

Manx Gaelic inflection, 4. Adjectives

Manx adjectives may inflect for either of the categories *comparative* and *plural*, or for both, or for neither. There is no distinct *superlative*: *comparative* in Manx covers ‘comparative’ and ‘superlative’.

There are two suffixes available for the comparative: *-ee* and *-ey*. The comparative suffix *-ee* occurs almost exclusively with adjectives containing the suffix *-agh*, which is replaced by *-ee* in the comparative (e.g. *graihagh* ‘loving’ - *graihee* ‘more loving’). Cregeen gives 334 examples of adjectives in *-agh* that are inflected in this way. The comparative suffix *-ey* is sometimes accompanied by a change in the stem it is attached to, such as syncope (loss of a medial syllable, as in *mennick* ‘frequent’ - *menkey* ‘more frequent’), a change of stem vowel similar to what takes place in some noun genitives before the suffix *-ey* (e.g. *liauyr* ‘long’ - *lhiurey* ‘longer’), or a suppletive stem (e.g. *olk* ‘bad’ - *(s)messey* ‘worse’). In Cregeen there are some 117 comparatives in *-ey*. A dozen adjectives have irregular comparative forms, not involving a suffix, but some other change in the stem (e.g. *lhean* ‘wide’ - *lhea* ‘wider’), or a completely different stem (suppletive, e.g. *beg* ‘small’ - *(s)loo* ‘smaller’). When no comparative inflection is available for an adjective, the comparative sense comes from the comparative construction itself, which is used in the same way with uninflected and inflected comparatives, as, for example, in (uninflected) *t’ee ny s’costal na rubieyn* ‘she is more precious than rubies’; (inflected) *va ny Nazariteyn eck ny s’glenn-ey na sniaghtey* ‘her Nazarites were purer than snow’. The construction of these is, in origin at least, as in (1).

- (1) a. *t’ ee ny s’ costal na rubieyn*
 is she that-which is precious than rubies
- b. *va ny Nazariteyn eck ny s’ glenn-ey na sniaghtey*
 were the Nazarites at-her that-which is pure-r than snow

With ‘inexplicit’ comparatives, the only mark of the ‘comparison’ may be the particle *s’* (= the copula verb), as in *yn dobberan s’dough* ‘the bitterest lamentation’, though in nearly all the Biblical examples of this construction, the form of the comparative adjective is itself distinctive, as in *ayns ardjyn s’diuney y thalloon* ‘in the deeper/deepest regions of the earth’.

Because the *s’* particle of the comparative construction was originally the present tense of the copula (‘is’), comparison in the past could involve the past tense form of the copula *by* or *b’*. In the Bible there are a handful of examples displaying this use, e.g. *b’yrjey* ‘(was) higher’, *b’odjey* ‘(was) further’, *by niartal* ‘(was) mightiest’.¹ *Bare* ‘(was) better’, ‘(would be) better’, corresponding to *share* ‘(is) better’ remains current in modern Manx.

In Classical Manx (The Bible and Cregeen), *smoo* ‘more’ (pronoun), ‘greater, larger’ (comparative adjective) is not used in explicit comparisons modifying an adjective. That is to say, these texts do not have the construction mentioned by Goodwin, *First Lessons in Manx*, p. 42: *va’n dooinney shen ny smoo sayntoil na adsyn ooilley* ‘that man was more covetous than them all’. In Classical Manx, this would have to be *va’n dooinney shen ny sayntoil na adsyn*

¹ Cregeen appears not to have fully understood this construction: he gives *by-niartal* as an adverb “**by-niartal**, adv. because of strength, those of strength; *Psl.* lxxviii. 52: *As woail eh ooilley yn chied v’er nyn ruggey ayns Egypt: yn voojnjer b’yrjey as by-niartal ayns cummallyn Ham.* And smote all the first-born in Egypt: the most principal and mightiest in the dwellings of Ham.”

ooilley (without *s* because the adjective itself begins with *s*-). Examples are given below of how *smoo* is used in the Bible.

The suffix used to make plural adjectives is also *-ey*. It is added to the basic singular stem (with nearly always no more than orthographic changes). Thus some adjectives that inflect with *-ey* for both comparative and plural show a changed stem in the comparative, but not in the plural, e.g. *çhionn* ‘stiff, tight’, comp. *çhiennyey*, pl. *çhionneyey*. Cregeen gives some 92 plural adjective forms. Nearly all the adjectives that can take a plural inflection are monosyllabic, such as *beg* ‘small’, pl. *beggey*, though plural forms are offered for eight two-syllable adjectives.² Of those 92 plural adjectives, only 24 are attested in the Bible, though some of these that are extremely frequent, such as *aegey* ‘young’ (x142), *ardey* ‘high’ (x10), *beggey* ‘small’ (x98), *çhingey* ‘sick’ (x12), *dowiney* ‘deep’ (x12), *mooarey* ‘large’ (x136). Plural adjectives are used only in attributive constructions, e.g. *neem’s ny ynnydyn cammey y yannoo jeeragh* ‘I will make the crooked places straight’, not in predicative constructions (where positive adjectives are uninflected), e.g. *t’eh er n’yannoo [m]y chassanyn cam* ‘he hath made my paths crooked’.

Adjectives ending in *-agh*, with comparative in *-ee*, according to Cregeen³

Adj. in <i>-agh</i>	Comp. in <i>-ee</i>		Adj. in <i>-agh</i>	Comp. in <i>-ee</i>	
<i>accryssagh</i>	<i>accrysssee</i>	hungry	<i>banglaneagh</i>	<i>banglanee</i>	branching
<i>aggairagh</i>	<i>aggairsee</i>	unjust	<i>beishtagh</i>	<i>beishtee</i>	bestly, brutish
<i>agglagh</i>	<i>agglee</i>	terrible, timorous	<i>berçhagh</i>	<i>berçhee</i>	rich
<i>aileagh</i>	<i>ailee</i>	fiery, flammable	<i>beysagh</i>	<i>beysee</i>	compliant
<i>ainjysagh</i>	<i>ainjyssee</i>	familiar	<i>biallagh</i>	<i>biallee</i>	submissive, docile
<i>alморagh</i>	<i>almoree</i>	ignorant	<i>billagh</i>	<i>billee</i>	wooded
<i>ammyssagh</i>	<i>ammyssee</i>	respectful	<i>birragh</i>	<i>birree</i>	pointed
<i>angaaishagh</i>	<i>angaaishsee</i>	agonising	<i>blaaagh</i>	<i>blaaee</i>	flowery
<i>anmagh</i>	<i>anmee</i>	late	<i>boirragh</i>	<i>boirree</i>	worrying
<i>anoayllagh</i>	<i>anoayllee</i>	unaccustomed	<i>bollagh</i>	<i>bollee</i>	absolute, entire
<i>anveagh</i>	<i>anveaee</i>	upsetting	<i>bolvaneagh</i>	<i>bolvanee</i>	foolish
<i>arganagh</i>	<i>arganee</i>	contentious	<i>booiaagh</i>	<i>booiee</i>	pleased
<i>arkyssagh</i>	<i>arkysssee</i>	distressed, afflicted	<i>breenagh</i>	<i>breenee</i>	sultry
<i>arraydagh</i>	<i>arraydee</i>	watchful	<i>brishtagh</i>	<i>brishtee</i>	brittle
<i>arryltagh</i>	<i>arryltee</i>	willing	<i>broutagh</i>	<i>broutee</i>	savage
<i>arrymagh</i>	<i>arrymee</i>	respectful	<i>bugganeagh</i>	<i>bugganee</i>	frightening, scary
<i>arryssagh</i>	<i>arryssee</i>	repentant	<i>bwaagh,</i>	<i>bwaaie</i> ⁴	handsome
<i>atçhimagh</i>	<i>atçhimee</i>	astonished, shocking	pl. <i>bwaaghey</i>		
<i>Baarlagh</i>	<i>Baarlee</i>	English	<i>bwoailtagh</i>	<i>bwoailtee</i>	percussive, quarrelsome
<i>baccagh</i>	<i>bacce</i>	disabled	<i>caaryssagh</i>	<i>caaryssee</i>	friendly
<i>baggyrtagh</i>	<i>baggyrtee</i>	threatening			
<i>banganagh</i>	<i>banganee</i>	branchy			

² Namely: *baasoil*, pl. *baasoiley* ‘fatal’, *dunnal*, pl. *dunnalley* ‘bold’, *khyrloghe*, pl. *khyrloghey* ‘infirm’, *lajer*, pl. *lajerey* ‘strong’, *mhenoyr*, pl. *mhenoyrey* ‘mellow’, *shickyry*, pl. *shickyrey* ‘sure’, *sooeagh*, pl. *sooeey* (sic) ‘sooty’, *tramylyt*, pl. *tramylytey* ‘sturdy’. Bear in mind that e.g. *shliawin* is monosyllabic [ʃʲeʷnʲ] (Joseph Woodworth), pl. *shliawney* ‘slippery’, and similarly *dowin* [daunʲ] (Ned Maddrell), pl. *dowiney* ‘deep’, *dewil* [døʷlʲ] (Harry Kelly), pl. *dewiley* ‘cruel’.

