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Shoda a odkazovací prostředky po kolektivech v BrE a AmE

Concord and means of reference with collective nouns in British and

American English

vedoucí práce: Mgr. Leona Rohrauer

Zuzana Sivá
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Čestné prohlášení

Prohlašuji, že jsem bakalářskou práci na téma *Shoda a odkazovací prostředky po kolektivech v BrE a AmE/ Concord and means of reference with collective nouns in British and American English* vypracovala samostatně s použitím pramenů uvedených v bibliografii a pod vedením Mgr. Leony Rohrauer.

V Českých Budějovicích, dne 23.4.2012

…………………...........

Zuzana Sivá

Poděkování

Anotace:

Tato práce má za cíl objasnit principy shody po kolektivních podstatných jménech v angličtině.

První část, podložená reprezentativními gramatikami angličtiny a vlastní excerpcí, se zabývá základní terminologií a teorií týkající se kolektiv. v druhé části pracujeme s konkrétním vzorkem jazyka získaným z britského a amerického korpusu angličtiny. Zde nejprve sledujeme podíl plurálové a singulárové shody po kolektivech v britské i americké angličtině. Následně je pozornost soustředěna na jedno kolektivum (*family*), které je podrobně zkoumáno z hlediska sémantického a syntaktického na 50 příkladech z britského korpusu (BNC). Britská angličtina byla zvolena z důvodu větší kolísavosti mezi singulárem a plurálem než v angličtině americké.

Snahou je postihnout všechny faktory vedoucí k tomu, zda je kolektivum pojímáno jako jednotka nebo jako skupina jedinců.

Abstract:

This thesis tries to clarify the principles of concord with the collective nouns in English.

The first part, based on the representative grammars of English and on my own excerpt, deals with the basic terminology and the theory of collective nouns. In the second part we work with a specific sample of the language obtained from British and American corpus of English. Firstly, we look at the proportion of plural and singular concord in BrE and AmE.

Then, we focus on one representative collective noun (*family*), which is studied in the context from the semantic and syntactic point of view through 50 examples from British corpus (BNC). British English was chosen because of the higher oscillation between singular and plural than in American English .

The aim is to explore all the determining factors explaining whether the collcetive noun is treated as a single unit or as a group of individual members within.

Content

1. Introduction to the topic

The aim of this paper is to explore the variation and possible oscillation in grammatical concord and means of reference with collective nouns in British and American English. This variation will be demonstrated on a corpus of 50 samples taken from written language of today. This paper is divided into two parts, the theoretical and the practical one.

2. Theoretical part

The aim of the theoretical part is to introduce the topic theoretically, put down the questions we will deal with in the practical part and clarify the linguistic terms which will be used throughout this work. At the end of this part, a commentary to the corpus linguistics is incorporated because two corpora, one representing British English, the other American English, served as the main instrument for obtaining the sample of the language.

The fundamental question is which form of a verb, whether singular or plural, follows a given collective noun and/or it is referred to by means of a plural or singular pronoun. Concerning this phenomenon in American English, collective nouns are formed usually as singular. In British English, either a singular or a plural verb may be used with a singular collective noun. But, in American English as well as in British English, there is an exception including four collective nouns, i.e *police, vermin, cattle, people* that are always followed by a plural verb and their form rests the same. To use ** polices, vermins,* etc. is not possible. (Dušková, 44)[1]

Actually, in both regional varieties, the oscillation is known. In fact, these regional varieties employ both singular and plural forms that bring about the change of meaning of the collective noun.

2.1. Basic grammatical terms:

At the very beginning, it is necessary to explain the basic grammatical terms we are going to work with.

2.1.1. Grammatical concord

*G*rammatical concord means the concord between a predicative verb and a subject noun (in our case it should be a collective noun) where these two elements usually agree in person and number.

Basic rule for grammatical concord:

      Singular subject + subject verb

      Plural subject + plural verb.

      (Leech – Svartvik, chap.510)[2]

Examples of grammatical concord:

      The girl looks so pretty. - subject (*the girl*) agrees with the predicate (*looks*) in person and in number, i.e. 3rd person plural

      My friends are enthusiastic about the idea. – subject (*my friends*) agrees with the predicate (*are enthusiastic*) in person and in number, i.e. 3rd person plural

2.1.2. Notional concord

According to Quirk,[3] notional concord is agreement of verb with subject according to the notion of number rather than with the actual presence of the grammatical marker for that notion.

In British English, for example, collective nouns such as *government* are often notionally treated as plural, e.g.:

      The government *have* broken all *their* promises. – in this example, the plural notion is signalled not only by the plural verb, but also by the pronoun *their*

Notional concord issues from the semantic meaning. Whether a collective noun is considered to be a single unit or to be a group of individuals, e.g.:

      Family is proud of him.– grammatical concord, notional concord (in this case family is regarded as a unit)

      My family are poor. – gram.concord absent, notional concord (the verb in plural signalizes the notion of plurality- family regarded as a group of individuals, i.e.we consider the individuals within the family). (Quirk, 757)

To make the issue clearer, Leech and Svartvik state following example:

*The public **are** getting tired of these demonstrations.* – this example represents notional concord, since the verb (*are*) agrees with the **idea**/notion of plural in the group noun *(public)* rather than the actual singular **form** of the noun. But it is also possible to treat a group noun like *public* or *government* as singular:

*The public **is** getting tired of these demonstrations.* – this examples represents grammatical concord that is based on the form of the noun (*public*)

According to Leech and Svartvik, when the group is being considered as a single body, the singular tends to be used, but it is often hard to see such a meaning distinction. Also, the plural verb after a group noun is more characteristic of BrE than of AmE (as stated already before).(chap.510)

2.1.3. Group nouns

Group nouns are these which refer to a set of objects, e.g. a *group of stars, a set of tools,* etc., and may be singular or plural, i.e. *one **group** of stars* vs. *three **groups** of stars.*

Into group nouns Leech and Svartvik include nouns which refer to a group of people having a special relationship with one another, e.g. *tribe, family, committee, club, government,audience, team,* etc. The term of *group nouns* is synonymous to *collective nouns* which will be discussed immediately afterwards.

(chap.60)

2.1.4. Collective noun

Our definition of *collective noun* relies on Dušková (2003). It is a noun that denotes a collection of persons, animals or things regarded as a unit or individuals, e.g. crowd, family, flock, majority, jury, etc.

2.1.5. Division of collective nouns (Dušková, 44)

Semantic division:

On the base of semantics we can divide collective nouns into two groups.

Firstly, we consider *group collective nouns* that denote groups of individuals (e.g.committee, company, crew, family, etc.).

Secondly, there are so-called *generic collective nouns* denoting an entire class of individuals (e.g.bourgeoisie, clergy, élite, the proletariat, the public,etc.)

Collective nouns can refer to a live entity or to non-living objects. Accordingly, there are either *animat*e or *inanimate* collective nouns. The animate collective nouns include nouns as army, family, crowd, staff, folk, etc. These can be followed both by the singular and plural form of a verb.

On the contrary, there are inanimate collective nouns such as cutlery, jewellery, pottery, linen, silver, etc. These are followed by the singular verb form and the feature of plurality is not grammatically manifested.

> e.g. *stone (kamení, kámen) – a stone (kámen) – stones (kameny)*
>
> *a wall made of stone – kamenná zeď (i.e.collective n. stone – kamení)*
>
> *throw stones – házet kameny (i.e.plural of a stone, stones – kameny)* (Dušková 53)

Form of collective nouns:

According to Dušková, collective nouns usually create the plural form as any other nouns and express a similar meaning, i.e.more than one. As for the example: armies, families, herds, committees,crowds, etc.

But, certain collective nouns have only one form, i.e. police, clergy, staff, vermin, youth, cattle, etc. It is not possible to use *polices, staffs*, etc.

2.1.6. Generic *the*

Leech and Svartvik refer to collective nouns as to *group nouns* and mention the cases when the generic definite article is used. This includes the usage of generic *the* with group nouns like *the middle class, the public, the administration, the government, the police, the clergy,* etc.

e.g. He was a socialist and believed in the right of *the working class* to control their own destiny.

