

Variation in the realization of /z/ within and across Dutch adolescents of Moroccan, Turkish and Dutch descent

Linda van Meel
Radboud University Nijmegen
l.vanmeel@let.ru.nl

1

The research project “Roots of Ethnolects”

- ... investigates features which characterize the speech of Dutch adolescents of Moroccan, Turkish and Dutch descent.
- Among the research questions are the following:
 - Q1. Which aspects of language use / which components of the grammar characterize ethnolects as distinct varieties?
 - Q2. To what extent are ethnolects based on interference from the original language of the ethnic group in question ('substrate effects')?
 - Q3. ... on properties resulting from processes of second language acquisition?
 - Q4. ... and on local (urban) dialects or other indigenous non-standard varieties?
 - Q6. Is there any evidence of spread of ethnic varieties outside of the ethnic group?
 - Q8. To what extent can speakers of an ethnolect shift to more standard varieties and to non-ethnic non-standard varieties?

2

Study of /z/

- One of the features that characterize the speech of Dutch adolescents of Moroccan, Turkish and Dutch descent is the pronunciation of the /z/.
- Preliminary results

3

Speakers

- Male speakers with Moroccan, Turkish and Dutch language backgrounds
- Born and raised in the Netherlands
- Two cities: Amsterdam and Nijmegen
- 18-20 yrs (10-12 yrs)



Place	Language background (LB)		
	Moroccan (M)	Turkish (T)	Dutch (D)
Amsterdam (A)	4	4	3
Nijmegen (N)	3	3	3

4

Task

- Spontaneous conversations
 - Between 2 speakers
 - 3 or 4 conversations: With 1 or 2 members of their own language background and 1 member of each other language background.
 - About 60 minutes per conversation
 - Free conversation, if needed with help of card games, new papers, football/soccer magazine

5

Analyses Z

- From each conversation, 30 /z/-words were selected per speaker
- minimum of 5 per left-hand environment Obstruent, Sonorant, Vowel.
- Selected z-words:
 - phonological words that begin with a /z/, including 2nd parts of compounds and particle verbs
zaterdag 'Saturday', *koopzondag* & *Sunday opening hours*, *opzoeken* 'look up'
 - /z/ followed by a vowel, but not by a schwa.
not selected: zwaar 'heavy', *z'n* 'his'
 - No /z/ that follows a sibilant or a pause
not selected: - dus zei hij... 'so said he...'
 - a word is selected at most three times for a speaker in one conversation.
 - Words that have orthographically a (z), but officially have to be pronounced with an [s] are not selected.
E.g. zestig 'sixty', *zeventig* 'seventy'.
 - Not selected: words that are read from for example (news)papers and magazines and words that are uttered in a (intentionally) strange way.

6

Analyses Z

- Today I will discuss two variables:
 - Devoicing of z
 - Sharpness of z

7

Voice

background

- all languages (Dutch, Moroccan Arabic, Berber and Turkish): distinction voiceless [s] and voiced [z].
- Dutch:
 - obligatory devoicing of fricatives, including /z/ after voiceless obstruents (Progressive Assimilation rule)

zitzak	opzoeken	gaat zomaar
/zitzak/	/ɔpsukən/	/χat zomar/
[zitsak]	[ɔpsukən]	[χat somar]
'bean-bag'	'look up'	'goes-3SG just (like that)'

- tendency to devoice the z after other sounds

8

Voice background

- Dialects of Amsterdam and Nijmegen
 - Amsterdam: always devoicing of z, in all sections of society
 - Nijmegen: also devoicing of z, yet more variably than Amsterdam

9

Voice results

- Do they use the Progressive Assimilation rule?
- Some speakers use Regressive Assimilation:
 - E.g. opzoeken 'look up' [ɔbzoeken]
- Chi-Square Tests per person
- 4 speakers don't use the rule, all with non-Dutch LB

