GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT
GÖTTINGEN

NELSON GOERING

Gothic

Morphology – Part 2: Adjectives and Pronouns

Roadmap

- Demonstratives
- Adjectives
- Other pronouns

Demonstratives

Sa, þata, sō

- A demonstrative of unmarked deixis
- Relative weak demonstrative force, may be called a determiner
- Full inflection for gender, number (SG and PL only), and case
- Endings sometimes resemble noun inflections, sometimes not

Sa

- *Sa* and *dags*

	sa-SG	sa-PL	a-SG	a-PL
NOM	sa	þai	dag-s	dag-ōs
ACC	þana	þans	dag	dag-**ans**
GEN	þis	þizē	dag-**is**	dag-**ē**
DAT	þamma	þaim	dag-a	dag-**am**

Sō

- *Sō* and *þiuda*

	sa-SG	sa-PL	a-SG	a-PL
NOM	sō	þōs	þiud-a	þiud-ōs
ACC	þō	þōs	þiud-a	þiud-ōs
GEN	þiz-ōs	þiz-ō	þiud-ōs	þiud-ō
DAT	þiz-ai	þaim	þiud-ai	þiud-ōm

Other demonstratives

- A distal demonstrative *jains*, *jaina*, *jainata* is synchronically active
- A proximal demonstrative from Proto-Germanic is found in time phrases

  und hina dag
  'until this day'
  Cf. Early Runic **hali hinō** 'stone this', or the OE pronoun *hine* 'him' (ACC)
- *sa* may be suffixed with *-(u)h* to form a proximal or emphatic
- *sah* 'this one, the very', *þanuh*, *þizuh*, etc.
- The Greek article may be untranslated or rendered as *sa*, never *sah*

Adjectives

Adjective inflection

- A typical adjective inflects in a double paradigm
- The unmarked set of endings are called ‘strong endings’
  - Typical strong endings resemble a blend of nominal and pronominal forms
  - A few adjectives belong to special stem classes: mostly *ja/jō* or *u*
- A marked alternative, used especially after demonstratives, are ‘weak’
  - Weak endings closely resemble those of n-stem nouns
- Adjectives also show comparative and superlative forms

Strong adjective inflection

- *Blinds* ‘blind’ compared to nominal and pronominal forms (M only)

	adj-SG		adj-PL	
NOM	blind-s	dag-s	blind-ai	þai
ACC	blind-ana	þana	blind-ans	þans, dag-ans
GEN	blind-is*	þis, dag-is	blind-aizē*	þizē
DAT	blind-amma	þamma	blind-aim	þaim

The neuter NOM/ACC.SG

- Neuter adjectives have two forms in the nominative/accusative singular
- A short form with no ending (all); the vast majority of neuters
- A long form with *-ata* (*all-ata*)

  allata þulaiþ, allata galaubeiþ, all wēniþ, all gabeidiþ
  'endures all, believes all, hopes for all, waits through all'
- The exact function of *-ata* is disputed: new information, prosody, solemnity
- *-ata* adjectives are very rarely predicative
- *-ata* may be seen as a marked form, probably spreading

Comparative

- Comparatives are formed with the suffixes *-iz-* or *-ōz-*

  managS ‘many’, comp. *managizam* ‘more’ (DAT.PL)
  frōþs ‘wise’, comp. *frōdōzans* ‘wiser (NOM.PL.M)
- *-ōz-* is limited to a/ō-stems, but is fairly productive there
- The inflection is weak (feminines follow the *īn*-inflection rather than *ōn*)
- Suppletive forms occur for some adjectives

  leitils ‘small, little’, comp. *minniza* ‘smaller, less’
- This includes a fossilized stem alternation as a result of Verner’s Law

  *juggs** ‘young’, comp. *jūhiza* ‘younger’ (< **junxiz-*)

Superlative

- Formed to the same stem as the comparative (*-iS-*, *-ōS-*, suppletive)
- The formant *-st-* is used instead of *-z-*

  þai managistans ‘most (of them)’ (comparative *managizam*)
  sa minnista ‘the least’ (comparative *minniza*, positive *leitils*)
- They inflect as normal for adjectives (and may be strong or weak)

  maists ‘greatest’
  þai maistans ‘the greatest ones’

Other Pronouns

Personal pronouns

- Personal pronouns for the 1st and 2nd person have dual forms

  ik 'I', *wit* 'we two', *weis* 'we'

  Inflected for case, number, and person, but not gender
- The anaphoric (3rd person) pronoun is inflected for gender, but has no dual

  is 'he', *si* 'she', *ita* 'it'

Possessive pronouns

- Genitive forms of personal pronouns do exist
- Adnominally, a set of adjectival forms is preferred

gahalp þeina
helped thee.GEN (*hilpan* takes a genitive object)
'I helped you'

hilp meinaizos ungalaubeinais
help my.POSS.F.GEN.SG unbelief.GEN.SG
'help my unbelief'

Interrogative pronouns

- The general interrogative is *ƕas*, *ƕa*, *ƕō* ‘who? what?’
- This has no plural inflection
- It does inflect for all three genders, unlike its Germanic cognates
- Also interrogative are *ƕarjis* ‘which?’ and *ƕaþar* ‘which of two?’

Indefinite and distributive pronouns

- The interrogative *ƕas*, *ƕa*, *ƕō* can serve as indefinite pronouns
- The participle *-uh* can turn an interrogative into a distributive
  - *ƕaz-uh* = ‘each’
  - *ƕarjiz-uh* = ‘each, every’
- Further formations are possible:
  - *sa-ƕaz-uh* = ‘anyone’, *þis-ƕaz-uh* ‘whosoever’
  - *ain-ƕarjiz-uh* = ‘each and every’

Negative pronouns

- The negative *ni* and the suffix *-hun* are used to form ‘no one, not anyone’
- *ni manna-hun* ‘no man, no one’
- *ni ƕas-hun* ‘no one’
- *ni ains-hun* ‘no one, not anyone’ – this is the most frequent option

Present participles

- Do not show weak/strong variation
- Typically use n-stem endings (as if weak)
- NOM.SG.M often (and the F occasionally) ends in *-s* instead of *-a*

  sa taujand-s wiljan attins meinis
  DET do.PTCP will.ACC father.GEN my.GEN
  'the one doing the will of my father'
- Feminines follow the īn-stem inflection, not the ōn-stem inflection

  Marja… ga-saihʋand-ei ina
  Maria PFV-see.PTCP him
  'Maria, having seen him…'

𐌰𐌹𐌻𐌹𐌽𐍃𐌳𐌿𐌼 𐌹𐍆𐍅𐌹𐍃 𐌹𐌽 𐌹𐍆𐍅𐌰𐌻𐌰
𐌰𐍄𐍃𐌻𐌹𐌸𐌰𐌽𐍃𐌰𐌽𐌴

Thank you for your attention!