

NOTES ON GENITIVE CASE IN PRESENT-DAY ENGLISH

By

Masayoshi YAMADA *

0. This paper shows one of the serial attempts to study the present-day English usage from the pedagogical grammar¹ with a desire to improve the short-sighted interpretation of English observed in the teaching of English as a foreign language in Japan. This study is based on a fairly limited corpus of 689 sentences taken from the *Time* magazine (1976), but it may show something of the usage in present-day English. Sentences from the *Time* magazine were selected as the corpus for several reasons: first, because my major interest is in the usage of present-day English, newspapers and magazines published in Britain and the United States of America have been studied for the past years as part of the corpus. Second, it has often been pointed out that the syntax of newspapers or magazines is distinctive and has its own style and its own idiosyncracies (Hough 1971 : 11). We may find its syntactic influence on literary works, and we can not neglect its own style and its own idiosyncracies. Comparisons could be made with other writing styles. Third, we have Alvin Baron's fore-running study of the genitive case. We may justify the tendency observed then in present-day English. Hill (1958 : 142) cites structures of modification like *John's book* and *the people's candidate* as characteristic of the system of modification in English. Bryant (1962) summarizes the usage of the genitive case in standard usage, stating that the genitive case designed by the apostrophe or apostrophe and *s* occurs with inanimate nouns. Baron's

study based upon a reading of about a thousand pages of *Life*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *Coronet* (August, 1953 through January, 1954), disclosed 272 examples of the *-s* genitive with inanimate objects distributed over the following areas (See Table 1). Hough (1971 : 35) examined four American daily newspapers and found that the following examples were representative of nouns with the possessive suffix *-s* as modifiers :

Tribune a master's degree/the doctor's
bookkeeper/the world's produc-
tion

Times the society's rooms/today's mar-
ket/the earth's atmosphere/men's
fertility

Herald- four week's illness/the Lord's
Tribune prayer/the city's department/the
Yankee's loss

Chronicle Boy's Brigade/the Lord's task/
Gray's harbor

1. The present data are classified according to Quirk *et al.* (1972).

1.1 Personal Names

(1) Despite *Jimmy Carter's* wide lead over Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan in all the national polls, Americans are far from sold on the Georgian as their next President. 7. 12. 39²

(2) "Capricious," was *Teammate Turischeva's* delicate characterization. 7. 19. 51

1.2 Personal Nouns

(3) Worse, sex at *taxpayers'* expense could lead to charges of fraud. 6. 14. 23

(4) He tried to discourage looking on the job by doing away with windows—and removing the doors on the *men's* toilets.

* Department of English, Faculty of Education, Shimane University, Matsue, Japan.

political	<i>Germany's</i> rearming/ <i>the nation's</i> social security	40%	50%
physical objects	<i>turnpike's</i> stations/ <i>book's</i> main divisions/ <i>car's</i> performance	16	13
periods of time	four <i>hour's</i> ascent/by <i>the week's</i> end	14	9
commercial products	<i>GM's</i> patents	7	4
publications	<i>Newsweek's</i> article/ <i>Time's</i> staff	6	4
organizations and institutions	<i>Harvard's</i> School of Public Health/ <i>U. N.'s</i> Korea Civil Assistance Command	5	9
collective nouns	<i>the U. S. Bureau's</i> 30-day outlook	6	6
abstract nouns	<i>freedom's</i> ring	.8	2
personifications	<i>Death's</i> head	.4	0
with <i>world</i>	<i>the world's</i> greatest adventure	5	3
			(60%)
(personal name)		—	(26)
(personal nouns)		—	(10)
(others)		—	(4)
			(40%)

<Table 1 >

6.14.49

1.3 Collective Nouns

(5) Within nine months after he moved to Minneapolis as the financially troubled *company's* new president, Nyrop was able to post a profit. 6.14.49

(6) The *party's* liberal wing distrusted Strauss as a Texan who walked a line to the right of center. 7.12.21

Also, the *committee's* action/*government's* decision/*the Soviet team's* ticket/*an entire generation's* perception/*humanity's* greatest ventures/*mankind's* greatest invention/*the nation's* attention, etc.

1.4 Higher Animals

No instances were found in the present corpus, but Quirk *et al.* (1972 : 199) include the following instances : the *horse's* neck, the *farm dog's* bark, the *lion's* tail, the *tiger's* stripes. When we speak of our pets, the *-s* genitive is usual. This is in accordance with the use of personal pronouns (Sack 1967 : 110). The above four animate noun classes—normally take the *-s* genitive, but the *of*-genitive is also possible in most cases.