The public can help by reporting anything suspicious to *the police*.(chap. 90)

2.1.7. An of-construction vs. the genitive

As Leech and Svartvik state, the genitive is preffered for human nouns and sometimes for human group nouns, e.g. *the government's policy*.

Of is usually preffered for mass nouns and abstract nouns, e.g. *the discovery of helium*. (chap.106)

2.1.8. Means of reference

Thirdly, we shall work with a concept denoted as a *means of reference*. If we mention something that is expressed by a collective noun repeatedly and we do not want to repeat the same word, we need an appropriate means of reference.

According to Halliday and Hasan,[4] "there are certain items in every language which have the property of reference, in specific sense in which we are using the term here, that is to say, instead of being interpreted semantically in their own right, they make reference to something else for their interpretation. In English these items are personal pronouns, demonstrative pronouns and comparatives

e.g. *Three blind mice, three blind mice.*

See how they run! See how they run

They *refers to* **three blind mice**

In the case of reference the information to be retrieved is the referential meaning, the identity of the particular thing or class of things that is being referred to, and the cohesion lies in the continuity of reference whereby the same thing enters into the discourse a second time." (p.31)

2.1.9. Cross reference

In the context of means of reference, Leech and Svartvik speak about *cross-reference.*

"For cross reference a singular noun referring to a group of people can be treated as a singular inanimate noun (when we are thinking of the group as a unit):

   It is a family **which** *traces* **its** *history from the Norman Conquest.*

It can also be treated as a plural human noun (when we are thinking of the members of the group):

   They are a family **who** *quarrel among* **themselves**." (chap.378)

2.1.10. Singular and plural construction after collective nouns and its means of reference

The question is what form of a predicative verb we use after collective nouns and/or which means of reference follows. If a collective noun is followed by a singular form of a verb, we speak about singular construction and on the contrary to this there is plural construction in which a collective noun is followed by a plural form of a verb. The usage of these depends on the difference in the point of view and the meaning the speaker intends to convey.

Singular construction – displays grammatical concord

We use the singular form of verb after a collective noun that is regarded as a unit without considering the individuals within. This singular construction is grammatical and is based on the form. a collective noun agrees with its predicative verb in the grammatical category of a person and a number.

The following pronouns occur as a means of reference indicating that a collective noun is perceived as a single unit: it, its.

Plural construction - semantic

Oppositely, the usage of the plural construction, when the verb following a collective noun is in plural, stresses the personal individuality within the group. We regard this group (expressed by a collective noun) as a group of individuals, not as a unit. Plural construction is perceived as a construction based on the notional concord because of the consideration of the individuals within a group or a unit.

Means of reference are most often pronouns – they, them, their.

Compare (Dušková, 44):

*There **was a large audience** in the theatre*. - v divadle byla velká návštěva.(singular construction)

X

 ***The audience were clapping** their hands and cheering*. - Diváci tleskali a volali výborně. (plural construction)

*The crowd **which** has gathered*.-Dav, který se shromáždil. (which - means of reference by singular construction that stresses "crowd" as an undivided unit)

 X

*The crowd **who** have gathered*.-Dav, který se shromáždil. (who - means of reference by plural construction that stresses "crowd"as a group of individuals)

2.1.11. Stylistic preference

According to Hewings[5] , we use a singular verb if the focus is on the institution or organisation as a whole unit, and a plural verb if the focus is on a collection of individuals. Often you can use either with very little difference in meaning, although in formal contexts (such as academic writing) it is more common to use a singular verb.

e.g. *The school **is** to close next year. (not The school **are** to close…)* - as we are talking about something which happens to the school as a building or institution, not to the individuals in the school. (Hewings, 80)

2.1.12.   Practising the collective nouns in course books

Collective nouns represent a complicated part of grammar for students who can find distinguishing between a single unit or a group of individuals a collective noun represents difficult. Due to this fact, that part of grammar has its place in the advanced grammar textbooks, e.g. Hewings Martin, Advanced Grammar in Use, 2005, 80 or Alexander L.G., Longman Advanced Grammar, 1993, 153

2.2.   Corpus Linguistics

As the main source of examples for my work, i took the advantage of two well-established corpora which will be described in due course.

What is a corpus? In linguistics, a corpus is a collection of texts, stored in an electronic database, gathered according to particular principles for some particular purpose. a corpus is valuable because together its component texts allow statements to be made about language as a whole.

In connection with corpora, we speak about a high degree of representativeness that is based on the extent to which a sample includes the full range of variability in a population (i.e. a language variety). (Baker, Hardie, McEnery: a Glossary of Corpus Linguistics)

2.2.1. Corpus linguistics and linguistic theory

Corpus linguistics. The term first appeared only in the early 1980s.

It is not a branch of linguistics in the same sense as syntax, semantics, sociolinguistics, etc., corpus linguistics does not concentrate on describing/explaining some aspects of language use.

Essentially, corpus linguistics means this:

1. looking at naturally occuring language
2. looking at relatively large amounts of such language

3. observing relative frequencies, either in raw form or mediated through statistical operations
4. observing patterns of association, either between a feature and a texty type or between groups of words

The practice of doing corpus linguistics is never neutral, as each practitioner defines what is meant by a 'feature' and what frequencies should be observed, in line with theoretical approach to what matters in language.

2.2.2. The Corpus of Contemporary American English

The Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) is the largest freely-available corpus of English, and the only large and balanced corpus of American English. It is much more than a simple online dictionary. The corpus was created by Mark Davies of Brigham Young University, and it is used by tens of thousands of users every month (linguists, teachers, translators, and other researchers).

The corpus contains more than 425 million words of text and is equally divided among spoken, fiction, popular magazines, newspapers, and academic texts. It includes 20 million words each year from 1990-2011 and the corpus is also updated once or twice a year (the most recent texts are from March 2011). Because of its design, it is perhaps the only corpus of English that is suitable for looking at current, ongoing changes in the language (see the 2011 article in Literary and Linguistic Computing).

The interface allows us to search for exact words or phrases, wildcards, lemmas, part of speech, or any combinations of these. We can search for surrounding words (collocates) within a ten-word window which often gives you good insight into the meaning and use of a word.

(Davies, Mark. (2008-) The Corpus of Contemporary American English: 425 million words, 1990-present. Available online at http://corpus.byu.edu/coca/)

2.2.3. The British National Corpus

The British National Corpus (BNC) is a 100 million word collection of samples of written and spoken language from a wide range of sources, designed to represent a wide cross-section of British English from the later part of the 20th century, both spoken and written. The latest edition is the BNC XML Edition, released in 2007.

The written part of the BNC (90%) includes, for example, extracts from regional and national newspapers, specialist periodicals and journals for all ages and interests, academic books and popular fiction, published and unpublished letters and memoranda, school and university essays, among many other kinds of text. The spoken part (10%) consists of orthographic transcriptions of unscripted informal conversations (recorded by volunteers selected from different age, region and social classes in a demographically balanced way) and spoken language collected in different contexts, ranging from formal business or government meetings to radio shows and phone-ins.

Work on building the corpus began in 1991, and was completed in 1994. No new texts have been added after the completion of the project but the corpus was slightly revised prior to the release of the second edition BNC World (2001) and the third edition BNC XML Edition (2007). Since the completion of the project, two sub-corpora with material from the BNC have been released separately: the BNC Sampler (a general collection of one million written words, one million spoken) and the BNC Baby (four one-million word samples from four different genres).

(The British National Corpus, version 3 (BNC XML Edition). 2007. Distributed by Oxford University Computing Services on behalf of the BNC Consortium. Available online at http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk/).

2.2.4. Comparison of COCA with BNC

The British National Corpus (BNC) and the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) complement each other nicely, since they are the only large, well-balanced corpora of English that are freely-available online.

 The BNC has better coverage of informal, everyday conversation, while COCA is much larger and more recent, which has important implications for the quantity and quality of the data overall.

