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Wordt het Poldernederlands model?

Summary

During the last decades a new type of Dutch has developed. This new variety is for several reasons very interesting. First of all, it is mainly spoken by younger women (up to 40) from the higher middle class (scientists, writers, artists, and so on). Secondly, the new variety has a lot of prestige, although it differs in many ways from the Dutch standard language.

The most striking phenomenon is the lowering of the nucleus of the diphthongs [ei], [oey] en [ou], which results in [a.i], [au] and [a.u]: waain ('wine'), aut ('out') and haaus ('house').

This lowering is of the same type of natural change as the lowering which took place in English and German during the 15th and 16th century. The change can at last take place and go on in Dutch as well because the education at school pays no attention to pronunciation anymore.

The new Dutch is called Poldernederlands ('Polderdutch').