



Capitalisation in Czech Broadside Ballads of the Seventeenth to Eighteenth Century

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Capitalisation in Czech: Early Modern Views

- Grammar recommendations:
 - Capital letters have to be used at the beginning of sentences and for proper nouns (e. g. Nudožerský 1603, Drachovský 1660)
 - Capital letters also have to be used to stress the importance of selected words, such as high political titles or nomina sacra (e. g. Konstanc 1667, Steyer 1668, Jandit 1704, Doležal, 1746)
- **„As in the Latin books“** (Drachovský 1660)



Capitalisation in Czech: Early Modern Views

- Grammar critics:
 - *A giftě neflussj/ ano gakfy proti rozumu gest/ tak dobře **blechu/** gako **Boha** welkým **B** ctjti: tak **wefs** gako **Welebnau Swátoft** welkým **W** flawiti: rowně **leyno** a **čerwjčka/** gako **Leopolda Cýsaře** hrubým **L** y **C** pfáti: a toho tuto přjčinu dáwati/ že rowně **blecha/ wefs/ leyno/ čerwj** gfa u Substantiva nomina, gako **Bůh/ Welebná Swátoft** a **Leopold Cýsář.**“ (Konstanc 1667)*
 - „werden die Appelativa nicht wie im Deutschen mit großen, sondern wie im Lateinischen mit kleinen Buchstaben geschrieben.“ (Pelcl 1798)
 - „Not as in German“(Pelcl 1798)

