

***-ulaz** Runic: ᚢᚢᚢᚢ Pronunciation: /'u.laz/

suffix · forms adjectives · a-stem

Function

forms adjectives, chiefly from verbs and more rarely from nouns, meaning ‘given to X-ing, prone to X, inclined to X, characterized by X’; sometimes pejorative

Etymology

From pre-Germanic **-u-ló-s*, a productive Germanic development of the inherited Proto-Indo-European **-ló-s* adjective/noun suffix. Variants include **-ila-*, **-ala-*, and **-ula-*. Krahe and Meid (1969: 84–85) explicitly treat these variants as “suffix ablaut”, while also warning that the intervening vowels are not of one single origin; in some **-ula-* forms the **-u-* may be connected with old *u*-stems, and in West Germanic some apparent linking vowels before **-l-* may also arise through vowel development/ anaptyxis rather than direct inheritance.

In the adjectival class, **-alaz* and **-ulaz* became productive for “adjectives of inclination” (*Adjektiva der Neigung*), mostly deverbative and often pejorative. The oldest layer was formed to the zero-grade of the root, and cases with grammatical alternation point to earlier suffix accent, i.e. pre-Germanic **-aló-*/ **-uló-* (Kluge 1899: 91–92; Krahe & Meid 1969: 85–86). Compare Latin *tremulus*, Ancient Greek *φειδωλός* (*phaidōlós*), and Sanskrit *ग्रहिल* (*grahilá*), all showing comparable *l*-suffixal adjectives of disposition or characteristic tendency (Kluge 1899: 91; Krahe & Meid 1969: 86).

Paradigm

Strong declension

Case	Sg. Masc.	Sg. Fem.	Sg. Neut.	Pl. Masc.	Pl. Fem.	Pl. Neut.
Nom.	-ulaz	-ulō	-ula, -atō	-ulai	-ulōz	-ulō
Acc.	-ulanō	-ulō	-ula, -atō	-ulanz	-ulōz	-ulō
Gen.	-ulas, -ulis	-ulaizōz	-ulas, -ulis	-ulaizô	-ulaizô	-ulaizô
Dat.	-ulammai	-ulaizōi	-ulammai	-ulaimaz	-ulaimaz	-ulaimaz
Inst.	-ulanō	-ulaizō	-ulanō	-ulaimiz	-ulaimiz	-ulaimiz

Weak declension

Case	Sg. Masc.	Sg. Fem.	Sg. Neut.	Pl. Masc.	Pl. Fem.	Pl. Neut.
Nom.	-ulô	-ulō	-ulô	-ulaniz	-ulōniz	-ulōnō
Acc.	-ulanu	-ulōnu	-ulô	-ulanunz	-ulōnunz	-ulōnō
Gen.	-uliniz	-ulōniz	-uliniz	-ulanô	-ulōnô	-ulanô
Dat.	-ulini	-ulōni	-ulini	-ulammaz	-ulōmaz	-ulammaz
Inst.	-ulinē	-ulōnē	-ulinē	-ulammiz	-ulōmiz	-ulammiz

Descendants

*-il, *-ul (Proto-West Germanic)

-ali, -el, -le (Old Dutch)

-el (Middle Dutch)

-el (Dutch)

-el (Afrikaans)

*-il, *-ul (Proto-West Germanic)

-el, -ol, -ul (Old English)

-el, -le, -yl (Middle English)

-le (English)

***-il, *-ul** (Proto-West Germanic)

-el, -il (Old Frisian)

-el (North Frisian)

-el (Saterland Frisian)

-el (West Frisian)

***-il, *-ul** (Proto-West Germanic)

-al, -ala, -il (Old High German)

-el (Middle High German)

-el (German)

***-il, *-ul** (Proto-West Germanic)

-el (Old Saxon)

-el (Middle Low German)

-el (Low German)

-all, -la, -li, -ull (Old Norse)

-la, -li, -ull (Icelandic)

-il, -ul (Faroese)

-n𐌺s (-uls) (Gothic)

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