

# The Big Challenges with Small Numerals in Russian Linguistic Complexity and Corpus Evidence

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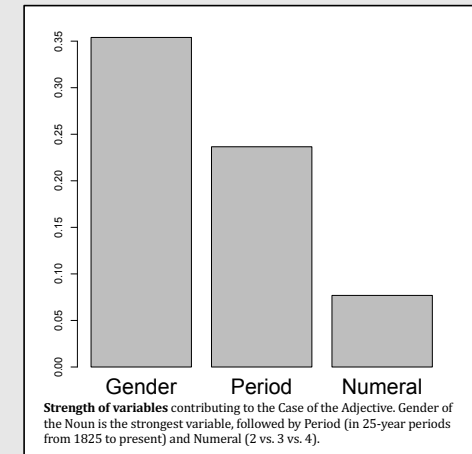
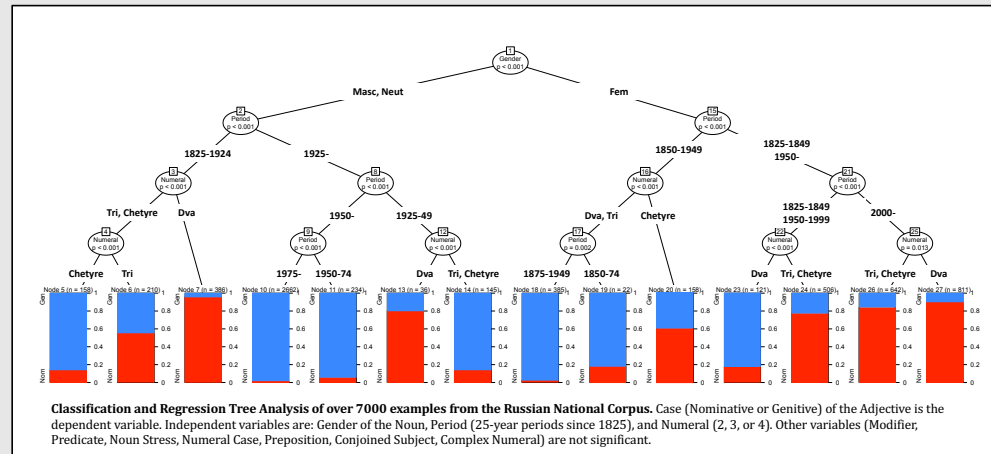
## Russian Paucal Numerals

Modifier: Nom Pl | AdjCase: Gen Pl | Predicate: Pl

Numeral: Nom Masc | Noun: Gen Sg

Tol'ko otкуда **ëti dva zagadočnyx sputnika vzjalis'?**  
Only wherefrom these two mysterious companion came  
'But where did these two mysterious companions come from?'

Russian Numerals are famous for their syntactic complexity. Nouns appear in both Nominative Plural and Genitive Singular, Modifiers in both Nominative Plural and Genitive Plural, & Predicates in both Plural and Neuter Singular forms.



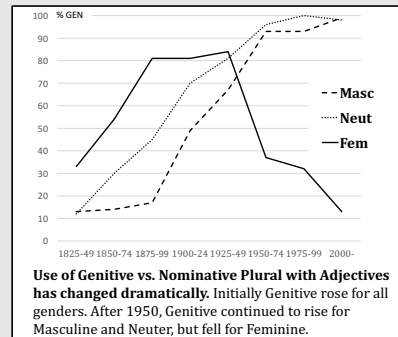
### Adjective in Nominative or Genitive?

Dve<sub>NOM</sub> star<sup>y</sup>e<sub>NOM,PL</sub> knigi<sub>NOM,pl/GEN,SG</sub>

Dve<sub>NOM</sub> star<sup>x</sup>e<sub>GEN,PL</sub> knigi<sub>NOM,pl/GEN,SG</sub>

"Two old books"

An Adjective following a numeral can appear in the Nominative or Genitive Plural. There are many potential factors that might influence this choice.



	Masculine/Neuter			Feminine		
	Dva (2)	Tri (3)	Chetyre (4)	Dve (2)	Tri (3)	Chetyre (4)
1825-49	N	N/G	G	G	N	N
1850-74	N	N/G	G	G	G	N/G
1875-99	N	N/G	G	G	G	N/G
1900-24	N	N/G	G	G	G	N/G
1925-49	N	G	G	G	G	N/G
1950-74	G	G	G	G	N	N
1975-99	G	G	G	G	N	N
2000-	G	G	G	N	N	N

**Distribution of Genitive vs. Nominative case on the Adjective differs according to Numeral.** 4 leads, later joined by 3 and then 2, yielding two different constructions.

### Conclusions

- Dramatic Change over 200 years
- 1800s: All genders: Genitive growing
- 1900s: Masc/Neut: Genitive wins
- 2000s: Feminine: Nominative wins
- Factors
- Gender > Period > Numeral
- Big is Better
- Higher numerals lead the change
- Is Complexity Growing?
- Two distinct constructions emerge

### References

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