

***-uh** Runic: 𐌸𐌹 Pronunciation: /ux/

particle

Function

1. enclitic connective meaning ‘and, and also, too’; chiefly the postconsonantal allomorph of *-hw
2. forms generalizing or distributive pronouns from interrogatives and emphatic forms from demonstratives and negatives

Etymology

Postconsonantal allomorph of Proto-Germanic **-hw*, from Proto-Indo-European enclitic **-k^we*, cognate with Latin *-que*, Ancient Greek *τε* (*te*), and Vedic Sanskrit *च* (*ca*). Per Grimm’s Law, PIE **-k^we* became pre-Germanic **-h^we*; apocope of final **-e* then produced **-h^w*. According to Mottausch (2001: 38–42), after a vowel, this final labiovelar fricative lost its labialization, yielding **-h*, whereas after a non-liquid consonant its labial component was realized as a preceding **u*, so that **C-h^w* became **C-uh* and ultimately Gothic *-nh* (*-uh*). (Fulk 2018: 107 n. 2) regards this purely phonological explanation as the best account of the allomorphic distribution.

Gothic subsequently generalized the fuller allomorph *-nh* (*-uh*) after an elided unstressed final *-a*, as in *𐍂𐍃𐍄𐍇* (*𐍂𐍃𐍄𐍇*), while retaining *-h* (*-h*) after vowels elsewhere (Mottausch 2001: 42–43). Dunkel (2014: 340–41) alternatively derives Gothic *-nh* (*-uh*) from the Proto-Indo-European particle sequence **h₂u* **-k^we* (‘and also’), comparing Vedic Sanskrit *उ च* (*u ca*), but this morphological analysis accounts less naturally for the mechanically conditioned distribution of Gothic *-h* (*-h*) and *-nh* (*-uh*) (Mottausch 2001: 38–40).

Usage Note

This was an enclitic particle attached to a preceding host. In its inherited coordinating use, it was attached to the second and any subsequent coordinated constituents: schematically, “A B-uh” meant ‘A and B’, and “A B-uh C-uh” meant ‘A, B, and C’. By the attested Gothic period, however, *-(u)h* had largely lost ordinary word-coordinating function, for which Gothic

normally used զհ (jah, ‘and’). Its productive connective use was instead anaphoric or sequential, approximately ‘and then, and further. After interrogative pronouns it formed generalizing or distributive expressions, as in Gothic ԹՀԶՈԻ (hazuh, ‘each, everyone, everything’), ԹՀԻԶԻԶՈԻ (hazizuh, ‘each, every (of many)’), and ԹՀՓՀԻԻԻ (hazparuh, ‘each, every (of two)’). With demonstratives it was emphatic, as in ՏՀ (sah, ‘that particular’) and ՓՀԻԻԻ (patuh, ‘that very’); with negatives it produced meanings such as ‘and not, neither’, as in ՈԻԻ (nih).

Descendants

-nh (-uh) (Gothic)

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