**Thesis:** Grammar Competition Explored In Two Case Studies: Ns Stage And Old English

**Abstract:** For my dissertation, I aim to investigate grammar competition accounts in the Principle and Parameters (P&P) framework. Grammar competition theory postulates that the variation in a speaker is a result of different grammars competing against each other. To investigate such an account I perform an analysis on two case studies of empirical observations attributed to possible grammar competition - null subject production in English speaking children and variation observed in Old English. Children in an English speaking environment (obligatory subject) drop subjects. One of the popular causes of such an observation is attributed to imperfect learning due to grammar competition. My thesis aims to construct a computational model of this imperfect learning. Old English exhibits both OV and VO surface word orders. A popular theory attributes such variation to competing grammars. My thesis aims to perform a comprehensive corpus analysis using a formidable bank of computer queries that are not targeted for specific word order patterns, which will contribute to efforts towards the documentation and quantification of Old English variation.

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