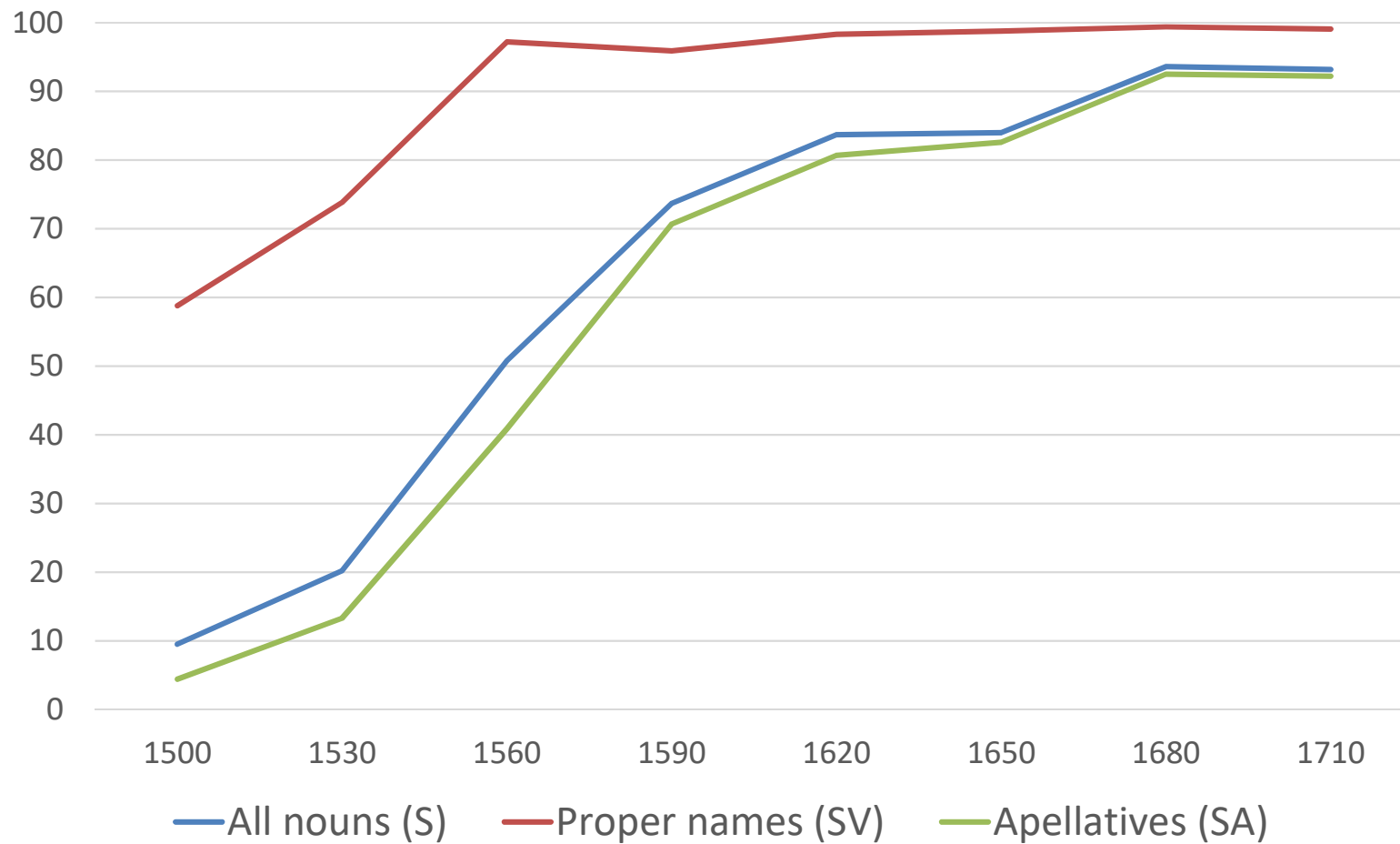


The Method

- **BERGMANN, Rolf; EWALD, Petra; FÖRTSCH, Jutta; GÖTZ, Ursula; NERIUS, Dieter; RUF, Birgit; TIPPE, Reinhold. *Die Entwicklung der Großschreibung im Deutschen von 1500 bis 1700*. Heidelberg, 1998.**
- Analysed 145 printed text samples from 1500 to 1710 from all the regions of Germany
 - Text length at least 4000 words
 - Religion, popular science, fiction
 - Capitalisation on the textual, syntactic and **lexical level**



Percentage of capitalisation of nouns in German printed books 1500-1710





Application to Czech

- FIDLEROVÁ, Alena A.; DITTMANN, Robert; VLADIMÍROVÁ, Veronika S.: Užívání velkých písmen v českých tištěných Biblích raného novověku. [Capitalization in Early Modern Czech Printed Bibles]. In: Čornejová, Michaela; Rychnovská, Lucie; Zemanová, Jana (eds.): *Dějiny českého pravopisu (do r. 1902) – History of Czech Orthography (up to 1902)*. Brno: Host, Masarykova univerzita, 2010, pp. 285–308.
- FIDLEROVÁ, Alena A.: Uplatnění lexikálního principu v užívání velkých písmen v českých tištěných biblích raného novověku. [Application of the lexical principle in the use of capital letters in printed early modern Czech Bibles]. *Historie – Otázky – Problémy* 5, 2013, pp. 159–174.