³ In this and the following tables I have taken the adjective meanings largely from Phil Kelly’s Dictionary, as Cregeen’s adjective senses are not always succinct or helpful.

⁴ NB spelling.

Adj. in <i>-agh</i>	Comp. in <i>-ee</i>		Adj. in <i>-agh</i>	Comp. in <i>-ee</i>	
<i>cabbagagh</i>	<i>cabbagee</i>	abounding in	<i>drineagh</i>	<i>drinee</i>	thorny
		docks	<i>drollaneagh</i>	<i>drollanee</i>	indolent
<i>cadjin</i>	<i>cadjinee</i>	common,	<i>dronnagh</i>	<i>dronnee</i>	convex
		ordinary	<i>drughaigagh</i>	<i>druighaigee</i>	full of hips
<i>cadlagh</i>	<i>cadlee</i>	sleepy	<i>druightoilagh</i>	<i>druightoilee</i>	dewy
<i>cairagh</i>	<i>cairee</i>	fair	<i>duillagagh</i>	<i>duillagee</i>	leafy
<i>cairailagh</i>	<i>cairailee</i>	careful	<i>dunveragh</i>	<i>dunveree</i>	murderous
<i>camlaagagh</i>	<i>camlaagee</i>	perverse, illicit	<i>eadolagh</i>	<i>eadolee</i>	jealous
<i>carnaneagh</i>	<i>carnanee</i>	heaped	<i>eairkagh</i>	<i>eairkee</i>	horned
<i>carragh</i>	<i>carree</i>	scabby	<i>earrooagh</i>	<i>earrooee</i>	numerous
<i>cassanagh</i>	<i>cassanee</i>	passable	<i>eignagh</i>	<i>eignee</i>	obligatory,
<i>caulghagh</i>	<i>caulgee</i>	bristly, barbed			necessary
<i>çhelleeragh</i>	<i>çhelleeree</i>	immediate	<i>elgyssagh</i>	<i>elgysee</i>	spiteful
<i>çhymagh</i>	<i>çhymsee</i>	cumulative	<i>ennaghtagh</i>	<i>ennaghtee</i>	sensitive
<i>clabbinagh</i>	<i>clabbinee</i>	squally	<i>erreeishagh</i>	<i>erreeishee</i>	sympathetic
<i>claghagh</i>	<i>claghee</i>	stony	<i>eulyssagh</i>	<i>eulysssee</i>	indignant
<i>clugagh</i>	<i>clugee</i>	cunning,	<i>eunyssagh</i>	<i>eunysssee</i>	delightful
		crafty	<i>faasaagagh</i>	<i>faasaagee</i>	bearded
<i>condaigagh</i>	<i>condaigee</i>	contrary,	<i>fadaneagh</i>	<i>fadanee</i>	remote,
		stubborn			reclusive
<i>cooinidagh</i>	<i>cooinidee</i>	retentive	<i>faghidagh</i>	<i>faghidee</i>	contemptible,
<i>cooinsheans-</i>	<i>cooinsheans-</i>	conscientious			insulting
<i>agh</i>	<i>ee</i>		<i>faitagh</i>	<i>faitee</i>	timid, shy
<i>cossylagh</i>	<i>cossylee</i>	middling,	<i>fammanagh</i>	<i>fammanee</i>	tail-like
		tolerable	<i>fordalagh</i>	<i>fordalee</i>	trivial, vain
<i>costalagh</i>	<i>costalee</i>	expensive		<i>(s'ardalee)</i>	
<i>craidoilagh</i>	<i>craidoilee</i>	derisive	<i>fastagh</i>	<i>fastee</i>	pensive,
<i>craitnagh</i>	<i>craitnee</i>	skinlike			uncommunica-
<i>craiuuagagh</i>	<i>craiuuagee</i>	ruinous	<i>fasteeagh</i>	<i>fastee</i>	tive
<i>crammanagh</i>	<i>crammanee</i>	lumpy	<i>feagh</i>	<i>feae</i>	sheltered
<i>craplagh</i>	<i>craplee</i>	wrinkled	<i>fedjagagh</i>	<i>fedjagee</i>	still, quiet
<i>creaynagh</i>	<i>creaynee</i>	shivering	<i>feeacklagh</i>	<i>feeacklee</i>	feathery
<i>creggagh</i>	<i>creggee</i>	rocky			toothed,
<i>cregganagh</i>	<i>cregganee</i>	rugged	<i>feillagh</i>	<i>feillee</i>	snappish
<i>cribbidjagh</i>	<i>cribbidjee</i>	stingy	<i>feiyragh</i>	<i>feiyree</i>	meaty, fleshy
<i>croaganagh</i>	<i>croagane</i>	importunate	<i>fendeilagh</i>	<i>fendeilee</i>	noisy
<i>cronganagh</i>	<i>cronganee</i>	hillocky	<i>feohdagh</i>	<i>feohdee</i>	defensive
<i>croobagh</i>	<i>croobee</i>	lame	<i>feoiltagh</i>	<i>feoiltee</i>	disgusting
<i>croutagh</i>	<i>croutee</i>	wily	<i>feoisagh</i>	<i>feoisee</i>	liberal
<i>cruittagh</i>	<i>cruittee</i>	humpbacked	<i>fergagh</i>	<i>fergee</i>	slight
<i>cuilleigagh</i>	<i>cuilleigee</i>	recessed	<i>ferrinagh</i>	<i>ferrinee</i>	ferocious
<i>cuishlinagh</i>	<i>cuishlinee</i>	veined	<i>flaunyssagh</i>	<i>flaunyssee</i>	true
<i>cumrailagh</i>	<i>cumrailee</i>	obstructive,	<i>fliaghagh</i>	<i>fliaghee</i>	heavenly
		tedious	<i>floutagh</i>	<i>floutee</i>	rainy
<i>curneeinagh</i>	<i>curneeinee</i>	huffy			slanderous,
<i>danjeyragh</i>	<i>danjeyree</i>	dangerous	<i>foiljagh</i>	<i>foiljee</i>	scurrilous
<i>debejagh</i>	<i>debejee</i>	desperate	<i>fondagh</i>	<i>fondee</i>	culpable
<i>deinagh</i>	<i>deinee</i>	wearry,	<i>fowanagh</i>	<i>fowanee</i>	valid, effective
		laborious	<i>foyragh</i>	<i>foyree</i>	blasting
<i>dendeysagh</i>	<i>dendeysee</i>	delicate	<i>frappagh</i>	<i>frappee</i>	sharp-edged
<i>dholtaneagh</i>	<i>dholtanee</i>	doltish	<i>frassagh</i>	<i>frassee</i>	popping
<i>dhonnanagh</i>	<i>dhonnanee</i>	duncelike	<i>frauagh</i>	<i>frauee</i>	showery
<i>doaltattymagh</i>	<i>doaltattymee</i>	sudden	<i>frauaigagh</i>	<i>frauaigee</i>	primordial
<i>doccaragh</i>	<i>doccaree</i>	arduous	<i>freyagh</i>	<i>freyanee</i>	fibrous
<i>doghanagh</i>	<i>doghane</i>	ill			turbulent,
<i>dorrinagh</i>	<i>dorrinee</i>	stormy	<i>freggyrtagh</i>	<i>freggyrtee</i>	surging
<i>dourinagh</i>	<i>dourinee</i>	diseased,	<i>freoaghagh</i>	<i>freoaghee</i>	responsive
		contagious			heathery
<i>dressagh</i>	<i>dressee</i>	brambly			

