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POSSESSIVE CASE IN ENGLISH: 's VS *of*

Bachelor's thesis

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PREFACE

English grammar, as one of the significant parts of the English language, represents the combination of two main branches of linguistics: morphology and syntax. The topic of the current research paper is the exploration of the essence of the possessive case that is related to the morphological level of the English language.

The first aim of the present Bachelor's thesis is to systematize the key points of the usage and formation of the possessive case presented by different specialists of the English language. The second aim is to make an analysis of the cases of usage of different forms of the possessive ('s and *of*) in the articles from the UK and the USA newspapers. The third aim is to conduct a comparative investigation between the theoretical background of the possessive forms ('s and *of*) and the practical cases of usage that are found in newspapers articles.

The paper consists of the Introduction, two core chapters and the Conclusion. The introductory part represents the growing relevance of English grammar and characterizes three main conceptions of it. In addition to that, this part gives a historical overview of the possession and its stages of development, which have experienced an extensive range of modifications beginning from the sufficiently complex structure of it in the period of Old English to conceptions of grammar that exist in Modern English. It also includes justification of the choice of the topic and presents the research aims.

The first chapter, which is the theoretical part of the current research paper, represents an overview of the key points of the usage and formation of the possessive case that are described by different English language specialists, including all of the present nuances that correlate with English grammar conceptions.

The second chapter, which is the empirical part of the thesis, provides an analysis of the usage of the possessive, found in some of the most popular British and American newspapers, which texts from such relevant topics as education, health, politics and science exemplify a wide range of instances of the use of the possessive case. Furthermore, this part provides the comparative analysis between the theoretical background of the possession ('s and *of*) that has been discussed in the first chapter and the practical cases of usage that are found in journalistic texts.

The Conclusion summarizes the main results of the theoretical background and the main points of the empirical research and comments on the hypothesis.

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INTRODUCTION

The English language is one of the most popular languages in the world and it is spoken in many countries by native and non-native speakers as well. It also taught as a foreign language in many European countries and it is an official language in 67 sovereign states and 27 non-sovereign entities (Central Intelligence Agency, 2015).

The English language represents a code that speakers use to convey different messages and it has certain distinctive levels of language representation, including primary disciplines, that are phonetics, morphology, syntax, lexicology, semantics, and secondary disciplines, that are pragmatics, stylistics, dialectology and others. Among these disciplines two traditional branches of linguistics: morphology, or the study of a word structure, where the base units are morphemes and syntax, or the study of a sentence structure, where the base units are phrases and clauses, represent the most relevant issues for the area of English grammar. But how exactly do these two primary disciplines have an influence on the structure of speech in the act of communication? In order to find a proper answer for this question we need to pay attention to three main components of grammar: form, meaning and function.

The notion of form correlates with such kind of aspects as inflectional and derivational elements of a word, or morphemes, stress, potential position of a part of speech in a sentence and substitution. The following table represents the examples of how all of these aspects find their practical realization in a morphological composition.

The concept of form in grammar	
1. Inflectinal morphemes	<i>e.g. play, plays, played, playing, etc.</i>
2. Detivational morphemes	<i>e.g. bak-er, scandal-ous, un-able, etc.</i>
3. Stress (emphasis)	<i>e.g. cómpact, compáct, etc.</i>
4. Potential position	Numeral adjectives occur before the descriptive adjectives, whereas the descriptive adjectives occur before the nouns, <i>e.g. three main points.</i>
5. Substitution	<i>e.g. the noun “the baker” may be replaced by the personal pronoun “he” or “she”.</i>

Table 1. The concept of form in grammar (Delahunty 2010: 82-83).

The notion of meaning correlates with the potential information that words, phrases or whole sentences encode inside during the act of communication and what kind of meaning carry each separate element of an expression and how all of these elements cooperate in a specific context. The following table represents the examples of how this element of grammar finds its practical realization in a lexical composition.

The concept of meaning in grammar	
1. The verb “to chew” may have different meanings depending on the context of a message and on aims of speakers who try to convey a certain meaning.	<i>I will chew on it. (the verb “to chew” means “to think” in this context)</i>
	<i>I am chewing the cud. (the verb “to chew” has its literal meaning in this context)</i>

Table 2. *The concept of meaning in grammar (Delahunty 2010: 86).*

The notion of function correlates with two main points, first of all, it represents relations between different pairs of parts of speech, including the verb, the noun, the adjective, the adverb and the intensifier, secondly, it represents relations between different parts of sentence that are classified into main parts that include the subject and the predicate, and secondary parts that include the object, the attribute, the apposition and the adverbial modifier (Kobrina 2003: 318). The following table represents the examples of how all of these relations find their practical realization in a syntactical composition.

The concept of function in grammar	
1. Adjective-Noun	<i>e.g. a beautiful woman, etc.</i>
2. Noun-Adjective	<i>e.g. something unusual, etc.</i>
3. Verb-Adverb	<i>e.g. to hit violently, etc.</i>
4. Adverb-Verb	<i>e.g. heavily wooded, etc.</i>
5. Intensifier-Adjective	<i>e. g. very dangerous, etc.</i>
6. Intensifier-Adverb	<i>e.g. very nearly, etc.</i>

Table 3. *The concept of function in grammar (relations between parts of speech) (Delahunty 2010: 83-85).*

The area of grammar represents a significant importance for either native or non-native speakers of the English language and can be characterized as a fixed structure that consists of an extensive collection of different rules, exceptions, nuances that could diversify the act of communication and allow an addresser to express the meanings of what s/he wants to convey

to the addressee. The influence of grammar covers such areas of communication as oral or written communication, translation practice, language acquisition and language learning practice, and the development of language competencies as well and that is why the investigation of the grammatical topic of the possession in English and its results could provide help for further researchers and for the English language learners.

The previous research works that are related to the topic of the possession represent various researches that are based on a comparative analysis of the genitive construction between the English and other languages, e.g. Arabic (Al-Shaer 2014). Also, similar previous researches are connected with the investigation of the typology of the possession that focused on the analysis of 37-language examples (Marlou van Rijn 2015). In addition to researches that are based on a comparative analysis of the representations of the possession, there are also other researches that are based on the exploration of genitive variations from historical texts, such as *Beowulf* (Anderson 2013; Trousdale 2008). Other types of previous researches in terms of the possession are related to structural characteristics of the possession and its hidden meaning that they transfer, and the comparative characteristics between the possessive forms of nouns and the possessive pronouns (Peters, Westerstahl 2013; Bernstein, Tortora 2004; Zribi-Hertz 1997).

In order to avoid further misunderstanding, it is necessary to emphasize that there is a bit difference between the notions of “possessive” and “genitive”. The notion of the possession is related to general conception of the possessive case, however, the notion “genitive” is related to one form of the possessive case, more specially it is the genitive form of the possessive case ‘s, or just the apostrophe.

As the current research is dedicated to the investigation of the possessive case, it is important to look through the historical background of the possession, more specially its stages of development and experienced modifications. Old English grammar had four cases for nouns: nominative, genitive, dative and accusative, nevertheless, already in Middle English, only two cases occurred: nominative, or the common case, and genitive, or the possessive, that is still present in Modern English (Ivanova, Chahojan 1998: 408, Rastorgujeva 2002: 93). As the main focus of the present paper is to investigate the possessive case, it is reasonable to demonstrate the examples of changes of this case through the centuries beginning from Old to Modern English.

The genitive form of the possession had an extremely complicated structure in Old English owing to the fact of existence of different types of noun declensions that depended on the stem-suffix, the gender and the category of number. The following tables illustrate the examples of the use of the genitive form of possession, including all of the aspects of its influence on the final form of a noun.

Types of strong noun declensions in Old English (varieties of formation of the genitive form of the possession)			
The category of number	Singular		
The gender	Masculine	Neuter	Feminine
The stem	a-, ja-, i-, wa-stems		x
The case	<i>Nom.</i> hlāf (loaf) Gen. hlāf-es	<i>Nom.</i> deor (animal) Gen. deor-es	
	<i>Nom.</i> hyll (hill) Gen. hyll-es	<i>Nom.</i> bedd (bed) Gen. bedd-es	
	x	x	ō-, jō-, i-, wō-stems
			<i>Nom.</i> gierd (stick) Gen. gierd-a
			<i>Nom.</i> cwēn (woman) Gen. cwēn-e, cwēn-a
	u-stem		u-stem
	<i>Nom.</i> wud-u (wood) Gen. wud-a	x	<i>Nom.</i> nos-u (nose) Gen. nos-a

Table 4. Types of strong noun declensions in singular forms in Old English (the examples that illustrate varieties of formation of the genitive form of the possession) (Ivanova, Chahojan 1998: 395-398).