Unless one is inherently interested in only British or American English, there is really no reason to not take advantage of both corpora. This is especially true when -- as with the interface at corpus.byu.edu -- both corpora can be used side-by-side, with the same interface. For most types of studies, academic publications and presentations that rely on just the BNC for data from Modern English will look increasingly outdated and insular as time goes on.

(Davies, Mark. (2008-) The Corpus of Contemporary American English: 425 million words, 1990-present. Available online at http://corpus.byu.edu/coca/)

3. Methodology

Firstly, it was necessary to choose the collective nouns to work with. My own excerpt includes 15 collective nouns from two sources representing both the regional varieties, i.e. Kohák's *Heart and horizon* as the book in AmE and the Corner's translation of Jirotka's *Saturnin* as the book in BrE, both of them are considered to be provided with excellent translations. Other ten collective nouns are taken from the representative grammars of English.

Next part of the work is based on the usage of the corpora, i.e. The Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) and The British National Corpus (BNC), and consists of two subsections.

In the first subsection, the 25 collective nouns are inputted into both of the corpora in collocation with finite forms of the verb TO BE as it is one of the most frequently used verbs and also the difference between singular and plural is evident through the different verb forms in present tense as well as in past tense.

The make the resulting numbers more transparent, we provide them with a bar graph to show different ratios between singular and plural in BrE and AmE, so that they can be compared.

In addition to this, we note the numbers into charts to make obvious the proportion between singular and plural with collective nouns in BrE and AmE and also to see where the oscillation between singular and plural is higher.

Every chart, i.e. every collective noun, is accompanied by a commentary and the results from the corpora are confronted with the theoretical base from the representative grammars of English.

In the second subsection we deal with only one representative collective noun (*family*) studied in context. This collective noun is inputted into the British National Corpus in collocation with all verbs and first 50 sentences incorporating *family* serve as a sample for careful examination. British English is chosen as the oscillation between singular and plural is higher than in American English.

The 50 examples are explored from the semantic and syntactic point of view. The semantic point of view aims at finding such semantic clues in the immediate context of *family* which help us to understand the meaning of family, i.e. whether family is treated as a single unit or as a group of individuals. The syntactic point of view is based on the grammatical relations and on the function of clause constituents in the context of *family*. It includes the concept of grammatical and notional concord, means of reference, subject complements, etc. These syntactic factors are crutial in the case when the semantic context is rather neutral.

These two subsections are supplemented with some special examples of *family* in context.

Finally, the findings are summed up and confronted with the theoretical base in the part of *summary*.

4. Practical part

The objective of the practical part is to confirm or disprove the theoretical knowledge based on the representative grammars of English on a real sample of the language.

The practical part is divided into two subsections.

 The first subsection is dedicated to the total numbers of examples resulting from both the corpora. It concerns an approach oriented rather quantitatively, the aim is to find out and compare the proportion of singular and plural forms of TO BE with collective nouns in BrE and AmE. The specific numbers of examples will be commented on and the results will be confronted with the theoretical base.

The second subsection deals with one collective noun in a context. Actually, one common collective noun is chosen and inputted into the British National Corpus in connection with all verbs. First 50 examples are commented on with the focus on the semantic and syntactic context. The intention is to find out the determining factors leading to the singular or the plural verb form. In this part, we work only with the examples from BrE where the oscillation between singular and plural is more significant whereas in AmE the singular is definitely prevailing what is evident from the charts in the first subsection.

Finally, we summarize the findings and their contribution to the topic of collective nouns.

4.1. Collective nouns with TO BE

4.1.1. Characteristic of the used collective nouns on the basis of the representative English grammars

The collective nouns we worked with include *family, police, party, people, generation, company, audience, brigade, public, asssociation, community, crowd, church, aristocracy, board, university, faculty, department, class, population, jury, majority, government, council, commission.* These collective nouns, obtained on the basis of the representative grammars of English and my own excerpt (from Kohák's Heart and Horizon and Corner's translation of Saturnin), will be briefly characterized according to their typical properties with the consideration whether they concern a typical collective noun or a collective noun with some special traits.

Generally, it is said that collective nouns employ more likely singular construction then the plural one. But, the verb may be in the plural after a singular collective noun, though far less commonly in American English than in British English.(Quirk, 316)

In American English collective nouns usually employ singular construction (with the exception of *police, people, vermin, cattle*). (Dušková, 44)

Concerning the collective nouns we worked with, several of them can be included into the group of common collective nouns, i.e. *family, party, generation, company, audience, brigade, public, association, community, crowd, board, university, faculty, department, class, population, jury, majority, government, council, commission.* These can be accompanied by the singular and the plural verb depending on the meaning we intend to convey, whether a collective noun in regarded as a single unit or a group of individuals within as was already mentioned in the theoretical part of the work. But largely, these collective nouns are supposed to prefer singular to plural verb.

Then, as stated in Dušková, substantive *police* occurs only in plural in British English. In American English plural is dominant as well.

Concerning the collective noun *people*, with plural verb means persons/men, and people in the singular construction carries the meaning of a nation. (Dušková, 44)

 As for the collective nouns of *church* and *aristocracy*, according to Quirk, these usually occur in singular with the definite article, i.e. *the church, the aristocracy*. (Quirk, 316)

The object of the following part is to confirm or disprove these theoretical bases through the employment of the corpora.

4.1.2. Collective nouns with TO BE

To demonstrate the oscillation between the occurence of singular and plural verb after the collective nouns in British and American English the verb TO BE was chosen. The reasons for the usage of TO BE are obvious, as stated in Crystal,[6] we deal with the most frequently used verb and the second most frequent word (the first is definite article *the*) in the British National Corpus. But more importantly, the form of singular differs from the plural one in the present tense as well as in the past tense, so that the difference is clearly visible. The only exception is created by the contracted form of the 3rd person singular, i.e. he's/ she's/ it's, which can be mistaken for the contraction of the 3rd person singular of the verb TO HAVE, e.g.*she's – she has*, or for the possesive 's, e.g. *brother's (book)*. But in the charts below, this potential confusion was excluded. After having been registered into the corpora, the resulting numbers of collective nouns in collocation with all the finite forms of TO BE were compared with the numbers with the *'s* form excluded and the final ratios between singular and plural were found identical.

The collective nouns we worked with were inputted into the corpora in collocation with the present and past forms of TO BE both in singular and plural.

To highlight the proportion between singular and plural in BrE and AmE the work is provided with charts representing all the resulting numbers and the ratios, and a bar graph which makes transparent only the different proportion between singular and plural in the corpora.

4.1.3. Collective nouns with TO BE – charts with commentaries

The resulting numbers and the ratios can be seen from the charts below. Every collective noun is provided with a commentary following these charts.