Adj. in <i>-agh</i>	Comp. in <i>-ee</i>		Adj. in <i>-agh</i>	Comp. in <i>-ee</i>	
<i>freoaghanagh</i>	<i>freoahanee</i>	abundant in bilberries	<i>kicklagh</i>	<i>kicklee</i>	ticklish
<i>frioganagh</i>	<i>frioganee</i>	bristly	<i>kinjagh</i>	<i>kinjee</i>	constant,
<i>friooasagh</i>	<i>frioosee</i>	attentive, mindful	<i>kyndagh</i>	<i>kyndee</i>	regular
<i>fritlagh</i>	<i>fritlee</i>	ragged	<i>laaghagh</i>	<i>laaghee</i>	guilty
<i>frowartagh</i>	<i>frowartee</i>	perverse	<i>laatçhagh</i>	<i>laatçhee</i>	muddy
<i>fuirraghtagh</i>	<i>fuirraghtee</i>	tardy	<i>lheibbeidjagh</i>	<i>lheibbeidjee</i>	lacy
<i>fynneigagh</i>	<i>fynneigee</i>	podded	<i>lhiantagh</i>	<i>lhiantee</i>	unwieldy
<i>gaaigagh</i>	<i>gaaigee</i>	chapped	<i>litçheragh</i>	<i>litçheree</i>	sticky
<i>Gaeligagh</i>	<i>Gaeligee</i>	favourable to Gaelic	<i>loghanagh</i>	<i>loghanee</i>	lazy, idle
<i>gallagh</i>	<i>gallee</i>	gusty	<i>lossanagh</i>	<i>lossanee</i>	full of lakes
<i>gammanagh</i>	<i>gammanee</i>	sporty	<i>louraanagh</i>	<i>louraanee</i>	luminous,
<i>ganlanagh</i>	<i>ganlanee</i>	bickering	<i>maaigagh</i>	<i>maaigee</i>	bright
<i>gannidagh</i>	<i>gannidee</i>	derisive	<i>magganeagh</i>	<i>magganee</i>	leprous
<i>gargagh</i>	<i>gargee</i>	acrimonious	<i>marvanagh</i>	<i>marvanee</i>	clumsy (with the hand)
<i>gaueagh</i>	<i>gauee</i>	dangerous	<i>meekagh</i>	<i>meekee</i>	numb
<i>geayeeagh</i>	<i>geayee nb</i>	windy	<i>meeylagh</i>	<i>meeylee</i>	mortal
<i>gerjoilagh</i>	<i>gerjoilee</i>	comfortable	<i>mergagh</i>	<i>mergee</i>	winking,
<i>geuragh</i>	<i>geuree</i>	wintry	<i>mhenoyragh</i>	<i>mhenoyree</i>	peeping
<i>gewagh</i>	<i>gewee</i>	painful	<i>miandagh</i>	<i>miandee</i>	lousy
<i>giastyllagh</i>	<i>giastyllee</i>	benevolent	<i>mirrilagh</i>	<i>mirrilee</i>	rusty
<i>gibbagh</i>	<i>gibbee</i>	pointed	<i>mitçhooragh</i>	<i>mitçhooree</i>	mellow, rich
<i>giuagagh</i>	<i>giuagee</i>	in gulleets, creeks	<i>moanagh</i>	<i>moanee</i>	fond; desirable
<i>goanlyssagh</i>	<i>goanlyssee</i>	malicious	<i>moandagh</i>	<i>moandee</i>	miraculous
<i>gonnagh</i>	<i>gonnee</i>	sore	<i>mollagh</i>	<i>mollee</i>	mischievous
<i>graihagh</i>	<i>graihee</i>	loving	<i>mollaghtagh</i>	<i>mollaghtee</i>	turfy, boggy
<i>griaghtagh</i>	<i>griaghtee</i>	gregarious	<i>molteyragh</i>	<i>molteyree</i>	blunt; hesitant
<i>grianagh</i>	<i>grianee</i>	sunny	<i>mooralagh</i>	<i>mooralee</i>	shaggy
<i>grinderagh</i>	<i>grinderee</i>	taunting	<i>moughaneagh</i>	<i>moughanee</i>	accursed,
<i>grineagh</i>	<i>grinee</i>	granular, grainy	<i>moyrnagh</i>	<i>moyrnee</i>	damned
<i>groamagh</i>	<i>groamee</i>	sullen	<i>myghinagh</i>	<i>myghinee</i>	deceptive,
<i>guirragh</i>	<i>guirree</i>	broody, ready to hatch	<i>naareydagh</i>	<i>naareydee</i>	fraudulent
<i>imneagh</i>	<i>imneae</i>	anxious	<i>naarildagh</i>	<i>naarildee</i>	haughty
<i>jaaghagh</i>	<i>jaaghee</i>	smoky	<i>nieunagh</i>	<i>nieunee</i>	coughing
<i>jarroodagh</i>	<i>jarrooddee</i>	forgetful	<i>oayllagh</i>	<i>oayllee</i>	proud
<i>jeantagh</i>	<i>jeantee</i>	practical	<i>olkyssagh</i>	<i>olkyssee</i>	compassionate
<i>jeeassagh</i>	<i>jeassee</i>	in ear	<i>oltoonanagh</i>	<i>oltooanee</i>	shameful,
<i>jeebinagh</i>	<i>jeebinee</i>	netlike, reticulated	<i>ommidjagh</i>	<i>ommidjee</i>	bashful,
<i>jeeigagh</i>	<i>jeeigee</i>	ditched	<i>onneragh</i>	<i>onneree</i>	bashful
<i>jeeragh</i>	<i>jeeree</i>	direct	<i>ooiganagh</i>	<i>ooiganee</i>	poisonous
<i>jerrinagh</i>	<i>jerrinee</i>	last, ultimate	<i>ooirragh</i>	<i>ooirree</i>	habitual,
<i>jiooldagh</i>	<i>jiooldee</i>	nauseating, squeamish	<i>ooriltagh</i>	<i>ooriltee</i>	knowledge-able
<i>joanagh</i>	<i>joanee</i>	dusty	<i>ostylagh</i>	<i>ostylee</i>	wicked
<i>jollyssagh</i>	<i>jollyssee</i>	insatiable	<i>ouryssagh</i>	<i>ouryssee</i>	ensorious,
<i>jouyllagh</i>	<i>jouyllee</i>	diabolical	<i>peajeogagh</i>	<i>peajogee</i>	critical
<i>jummal(t)agh</i>	<i>jummal(t)ee</i>	wasteful	<i>piandagh</i>	<i>piandee</i>	stupid
<i>jymmoosagh</i>	<i>jymmoosee</i>	angry	<i>pishagagh</i>	<i>pishagee</i>	honest
<i>keeayllagh</i>	<i>keeayllee</i>	sensible, witty	<i>ploughanagh</i>	<i>ploughanee</i>	pitted
<i>kesagh</i>	<i>keshee</i>	frothy			earthy
<i>kialgagh</i>	<i>kialgee</i>	tricky, deceitful			refreshing
<i>kiarkylagh</i>	<i>kiarkylee</i>	circular			apostolic

