

***-āna** Runic: 𐌱𐌰𐌶 Pronunciation: /ɑː.nã/

suffix · forms verbs · Weak class 3

Function

1. forms chiefly stative or fientive verbs meaning ‘to be’ or ‘to become’ what is denoted by an adjective or noun
2. forms factitive verbs meaning ‘to make, treat, or regard as’ what is denoted by an adjective or noun

Etymology

The present paradigm for Weak class 3 verbs shows an alternation *-ai- ~ *-ā-. This inflectional form was likely originally used in factitive verbs (especially deadjectival and denominal), and it has been generally argued to be derived from Proto-Indo-European thematic factitives in *-o-yé/ó-, with the *-ai- appearing before inherited endings that begin with *e or *i, and the *-ā- appearing elsewhere. There is ongoing debate about how to explain the exact phonological and analogical developments that led to the Germanic alternation; however, there is no straightforward way to derive the complete paradigm from pre-Germanic *-ajaną through regular loss of intervocalic *-j- (Fulk 2018: 308–13; Jasanoff 1973: 850–70; Ringe 2017: 203–206, 262, 286–89; Tanaka 2011: 254–60, 268–69).

In addition to absorbing older stative verbs, Weak Class 3 also included some stative verbs that appear to have continued a separate formation with Proto-Germanic *-ai- ~ *-ja-, possibly derived from an Indo-European stative or essive formation in *-eh₁-yé/ó- or its zero-grade counterpart. Thus, Weak class 3 as reconstructed for Proto-Germanic appears to have been morphologically diverse. While its factitives and many of its statives shared the *-ai- ~ *-ā- paradigm, they did not necessarily all come from the same Proto-Indo-European source. Examples of similar stative formations include Latin *rubēre* and Old Church Slavonic *ръдѣти* (*rǫděti*). Similarly, Ancient Greek factitives in -όω (-óō) may represent a related Indo-European denominative-factitive pattern (Fulk 2018: 308–13; Ringe 2017: 203–206; Tanaka 2011: 254–60; Tucker 1981: 15–34).

The early runic forms *wiju* and *wija* appear to be first-person singular forms corresponding to Gothic *weiþan* (*weiþan*), and indicate that there was a Northwest Germanic ending **-jǣ and that

a **j*-bearing formation existed in at least one factitive verb. Mees (2023: 347–64) argues that the early epigraphic evidence cannot easily be reconciled with the recent reconstructions that derive the factitive paradigm directly from **-o-yé/ó-* as Proto-Germanic **-ai-* ~ **-ā-*. The forms do not demonstrate that intervocalic **-j-* was regularly retained throughout Weak class 3; however, they do provide further evidence that this verb class has more than one morphological history.

Paradigm

Present active

Person	Indicative	Subjunctive	Imperative
1st singular	-ō	—	—
2nd singular	-aisi	—	-ai
3rd singular	-aiþi	—	-āþau
1st dual	-ōs	—	—
2nd dual	-āþiz	—	-āþiz
1st plural	-āmaz	—	—
2nd plural	-aiþ	—	-aiþ
3rd plural	-ānþi	—	-ānþau

Present passive

Person	Indicative	Subjunctive
1st singular	—	—
2nd singular	-āsai	—
3rd singular	-āpai	—
1st dual	—	—
2nd dual	—	—
1st plural	-ānpai	—
2nd plural	-ānpai	—
3rd plural	-ānpai	—

Past

Person	Indicative	Subjunctive
1st singular	-adq̄	-adēdī
2nd singular	-adēz	-adēdīz
3rd singular	-adē	-adēdī
1st dual	-adēdū	-adēdīw
2nd dual	-adēdudiz	-adēdīdiz
1st plural	-adēdum	-adēdīm
2nd plural	-adēdud	-adēdīd
3rd plural	-adēdun	-adēdīn

Non-finite Forms

Infinitive	Present Participle	Past Participle
-ānaq̄	-āndz	-adaz

Descendants

- *-ēn (Proto-West Germanic)
 - ēn (Old High German)
 - en (Middle High German)
 - en (German)

-𐌶𐌵 (-ān) (Gothic)

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