The faculty	Sg: is + was + 's	Pl: are + were + 're	Ratio sg./pl.
BNC	18	0	-

COCA	45	18	2.5

Police	Sg: is + was + 's	Pl: are + were + 're	Ratio sg./pl.
BNC	129	1455	0.1

COCA	294	3235	0.1

People	Sg: is + was + 's	Pl: are + were + 're	Ratio sg./pl.
BNC	774	8211	0.1

COCA	2954	56273	0.1

Majority	Sg: is + was + 's	Pl: are + were + 're	Ratio sg./pl.
BNC	106	208	0.5

COCA	361	467	0.8

The public	Sg: is + was + 's	Pl: are + were + 're	Ratio sg./pl.
BNC	191	169	1.1

COCA	1791	116	15.4

The Aristocracy	Sg: is + was + 's	Pl: are + were + 're	Ratio sg./pl.
BNC	4	3	1.3

| COCA | 6 | 1 | 6.0 |

Crowd	Sg: is + was + 's	Pl: are + were + 're	Ratio sg./pl.
BNC	140	69	2.0

COCA	1190	109	10.9

Generation	Sg: is + was + 's	Pl: are + were + 're	Ratio sg./pl.
BNC	117	55	2.1

COCA	895	197	4.5

Class	Sg: is + was + 's	Pl: are + were + 're	Ratio sg./pl.
BNC	481	189	2.5

| COCA | 2123 | 494 | 4.3 |

Audience	Sg: is + was + 's	Pl: are + were + 're	Ratio sg./pl.
BNC	248	93	2.6

COCA	1628	191	8.5

Jury	Sg: is + was + 's	Pl: are + were + 're	Ratio sg./pl.
BNC	117	42	2.8

COCA	1520	46	33.0

Population	Sg: is + was + 's	Pl: are + were + 're	Ratio sg./pl.
BNC	688	207	3.3

COCA	3394	400	8.5

Family	Sg: is + was + 's	Pl: are + were + 're	Ratio sg./pl.
BNC	971	296	3.3

COCA	7243	1360	5.3

Community	Sg: is + was + 's	Pl: are + were + 're	Ratio sg./pl.
BNC	583	160	3.6

COCA	3314	753	4.4

University	Sg: is + was + 's	Pl: are + were + 're	Ratio sg./pl.
BNC	277	67	4.1

| COCA | 1124 | 275 | 4.1 |

Council	Sg: is + was + 's	Pl: are + were + 're	Ratio sg./pl.
BNC	1182	280	4.2

COCA	1018	174	5.9

Government	Sg: is + was + 's	Pl: are + were + 're	Ratio sg./pl.
BNC	2949	655	4.5

COCA	9680	1648	5.9

Department	Sg: is + was + 's	Pl: are + were + 're	Ratio sg./pl.
BNC	545	102	5.3

COCA	2106	261	8.1

Association	Sg: is + was + 's	Pl: are + were + 're	Ratio sg./pl.
BNC	432	80	5.4

| COCA | 923 | 107 | 8.6 |

Company	Sg: is + was + 's	Pl: are + were + 're	Ratio sg./pl.
BNC	2319	396	5.8

| COCA | 6992 | 407 | 17.1 |

Board	Sg: is + was + 's	Pl: are + were + 're	Ratio sg./pl.
BNC	558	94	5.9

COCA	1522	338	4.5

Brigade	Sg: is + was + 's	Pl: are + were + 're	Ratio sg./pl.
BNC	54	9	6.0

COCA	119	18	6.6

Party	Sg: is + was + 's	Pl: are + were + 're	Ratio sg./pl.
BNC	1669	237	7.0

COCA	3913	422	9.3

Commission	Sg: is + was + 's	Pl: are + were + 're	Ratio sg./pl.
BNC	479	62	7.7

COCA	1163	124	9.4

The Church	Sg: is + was + 's	Pl: are + were + 're	Ratio sg./pl.
BNC	521	1	521.0

| COCA | 1909 | 9 | 212.1 |

The charts above present the number of singular and plural verbs in collocation with the collective nouns set into the Corpus of Contemporary American English and then into the British National Corpus. The last column shows the ratios between the usage of singular and plural construction in both the corpora.

The collective nouns in the charts are arranged according to the ratios from British corpus (BNC) as the oscillation between singular and plural is higher than in American English.

As the resulting ratios display, most of these collective nouns tend to occur with a singular verb rather than with plural, and this tendency is definitely stronger in American English. This fact confirms the theory based on the representative grammar books of English. Actually, the higher ratio is, the higher is the frequency of verb-occurence in singular than in plural.

The faculty:

Substantive *faculty* possesses more meanings. According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, it can be explained as:

1 - any of the physical or mental abilities that a person is born with (e.g. *the faculty of sight*)
2 - a particular ability for doing something (e.g. *the faculty of understanding complex issues*)
3 - a department or group of related departments in a college or university (e.g. *the Faculty of Law*)
4 - all the teachers in a faculty of a college or university (e.g. a *faculty meeting*)
5 - all the teachers of a particular university or college – often *the faculty,* North American English

We worked with the fifth meaning, i.e. *the faculty* as all the teachers of a university. Although OALD and Quirk mention that faculty as a collective noun is a matter mainly of AmE, British National Corpus provided us with several singular examples, but no example of plural. All the examples were checked up and the unsuitable were eliminated manually. (Quirk, 316)

Two nouns create exceptions, i.e. *police* and *people*:

For these plural verb should be prevalent.

Police:

As stated in Dušková, *police* occurs only in plural in British English. The numbers agree with this theory, but not exactly. Obviously, the plural construction predominates, but in the British National Corpus as well as in the Corpus of Contemporary American English, there was a smaller amount of examples of *police* accompanied by a singular verb reflected in the ratio of 0.1 sg./pl., same in both the corpora, e.g.

Police with singular from COCA - *I've been locked up 27 times for nothing.* ***Police is locking** people up for nothing. They think they're getting their quota.*

Police with singular from BNC - *Despite the well-founded fear of the Securitate, for most of the period of Communist rule in Romania, the secret **police was not** in the front-line of control over the population.*

But these singular examples can contain the unsuitable ones, such these where the verb does not predicatively relate to the collective noun , e.g. *In a decent society, **the chief of police is** the one stranger you should be able to welcome into your home without reservation.* In this case the verb (*is*) relates to the subject (*the chief*), police functions as an attribute which modifies the syntactic noun (*the chief*).

People:

The second exception, *people*, meaning persons, is supposed to occur with plural verb in both regional varieties. But, samely as in the previous case of *police*, the corpora illustrate the possibility of the singular construction with not totally inconsiderable number of examples that were found. Although, the ratio (0.1 sg./pl.) validates the tendency towards plural, the singular exceptions should be taken into consideration. In this case, with the change of the verb number the semantic meaning changes as well, i.e. the examples of *people* collocated with a singular verb carry the meaning of a *nation*, whereas *people* with plural means *persons*.

Majority:

As for majority, meaning *the largest part of a group of people*, the ratios in both the corpora are close to figure 1, i.e. 0.5 sg./pl. in BNC, 0.8 sg./pl. in COCA, which signifies very high oscillation between singular and plural but the singular is a little more common.

The public:

As well as in case of *the church* and *the aristocracy*, we work with this collective noun accompanied by the definite article, i.e. *the public,* which signifies *ordinary people in society in general* whereas *public* without the definite article can be mistaken for the adjective of *public* which means *connected with ordinary people in society in general (*Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary).

The ratios from the corpora differ from each other a lot. In BNC the oscillation between singular and plural is really high, i.e.1.1, which means that the singular is almost samely frequent as the plural while in COCA the singular is definitely prevailing, i.e.15.4 sg./pl..

The Aristocracy:

Substantive *aristocracy* features the same property as *(the) church*, i.e. if preceeded by the definite article (*the aristocracy*), it tends to be followed by a singular verb. (Quirk, 316)

The number of examples found by the corpora was quite limited and moreover some of them were eliminated manually as unsuitable.

Although the aristocracy is supposed to occur with singular verb, both the corpora provided us with a few plural examples, i.e. 6 sg/1pl in COCA, 4 sg/3 pl in BNC.

Crowd:

Crowd regarded as a group of individuals is more common for British English where the oscillation between singular and plural results in ratio 2.0 sg./pl. whereas American English favours singular (ratio 10.9 sg./pl.).

Generation:

The ratios in both the corpora displays the preference of singular, in BNC the oscillation is higher(2.1 sg./pl.) than in COCA (4.5 sg./pl.). Generation is regarded as a single unit of people rather than a group of individuals.

Class:

Class is more often regarded as a single unit in both regional varieties. Again, in BNC the oscillation between singular and plural is higher (2.5 sg./pl.) than in COCA (4.3 sg./pl.).

Audience:

BrE employs plural more often (2.6 sg./pl.) than AmE where *audience* is treated mostly as singular signifiing a single unit in AmE (8.5 sg./pl.).

Jury:

The ratios differ from each other a lot. AmE treats *jury* almost always as a single unit (33.0 sg./pl.) whereas BrE more often varies between singular and plural (2.8 sg./pl.).

Population:

Population as a group of individul members is more common for BrE (3.3 sg./pl.), AmE regards *population* mostly as a single unit (8.5 sg./pl.).

Family, community, university, council, government:

These collective nouns display quite similar ratios in both the corpora. However, the oscillation between singular and plural is higher in BrE, both the regional varieties regard a little more often *family, community, university, council and government* as a single unit rather than a group of individual members.