1.5 Geographical Names

1.5.1 Continents

(7) Attention is now likely to shift to *Europe's* other economic disaster area, Italy.

6.21.49

(8) Thus another connection has been made in one of *Asia's* most profitable and bizarre smuggling operations. 7.26.13

1.5.2 Countries

(9) Chris Schenkel with Cathy Rigby Mason, *America's* Olga Korbut, will report gymnastics. 7.19.52

(10) Even today half of *South Korea's* working women still earn less than the set minimum pay of \$30 per month. 7.12.18

1.5.3 States

(11) *Georgia's* Carter and his aides felt that the song stirs divisive rather than unifying emotions. 7.26.32

(12) *South Dakota's* grasslands, for example, never had a chance to turn green ; they are sere and yellow. 7.26.19

Alexander *et al.* (1975 : 150) give *the future of Africa*, *Africa's future* ; *the world's greatest writers*, *the greatest writers in the world* ; *the area of our country/the world*, stating that either form may be used with geographical names or with places of human activity, but only *of*-genitive when referring to physical attributes, *eg* size. ³

1.5.4 Cities/Towns

(13) What if Funn and his two buddies are able to round up some of *Hollywood's*

brightest? 7.12.40

(14) From Armenian to Ukrainian, practically every cuisine in the world is available in *New York City's* 20,000 restaurants. 7.19.27

1.5.5 Streets, etc.

(15) Down in Brooklyn are *Atlantic Avenue's* Lebanese and Yemeni speciality shops and inexpensive restaurants. 7.19.34

(16) This may not sound very funny, but at *off-Broadway's* Cherry Lane Theater, a most nimble cast unleashes a hailstorm of laughter. 7.11.39

1.5.6 Universities

(17) *Harvard's* new lab will include...reduced interior air pressure...and sterilization of wastes. 7.19.21

(18) "As a whole," said *the University of Chicago's* Phillip Kurland, "this year's opinions have not been those a law professor would find deserving of a good grade." 7.12.61

1.6 Locative Nouns : regions, heavenly bodies, institutions, etc.

(19) Following the recession, a horse-drawn landau elegantly carried the newlyweds through the *capital's* spotless streets. 6.28.27

(20) It pits the *nation's* leading soft-drink maker. 7.26.19

(21) Between Fifth and Sixth avenues on 47th Street, for example, is the diamond district, one of the *world's* largest.

Leech and Svartvik (1975 : 61) provides an interesting description, noting that place nouns are frequently used in the genitive when followed by a superlative : the *town's oldest* pub, *Norway's greatest* company, the *world's best* chocolate.

1.7 Temporal Nouns

(22) In the next *day's* story, the weather was "cool and blustery." 6.21.45

(23) Warm-up suits are one of this *season's* hottest items. 6.14.53

(24) The country's foreign exchange earnings...are down 40% to 60% below last

year's total of \$400 million. 6.28.26

(25) At *week's* end the beleaguered Albert announced that he will quit at the end of his present term. 6.14.23 (10 exx.) ⁴

1.8 Nouns of 'special interest to human activity'

(26) Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, *baseball's* first iron-fisted commissioner, could hardly have put the case more toughly. 6.28.49

(27) Some 55 players, many of them the *game's* most valuable, will be free agents once the season is over. 6.28.48

(28) Dartmouth arranged a special ceremony to confer upon *jazz's* first lady of song an honorary doctorate of human letters. 7.26.23

(29) When he could not find enough passengers on the Alaska route, Nyrop redesigned some *jumbos'* interiors so that they could carry more cargo. 6.14.49

(30) Virtually all of the *network's* prime time on week nights, plus most weekend afternoons and evenings, will be devoted to the Games. 7.19.52

(31) At the same time, Ford rolled the *ship's* bell aboard the *Forrestal* 13 times—once for each of the original colonies. 7.19.22 ⁵

(32) *Upstairs, Downstairs'* Jean Marsh took politely dim views of everything from American vegetables to the institution of monarchy. 7. 19. 53 (16 exx. referring to publications)

(33) All of *Northwest's* seats are of a single high quality, low-maintenance design,

personal names	177 exx.
personal nouns	70
collective nouns	25
higher animals	0
geographical names	163
locative nouns	60
temporal nouns	37
nouns of 'special interest to human activity'	157

<Table 2 >

for example. 6.14.49

(34) *Pepsi's* test was invalid because people likes the letter M better than they like Q. 7.26.20

(35) The Montreal Games will be *ABC's* sixth Olympics of the past eight. 7.19.52

As many as 51 examples referring to organizations were found.

