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Akoestische metingen van Nederlandse klinkers in algemeen Nederlands en in Zuid-Limburg

Abstract

Acoustical measurements are pivotal in Labov's work on variation and change in vowels and vowel systems (Labov 1994). Main reasons why the application of acoustical techniques in language variation research remained rather exceptional seem to be lack of interest on the part of phonetics and lack of expertise on the part of dialectology and sociolinguistics.

In this contribution we discuss the results of a pilot study on acoustical measurement techniques for vowels. Two different Dutch accents were involved. We especially investigated which normalization and transformation methods are appropriate to maintain linguistically relevant variation patterns and to reduce anatomical-physiological differences. The pilot outcomes do not support the normalization method used by Labov (1994). At the same time, the outcomes show how crucial acoustical measurement techniques will be for future research on language variation.