Department:

Department signifies a section of a large organization and in BrE as well as in AmE is usually regarded as single unit rather than a group of individuals within (BNC 5.3 sg./pl., COCA 8.1 sg./pl.).

Association:

Association is a noun carrying more semantic meanings, we deal with *association* as an official group of people who have joined together for a particular purpose.

According to the results from the corpora, association is treated mostly as a single unit in both regional varieties (BNC 5.4 sg./pl., COCA 8.6 sg./pl.).

Company:

Company, as a business organization or as a group of people who work or perform together, occurs mostly in singular in both BrE and AmE. In AmE the singular treatment of *company* in the sense of a single unit is more evident (COCA 17.1 sg./pl., BNC 5.8 sg./pl.).

Board:

Board is the only collective noun from the 25 nouns we worked with which displays higher oscillation between singular and plural in AmE. British English employs singular more often than AmE (BNC 5.9 sg./pl., AmE 4.5).

Brigade, party, commission :

As for *brigade, party* and *commission* we deal with collective nouns which are mostly treated as a single units. The ratios from the corpora are quite high for both BrE and AmE.

Brigade - BNC 6.0 sg./pl., COCA 6.6 sg./pl.,

Party - BNC 7.0 sg./pl., COCA 9.3 sg./pl.,

Commission - BNC 7.7 sg./pl., COCA 9.4 sg./pl. .

The Church :

Substantive *church* disposes of more semantic meanings based on Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary[7] :

1 - a building where Christians go to worship
2 - a service or services in a church

3 - a particular group of Christians

4 - the ministers of the Christian religion; the institution of the Christian religion

The meaning of the institution of the Christian religion (into Czech translated as *církev*), not the building, is principal for this work. In this case, *church* behaves as a collective noun and, as already mentioned, accompanied by the definite article, i.e. *the church,* is supposed to occur usually with a singular verb.(Quirk, 316)

Concerning the numbers in the chart above, due to the possible ambiguity in meaning, it was necessary to go through the examples obtained from the corpora and eliminate manually the unsuitable ones. After that, there was only a handful of plural examples left in BNC as well as in COCA and that resulted in the ratios clearly directed to singular, i.e. BNC 521.0 sg./pl., COCA 212.1 sg./pl..

4.1.4. Collective nouns with TO BE – bar graph

The bar graph below provides us with the ratios of singular to plural in BrE and AmE.

The blue columns represent the ratios from the British National Corpus (BNC), the red ones represent the ratios from the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA).
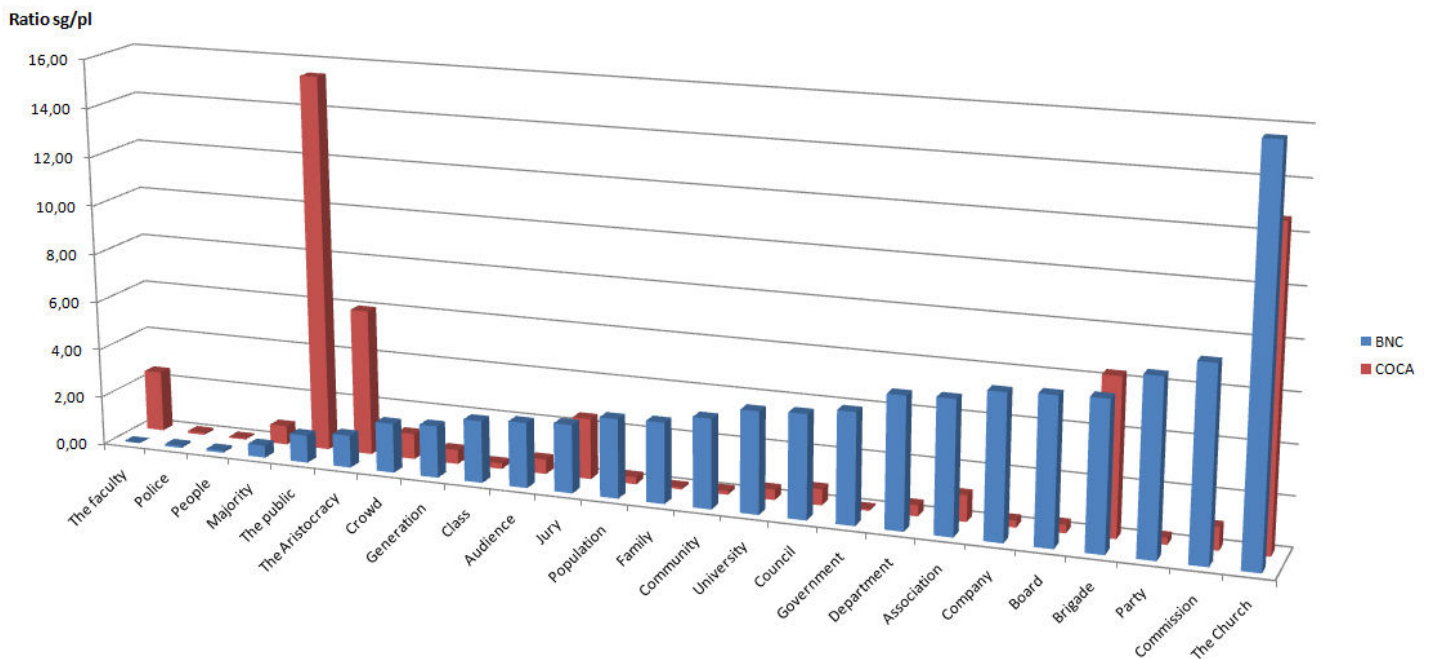
4.2.   The collective noun of *family* in context

This part aims at exploring the phenomenon of collective nouns in context. One common collective noun will be examined in context of immediately preceeding and immediately following sentences. The question is whether the verb form depends on the idea of plural in a collective noun (notional concord) or rather follows the actual singular form of the noun (grammatical concord) or if there are other aspects in a larger context of the collective noun which can affect the verb form.

Substantive *family* was chosen and inputted into the British National Corpus as a typical representative of collective nouns which is very frequently used..

Then we focused on the first 50 examples incorporating *family* in a larger context. Each of the examples is supplied with a number from 1 – 50 and all of them are mentioned in appendix.

The first 50 examples yielded 31 occurrences of the collective noun with plural and 19 occurrences of verb in plural marking, but as we investigated only an incosiderable part from the total amount of examples, this information is not regarded as representative.

First, we will study the 50 examples from two points of view, i.e. from the semantic point of view and the syntactic point of view, and at the end of this subsection, we will deal with some interesting examples of *family* in context.

4.2.1. the semantic point of view

Generally, semantics studies meaning and meaning relations between units of a language. It contrasts with syntax which studies the combinatorics of units of a language without reference to their meaning.

We will explore the 50 examples to find certain semantic clues in the immediate context of *family* which can help us see the factors determining whether *family* is treated as a single unit or as a group of individual members. Such semantic clues concern usually a mention or naming one or more members of a family in the immediate context, cf.

(1) *Overthrown **Tsar Nicholas II**, **his wife Alexandra** and **three of their five children** were slaughtered on July 17, 1918, to stop them becoming a focal point for opposition to communist leaders Lenin and Trotsky. The Romanov **family were** marched into the basement of a house then turned to face a dozen executioners jostling in the doorway for room to shoot.* (App.1: ex.3) – plural verb (*were*) indicates that *family* is treated as a group of individual members who are mentioned in the immediately preceeding sentence.

(2) *Still, the ending is stomach-churning stuff and Ford - resurrecting the role which Alec Baldwin created in The Hunt for Red October - is accomplished as CIA analyst Jack Ryan, horrified at terrorist extremes. **Hero** is on vacation in London with **daughter Sally** (Thora Birch) and **wife Cathy** - played by Anne Archer who seems increasingly typecast as the loyal spouse. Soon the **family get** unwittingly caught up in an attempt by an extreme IRA faction to blow up a limousine carrying one of the Royal family.* (App.1: ex.4) – the sentence preceeding *family* provides us with the naming of family members indicating the plural idea of *family* which is also affirmed by the plural verb (*get*) in the following sentence.

