

International workshop on

*New developments in the study of migration and ethnolectal variation*

Monday 14 March 2016

Meertens Instituut (KNAW), Amsterdam

**Program**

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|---------------|--|
| 10.00 – 10.15 | <i>informal welcome, coffee tea</i>  |
| 10.15 – 11.00 | Maarten Kossmann (Universiteit Leiden)   |
| 11.00 – 11.45 | Khalid Mourigh (Universiteit Leiden)   |
| 11.45 – 12.30 | Pieter Muysken (Radboud Universiteit), Frans Hinskens (Meertens Instituut) & Roeland van Hout (Radboud Universiteit) |
| 12.30 – 13.15 | <i>lunch</i>   |
| 13.15 – 14.00 | Roeland van Hout (Radboud Universiteit), Frans Hinskens (Meertens Instituut) & Pieter Muysken (Radboud Universiteit) |
| 14.00 – 14.45 | Peter Auer (Universität Freiburg, Duitsland)   |
| 14.45 – 15.30 | Juan Villena Ponsoda (Málaga, Spanje)  |
| 15.30 – 15.45 | <i>coffee / tea</i>  |
| 15.45 – 16.30 | Gregory Guy (New York University, USA)   |
| 16.30 – 17.00 | Overall discussion   |
| 17.00 – 17.30 | <i>drinks</i>  |

## Abstracts

Maarten Kossmann (Universiteit Leiden)

### *Moroccan indefinite markers in Dutch Urban Youth Style(s).*

In the Moroccan community in the Netherlands a specific speech style is found, which was baptized Moroccan Flavoured Dutch by Nortier & Dorleijn (2008). Among others, this style is characterized by the conventionalized use of a number of Moroccan elements, mostly interjections and utterance modifiers. In my talk, I will study one small set of such elements, Moroccan indefinite markers, and trace their uses among Moroccan youth and in crossing.

There are a couple of issues at stake here. In the first place, both the Berber and the Arabic indefinites have been taken over; the choice does not entirely depend on the heritage language of the speaker, Arabic indefinites sometimes being used by Berber speakers (the opposite seems to be rather marked). There may be local differences here; thus the Arabic indefinite seems to be used more in Amsterdam (which has a mixed Arabic/Berber heritage population) than in Gouda (which is predominantly Berber).

In the second place, the linguistic form of the Berber indefinites seem to follow the heritage dialects of the speakers as long as they are from northern Morocco. Southern Moroccan Berber indefinites do not occur in MFD, it seems.

In the third place, what is an indefinite in Moroccan Dutch Youth Style (no doubt with expressive connotations) seems to be used as an intensifier among non-Moroccan youth.

Khalid Mourigh (Universiteit Leiden)

### *Sibilant Palatalisation in Gouda Moroccan Dutch*

Recent studies on Moroccan (and ethnolectal) Dutch have shown that there are significant style-effects in the realisation of the /z/ (Hinskens, 2011, van Meel et al. 2014). Other studies also refer to this variant specifically as a style which is inspired by the Moroccan way of speaking Dutch (Nortier & Dorleijn, 2008 coined the term Moroccan Flavoured Dutch to refer to this variety). This variety is mainly defined on the basis of its phonetic features. A number of phonetic features have been noticed and commented upon in the past. However, many phonetic features remain to be

investigated: one conspicuous feature is the palatalisation of sibilants; the **s** becoming **sj** (IPA: ʃ) and **z** becoming **zj** (IPA: ʒ).

In this talk it will be shown that there exist three different types of palatalisation in Moroccan Dutch youth speech in Gouda. Two types, which are the most frequent in our corpus, have regular phonological and lexical rules; they only appear in certain contexts. The third type is non-regular. Palatalisation of sibilants can be ‘switched’ on and off making it a stylistic feature. This feature has existed for at least twelve years in Gouda. Therefore it can be argued that it is a conventionalised stylistic feature which is different from an ethnolectal feature. Some examples of its usage will be shown.

### References

- Hinskens, F. 2011. Emerging Moroccan and Turkish varieties of Dutch: ethnolects or ethnic styles? In F. Kern, & M. Selting (Eds.), *Ethnic Styles of Speaking in European Metropolitan Areas*. Vol. 8. 103 - 131. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: Benjamins.
- van Meel, L., Hinskens, F. & van Hout, R. 2014. Ethnolectal variation in the realization of /z/ by Dutch youngsters. *Zeitschrift für Dialektologie und Linguistik (ZDL)*, LXXX (2013) (3), 297.
- Nortier, J.M. & Dorleijn, M. & 2008. ‘A Moroccan accent in Dutch. A socio-cultural style restricted to the Moroccan community?’. In: *International Journal of Bilingualism* 12 (2008), 125 - 143.

Pieter Muysken (Radboud Universiteit), Frans Hinskens (Meertens Instituut) & Roeland van Hout (Radboud Universiteit)

*Ethnolects. Scholarship, some essentials of the Roots project and a few findings*

This paper presents the study of Dutch ethnolects in broad outline and in a historical perspective, discussing briefly a number of ethnolects that have emerged (and sometimes disappeared again) in the past. It goes on to describe the main research questions, the methodology, the data and a number of the results of our Roots of Ethnolects project, which has been carried out for ten years now at the Meertens Instituut (Amsterdam) and Radboud University (Nijmegen). We will focus on our original research questions and the basic answers that have emerged from our research.