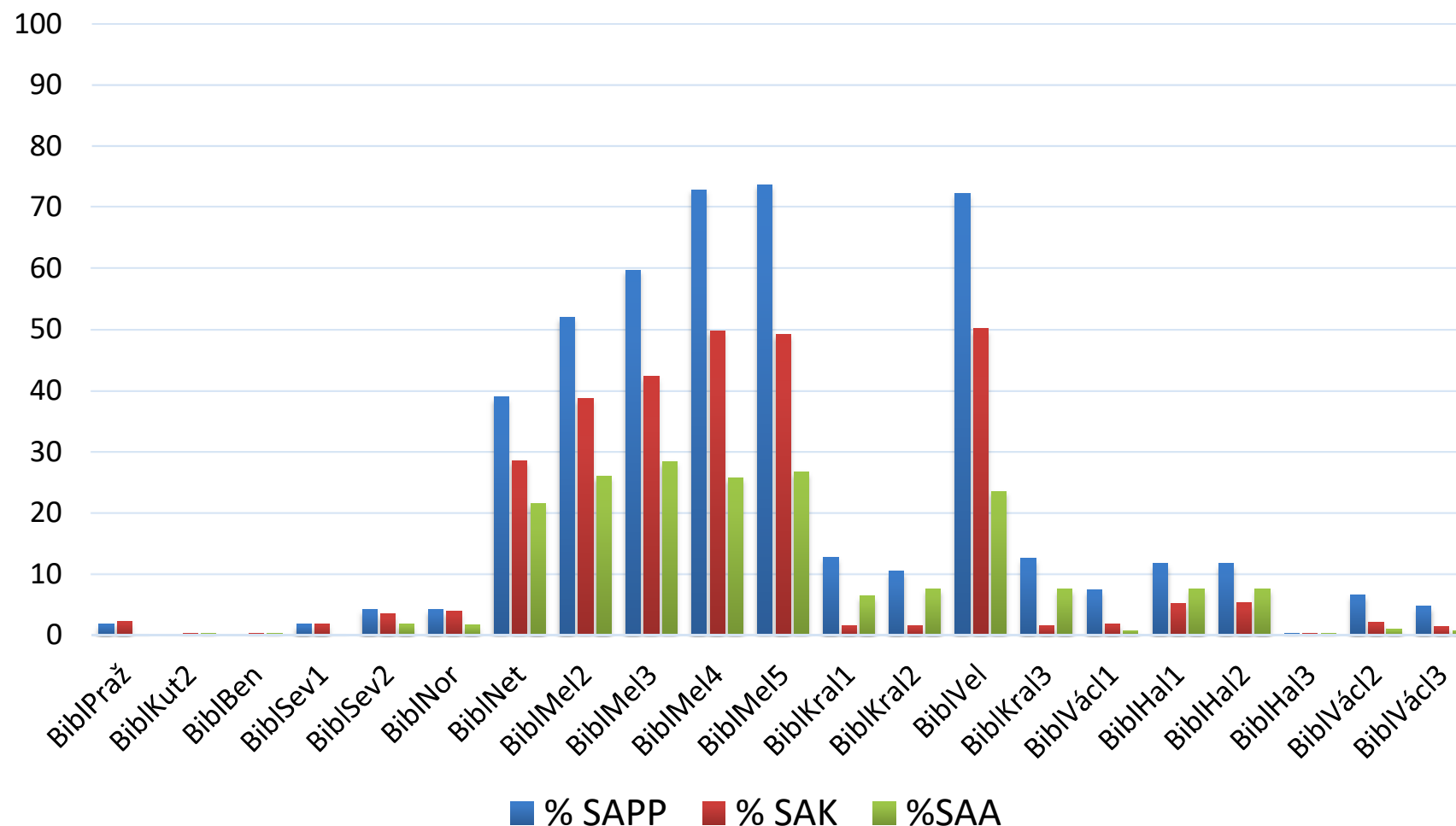


The Material

- All Czech complete printed Bibles from 1488 to 1780
- The sample:
 - Gen 1-5
 - Ezech 1-5
 - John 1-5
 - Gal 1-6
- Altogether contained 9700 words, of which ca. 2500 nouns, 500 adjectives, 210 numerals



The results: two „traditions“ - Melantrich/Veleslavín Bibles and Kralice Bibles





The present research: broadside ballads 1652-1762

Group	Text	Group	Text
Olomouc 1650s	Olomouc 1652	Olomouc 1740s-1750s	Olomouc 1744
	Olomouc 1655		Olomouc 1746
Olomouc 1670s-1680s	Olomouc 1676		Olomouc 1748
	Olomouc 1685		Olomouc 1751
	Olomouc 1686	Brno 1740s-1760s	Brno 1742
Brno 1690s	Brno 1692		Brno 1745
	Brno 1693		Brno 1756
	Brno 1695		Brno 1762
Olomouc 1690s-1710s	Olomouc 1699		
	Olomouc 1712		

