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Naast NORMS ook MYSFS in het veranderende dialectlandschap en het regiolect

Abstract

Contrary to expectations, NORMS (Non Mobile Older Rural Males) are not the repository of real dialect. The development of dialects is in a constant flux and the situation within dialects has always been variable. The influence of social characteristics of speakers on their dialect characteristics is not always given. They may be present, even in different degrees or not present at all. It has been supposed that this last state of affairs (no presence of influence) should be an artifact of over- or undersampling of speakers of a certain sex, age or social class. Daan (1963) has been the first in the Netherlands in presenting an analysis of the social make up of the speaker sample of the Amsterdam Dialect Questionnaires in the beginning of the sixties, but in dialectology, correlations of such data with speaker's dialect characteristics have been made rather anecdotally on the behavior of persons pooled into groups (the notable exception is Daan en Heikens 1976 sociodialectological study). Correlation of these characteristics on the level of the individual has been rare in dialectology.

In this article we do just that, and we show that slight over- or under-sampling does not necessarily lead to a significant role for the geographical position of dialects at the expense of possible significant social characteristics. On the contrary, the value of significant structural dialectinternal characteristics remains the same. This means that, within and across, dialects, variable as they have been in the distributions of linguistic features now and over time, are not necessarily developing into a regiolect witnessing data on t-deletion in North Eastern Dutch dialects. Middle Class and Higher Class speakers, although 'contaminated' by the standard language, and although there is a remarkable postadolescent age-effect (apparent time), show remarkable stable dialect features in the sense of a geographical dialect.

Since the dialect internal factors on t-deletion embody the effects of historical wordstructure, the fact that the values of significant structural dialect internal characteristics remain the same (and significant as well) when social factors are added as explanatory variables, implies a certain real time stability which makes transmission of the patterns over generations possible.