Adj. in <i>-agh</i>	Comp. in <i>-ee</i>		Adj. in <i>-agh</i>	Comp. in <i>-ee</i>	
<i>quaaagh</i>	<i>quaaie</i>	strange	<i>spaagagh</i>	<i>spaagee</i>	flat-footed
<i>rastagh</i>	<i>rastee</i>	squally	<i>spaarailagh</i>	<i>spaaralee</i>	frugal
<i>rastanagh</i>	<i>rastanee</i>	uncultivated	<i>speeikeenagh</i>	<i>speeikeenee</i>	having spires
<i>reagh</i>	<i>reaie</i>	randy	<i>speeineigagh</i>	<i>speeineigee</i>	thick-skinned (fruit)
<i>reamyssagh</i>	<i>reamyssee</i>	spacious			having chips
<i>reeastagh</i>	<i>reeaste</i>	coarse, rough	<i>spollagagh</i>	<i>spollagee</i>	awkward
<i>resoonagh</i>	<i>resoonee</i>	reasonable	<i>staghylagh</i>	<i>staghylee</i>	stumpy
<i>rimmeigagh</i>	<i>rimmeigee</i>	striped	<i>stappanagh</i>	<i>stappanee</i>	stormy
<i>rollageagh</i>	<i>rollagee</i>	starry	<i>sterrymagh</i>	<i>sterrymee</i>	indebted
<i>roonagh</i>	<i>roonee</i>	vicious	<i>sthanaganagh</i>	<i>sthanagane</i>	stubborn
<i>rouailagh</i>	<i>rouailee</i>	wandering, rambling	<i>sthurneishagh</i>	<i>sthurneishsee</i>	contentious
		lewd, riotous	<i>streeuailtagh</i>	<i>streeuailtee</i>	slow to give milk
<i>rouanagh</i>	<i>rouanee</i>	shamrock- covered	<i>stronnagh</i>	<i>stronnee</i>	nasal
<i>ruishagh</i>	<i>ruishee</i>	typical, exemplary	<i>strooanagh</i>	<i>strooanee</i>	streaming
<i>samarkagh</i>	<i>samarkee</i>	drowsy	<i>surdremagh</i>	<i>surdreme</i>	trustworthy
<i>sampleyragh</i>	<i>sampleyree</i>	lustful, covetous	<i>surransagh</i>	<i>surranssee</i>	patient, tolerant
<i>saveenagh</i>	<i>saveenee</i>	scaly			itchy
<i>sayntoilagh</i>	<i>sayntoilee</i>	shady	<i>taghyssagh</i>	<i>taghysssee</i>	pleasing
		streaky	<i>taitnyssagh</i>	<i>taitnysssee</i>	occasional, temporary
<i>scaailagh</i>	<i>scaaillee</i>	scabby	<i>tammyltagh</i>	<i>tammyltee</i>	enduring
<i>scadooagh</i>	<i>scadooee</i>	secular, worldly			tufty
<i>schimmeigagh</i>	<i>schimmeigee</i>	soapy	<i>tannaghtagh</i>	<i>tannaghtee</i>	economical, well-managed
<i>screebbagh</i>	<i>screebbee</i>	shelly	<i>tappagagh</i>	<i>tappagee</i>	intelligent, acute
<i>seihlltagh</i>	<i>seihlltee</i>	hasty	<i>tarmaynagh</i>	<i>tarmayne</i>	fanciful, capricious
		anecdotal			earthly
<i>sheeabinagh</i>	<i>sheeabinee</i>	nosey	<i>tastagh</i>	<i>tastee</i>	bushy
<i>shliggagh</i>	<i>shliggee</i>	apt to squat	<i>teaymagh</i>	<i>teaymee</i>	amazing
<i>siyrragh</i>	<i>siyree</i>	striated			constipated
<i>skeelagh</i>	<i>skeeelee</i>	liable to slip	<i>thallooinagh</i>	<i>thallooinee</i>	dizzy
<i>skeetagh</i>	<i>skeetee</i>	trailing, dragging	<i>thammagagh</i>	<i>thammagee</i>	full of dungheaps
<i>skeltagh</i>	<i>skeltee</i>	furtive	<i>thannaneagh</i>	<i>thannanee</i>	bulky
<i>skilleigagh</i>	<i>skilleigee</i>	mountainous	<i>thartagh</i>	<i>thartee</i>	intellectual,
<i>skyrraghtagh</i>	<i>skyrraghtee</i>	slovenly	<i>thollaneagh</i>	<i>thollanee</i>	judicious
<i>sleaydagh</i>	<i>sleaydee</i>	sluttish	<i>thorranagh</i>	<i>thorranee</i>	deserving
		glowing			silly
<i>sleetçhagh</i>	<i>sleetçhee</i>	smutty	<i>thummidagh</i>	<i>thummidee</i>	with choking
<i>sleitagh</i>	<i>sleitee</i>	stinking	<i>toiggal(t)agh</i>	<i>toiggal(t)ee</i>	smoke
<i>slibbinagh</i>	<i>slibbinee</i>	snotty			pregnant
<i>sluhtagh</i>	<i>sluhtee</i>	greasy, marrowy	<i>toilçhinagh</i>	<i>toilçhinee</i>	devastating, catastrophic
<i>smarageagh</i>	<i>smaragee</i>	carping, peevish	<i>tootagh</i>	<i>tootee</i>	tyrannical,
<i>smiddagh</i>	<i>smiddee</i>	vexing, piqued	<i>torcanagh</i>	<i>torcane</i>	oppressive
<i>smoghanagh</i>	<i>smoghane</i>	easy-going, plain			trustworthy, trusting
<i>smuggagh</i>	<i>smuggee</i>	radiant	<i>torragh</i>	<i>torree</i>	sad
<i>smuiragh</i>	<i>smuiree</i>	selfish, miserly	<i>traartyssagh</i>	<i>traartysssee</i>	envious
		arrogant, ambitious			strong
<i>sneggagh</i>	<i>sneggee</i>	abundant	<i>tranlaasagh</i>	<i>tranlaasee</i>	knowledge- able
		despondent	<i>tranlaasagh</i>	<i>tranlaasee</i>	beneficial
<i>sonnyssagh</i>	<i>sonnysssee</i>		<i>treishteilagh</i>	<i>treishteilee</i>	
<i>sou-aignagh</i>	<i>sou-aignee</i>				
			<i>trimshagh</i>	<i>trimshee</i>	
			<i>trooagh</i>	<i>trooe</i>	
			<i>troshtagh</i>	<i>troshtee</i>	
			<i>tushtagh</i>	<i>tushtee</i>	
			<i>ush(t)lagh</i>	<i>ush(t)lee</i>	
			<i>vondeishagh</i>	<i>vondeishee</i>	

Adj. in <i>-agh</i>	Comp. in <i>-ee</i>	
<i>wagaantagh</i>	<i>wagaantee</i>	vagrant
<i>yindyssagh</i>	<i>yindyssee</i>	wonderful
<i>ymyrçhagh</i>	<i>ymyrçhee</i>	needy, necessary

In Cregeen the following adjectives ending in *-agh* explicitly have comparatives without inflection:

Adj. in <i>-agh</i>	Comp.		Adj. in <i>-agh</i>	Comp.	
<i>shanglanagh</i>	<i>shanglanagh</i>	empty-bellied	<i>dwoaiagh</i>	<i>dwoaiagh</i>	hateful
<i>kayeeagh</i>	<i>kayeeagh</i>	foggy	<i>doaiagh</i>	<i>doaiagh</i>	civil
<i>feeagh</i>	<i>feeagh</i>	valuable	<i>craueagh</i>	<i>craueagh</i>	bony
<i>fasteeagh</i>	<i>fasteeagh</i>	sheltered	<i>corragh</i>	<i>corragh</i>	unstable

Examples from the Bible, 1. Comparative inflected adjectives in explicit comparative constructions (i. e. with a standard or comparison).

Comparatives in *-ee* are used in the Bible, as in the following examples:

<i>nagh vel my chynney's ny s'fardalee na ooilley kynneeyn tribe Venjamin? t'ou er ve ny s'graihee er neu-chairys na er mieys</i>	[is not] my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? thou hast loved unrighteousness more than goodness
<i>bee mayd ny s'aggindee er dty ghraih na er feeyn as bee yn chiarroo foddey s'berchee na ad ooilley</i>	we will remember thy love more than wine and the fourth shall be far richer than they all
<i>dy ve ny s'biallee diuish na da Jee agh ren mee laboragh ny s'doccarree na ad ooilley</i>	to hearken unto you more than unto God but I laboured more abundantly than they all

However, in the Manx Bible, several adjectives that according to Cregeen have comparatives in *-ee* in fact are used uninflected. Here are some examples:

<i>nish va'n ardnieu ny s'croutagh na ooilley cretooryn [not croutee] va goan deiney Yudah ny s'fargagh na goan deiney Israel [not fargee or fergee] dy yannoo cairys as briwnys kiart, te ny s'taitnyssagh da'n Chiarn na ourallyn costal [not taitnysssee]</i>	now the serpent was more subtil than any beast the words of the men of Judah were fiercer than the words of the men of Israel to do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice
<i>bee ny s'arryltagh dy chlashtyn na dy hebbal oural yn ommydan [not arryltee] va ny eddinyn oc jeeaghyn ny s'aalin as ny s'ruishagh ayns feill na ooilley ny scollagyn, va gee jeh'n chooid-ronney reeoil [not ruishee] ta ny cabbil oc neesht ny s'bieau na ny leopardyn, as ny s'barbagh na moddee-oaldey yn astyr [not barbee]</i>	be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves

Cregeen mentions comparatives in *-ee* for four adjectives that do not end in *-agh*:

Adj.	Comp. in <i>-ee</i>		Adj.	Comp. in <i>-ee</i>	
<i>bane</i>	<i>banee</i>	white	<i>shicky</i>	<i>shickyree</i>	sure
<i>broigh</i> , pl. <i>broighey</i>	<i>broiee</i>	dirty			
<i>dorraghey</i>	<i>dorree</i>	dark			

Of these, *shickyree* is attested in the Bible:

Ta ain myrgeeddin goo shickyree dy adeyrys We have also a more sure word of prophecy

Dunnal ‘valiant’, which is uninflected for Cregeen, displays one example of comparative *dunnallee* in the Bible:

Agh daase Saul ny s’dunnallee dy chooilley laa But Saul increased the more in strength, [lit. ‘Saul grew more valiant each day’]

Alongside this, there are two Bible examples of uninflected comparative *dunnal*:

daa housane jeig jeh ny deiney s’dunnal twelve thousand men of the valiantest
cha by-loys da’n dooinney s’dunnal dy ghoostey None is so fierce that dare stir him up [lit. ‘the
eh boldest man dared not arouse him’]

Adjectives with comparatives in *-ey*, according to Cregeen

Most of the adjectives that have a comparative in *-ey* are monosyllabic.⁵ Those in Cregeen that are monosyllabic are listed in the following table:

Adj.	Comp. in <i>-ey</i>		Adj.	Comp. in <i>-ey</i>	
<i>aitt</i>	<i>aitley</i>	funny	<i>feayr</i>	<i>feayrey</i>	cold
	~ <i>aaittey</i>		<i>fee</i>	<i>feeuey</i> (pl.)	worth, worthy
<i>anchiart</i>	<i>anchiarthey</i>	incorrect,	<i>fliugh</i>	<i>fliughey</i>	wet
cf. <i>kiart</i>		unequal	<i>follan</i>	<i>follaney</i>	sound, edible
<i>aw</i>	<i>away</i>	raw	<i>follym</i>	<i>follymey</i>	empty
<i>bane</i>	<i>baney</i>	white	<i>frogh</i>	<i>froghey</i>	perished
<i>barb</i>	<i>barbey</i>	sharp	<i>geayr</i>	<i>geayrey</i>	sour, sharp
<i>beayn</i>	<i>beayney</i>	durable	~ <i>gyere</i>	~ <i>gyerey</i>	
<i>bing</i>	<i>bingey</i>	tuneful	<i>glass</i>	<i>glassey</i>	green
<i>bioyr</i>	<i>bioyrey</i>	brisk, animated	<i>glen</i>	<i>glenney</i>	clean
<i>boght</i>	<i>boghtey</i>	poor	<i>goan</i>	<i>genney</i>	rare
<i>bouyr</i>	<i>bouyrey</i>	deaf	<i>gorrym</i>	<i>gorrymey</i>	blue
<i>breinn</i>	<i>breinney</i>	stinking	<i>gort</i>	<i>gortey</i>	sour, stale
<i>buigh</i>	<i>buighey</i>	yellow	<i>jeean</i>	<i>jeaney</i>	keen
<i>cam</i>	<i>cammey</i>	crooked	<i>jesh</i>	<i>jeshey</i>	right, nice
<i>çhing</i>	<i>çhingey</i>	ill	<i>jiarg</i>	<i>jiargey</i>	red
<i>çhirrym</i>	<i>çhirmey</i>	dry	<i>jooigh</i>	<i>jooighey</i>	greedy
<i>cooie</i>	<i>cooieey</i>	suitable, apt	<i>keeir</i>	<i>keeirey</i>	dark grey, sable
<i>coon</i>	<i>cooney</i>	narrow	<i>keoie</i>	<i>keoiey</i>	mad
<i>corrym</i>	<i>cormey</i>	equal, level	<i>keyl</i>	<i>keylley</i>	slender, slim
<i>dewil</i>	<i>dewiley</i>	cruel	<i>kiart</i>	<i>kiartey</i>	right, even
<i>deyr</i>	<i>deyrey</i>	dear	~ <i>cairt</i>	~ <i>cairtey</i>	
<i>dhone</i>	<i>dhoaney</i>	brown	<i>kiune</i>	<i>kiuney</i>	calm
<i>doal</i>	<i>doaley</i>	blind	<i>lhag</i>	<i>laggey</i>	loose
<i>doo</i>	<i>dooyey</i>	black	<i>loam</i> ~	<i>loamey</i>	bare
<i>feayn</i>	<i>feayney</i>	wide	<i>lhome</i>		

⁵ I am here taking *çhirrym*, *corrym*, *follym*, *gorrym*, and *dewil* as monosyllabic; NB. spelling of the comparatives *çhirmey*, *cormey*.

Adj.	Comp. in -ey		Adj.	Comp. in -ey	
<i>loau</i>	<i>loauey</i>	rotten	<i>runt</i>	<i>runtey</i>	round
<i>meein</i>	<i>meeiney</i>	fine, soft	<i>ruy</i>	<i>ruyey</i>	red-haired
<i>meen</i>	<i>meeney</i>	dear, patient	<i>sheelt</i>	<i>sheeltey</i>	sober
<i>meiygh</i>	<i>meiyghey</i>	tender, sentimental	<i>skeoigh</i>	<i>skeoighey</i>	neat, snug
			~ <i>schoigh</i>	~ <i>schoighey</i>	
<i>merg</i>	<i>mergey</i>	woeful	<i>stark</i>	<i>starkey</i>	stiff
<i>mow</i>	<i>mowey</i>	waste, destroyed	<i>stuitt</i>	<i>stuittey</i>	trim; stout
<i>myn</i>	<i>myney</i>	tiny	<i>tash</i>	<i>tashey</i>	damp
<i>oor</i>	<i>oorey</i>	fresh	<i>trean</i>	<i>treaney</i>	heroic, valiant
<i>ouyr</i>	<i>ouyrey</i>	dun-coloured	<i>treoghe</i>	<i>treoghey</i>	orphaned, widowed
<i>rank</i>	<i>rankey</i>	luxuriant			
<i>reen</i>	<i>reeney</i>	tough			

In Cregeen, in addition, 24 polysyllabic adjectives have an inflected comparative in *-ey*, as displayed in the table following.

Adj.	Comp. in -ey		Adj.	Comp. in -ey	
<i>aghtal</i>	<i>aghtaley</i>	clever	<i>gloyroil</i>	<i>gloyroiley</i>	glorious
<i>anchasherick</i>	<i>anchasherickey</i>	profane	<i>graihoil</i>	<i>graihoiley</i>	lovely
<i>annoon</i>	<i>annooney</i>	feeble	<i>graysoil</i>	<i>graysoiley</i>	graceful
<i>baasoil</i>	<i>baasoiley</i>	fatal	<i>kenjal</i>	<i>kenjaley</i>	kind
<i>breeoil</i>	<i>breeoiley</i>	dynamic	<i>khyrloghe</i>	<i>khyrloghey</i>	infirm
<i>casherick</i>	<i>casherickey</i>	holy	<i>loghtal</i>	<i>loghtaley</i>	severe
<i>ennoil</i>	<i>ennoiley</i>	endearing, popular	<i>lowal</i>	<i>lowaley</i>	permissible
<i>femoil</i>	<i>femoiley</i>	necessary	<i>mhenoyr</i>	<i>mhenoyrey</i>	mellow, rich
<i>feoilt</i>	<i>feoiltey</i>	generous	<i>skibbylt</i>	<i>skibbyltey</i>	nimble
<i>flaaoil</i>	<i>flaaoiley</i>	fluent	<i>slayntoil</i>	<i>slayntoiley</i>	healthy
~ <i>floaoil</i>	~ <i>floaoiley</i>		<i>sollys</i>	<i>sollysey</i>	bright
<i>foayroil</i>	<i>foayroiley</i>	favourable	<i>tramman</i>	<i>trammaney</i>	entangled
			<i>trochoil</i>	<i>trochoiley</i>	lenient

Two adjectives ending in *-agh* have comparatives in *-ey*, rather than the expected *-ee*:

Adj. in -agh	Comp. in -ey	
<i>laaghagh</i>	<i>laaghey</i>	muddy
<i>troshagh</i>	<i>troshey</i>	strong

A very few adjectives with two syllables may lose the vowel of the second syllable in the comparative before *-ey* ('syncope'). There are some other changes, of spelling, at least.

Adj.	Comp. in -ey (syncopated)		Adj.	Comp. in -ey (syncopated)	
<i>anvennick</i>	<i>anvenkey</i>	infrequent	<i>mennick</i>	<i>menkey</i> ~	frequent
<i>gerrid</i>	<i>gerjey</i>	soon, (recent)		<i>mennickey</i>	
<i>injil</i>	<i>inshley</i> ~ <i>injilley</i>	low	<i>millish</i>	<i>miljey</i>	sweet

Finally, among the adjectives with comparatives in *-ey*, Cregeen gives the following with some stem irregularity, vowel change, other changes of a related stem, and those with an unrelated (suppletive) stem in the comparative.

Adj.	Comp. -ey with vowel change		Adj.	Comp. -ey with vowel change	
<i>ard</i>	<i>yrjey</i>	high	<i>dowin</i>	<i>diuney</i>	deep
<i>bog</i>	<i>buiggey</i>	soft	<i>gial</i>	<i>gilley</i>	bright
<i>çhionn</i>	<i>çhenney</i>	stiff, tight	<i>giare</i>	<i>girrey</i>	short

Adj.	Comp. -ey with vowel change		Adj.	Comp. -ey (irregular)	
<i>liauyr</i>	<i>lhiurey</i>	long	<i>aalin</i>	<i>aaley</i>	beautiful
<i>moal</i>	<i>melley</i>	slow,	<i>aashagh</i>	<i>assey</i>	easy
<i>roauyr</i>	<i>riurey</i>	poor	Adj.	Comp. -ey (suppletive stem)	
		thick,	<i>faggys</i>	<i>(s)niessey</i>	near
<i>shenn</i>	<i>shinney</i>	plump	<i>foddey</i>	<i>(s)odjey</i>	far
<i>thanney</i>	<i>theinney</i>	old	<i>lajer</i>	<i>(s)troshey</i>	strong
<i>trome</i>	<i>trimmey</i>	thin	<i>olk</i>	<i>(s)messey</i>	bad
		heavy			

Examples from the Bible, 2. Comparative inflected adjectives in -ey in explicit comparative constructions (with a standard of comparison)

<i>va e ghoan ny shliawney na ooil</i>	his words were smoother than oil
<i>va ny Nazariteyn eck ny s'glenney na sniaghtey</i>	her Nazarites were purer than snow
<i>v'ad ny s'melley na joan ny hooirrey</i>	they were viler than the earth
<i>ta'n towse echey ny s'lhiurey na'n thalloo,</i>	the measure thereof is longer than the earth,
<i>as ny shlea na'n aarkey</i>	and broader than the sea
<i>ren oo eh red beg s'inshley⁶ na ny ainleyn</i>	thou madest him a little lower than the angels
<i>ta my cherraghey ny s'trimmey na oddym</i>	my punishment is greater than I can bear
<i>gymmyrkey</i>	

Inflected comparative adjectives without suffix, according to Cregeen

Last among the inflected comparatives come those with stem changes (including some suppletive stems) but no suffix:

Adj.	Comparative		Adj.	Comparative	
<i>aeg</i>	<i>(s)aa</i>	young	<i>garroo</i>	<i>girroo</i>	rough
<i>çeh</i>	<i>çhoe</i>	hot	<i>sharroo</i>	<i>shirroo</i>	bitter
<i>çhiu</i>	<i>çhee</i> , pl. <i>çheey</i>	thick	<i>beg</i>	<i>(s)loo</i>	small
<i>leah</i>	<i>leaie</i>	early, soon	<i>mie</i>	<i>share</i>	good
<i>lhean</i>	<i>lhea (shlea)</i>	wide	<i>mooar</i>	<i>(s)moo</i>	big
<i>pooaragh</i>	<i>pooaral</i>	powerful	<i>ymmodee</i>	<i>shlee</i>	many

Examples from the Bible, 3. Comparative inflected adjectives with stem changes but no suffix, in explicit comparative constructions (with a standard of comparison):

<i>t'ou uss foddey s'pooaral⁷ na shinyn</i>	thou art much mightier than we
<i>bee e vraar saa ny s'pooaral na eshyn</i>	his younger brother shall be greater than he

⁶ In this predicate construction one might have expected ...*red beg ny s'inshley na...* (but see next footnote)

⁷ In the predicate construction, one might expect ...*ny s'pooaral na...* But there are several other cases in the Bible where *ny* is absent when *foddey* is present: *as bee mairagh myr y laa jiu*, *as foddey s'rouanee* 'and to morrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant'; *as bee yn chiarroo foddey s'berchee na ad ooillee* 'and the fourth shall be far richer than they all'; *nagh vel shiuish foddey share na adsyn?* 'are ye not much better than they?'; *as ta graih jeean e chree huiish foddey s'troshey* 'and his inward affection is more abundant toward you', etc. And, in fact, there are no cases in the Bible of *foddey ny* + comparative, so it appears to be a rule of Classical Manx grammar that *ny* is omitted after *foddey* in comparative constructions. Does this rule extend to other degree modifiers of comparatives? Yes, it does. So *red beg* 'a little' is not followed by *ny* (otherwise expected): *tra v'eh er n'gholl red beg sodjey veih shen* 'when he had gone a little farther thence', etc. And *cre-woad sassey te eisht...?* 'how much rather [lit. 'easier is it'] then...?' *cre-woad share ta'n billey-feeyney na billey erbee elley?* 'what is the

*as hooar mee ny shirroo na 'n baase yn ven ta 'n
cree eck ribbaghyn as lieenteenyn
bee my vair veg ny s'chee na slheesid my ayrey
ta 'n towse echey ny s'liurey na 'n thalloo, as ny
shlea na 'n aarkey
cha der y berchagh ny smoo, ny 'n boght ny sloo
na lieh shekel,
t'ad ny shlee na renaigyn my ching*

and I find more bitter than death the woman,
whose heart is snares and nets
my little finger shall be thicker than my
father's loins
the measure thereof is longer than the earth,
and broader than the sea.
the rich shall not give more, and the poor shall
not give less than half a shekel
they are more than the hairs of my head

Examples from the Bible, 4. Inflected comparatives in 'inexplicit' comparative constructions (without standard)

*er-lhimmey jeh 'n boanlagh s'boghtey jeh
phobble ny cheerey
as bee towse s'feoiltey er ny choyrt da
va 'n chiamyr s'inshley queig cubityn er lheed
yn raad sassey dy chosney stiagh 'syn ard-
valley
as v'ad wheesh shen s'chenney er
lurg yn aght s'chenney jeh 'n chredjue ain
ronsaghey magh eer folliaghtyn s'diuney yn
chree
ayns ardjyn s'diuney y thalloon
as hug Abel lesh myrgeedyn jeh toshiaght e
hioltane, as y chooid s'riurey
as nee yn fer shinney shirveish yn fer saa
shen-y-fa ta kerraghey strimmey nyn gour
derrey nagh bee 'n chlagh sloo faagit
nagh der mayd eisht foddey sleaie biallys da Ayr
ny spyrrydyn? [adverbial, but no ny after
foddey]
cha row yn focle **ny** sleaie ass beeal y ree nagh
choodee ad eddin Haman [ny because adverbial]
lhig dasyn ren geid, gyn geid arragh; agh **ny**
sleaie lhig da laboragh [ny because adverbial]
as loayr ad **ny** s'jeeaney lesh ard-choraaghyn
[ny because adverbial]
nish va ny shamyryn syrjey **ny** s'cooney [ny
marks the predicate]
as ren cloan Israel shen, as haggil paart **ny**
smoo, as paart **ny** sloo [ny because adverbial]
as my sloo ta ny bleeantyn, my sloo vees y
phrice*

save the poorest sort of the people of the land
and he shall have more abundance
The nethermost chamber was five cubits broad
the entrance into the city
and they were the more fierce
after the most straitest sect of our religion
searching all the inward parts of the belly
in the nether parts of the earth
and Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his
flock and of the fat thereof
and the elder shall serve the younger
ye shall receive the greater damnation
until there be not one small stone found there
[lit. 'until there is not the smallest stone left']
shall we not much rather be in subjection unto
the Father of spirits?
as the word went out of king's mouth, they
covered Haman's face [lit. 'no sooner was the
word out of the king's mouth...']
let him that stole steal no more: but rather let
him labour
and they were instant with loud voices
now the upper chambers were shorter
and the children of Israel did so, and gathered,
some more, some less
and according to the fewness of years thou shalt
diminish the price of it. [lit. 'the less the years,
the less will be the price']

vine tree more than any tree? [lit. 'how much better...?']; *as nagh vel eh veg s'diuney na 'n chrackan* 'and it be no lower than the other skin', *ny edyr shin gyn gee, cha vel shin veg smessey* 'neither, if we eat not, are we the worse' [lit. 'or either we without eating, we are not any the worse']; *jean uss eh red ennagh s'eddrym dooin* 'make thou it somewhat lighter for us'.

In 73 cases, Cregeen specifically mentions a comparative form that is identical to the positive adjective. This includes 12 where the positive stem ends in *-ey* anyway (such as *maynrey* ‘happy’, comp. *maynrey*).

Positive Adj.	Comp. = positive		Positive Adj.	Comp. = positive	
<i>aarloo</i>	<i>aarloo</i>	ready	<i>garg</i>	<i>garg</i>	bitter
<i>anchasley</i>	<i>anchasley</i>	different	<i>gastey</i>	<i>gastey</i>	agile
<i>anvio</i>	<i>anvio</i>	inanimate, extinct	<i>geayney</i>	<i>geayney</i>	green
<i>appee</i>	<i>appee</i>	ripe	<i>gennal</i>	<i>gennal</i>	merry, glad
<i>baghtal</i>	<i>baghtal</i>	obvious	<i>gennish</i>	<i>gennish</i>	barren
<i>balloo</i>	<i>balloo</i>	dumb	<i>glib</i>	<i>glib</i>	glib
<i>bannee</i>	<i>bannee</i>	blessed	<i>graney</i>	<i>graney</i>	ugly
<i>beeit</i>	<i>beeit</i>	fed, plump	<i>imlee</i>	<i>imlee</i>	humble
<i>bieau</i>	<i>bieau</i>	quick	<i>lauee</i>	<i>lauee</i>	handy
<i>bioal</i>	<i>bioal</i>	lively	<i>lheeah</i>	<i>lheeah</i>	grey
<i>biooil</i>	<i>biooil</i>	lively	<i>lhiastey</i>	<i>lhiastey</i>	lazy, reluctant
<i>bla(y)stal</i>	<i>bla(y)stal</i>	tasty, savoury	<i>lickly</i>	<i>lickly</i>	likely
<i>boggoil</i>	<i>boggoil</i>	joyful	<i>marroo</i>	<i>marroo</i>	dead
<i>broie</i>	<i>broie</i>	boiled	<i>maynrey</i>	<i>maynrey</i>	happy
<i>cliaghtal</i>	<i>cliaghtal</i>	habitual, (complacent ?)	<i>mea</i>	<i>mea</i>	fat
<i>coayr</i>	<i>coir ~ coyr</i>	odd	<i>messoil</i>	<i>messoil</i>	fruitful
<i>corree</i>	<i>corree</i>	angry	<i>moghey</i>	<i>moghey</i>	early
<i>crauee</i>	<i>crauee</i>	devout	<i>niartal</i>	<i>niartal</i>	powerful
<i>creen</i>	<i>creen</i>	ripe, dried up	<i>noa</i>	<i>noa</i>	new
<i>creeney</i>	<i>creeney</i>	wise	<i>oney</i>	<i>oney</i>	innocent
<i>creeoil</i>	<i>creeoil</i>	heartly	<i>onnooil</i>	<i>onnooil</i>	honourable
<i>creoï</i>	<i>creoï</i>	hard	<i>ooasle</i>	<i>ooasle</i>	noble
<i>creoidey</i>	<i>creoidey</i>	hardy	<i>paa</i>	<i>paa</i>	thirsty
<i>cronnal</i>	<i>cronnal</i>	conspicuous, notable	<i>paittoil</i>	<i>paittoil</i>	pestilent
<i>croym</i>	<i>croym</i>	bent	<i>palçhey</i>	<i>palçhey</i>	abundant
<i>doillee</i>	<i>doillee</i>	difficult	<i>peccoil</i>	<i>peccoil</i>	sinful
<i>doogh</i>	<i>doogh</i>	bad	<i>rank</i>	<i>rank</i>	luxuriant
<i>dooie</i>	<i>dooie</i>	good-natured, natural	<i>rea</i>	<i>rea</i>	level
<i>dooishtit</i>	<i>dooishtit</i>	awakened	<i>reeoil</i>	<i>reeoil</i>	regal, royal
<i>dree</i>	<i>dree</i>	boring	<i>sharroo</i>	<i>sharroo</i>	bitter
<i>dunnal</i>	<i>dunnal</i> ⁸	bold	<i>sheeoil</i>	<i>sheeoil</i>	peaceful
<i>ejjee</i>	<i>ejjee</i>	odious, abominable	<i>soo-oil</i>	<i>soo-oil</i>	juicy
<i>eddrym</i>	<i>eddrym</i>	light	<i>spyrrydoil</i>	<i>spyrrydoil</i>	spiritual
<i>foalsey</i>	<i>foalsey</i> (<i>s'oalsey</i>)	false	<i>tarroogh</i>	<i>tarroogh</i>	busy
<i>follan</i>	<i>follan</i>	sound, edible	<i>tessen</i>	<i>tessen</i>	diagonal, transverse
			<i>treih</i>	<i>treih</i>	pitiful, pale
			<i>warree</i>	<i>warree</i>	witty
			<i>ynrick</i>	<i>ynrick</i>	upright, genuine

