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Wieringse nasaalvelarisering

Abstract

Wieringen Dutch, as described in Daan (1950), displayed the effects of a process of nasal velarisation: coronal nasal consonants turned into velars in the position between a short back vowel and a coronal obstruent. It is argued in this paper that this velarisation was a reflex of a universal tendency of nasals to become velar in coda position. This tendency interacted in Wieringen Dutch with a desire of nasals to share their place with an adjacent segment (in this case with the preceding, velar, vowel) and with a tendency of the righthand word edge to be exceptionally stable in Dutch dialects. It is shown how this analysis can also quite easily be used to set up a typology of Dutch dialects which show other types of nasal velarisation, of nasal palatalisation, and of nasalisation of the vowel.