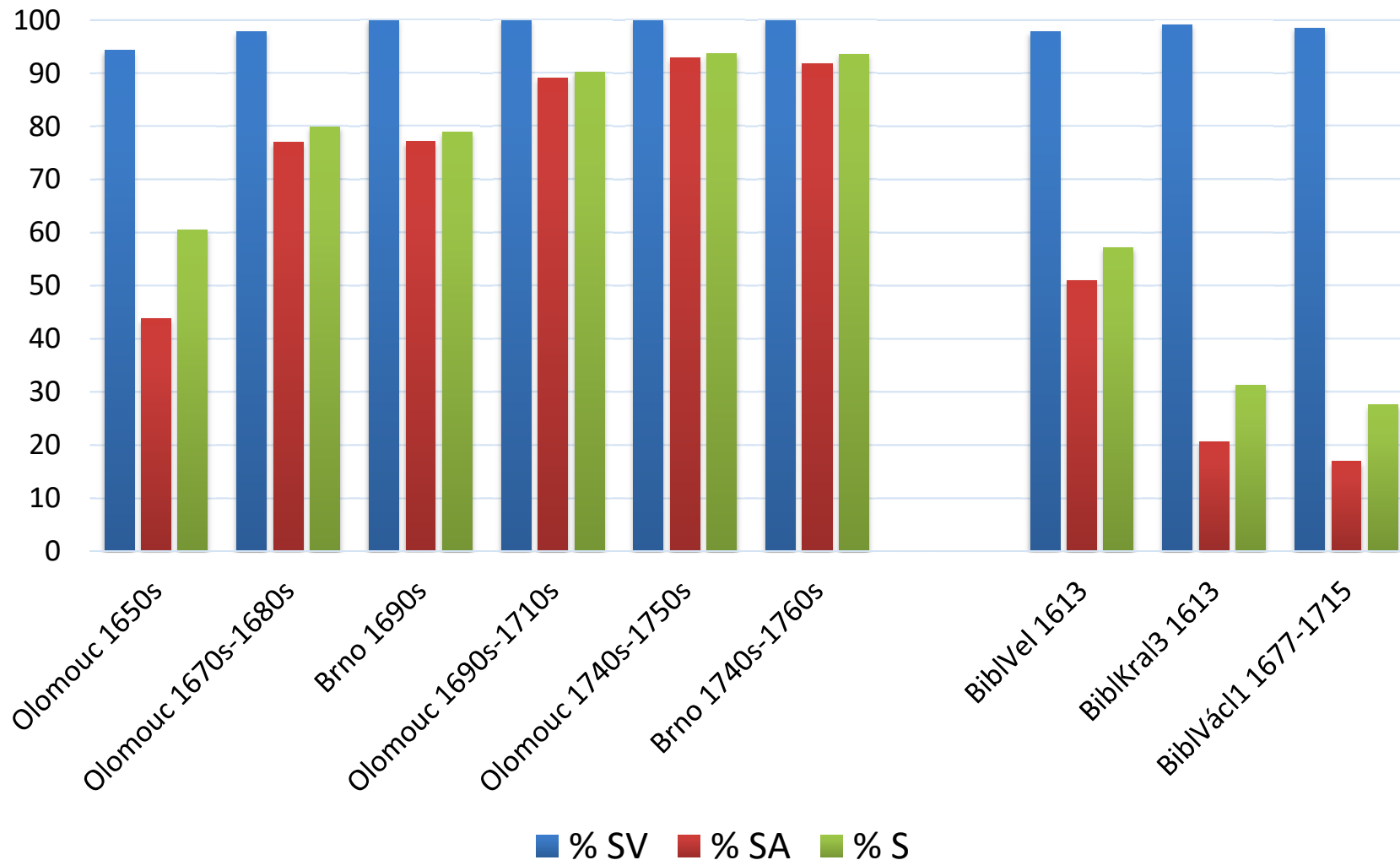


Size of the samples

	Nouns	Adjectives	Numerals
Olomouc 1650s	554	221	14
Olomouc 1670s-1680s	977	357	21
Brno 1690s	762	297	5
Olomouc 1690s-1710s	380	128	5
Olomouc 1740s-1750s	1134	438	37
Brno 1740s-1760s	296	128	8



