

The pronominal endings of the Germanic adjective inflection: Old High German

The inflection of the Germanic strong adjectives is inherited from Proto-Indo-European and thus is the inflection of OHG strong adjectives. As the endings of PIE adjective inflection are identical to that of the nouns, the same would be expected for the OHG strong adjective inflection. However, most of the endings do not correspond with the inflection of OHG nouns but with the OHG pronominal inflection (see table 1, **bold print**).

OHG	m.	n.	f.
sg. nom.	<i>jung</i>	<i>jung</i>	<i>jung</i>
	<i>jungēr</i>	<i>jungaƶ</i>	<i>jungiu</i>
gen.	<i>junges</i>	<i>junges</i>	<i>jungera</i>
dat.	<i>jungamu</i>	<i>jungamu</i>	<i>jungeru, -ero</i>
	<i>jungemu</i>	<i>jungemu</i>	
acc.	<i>jungan</i>	<i>jung</i>	<i>junga</i>
		<i>jungaƶ</i>	
instr.	<i>jungu, -o</i>	<i>jungu, -o</i>	--
pl.	<i>junge</i>	<i>jungiu</i>	<i>jungo</i>
nom.acc.			
gen.	<i>jungero</i>	<i>jungero</i>	<i>jungero</i>
dat.	<i>jungēm, -ēn</i>	<i>jungēm, -ēn</i>	<i>jungēm, -ēn</i>

Table 1: The OHG strong adjective inflection

Sievers (1876) already assumed that by means of analogy endings of the inflection of the demonstrative pronoun had been transferred to the strong adjective inflection. This presentation will show that two waves of transfers at different points in time must be reckoned with for the OHG. strong adjective inflection: one in Proto-Germanic and the other in pre-OHG times after the remodelling of the inflection of the demonstrative pronoun (see Rosenfeld (1955) and Hill (2016)). The forms of the dative sg. m./n. illustrate these developments particularly clearly:

OHG *jungamu* (compare Gothic *juggama*, *þamma*) next to more recent *jungemu* (compare OHG dative sg. m./n. of the demonstrative pronoun *dēmu* < pre-OHG **þēmu* < pre-protowestgerm. **þa-immō* < proto-germ. **þa + *immō*). Thus, the following morphological analogy must be expected:

- (1) proto-germ. acc.sg.m. **þan + *ō(n)* : instr.sg.m. **þammō* ~ urgerm. **jungan + *ō(n)* : X
X = **jungammō*
- (2) OHG gen.sg.m.n. *dēs* : d.sg.m.n. *dēmu* ~ gen.sg.m.n. *junges* : X X = *jungemu*

References:

- Hill, Eugen. 2016. Keltischer Einfluss in der Flexion des deutschen geschlechtigen Pronomens? *Jahrbuch für germanistische Sprachgeschichte* 7(1). 1-34.
- Rosenfeld, Hans Friedrich. 1955. Ingwäonisch *he*, *hi* und das germanische Demonstrativpronomen. *Zeitschrift für Mundartforschung*, 23 (2). 74-110.
- Sievers, Eduard. 1876. Kleine Beiträge zur deutschen Grammatik III. Die starke Adjektivdeklinaton. *Beiträge zur Geschichte der deutschen Sprache und Literatur* 2. 98-124.