One more example of *family* treated as a group of individuals accompanied by semantic context in which the members are mentioned:

(3) ***Christopher** was rushed to hospital, where he spent five days recovering from his ordeal. **His parents** have had to extend their North Devon holiday so he can have further treatment. " It was a terrible shock for him, " said **mum Judith**. " He's still having nightmares about it. " Christopher was crossing a field at Berrynarbor when the stallion donkey attacked. Alec Davies, whose son runs the guest house where the Rogers **family were staying**, said : " The boy was left in a terrible state...“* (App.1: ex.7)

Often it concerns an interplay between the semantic context and the syntactic factors (i.e. means of reference, agreement between subject and verb, etc., whose influence will be commented in due course).

Next to the plural pronominal means of reference in the case of notional concord, the plural notion of family is intensified by the mention of family members in the immediate context, cf.

(4) *Elizabeth collapsed as she walked to the pool with her **dad, mum Arlene, 32,** and **their two other children – Caroline, 10**, and **David, 9.** Chiropodist Bruce massaged her heart while a nurse gave the kiss of life. But they could not save Elizabeth. The **family have** no criticism of the doctors.* (App.1: ex.26)

(5) *A hero motorist dived six times into a blazing car to save a family from a fireball. Colin Jones plucked **four children and two adults** to safety after **their** Montego hit a van and burst into flames on the M18 near Doncaster. Colin said:" i just got on with it." Last night, all the **family were** seriously ill in hospital.* (App.1: ex.27)

(6) *Crewman helped the alarmed **mother** to break down the door. They found **James** lying near the C-deck cabin's toilet and **Catherine** on the floor. The ship's doctor tried to give them the kiss of life but they could not be revived. Their devastated **father Garry** said: " i am so numb at the loss of my **two beautiful children**. My world has disintegrated." The **family were** nearing Cork on their way home from a holiday in England and Wales during which they called on the **children's grandparents** in Milton Keynes.* (App.1: ex.28) - family regarded as a group of individual members, the plurality expressed by naming the individual members, and also by the plural verb (*were*) and by the plural means of reference (*their, they*)

4.2.2. the grammatical - syntactic point of view

In this part it is considered whether there are syntactic factors that may influence how the collective noun is treated. Apart from the standard factors showing the reader what precisely is meant by the collective noun, we shall also look at syntactic phenomena like the type of subject complement which may play a role after a copular verb. The standard factors are based on the theory concerning collective nouns from the representative grammars of English. We deal with grammatical or notional concord which depends on the meaning the author intends to convey, i.e. if the noun (*family*) is regarded as a single unit (grammatical c.) or rather as the individuals within (notional c.). Another important factor is the concept of cross reference, i.e. the agreement of a collective noun with its pronominal means of reference, that can signalize how the noun is treated, whether as the singular or as the plural, cf.

(7) *The Dockerty **family have been growing** hops since Tudor times and know a thing or two about them. **They** now grow Whitbread Goldings Variety, developed to be more resistant to wilt than to the traditional East Kent type.* (App.1: ex.41) – *family* regarded as a group of individuals that is why the plural verb is used (*have been growing*), plural means of reference (*they*).

After checking up the 50 examples, we found quite a lot of examples accompanied by such a syntactical context and means of reference providing us with the explanation how the noun *family* is treated, cf.

(8) *Actomite's easy-to-use spray provides lasting protection against House Dust Mites. If your **family are** sensitive to House Dust Mites, it makes sense to protect **their** home with Actomite.* (App.1: ex.35) – this example represents notional concord, i.e. the idea of individual members of family within the plural verb (*are*) and plural means of reference (*their*).

Frequently, the context and the semantic surroundings of a collective noun is rather neutral. In such cases, the explanation lies in the syntactic and grammatical features, i.e. the plural verb signalizes notional concord – the idea of individual members within *family*, the singular verb follows the singular form of the noun and emphasizes the unity of *family*.

(9) *He is an egomaniac – no one would quibble with that. He is an incredibly selfish man and his **family has suffered** because of it.* (App.1: ex.20) – example of grammatical concord*, family* regarded as a unit

(10) *Since the threadworms can spread easily, it is recommended that all the **family are treated** at the same time.* (App.1: ex.36) – example of notional concord, stresses the individual members of the family.

 In the issue of collective nouns syntactic point of view concerns also the cases when the other clause constituents (apart from the subject and the verb) are determinant for the verb form. Mostly, it is the matter of copular verbs like *be, have, become, appear*, etc., which need to be complemented by a noun, most often by a substantive or an adjective and which attribute certain quality to their subject. The complementating noun is termed as subject complement (abbr.C_s).

Although these verbs belong to the group of lexical verbs their lexical meaning is rather empty.

e.g. *John **is my brother**.* – verb (*is*) is complemented by noun (*my brother*) that functions as subject complement (Dušková, 206)

In addition to this, it is necessary to mention that the verb agrees with the subject complement in predicative categories of person, number, tense and mood.

The fact of agreement of verb with subject complement in the category of number is crutial for this part of the paper.

Actually, within the 50 examples of *family* there was a smaller amount of examples based on such an agreement where the number of subject complement determines the number of the verb following the subject of *family*.

Examples:

(11) *My **family is** the most important **thing** in the world to me.* (App.1: ex.2) – *family* is followed by singular verb (*is*) as a result of the influence of the singular subject complement (*thing*) rather than the concept of grammatical concord.

(12) *The monster was hurt, upset and didn't have a friend. His misery was so great that he wanted revenge therefore Victor's **family were** his **victims**.* (App.1: ex.39) – the idea of the members within the family the context does not present any means of reference related to family, the plural verb (*were*) is caused by the plural subject complement (*victims*).

(13) *The interiors were by Ambrozzi, the statues on top of the cornice balustrade are by Brokof the Younger. **The family were patrons** too of the historian Pelcel and Dobrovský, a pioneer in the study of Bohemian history and language.* (App.1: ex.48) – again we deal with an example in which the plural verb form (*were*) is related to the plural noun (*patrons*) complementing the subject of *family*.

4.2.3. some interesting cases

Next to the examples showing two main factors (i.e.semantics, syntactical surroundings) determining the verb form with the collective noun of *family,* there were several examples someway different from these before.

Firstly, a few examples with *family* representing a mixture of semantic and syntactical factors influencing the verb form appeared.

Examples:

(14) *The Knoyle **family were** Roman Catholic, and strong **supporters** of first the Cavalier and then the Jacobite causes. Over the two hundred years that **they** owned the house **their** fortunes dwindled until the housewas sold to the Hutchings family in 1736.* (App.1: ex.43) – this sentence presents the syntactic influence of the plural subject complement (*supporters*) on the verb that keeps the plural *(were),* and in addition to this, the pronouns referring to family are in the plural as well (*they, their*).

(15) *The John **family were tenants** for two generations around the turn of this century and ran a hauliers business from the farm, where **they** stabled thirty or more shire horses.* (App.1: ex.45) – *family* is followed by the plural verb (*were*) that agrees in number with the subject complement (*tenants*) and the plurality within *family* (regarded as a group of individuals) is affirmed by the plural means of reference (*they*).

Another interesting example is represented by following sentence:

(16) *In "The Friends" Phyllisia had moved from the West Indies with her sister and mother to New York where her father owns a restaurant. Her **family are quite well off** whereas **Celie's family is poor.*** (App.1: ex.40) – in this sentence *family* occurs two times, from the semantic point of view it concerns two different families but we also deal with two different treatments of the collective noun in the same sentence, i.e. the first occurrence of *family* is treated as plural (*family are well off* - notional concord, the idea of the individual members within) but the second occurrence is treated as singular (*family is poor* – grammatical concord, family as a single unit, the singular verb form agrees with the singular form of *family*)

Finally, an interesting example which is contrary to the concept of cross reference, cf.