2. Quirk *et al.* (1972 : 198) admit that selection of the *-s* genitive can best be described in relation to the gender classes represented by the noun which takes the *-s* suffix. It is generally understood that the *-s* genitive is favored by the classes that are highest on the gender scale, that is, animate nouns, in particular persons and animals with personal gender characteristics. The higher animals are more likely to have the *-s* genitive than the lower animals.

(36) The *flesh-eating larvae of the dermestid beetle* are used by museums to strip clean the bones of animals so that their skeletons can be mounted for display. 7.12.46

(37) When bred by man for resistance to the Hessian fly has held its own for some 30 years, even though the fly has gone through eight evolutionary changes in that period. USDA-funded scientists at Purdue University are working right now with resistant wheat strains to keep ahead of the *fly's* ninth change. 7.12.48

2.1 We have some constructions with *-s* genitive which can best be described in terms of specific lexical noun heads (Quirk *et al.* 1972 : 200) : (a) *of*-genitive is possible, (b) *of*-genitive is impossible.

(a) *edge* : the water's edge/the edge of the water

end : at his journey's end

surface : the water's surface

for...sake : for God's sake

(38) Once Hays snapped at her : "For *Christ's sake*, you've been in enough pictures!" 6.14.24

(b) *length* : at arm's length/*at the length of the arms

reach : within arm's length

throw : at a stone's throw

worth : their money's worth

(39) Here diamond merchant, among them Hasidic Jews in black grab, pull around tens of thousands of dollars' *worth* of jewelry in black suitcases on wheels. 7.19.28

2.2 Inanimate nouns generally take the *of*-genitive, but, as we have noted, geographical names, locative nouns, temporal nouns, and nouns of special interest to human activity occur with *-s* genitive. Quirk *et al.* (1972 : 201), however, note that the *-s* genitive is hardly acceptable in the following phrases : ⁶

? the wheel's hub the hub of the wheel

? the house's win- the windows of
dows the house

? the ditch's depth the depth of the ditch

If either form is possible, one of them is, however, generally preferred for reasons of euphony, rhythm, emphasis, or implied relationship between the nouns. ⁷ The use of the *-s* genitive is very common in headlines, where brevity is essential. Also the *-s* genitive gives prominence to the modifying noun. ⁸

Schibsbye (1965 : 116) notes that there is often a difference in meaning between *-s* genitive and *of*-genitive in the expressions in which *today* and *yesterday* are used as modifying nouns. He states that 'of today' means 'present', in which meaning 'today's' is rarely used. Tagiri (1970 : 531) provides the following expressions with comments :

Today's Japan is an industrial nation.

(Correct, but rather rare)

The Japan of today is... (Correct)

Modern Japan is... (Correct)

Isshiki (1968 : 58) rejects 'today's Japan' type of expression. I don't find any instance of 'today's Japan' type of expression in the present corpus, but I have some outside : ⁹

(40) The newspaper *of today* is produced differently, it is edited by a new kind of journalist, it is read by a new kind of American. *Today's* newspapers are as

different as black is from white from the newspapers of the 1890's. (Hough 1971 : 15)

(41) It is the purpose of this book to present in simplified form and in layman's language a few of the more important language problems facing *today's* speakers of English. (Mario Pay, *Language Today*, p. vii)

(42) *Today's* college graduate has an advantage in that they have a greater choice. (*Harper Dictionary of Contemporary Usage*, p. 480)

(43) In simpler times they were part of our education ; but in *today's* complex world everyone is an ignoramus about something—about diet, about the workings of our electronic whigmaleerie and arcane bureaucracies, about the flammability of fabrics, the potability of water, or the meaning of Form 1040A. (D. Bolinger, "Truth is a linguistic question," *Language*, Vol. 49, No. 3)

2.3 Functionally, the following cases do not allow the *of*-genitive (Leech and Svartvik 1975 : 60) :

(a) The origin relation

the girl's story (=a story that the girl told)

John's telegram (=a telegram from John,

a telegram that John sent)

(b) Various descriptive relations

a women's college (=a college for women)

a doctor's degree (=a doctoral degree)

