

***ehpau**

Runic: M H Þ F N

Pronunciation: /'ex.θau/

conjunction

Meanings

or, otherwise, but if

Etymology

From *eh (‘but, except’, from Proto-Indo-European **h₁eǵʰs/*h₁eḱ* (s), (‘out’) + *þau (‘in that case’, from PIE **tó-we*, (from PIE **to-*, ‘this, that’ + **-we*, ‘or’). The first element *eh is debated: many accounts assume *ef- matching West Proto-Germanic f-variants (e.g. Old English ofþe, Old Saxon eftha), possibly influenced by the Proto-Germanic conditional particle family (‘if’); however, Gothic aiþþau is often taken to point to an earlier *ehþau with subsequent assimilation producing **-þþ-*. The second element *þau is less controversial, though there are many other competing theories on its PIE heritage.

Descendants

ebba (Old English)

ettha (Old Saxon)

ettho (Old Saxon)

eddo (Old High German)

odar (Old High German)

oder (Middle High German)

oder (German)

edo (Old High German)

odar (Old High German)

oder (Middle High German)

oder (German)

odo (Old High German)

- odar** (Old High German)
- oder** (Middle High German)
- oder** (German)

eða (Old Norse)

- eða** (Icelandic)

𐌰𐌿𐍆𐍄𐌰𐌽 (aiþþau) (Gothic)

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