

Abstract

This thesis is concerned with subject-verb agreement with collective nouns in British and American English. The thesis deals with verbal as well as with pronominal agreement. The first part of the thesis gives theoretical background of concord with collective nouns with respect to differences between the two major varieties of English. The second part of the thesis describes the sampling method by which 4 samples have been excerpted from British National Corpus (representing British English) and Corpus of Contemporary American English (representing American English). Sample 1. containing 25 instances of the collective noun FAMILY and sample 2. containing 25 instances of the collective noun STAFF have been excerpted from BNC. Following the same method, two samples have been excerpted from COCA - sample 3. containing 25 instances of the collective noun FAMILY and sample 4. containing 25 instances of the collective noun STAFF. The analytical part includes description and analysis of individual samples. The samples of British English have shown that the collective noun FAMILY is used in the singular or in the plural depending on whether individual members or the whole group is regarded. On the contrary, the collective noun STAFF occurred more frequently in plural constructions. In American English the singular agreement dominated the two samples although there were many cases of plural agreement, especially with the collective noun STAFF.