Percentage of capitalisation of nouns: proper names (SV), appellatives (SA), substantives altogether (S)



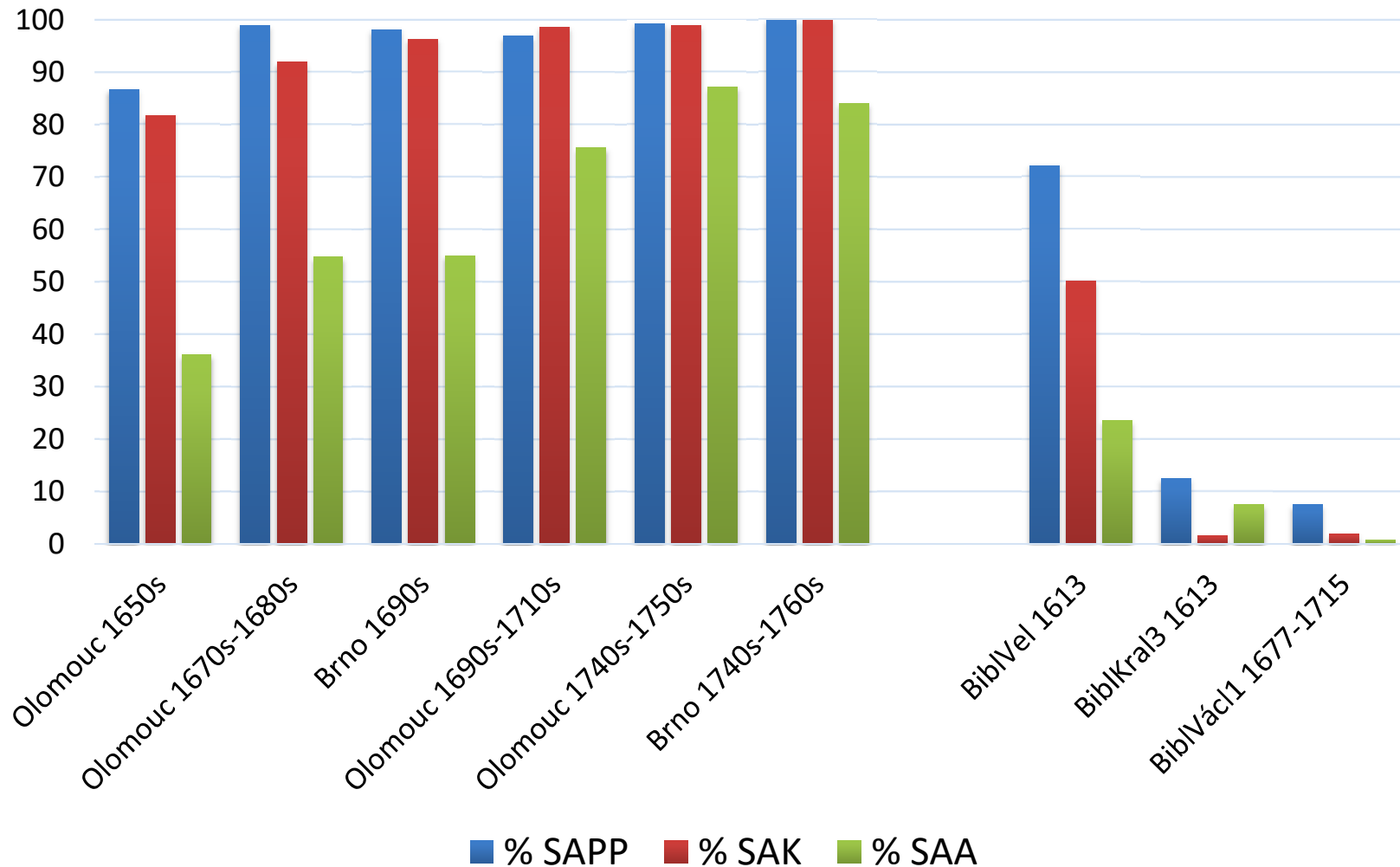


Percentage of capitalisation of nouns: proper names (SV), appellatives (SA) and nouns altogether (S)