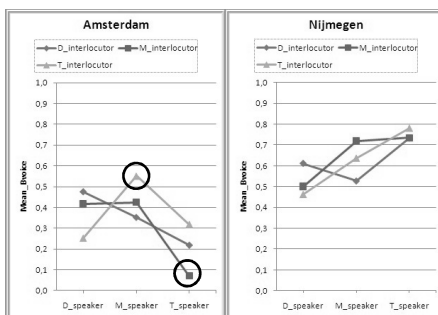
	Difference between 3 environments	No difference between 3 environments
Difference Sonorant-Vowel	1 AM + 1 NT <i>(all environments differ)</i>	-
No difference Sonorant-Vowel	All other speakers <i>(O vs. S+V)</i>	1 AT (mainly voiceless) 1 NM (mainly voiced) <i>(all environments equal)</i>

- speakers differ for environments > take environment Vowel to test for effects

10

Voice results

- voicedness of z after vowels.



- effect of place ($F_{1,14}=10,528$, $p=.006$)
- No main effects of LB_speaker and LB_interlocutor
- interaction effect between LB_speaker and LB_interlocutor for Amsterdam ($F_{4,16}=3,898$, $p=.021$), but not for Nijmegen ($F_{4,12}=1,343$, $p=.310$)
- T talking to M vs. M talking to T in Amsterdam

11

Voice conclusion/discussion

- Not every bilingual speaker uses the Progressive Assimilation rule
- Amsterdam more voiceless than Nijmegen → Influence of surrounding dialect
- Speakers in Amsterdam adapt to the interlocutor, but patterns differ between groups
- M talking to T vs. T talking to M in Amsterdam → Do the T+M speakers emphasize a hypothetical difference between the two groups?

12

'Sharp' z Examples

- luister als ik uh **hartziektes** had 🗣️ (AT)
- ik heb geen **zin** meer man 🗣️ (NM)
- en **zijn** ze allemaal door? 🗣️ (NM)

13

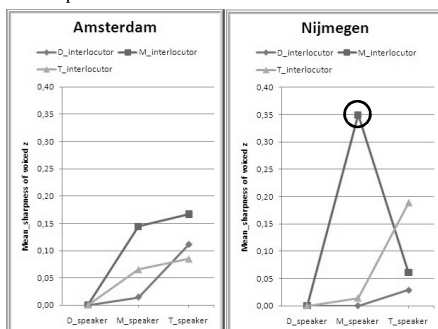
'Sharp' z Background

- 'sharp' z does not exist in Dutch.
- 'sharp z' thus has more frication and tenseness than the average Dutch one.
- The position of the corona is more forward in the Moroccan languages as well as in Turkish than in Dutch, i.e. dental (or denti-alveolar) instead of alveolar.
- Moroccan Arabic, Tarifit/Rif Berber and Tachelhit/Sous Berber also have emphatic fricatives: $s^{\text{̣}}$ (ṣ) and $z^{\text{̣}}$ (ẓ)

14

'Sharp' z results

- sharpness of voiced z.



- No 'sharp' z by Dutch speakers
- No effect of place ($F_{1,12}=,016, p=,903$)
- Amsterdam: No main effects of LB_speaker and LB_interlocutor and no interaction
- Nijmegen: Main effect for LB_interlocutor ($F_{2,12}=4,233, p=,041$), no effect for LB_speaker. ($F_{2,6}=1,424, p=,312$). Interaction effect between LB_speaker and LB_interlocutor ($F_{4,12}=5,958, p=,007$).
- M talking to M in Nijmegen 15

Sharpness

conclusion/discussion

- No 'sharp' z by Dutch speakers
- Both T+M used 'sharp' z.
- T+M are more homogeneous in Amsterdam than in Nijmegen.
- M in Nijmegen uses most 'sharp' z talking to M. → in-group?

16

Overall conclusion

- effect of place for voicing
- Situational shift (= determined by LB interlocutor) for voicing only in Amsterdam, for 'sharpness' only in Nijmegen

17

Further research

- Expand with data 10-12 yrs old.
- Additional phonetic measurements.

18