

Methods and Resources;
Orthography and Phonology

Standards of Normalization

1 <64. kapítuli>

<...> oc ef þ̄ta er p̄oʒat a þ̄igi. oc þui fe uið
barið at þu haʒ

2 hūki fækia þina fok ne añāa þa mū ek
fuara þui mali oc fegia at ek helga--

3 ða þik a þingskala þ̄igi at þu skyldir bæði
mega fækia þitt mál oc añāra,

4 oc mū fuarað ūða málinv. þu fl̄t at f̄ina
týrf̄ig í b̄ia nesi oc fl̄ h̄ felia þer

1 <64. kapítuli>

<...> ok ef þetta er prófað á þingi. Ok því sé
við barið að þú hafir<...>

2 hvárki sækja þína sök né annarra þá mun
ek svara því máli ok segja að ek helgaða þik
á þingskálaþingi að þú skyldir bæði mega
sækja þitt mál ok annarra,

4 ok mun svarað verða málinu. Þú skalt að
finna Tyrfing í Berjanesi ok skal hann selja

Figure: Facsimile (left) and normalized transcription (**Menota:** AM 162 B θ fol.)

Alphabet

1200 a á b d ð e é f g h i í j k l m n o ó p r s t u ú v x y ý z þ ø ó ç æ œ ƿ ó

1300 a á b d ð e é f g h i í j k l m n o ó p r s t u ú v x y ý z þ æ œ ƿ/ò/ö

2016 a á b d ð e é f g h i í j k l m n o ó p r s t u ú v x y ý z þ æ ö

NB c, q found in manuscripts, but normalized in editions

Stages of Old (Middle) Icelandic Orthography

According to Jóhannes L. L. Jóhannsson:

“Before 1250”

æ, œ distinct

ɛ, e distinct

ø, ɔ distinct

ó, á distinct

é /e:/'

Reflexive suffix -sk

Dental suffix mostly ð

“After 1250”

merged as æ

merged as e

merged as ɔ or ỏ, later ö

merged as á

ie /je/'

became -z

in certain contexts became d, t

→ Most prose editions emulate a standard around 1200, but without ó, ó

Reconstructed Old Icelandic Pronunciation

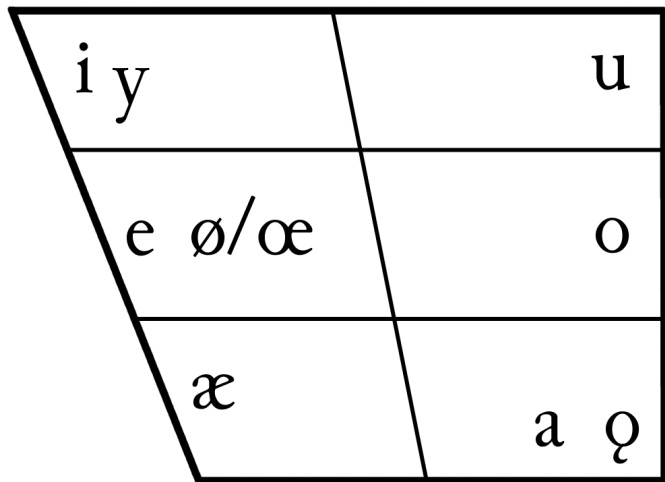


Figure: Vowel diagram using graphemes

Modern Icelandic Pronunciation

Grapheme	Phonemic Transcription
<á>	/au/
<é>	/jɛ/
<ó>	/ou/
<ö>	/ø/
<æ>	/ai/

Thematic Vowels

<i>1sg</i>	audiō
<i>2sg</i>	audīs
<i>3sg</i>	audit
<i>1pl</i>	audīmus
<i>2pl</i>	audītis
<i>3pl</i>	audiunt

Thematic Vowels

1sg audiō
2sg audīs
3sg audit
1pl audīmus
2pl audītis
3pl audiunt

Nom sg hōnd
Acc sg hōnd
Gen sg handar
Dat sg hendi
Nom pl hendir
Acc pl hōndu
Gen pl handa
Dat pl hōndum

Thematic Vowels

1sg audiō
2sg audīs
3sg audit
1pl audīmus
2pl audītis
3pl audiunt

Nom sg hōnd
Acc sg hōnd
Gen sg handar
Dat sg hendi
Nom pl hendir
Acc pl hōndu
Gen pl handa
Dat pl hōndum

Nom *hōndu
Acc *hōndu
Gen handar
Dat hendi
Nom pl hendir
Acc pl hōndu
Gen pl handa
Dat pl hōndum

Thematic Vowels

<i>1sg</i>	audiō	<i>Nom sg</i>	hōnd	<i>Nom</i>	*hōndu
<i>2sg</i>	audīs	<i>Acc sg</i>	hōnd	<i>Acc</i>	*hōndu
<i>3sg</i>	audit	<i>Gen sg</i>	handar	<i>Gen</i>	handar
<i>1pl</i>	audīmus	<i>Dat sg</i>	hendi	<i>Dat</i>	hendi
<i>2pl</i>	audītis	<i>Nom pl</i>	hendir	<i>Nom pl</i>	hendir
<i>3pl</i>	audiunt	<i>Acc pl</i>	hōndu	<i>Acc pl</i>	hōndu
		<i>Gen pl</i>	handa	<i>Gen pl</i>	handa
		<i>Dat pl</i>	hōndum	<i>Dat pl</i>	hōndum

<i>Nom sg</i>	manus	<i>Nom pl</i>	manūs
<i>Acc sg</i>	manum	<i>Acc pl</i>	manūs
<i>Gen sg</i>	manūs	<i>Gen pl</i>	manuum
<i>Dat sg</i>	manuī	<i>Dat pl</i>	manibus
<i>Abl sg</i>	manū	<i>Abl pl</i>	manibus

Strong and Weak

Verbs	Tense formation: stem vowel vs dental suffix
Nouns	Weak is just another noun class; happens to be relatively homogenous
Adjectives	Two declensions for each word; weak if preceded by <i>inn</i> , <i>sá</i> , <i>þessi</i>

Roots and Stems

hǫndum
hand|u|um

banar
ban|a|r

beiðir
beið|i|r

Article

→ No indefinite article

→ Suffixed to the noun; can appear preposed with adjectives

▶ Maðr**inn** er hér

▶ **Inn** stóri maðr er hér / Maðr **inn** stóri er hér

→ Even when suffixed, article *and* word are declined

▶ víking**arnir**

Middle Voice / Reflexive Form

Formed by suffixing a derivative of the reflexive pronoun *sik* to the verb.

Three sense types:

1. Reflexive: *þvask* “wash oneself”
2. Reciprocal: *berjask* “fight each other”
3. Passive: *finnask* “be found”

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