

## Variation in the realization of /ɛi/ by Dutch youngsters: dialects and ethnolects?

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## Study of /ɛi/

- how do current Dutch ethnolects deal with Dutch phonemes that
  - do not exist in the original languages of migrant groups speaking an ethnolect
  - are at the same time involved in regional and social patterns of stratification.
  
- The Dutch diphthong /ɛi/

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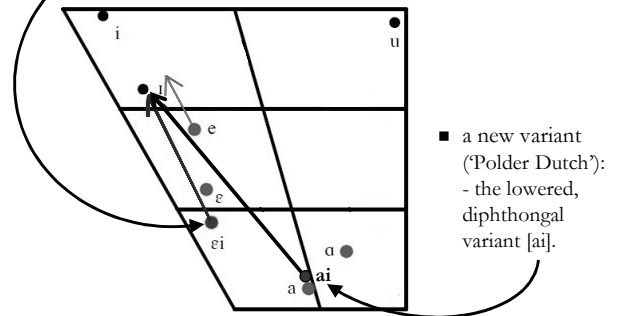
## Diphthong /ɛi/

- **schrijf**   
 dus uh **schrijf** je zo een uh een A of een uh een uh een E.   
 “so uh in that way you write uh an A of an uh an uh an E.”
  
- **bijbaantje**   
 een **bijbaantje** misschien.   
 “a job on the side maybe”
  
- **heenreis**   
 heenreis he.   
 “outward journey he.”

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## Diphthong /ɛi/ in Dutch (1)

- ‘standard Dutch’ [ɛi] (in the Netherlands):



(Dutch has 15 full vowels. Not all of them are represented here.)

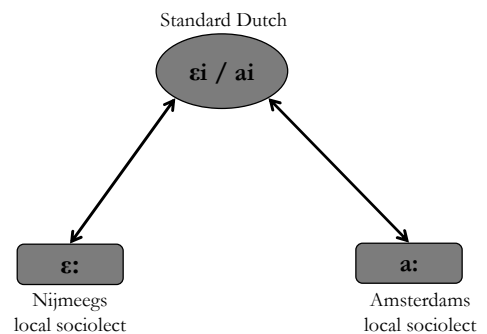
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## Diphthong /ɛi/ in Dutch (2)

- Nijmegen (Nimwegen)
  - Nijmegen vernacular is marked by monophthongization
    - /ɛ:/
  
- Amsterdam
  - Amsterdam vernacular is marked by monophthongization and also lowering of the 1<sup>st</sup> element of the diphthong:
    - /a:/

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## Diphthong /ɛi/ in Dutch (3)



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## Diphthong /ɛi/ in Turkish and Moroccan

- /ɛi/ does not occur in Turkish and Berber
- /ɛi/ occurs as a dialectal allophone in certain Moroccan Arabic dialects.
- Question: What variants will speakers of Dutch ethnolects use?  
 E.g. Standard or local variants?  
 New (exotic) variants?

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## Speakers (1)

- Male speakers with Turkish, Moroccan and non-immigrant Dutch backgrounds
- Two cities: Amsterdam (A) and Nijmegen (N)
- Born and raised in A and N respectively



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## Speakers (2)

- 51 speakers

	Background			
	Moroccan (M)	Turkish (T)	Dutch (D)	Dutch (C)
<b>Inter-ethnic ties?</b>	yes	yes	yes	no
Amsterdam (A)	7	7	5	6
Nijmegen (N)	6	6	6	8

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## Data-collection

- Spontaneous conversations
  - Between 2 speakers
  - About 60 minutes per conversation

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## Variables Coding schemes (+ Some examples)

- **Monophthongization**

1	No monophthongization (Clear diphthong)	☞ [ɛi]
2	Slightly monophthongized (Minor diphthong)	
3	Monophthongized	☞ [ɛ:]

*meisjes* 'girls'

- **Height**

1	e or I	(mid-)high / close	
2	ɛ	mid	☞ [ɛi]
3	æ or a	mid-low / near open	
4	a	low / open	☞ [ai]

