The role of linguistic factors in the process of secondary acquisition of a dialect

This paper investigates the acquisition of the phonology of a Flemish dialect (L2) by children whose mother tongue is the Dutch Standard language (L1). This process of acquisition is supposed to be influenced by extra-linguistic factors, such as the social pressure of the peer group, the child’s attitude towards dialect and its motivation to learn a particular dialect. This paper focuses on the linguistic factors that play a role in the process of dialect acquisition, such as the frequency with which we expect an intersystemic correspondence to apply to the lexicon, the degree of predictability of the dialect realisation of an L1 sound, the productivity of the dialect feature and the degree of salience of the feature.

The research starts from the basic assumption that people acquiring a second language constitute a sort of ‘correspondence rules’ between phonological elements of their first language and elements of their second language. These rules do neither belong to the first nor to the second language, but are rules of the interlanguage of the second language learner.