

***-pra** Runic: 𐌱 𐌿 𐌰 Pronunciation: /θrã/

suffix · forms nouns · neuter · a-stem

Function

forms chiefly neuter a-stem nouns denoting an instrument, implement, means, or sometimes a place/product associated with a verbal root

Etymology

From Proto-Indo-European **-tro-m*, the neuter thematic form of an instrument-noun suffix. It belongs to the wider PIE instrument-suffix family **-tro-*, **-tlo-*, **-d^hro-*, **-d^hlo-*, which Ringe (2017: 74–75) describes as often having e-grade, root-accented bases. Olsen’s treatments of the **-tlom*/**-trom* family are especially important: she argues that pre-IE **-tlo-* was the unmarked variant, while **-tro-* arose after roots containing a liquid, while **-d^hlo-*/**-d^hro-* (or **-t^hlo-*/**-t^hro-*) represented conditioned aspirated variants, especially after consonantal **h₁*/**h₂*, with later daughter languages often leveling one allomorph or the other (Olsen 1988: 43; Olsen 1999: 844–45). Cognates include Ancient Greek -τρον (*-tron*), Latin *-trum*, Gaulish *-tron*, and Sanskrit -त्र (*-tra*), all forming instrument or abstract nouns.

Paradigm

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	-þraꝥ	-þrō
Acc.	-þraꝥ	-þrō
Gen.	-þras, -þris	-þrô
Dat.	-þrai	-þramaz
Inst.	-þrō	-þramiz
Voc.	-þraꝥ	-þrō

Descendants

*-þr (Proto-West Germanic)

-þor (Old English)

-ther (Old Frisian)

*-þr (Proto-West Germanic)

*-thar, *-dar, *-der (Old Dutch)

-der (Middle Dutch)

*-þr (Proto-West Germanic)

-dar (Old High German)

-der (Middle High German)

*-þr (Proto-West Germanic)

*thar (Old Saxon)

-der (Middle Low German)

-ðr (Old Norse)

-ður (Icelandic)

-ðr (Old Norse)

-þer (Old Swedish)

-der (Swedish)

-𐍂 (-þr) (Gothic)

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