

***-(i)jō** Runic: (|)᛫᛫ Pronunciation: /i.jō:/

noun · feminine · ōn-stem

Function

forms feminine agent nouns and female personal nouns corresponding to masculine *-(i)jō (forms masculine agent nouns)

Etymology

From Early Germanic *-(i)jōn-, the feminine weak n-stem counterpart of masculine *-(i)jō. Ultimately connected with the Proto-Indo-European individualizing n-stem suffix, which formed personal nouns and, from verbal roots, agent nouns meaning ‘the one who does X’ ([Pronk 2015: 327–29](#)). The feminine shape reflects the Proto-Germanic amalgamation of inherited feminine *eh*₂-stems with n-stem inflection: old *h*₂-stems were transferred to the feminine *ōn*-stems after their nominatives became formally indistinguishable, and a similar process produced the PGmc *in*-stems from PIE *ih*₂-stems ([Kroonen 2011a: 64–65](#); [Lehmann 1986a: §4.2.2](#)).

Desclension

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

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	-(i)jō	-(i)jōniz
Acc.	-(i)jōnu	-(i)jōnunz
Gen.	-(i)jōniz	-(i)jōnô
Dat.	-(i)jōni	-(i)jōmaz
Inst.	-(i)jōnē	-(i)jōmiz
Voc.	-(i)jō	-(i)jōniz

Descendants

*-jā (Proto-West Germanic)

-ja, -a (Old Norse)

-𐌵𐌳 (-jō) (Gothic)

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