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Case variation of primary NPs in negated sentences in Latvian

In comparing the partitive-genitive use of subject and object cases in Finnish, Latvian and Lithuanian in negated sentences, the first observation is that the usages correspond fairly fully in Finnish and Lithuanian, but in Latvian subjects only in sentences with *būt*, 'to be'. With lexical negated predicates, Latvian has in contemporary usage mostly nominative.

In object cases, the variation between accusative and genitive in Latvian has been treated in grammars and research (Berg-Olsen 1999, Kalnača 2002, 2014). Although it is a well-known phenomenon, this paper continues studying the conditions for the choices. Test sentences were presented to 10-12 informants who were asked to give their preference for accusative vs. genitive. Their answers confirm the direction of the on-going change: a general tendency to associate the object with a unique case form (Kalnača 2014, 56).