

***-īz**¹ Runic: | ƿ Pronunciation: /iz/

suffix · forms adverbs

Function

forms comparative adverbs, equivalent to English “-er” or ‘more’, with the sense ‘more X, X-er, rather X’

Etymology

From Proto-Indo-European **-is-*, the zero-grade of the inherited comparative/relative suffix **-yos-* ~ **-is-*. In adverbs it was uninflected. Compare Latin *magis*, which preserves the same inherited adverbial use of the suffix. There is also a similar, parallel comparative adverbial suffix in Proto-Germanic, **-ōz*. PGmc **-īz* was used with adverbs derived from *i-*, *u-*, and *ja-*stem adjectives, while **-ōz* was used primarily with adverbs derived from *a/ō-*stem adjectives. But note that the distribution of these suffixes in adverbs based on *a/ō-*stem adjectives was both lexical and analogical and not completely predictable (Fulk 2018: 218–20).

Descendants

***-īr** (Proto-West Germanic)

-ir, -er (Old Dutch)

-er (Middle Dutch)

-er (Dutch)

***-īr** (Proto-West Germanic)

-ra (Old English)

-er (Middle English)

-er (English)

***-īr** (Proto-West Germanic)

-ra (Old English)

