Pieter van Reenen & Nanette Huijs

De harde en de zachte g

De spellingen gh versus g als (post)velaire versus (post)palatale fricatieve voor voorklinker in het veertiende-eeuws middelnederlands

Abstract

In this study we examine the question whether, and to what extent, the dialects of 14th-century Middle Dutch have distinguished both (post)palatal and (post)velar fricatives before the front vowels /i/ and /e/. We compare the frequencies and geographical distributions of the spellings gh and g in loan words from and into French (for example ‘Gilles’) with a series of indigenous Dutch words (for example ‘Gerri/Gerard’, ‘zegel’, ‘geven’), and in a series of indigenous words with each other. The distribution of the spellings gh and g of a number of words is reproduced on synchronic and diachronic dialect maps. The data for our research mainly come from our corpus of 14th-century Middle Dutch charters (see Van Reenen & Mulder 1993).*