Group	% SV	% SA	% S
Olomouc 1650s	94,3	43,8	60,5
Olomouc 1670s-1680s	97,8	77,0	79,9
Brno 1690s	100,0	77,1	78,9
Olomouc 1690s-1710s	100,0	89,1	90,3
Olomouc 1740s-1750s	100,0	92,9	93,7
Brno 1740s-1760s	100,0	91,8	93,6
BiblVel 1613	97,8	51,0	57,2
BiblKral3 1613	99,1	20,7	31,3
BiblVácl1 1677-1715	98,4	16,9	27,6



Percentage of capitalisation of nouns: names of persons (SAPP), concrete nouns (SAK) and abstract nouns (SAA)



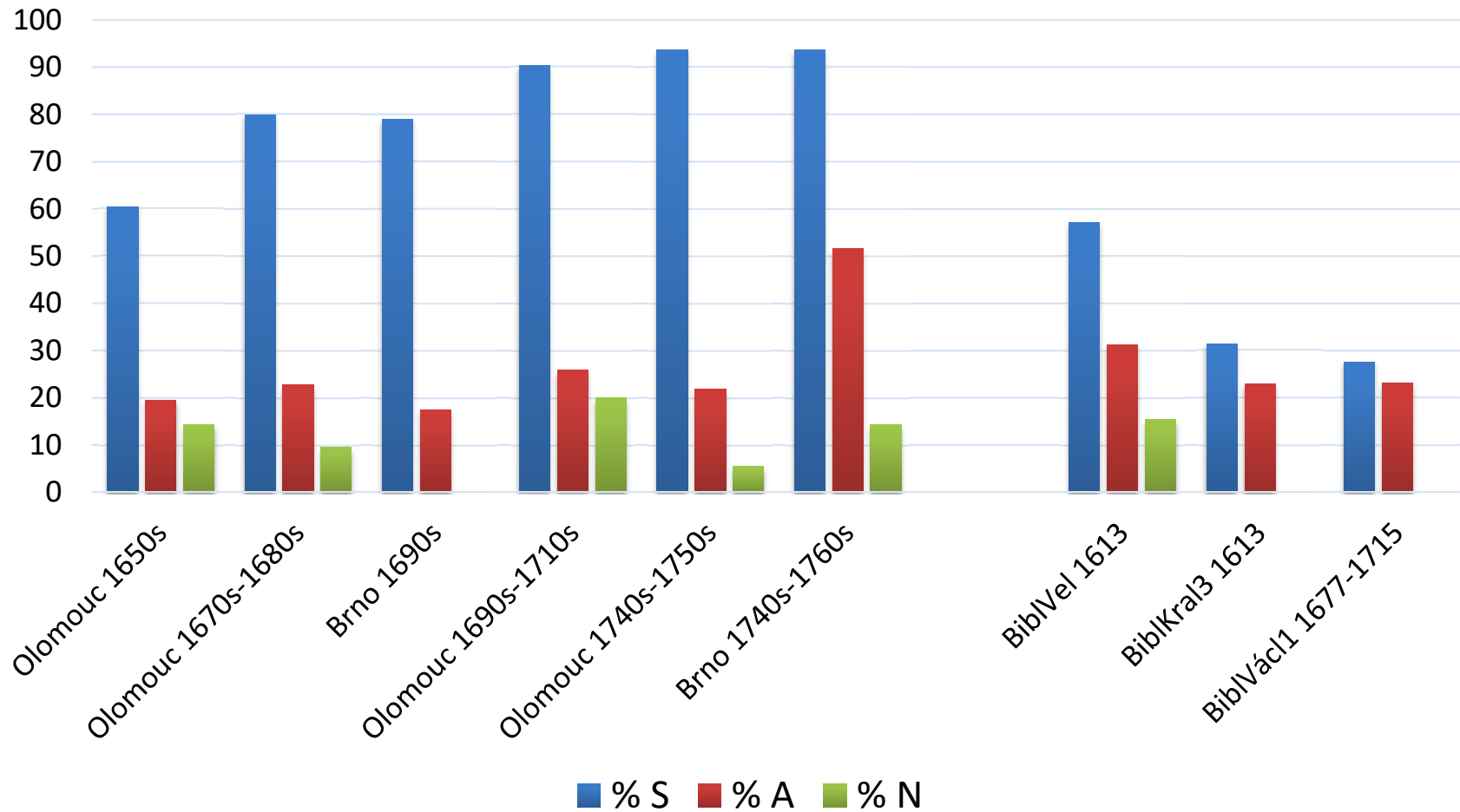


Percentage of capitalisation of nouns: names of persons (SAPP), concrete nouns (SAK) and abstract nouns (SAA)

Group	% SAPP	% SAK	% SAA
Olomouc 1650s	86,7	81,7	36,1
Olomouc 1670s-1680s	99,0	91,9	54,7
Brno 1690s	98,0	96,3	55,0
Olomouc 1690s-1710s	96,9	98,7	75,5
Olomouc 1740s-1750s	99,3	99,0	87,1
Brno 1740s-1760s	100,0	100,0	84,1
BiblVel 1613	72,2	50,1	23,5
BiblKral3 1613	12,5	1,5	7,5
BiblVácl1 1677-1715	7,4	1,8	0,7



Percentage of capitalisation of nouns (S), adjectives (A) and numerals (N)