2.4 Modifications of cyclic nature in language change are suggested by the available documentation. Languages pass from one general type to another as from a highly inflected type of language to an uninflected or analytic type. From an analytical structure they then tend towards a synthetic construction. The fact that both types of construction exist in the same language at the same type does not mean that eventually one will entirely replace the other. One may simply become predominant (Anderson 1973 : 163). Fries (1940 : 74) states that there were in standard English but thirty nine instances of the inflected genitive forms of nouns as against 868 instances of the periphrastic genitive with *of*, or 4.3 per cent of inflected genitive and 95.7 per cent of periphrastic genitive with *of*. He adds that in Vulgar English there were thirty one instances of the inflected genitive forms of nouns as against 389 instances of the periphrastic genitive with *of*, or 7.4 per cent of inflected genitive and 92.6 per cent of periphrastic genitive with *of*. The actual number of the inflected genitive forms of nouns has been so greatly reduced in Present-

GENITIVE	ANALOGUES	Fries	Yamada
1) possessive genitive the Mayor's daughter	(The 'have' relation) the Mayor has a daughter	40%	42%
2) subjective genitive the Israeli commandos' rescue of the skyjacking hostages	(The subject-verb relation) the Israeli commandos rescued the skyjacking hostages	23	26
3) genitive of origin the Mayor's letter	the Mayor wrote a letter	6	4
4) objective genitive its candidates' campaigns	(The verb-object relation) it campaigns its candidates	17	7
5) descriptive genitive a women's magazine	a magazine for women	10	21

<Table 3 >

day English that these genitives appear no more frequently than do the non-pattern plural forms without the *s* ending. However, the use of the *-s* genitive is becoming increasingly common in newspaper style, radio and TV reporting, and colloquial usage (Horn by 1975 : 153, Close 1975 : 124, Yasuda 1974).

3. Out of the 689 examples, 70 examples of personal nouns in pre-nominal position in structures of modification which have the possessive suffix *-s* were studied and classified according to the meaning.¹⁰ See Table 3.

4. Group Genitive¹¹

The *s* suffix is added to the last element of a noun phrase consisting of a postmodified or coordinated noun head. Crystal and Davy (1969 : 187) note that this is a feature which is common in the American press.

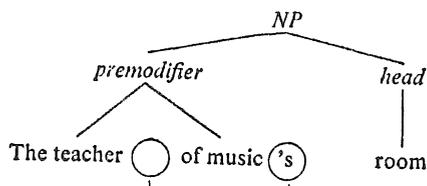


Fig 1

(Quirk *et al.* 1972 : 921)

- (44) The *U. S. Department of Agriculture's* economists predicted that retail prices of food would rise only slightly this year. 7. 26. 18

We have to distinguish between (a) coordinated genitive and (b) group genitive (Quirk *et al.* 1972 : 202) :

- (a) John's and Mary's books (some are John's and some are Mary's)
 (b) John and Mary's books (all are jointly owned)

- (45) The city has long had a cozy relationship with its police, *firemen's* and *sanitationmen's* unions. 7.12.51

- (46) If *Humphrey's* and *Muskie's* times had passed, while Church and Udall had gained stature in defeat, California Governor Jerry Brown had entered the

primary race late, scored surprising successes and clearly caught the presidential bug. 7.26.33

5. Elliptic Genitive

The head is not expressed but it is explicit or implicit in the context.

- (47) The nation's harvest of oats will plummet 24% below last *year's*. 7.26.18

- (48) Walker, 24, whose training was as punishing if not as puritan as *Bayi's*. 7.19.49

- (49) Again, *Stewart's* was a critical voice as he said for the court. 7.12.60

6. Local Genitive¹²

No head needs to be mentioned in some institutionalized expressions as the following three cases : (a) For normal residence, (b) For institutions such as public buildings, (c) For a place where business is conducted (Quirk *et al.* 1972 : 203). See Scheurweghs (1959 : 68-72).

- (50) The store manager shrugged off the protest : two days later *Foley's* (i. e. Foley's Department Store in Houston) had no more of the garments to sell. 7.19.43¹³

- (51) They attended plays and parties, shopped at *Bonwit's* and *Bergdorf's*, held a family dinner at *Mamma Leone's*. 7.26.41

- (52) Chinatown almost requires a special course of study, in which the thoughts of Chairman Mao will not help, but the best midtown Chinese restaurant is *Pearl's*. 7. 19.27

In some cases the institutionalization is carried so far that the apostrophe is dropped and with it any connection with the genitive construction : *Selfridges*, *Marrods* (Quirk *et al.* 1972 : 203, Sack 1967 : 110).

