

***-izô** Runic: | ƿ 𐌵 Pronunciation: /i.zoː/

suffix · forms adjectives · an/in-stem

Function

forms weak comparative adjectives, equivalent to Modern English “-er” or ‘more’, with the sense ‘more X, X-er’

Etymology

From the zero-grade, **-is-*, of the Proto-Indo-European comparative/elative suffix **-yos-* ~ **-is-*. The Proto-Germanic forms consist of **-iz-* plus weak *n*-stem adjectival inflection. In Proto-Germanic, comparatives in **-izô* were inflected only weakly, unlike ordinary positive adjectives, which could have both strong and weak forms. Besides the comparative suffix **-izô*, Proto-Germanic also developed another comparative suffix, **-ōzô*, that was mostly used with *a/ō*-stem adjectives. Both of these suffixes continued to be used in Gothic; however, **-izô* lost its productivity and was replaced by **-ōzô* as the main comparative suffix for all other branches of the Germanic family (Fulk 2018: 218–20; Ringe 2017: 316–18).

Paradigm

Strong declension

Case	Sg. Masc.	Sg. Fem.	Sg. Neut.	Pl. Masc.	Pl. Fem.	Pl. Neut.
Nom.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acc.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gen.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dat.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inst.	-	-	-	-	-	-

Weak declension

Case	Sg. Masc.	Sg. Fem.	Sg. Neut.	Pl. Masc.	Pl. Fem.	Pl. Neut.
Nom.	-izô	-izĭ	-izô	-izaniz	-izīniz	-izōnō
Acc.	-izanų	-izīnų	-izô	-izanunz	-izīnunz	-izōnō
Gen.	-iziniz	-izīniz	-iziniz	-izanô	izīnô	-izanô
Dat.	-izini	-izīni	-izini	-izammaz	-izīmaz	-izammaz
Inst.	-izinē	-izīnē	-izinē	-izammiz	-izīmiz	-izammiz

Descendants

*-irō (Proto-West Germanic)

-iro, -ero (Old Dutch)

-er (Middle Dutch)

-er (Dutch)

*-irō (Proto-West Germanic)

-ra (Old English)

-ere, -er, -ore, -re (Middle English)

-er (English)

*-irō (Proto-West Germanic)

-ra (Old English)

-ere, -er, -ore, -re (Middle English)

-ar, -ir (Middle Scots)

-er (Scots)

***-irō** (Proto-West Germanic)

-ere (Old Frisian)

-ere (West Frisian)

***-irō** (Proto-West Germanic)

-iro (Old High German)

-er (Middle High German)

-er (German)

-ri (Old Norse)

-re (Danish)

-ri (Faroese)

-ri (Icelandic)

-re (Norwegian)

-re (Swedish)

-īzʰ (-iza) (Gothic)

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Related Words

Words mentioned in this entry

***-ōzô** suffix

Entries that mention this word

***-ōstaz** suffix ***-ōzô** suffix ***airizô** adjective