

***-niz** Runic: 𐌺𐌶𐌵 Pronunciation: /niz/

suffix · forms nouns · feminine · i-stem

Function

forms feminine abstract, action, or result nouns from verbal roots and stems

Etymology

From Proto-Indo-European **-ni-s*, a suffix that formed verbal adjectives and nouns, usually directly from full-grade verbal roots. Krahe and Meid (1969: 115–18) compare forms such as Sanskrit वह्नि (váhni), Lithuanian šlaunis, and Latin clūnis. In Proto-Germanic, direct inherited **-nis* was fully productive only in Gothic. The suffix became newly productive as a verbal abstract suffix with weak verbs, where it was added to the present stem: Weak class 1 **-īniz* from pre-Germanic **-eye-nis* or **-iye-nis*, Weak class 2 **-ōniz* from pre-Germanic **-eh₂(ye)-nis*, and Weak class 3 **-ainiz* from pre-Germanic **-oye-ni-s*, becoming PGmc **-īniz*, **-ōniz*, and **-ainiz*, all secondary class-specific formations (Krahe & Meid 1969: 115–18). A variant **sniz-* was appended to roots with a final dental consonant (Lühr 1989: 56).

Paradigm

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	-niz	-nīz
Acc.	-nī	-ninz
Gen.	-nīz	-nīȝ, -nīȝō
Dat.	-nī	-nimaz
Inst.	-nī	-nimiz
Voc.	-ni	-nīz

Descendants

***-ni, *-sni** (Proto-West Germanic)

***-ni, -sni** (Old Saxon)

-e (Middle Low German)

***-ni, *-sni** (Proto-West Germanic)

-en, -n, -sen, -sn (Old English)

-en, -sen, -sne (Middle English)

-e, -en, -zen (English)

-sen, -zen (Scots)

-n, -sn (Old Norse)

-n (Faroese)

-n, -sn (Icelandic)

-n, -nn (Norwegian Nynorsk)

-nn (Norwegian Bokmål)

-n, -sn (Old Norse)

-n (Old Danish)

-n (Danish)

-n, -sn (Old Norse)

-n (Old Swedish)

-en, -n (Swedish)

-NS (-ns), -SNS (-sns) (Gothic)

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Related Words

Words mentioned in this entry

***-īniz** suffix ***-ōniz** noun

Entries that mention this word

***-ōniz** noun