7. Double Genitive¹⁴

The double genitive consists of the combined inflected and periphrastic genitives, usually with a partitive meaning. The post-modifier must be definite and personal (Quirk *et al.* 1972 : 203). The admissibility of this type, as against the commoner, 'simple' post-modification type whose head is a noun

before the first *of*, provides the basis for the ambiguity in the old puzzle, 'The son of Pharaoh's daughter is the daughter of Pharaoh's son.' (Quirk 1968 : 191)

Womack and Miura (1962) note that 'a friend of my father's' and 'a friend of my father' are interchangeable and equivalent, and that there is ordinarily no differentiation in usage. There are some uses, however, where there is a possible difference in meaning: *a picture of my father* hangs on the wall = a likeness of my father hangs on the wall / *a picture of my father's* hangs on the wall = a picture—perhaps a landscape—owned by my father hangs on the wall. Also, Watanabe *et al.* (1976 : 63-63), Ehrlich and Murphy (1974 : 56).

As to the old-fashioned type of expression 'your husband's a friend' (= a friend of your husband's) which is found in present-day American English, see Konishi's discussion (1975).

8. In general, the genitive is preferred for the subject-verb relation, and *of* for the verb-object relation (Leech and Svartvik 1975 : 60) :¹⁵

- (a) Livingstone's discovery (= 'Livingstone discovered something')
- (b) the discovery of Livingstone (= usually 'somebody discovered Livingstone')
- (53) At issue was *the dismissal of teachers* in Hartonville, Wis., and Dearborn Heights, Mich. 7.11.51
- (54) "The question in my mind is whether *the choice of Mondale* means a turn to the left or is simply a stop to liberals." 7.26.26
- (55) *Supporters of the Bayh bill*... argue that putting the giant firms on the chopping block would open the market to greater competition. 6.28.54

We have, of course, the *-s* genitive for the verb-object relation :

- (56) Chief among the soft spots in *Carter's support* are still the liberals, though many were buoyed by his acceptance speech

and choice of Mondale. 7.26.26

The *of*-construction is also preferred to the *-s* genitive where a long phrase follows the *of*, or double pre-genitive is unavoidable :

- (57) Mount Rushmore's *great granite faces of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt*. 6.28.48
- (58) More than 5,000 delegates and alternates milled around *the crowded floor of New York's Madison Square Garden* in a festive and forgiving mood. 7.26.24
(*New York's Madison Square Garden's crowded floor)
- (59) Then came his answer, one of the strongest actions taken since *the founding of the commissioner's office* 55 years ago. 6.28.48 (*the commissioner's office's founding)

Kruisinga (1931 : 836) states that a double pre-genitive of nouns is unusual, saying that instead of saying *my wife's nephew's speech* we can say *the speech of my wife's nephew*.

- (60) There was a hush in Oslo Square, unbroken except by *Paul's guardian's daughter's* gramophone playing Gilbert and Sullivan in her little pink boudoir at the top of the stairs. (Evelyn Waugh, *Decline and Fall*)
- (61) Midway through this sizzling season is the *sports fan's ultimate midsummer's* dream. 7.19.52
- (62) Later in the evening, it was *Israel's Ambassador Chaim Herzog's* turn. 7.19.8

Although there is no theoretical limit to such sequences of genitives, there seems to be a practical limit of two, anything more being stylistically objectionable, comic, and difficult to comprehend (Quirk *et al.* 1972 : 918-919) :

- (a) These nasty women's employer's clothing
 <{[These (nasty women's)] employer's} clothing>
- (b) ?These nasty women's employer's wife's clothing

9. Scheurweghs (1959 : 73) notes that in spo-

ken English the genitive plural is not so frequent, because it is often not phonetically distinguishable from the genitive singular; in written English it is fairly common. Quirk *et al.* (1972: 203) note that with the disappearance of the small shopkeeper, the genitive of one of the three types of the locative genitive, i. e. the locative genitive for a place where business is conducted like *the barber's, the druggist's*, etc., is frequently confused with the plural: *They took the rug to the cleaners.*

(63) When a few Teamsters complained about the *bosses'* high salaries and high-handed ways, Fitzsimons silenced them with characteristic class. 6.28.8

Also, *babies'-breath/borrowers'* ability/the hardest *campaigners'* lives/the *customers'* mouths and ears/local *friends'* homes/*homosexuals'* rights/*rovers'* running low, etc.

10. Leech and Svartvik (1975: 231-232) state that although the genitive is generally discussed as a case of nouns, in some respects it is better to regard it as an ending belonging to noun phrases rather than of nouns.

