

***-ī** Runic: | Pronunciation: /i:/

suffix · forms nouns · feminine · īn-stem

Function

forms feminine abstract nouns from adjectives, denoting ‘the condition, degree, quality, or state of being X’; comparable to English -ness, -ity, and -th

Etymology

From pre-Germanic **-īn*, from Proto-Indo-European **-ih₂* + **-n-*. Its use as a productive abstract-noun suffix is a Germanic innovation. Proto-Germanic feminine *ōn*-stems created from PIE *eh₂*-stems are a parallel development: pre-Germanic **-ī* + **-n* : pre-Germanic **-ō* + **-n* (Fulk 2018: 172–73). The suffix became productive in abstract nouns from adjectives, e.g. **hauhī* from **hauhaz*, and competed with inherited **-ipō* in forming abstract feminine nouns.

Paradigm

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	-ī	-īniz
Acc.	-īnų	-īnunz
Gen.	-īniz	-īnô
Dat.	-īni	-īmaz
Inst.	-īnē	-īmiz
Voc.	-ī	-īniz

Descendants

*-ī (Proto-West Germanic)

 *-ī (Old Dutch)

 -e (Middle Dutch)

 -e (Dutch)

*-ī (Proto-West Germanic)

 -u (Old English)

 -e (Middle English)

*-ī (Proto-West Germanic)

 -e (Old Frisian)

 -e (North Frisian)

 -e (Saterland Frisian)

*-ī (Proto-West Germanic)

 -ī (Old High German)

 -e (Middle High German)

 -e (German)

*-ī (Proto-West Germanic)

 -i (Old Saxon)

 -e (Middle Low German)

-i (Old Norse)

 -i (Faroese)

 -i (Icelandic)

 -e, -a (Norwegian)

-ei (-ei) (Gothic)

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Related Words

Words mentioned in this entry

*-iþō suffix *hauhaz adjective *hauhī noun

Entries that mention this word

*agalaitī noun *argī noun