Types of strong noun declensions in Old English (varieties of formation of the genitive form of the possession)			
The category of number	Plural		
The gender	Masculine	Neuter	Feminine
	a-, ja-, i-, wa-stems		x
The case	<i>Nom.</i> hlāf (loaf) Gen. hlāf-a	<i>Nom.</i> deor (animal) Gen. deor-a	
	<i>Nom.</i> hyll (hill) Gen. hyll-a	<i>Nom.</i> bedd (bed) Gen. bedd-a	

	x	x	ō-, jō-, i-, wō-stems
			<i>Nom.</i> gierd (stick) Gen. gierd-a
			<i>Nom.</i> cwēn-a (woman) Gen. cwēn-a
	u-stem		u-stem
	<i>Nom.</i> wud-a (wood) Gen. wud-a	x	<i>Nom.</i> nos-a (nose) Gen. nos-a

Table 5. Types of strong noun declensions in plural forms in Old English (the examples that illustrate varieties of formation of the genitive form of the possession) (Ivanova, Chahojan 1998: 395-398).

Types of weak noun declensions in Old English (varieties of formation of the genitive form of the possession)			
The category of number	Singular		
The gender	Masculine	Neuter	Feminine
The case	<i>Nom.</i> draca (dragon) Gen. drac-an	<i>Nom.</i> eare (ear) Gen. ear-an	<i>Nom.</i> tunge (tongue) Gen. tung-an
The category of number	Plural		
The gender	Masculine	Neuter	Feminine
The case	<i>Nom.</i> draca (dragon) Gen. drac-ena	<i>Nom.</i> eare (ear) Gen. ear-ena	<i>Nom.</i> tunge (tongue) Gen. tung-ena

Table 6. Types of weak noun declensions in singular and plural forms in Old English (the examples that illustrate varieties of formation of the genitive form of the possession) (Ivanova, Chahojan 1998: 395-398).

As is presented above, the formation of the genitive form of the possession during the period of Old English depended on wide range of aspects of a current noun. If we deal with strong nouns in singular forms that have **a-, ja-, i-, wa-**stems (that are related to masculine and neuter gender), the genitive form is formed by adding an ending **-es** to a current noun in nominative case. If there is another kind of stems, such as **ō-, jō-, i-, wō-**stems (that are related to feminine gender), a possessive noun is formed by adding **-a** or **-e** to the end of a current word. If it is a noun with **u-**stem, a possessive noun has to be marked by **-a**. The formation of the genitive form of nouns in plural forms has only one variation: the ending **-a**, regardless of the fact of what kind of stems or gender it is. In contrast to declensions of strong nouns there are some certain distinctions of declensions of weak nouns. If we decline weak

nouns in singular forms, the genitive form of the possession is formed by adding the ending **-an** to a current noun, regardless of the fact what kind of stems or gender it has. The similar situation is with weak nouns in plural forms, the declension of these kind of nouns in the possessive case is done by adding the ending **-ena** to the end of the word.

During the period of Middle and Early Modern English, the genitive form of the possession underwent some transformations that laid foundation for the proper use of the possession in Modern English. Generally speaking, transformations that occurred to the grammar during the 11th and 12th centuries simplified the formation of the genitive form due to the fact of the reorganisation of the declension system, its restriction, and finally its disappearance by the time of Modern English. If to talk about transformations in the grammar, there can be noticed some obvious distinctions such as limitation of the number of cases, it reduced from four to two: the common case, or the nominative case in Old English, and the possessive case in Old English. Only these two cases continue to exist in Modern English from the period of Middle English when all of these grammatical transformations happened to occur. Whereas the category of gender played a significant part in the formation of the genitive form of the possession during Old English, it underwent some changes and lost its influence as a distinctive feature in Middle English. The category of gender did not have an influence on the formation of the genitive form anymore, but the category of number, singular or plural, and the restricted declension system of the noun continued to influence on the formation of the possessive case.

Types of noun declensions in Middle English (varieties of formation of the genitive form of the possession)		
The category of number	Singular	Plural
The case	<i>Com.</i> lōf Gen. lōf-es	<i>Com.</i> lōfes Gen. lōf-es
	<i>Com.</i> care Gen. care	<i>Com.</i> caren Gen. car-en
	<i>Com.</i> fōt Gen. fōt-es	<i>Com.</i> fēt Gen. fēt-es

Table 7. Types of noun declensions in plural and singular forms in Middle English (the examples that illustrate varieties of formation of the genitive form of the possession) (Ivanova, Chahojan 1998:408).

As can be noticed above, the formation of the genitive form of the possession during the period of Middle and Early New English is sufficiently distinguished from Old English due to the fact of gender sense deprivation and simplification of the noun declensions. The formation ending of the genitive form is quite similar to Old English rules, because the final form of a current noun in the possessive case also has **-es** at the end of the word both in plural and singular forms, however in Old English the ending **-es** occurs only in a singular form of a noun. The possessive case in Middle English has some kind of similar modification to the ending **-ena** that occurred in Old English for nouns in plural forms, but in Middle English another form **-en** is used for nouns in the plural form. It was shortened from three letters to two. It is reasonable to emphasize that the ending **-a** that occurred in Old English for the genitive case did not exist in Middle English anymore.

Formation peculiarities of the possessive case in Modern English				
The category of number	Singular		Plural	
Animation/inanimation feature	Apostrophe 's	<i>of</i> -phrase	Apostrophe 's	<i>of</i> -phrase
	Animate beings	Inanimate objects	Animate beings	Inanimate objects
The case	<i>Com.</i> cat, tale <i>Gen.</i> a cat's tale	<i>Com.</i> book, name <i>Gen.</i> a name of a book	<i>Com.</i> room, sisters <i>Gen.</i> sisters' room	<i>Com.</i> streets, London <i>Gen.</i> streets of London

Table 8. Formation peculiarities of the possessive case in Modern English (Foley, Hall 2003: 256, Murphy 2004: 162).

As can be noticed above, the formation of the genitive case during the period of Modern English, starting from the 17th century to present days, underwent complete changes. First of all, it is reasonable to emphasize such fact that the formation of the genitive form of the possession is extremely simplified, including only the ending 's or even just the apostrophe -' that together correlate with an indication of different animate beings. In addition to that, the use of the *of*-phrase comes into force that correlates with an indication of different inanimate objects, however the occurrence of this phrase is dated from the Middle English, in 13th and 14th centuries, whereas the occurrence of the apostrophe 's is dated from Modern English, 17th and 18th centuries (Rastorgujeva 2002: 226-228). In comparison with the grammar system of old times, the genitive form of the possession of Modern English does not have any

dependencies on the declensions of nouns, the stem-suffix or gender peculiarities as it was in Old English. It also does not have such a wide range of endings for the genitive form as it did in Old or Middle English. Generally speaking, the use of the modern possessive case is regulated by using the ending 's, the apostrophe -' or the *of*-phrase, depending on two main distinctions: the category of number, singular or plural, and what kind of a noun, animate or inanimate, we are going to decline.

The current Bachelor's thesis is aimed at the achievement of three main aims. The first aim is to systematize the key points of the usage and formation of the possessive case presented by different specialists of the English language. The second aim is to make an analysis of the cases of usage of different forms of the possessive ('s and *of*) in the articles from the UK and the USA newspapers. The third aim is to conduct a comparative investigation between the theoretical background of the possessive forms ('s and *of*) and the practical cases of usage that are found in newspapers articles. In accordance to the achievement of three aims, the thesis seeks to confirm or refute two hypotheses that correlate with the current research. The first hypothesis states that the uses of possessive case ('s and *of*) as exemplified in grammar books tend to differ from the uses of possessive case in journalistic texts. And the second hypothesis states that the use of the genitive form of the possession ('s) tends to be more extended in journalistic texts if to compare its usage with the examples that are given in grammar books.

CHAPTER I. POSSESSIVE CASE IN PRESCRIPTIVE AND DESCRIPTIVE GRAMMAR REFERENCES

The different conceptions that characterize the use of the genitive case are represented in various grammar books that correspond with the linguistic discipline of morphology. The current research paper aims focused on the examination of the specifications of use of the genitive case correspond exactly to the morphological level of language. In comparison with the history of the possession in Old and Middle English, the present-day grammar demonstrates a much more simplified version of how this case is formed and on what aspects the formation depends. But regardless of the fact of the simplification of the grammar area that is responsible for the proper use of the possession, different versions of different authors represent quite enough distinctive features of how this case is characterized and practically used. One of the main points of the theoretical background of the current research paper is to investigate linguistic viewpoints in terms of the specifics of the possessive case that are presented in various prescriptive and descriptive English grammar books that are focused on English language learners with different levels of language knowledge. The theoretical part of the thesis is based on the analysis of some of the most reputable and well-known self-study references by such English authors as Raymond Murphy, Michael Vince and Mark Foley; it also contains the analysis of the some of the most thorough descriptive grammar books by such linguists as Randolph Quirk, Michael Swan and Natalia Kobrina.

