

## Catalogue of semantic themes

This is a schematic overview of the semantic themes represented in Runic name elements before ca. AD 950. The list is a working document based on Peterson 2004 and 2007, Imer 2015 and Åkerstrøm 2019. The given name elements are merely examples, and some categories are more uncertain than others, but the catalogue gives an insight into the emic categories of social life in the pre-Christian Period. This little catalogue can thus serve as a portrait of pre-Christian perceptions and constructions of social and individual identities.

Semantic themes in pre-Christian Scandinavian personal names				
Main theme	Sub-theme	Vocabulary, examples	Names/elements Iron Age (examples)	Names/elements, pre-Christian Viking Age (examples)
<b>1. Warrior ideals and battle associations</b>	1.1. Battle and victory	<i>victory, battle, warrior, army</i>	Sigi-, Hathu-, Harja, Heldaz	Hær, Sig, Leikr, Folk (?)
	1.2. Weaponry (objects)	<i>spear, sword, arrowshaft</i>	Gislaz, Heru-	Gisl, Geirr, Odd
	1.3. Battle related animals	<i>wolf, raven, horse, hawk, bear, eagle</i>	Wulfaz, Hrabanaz, Eh(w)o, Bera	Biorn, Hrafn, ulfr, arn
	1.4. Loudness, swiftness, motion	roaring, barking moving (fast)	Wakraz, Raskaz, Rausijo, Wagnijo	Snerr, Radi, Far
<b>2. Leadership and social responsibilities</b>	2.1. Rulership	Master, ruler, lord	Frohila	Alrikr, Eirikr, Gunvald, Roald
	2.2. Sacral leadership	Sacred, holy, deities	Wiz?, Wigaz, Wiwaz?, Wiwilan?, Ansugastiz, Ansugislaz(?), Wulthuthewaz	Grimulf, Vefinrr, Vibjörn, Vifred, Thormund (?)
	2.3. Law and oathmaking	Oathsayer, swearing	Aithalathaz, Leugaz	Næridr (?)
	2.4. Serving, guardianship, protection, hospitality	Guard, servant, guest	Stainawarjaz, Landawarjaz, Hagustaldaz, thewaz, -gastiz, Naudigastiz, Kunimunduz	Armundr, Fridmund, Germund, Gudfred, Håvard, Sigtrygg(?), Thjodver, Thormund, Bryti
	2.5. Fame	Fame/famous	Sigimar, Hlewagastiz	Sigmarr, Roulv, Roald
	2.6. Advice, cunning, wisdom	Advice, allknowing	Hagiradar, Wilagaz, Alawid, Frawaradaz	?
<b>3. Appearance, personal qualities</b>	3.1. Looks	Often describes color, hair, eyes or a handicap	Braido, Swarta, Lethro, Gliaugiz	Skakki, Kolfinnr/Guldfinnr, Nærve (?), Salsi, Sote, Svidi, Odinkar
	3.2. Belovedness	Friendship, love(d)	Horaz, Tanulu, Skinthaleubaz, Alawin	Asfrid, Thorfrid, Sigrid
	3.3. Gentleness	Laughing, happy, not furious	Unwodz, Taitz	Káti
	3.4. Danger, malice	Raging, angry, sneering, ugly	Laitbigaz, Woduride	Styggr, Odinkarr, Snerrir, Vámodr, Slodi (lazy)
	3.5. Bravery	brave	Nantho	?
	3.6. untouched by sorcery	Unaffected by sorcery	Ungandiz	Vámodr?



	3.7. Wealthy, lucky, longlived	Wealthy, lucky, longlived	?	Alrikr, Eyvindr (?), Ofegr
	3.8. Other (metaphors?)	Day, path, rock etc.	?	Dagr, Eystein, Gnupa, Hani, Star, Stig
<b>4. Family, kin, ethnic affiliations</b>	4.1. Ethnic belonging, stranger	Ethnonyms, 'stranger'	Aljamarkiz, swabaharjaz, Fino	Iuti, Ásgautr, Fundinn, Goti, Kolfinnr, Varinn, Vefinnr
	4.2. Family, kinship	Sister, kin, little new one, little relative	Boro, Kunimunduz, Nithijo, Niujila	Adils, Anundr, Billingr (twin), Eilefr, Ingi, Ingvarr, Áver (Anu-gaizaz)
	4.3. Character of a place (of origin?)	Forest, wetland, sea/waves	Sikijaz, Holtijaz, Wagagastiz, Widugastiz, Saligastiz, Saiwilaga, Laguthewa, Wagagastiz	Eyvindr(?)

## Bibliography

The selection of names is based on the inscriptions represented in Imer 2015 and Åkerström 2019. Interpretations are based on Peterson 2004 and 2007.

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