(64) They all lived off the fat of the land—cookouts at *local friends'* homes—endured scraped knees and capsized canoes... 6.19.45

This fact is clearly seen when we compare equivalent *of*-phrase:

cookouts at the homes of *local friends*

The genitive behaves more like a single-word noun modifier, and the preceding determiners and premodifiers belong to the head noun of the whole phrase:

(65) Into the hardest *campaigners'* lives a little fun must fall. 7.12.23 ('the *campaigners'* lives which are hardest ones')

(66) Along with modified riding pants, they are expected to be the most influential *women's* trousers for the fall. 6.14.53 ('the *women's* trousers which are the most influential ones')

11. In such expression as 'Bette Davis is America's actress', *America's actress* implies

that she is recognized in some special way as (perhaps) the premier actress of that country. (The context of use would decide in what she is especially recognized) (Berendt 1974). Nouns in genitive case may take any of three forms—inflected, periphrastic, or adjunctive. The adjunctive form is considered by some grammarians to be an *adjectival+noun* construction and is called a syntactic genitive (Cf. Friend 1976: 24). There is some evidence that even the inflected genitive is disappearing in some nonstandard dialects today. Both in Great Britain and in the United States, one can hear genitive phrases such as *my wife father, the boy hat*, and so on. Whether this inflection began disappearing centuries ago and is merely inflected in the current speech of nonstandard speakers, or whether this is a relatively recent innovation that heralds the loss of the last overt case distinction among common nouns remains to be seen (Williams 1975: 254).¹⁶ See the following types of expressions:

Type 1: *Minnesota* Governor Wendell Anderson/*New Jersey* Congressman Peter Rodian

Type 2: *British* Prime Minister James Callaghan/*Japanese* Premier Takeo Miki

Type 3: *Italy's* lame-duck Premier Aldo Moro/*Tennessee's* Andrew Johnson

Type 4: Senator Adlai Stevenson of *Illinois*

Type 5: the three *Carter* sons—Jack, Chip and Jeff/the *McCarthy* threat/the *Kennedy* holiday/the soft and soothing *Carter* manner, the *Carter* rhetoric, etc.

NOTES

1. The pedagogical grammar I have in mind is both theory- and data-oriented, different from the so-called school grammar.
2. Should be read 'July 12, p. 39'.
3. A noun such as *America* is a little ambivalent. It refers to a nation, which may be thought of as an institution (inanimate)

- or as a group of people (animate) (Berendt 1974).
4. Cf. 'At last week's end a weary but determined Tip O'Neill said : "This guy has got to be removed." 6.14.25
 5. Also, *the ship's company*, *the ship's carpenter*, but not **a ship doctor*, etc. Cf. Watanabe *et al.* (1976 : 8), Alexander (1975 : 150).
 6. In poetry it is part of the poet's licence to use the *-s* genitive whenever there is an open or a veiled personification, e. g. in the poem "Sea-Fever" by Masefield : *the wheel's kick*, *the wind's song*, *the sea's face*, *the whale's way* (Sack 1967 : 110).
 7. Cf. Konishi (1976), 81-82.
 8. The choice between the two constructions being determined by considerations of stress and balance, the *of*-adjunct having more weight and being more emphatic than the genitive (Scheurweghs 1959 : 74).
 9. Cf. *The English Teacher's Magazine* Vol. XXIV, No. 3 (1976), 78.
 10. Obviously, semantic classifications of genitives are arbitrary in many instances. One might argue that *goat's milk* is either a genitive of origin or of description or character depending upon whether the emphasis is on the source of the milk, its appearance, or its chemical composition (Friend 1976 : 25). Also, see Chomsky (1972 : 11-61), Rutherford (1975 : 317), Williams (1970 : 102-104).
 11. Cf. Robat (1975 : 19-20).
 12. Womack and Miura (1962 : 136-137) discuss the problematic expressions *at Maruzen's* and *at Maruzen*. They note that the distinction seems to be whether the place of business is still rather closely associated with the name of an individual. If the name is no longer closely associated with an individual or if the name is a made-up one, like *Seibu*, *Safeway*, etc., then the *'s* is not used : *at Seibu*, *at Safeway*, *at Sansendo*, *at Maruzen/at Tuttle's*, *at Macy's*, *at Blum's* (place of business). Also, Robat (1975 : 114-116) discusses the use of a genitive without a head to denote a commercial establishment.
- Berendt (1974) notes that in contemporary American English, (1) often has an archaic flavor when the possessive is used with a trade. It is sometimes used to characterize a shop in order to arouse a feeling of tradition. Trades without the possessive are generally more common, especially when they are in a final position :
- (1) I bought this book at Smith's, the *bookseller's* on Trinity Street.
 - (2) I bought this book at Smith's, the *bookseller* on Trinity Street.
 - (3) I went to have my suit altered at my *tailor's*.
 - (4) I went to have my suit altered at my *tailor*.
 - (5) I bought this book at Kinokuniya, the *bookseller* not the *greengrocer*.
13. When a department store is widely known, the apostrophe may be dropped, as *Selfridges*, *Harrods* (Hornby 1975 : 154).
 14. Also, Robat (1975 : 78-85), Quirk (1968 : 191-192).
 15. Also, Scheurweghs (1959 : 74). Kikuchi discusses 'God's Love' and 'Love of God' in *The Rising Generation* Vol. CXXII, No. 5 (1976), 250. Robat (1975 : 23-26) discusses the difference between *consumer's needs* and *consumer needs*.
 16. Karl Zimmer in a recent study of nominal compounds (1971 : 14), finds that one necessary condition is that they be 'appropriately classificatory' for the speaker—i. e., represent a slice of reality and not a passing event (Bolinger 1973 : 545). Bolinger discusses the difference in meaning between *He responded to her cry of distress* and *He responded to her distress cry*.
 17. The following expressions were also found : a startled *Indiana* housewife / *Indianapolis* businessmen/his *Atlanta* confidant/an indigent *Florida* convict, etc.

