

***-ô²** Runic:  Pronunciation: /ɔː/

suffix · forms adverbs

Function

like English “-ly” in function; forms adverbs of manner or quality from adjectives, with the sense ‘in an X way, X-ly’

Etymology

Probably from a fossilized Proto-Indo-European thematic ablative singular case form used adverbially. The prehistory of the ending is disputed. Ringe (2017: 168) derives the Proto-Germanic trimoric adverbial ending *-ô from Core PIE *-e-ad, itself an innovation built from the thematic locative singular *-e plus the particle or postposition *ad (compare Dunkel’s (2014: 180) *é-ad formation). A more traditional analysis, followed by (Fulk 2018: 85–86), reconstructs the thematic ablative as *-o-h₁ed, yielding pre-Germanic *-ôd and then PGmc adverbial *-ô(t). The same ending is preserved with a clearer ablative sense in Gothic 𐌱𐌰𐌹𐌸𐌰 (*þaþrô*) (Ringe 2017: 168, 225). In adverbs derived from adjectives, the inherited ablative value was generalized to a manner-adverbial function. Compare Proto-East Baltic *-ā, reflected in the thematic genitive singular Lithuanian -o and Latvian -a, which Ringe (2017: 168) connects with the same older *-e-ad formation.

Descendants

*-ō (Proto-West Germanic)

 -o (Old Dutch)

 -e (Middle Dutch)

*-ō (Proto-West Germanic)

 -a (Old Frisian)

*-ō (Proto-West Germanic)

 -o, -a (Old English)

-e (Middle English)

-e (English)

***-ō** (Proto-West Germanic)

-o (Old High German)

-e (Middle High German)

***-ō** (Proto-West Germanic)

-o (Old Saxon)

-e (Middle Low German)

-e (Low German)

-a (Old Norse)

-e (Danish)

-a (Icelandic)

-a (Old Norse)

-a, -æ (Old Swedish)

-a (Swedish)

-𐌳 (-ō) (Gothic)

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Related Words

Entries that mention this word

***-ō** suffix

***-ukō** suffix

***aigō** noun