

## What happened to the s-genitive? The English genitive alternation in Modern English

This paper taps ARCHER (A Representative Corpus of Historical English Registers) to track the history of the time-honored competition between the s-genitive (as in the president's speech) and the of-genitive (as in the speech of the president) in British English news texts after 1650. A frequency analysis reveals that the relative frequency of the s-genitive dropped significantly around the beginning of the 19th century but recovered subsequently. This early-19th-century slump merits analytical attention. The study utilizes state-of-the-art variationist analysis methods (such as mixed-effects logistic regression) to uncover, first, those probabilistic conditioning factors -- animacy, thematicity, the principle of end weight, genitive relation, and so on -- most implicated in the overall variability. Second, besides probing changes in language users' probabilistic genitive choice grammars, the study is also going to explore the extent to which genre-internal dynamics (such as a trend towards longer noun phrase clusters) may predict genitive variability,