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## 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).

*Vesna mu, ja rasipa kolata (na Stefan<sub>i</sub>).*  
Vesna him:DAT her:ACC broke car:DET to Stefan  
‘Vesna broke Stephan’s car.’

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.

**References:** • Mitkovska, L. (2000): On the possessive interpretation of the indirect object in Macedonian. *Linguistica Silesiana* 21, 85-101. • O’Connor, M.C. (2007): External possession and utterance interpretation: a crosslinguistic exploration. *Linguistics* 45(3), 577-613.