Internal versus external possessives: The case of Macedonian

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This paper examines the competition between two strategies of expressing prototype possession in Macedonian: the prepositional na-construction (kolata na Stefan Lit. the car on Stefan ‘Stefan’s car’), an internal possessive construction marking the possessive relation explicitly in the NP and the possessive dative (PDC), example below, the most widespread external possessive strategy (Mitkovska 2000).

\begin{Verbatim}
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The aim of this presentation is to show that in contemporary Macedonian the distribution of the two types of possessive constructions is primarily contingent on pragmatic and stylistic factors (O’Connor 2007). PDCs are rarely found in serious press where an objective account of events is the primary goal, while in fiction it is a common feature. In the latter presenting the events from the possessor’s perspective and empathizing with them creates an atmosphere of familiarity and intimacy.