Appendix : The rank list of -s words appeared in
Kučera and Francis (1967) (part)

Frequency & word	Frequency & word	Frequency & word
125 man's	13 foundation's	8 Curt's
43 year's	13 might's	8 enemy's
40 today's	13 officer's	8 Garibaldi's
38 father's	13 pip's	8 Helva's
38 god's	13 poet's	8 Hetman's
37 state's	12 kid's	8 Krim's
36 mother's	12 Lord's	8 Malraux's
36 nation's	12 navy's	8 Mercer's
35 world's	12 Roberts'	8 Kayburn's
33 child's	12 Steele's	8 Ruth's
28 president's	12 Trevelyan's	8 week's
27 company's	11 Eisenhower's	8 years'
27 women's	11 individual's	7 artist's
26 Kennedy's	11 Jack's	7 author's
23 Brown's	11 Scotty's	7 Bultmann's
23 children's	11 Shakespeare's	7 captain's
22 America's	10 Alex's	7 car's
22 woman's	10 brother's	7 Charles'
21 city's	10 bull's-eye	7 clietn's
21 John's	10 Chicago's	7 farmer's
21 patient's	10 girl's	7 Hitler's
20 Christ's	10 Greg's	7 master's
19 men's	10 Johnson's	7 Meeker's
19 people's	10 latter's	7 Mike's
17 department's	10 Mary's	7 Nick's
17 drug's	10 papa's	7 Oersted's
17 earth's	10 university's	7 Patchen's
17 husband's	9 club's	7 player's
16 boy's	9 else's	7 Russell's
16 govern- ment's	9 Faulkner's	7 Shelley's
16 Hudson's	9 Gavin's	7 Sherman's
15 country's	9 Georgia's	7 somebody's
15 day's	9 Island's	7 states'
15 Fromm's	9 ladie's	7 summer's
15 Hardy's	9 Mann's	7 Washington's
15 industry's	9 mayor's	7 York's
15 Pont's	9 O'Banion's	6 administra- tion's
15 wife's	9 other's	6 anyone's
14 governor's	9 Palfrey's	6 Aristotle's
14 Jess's	9 party's	6 artists'
14 Kruschchev's	9 Peter's	6 baby's
14 king's	9 secretary's	6 Bang-Jen- sen's
14 Plato's	9 son's	6 black's
14 Russia's	9 Wright's	6 Britain's
14 town's	8 Barco's	6 Brumidi's
	8 church's	

6 bull's-eyes	6 Thomas'	5 Harper's
6 Copernicus'	6 Thomas's	5 horse's
6 council's	6 throat's	5 host's
6 Doaty's	6 Welch's	5 Indian's
6 Eichmann's	6 William's	5 Jefferson's
6 family's	6 Wisman's	5 Joe's
6 France's	6 yesterday's	5 Kitty's
6 general's	6 SAAMI's	5 lady's
6 Hearst's	5 Alec's	5 Lewis's
6 Killpath's	5 another's	5 Lincoln's
6 leader's	5 army's	5 Mahzeer's
6 life's	5 Berger's	5 Moliere's
6 mantle's	5 Bill's	5 moment's
6 Miller's	5 board's	5 Montero's
6 mind's	5 bride's	5 months'
6 Morgan's	5 Castro's	5 Morse's
6 officers'	5 childhood's	5 respondents'
6 Palmer's	5 clerk's	5 Richard's
6 pool's	5 corporation's	5 Roosevelt's
6 Prokofieff's	5 devil's	5 sheriff's
6 Ptolemy's	5 driver's	5 ship's
6 public's	5 Edward's	5 Sloan's
6 Romarque's	5 Gabriel's	5 Smith's
6 Schnabel's	5 Garth's	5 someone's
6 Spencer's	5 Hammar- skyjold's	5 South's
6 Sunday's		5 Stalin's