(17) ***Each family has their own fields*** *in each suyo, but everyone works together on the same crop*. (App.1: ex.47) – if we wanted to employ the rule of cross reference in this case the pronoun related to *family* would be singular (*its*) but this sentence employs plural means of reference (*their*) that signalizes certain plurality in *family* despite the singular verb form (*has*).

5. Summary

This paper was dedicated to the topic of concord and means of reference with collective nouns in British and American English. We based on the theory from the representative grammars of English which was confronted with a real sample of the language obtained from two well-established corpora and from my own excerpt. Firstly, we aimed at exploring the oscillation between singular and plural in BrE and AmE through incorporating 25 collective nouns followed by TO BE as the second most frequently used verb in English. The results issuing form the corpora largerly confirmed the theoretical base, i.e. the oscillation between singular and plural is higher in BrE which employs plural more often whereas AmE definitely prefers singular. However, the corpora provided us with certain exceptions, e.g. although noun *police* is supposed to occur only in plural in BrE, BNC found tens of singular examples as well. But this amount is not relevant in comparison to the prevalence of the plural.

Secondly, we studied one collective noun, i.e. *family*, in context through first 50 examples provided by BNC to find out the factors which suggest whether family is treated as a single unit or a group of individual members.

We focused on the semantic context of *family* that can indicate whether family is treated as singular or plural including mainly certain mentions or naming the members of the family.

In the case when the semantic context was rather neutral, we observed the syntactic clues such as means of reference, grammatical and notional concord, or the influence of subject complement. Most of the 50 examples were based on the syntactic context, however very often it concerned an interplay between the semantic and syntactic clues.

But we also came across such examples which didn't meet the concept of cross reference or which incorporated the singular and plural treatment of *family* at the same time (i.e. in the same sentence).

To sum up, we can state that the degree of the oscillation between singular and plural in BrE and AmE was confirmed and the determining factors leading to a specific treatment of a collective noun were studied and clarified, so the aim of the thesis can be considered to be fulfilled.

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Available at: <http://oald8.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/dictionary>

Appendix 1:

1 - I mean when i grew up the **Royal Family were a** cert sort of image and you might have known about George the Third who was mad, i mean who else was brought up George the Third was mad and Geor, this guy was a drunk and this guy was a womaniser, but Victoria you know mourned for sixty years or whatever it was,..

2 - "As far as i am concerned i have the perfect man - the best guy in the world. **My family is the most important thing** in the world to me"

3 - Overthrown Tsar Nicholas II, his wife Alexandra and three of their five children were slaughtered on July 17, 1918, to stop them becoming a focal point for opposition to communist leaders Lenin and Trotsky. The Romanov **family were** marched into the basement of a house then turned to face a dozen executioners jostling in the doorway for room to shoot.

4 - Still, the ending is stomach-churning stuff and Ford - resurrecting the role which Alec Baldwin created in The Hunt for Red October - is accomplished as CIA analyst Jack Ryan, horrified at terrorist extremes. Hero is on vacation in London with daughter Sally (Thora Birch) and wife Cathy - played by Anne Archer who seems increasingly typecast as the loyal spouse**.** Soon the **family get** unwittingly caught up in an attempt by an extreme IRA faction to blow up a limousine carrying one of the Royal family.

5 – He checks it each morning to see whether it is going to rain. Seaweed, frogspawn, flies, spiders, squirrels, sheep -- phenomena as unlikely as the weather itself -- all help give Bill an insight into what lies ahead. The Foggitt **family have been monitoring** the weather in Thirsk, North Yorkshire, since 1881. Bill took over the job 25 years ago

6 - Private Robert Jeffery, 17 was found shivering and incoherent as 30,000 youngsters left Britain's biggest all-night party. He collapsed by the roadside after wandering off alone in a daze and died hours later in intensive care. Police described it as a "tragic waste of a young life" a neighbour at his home in Southend, Essex, said: "He was a smashing lad who lived for the Army. He wasn't the sort to take drugs. His **family are convinced** his drink was spiked."

7 – Christopher was rushed to hospital, where he spent five days recovering from his ordeal. His parents have had to extend their North Devon holiday so he can have further treatment. "It was a terrible shock for him," said mum Judith. "He's still having nightmares about it." Christopher was crossing a field at Berrynarbor when the stallion donkey attacked. Alec Davies, whose son runs the guest house where the Rogers **family were staying**, said : "The boy was left in a terrible state..."

8 - They got out a bag containing balloons and presents for Harry's birthday bash, which will be held without his parents.But the **family were** together for a tour of Harry's dormitory, where the new boy - known at Ludgrove as a "squit" - will sleep with three pals. After an hour inside the school, all four spent a few minutes in a room of their own before Charles and Diana said goodbye to their sons. The couple - chatting and still smiling, though Diana looked tense -- were driven home to Kensington Palace, where they spent the evening together.

9 - He claimed that his life had been a misery since he sold the recording of Di talking to her friend James Gilbey. "Sadly our whole **family has suffered** through this," he added. Mr Reenan, a former TSB branch boss in Abingdon, said he had been sent hate mail and would probably not use his £900 scanner again.

10 - Speaking outside their £250,000 home at Hailey, Oxon, she said: "We are thrilled, we love children. They are totally distracting." With Chloe, three, by her side, Pandora -- who hopes to have the new baby on New Year's Eve -- added: "When you've got four another one doesn't present any problems." She said Matilda, eight, Teddy, six, and Eloise, four, attend St Andrew's school at Pangbourne, Berks, -- term fees £3,000 to £5,500. "**Not all my family are bankrupt,**" explained Pandora. "My children have very generous god-parents."

11 - The lawyer said she was entitled to be judged on her own merits and not those of her father. He added: "We have not reached in this country the situation where you are guilty by birth -- and long may it remain so." Mona -- who has a five-year-old daughter Soroya from her first marriage to Belgian financier Arnold Bauwens -- told the court she was a pacifist. She was not prejudiced against any race. And she said : "What i do is what i do. **What my family does** is nothing to do with me."

12 - … Three weeks ago doctors discovered he was suffering from a form of TB, although he is now recovering from that. John told the paper: "I feel strong and I'm coping quite well." Binton's vicar, the Rev Williams, said last night: "I understand his **family want to keep** the whole thing private. **They** have the support of the whole village."

13 - Di halted the unveiling ceremony in the City of London, called David to the platform and told him she was "delighted" with the picture. Then she pointedly spent several minutes talking to him. Art expert Brian Sewell was less impressed. He branded the portrait " quite disgusting, pure chocolate box rubbish " and scoffed: "What i want to know is, where are the Seven Dwarfs? The Royal **Family have clearly not learned** from being surrounded by great works of art."

14 - The England number two was on his way to see Gazza play in Rome when he phoned his son. "He sounded pleased as punch for me," beamed Chris, "and he said the whole **family were absolutely delighted**. It was great to hear from him."

15 - The truth is that there is too much racing and too many horses. If the sport was pruned, there would be more prize-money to go round. It's not surprising that the Maktowm brothers are considering trimming their operation, but they will still have a huge stake here. The **family is well aware** of the poor level of prize-money in Britain, but their decision not to bid had more to do with a clash of personality with Tattersalls than any pull-out threat.

16 - His popularity saw him appear in many Royal Variety shows. "But they are the worst experience any entertainer can go through," he said. "It's not so much because the Royal **Family is** out there, but because you are in front of so many of your peers."

17 - Many were shoeless, the dust and blood caked upon their shredded feet. Weary children struggled to keep up. One **family was lucky**... they had a wheelbarrow.

18 - Doctors did disclose that Kane had caught a bug and antibiotics were not working. But they were NOT told what the bug was - or that other babies were affected. "We only found out when we saw the Daily Mirror," said Craig, who lives with Julie and their three other children in Luton, Beds. Picked Julie, 22, said that Kane died in her arms. She added: "The **whole family is** disgusted by this."

