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

- with the Accusative case: v dvacet tyd
- with the Locative case: v dvacet y god

Nesset and Makarova have discovered that there has been a language change, and the accusative case is now the norm.
**Experimental investigation of Constructions**

Kuznetsova and Nesset (2015) did an experiment on the factors that decide between a genitive construction and an accusative construction for a group of verbs:  
– *slušat’sja* ‘obey’, *dožidat’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 *Oļa*, *Nina*.

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**Our task today:**

Select ongoing change or variation in Czech, for example:

- *užít se čemu >> užít se co*
- *Loc sg – či vs. – u*
- *Gen sg – a vs. – u*
- *3pl verbs – i vs. – ji*
- *jezdít autem vs. jízdít a autem*
- *dělat se oknem vs. dívat se skrz okno*
- *jít ulici vs. jít po ulici vs. jít podél ulice*
- *so-called facultative animates like dej si panáčku, cigára, musíme koupit sejra, mám bavoráka, dáám 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.