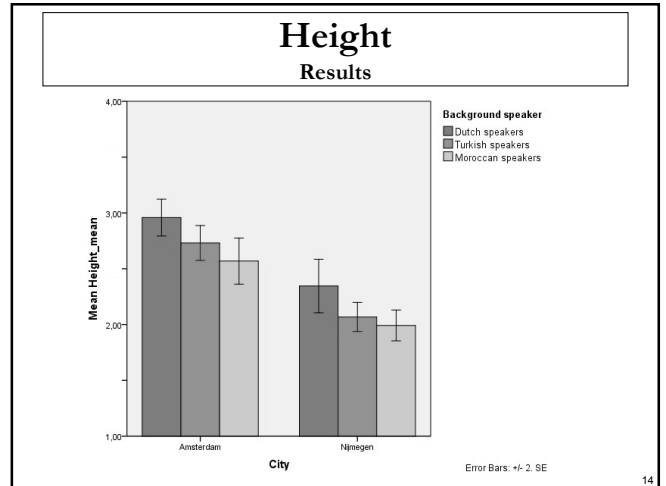
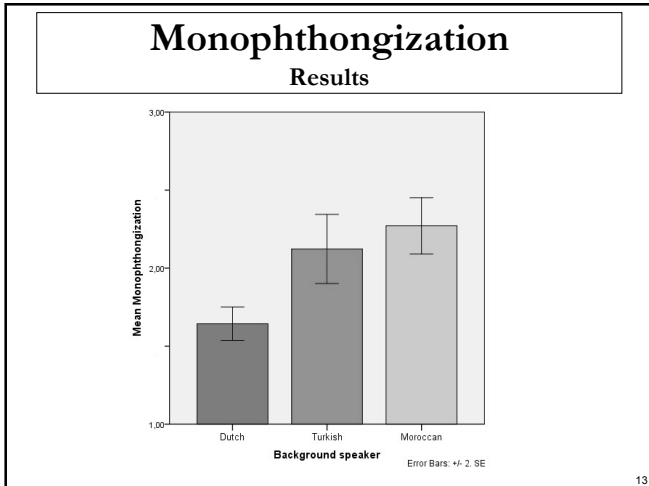
*hij* 'he'

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## LMM Explanation

- Linear mixed models analyses
  - (using SPSS 19) on Monophthongization as well as Height
  - Factors:
    - Background speaker (T, M, D)
    - City (A, N)

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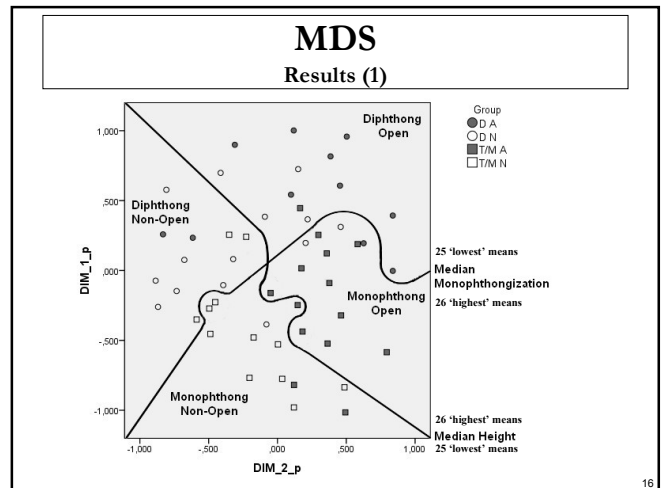


### MDS Explanation

- a PROXSCAL Multidimensional scaling procedure with two dimensions
- 12 variants – based on coding-scheme Monophthongization and Height:

V11	V21	V31	V41
V12	V22	V32	V42
V13	V23	V33	V43

- number per variant counted + percentages calculated
- MDS carried out on the percentages of used variants
- in order to find similarities between (groups of) speakers
- D, T, M: in- and out-group conversations; C: in-group



### MDS Results (2)

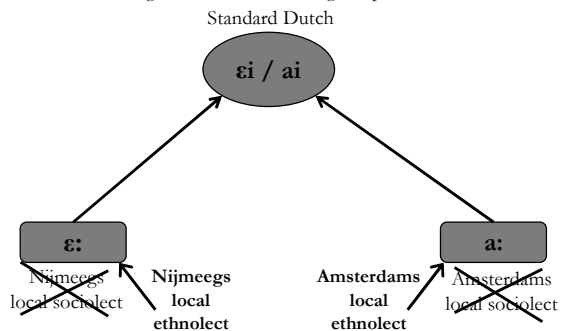
	Diph + open	Diph + non-open	Monoph + open	Monoph + non-open	Total
D A	<b>8</b>	2	1	0	11
D N	4	<b>7</b>	2	1	14
T/M A	1	0	<b>10</b>	3	14
T/M N	0	3	0	<b>9</b>	12
Total	13	12	13	13	51

### Conclusions (1)

- Dutch with and without strong inter-ethnic ties form one group separate from speakers with Turkish and Moroccan backgrounds who form another group
- Dutch use more standard variants
- speakers with Turkish and Moroccan backgrounds adopt local sociolectal characteristics

## Conclusions (2)

- The Dutch are shifting from local sociolect to standard Dutch.
- It looks as though ethnolects are taking the place of sociolects.



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- Thank you.
- Questions / comments / suggestions?

- This research is part of the project: Roots of Ethnolects
- Mainly funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO).
- More info about the project, as well as a handout of today's presentation can be found on

**[www.rootsofethnolects.nl](http://www.rootsofethnolects.nl)**

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