

Eef Dijkhof

## Over originelen en afschriften in taalkundig onderzoek

*De rol van de schrijver en de redacteur bij de  
totstandkoming van oorkonden*

### **Summary**

The study of local and regional variation in the medieval Dutch of the thirteenth century is primarily based on original charters of which it has been figured out where they were written. Those originals make up only about the half of the charters that came down to us. The other half is lost, but their texts are passed down to us in copies recorded in the fourteenth century and later. This article investigates the possibilities of using those charters delivered in copy for the research of Dutch dialects of the thirteenth century. It turns out that such investigations must be restricted to the study of lexical variation. Other kinds of research, e.g. morphological, cannot be executed because of the fact that the spelling of the copies is not sufficiently accurate. However, it will be possible to build up a corpus of charters passed down in copy, which are sufficiently reliable to investigate lexical variation. To discover the local and regional variation it had to be found out where those charters were drafted. This article describes a method, originating from historical science, to identify and localize editors. Relating the corpus of original charters which came down to us in copy, with the corpus of original charters leads to the problem that the former is based on the identification of the editor and the latter on the identification of the writer. This brings an old discussion about the contribution of the editor and the writer to the coming into being of the wording of a charter. Based at some charters which were drafted in the chancery of the count of Holland, but were written in the chancery of the count of Flanders, the author concludes that, unlike the point of view of some scholars, the role of the editor should not be neglected.