

Frans Hinskens, Linda van Meel, Roeland van Hout & Pieter Muysken,
'Modern Moroccan and Turkish ethnolects of Dutch: phonetic and grammatical aspects',
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Abstract

In our large research project, many conversational speech data (about 160 conversations) were collected in the Netherlands from 10-12 and 18-20 years old male adolescents with Turkish, Moroccan and non-immigrant Dutch descents in the cities of Amsterdam and Nijmegen.

The focus of this presentation will be on three variable phenomena, two of them phonetic and one grammatical in nature. The first phonetic feature concerns the realization of standard Dutch /z/ at the beginning of phonological words. We examined two variable properties of (z): (1) 'sharpness', i.e. dental place of articulation, in voiced realizations and (2) devoicing. The second phonetic phenomenon to be discussed is the realization of the standard Dutch diphthong /ɛi/ one of the set of three diphthongs of Dutch (all three of which are mid-high, closing, the first element being the prominent one). We examined two variable properties of /ɛi/: (1) height of the first, prominent element, and (2) the degree of monophthongization. The grammatical phenomenon concerns the expression of grammatical gender, both in determiners and in contextual flexion. Standard Dutch as well as the Nijmegen and Amsterdam varieties are two-gender systems (common vs. neutre) and in our data neutre gender appears to vary greatly.

The (largely quantitative) analyses of the three variable phenomena involve both extra-linguistic and linguistic determinants. Questions will be addressed regarding the linguistic make-up of ethnolects: to which extent are they rooted in substrates, in phenomena that are typical of second language acquisition and in endogeneous non-standard varieties? Another set of questions concerns the place of the ethnolect in the verbal repertoires of its speakers. Yet other questions concern the spread of ethnolectal features to other groups.