

Leendert de Vink

Structuurverlies in het dialect van Katwijk aan Zee

*De dialectontwikkeling binnen het Randstadgebied
vergeleken met die daarbuiten¹*

Summary

The following study of the dialect spoken in Katwijk aan Zee is based on a study carried out in Haaksbergen by Van Bree (Van Bree 1985). The process of structural loss is central, in particular the stability of dialect elements. In Haaksbergen, a certain order of loss was established with respect to the stability of dialect elements. The primary aim of this study is to examine whether the same order of loss also occurs in the Katwijk dialect. To a large extent, this appears to be the case. The second aim is to establish whether there is a greater degree of structural loss in Katwijk than in Haaksbergen. This follows from the assumption that Katwijk, a dialect spoken in the Randstad area in the west of Holland, is structurally closer to the originally western standard language and has undergone greater exposure to it than the Haaksbergen dialect localized in the eastern Netherlands. This assumption is confirmed. One sociolinguistic aspect of the study which is of particular interest is the language behaviour of women. Notwithstanding the clear choice made by women in their language usage - older women choose the dialect more than older men, younger women choose the standard language more than younger men - both older and younger women display a greater awareness than men of how both varieties ought to be spoken. The latter is revealed by an acceptability test included as part of the study.