < ka-  
maḍəma-: middle  
maiḍiia-: intoxicating beverage  
masiiah-, compar. of masita-: longer  
māiiauauant- < māiia-: rich in creative magic(?)  
miiazda-: ritual meal  
miiēzdin-: (possessing, preparing) ritual meals/offerings  
nāh-: nose  
nāməniš, instr. for nom.-acc. plur. of nāman- + adj. fem. plur.  
nipā- < √pā: to protect  
pairi.fra.mərəza < √marz: to wipe clean all around  
pairiuuāra-: surrounding protection; enclosure, fence  
paitiš.xʹarəna- (sing., dual.): cheeks, jaws(?)  
paitizaṅta-, past part. of paiti.zān- < √zān/xšnā: to recognize  
paouruua.naēma-: the front half/side  
parō.arəjastara- < arəjah-: much more valuable  
paršta-: back, protection  
pata- < √pat: to fall, daēuuic for movement  
Pārəṅdi-; goddess of Plenty  
pazaṅʹhant- < \*pāzah-: (broad-)chested  
Puitika- name of a sea  
puxḍa-: fifth  
raēkō adv.(?): exiled  
Rayāē-/Raji-: Rayā (a city)  
raoca- < √raok: to shine, blaze  
rao.raḍa- < rauua- + rəḍa-: with fast chariot(s)  
Satauuāēsa-: name of a star  
sāuuaiia- < √sao: to make swell (with the juices of life), revitalize  
spaniiah-, comp. spənta-  
sraēšiiia-, fut. of sirinao- < √sraē: to mix  
sraiiiah-, comp. of srira-  
staoiiah-, comp. of stura-  
šiti- f.: dwelling place  
taṭ adv.: then, there  
tāiia-: theft; cf. tāiui- “thief”  
tāta-: falling; epithet of the heavenly waters  
təmah- neut.: darkness  
tuiriiia-: fourth  
ṭbaēšah- adj.: hostile  
ḍbaēša-: fear, terror  
ḍβāša-: the firmament; lit. the fast one [OInd. tvarita- “fast”]  
ḍβōrəštar- (Gathic word): (divine) carpenter  
ḍrisata.gāiia-: a distance of thirty steps  
upašiti- f.: dwelling place(?)  
upauuaza- < √vaz mid.: to fly (up/down) to  
uruuāḍra-: fine, delicate  
Us.həṅdauua-: name of a mountain  
us.stao-: to remove someone (gen.) from something (abl.) through praise of it(?); see Syntax.  
uz.bara- < √bar mid.: ride up, rise  
uzuxšiiia- < √vaxš: grow up  
ušā- = ušah- f.  
vaēḍa-: possession  
vaēsman- n.: entrance hall  
vahiiiah-, vaṅhah-, comp. of vaṅhu-  
vaiiauauant-: \*possessing birds(?)  
vaṅha-, future of vana- “win”  
vaṅhah-, comp. of vaṅhu-  
varəniia-: \*greedy; epithet of a kind of daēuuas  
vaxša-: sunrise, lit. blazing up(?)  
viṣasta (corrupt form, cf. viṣastəma-): twenty  
vispō.mahrka-: all destruction  
vitarə.əzahiiia-: ability to overcome straits  
vitarə.ṭbaēšahiia-: ability to overcome hostilities  
viuuāpa-: devastation  
xʹarəiti- f.: consumption (of)  
yaona-: way  
yaožḍiia-: which should be purified  
yašta-, past participle of yaza-  
zaiia- < √zan mid.: to be born  
zəhiia-, future of zaiia- “be born”  
zizi.yuš- act. perf. part. < √ziā(?): \*destructive