

A QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE INFLECTED AND THE PREPOSITIONAL GENITIVE IN PRESENT-DAY ENGLISH

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Abstract: *The aim of this study is two-fold. Firstly, it considers the factors that are instrumental in the choice of the inflected and the prepositional genitive in present-day English. Secondly, it aims to identify frequency-related trends regarding the use of the inflected genitive and prepositional genitive in AmE and BrE. The quantitative analysis is based on data collected from the Frown and FLOB corpora. The distribution of tokens according to semantic categories is similar in the two varieties examined. Animate modifier classes are more common with the inflected genitive, while inanimate classes are more common with the prepositional genitive. The article addresses two additional conditioning factors involved in the variation of the inflected and the prepositional genitive: the semantic relationship holding between the head and the modifier and the impact of the impact of the postmodifier.*

Keywords: *inflected genitive, prepositional, modifier classes, end-weight principle, postmodifier, British English, American English, Frown, FLOB*