

***-umô** Runic: ᚱᚢᚱ Pronunciation: /u.mɔː/

suffix · forms adjectives · an/in-stem

Function

1. forms a small, mostly lexicalized class of weak adjectives with comparative, superlative, or ordinal-spatial meaning
2. in combination with *-istaz, forms reinforced superlatives

Etymology

From pre-Germanic **-umōn-*, probably continuing an Indo-European ordinal/spatial superlative formation in **-m̥-o-* that was inflected in Proto-Germanic as a weak adjective/*n*-stem. The syllabic **m̥* may ultimately have been abstracted from ordinal formations such as those built to **septm̥* > **septm̥ós* and **dekm̥* > **dekm̥ós* (Luján 2019: 305–42). Kroonen (2013: s.vv. *fruman-*, *aiþma-*) instead reconstructs a laryngealized preform **-mH-on-/*-m̥h₂-on-* from PIE root **meh₂-*, the same root in PGmc **maizô* (Kroonen 2013: s.v. *maizan-*). While many of the other IE languages incorporated this suffix into their comparative and superlative formations, PGmc only retained it in a few fossilized formations. (Fulk 2018: 219–20; Ringe 2017: 318).

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.	-umô	-umĭ	-umô	-umaniz	-umīniz	-umōnō
Acc.	-umanų	-umīnų	-umô	-umanunz	-umīnunz	-umōnō
Gen.	-uminiz	-umīniz	-uminiz	-umanġ	-umīnġ	-umanġ
Dat.	-umini	-umīni	-umini	-umammaz	-umīmaz	-umammaz
Inst.	-uminē	-umīnē	-uminē	-umammiz	-umīmiz	-umammiz

Descendants

- *-umō (Proto-West Germanic)
 - uma, -ema, -ma (Old English)
 - most (English)

-𐍲𐌱𐌰 (-uma) (Gothic)

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Related Words

Words mentioned in this entry

*maizô adjective

Entries that mention this word

*aftumistaz adjective *aftumô adjective