1.1 The theory of the possessive case in prescriptive grammar books

The first part of the theoretical background of the current research paper is based on the analysis of different representations of the possessive case that are illustrated in prescriptive grammar books by such English specialists as Raymond Murphy, Michael Vince and Mark Foley.

1.1.1. The possessive case for elementary and intermediate levels of English

Raymond Murphy (1997, 2004), the author of English prescriptive grammar books *the Essential Grammar in Use* and *the English Grammar in Use*, that comprise different topics and tasks corresponding to different levels of the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages), describes the essence of the possessive case, emphasizing several distinctive features of the specifications of the use of the possessive case in connection with a level of knowledge, elementary or intermediate, students are going to gain. First of all, if to

glance on two represented versions of the possessive case in R. Murphy's books (1997, 2004), it can be easily noticed that both of these books do not have a specific name for the possessive case, the units that are specified by the use of this case are represented as follows- 's (*Ann's camera/ my brother's car/ your sister's room*) and *of* (*the name of the book*) (Murphy 1997: 134, 2004: 162). As we can see, the author has no intentions to give a general name for the topic that could be named as the possession, the possessive or the genitive case, instead of this, the author just used the examples of it. Secondly, the author does not give the explanation of the possessive case, its general conception, instead of this, the author starts to interpret different aspects of the proper use of this case. All these two omitted nuances do not give learners a general idea of the topic that could complicate a further study of this topic. The main reason of the deficiency of the specific terminology of the current issue may be connected with the peculiarity of the target group to whom these two prescriptive grammar books are dedicated. If to examine the possessive case in the practice books that are intended for elementary and intermediate students of English, it is clear to see that both of them have a common approach to the practical use of the possessive case; however, the higher the level of the language, the more expanded version of descriptions of the use of this case together with a wide range of examples is represented. According to R. Murphy's theory (1997, 2004), there are several distinctive points such as the use of the apostrophe 's with nouns in a singular form and in some exceptions with nouns in a plural form, the use of the apostrophe -s with nouns in a plural form and the use of the *of*-phrase.

According to R. Murphy's (1997) approach to the requirements for the practical use of the possessive case, the apostrophe -s is used mostly to identify something belonging to people and animals, or animated beings, for instance, the following examples practically represent the realization of this rule: *I stayed at my sister's house* or *Are you going to James's party?* or *Paul is a man's name* or *Tom's computer isn't working* or *Don't step on the cat's tail* (Murphy 2004: 162, 1997: 134). It is clear to see that all of the above-mentioned nouns such as “sister”, “James”, “man”, “Tom” and “cat” denote living beings. Besides, R. Murphy (1997, 2004) gives an additional description of the use of the apostrophe -s while building a sentence, for instance, *Mary's hair is longer than Ann's* or *This isn't my book. It's my sister's*. According to these examples, it is not necessary to use one and the same noun (“hair” and “book”) twice in a sentence, but we can replace it by adding the apostrophe -s. Other examples of the use of the apostrophe -s are demonstrated through the comparative analysis between a singular and a

plural form of animated nouns, for instance, *my friend's house* or *my friends' house* (Murphy 1997: 134). In the first example we are talking about one friend, whereas another example where we have used the apostrophe -' gives us a sign that we are talking about two or more friends. Despite the fact that this general rule, that describes the idea of belonging of animated beings, is represented in both practice books, the practice reference for intermediate students shows three more cases that are related to the use of the apostrophe. It is used with different time expressions and periods of time, that do not contain dates, e.g. *Do you still have yesterday's newspaper?* *Next week's meeting has been cancelled*, *Julia has got three weeks' holiday*, with places of living creatures, e.g. *the city's streets*, *the world's population*, *Italy's prime minister*, and with different types of organizations that represent groups of people as well, e.g. *the government's decision*, *the company's success* (Murphy 2004: 162).

In contrast to the use of the apostrophe -s or -' with animated nouns, the use of the *of*-phrase is dedicated to the identification of inanimate objects such as things, places, ideas, for instance, *Look at the roof of that building!* or *What's the name of this village?* or *Madrid is the capital of Spain* or *the name of the book* or *the owner of the restaurant* (Murphy 1997: 134, 2004: 162). It is easy to notice that all of the above-mentioned nouns such as “building”, “village”, “Spain”, “book”, “restaurant” denote inanimate objects and that's why it is a proper way to use the *of*-phrase in accordance with the prescriptive rule. Despite the fact that this general rule that describes the idea of belonging of inanimate objects is represented in both practice books, the book for students with intermediate level of English gives the expanded version of characteristics of the use of the *of* structure. Among these characteristics are different types of organizations, that represent a group of living creatures, e.g. *the success of the company*, *the decision of the government*, adverbials of location, e.g. *the beginning of the month*, *the top of the hill*, *the back of the car*, and nouns that are followed by a defined phrase, e.g. *What was the name of the man who phoned you?* In this example, it is grammatically correct to use the *of*-phrase with the animated object, in our case it is “the man”, because the followed phrase “who phoned you” defines this particular noun (Murphy 2004: 162).

Michael Vince (2003), the author of the prescriptive grammar books *Elementary Language Practice* and *Intermediate Language Practice*, represents the core of the subject of the possessive case, emphasizing the existing forms of the possession, their practical cases of usage and the formation key points of the genitive form of the possession for singular and plural nouns. According to M. Vince, there are two main forms of the possession, including

the apostrophe -s (or -') and the *of*-phrase, whereas the apostrophe has its modification forms, e.g. with singular nouns it is normal to add the -s at the end of a word, but with plural nouns it is proper to use only apostrophe -'. It is necessary to mark that M. Vince's description how to use different forms of the apostrophe with nouns in various categories of number does not include the formation key points of usage with exceptions.

If to investigate M. Vince's approach to the description of cases of practical usage of the apostrophe -s or -' in practice books for elementary and intermediate students of English, it is advisable to note that, first of all, it is generally used to indicate something that belongs to people, e.g. *This is Tim's scarf, That's my friend's bike, Those are the students' coats.* Secondly, the apostrophe is used for the names of different shops, places and houses, e.g. *the greengrocer's, Smith's, the doctor's.* And the final key point of usage of the apostrophe that is described by M. Vince (2003) is related to the description of something that represents a part of another thing, e.g. *What is the book's title?, What is this plant's name?* (Vince 2003: 162,188).

In contrast to the cases of usage of the apostrophe -s and its modification forms, the author represents common cases of usage of the *of* structure, first of all, underlining the general key point that it is used to indicate something inanimate that belongs to another inanimate thing, e.g. *The roof of the house was damaged or The end of the street.* Secondly, the *of*-phrase is used for formal names, e.g. *The University of Westminster.* In addition to the above-described cases of usage of the *of*-phrase, M. Vince (2003) emphasizes that in some cases it is normal to use either the *of*-phrase or the apostrophe with people to express the idea of belonging without changing the meaning, e.g. *Is that Ann's aunt's car?* or *Is this the car that belongs to the aunt of Ann?* (Vince 2003: 162,188).

1.1.2. The possessive case for advanced level of English

Mark Foley and Diane Hall (2003), who are the authors of the *Advanced Learners' Grammar* practice book, which level of complexity of English language grammar is intended for those students who acquire the advanced level of language knowledge, represent a sophisticated explanation of the conception of the possession. The structural review of the representation of the possession includes the distinctive characteristic of it, two basic forms of the practical implementation in speech and the explanations of the main uses coupled with the extensive range of examples. According to M. Foley and D. Hall (2003), the general idea of the possession is reflected in the relationship between two nouns that can have different semantic

and morphological characteristics. The nature of this particular relationship between two nouns is indicated by either the inflectional morpheme 's or -', depending on the category of number that nouns represent, or by the *of* structure. For example, if we deal with singular or irregular plural nouns, the possession is marked by adding 's at the end of a word, e.g. *house-house's*, *men-men's*, whereas regular plural nouns include only the apostrophe -', e.g. *boys-boys'*, *buses-buses'*. Moreover, the apostrophe -s is commonly used with different structures of pronouns, e.g. simple, compound and composite, in order to indicate the possession, e.g. *one's house*, *somebody's house*, *everyone's rights*, *each other's houses* (Foley, Hall 2003: 256). The explanations of the proper use of the possessive forms in sentences fall into three parts: the first part includes the description of the ideas that are expressed only by the apostrophe -s and its modifications, the second part contains the description of the situations that should be indicated only by the *of* structure, and the third part represents such kind of ideas which possessive forms could be expressed either by the apostrophe or by the *of*-phrase.

