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Subjectief ervaren afstand tussen dialecten en objectief taalgedrag

Summary

Judgments on the identity of one's own dialect with other dialects (as in Weijnen 1946) are instantiations of subjective dialect perception. The linguistic features of dialects are objective instantiations of speakers' behavior. In this article we try and study the way dialect perception, specifically as regards the standard language, influences speakers' dialect behavior (or not). Distance aspects and directional aspects of (subjective) dialect identity perception are seen as potential causal factors in the use (objective) of word final t-deletion, vowel shortening and vowel lengthening.

A relationship might exist between these three dialect characteristics in their contribution to a more optimal syllable length. However, it is shown that these three dialect characteristics do not influence each other in South Holland and the Rivers area.

Objective geographical position of a dialect is a relevant factor for t-deletion along the West-East dimension and for vowel shortening along the North-South dimension, but it is not relevant for vowel lengthening.

Subjectively perceived identity among dialects plays a role in the sense that greater *global* subjective distance from the standard language is relevant for vowel shortening and t-deletion as well. But the effect is different: a longer perceived distance goes with more shortening and a shorter perceived distance results in more t-deletion. The role of the orientation towards the standard language, or away from it – a *local* characteristic, remains somewhat ambiguous: it may be or not be relevant. If relevant, then only for t-deletion, and such that an orientation towards the standard language results in more deletion. This peculiar fact is explained by polarization against the standard language, for which there is no need in the case of vowel shortening. Vowel lengthening is a hypercorrection of vowel shortening.