

***-nō** Runic: 𐌺𐌽 Pronunciation: /nɔ:/

suffix · forms nouns · feminine · ō-stem

Function

forms feminine ō-stem nouns, especially concrete nouns denoting a body part, natural object, place, animal, product, or result associated with the base

Etymology

From Proto-Indo-European **-n-eh₂*, consisting of the individualizing or singulative nasal suffix **-n-* plus the feminine/collective suffix **-eh₂*. The formation is not securely productive in Proto-Germanic, but survives in inherited and reanalyzed lexical fossils such as **garnō* < PIE **ǵʰórneh₂*, **furhnō* < PIE **pr̥kénéh₂*, and probably **hraznō* < PIE **krosnéh₂* and **asnō* < **(s)h₁os-néh₂* (Krahe & Meid 1969: 103–107; Pronk 2015: 338–39). Compare also **habanō*, which points to a related expanded type **(a)nō* from earlier **-on-eh₂* (Kroonen 2013: 196–97; Matasović 2009a: 197). The suffix is probably the historical base of some forms in related **-snō* (forms feminine nouns denoting a tool, instrument, or concrete object associated with the base), where **-s-* may reflect a stem-final consonant or word-formation juncture.

Paradigm

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	-nō	-nôz
Acc.	-nġ	-nōz
Gen.	-nōz	-nġ
Dat.	-nōi	-nōmaz
Inst.	-nō	-nōmiz
Voc.	-nō	-nôz

Descendants

*-nu (Proto-West Germanic)

- na (Old Dutch)
 - ne (Middle Dutch)
 - n (Dutch)

*-nu (Proto-West Germanic)

- Old English -n, -nu
 - Middle English -ne
 - English -ne

*-nu (Proto-West Germanic)

- en, -na (Old Frisian)
 - en (Saterland Frisian)
 - en (West Frisian)

*-nu (Proto-West Germanic)

- na (Old High German)
 - en (Middle High German)
 - en (German)

*-nu (Proto-West Germanic)

- na (Old Saxon)
 - ne (Middle Low German)

-n (Old Norse)

-n (Faroese)

Icelandic -n

-𐌶𐌵𐌿 (-ana), -𐌶𐌵 (-na) (Gothic)

[View on Wiktionary](#)

Related Words

Words mentioned in this entry

***asnō** noun ***furhnō** noun ***garnō** noun ***habanō** noun ***hraznō** noun