

way, and at length followed the sex. In Anglo-Saxon there were certain characteristic feminine endings, as in "spins-ter" and "freond-inne." In Old-English these were dropped or remain as exceptional forms.

There were five cases in Anglo-Saxon: the Nominative, Genitive, Dative, Accusative and Ablative. In Semi-Saxon they became fewer in number, and the Ablative disappeared. Then, in Old-English, all the cases were expressed by prepositions, except in the Accusative. In Middle-English the Accusative ending ceased. The Genitive singular ending in Anglo-Saxon was "es"; in Old English it was not used after "of," and in Middle-English "s" was used as the genitive ending in all the declensions. The termination for the Dative singular in Anglo-Saxon was "e"; in Old-English the "e" appeared but was not pronounced, and in Middle-English it was lost altogether.

The Genitive plural was in "na" in Anglo-Saxon; it became "s" in Old English, and has so remained.

The Dative plural ended in "um," then changed to "on" in Semi-Saxon, and was gradually struck out in Middle-English.

The sign of the Anglo-Saxon plural was "an" or "as"; in Semi-Saxon these were used indiscriminately, and in Old-English and Middle-English the plurals in "s" ceased, and "s" (since the Norman plural ending was the same,) superseded all others.

IV. *Write a note on Comparison and Comparative Forms.*

Comparison expresses the idea of relation between two. In most languages of the Indo-European family there are two methods of Comparison: by terminations (pospositional) and by adverbs (prepositional). In all languages of this group the forms for expressing Comparison by means of terminations are nearly the same. In Greek the usual comparative termina-

tion is *τερον*; in Latin, "or" or "is"; in Anglo-Saxon, "or" and "re"; in English, "er."

Many words in English, now changed in meaning, are really comparative forms, such as "rather," from *rathe*, (A. S., *early*); "near," now a positive, is the comparative of *neah*, *nigh*; "farther" is the comparative of *far*, (A. S., *fewr*) *farrer*, and the strengthening "th" inserted, and "further" from *fore*, *forth*. There are other cases in which forms in "er" still retain the idea of duality, as "whether," "either." According to Bopp, the eminent German philologist, all forms that have the termination "er" involve the idea of quality.

V. *Write a note on tendencies in grammar.*

The leading tendency of language in general is to become analytic and monosyllabic; this is one of the most unvarying laws of the growth of language: the truth of this is shown in English by the dropping of inflexions in declension and conjugation, and by the extensive use of prepositions to supply their place, thus giving us what is called the analytic construction in contra-distinction to the construction by means of inflexions which is termed synthetic. That many of our words tend to become monosyllabic is proved by the fact that all monosyllables which have been formed from other words by radical change were originally formed from those words by means of terminations which changed the spelling of the word, and were then dropped as useless. The explanation of this dropping away of terminations is, that as inflexions became more and more corrupted, they were insufficient for accurate speech, and hence prepositions were employed to assist the different inflexions and explain their meaning; this only rendered the inflexions more meaningless, and in the course of time they were gradually dropped and their place supplied by the preposition.