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## Using a Diachronic Corpus: Mapping the Historical Continuum

Based on the data from the Diachronic Part of the Czech National Corpus, several cases of word forms and structures competing over the seven-century history of Czech written texts will be used to argue that representative diachronic corpora, i.e. corpora encompassing the entire (written) history of a language, can be much more than just efficient replacements for traditional excerption. One major aspect of diachronic corpora (namely their potential to grasp the historical continuum of languages and gradualness of language change) will be discussed in some detail.