⁸ Bible has comp. *dunnallee* x1

Examples from the Bible, 5. Uninflected adjectives in comparative constructions, with explicit standard

as v'eh ny s'ooasle na ooilley thie e ayrey

and he was more honourable than all the house of his father

dy jean Jee ennym Solomon ny s'ooasle na dty ennym's

God make the name of Solomon better than thy name,

t'ee er ve ny s'cairal na mish

she hath been more righteous than I

dy vod prowal nyn gredjue ta foddey s'costal na airh

that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold

ta'n sleih ny s'troshey, as ny s'toallee na shinyn; veih e gheayltyltn seose v'eh ny s'thollee na veg jeh'n pobble

the people is greater and taller than we from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people

ashoonyn ny smoo, as ny s'niartal na shiu hene nagh vel e shuyr saa ny s'aalin na ish? [NB not aaley]

greater nations and mightier than yourselves is not her younger sister fairer than she?

T'ou ny s'aalin na cloan gheiney [NB not aaley] cha row mastey cloan Israel persoon ny stoamey na eh

thou art fairer than the children of men there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he

ren David gymmyrkey eh hene ny s'dunnal na ooilley sharvaantyn Saul

David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul

v'ad ny s'bieau na urlee

they were swifter than eagles

ta my laghyn ny s'bieau na spaal fidderagh

my days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle

v'eh ny s'creeney na dooinney erbee

he was wiser than all men

vod dooinney ve ny s'ynrick na e Er-croo?

shall a man be more pure than his maker?

ta my laghyn ny s'taptee na post

my days are swifter than a post

bee'n eill echey ny s'meiygh na feill lhiannoo [NB not meiyghey]

his flesh shall be fresher than a child's

t'ad ooilley-cooidjagh ny s'eddrym na fardailys hene

they are altogether lighter than vanity itself.

t'ee ny s'costal na rubieyn

she is more precious than rubies

neem's dooinney dy ve ny s'costal na airh ghlen

I will make a man more precious than fine gold

ta braar, as corree er, ny s'doillee dy ve cosnit na ard-valley lajer

A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city

va e eddin jeant ny s'eajee na eddin dooinney erbee

his visage was so marred more than any man

ta mee ny s'casherickey na uss [NB not casherickey]

I am holier than thou

v'ad ny sollys na'n sapphire [NB not sollysey]

[their polishing was of sapphire]

as dty lurg's hroggy's reeriaght elley ny s'faase na uss

and after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee

lesh shilley s'daaney na e heshaghyn

whose look was more stout than his fellows

va mee ny s'maynrey mârishyn, na ta mee nish

then was it better with me than now [lit. I was happier with him...]

te ny s'bannee dy choyrt na dy ghoaill

it is more blessed to give than to receive

Uninflected comparatives without explicit standard

as foast ta mee jeeaghyn diu raad foddey s'ooasle

and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way

as ta ymmoddey jeh ny braaraghyn ayns y Chiarn

and many of the brethren in the Lord ...

... foddey s'creeoil dy loayrt yn goo fegooish aggle

are much more bold to speak the word without fear

as te foddey s'cronnal

and it is yet far more evident

<i>t'ee cur eam veih ynnydyn s'cronnal yn ardvally</i>	she crieth upon the highest places of the city
<i>t'eh er lhieeney e volg lesh my vee s'blaystal</i>	he hath filled his belly with my delicates [lit. 'my tastiest food']
<i>ynsee dooinney creeney, as bee eh foast ny s'creeney</i>	give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser
<i>Jean y whing hug dty ayr orrin ny s'eddrym</i>	make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter
<i>jean uss eh red ennagh s'eddrym dooin agh t'ee ny s'maynrey ayns y smooingacht aym's, my reaillys ee myr t'ee</i>	make thou it somewhat lighter for us but she is happier if she so abide, after my judgment
<i>dy chooilley vanglane ta gymmyrkey mess, t'eh dy phollal, dy vod eh ve ny s'messoil</i>	every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit
<i>ta'n Chiarn, ta cummal er yn yrjid, ny s'niartal ta mish er-nyn-skyn: ayns tooilleilyn ny s'palchey</i>	the Lord, who dwelleth on high, is mightier I am more; in labours more abundant
<i>My she 'sy vea shoh ny-lomarcán ta nyn dreishteil ayns Creest, shinyn s'treih jeh ooilley sheelnaue</i>	If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable
<i>ynsit lurg agh s'ynrick leigh nyn shenn-ayryn</i>	taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers

The use of *smoo* in Biblical Manx

Though *smoo* is not used as an equivalent to 'more' in explicit comparative constructions such as 'more difficult than I expected', it can modify an adjective, in the sense 'very X', 'highly X', as in the following examples:

Smoo modifying an adjective

<i>smoo syrjey Bx31</i>	most high
<i>yn ynnyd smoo casherick Bx41</i>	the most holy place
<i>O uss smoo niartal</i>	O thou most mighty
<i>Yn Jee smoo niartal</i>	the most mighty God
<i>cabbane-agglish yn Jee smoo ard Bx13</i>	the tabernacle of the Most Highest
<i>rish ny raaidyn-mooarey smoo taaghit</i>	by the way in the places of the paths [the most frequented highways]
<i>ayns ynnydyn smoo taaghit yn ard-valley eisht va mee ayns ny sooillyn echey, myr e charrey smoo ennoil</i>	in the high places of the city then was I in his eyes as one that found favour
<i>t'ou uss, smoo ynrick, kiartaghey cassan yn vooinjer chairal.</i>	thou, most upright, dost weigh the path of the just
<i>va ny Hewnyn wheesh shen smoo shleeuit er cur dy baase eh</i>	the Jews sought the more to kill him [lit. 'were so much the more keen...']
<i>v'ad wheesh shen smoo nyn-dhost</i>	they kept the more silence
<i>kys nagh bee shirveish y spyryd ny smoo gloyroil?</i>	How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?
<i>dy vod shiu lowal jeh ny reddyn smoo ooasle son y tushtey smoo ooasle jeh Creest Yeesey my Hiarn</i>	That ye may approve things that are excellent for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord
<i>as dy chooilley horch dy hiyn fuygh smoo costal</i>	and all manner vessels of most precious wood

Smoo is also used in its original sense, as the comparative of *mooar*, i.e. ‘greater, larger’, attributively modifying a noun.

*yiow eshyn ta geddyn foill, booise smoo ny lurg,
na eshyn ta brynnerraght lesh e hengey*

*son quoi oddys ymyyd share y yannoo jeh, ny
soylley smoo y ghoaill jeh, na mish?*

ta leagh smoo oc son nyn obbyr

ta fea smoo ec y derrey yeh na 'n jeh elley

he that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more [lit. ‘greater’] favour than he that flattereth with the tongue

for who can eat [lit. ‘make better use of it’], or who else can hasten hereunto [lit. ‘or get greater enjoyment from it’], more than I?

they have a good [lit. ‘greater’] reward for their labour

this hath more [lit. ‘greater’] rest than the other

Appendix: further Biblical examples of ‘past tense comparatives’ with *by* or *b’*, which is followed by lenition type 1.

