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# The genitive in Afrikaans before standardisation

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Afrikaans, an extra-territorial daughter language of seventeenth-century Dutch, inherited many characteristics from Dutch, one of which is the *van*-genitive ('of'-genitive), exemplified in [1]. However, through the process of creolization, many Dutch features were significantly changed or ceased to be used, including the Dutch *s*-genitive. In its place, a new Afrikaans genitive particle, *se* [2], developed from the singular male possessive pronoun *zijn* > *sijn* > *s'n* > *se*.

[1] *die melkkamer van 'n pragtige boerewoning*  
'the milk.room of a beautiful farmhouse'

[2] *Ketiet se voet*  
'Ketiet's foot'

The use of the Afrikaans genitives since standardization has been described fairly well (e.g. in Kirsten 2019), and the earlier development of the Afrikaans genitive has also received attention (Den Besten 2012). The focus now will be on the transitional period, from the late 19th century to the early 20th century, when Afrikaans was first being seen as a language separate from Dutch. While the *van*-genitive has not changed much in its form or use, this period was one of great variability for the *se*-genitive before the one specific form was entrenched during standardization. The different forms used by authors from different backgrounds can reveal how this construction developed in different varieties to eventually settle on the *se*-genitive as it was standardized and is still used today.

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