According to M. Foley and D. Hall (2003), the first key point of the use of the apostrophe is connected with such kind of situations when there is a reference to people, especially their proper names, general ownership, personal qualities or professional relationships, and animals, as animated beings as well, e.g. *Have you seen Sheila's new car?* *Sheila is a Harold's youngest daughter*; *Have you met the boss's new secretary?*; *John's intransigence is a pain*. The second key point according to which it is necessary to use the apostrophe is connected with the origin of something, e.g. *Oil is Saudi Arabia's biggest export*. The third descriptive attribute of the use of the apostrophe is related to a quantity or measure, that illustrates duration, distance or value, e.g. *There will be an hour's delay*; *The hotel was ten minutes' drive from the beach*; *Could you give me a pound's worth of chips?* Three more aspects that imply the required use of the apostrophe -s or its modifications are to do with the denotation of location in time, e.g. *Have you seen the poem in today's 'Observer'?*, furthermore, it is connected with a set of fixed expressions, e.g. *She was at death's door*; *For God's sake!*, and finally, it is related to the indication of the names of shops, companies and people or places that provide a service, e.g. in the following example *Was there anything nice at the butcher's this morning?* the apostrophe is used in terms of the butcher's shop that provides a service that connected with trading (Foley, Hall 2003: 257).

In contrast to the above-described situations that require the use of the apostrophe, there are certain distinctive features that correlate only with the use of the *of* structure.

According to M. Foley and D. Hall (2003), the first major point of the use of the *of* structure is to do with the indication of abstract nouns and other inanimate things. e.g. *I have been studying **the** philosophy **of** science*. The second situation that implies the use of this structure happens to occur when there is a noun that is followed by a verb phrase or a clause that defines this particular noun, e.g. *The players ignored **the** jeers **of** the women standing in the front row*. Another situation that follows by the *of*-phrase is outlined when there is a reference to a specific date, e.g. *It was destroyed in **the** fire **of** 1666*. Similar to the apostrophe -s or its modifications, the *of* structure is used with some fixed expressions and titles, e.g. *He is **the** President **of** the United States*; ***The** Prince **of** Wales is to visit Iceland*. And finally, the required use of the *of*-phrase is connected with long or complex phrases, regardless of the aspect of what kind of nouns, animate or inanimate, are used, e.g. *A man was sentenced to death for **the** murder **of** an English tourist* (Foley, Hall 2003: 258).

As is represented above, the functional aspects of the two main forms of the possession comprise a fixed amount of special cases where it is necessary to use either the apostrophe -s and its modified versions -s' or -', or the *of* structure. But together with individually distinctive features of these forms in a practical speech, the authors amplify on the description of the ideas where the possession can be expressed by its both forms and it will be considered grammatically correct sentences in both cases. The first descriptive point of the use of either the apostrophe or the *of*-phrase is related to a reference to a quality that something possesses or displays, e.g. *We were amazed by the ship's sheer size* or *We were amazed by the sheer size of the ship*. The second key point is connected with the subject of something, e.g. *The Queen's portrait has caused dismay* or *The portrait of the Queen has caused dismay*. The third distinguishing point is related to the indication of different human creations, such as countries, organisations, cities, institutions, machines, vehicles, buildings and others, e.g. *Radio City Music Hall is one of New York's most famous theatres* or *Plane trees are a common sight on the streets of London*. And the final aspect that correlates with the use of both forms of the possession is connected with phrases and clauses that express a reason or a purpose and contain in their structural forms the word 'sake', e.g. *We agreed to make a go of it for the sake of the children (or for the children's sake)* (Foley, Hall 2003: 258).

1.2. The theory of the possessive case in descriptive grammar books

The second part of the theoretical background of the current research paper is based on the analysis of different representations of the possessive case that are illustrated in descriptive

grammar books by renowned English linguists Randolph Quirk and Michael Swan and by well-known Russian linguists specialising in English as well.

1.2.1. The possessive case by linguist R. Quirk

The British linguist Randolph Quirk (1985), the author of the descriptive grammar book *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*, represents the fundamental description of the essence of the possessive case, giving importance to the inflexional forms of the genitive form of the possession, to the meanings that are produced either by the genitive form or by the *of* structure, to the description of relations between nouns and the forms of the possession and to the different types of the genitive form of the possession. According to R. Quirk (1985), there are two main inflexions of the genitive case, including the *-s* inflexion, that is generally used with regular singular nouns, e.g. *boy's*, with irregular singular and plural nouns as well, e.g. *child's*, *children's*, and the zero *-'* inflexion, that is used with regular plural nouns, e.g. *boys'* (Quirk 1985: 318-320).

If to draw a parallel between the semantic characteristic of the genitive case and the *of* construction, it is advisable to put an emphasis on eight main types of the possession as the possessive, the subjective, the objective, the descriptive and the partitive genitive, also the genitive of origin, measure and attribute (Quirk 1985: 321-322). If to investigate R. Quirk's approach (1985) to the explanation of usage of the genitive form of the possession, it is obvious to mark that the author gives the expanded version of the classes of nouns that are needed to be used with the genitive form of the possession, while composing different phrases or clauses. So, the first classes of nouns that demand the use of the genitive form are related to personal names, other personal nouns, animal nouns and collective nouns as well, e.g. *George Washington's statue*, *the boy's new bicycle*, *the horse's tail*, *the government's economic plans*, *the committee's decision*, *the nation's resources*. All of these four represented classes of nouns denote different animate beings or groups of them and on the basis of this idea of animation, R. Quirk's approach (1985) to the general explanation of the possessive case is correlated with other linguists' points of view on the current issue. The other classes of nouns that are commonly used with the genitive inflexions are different geographical names, such as continents, countries, states, cities, towns and universities, e.g. *Europe's future*, *China's development*, *Hollywood's studios*, various locative nouns, such as regions, institutions and heavenly bodies as well, e.g. *the earth's interior*, *the school's history*, *the city's atmosphere*, temporal nouns, e.g. *the decade's events*, *this year's sales*, and other nouns that are related to

human activity, e.g. *the brain's weight, the body's needs, the game's history, a word's function, science's influence*. All of these represented groups of nouns, that also demand the use of the genitive form of the possession, represent different inanimate objects that, in accordance to the general rule of the possession, are needed to be marked by the *of* construction, but R. Quirk (1985) underlines that all of these groups of nouns represent either classes of organized individuals, or classes of human's activities, that have a direct connection with the idea of animation, and as a result, it is appropriate to use the genitive form. In addition to different classes of nouns, the author emphasizes that the genitive case is also used with different establishments, commercial companies and formal residences, e.g. *Let's have a dinner at Tiffany's, I'm going to the barber's, She stayed at the Johnsons'* (Quirk 1985: 324, 329-330).

R. Quirk's approach to the use of the *of* construction includes a narrow range of explanations and examples; however, the author emphasizes that the *of*-phrase, that is sometimes called the *of*-genitive, is similar in function and meaning to the genitive form, but its usage has an influence on the meaning of a particular sentence. The first example with the genitive form, e.g. *The explosion damaged the ship's funnel* shows that the focus of the whole sentence is “funnel”, whereas such example with the *of*-phrase as *She considered that the most handsome was the funnel of the Orion* demonstrates that the focus of the sentence is “Orion” (Quirk 1985: 323).

Together with the above-described explanation cases of usage of either the genitive form or the *of* construction, R. Quirk (1985) pays attention to the area of fixed expressions that contain such words as *edge, end, surface, sake, degree, absence*, and can be used with both of these forms, e.g. *the water's edge* or *the edge of the water* (Quirk 1985: 325-326).

1.2.2. The possessive case by linguist M. Swan

The British scholar Michael Swan (2005), the author of one of the most comprehensive reference materials dedicated to English language teaching, *Practical English Usage*, has outlined the formation key points of the genitive form with nouns of different category of number and purposes of the use of the possession, emphasizing the expanded version of examples that mostly relate to the use of the apostrophe *-s*, while constructing the sentences in a written or an oral speech, whereas another type of possession like the use of the *of*-phrase is integrated into a narrow range of examples. According to the author's theoretical points, the genitive form of the possession has two main forms, including the inflexion *'s*, that is used with regular singular and irregular plural nouns, and with the whole phrases as well, e.g. *my*

father's car, men's clothes, Joe and Ann's children, and the zero inflexion, or only the apostrophe *'*, that is used with regular plural nouns and with the whole phrases, e.g. *my parents' house, the Smiths' new house* (Swan 2005: 414).

