

Sera de Vriendt

Diminutieven in het Brussels

Abstract

Diminutives in the Brussels Flemish dialect

This article deals with the diminutivisation system of the Brussels Flemish dialect. The results of a recent inquiry (1997) among elderly bilingual (Flemish - French) people are compared to those of older descriptions, nl. those of Pée (1936) and Mazereel (1931). This comparison reveals that Pée's assumption that the dialect of Brussels and surroundings entirely belongs to the *-ken* area was wrong and must be revisited. Apparently the wordlist of Pée's inquiry was too incomplete to investigate all possible phonological conditions that play a role in diminutivisation. Consequently Pée's conclusions about the diminutivisation system in Brussels and its geographic position in the Brabantine area were incorrect.