19 - Ferzana Kauser, 18, was found with a ligature round her neck by her older sister Zatun at the house they shared in Bradford. The party had been held in nearby Lidget Green to celebrate the christening of Zatun's three-week-old baby. As police launched a murder hunt, relative Mohammed Riaz said the **family was** "devastated." He added: " Ferzana wanted to watch TV and couldn't do it at the family gathering. "

20 - " He is an egomaniac - no one would quibble with that. He is an incredibly selfish man and his **family has suffered** because of it. "

21 - After a night racked with pain, Bill's wife Violet took him to their local hospital where horrified doctors treated his multiple injuries. The father of five's face was so badly busted he had to be fitted with a metal cage to keep the bones in place until they set. Now his **family have called** in health watchdogs to probe the blunder at Nevill Hall Hospital, Abergavenny, Gwent. Violet said: " You could see his jaw and cheekbone moving as he spoke -- the suffering he went through was appalling.

22 - The sex scandal has left the family emotional wrecks, it was revealed last night. Maria Roach, godmother to one of Mia 's 11 children, said : " The whole **family was** in psychiatric care for several months."

23 - Mum Anne, 28, declared: " He 's making excellent progress and the **family is thrilled**. He is a brave lad. " Steven added: " It's just great. " Now he can ride a bike and play football with his mates and brother Daniel, five. But the boy - a victim of the growth-stunting disease achondraplasia - had to go through the pain barrier to achieve it

24 - He was forced to sell his Thames-side mansion at Bray, Berkshire, for £1.5million -- £700,000 less than he paid for it in 1988. His **family was moved** to a modest family home nearby, although they retained their other house in Mayfair.

25 - The prince's remarks follow massive public anxiety over the Duchess of York's jetsetting antics at the taxpayers' expense. He told Majesty magazine that the royals will have to work hard to justify their existence. " We're very visible, so let's put that to some use, " he said. " Let's represent people and organisations, be a voice to put things across. We can set an example. Revelations " The **family have a certain mystique** which people look up to because they want to.

26 - Elizabeth collapsed as she walked to the pool with her **dad, mum Arlene, 32, and their two other children - Caroline, 10, and David, 9**. Chiropodist Bruce massaged her heart while a nurse gave the kiss of life. But they could not save Elizabeth. The **family have no criticism** of the doctors.

27 – A hero motorist dived six times into a blazing car to save a family from a fireball. Colin Jones, 31, plucked **four children** and **two adults** to safety after **their** Montego hit a van and burst into flames on the M18 near Doncaster. Colin, from Middlesbrough, said: " i just got on with it. " Last night, all the **family were seriously ill** in hospital.

28 - Crewmen helped the alarmed mother to break down the door. They found James lying near the C-deck cabin's toilet and Catherine on the floor. The ship's doctor tried to give them the kiss of life but they could not be revived. Their devastated father Garry -- a computer company executive who left England for a new life in Ireland 20 years ago -said: " i am so numb at the loss of my two beautiful children. My world has disintegrated. **"** The **family were nearing** Cork on **their** way home from a holiday in England and Wales -- during which **they** called on the children's grandparents in Milton Keynes. They were among 518 passengers with 120 cars aboard the Anglo-Irish operated ferry.

29 -. The Tomlins **family were** returning from a week-long holiday in England and Wales. After visiting a garden festival in Ebbw Vale, Gwent, they went on to stay with Mr Tomlins' parents in Milton Keynes, Bucks. Then they headed for Bath before catching the ferry home. The dead children's distraught grandfather Trevor said last night: " Garry took us all out for a big family meal and then on Sunday we had a lovely picnic by a lake. "

30 - A shipwrecked **family were alive** last night thanks to a "chance in a million" rescue. Six-year-old Michael Smith and his parents were spotted by a passing yacht as they clung to a tiny buoyancy bag in darkness. Michael was already slipping into a coma after three hours in the cold seas. The family's ordeal began when **their** Wayfarer dinghy capsized in the Solent off the Isle of Wight. Michael, his father, Mark, 37, and mother Anna, 36, were given hot showers…

31 - However Di was said to be furious about the tapes, which a book says are of her voice. And the Royal **Family is** still reeling from the Mirror 's exclusive pictures of Fergie 's poolside antics with John Bryan.

32 - The ideal of community can become warped in its actual implementation in the context of the family. The **family becomes a structure** of " power ennobled by sentiment."

33 - To understand this point one has to ask how the **family has been internally regulated**, given that law has claimed no hortatory function over family behaviour and has limited itself to dispute-resolution when things go wrong.

34 - For generations the Royal **Family have had** their own secluded haven just a few miles downriver. From their magnificent setting on the gentle slopes of Craigendarroch Hill, the lodges overlook the enchanted world of the Dee Valley...

35 - Actomite 's easy-to-use spray provides lasting protection against House Dust Mites. If your **family are sensitive** to House Dust Mites, it makes sense to protect **their** home with Actomite.

36 - Since threadworms can spread so easily, it is recommended that all the **family are treated** at the same time.

37 - i think that in the opinion of Miller the **family was the most important thing** for B. and should have been for Eddie and all parents, but the priority for Catherine was her own life and i think that as far as Miller is concerned she is right, because she has a whole future ahead of her while B. and Eddie have settled down.

38 - Charlotte 's **family are absolutely overwhelmed** when they hear news of the marriage while Elizabeth is shocked by the news and believes that Charlotte will never be happy with Mr. Collins.

39 - The monster was hurt, upset and didn't have a friend. His misery was so great that he wanted revenge therefore Victor's **family were his victims**.

40 - In " The Friends " Phyllisia, also fourteen, had moved from the West Indies with her sister and mother, to New York where her father owns a restaurant. Her **family are quite well off** whereas Celie 's **family is poor.**

41 - The Dockerty **family have been growing** hops since Tudor times and know a thing or two about them. **They** now grow Whitbread Goldings Variety, developed to be more resistant to wilt than the traditional East Kent type.

42 - The Bunuel **family was** particularly fond of these programmes. And that was the start of the first film society in Spain during the Franco dictatorship.

43 - The Knoyle **family were** Roman Catholic, and strong supporters of first the Cavalier and then the Jacobite causes. Over the two hundred years that **they** owned the house **their** fortunes dwindled until the house was sold to the Hutchings family in 1736.

44 - Mr Clutterbuck died in 1755, leaving no heirs, and the ancient Clifford **family have owned** the Court and this Orangery ever since. Five unmarried Clifford daughters lingered in this garden under these trees and painted the most exquisite water-colours during the mid-nineteenth century. Their collection of paintings of local flowers was produced as a book called the Frampton Flora.

45 - The John **family were** tenants for two generations around the turn of this century and ran a hauliers business from the farm, where **they** stabled thirty or more shire horses.

46 - **The rural family was a close-knit one with**, at times, three generations living under the one roof. Each generation usually had its own self-contained " floor ", many in relatively new homes.

47 - **Each family has their own fields** in each suyo, but everyone works together on the same crop.

48 - The interiors were by Ambrozzi, the statues on top of the cornice balustrade are by Brokof the Younger**.** The **family were patrons** too of the historian Pelcel and Josef Dobrovský, a pioneer in the study of Bohemian history and language and the author of the first dictionary of Czech.

49 - He went to bed, but it was too late - pneumonia had set in. His **family were encouraged** by signs of a recovery on Friday, but at three o'clock the next morning, 6 January, 1934, Herbert Chapman died.

50 - Dickens based the character upon a " reduced old lady ", Mrs Elizabeth Roylance, with whom he was sent to board as a child while his **family were** in the Marshalsea Prison.

[1] Libuše Dušková a kol., Mluvnice současné angličtiny na pozadí češtiny (Academia, Praha, 2003) 44

[2] G.Leech and J.Svartvik, a Communicative Grammar of English (Longmann, London and New York, Second Edition, 1994) chap. 51

[3] Raymond Quirk, a Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language (Longmann, New York, 1985) 757

[4] M.A.K.Halliday and R. Hasan , Cohesion in English (Longmann, 1976) 31

[5] Martin Hewings, Advanced Grammar in Use (Cambridge University Press, 2005) 80

[6] David Crystal, Words, words, words (Oxford, Great Britain, 2006) 55

[7] Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary <http://oald8.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/dictionary/church>