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## Wielrennerstaal in Vlaanderen en in Nederland

### **Summary**

This paper deals with the terminology of cycle racing in Flanders and the Netherlands. The study is based on a corpus (Dewitte 1991) of spoken and written language of sportjournalists, and on an oral dialectinquiry performed in West Flanders.

Two major points of focus are the large number of French words in the corpus-Dewitte 1991 and the portion of Flemish Dutch. The influence of French on the cycling terminology is obvious because of the French origin of cycle racing itself. However, we also find that a lot of common words have entered the standard language through Flemish Dutch (and even the Flemish dialects). This is an unusual tendency in the standardisation of Dutch; normally Netherlandic idiom dominates the process of standardisation. The exceptional status of the terminology of cycle racing is due to the fact that the sport developed earlier in Flanders than in the Netherlands. When it also became popular in the Netherlands, a (Flemish) Dutch terminology already existed. Netherlandic sportjournalists and cyclists didn't feel the need to develop a brand new nomenclature, but borrowed a lot of words from Flemish Dutch.