According to M. Swan's approach (2005) that determines the chief meaning of the use of the *'s* structure, there are several regulated areas where it is going to be properly used. First of all, it is grammatically correct to use the apostrophe *-s* while talking about possessions, relationships and physical characteristics of those kinds of nouns that relate to animate objects, e.g. a person or an animal, or a group of living creatures, e.g. a country or an organisation. For instance, the following examples reflect the practical sense of this rule: *That is my **father's** house, There is something wrong with **the cat's** ear, **Scotland's** climate is getting warmer, What do you think of **the company's** management?* It is clear to see that all of the aforementioned nouns denote living beings, like “father” and “cat” or a group of them, like “Scotland” and “company”. The second important detail that corresponds to the proper use of the *-s* structure in a sentence is dedicated to actions that are done by people and things that are produced by them as well, for instance, as it is represented in the following phrases: *Have you read **John's** letter?* or *What are **Norway's** main exports?* The third regulated area of usage of the *'s* structure with the nouns in a singular or a plural form is related to the identification of measurements of time, that, firstly, demonstrate how long some things last, e.g. *a **day's** journey* or *twenty **minutes'** delay*, and, secondly, define some particular moments or events, e.g. *yesterday's news* or *last **Sunday's** match*, and, thirdly, measurements of worth, e.g. *a **pound's** worth of walnuts* or *three **dollars'** worth of popcorn* (Swan 2005: 415).

In addition to the use of the genitive form of the possession, M. Swan (2005) gives a very short description of the use of the *of* construction, emphasizing the fact that when we are talking about something inanimate, the *of*-phrase is needed to be used, e.g. *the name of the street, the back of the room, the top of the page*. Also, the *of* structure is used in complex sentences when a noun is followed by a clause that defines it, e.g. *The husband of the woman who sent you that strange letter* (Swan 2005: 414-415).

In contrast to the explanations of usage of either the *'s* structure or the *of*-phrase, the author emphasizes that in some cases the use of both of these forms is also grammatically correct. These special cases are connected with different people's actions, e.g. *the committee's second meeting* or *the second meeting of the committee*, or with some fixed words that permit

the use of either 's or *of*-phrase, e.g. *the earth's gravity* or *the gravity of the earth*, *the plan's importance* or *the importance of the plan* (Swan 2005: 416).

1.2.3. The possessive case by N. Kobrina, J. Kornejeva, M. Ossovskaja, K. Guzejeva

N. Kobrina, J. Korneeva, M. Ossovskaja and K. Guzejeva (2003), who are the authors of the *An English Grammar: Morphology and Syntax* teaching guide, which degree of complexity is focused on obtaining a higher level of English knowledge, represent a comprehensive characteristic of the category of case that is concerned with morphological characteristics of the nouns. According to the linguists, the category of case is relevant to the correlation between the nouns and other words in a sentence that is signified by the common case, that is marked by zero inflection, or by the genitive form, that is marked either by the apostrophe, or by its equivalent the *of*-phrase. The use of the apostrophe in its various positions depends on several morphological aspects as plurality-singularity and regularity-irregularity of the nouns. So, the zero form of the possession -' is commonly used with regular plural nouns, e.g. *students'*, *drivers'*, whereas the other possessive form that is expressed by the inflexional morpheme 's is used both with singular and irregular plural nouns, e.g. *dog's*, *prince's*, *women's faces*, and with compound nouns, e.g. *the editor-in-chief's office*, *my mother-in-law's garden* (Kobrina et al 2003: 204-205).

In addition to the characteristics that are related to the variety of forms of the genitive case, Russian linguists represent a wide range of ideas that are needed to be defined by either the apostrophe -s or by the *of*-phrase. The general meaning of the possession is expressed by two main aspects, the first one is the idea of belonging, e.g. *John's coat*, *Mary's car*, and the second represents various types of relations, such as personal or social, e.g. *John's wife*, subjective or objective, e.g. *the doctor's arrival*, *Caesar's murder*, relation of the whole to its parts, e.g. *the cat's tail*, and authorship, measure and quality as well, e.g. *Byron's poem*, *an hour's trip*, *angel's eyes* (Kobrina et al 2003: 205-206).

Broadly speaking, if to focus attention on the descriptive review of the use of the possessive forms, the authors represent a more extensive range of distinctive descriptions of the use of the apostrophe -s rather than of the use of its equivalent the *of* structure. The first distinctive feature of the functional use of the apostrophe 's and its modified versions -s' or -' is related to the denotation of animated beings, such as people or animals, e.g. *John's idea*, *the shallow's nest*, whereas the use of the *of*-phrase is relevant to inanimate objects or abstract

notions, e.g. *the back of a train, the legs of a table*. The second distinctive feature of the apostrophe is connected with the indication of time and distance, including such words as 'minute', 'moment', 'hour', 'day', 'week', 'inch', 'foot', 'mile', 'today', 'yesterday', 'tomorrow' and others, e.g. *a moment's delay, a mile's distance, a night's rest, yesterday's telephone conversation*. The third aspect of the proper use of the apostrophe is referred to the names of countries, towns, newspapers and different organizations, e.g. *Britain's national museums, the Tribune's role, the company's plans, the government's policy*. Another distinguishing point of the use of the apostrophe is connected both with inanimate nouns in some certain expressions, e.g. *at death's doctor, at arm's length, at the water's edge*, and with such kind of nouns as 'world', 'nation', 'country', 'city', 'town', 'ship', 'board', 'car', 'sun', 'moon', 'earth', e.g. *the world's top guitarists, the ship's crew, the sun's rays* (Kobrina et al 2003: 206-208).

1.3. The comparative analysis of the representation of the possessive case based on different sources

The third part of the theoretical background is based on the comparative analysis of sources that have been analyzed in the first and the second parts of the current chapter. The main aim of the comparative analysis is focused on the representation of similarities and differences between all of the grammar books in terms of practical usage of the possessive case and on creating a convenient theoretical framework for the purposes of the empirical research described in Chapter II.

PRESCRIPTIVE GRAMMAR BOOKS			
Book Author Year	Level	The genitive form (the apostrophe -s, -')	The <i>of</i>-structure (the <i>of</i> construction, the <i>of</i>- phrase, the <i>of</i>-genitive)
<i>Essential Grammar in Use</i> <i>Raymond Murphy, 1997</i>	A2	people	things, places
<i>English Grammar in Use</i> <i>Raymond Murphy, 2004</i>	B1-B2	people, animals, organizations, places, time expressions, periods of time	people (with followed defined clause), things, ideas, organizations, fixed expressions of location
<i>Elementary</i>	A2	things belong to people (animate	things belong to another things

<i>Language Practice</i> <i>Michael Vince, 2003</i>		beings)	(inanimate objects), formal names
<i>Intermediate Language Practice</i> <i>Michael Vince, 2003</i>	B1-B2	things belong to people (animate beings), a part of another thing (inanimate objects as well), someone's home, a shop or a place name	things belong to another things (inanimate objects)
<i>Advanced Learners' Grammar</i> <i>Mark Foley, Diane Hall, 2003</i>	B2-C1	general ownership, a reference to people and animals, personal/professional relations, human qualities, a reference to location in time (no dates), the origin of something, a reference to a quality or measure (duration, distance, value), expressions with <i>worth</i> and <i>sake</i> , names of shops, companies, people/places that provide a service	abstract nouns, inanimate things, nouns (with followed defined clause), a specific date, long complex phrases (animate beings as well), fixed expressions and titles
		Both forms are appropriate:	
		a quality that is possessed or displayed, the subject/topic/theme of something, human creations (countries, organizations, machines, vehicles, cities, buildings, institutions), expressions of reason or purpose with <i>sake</i>	
DESCRIPTIVE GRAMMAR BOOKS			
<i>A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language</i> <i>Randolph Quirk, 1985</i>	B2, C1-C2	personal names, other personal nouns, animal nouns and collective nouns, geographical names (continents, countries, states, cities, towns and universities), locative nouns (regions, institutions and heavenly bodies), temporal nouns, nouns related to human activity, establishments, commercial companies and formal residences	equal to the genitive form (-'s), used to change a focus of a meanings
		Both forms are appropriate:	
		fixed expressions with words as <i>edge, end, surface, sake, degree, absence</i> , etc.	

<i>Practical English Usage</i> <i>Michael Swan, 2005</i>	B2, C1-C2	possessions, relationships and physical characteristics of nouns that related to animated objects, actions that are done by people and things that are produced by them, measurements of time, particular moments or events, measurements with <i>worth</i>	inanimate things, nouns (with followed defined clause)
		Both forms are appropriate:	
		people actions, fixed words as <i>plan, earth, importance</i> , etc.	
<i>An English Grammar: Morphology and Syntax</i> <i>N. Kobrina et al, 2003</i>	B2, C1-C2	nouns that denote to persons or animals, nouns that denote to quality, nouns that denote to time and distance, newspapers, organizations, collective nouns, locative nouns (heavenly bodies), human creations (machines, vehicles), institutions, places of residence, a part of another thing (inanimate objects as well), social relationships, authorship	nouns that denote to inanimate objects and abstract notions

Table 9. The comparative analysis of the practical cases of usage of the possessive case presented by various authors.

