

SUFFIX STUDY – *-ια*

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Abstract

*The use of the suffix *-ια* is interesting to study. According to Buck and Petersen combined words in *-ια*, Ion. *-ιη*, and those in *-ιά* in the same list because of practical convenience and their interrelations in Greek. On the other side there are uses that actually have their own peculiarities. There are many substantives without connections with adjectives in *-ιος* because prehistoric substantivations may be surmised. *Καρδίας* (in genitive) is an example of old concrete substantives in *-ια* is related to Hittite gen. *kardias*. Words in *-ιά* or *-ιά* reflect a type which in the other IE languages appears as an *ī/yā* stem such as in Sanskrit (nom. *devī*, acc. *devīm*, gen. *devyās*, dat. *devyāi*, etc.).*

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INTRODUCTION

Buck and Petersen combined words in *-ια*, Ion. *-ιη*, and those in *-ιά* in the same list because of practical convenience and their interrelations in Greek.¹

ORIGIN

Buck argues that the suffix *-ια*, fem. of *-ιος*, reveals its adjectival origin in many substantives (in geographical names) or the ellipsis that occurred very recent such as *πολέμιαγι*. *Πολέμια* from *πολέμιος* which means of or belonging to war.

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connections with adjectives in *-ιος* because prehistoric substantivations may be surmised. *Καρδίας* (in genitive) is an example of old concrete substantives in *-ια* is related to Hittite gen. *kardias*.

The most numerous class consists of the abstracts in *-ειᾶ* derived from stems in *sigma(es, as, os)* adjective such as *ἀλήθεια* (truth) – *ἀληθής* (true). It happened regularly in Attic, but Ionic has *-εῖης* Homer used *ἀληθείη*.

The suffix *-ια* also appeared in stems in *ā* such as *νεανίας* ‘a young man’ (Attic epic Doric Aeolic) was first *νεανιά* ‘youth’.

¹C. D. Buck and W. Petersen, *A Reverse Index of Greek Nouns and Adjectives* (Hildesheim: Georg Olms, 1984), 120.

PIE

Words in -iā or -jā reflect a type which in the other IE languages appears as an *i/yā* stem such as in Sankrit (nom. *devī*, acc. *devīm*, gen. *devyās*, dat. *devyāi*, etc.). Its most distinctive use is the formation of the feminine of *u*-stem adjectives (εὐρεῖα adj sg fem nom ionic - εὐρύς) and consonant-stem adjectives and participles:²

Φέρουσα from φερουντια = Skt.

bharanti

Φέρουσαν from φερουντιαν =

Skt. *bharantim*

Φερούσης from φερουντίας = Skt.

bharantyaś

ἡδεῖα from ἀδεφια = Skt. *suādvi*

DEVELOPMENT

The conglutinate *-σια* took part in the development of *-ια* without showing any other distinctive peculiarities than that it was favored particularly in compounds, which was due to its origin from nouns in -τ-, -της, and -τος, which themselves were more often derived from compounds (e.g. εὐκρατος – εὐκρασία mildness; ἄκρατος – ἀκρασία ill temperature).

Also, the conglutinate *-εια*, Ion. -ηη, became productive in abstracts. Starting from *-ηφια* (whence *-ηια* preserved in some dialects, and regularly Ion. *-ηη*), in derivatives from nouns in *-εως*: βασιλεύς – βασιληη (Ion. Heraclitus) – βασίλεια (kingdom).

As a result of the phonetic changes, many of the substantives formed with *-jā* are scattered among the lists of words in *-(σ)σα* (θάλασσα ‘sea’), *-ζα* (ἄμαξα ‘wagon’), *-να*

(λέαινα ‘lioness’), *-ρα* (πρῶρα ‘prow’), *-λλα* (ἄμιλλα ‘contest’).

SEMANTICS

The suffix *-ια*:

1) Concrete:

With its adjectival origin (ιος):

- Geographical names e.g. λυδία (Lydia), adjective Λύδιος (of Lydia, Lydian)
- Location / Place e.g. Ζεφυρία (West); ἔσχατιή (farthest part, edge, border)
- Thing e.g. κονία (dust) – κόνιος (dusty)³

Without its adjectival origin (ιος):

- Thing e.g. κοιλία (belly); ἐστία (hearth of a house)⁴
- Female sex (very rare) e.g. ταμία (housekeeper, housewife) – τάμια⁵
- Collectiveness e.g. ἑταιρεία (brotherhood / social group) – ἑταῖρος (companion); κοπρία (dunghill / rubbish – heap)

With its corresponding to masculine (εως)

- Female e.g. ἱέρεια (priestess) – ἱερεύς; βασίλεια (queen) – βασιλεύς

2) Abstract:

With its adjectival origin (ιος / ης / οος / ος):

- Quality e.g. μειλίχια (gentleness) – μειλίχιος; ησυχια (stillness) – ησυχιος; ξένια (hospitality) –

²Or it is called as a third declension: labial, dental, liquid stems, stems in Sigma, stems in ος, ω (φ), ι and υ, εϋ, αυ, ου, stems in οι. See Herbert Weir Smyth, *Greek Grammar* (Harvard, 1920, 1956), 50-71.

³Buck and Petersen, *A Reverse Index*, 120; Paul Kretschmer and Ernst Locker, *Rückläufiges Wörterbuch der*

Griechischen Sprache. 3 (Unveränderte Aufl. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck und Ruprecht. 1977), 403. LSJ

⁴ἔστιος is of the; name of month in Magnesia, IG9(2).1117.11. It seems related to a verb ‘ἐστίαω’ (receive at one's hearth).

⁵Zeus, as the dispenser of all things to men, “Ζεύς, ὃς τ’ ἀνθρώπων τ. πολέμοιο τέτυκτο” II.4.84

- ξένιος;εὔνοια (kindness) –
ευνοος (kind); σοφία(wisdom) –
σοφός(wise); ἐλευθερία
(freedom) – ἐλεύθερος
- b) Condition e.g.σωτήρια (safety /
deliverance)– σωτήριος; ἔνδεια
(want)–ἐνδεής (need);
εὐδαιμονία (happiness) –
εὐδαίμων (happy)
- c) Collectiveness e.g. συμμαχία
(alliance) – σύμμαχος (fighting
along with)

With its verb:

- a) Situation e.g.πενία(poverty) –
πένομαι; μανία (madness) –
μαίνομαι; θαλία(abundance) –
θάλλω
- b) Quality e.g.φιλία (friendliness)
– φιλέω; κακουργία
(wickedness) –κακουργέω
- c) Doer e.g. παῖς(child) –
παιδεύω(Ieducate)
- d) Other e.g.ἀγγελία (message) -
ἀγγέλλω; στρατεία (campaign)
– στρατεύω (I wage war);
βασίλεια(kingdom) – βασιλεύω
(I rule)

With its doer:

- a) Skill e.g.ναυτιλία (seamanship)
– ναυτίλος; ἰατροία (art of
healing) – ἰατωρ (healer);
στρατηγία (generalship / piece
of strategy) – στρατηγός (leader
/ commander); εὐεργεσία(kind
service) – εὐεργέτης(doer of
good deeds); ἡγεμονία –
ἡγεμών (leader)

MORPHOLOGY

Number	Singular	Plural
Case / Gender	Fem	Fem
Nominative / Vocative	avlh,qeia	avlh,qeiai
Genitive	avlhqei,aj	avlhqeiw/n
Dative	avlhqei,a	avlhqei,aij
Accusative	avlh,qeian	avlhqei,aij

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