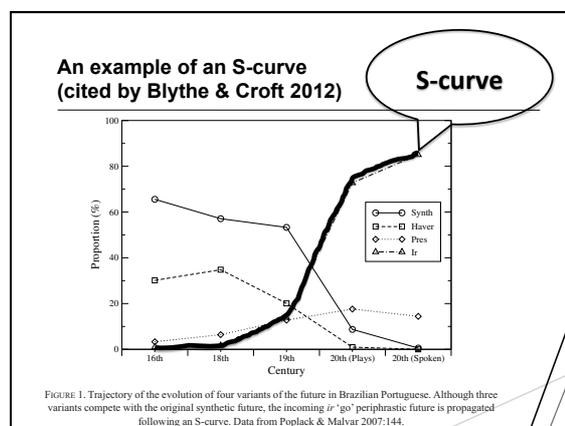


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Co se děje v češtině? Workshop on variation and change in Czech

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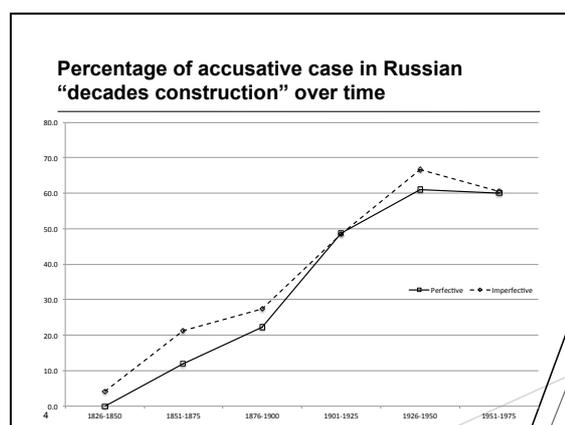
Corpus investigations of competing constructions

In Russian there are two constructions to express that something happened in a given decade 'in the twenties':

- with the Accusative case: *v dvacatyx gody*
- with the Locative case: *v dvacatyx godax*

Nesset and Makarova have discovered that there has been a language change, and the accusative case is now the norm

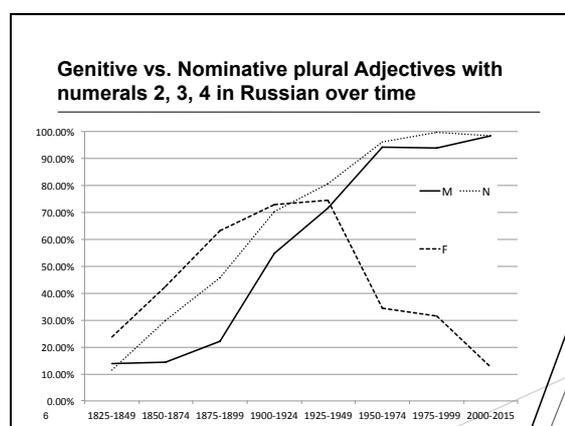
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Corpus investigations of competing constructions

- In Russian, there are two constructions for expressing 2, 3, or 4 things modified by an adjective:
 - with the adjective in the genitive plural and the noun in the paucal
 - *tri malen'kix stolika* 'three little tables'
 - with the adjective in the nominative plural and the noun in the paucal
 - *tri malen'kie stolika* 'three little tables'
- Most textbooks teach only the genitive plural construction
- But Nesset and Nordrum have discovered that there is a language change going on and that gender is becoming the deciding factor, with masculine and neuter nouns preferring the genitive construction and feminine nouns preferring the accusative construction

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Experimental investigation of Constructions

Kuznetsova and Nessel (2015) did an experiment on the factors that decide between a genitive construction and an accusative construction for a group of verbs:

- *slušet'sja* 'obey', *doždat'sja* 'wait for', *bojat'sja* 'fear', *dostigat'* 'reach', *izbegat'* 'avoid'

Corpus data give evidence of a language change (genitive > accusative) and of significant factors relating to individuation of the direct object

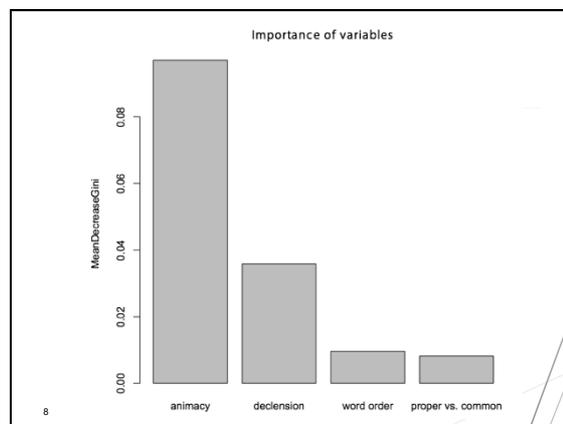
An experiment made it possible to sort out the contributions of various factors

The experiment also showed that declension was an important factor:

III declension nouns are dispreferred in the accusative construction

For example, participants avoided the accusative construction with the III declension proper name *Ljubov'* (only 8% acceptance), whereas accusative is preferred for II declension names *Ol'ga*, *Nina*

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Our task today:

Select ongoing change or variation in Czech, for example:

- *učit se čemu* >> *učit se co*
- Loc sg –ě vs. –u
- Gen sg –a vs. –u
- 3pl verbs –í vs. –ějí
- *jezdí autem* vs. *jezdí s autem*
- *dívat se oknem* vs. *dívat se skrz okno*
- *jít ulicí* vs. *jít po ulici* vs. *jít podél ulice*
- so-called facultative animates like *dej si panáka, cigára*, *musíme koupit sejra, mám bavoráka, dám si turka*
- distributions of synonyms



Consider possible factors, what kind of data can be collected, what kind of analysis can be performed

Plan a publication

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