CHAPTER II. PRACTICAL INVESTIGATION OF THE USAGE OF THE POSSESSIVE CASE

2.1. Aims and hypotheses

The second part of the current Bachelor's thesis represents the empirical research into the topic of the possession, which is focused on the achievement of two main aims. The first main aim of the second part of the thesis is to carry out an analysis of the cases of usage of different forms of the possessive case ('*s* and *of*) in the articles from the UK and the USA newspapers that are taken from different sections, such as education, health, politics and science. And the second main aim of the empirical part is to draw a parallel and make a comparative analysis between the theoretical content of the possession that has been discussed in the first part of the paper and the practical cases of usage that are found in journalistic texts. In accordance to the achievement of these two aims, the second part of the thesis is dedicated to the confirmation or the refutation of two hypotheses that correlate with the current research. The first hypothesis states that the uses of possessive case ('*s* and *of*) as exemplified in grammar books tend to differ from the uses of possessive case in journalistic texts. And the second hypothesis states that the use of the genitive form of the possession ('*s*) tends to be more extended in journalistic texts if to compare its usage with the examples that are given in grammar books.

2.2. Empirical material and sample of the research

As the main data for the empirical part of the current research have been chosen 24 articles from electronic versions of the UK and the USA newspapers. Twelve articles have been chosen from three most highly-circulated UK's newspapers (according to the Audit Bureau of Circulation's statistics). These newspapers are:

- <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/index.html> – the *Daily Mail* newspaper;
- <http://www.standard.co.uk/> - the *Evening Standard* newspaper;
- <http://www.independent.co.uk/> - the *Independent* newspaper;

Another twelve articles have been taken from three most highly-circulated USA's newspapers (according to the Audit Bureau of Circulation's statistics). These newspapers are:

- <http://www.wsj.com/europe> - *The Wall Street Journal* newspaper;
- <http://www.nytimes.com/> - *The New York Times* newspaper;
- <http://www.nydailynews.com/> - the *New York Daily News* newspaper;

The detached articles from the newspapers include such relevant topics as education, politics, health and science. The topic of education is relevant to the area of the current research. The topic of politics is mostly connected with the present situation in the USA that is related to the American presidential election. Other two topics have been chosen, first of all, as some of the most relevant topics for humankind and, secondly, to investigate the usage of the possession in terms of special medical and scientific terminology.

2.3. Methodology

Qualitative method has been chosen as the methodology for the topic of the research of possession, which involves noting down all the cases of possessive found in the articles and analysing them in relation to the theory discussed above. It corresponds with two hypotheses, and it is relevant to data collection, or a list of various articles in our case, its further observation and interpretive analysis, based on the authoritative theoretical content, that focused on the examination and on the comparative observation of cases of usage of the possessive forms (*'s* and *of*) in accordance to prescriptive and descriptive grammar books.

2.4. Description of the categories

As a result of the theoretical part of the current research paper, a list of fixed categories that correspond to the usage the possessive forms (*'s* and *of*) has been compiled for empirical part of the thesis in order to classify the examples of the possession from the articles in accordance to the theory and to identify the similarities and differences that exist in comparison with grammar books' representations of the practical cases of the possession. The list of categories includes such criteria as:

- animate beings, e.g. *people's wealth*;
- inanimate objects/things, e.g. *sales of electric cars*;
- abstract notions/ideas, e.g. *a history of depression*;
- formal names, e.g. *the University of Oxford*;
- time expressions, e.g. *Saturday's dinner*;
- expressions with *sake*, e.g. *learning's sake*;
- expressions with *worth*, e.g. *a whole week's worth of exams*;
- specific dates, e.g. *the madness of 2008*;
- human creations, e.g. *NBC's television show*;
- collective nouns, e.g. *the city's population*;

- geographical names, e.g. *Detroit's public schools*;
- locative nouns, e.g. *a planet's composition*;
- degree, e.g. *a master's degree*;
- fragmentation, e.g. *Woodhull Hospital's rooms*;
- noun phrase, e.g. *a sign of how the crisis is escalating*;

There are several categories that also include the *of* structure, however are not going to be explored in the context of the current research because of its correspondence to the separate area of English grammar rules. These categories are following:

- quantifiers, e.g. *a lot of voters*;
- quantitative nouns, e.g. *hundreds of pounds*;
- fixed expressions of location, e.g. *at the end of infant school*;
- idioms, e.g. *at the mercy of their bodies*;
- quality partition, e.g. *the kind of benefits*;
- conjunction of reason or cause, e.g. *because of economies*;

In addition to categories of nouns that correspond to the usage of the possession and categories that include the *of* structure, but conform to separate rules of English grammar, there are some examples in the articles that include the *of* structure in their syntactic compositions as well, but they are hard to categorize, e.g. *a shortage of teachers, a decline of graduates, a 24-hour tour of the capital, two month of practice, five years of sales experience, the earshot of several reporters*.

2.5. Complexities of the analysis

The factual analysis of the journalistic articles in terms of the present aims and two hypotheses of the paper has been accompanied with a range of certain difficulties. All of the existing complexities of the practical analysis can be divided into four main groups: the first has its relation to the hypothesis that focused on the differences of the cases of usage of *'s* and *of* between analysed grammar books and journalistic texts, the second group of complexities is connected with another hypothesis that focused on the extended range of the cases of usage of the genitive form of the possession (*'s*) in journalistic texts rather than in explored grammar

books, the third group is related to difficulties of categorization and the fourth group is focused on a certain deficiency of rules that correlate with the topic of the possession.

The first group of difficulties represents a general idea of discrepancy between described cases of usage of the possessive forms ('s and *of*) in grammar books and practical cases of usage of these forms in journalistic texts. This group includes such distinctive features as:

- the usage of both forms of the possession with one and the same word;
- the usage of the *of* structure with animate beings;
- the usage of the genitive form 's with inanimate objects;
- the practical cases of usage of the genitive form 's have the discordance with theoretical points;

The second group of difficulties represents a refutation of the hypothesis that focused on the idea that cases of usage of the genitive form 's are more extended rather than cases of usage of the *of* structure. In contrast, a range of cases of usage of the *of*-phrase is more expanded than cases of usage of the genitive form 's. This group includes such distinctive features as:

- the usage of the *of*-phrase with noun phrases;
- the usage of the *of*-phrase with complex nouns;
- the usage of the *of*-phrase with collective nouns;
- the usage of the *of*-phrase with animate nouns;
- the usage of the *of*-phrase with a wide range of abstract notions, things, ideas;

The third group refers to difficulties of the categorization of those examples in journalistic texts that include in their syntactical structure the *of*-phrase, but do not correspond to the topic of the possession. The list of these categories is presented above (see Description of the categories). The fourth group of difficulties is the most relevant for the current topic, because of its direct connection with the representations of cases of usage of the possessive forms ('s and *of*) in grammar books. While conducting the analysis of the examples, there were highlighted several points that signify a certain deficiency of examples and classes of nouns that have relations to the usage of the possessive forms. These highlighted points are:

- the usage of the *of*-phrase with noun phrases;
- the usage of the *of*-phrase accompanies complex nouns;
- the usage of the possessive forms with special terminology (medical, scientific,

etc);

- the usage of the genitive form 's with nationalities;
- the collective nouns can include such nouns as *party*, *industry*, *ministry* as well;
- a narrow range of examples that related to abstraction;
- stylistic characteristics: the types of texts in correlation to the use of the possessive forms (scientific, publicistic, poetic and others may demand for the usage of either the genitive form 's or the *of* structure and are needed to be marked in grammar books);
- semantic characteristics: the type of focus of meaning in correlation to the proper use of the possessive forms;

2.6. Practical results of the uses of the possession in the UK's newspapers

The journalistic texts from the UK's newspapers, which articles relate to such topics as education, politics, science and health, represent a wide range of examples where the forms of the possession ('s and *of*) are used either in accordance with the theory or in non-conformity with it.

2.6.1. The topic of education

The analysis of the examples from the topic of education in terms of the possession demonstrates the cases of usage both of the genitive form 's and cases of usage of the *of* structure. The cases of usage of the genitive form 's that correspond to the theory and are described there include four categories: the first category is the indication of something that belongs to animate beings, e.g. *the student's career*, *children's happiness*, *a child's progress*, the second category is the indication of various geographical names, in our case they are countries and cities, e.g. *London's first bilingual school*, *the UK's first programme subjects*, the third and the fourth categories are related to expressions with sake and worth, e.g. *learning's sake*, *a week's worth*. The cases of usage of the *of* structure that correspond to the theory and are described there include two categories: the first category, which also contains the most of the examples, is the indication of something, either animate or inanimate, that belongs to other things, usually inanimate, e.g. *the doors of several colleges*, *the first phase of the exams*, *the organisers of the campaign*, *cancellation of unneeded SATs*, the second category denotes abstract notions, e.g. *joy of learning*, *the idea of raising*.

