

Workshop on Automatic Detection of Language Change,
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The Market Language

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a historical project that explores ways in which people have used the word
market since the Middle Ages

starting point in the intersection between historical and linguistic analysis

conceptual history

concepts as object of study: indicators and factors

abstraction, collective singulars

history of language usage

the grand narrative – a brief sketch

concrete markets – the Skara market in Michaelmas

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public advertisement,
collected and scanned
by Henrik Björck

the grand narrative – a brief sketch

concrete markets – the Skara market in Michaelmas

abstract markets – the foreign iron market

specified abstractions – the labor market

adjective and alternative – the market economy

unspecified abstraction; generalizing collective singular – the market

The methodological and empirical framework of the proposed project:

Historical texts as the primary platform for analysis

Many types of texts from different genres - various sources and ages

”What is available?” – merging text sources from previous projects and existing resources as well as scrutinizing new text material in line with the aim and questions of the project

A matter of size – certain texts are less compatible with i.e. quantitative methodologies for analysis

Collaboration with colleagues in computer linguistics as well as with institutional archives and library professionals

Analyzing the linguistic representations of "market" in texts

Market as a keyword in context: frequencies, variation in and between texts

In recurring constructions

COMPOUND HEAD market; the market VERB; the market is ADJECTIVE; ADJECTIVE market; market has OBJECT; definite/indefinite article market [...]

The company of "market" as a word or in compound phrases – connotations and collocations

bustling markets, stable market, the market reacts, going to the market

But also the meaning of "market" as other words or phrases: (the trickier part)

Help from (various) methodological tools: existing tagged corpora (Språkbanken) and possibly new corpora with the use of concordance software; qualitative close reading and quantitative search patterns