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Het Nederlands van jongeren in Oost-Flevoland

Abstract

This article describes the pronunciation of Dutch by natives in Oost-Flevoland, a polder reclaimed from the IJsselmeer (former Zuiderzee) in 1956. Thirty speakers, aged between 17 and 24 (in each of the towns Dronten, Biddinghuizen, and Swifterbant five males and five females) were interviewed. Their speech was analyzed by calculating the frequencies of variants of 9 linguistic variables. The influence of the social variables 'class', 'sex' and 'town' on the linguistic variables has been measured using an analysis of variance.

The results show that the language of young Oostflevolandse has hardly any social stratification. This homogeneous speech takes a position between the western-Dutch of the Wieringermeerpolder and the slightly north-eastern coloured Dutch of the Noordoostpolder. Only in a few cases Oost-Flevoland speech is identical to what is spoken in the Noordoostpolder, but in general it is unaccented to an extent unwitnessed before in the Netherlands. A strange exception, however, (and still to be explained) is established by the pronunciation of (ei) as [ai], that covers no less than 34% of all (ei)-realizations.