2.6.2. The topic of politics

The analysis of the examples from the topic of politics in terms of the possession demonstrates the cases of usage both of the genitive form 's and cases of usage of the *of* structure. The cases of usage of the genitive form 's that correspond to the theory and are described there include four categories: the first category is the indication of something that belongs to living beings, or people, e.g. *Bernie Sanders's comments*, *Hillary's remark*, *Clinton's apology*, *Obama's decision*, the second category is related to geographical names, in our case they are countries and cities, e.g. *America's coal country*, *London's future*, the third category denotes collective nouns that represent various groups of organized individuals, e.g. *the state's 9 super delegates*, *the region's economy*, *the capital's success*, the fourth category is connected with human creations, in our case it is a company, e.g. *NBC's "Meet the Press"* (the National Broadcasting Company and its television show). The cases of usage of the *of* structure, that correspond to the theory and described there, include two categories: the first category is related to formal names, e.g. *the U.S. House of Representatives*, the second is the indication of abstract notions, e.g. *condition of anonymity*, *chances of winning*.

2.6.3. The topic of science

The analysis of the examples from the topic of science in terms of the possession demonstrates the cases of usage both the genitive form 's and the cases of usage of the *of* structure. The cases of usage of the genitive form 's that correspond to the theory and are described there include one category that denotes locative nouns, in our case it is a heavenly body, e.g. *the Earth's surface*, however, the use of the apostrophe in this case can be characterized as the indication of a part of something that is also needed to be marked by the genitive form. The cases of usage of the *of* structure that correspond to the theory and are described there, include three categories: the first category denotes to the indication of various inanimate things, e.g. *the construction of a light-beamer*, *the decreasing price of computer components*, *the flow of water*, *a body of water*, *movement of the ice*, *isolated reservoir of ocean water*, the second category is connected with the formal names, e.g. *the Royal College of Art*, *the University of California*, the third category is related to abstract nouns, e.g. *deep secrets of the universe*.

2.6.4. The topic of health

The analysis of the examples from the topic of health in terms of the possession demonstrates the cases of usage both the genitive form 's and the cases of usage of the *of* structure. The

cases of usage of the genitive form 's that correspond to the theory and are described there include one category that related to the indication of something that belongs to people, e.g. *men's recommendations*. The cases of usage of the *of* structure, that correspond to the theory include three categories: the first category denotes formal names, e.g. *the University of Oxford, the Institute of Psychiatry*, the second category is connected with the indication of various abstract nouns, e.g. *tolerance of painful emotions, a substantial history of depression, the use of mindfulness, the effectiveness of the treatment, the ideas of cognitive therapy, the analysis of research, evidence of harmful effects, other forms of therapy, control of brain function*, the third category is dedicated to the indication of something, even animate, that denotes various inanimate objects, e.g. *a professor of psychological medicine, the author of the paper, the volume of the signal*.

2.6.5. Discrepancies between the theory and practice

The cases of usage of either the genitive form 's or the *of* structure in the UK's journalistic texts that were complex to categorize in terms of the theoretical background of the possession are related to three main groups of difficulties. The first group of difficulties is connected with the existing discrepancies between the theory and practice.

The first group of difficulties is connected with the existing discrepancies between the theory and practice. The first example of this group is connected with the cases of usage of either the genitive form 's *or* the *of*-phrase with similar words, e.g. *the voice of parents, parents' rights*, however with animate beings is grammatically correct to use only the apostrophe, or such examples as *a receptor's natural agonist* and *agonist of the main opioid receptor* are used with both forms, however if to investigate the word “receptor”, in the second example it is combined with other nouns, that is why it is a complex noun that is needed to be used with the *of* structure. The second example of this group is the cases of usage of the *of*-phrase with animate beings, e.g. *the drinking habits of 2,600 people*, however, the rule does not describe that when animate beings are marked by a number, it is possible to use the genitive form.

The second group of difficulties is connected with the extended version of the cases of usage of the *of* structure in contrast to the genitive form 's. The first example of this group is related to the noun phrases that are coupled with the usage of the *of*-phrase, e.g. *the story of “Joe the Plumber”*. The second example of this group is related to various complex nouns that are used together with the *of*-phrase, e.g. *the agonist actions of the neurotransmitter serotonin*.

The third group of difficulties is connected with deficiency of grammar rules together with the corresponding examples in terms of the topic of the possession. The first example of this group is connected with a narrow range of examples of abstract nouns, e.g. *emotions, depressions, treatment, therapy, effect, action, universe*, and collective nouns as *party*. The second example of this group is connected with absence of rules in terms of the *of* structure, e.g. noun phrases and various complex nouns are used with the *of*-phrase, e.g. *a record of what has been helpful* (noun phrase), *the help of serotonin transporters* (complex noun), however these concepts are not described in grammar books.

2.7. Practical results of the uses of the possession in the USA's newspapers

The journalistic texts from the USA's newspapers, which articles also relate to such topics as education, politics, science and health, represent a wide range of examples where the forms of the possession (*'s* and *of*) are used either in accordance with the theory or in non-conformity with it.

2.7.1. The topic of education

The analysis of the examples from the topic of education in terms of the possession demonstrates the cases of usage both the genitive form *'s* and the cases of usage of the *of* structure. The cases of usage of the genitive form *'s* that correspond to the theory and are described there, include five categories: the first category is the indication of something that belongs to animate beings, or people in our case, e.g. *a professor's analysis, people's wealth, a friend's prescription, the professor's students*, the second category is connected with different geographical names, in our case they are cities, e.g. *Detroit's public schools, Detroit's students, Flint's crisis*, the third category denotes collective nouns, that represent organized groups of different people, e.g. *the city's population, the district's obligation*, the fourth category is the indication of a degree, e.g. *a master's degree*, and the fifth category is connected with expressions that denote time, but without certain dates, e.g. *the last year's figures, the next year's budget, today's kids*. The cases of usage of the *of* structure that correspond to the theory include three categories: the first category denotes specific dates, e.g. *the Class of 2015*, the second is referred to different formal names, e.g. *Detroit Federation of Teachers, the City of Detroit, the State of Michigan, the University of San Diego*, the third category is connected with the indication of something that related to inanimate things, e.g. *graduates of law schools, the impact of technology*.

2.7.2. The topic of politics

The analysis of the examples from the topic of politics in terms of the possession demonstrates the cases of usage both the genitive form 's and the cases of usage of the *of* structure. The cases of usage of the genitive form 's that correspond to the theory and are described there include four categories: the first category is the indication of something that is related to animate beings, or people, e.g. *Trump's dominant*, *Obama's jokes*, *Mr. Trump's sons*, *voters' hands*, *the president's opponents*, *correspondents' dinner*, the second category is the indication of geographical names, in our case they are countries and cities, e.g. *Indiana's Tuesday primary*, *California's early June primary*, *China's rise*, *China's economy*, *America's economic pains*, the third category is connected with different human creations, in our case they are various companies, e.g. *CNN's "New Day"* (Cable News Network and its programme), *C-SPAN's video* (Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network), *the Federal Reserve's campaign*, the fourth category denotes time expressions, but with no particular dates, e.g. *Saturday's dinner*. The cases of usage of the *of* structure include two categories: the first category is the indication of something that denotes inanimate objects and ideas, e.g. *a former secretary of state*, *a professor of economics*, *a professor of international law*, *categories of imports*, *the price of Chinese goods*, the second category is related to formal names, e.g. *N.Y.U. School of Law*.

2.7.3. The topic of science

The analysis of the examples from the topic of science in terms of the possession demonstrates the cases of usage both the genitive form 's and the cases of usage of the *of* structure. The cases of usage of the genitive form 's that correspond to the theory and are described there include six categories: the first category is the indication of something that has a connection with people, e.g. *the artist's impression*, *Mr. Obama's legacy*, *Justice Scalia's replacement*, the second category is connected with various human creations, in our case they are companies, e.g. *Johnson Controls' managers*, *the Milwaukee-based company's manager*, *Surgery's director*, the third category is related to geographical names, in our case it is a country, e.g. *India's needs*, the fourth category denotes locative nouns, in our case they are various heavenly bodies, e.g. *the star's dimming*, *a planet's composition*, *the third planet's exact orbit*, however the last example can be characterized as the indication of something as a part of another thing that is also needed to be marked by the genitive form, the fifth category is connected to collective nouns, e.g. *the world's electricity*, and the sixth category is connected

with abstract notions, e.g. *the science of climate change*. The cases of usage of the *of* structure include three categories: the first category is connected with formal names, e.g. *the University of Liege, the Union of Concerned Scientists*, the second category is the indication of something, either animate or inanimate, that denotes to other inanimate things, e.g. *the presence of elements, the existence of chemical disequilibria, director of technology performance, director of supply-chain management, adoption of electric cars, the director of strategy, the minister of environment, the economics of clean energy*, the third category is related to abstract notions, e.g. *the signs of progress, a riddle of missing crates*.