*baare lhiam currym y dorrys y ve orrym ayns
thie my Yee: na dy vaghey ayns cabbaneyn ny
mee-chrauee*

*veagh eh ny baare da dy beagh clagh-wyllin er
ve croghit mysh e wannal*

*baare dou baase y gheddyn na dooinney erbee
dy yannoo shoh my voggys dyn bree*

veagh eh ny bare dooin dy hirveish ny

*Egyptianee, n[a] dooin dy gheddyn baase 'syn
aasagh*

*as hoie ad kiongoyrt rish, yn fer by-hinney,
cordail rish e eash*

*as ronsee eh, as ghow eh toshiaght, ec yn er by-
hinney, as daag eh jeh ec yn er saa [by-hinney
x8 in Bib, all = ‘firstborn’. NB coordinated with
‘present’ comparative *saa* here.]*

*as hug ad orroo aanrit-sack veih 'n vooinjier
b'yrjey jeu, dy jarroo gys yn vooinjier b'inshley
jeu*

*yn vooinjier b'yrjey as by-niartal ayns
cummallyn Ham*

*ooilley shanstyr yn ard-valley shen by niessey
da 'n varroo [many examples of *by niessey* in
Bib.]*

*as va 'n kione b'odjey magh jeh ec Jordan
hilg eh ad ayns y phryssoon b'odjey stiagh
haink jymmoose trome Yee orroo as varr eh yn
vooinjier by-verchee jeu*

*As ayns y vasket b'yrjey, va jeh dy chooilley
vonney dy vee broit*

*yn Tachmonite, yn er b'yrjey soit jeh mastey ny
captanyn*

*hrog eh yn giat b'yrjey jeh thie yn Chiarn
son ta mee goaill orrym nagh row mee veg
ergooyl ny eer ostyllyn b'yrjey*

I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God: than to dwell in the tents of ungodliness

it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck

it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void

it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness

and they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright

and he searched, and began at the eldest, and left at the youngest

and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them

the most principal and mightiest in the dwellings of Ham

all the elders of that city, that are next unto the slain man

and the outgoings thereof were at Jordan

[he] thrust them into the inner prison

the heavy wrath of God came upon them, and slew the wealthiest of them

And in the uppermost basket there was of all manner of bakemeats

the Tachmonite that sat in the seat, chief among the captains

he built the higher gate of the house of the Lord For I suppose I was not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles.

Adjectives with inflected plural in Cregeen. Bx = number of occurrences in the Manx Bible.⁹

Adj.	Adj. pl.		<i>jiarg</i>	<i>jiargey</i>	red
<i>aeg</i>	<i>aegey</i> Bx142	young	<i>jooigh</i>	<i>jooighey</i>	greedy
<i>ard</i>	<i>ardey</i> Bx10	high	<i>keyl</i>	<i>keyley</i>	slender, slim
<i>baasoil</i>	<i>baasoiley</i>	fatal	<i>khyrloghe</i>	<i>khyrloghey</i>	infirm
<i>bane</i>	<i>baney</i> Bx8	white	<i>kiart</i>	<i>kiartey</i>	right, even
<i>barb</i>	<i>barbey</i>	sharp	~ <i>cairt</i>	~ <i>cairtey</i>	
<i>beg</i>	<i>beggey</i> Bx98	small	<i>lajer</i>	<i>lajerey</i>	strong
<i>bing</i>	<i>bingey</i> Bx2	tuneful	<i>lane</i>	<i>laney</i>	full
<i>bioyr</i>	<i>bioyre</i>	brisk, animated	<i>leoaie</i>	<i>leoaiey</i>	leaden
<i>bouyr</i>	<i>bouyre</i>	deaf	<i>lhean</i>	<i>lheaney</i> Bx6	wide
<i>braew</i>	<i>braewey</i>	fine	<i>liauyr</i>	<i>liauyrey</i> Bx6	long
<i>breck</i>	<i>breckey</i> Bx1	spotted	<i>loam</i>	<i>loamey</i>	bare
<i>breen</i>	<i>breeney</i>	sultry	~ <i>lhome</i>		
<i>breinn</i>	<i>breinney</i>	stinking	<i>loau</i>	<i>loauyey</i>	rotten
<i>broie</i>	<i>broiey</i>	boiled	<i>meein</i>	<i>meeiney</i>	fine, soft
<i>broigh</i>	<i>broighey</i>	dirty	<i>meen</i>	<i>meeney</i> Bx1	dear, patient
<i>buigh</i>	<i>buighey</i>	yellow	<i>mhenoyr</i>	<i>mhenoyrey</i>	mellow, rich
<i>bwaagh</i>	<i>bwaaghey</i>	handsome	<i>mhollim</i>	<i>mhollimey</i>	crumbly
<i>cam</i>	<i>cammey</i> Bx8	crooked	<i>mie</i>	<i>mieey</i>	good
<i>çhing</i>	<i>çhingey</i> Bx12	ill	<i>millish</i>	<i>miljey</i> ¹² Bx5	sweet
<i>çhionn</i>	<i>çhionney</i>	stiff, tight	<i>moal</i>	<i>moalley</i>	slow, poor
<i>çhyrrym</i>	<i>çhyrme</i> Bx1	dry		~ <i>moaldey</i> Bx1	
<i>coon</i>	<i>cooney</i>	narrow	<i>mooar</i>	<i>mooarey</i> Bx136	big
<i>creen</i>	<i>creeney</i>	ripe, dried up	<i>myn</i>	<i>myney</i>	tiny
<i>dewil</i>	<i>dewiley</i> Bx1	cruel	<i>noa</i>	<i>noaey</i>	new
<i>deyr</i>	<i>deyre</i>	dear	<i>olk</i>	<i>olkey</i>	bad
<i>dhone</i>	<i>dhoaney</i>	brown	<i>ooasle</i>	<i>ooasley</i>	noble
	<i>dhonney</i>	unfortunate	<i>oor</i>	<i>oorey</i> Bx1	fresh
<i>doal</i>	<i>doaley</i>	blind	<i>reen</i>	<i>reeney</i>	tough
<i>doo</i>	<i>dooyey</i>	black	<i>roauyr</i>	<i>roauyre</i> Bx7	thick, plump
<i>doogh</i>	<i>dooghey</i>	bad	<i>rooisht</i>	<i>rooishtey</i>	naked
<i>dooisht</i>	<i>dooishtey</i>	awake	<i>runt</i>	<i>runtey</i>	round
<i>downin</i>	<i>dowiney</i> Bx12	deep	<i>ruy</i>	<i>ruyey</i>	red-haired
<i>dunnal</i>	<i>dunnalley</i> ¹⁰	bold	<i>seyr</i>	<i>seyrey</i> Bx3	free
<i>feayr</i>	<i>feayrey</i>	cold	<i>shang</i>	<i>shangey</i>	lean
<i>follym</i>	<i>folmey</i>	empty	<i>sheelt</i>	<i>sheeltey</i>	sober
<i>foyin</i>	<i>foiney</i>	fine	<i>shiast</i>	<i>shiastey</i>	barren, dry
<i>frogh</i>	<i>froghey</i>	perished	<i>shicky</i>	<i>shickyrey</i>	sure
<i>garg</i>	<i>gargey</i>	bitter	<i>shliawin</i>	<i>shliawiney</i>	slippery
<i>geayr</i> ~	<i>geayrey</i>	sour, sharp	<i>sie</i>	<i>siey</i>	bad
<i>gyere</i>	~ <i>gyerey</i> Bx2		<i>skee</i>	<i>skeey</i>	tired
<i>gial</i>	<i>gialley</i>	bright	<i>slane</i>	<i>slaney</i>	whole
<i>giare</i>	<i>giarey</i>	short	<i>sooeegh</i>	<i>sooeey</i> (sic)	sooty
<i>glass</i>	<i>glassey</i> Bx5	green	<i>soor</i>	<i>soorey</i>	sour
<i>glen</i>	<i>glenney</i> ¹¹	clean	<i>stark</i>	<i>starkey</i>	stiff
<i>goan</i>	<i>gonney</i> Bx2	rare	<i>stuitt</i>	<i>stuittey</i>	trim; stout
<i>gorrym</i>	<i>gormey</i>	blue	<i>tramylt</i>	<i>tramyltey</i>	sturdy
<i>jesh</i>	<i>jeshey</i>	right, nice	<i>trean</i>	<i>treaney</i>	heroic, valiant
			<i>trome</i>	<i>trome</i> Bx3	heavy

⁹ Not all items have been checked for Bible frequency; some, e.g. *cooney*, *deyre*, are homonymous with unrelated words of a different category, and would need to be identified manually.

¹⁰ Bible has *deiney dunnal* x15.

¹¹ Bib. *ny beiy glen*, *eeanlee glen*, *laueyn glen*.

¹² A rare example where the stem of the plural adjective is not the same as that of the singular positive adjective, but rather is the same as that of the comparative adjective.