Title: Pre-posed Adnominal Genitives in North Slavic
Author: Erik Houle, The University of Chicago

Possession in Slavic is conveyed in various ways, with varying degrees of usage depending on the context and the language. Polish, for example, uses verbs to indicate possession far more often and in many more contexts than, say, Russian, which prefers the 'existential' preposition (+ genitive case) + 'to be' construction. Among the Slavic languages which still have full inflectional systems, the genitive case, to a varying degree, is productive in indicating possession. It is conveyed by means of the so-called adnominal genitive, i.e. the concatenation of a nominal form with a genitive (nominal) form, generally thought of in English as conveying: the X *of* Y. Prescriptively in East Slavic and Lekhitic, the adnominal genitive form is almost always post-posed. According to prescriptive grammars, the "rare" pre-posed adnominal genitive exceptions, if even permissible, are marked for contrastive emphasis or described as (seemingly unmotivated) tendencies in substandard colloquial forms. Moreover, one is hard pressed to find mention in grammars of pre-posed adnominal genitives accompanied by a possessive adjective (as in the Polish: mojej siostry dzieci; Ukrainian: мого брата   жінка; Russian: (у) моей сестры дети). The usage could be seen as a topicalizing device, but it is not altogether clear or convincing, how adnominal inversion can establish theme any more efficiently than the traditional adnominal form since thematic information is more likely conveyed by the head noun. This paper attempts to account for the common usage of the pre-posed + adjective adnominal genitive construction in East Slavic and Lekhitic (referred to here as North Slavic = NSl) as seen in internet chat postings within the framework of discourse analysis and in the context of language contact.

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