2.7.4. The topic of health

The analysis of the examples from the topic of health in terms of the possession demonstrates the cases of usage both the genitive form 's and the cases of usage of the *of* structure. The cases of usage of the genitive form 's that correspond to the theory and are described there include five categories: the first category is the indication of something that is related to animate beings, or people, e.g. *Justin Campbell's psychedelic mind, son's application, parents' rights, a person's body, the contestants' metabolisms, children's hospital*, the second category is connected with human creations, in our case they are various companies, e.g. *Altria Group Inc.'s brands, Japan Tobacco Inc.'s brands, NBC's television show*, the third group denotes geographical names, in our case it's a country, e.g. *the U.K.'s Royal College*, the fourth group is related to collective nouns, e.g. *the nation's obesity problem, the state's rapid downsizing*, the fifth category is the indication of something as a part of another thing, e.g. *Woodhull Hospital's rooms, the show's stage, the show's doctor*. The cases of usage of the *of* structure include two categories: the first category is connected with formal names, e.g. *the Royal College of Physicians, the University of Ottawa, the National Institutes of Health, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases*, the second category is related to the indication of something, even animate, that denotes various inanimate things, e.g. *a place of prison, the director of the U.K. Center for Tobacco Studies, the health effects of the devices, a professor of law, the health consequences of e-cigarettes, a blizzard of confetti, the professor of medicine, the health harms of smoking*.

2.7.5. Discrepancies between the theory and practice

The cases of usage of either the genitive form 's or the *of* structure in the USA's journalistic texts that were complex to categorize in terms of the theoretical background of the possession are related to three main groups of difficulties.

The first group of difficulties is connected with the existing discrepancies between the theory and practice. The first example of this group is the cases of usage of the apostrophe with inanimate nouns, e.g. *the report's authors*, *the show's stage*, however, the rule claims that with inanimate nouns is grammatically correct to use the *of*-phrase. The second example is connected with the cases of usage of the *of*-phrase with animate beings, e.g. *the brains of the inmates*, *the powers of an American president*, however, the rule claims that it is grammatically correct to use the apostrophe with living creatures. The third example is connected with the cases of usage of the *of*-phrase with various collective and locative nouns, e.g. *the role of the Chinese government*, *the warming of the planet*, however, the rule claims that such classes of nouns are related to the use of the genitive form. The fourth example is the cases of usage of both forms of the possession with similar words, e.g. *the standards of an insane system*, *benefits of the current system*, *the system's chief manager*, *the school system's finances*.

The second group of difficulties is connected with the extended version of the cases of usage of the *of* structure in contrast to the genitive form 's. The first example of this group is related to the noun phrases that are coupled with the usage of the *of*-phrase, e.g. *stories of how they got where*, *the author of the "Adolescence is Not a Disease"*, *a sign how the crisis is escalating*. The second example of this group is related to various complex nouns that are used together with the *of*-phrase, e.g. *a radical acceleration of the energy transition*, *discovery of Earth-like planets*.

The third group of difficulties is connected with a certain deficiency of grammar rules together with the corresponding examples in terms of the topic of the possession. The first example of this group is connected with a narrow range of examples of various abstract notions like *strategy*, *progress*, *violence*, *recovery*, *imports*, *energy* and collective nouns like *party*, *industry*. The second example of this group is related to absence of rules in terms of the genitive form 's, e.g. in the following example *the Texan's base of support* the apostrophe is used with nationality as a group of people, or living beings, but this concept is not marked in grammar books. The third example of this group is connected with absence of rules in terms of

the *of* structure, e.g. noun phrases and various complex nouns are used with the *of*-phrase, e.g. *stories of how they got where* (noun phrase), *a radical acceleration of the energy transition* (complex noun), however these concepts are not described in grammar books as well.

On the basis of conducted analysis, it is obvious to notice that there are differences and similarities between the theoretical background of the possessive case described in different grammar book and the practical representations of the usage of the possession found in journalistic articles. If similarities correspond to general conceptions of the possessive case, then differences include a wide range of conceptions that are not described in grammar books.

CONCLUSION

The final part of the current Bachelor's thesis is meant to summarize the main key points of the theoretical and empirical parts of the research in accordance to the established aims, the methodology used while conducting the practical analysis, and the hypotheses formulated at the beginning of the research.

The theoretical part of the thesis was dedicated to the investigation of prescriptive and descriptive English grammar books, which are written by different specialists of the English language, in terms of the topic of the possessive case, its key points of formation and its cases of usage. The results of the theoretical part have revealed that the general idea of the possessive case that is described by different linguists of the English language, such as R. Murphy, M. Vince, M. Swan, R. Quirk, M. Foley, N. Kobrina has common features, but the separate cases of usage of either the genitive form *'s* or the *of*-phrase denote various noun classes have differences in explanations and exemplifications.

The empirical part of the thesis was dedicated to the practical analysis of the cases of usage of different forms of the possession (*'s* and *of*) in the articles from the UK and the USA newspapers, which were taken from different sections, such as education, health, politics and science. Furthermore, this part provided a comparative analysis between the theoretical background and the practical cases of usage of the possessive case concerning the existing similarities and differences of the usage of the possession. The first results of the empirical part have revealed that the practical cases of the usage of the forms of the possession (*'s* and *of*) differ from the described theoretical conceptions in grammar books. On the basis of the results of a comparative analysis between the practical and theoretical cases of the usage of the possession, one of the hypothesis of the paper, which states that the uses of the possessive case (*'s* and *of*) as exemplified in grammar books tend to differ from the uses of the possessive case in journalistic texts, is successfully confirmed. The second result of the empirical part represent the investigation of the cases of the usage of both forms of the possession, more specially the prevalence of the practical cases of the usage of either the genitive form *'s* or the *of* structure. On the basis of the results of the conducted investigation, the other hypothesis of the paper, which states that the cases of usage of the genitive form *'s* are more extended than the cases of the usage *of*-phrase, is not confirmed because of the prevalence of the cases of usage of the *of* structure.

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RESÜMEE

Käesoleva töö teema on „Genitiiv inglise keeles: 's vs. of“. Käesolev töö on pühendatud kolme tähtsama eesmärgi saavutamisele.

Uurimistöö esimeseks eesmärgiks on süstematiseerida ja analüüsida inglise keele genitiivi vorme ning kasutamisevõtteid, mis on kirjeldatud erinevates inglise keele grammatika õpikutes ja teatmikkudes. Teiseks uurimistöö eesmärgiks on analüüsida inglise keele genitiivi kasutamisevõtteid erinevates Inglismaa ja Ameerika ajakirjandusartiklites. Kolmandaks uurimistöö eesmärgiks on võrrelda genitiivi teooriat praktilise kasutamisevõtetega. Kahte genitiivi vormi sisaldavad käände vormid on võetud Inglismaa ja Ameerikaajakirjandusest tekstidest.

Töös lähtutakse järgmistest hüpoteesidest:

- 1) genitiivi vormide ('s ja of) teoreetiliste ja praktiliste kasutamisevõtted on erinevad;
- 2) genitiivi 's-vormi kasutamisevõtted on laiemalt levinud kui genitiivi of-vormi kasutamisevõtted;

Töö koosneb sissejuhatusest, kahest peatükist ja kokkuvõttest. Sissejuhatav osa annab ülevaate kolmest tähtsamast inglise keele grammatika komponendist, tutvustab genitiivi moodustamise ajaloolist tausta vana ja keskaja inglise keeles. See osa sisaldab ka teema valiku põhjendust, esitab informatsiooni uurimistöö eesmärkidest ja hüpoteesidest ning kirjeldab eelnevaid uuringuid, mis on seotud genitiivi kasutamisega. Esimene peatükk, mis on uurimistöö teoreetiline osa, on suunatud uurimistöö esimese eesmärgi saavutamisele. See osa annab ülevaate uurimistöö raames kasutatavast meetodist, kirjeldab uuringu objekti, raskusi, mis on seotud näidete kategoriseerimisega, ning genitiivi kategooriate süsteemi. See osa tutvustab võrdlusanalüüsi genitiivi kirjeldamise kontseptsioonide põhjal, mis on esitatud erinevates inglise keele lingvistide raamatutes. Teine peatükk, mis on uurimistöö empiiriline osa, keskendub uurimistöö teise ja kolmanda eesmärgi saavutamisele. Teine osa kujutab endast võrdlusanalüüsi genitiivi teoreetiliste kontseptsioonide ja praktiliste kasutamisevõtete vahel. Praktilise osa raames läbiviidud tulemuste põhjal võib kinnitada, et on olemas nii sarnasused kui ka erinevused genitiivi teoreetiliste kontseptsioonide ja praktiliste kasutamisevõtete vahel. Kokkuvõtte tõestab esimese tõstatatud hüpoteesi kinnitust. Samuti praktilise osa raames läbiviidud analüüs näitab, et genitiivi of-vormi kasutamisevõtted on laiemalt levinud kui genitiivi käände 's-vormi kasutamisevõtted, mis ei kinnita teist hüpoteesi.

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