Roeland van Hout (Radboud Universiteit), Frans Hinskens (Meertens Instituut) & Pieter Muysken (Radboud Universiteit)

*Morphosyntactic variation in the Roots of Ethnolects data, with a focus on grammatical gender*

In our research on ethnolectal variation in present-day Dutch, interactional speech data (from 160 one hour conversations) as well as individual speech data were collected among 10-12 and 18-20 year old male adolescents with Turkish, Moroccan and non-immigrant Dutch backgrounds who were all born and raised in the Dutch cities of Amsterdam or Nijmegen. The cities, which both have multicultural demographic profiles, are located in different dialect areas.

Our presentation will focus on variation in the expression of grammatical gender, both in determiners and in adnominal inflection. Standard Dutch as well as the Nijmegen and Amsterdam varieties distinguish common and neuter gender; in our data neuter gender varies greatly. Variability in the interactions appears to be conditioned both linguistically and socially. With regard to the internal conditioning, grammatical (word class and the like) and semantic (animacy) dimensions have been studied. Apart from the speakers' age and city of residence, the social dimensions also include the parameters background of the speaker and background of the interlocutor. In principle, the analysis of the variation in the expression of grammatical gender helps address several questions of three different types: 1/ to which extent is the variability rooted in substrates, in processes of second language acquisition of the first generations of migrants, and in surrounding endogenous non-standard varieties? 2/ What is the place of ethnolectal variation in the verbal repertoires of the speakers. Has it acquired a stylistic role? 3/ Do ethnolectal features flag non-nativeness? Do they cross over to other groups?

Peter Auer & Vanessa Siegel (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Germany)

*Some features of 'multiethnic' speech styles in Stuttgart (Germany)*

In this presentation, we will focus on three aspects of the Stuttgart 'multi-ethnolect', one in the domain of phonology (coronalization of the palatal fricative) and two in the domain of syntax (non-use of prepositions, non-use of anaphoric and other pronouns). The study is based on a 300 000 word corpus of spontaneous speech by young speakers of various ethnic backgrounds, aged 14-19. All features have been subject to a quantitative analysis. Of the three variables, the first (phonological) one is by far the most salient. It is heavily stigmatized and part of the enregistered 'ethnolect'. We will show that our informants avoid it through a process of social

othering by which Berlin youngsters are stereotypically linked to it. The grammatical variables, in particular pronoun non-use, are much less salient. We will argue that the non-use of prepositions is largely but not entirely restricted to location and movement verbs. The non-use of anaphoric and suppletive pronominal arguments in the central field of a sentence is also subject to various constraints. In almost all cases, only one of the pronominal arguments is left unexpressed; in addition, there is a preference for the non-use of the direct object pronoun over the non-use of the subject pronoun.

María Clara von Essen & Juan Andrés Villena Ponsoda (Universidad de Málaga, Spain)

*Dialects in contact. Sociolinguistic accommodation and integration among Argentinean migrants in Malaga town. Variation of palatal /j/*

This presentation outlines the objectives and preliminary results of a broader research project on accommodation to the Malaga varieties by a group of Argentinean immigrants with variation of age, gender and period of stay. The research design includes acoustic and perceptive phonetic analysis of palatal /j/ as well as other variables. With purpose of comparison, two different groups (native speakers of Argentinean Spanish and speakers of the Malaga variety) are being studied as well. Variation of fieldworker has also been included to gain access to young speakers' code switching.

Since Malaga, as part of Andalusia, shows, on the one hand, strong divergence between middle-class and working-class varieties and, on the other, unmistakable convergence towards the national standard (Madrid), Argentinean migrants in Malaga, who are essentially secondary-education or university-graduate employees or self-employed workers, are expected to adopt middle-class convergent features and neglect vernacular working-class patterns, in spite of the fact that the latter are much closer to their own.

Tense and often voiceless fricative allophones of /j/ characterise Argentinean speakers and clearly identify them as such. In our current preliminary approach, several acoustic parameters of fricatisation and voicelessness were considered in an attempt to observe, firstly, comparison between migrant and native allophones and, secondly, accommodation by migrants. Results confirm that (1) migrants' variants of /j/ are less frequently voiceless and less intense than those by native Argentinean speakers and (2) the Argentinian migrants tend to be closer to the Malaga middle-class approximant allophones though they maintain, at the same time, the well-known native differences between genders.

Gregory Guy (New York University, USA)

*Iconicity and (non-)locality as ethnolectal markers*

What is the source of linguistic variables that distinguish ethnolectal varieties of a language from other, especially ‘mainstream’, varieties? One commonly cited origin is language contact and shift: the influence of the original language of a migrant community on their acquisition of the dominant language in the new location. Such influences can be taken as iconic markers of ethnicity, deriving from the ‘foreign accent’ of the first generation of language-shifting migrants. Other ethnic markers that lack such a source can hinge on the relationship of the ethnic group with the local identity of the place of residence: do members of the ethnic group seek to assimilate as locals? If not, the rejection of features of the local dialect in favor of non-local or ‘standard’ features can serve to index ethnic distinctiveness.

This paper will discuss the results of recent research on several ethnic varieties of English in the New York City (NYCE) and northern New Jersey dialect region. In several cases, variables associated with a community have possible iconic value: speakers of Hispanic and Asian backgrounds use a more syllable-timed prosody than other English speakers, and those of Polish origin use more stops in place of interdental fricatives. But other variables demonstrate non-assimilation to characteristics associated with the local dialect. Some Asian-Americans avoid the raised BOUGHT vowel and fronted GOAT vowel of the regional dialect, more closely approximating a non-regional American English. The use of NYCE features by Polish-Americans varies according to how they construct their personal identity, as more Polish or more American. African-Americans are not participating in several ongoing changes in NYCE.