

Dutch on the move; emerging varieties under influence of migration

In traditional dialectology dialects are considered to be outcomes of long-term processes of convergence and divergence within a primarily geographical matrix in an agricultural world.

In modern dialectology social factors like prestige, class and gender are taken into account in explaining language change and variation in industrialised society (Trudgill & Chambers 1998). Today attention is shifting towards factors like ethnicity, migration and life-styles in a multi-ethnic urban context. It has been observed that new speech varieties, called ethnolects, are emerging under influence of these factors in the post-industrial landscape of identities.

In the Netherlands ethnolects are known from the Surinam and Indonesian ethnic groups. Recent research has discovered that there are also several markers of ethnicity in the language use of young second generation Moroccans and perhaps Turks, both at the (morpho)syntactic and phonological level (Cornips 2002, Van Krieken 2004). It has been noticed that these markers spread to other groups as well (Auer 2003, Nortier 2001).

In our project funded by NWO and started this year we try to disentangle the various factors that play a role in the language use of people of Turkish and Moroccan origin. We will examine the language used by 12-year old and 20-year old males from both groups, in Amsterdam and Nijmegen. In a semi-experimental setting we hope to distinguish factors like interference from Turkish and Moroccan Arabic; influence of the respective city dialects; influence from processes of second language learning and the use of language as a marker of ethnicity (Hinskens 2004).

In our talk we will present the theoretical outline and design of our research project.

References

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