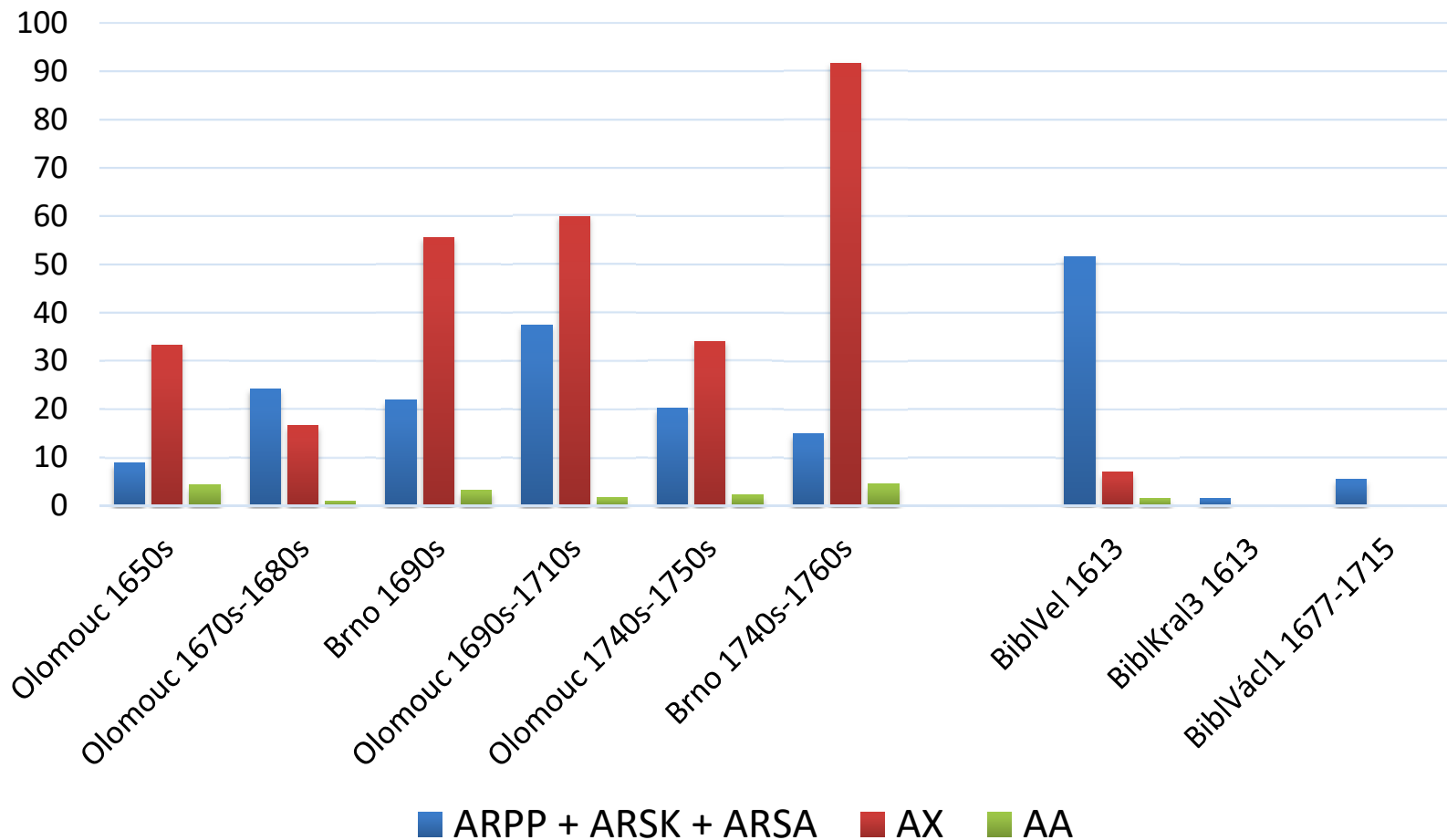


Percentage of capitalisation of nouns (S), adjectives (A) and numerals (N)

Group	% S	% A	% N
Olomouc 1650s	60,5	19,5	14,3
Olomouc 1670s-1680s	79,9	22,7	9,5
Brno 1690s	78,9	17,5	0,0
Olomouc 1690s-1710s	90,3	25,8	20,0
Olomouc 1740s-1750s	93,7	21,9	5,4
Brno 1740s-1760s	93,6	51,6	14,3
BiblVel 1613	57,2	31,2	15,3
BiblKral3 1613	31,3	22,9	0
BiblVácl1 1677-1715	27,6	23,2	0



Percentage of capitalisation of adjectives derived from appellatives (ARPP + ARSK + ARSA), substantivised adjectives (AX) and other adjectives (AA)





Percentage of capitalisation of adjectives derived from appellatives (ARPP + ARSK + ARSA), substantivised adjectives (AX) and other adjectives (AA)

Group	% ARPP + ARSK + ARSA	% AX	% AA
Olomouc 1650s	8,9	33,3	4,3
Olomouc 1670s-1680s	24,2	16,7	0,9
Brno 1690s	21,9	55,6	3,2
Olomouc 1690s-1710s	37,5	60,0	1,6
Olomouc 1740s-1750s	20,2	34,0	2,2
Brno 1740s-1760s	15,0	91,7	4,4
BiblVel 1613	51,6	7,0	1,5
BiblKral3 1613	1,4	0,0	0,0
BiblVácl1 1677-1715	5,4	0,0	0,0



Conclusion

- Capitalisation in the 17th and 18th century broadside ballads on the lexical level:
 - Is based on the part of speech principle
 - Continues the tendency visible in the production of the Veleslavín's printing house; the innovations of Kralice Bible and St Wenceslaus Bible are ignored
 - Towards the mid-18th century, almost all nouns are capitalised
 - Among adjectives, predominantly substantivised adjectives and those derived from nouns are capitalised
 - Other parts of speech are capitalised only rarely (mostly when derived from nouns)
 - Numerals represent the third most often capitalised part of speech, but the results are not representative



Conclusion

- The tendency to capitalise all nouns was ever stronger in Early Modern Czech (same as in German, just with a slight delay) and by the mid-18th century, almost all nouns (and many other noun-like words) were routinely capitalised
- However, this was reversed during the 19th century by the National Revival codification and school instruction based on the classicising approach of Early Modern grammarians embodied in the usage of the Kralice and St Wenceslaus Bible



Thank you for your attention.

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