

***-(i)jǫ** Runic: (|)ᚦ Pronunciation: /i.jǫ/

suffix · forms nouns · neuter · a-stem

Function

forms neuter abstract/collective nouns from nouns, often with the collective/comitative prefix *ga-

Etymology

From Proto-Indo-European *-yó-m, the neuter form of the widespread relational/adjectival suffix *-yó-s ‘belonging to, connected with’. The same suffixal complex underlies Proto-Germanic adjectival formations such as *-(i)jǫ. The formation was especially productive in combination with the collective prefix *ga-, whose Germanic use as a collective/intensive prefix continues the older sense ‘together, with’ (Watkins 2011: 2047). Compare Proto-Slavic *-bje, a close formal and semantic match, and more broadly Latin -ium and Ancient Greek -ιον (-ion), which continue the same Indo-European *-yó-m type as neuter noun-forming suffixes, though not always with a collective function. Meier-Brügger(2003: 281–85) describes *-yo-/*-yó- as the most widespread Indo-European suffix for adjectives of belonging or relation.

Declension

The suffix varies as *-jǫ/*-ijǫ based on Siever’s Law: the basic *-jǫ form is used after a “light” syllable (a short vowel followed by a single consonant), and otherwise, the form becomes *-ijǫ.

Paradigm

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	-(i)jā	-(i)jō
Acc.	-(i)jā	-(i)jō
Gen.	-(i)jas, -is	-(i)jô
Dat.	-(i)jai	-(i)jamaz
Inst.	-(i)jō	-(i)jamiz
Voc.	-(i)jā	-(i)jō

Descendants

-i (Old Norse)
-i (-i) (Gothic)
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Related Words

Words mentioned in this entry

*-(i)jaz¹ suffix *-(i)jaz² suffix *-(i)jaz³ suffix *ga- prefix

Entries that mention this word

*-(i)jaz³ suffix *ambahtijā noun *andawlitjā noun *andawurdijā noun *apalijā noun
*arbaidijā noun *Askaburgijā proper noun *aþulijā noun