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De harde en de zachte g

*De spellingen gh versus g als (post)velaire versus (post)palatale
fricatieven 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 ‘Gerrit/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).*