

# Notes on the history of suffixation in -ize: The historical competition between -ize and -ify

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# Notes on the history of suffixation in *-ize*:

## The historical competition between *-ize* and *-ify*

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### Final-stressed disyllabic adjectives

Bauer (1983: 222) and Lieber (1998, 2010)

(1) no trace of deadjectival verbs from:

*ab'rupt*, *ab'struse*, *ab'surd*, *ar'cane*, *au'gust*, *con'cise*, *co'rrupt*, *dī'ffuse*,  
*dis'creet*, *ī'mmense*, *na'ive*, *o'paque*, *pī'quant*, *po'lite*, *pre'cise*, *pro'found*,  
*re'verse*, *ro'bust*, *se'vere*, *sin'cere*, *su'perb*, *su'preme*

(2) those few that do take a suffix fall into 2 groups:

if final  $\sigma$  has  $C_1C_2 > -ify$

*in'tense* – *in'tensify* (1817)  
*dī'verse* – *dī'versify* (1490)  
*dis'tinct* – *dis'tinctify*  
 (only citation is from 1877)

if final  $\sigma$   $\bar{V}+C > -ize$

but stress shifts to ' $\sigma\sigma+ize$

*dī'vine* – '*divinize* (1656)  
*ī'mmune* – '*immunize* (1889)  
*sub'lime* – '*sublimize* (1729)  
*ma'rine* – '*marinize* (1962)  
*pro'fane* – '*profanize* (1876)  
*se'rene* – '*serenize* (1598, rare in OED)

- > there *is* a (faint) pattern among these verbs
- > what if the adjective gets final stress independently from the *-ize* verb?

### Adjectives in *-id* often take *-ify*

(3a) *-ify*: *a'cidify* (1783), *so'lidify* (1799), *reso'lidify* (1825), *sto'lidify* (1827)  
*rī'gidify* (1829), *flu'idify* (1851), *disa'cidify* (1864), *hu'midify*  
 (1885), *ran'cidify* (1908), *a'ridify* (1920), *dehu'midify* (1932)

(3b) *-ize*: '*liquidize* (1837), '*squalidize* (1837), '*hybridize* (1845), '*morbidity*  
 (1850), '*acidize* (1852), '*fluidize* (1855), '*rigidize* (1858), '*viscidize*  
 (1859), '*frigidize* (1868), *re'hybridize* (1894)

(4) there are doublets: *a'cidify* (1783) – '*acidize* (1852)  
*flu'idify* (1851) – '*fluidize* (1855)  
*rī'gidify* (1829) – '*rigidize* (1858)

- > for all doublets: *-ify* form antedates *-ize* form
- > temporary uptick in *-ize* around the 1850s, but *-ify* forms predominate
- > *-id* adjectives are logically expected to take *-ize*
- > *-ify* shifts stress with respect to base Adj, while *-ize* does not

### Very rare bases in an $NC_{obs}C_{obs}$ cluster

(5) *sanctify* (attested since 1390) besides  
*sanctize* (1691, recorded in one citation)

*sanctize* was the only verb with a bound and monosyllabic base in an  
 $NC_{obs}C_{obs}$  cluster with *-ize*

*-ify* has *distinctify* and *sumptify* (nonce, in a gloss from 1656)