References

- Alexander, L. G. and W. S. Allen and E. A. Close and R. J. O'Neill (1975), *English Grammatical Structure*. London : Longman.
- Anderson, J. M. (1973), *Structural Aspects of Language Change*. London : Longman.
- Baron, A. (1954), Article appeared in *The English Journal*, Oct. 1954. Also in Bryant (1962), 93-94.
- Berendt, E. (1974), "Brush Up Your English," *Asahi Evening News*, Oct. 15, Dec. 14.
- Bolinger, D. (1973), "Truth is a linguistic question," *Language* Vol. 43, No. 3, 539-550.
- Bryant, M. M. (1962), *Current American Usage*. New York : Funk & Wagnalls.
- Chomsky, N. (1972), *Studies on Semantics in Generative Grammar*. The Hague : Mouton.
- Close, R. A. (1975), *A Reference Grammar for Students of English*. London : Longman.
- Ehrlich, E. and D. Murphy (1974), *Concise Index to English*. New York : McGraw Hill.
- Friend, J. A. (1976), *Traditional Grammar*. Carbondale : Southern Illinois University Press.

- Fries, C. C. (1940), *American English Grammar*. New York : Appleton-Century-Crofts.
- Hill, A. A. (1958), *Introduction to Linguistic Structures*. New York : Harcourt.
- Hornby, A. S. (1975²), *Guide to Patterns and Usage in English*. London : Oxford University Press.
- Hough, G. A. (1971), *Structures of Modification in Contemporary American English*. The Hague : Mouton.
- Isshiki, M. (1968), *Shuushoku* (I). Tokyo : Kenkyusha.
- Konishi, T. (1967²), *Gendai-eigo no Bunpoo to Haikai*. Tokyo : Kenkyusha.
- _____ (1975), "Amerika no koogo-teki hyogen," *The Study of Current English* (July), 46.
- _____ (1976), *Aspects of English Synonymy*. Tokyo : Kenkyusha.
- Kruisinga, E. (1931⁶), *A Handbook of Present-day English*. Groningen : Noordhoff.
- Kučera, H. and W. N. Francis (1967), *Computational Analysis of Present-Day American English*. Providence, RI : Brown University Press.
- Leech, G. and J. Svartvik (1975), *A Communicative Grammar of English*. London : Longman.
- Long, R. B. (1961), *The Sentence and Its Parts*. Chicago : University of Chicago Press.
- Perrin, P. G. and W. R. Ebbitt (1972⁶), *Writer's Guide and Index to English*. Glenview, Ill. : Scott, Foresman.
- Quirk, R. (1968²), *The Use of English*. London : Longman.
- Quirk, R. and S. Greenbaum and G. Leech and J. Svartvik (1972), *A Grammar of Contemporary English*. London : Longman.
- Robat, N. J. (ed.) (1975), *Points of Modern English Syntax : Contributions to English Studies by P. A. Erades*. Amsterdam : Swets & Zeitlinger B. V.
- Rutherford, W. E. (1975²), *Modern English*. New York : Harcourt.
- Sack, F. L. (1967²), *The Structure of English*. Berne : Francke.
- Schibsbye, K. (1970²), *A Modern English Grammar*. London : Oxford University Press.
- Tagiri, H. (1970), *Kenkyusha's Dictionary of Common Errors in English*. Tokyo : Kenkyusha.
- Tellier, A. (1971), *Grammaire de l'anglais*. Paris : P. U. F.
- Watanabe, T. et al. (1976), *A Dictionary of Current English Usage II*. Tokyo : Taishukan.
- Williams, J. M. (1970), *The New English*. New York : The Free Press.
- Williams, J. M. (1975), *Origins of the English Language*. New York : The Free Press.
- Womack, T. and S. Miura (1962), *Style and Usage in Written English*. Tokyo : Kenkyusha.
- Yasuda, T. (1974), "Shin-bun, zasshi eigo no gohoo," *The Study of Current English* (June), 52-53.
- Zimmer, K. E. (1971), "Some general observations about nominal compounds," Working papers in language universals, Stanford University, 5.