Variation in the realization of /ɛi/ by Dutch youngsters: dialects and ethnolects?
Linda van Meel, Frans Hinskens & Roeland van Hout

- The Dutch diphthong /ɛi/

Diphthong /ɛi/ in Dutch (1)

- "standard Dutch" /ɛi/ (in the Netherlands):
  - a new variant ('Polder Dutch'):
    - the lowered, diphthongal variant [ai].

Diphthong /ɛi/ in Dutch (2)

- Nijmegen (Nimwegen)
  - Nijmegen vernacular is marked by monophthongization
    - /ɛi/

- Amsterdam
  - Amsterdam vernacular is marked by monophthongization and also lowering of the 1st element of the diphthong:
    - /ai/

Diphthong /ɛi/ in Dutch (3)

- Standard Dutch

- Nijmegen local sociolect

- Amsterdam local sociolect
Diphthong /εi/ in Turkish and Moroccan

- /εi/ does not occur in Turkish and Berber
- /εi/ occurs as a dialectal allophone in certain Moroccan Arabic dialects.

Question: What variants will speakers of Dutch ethnolects use?
E.g. Standard or local variants?
New (exotic) variants?

 Speakers (1)

- Male speakers with Turkish, Moroccan and non-immigrant Dutch backgrounds
- Two cities: Amsterdam (A) and Nijmegen (N)
- Born and raised in A and N respectively

 Speakers (2)

- 51 speakers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Background</th>
<th>Moroccan (M)</th>
<th>Turkish (T)</th>
<th>Dutch (D)</th>
<th>Dutch (C)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inter-ethnic ties?</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amsterdam (A)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nijmegen (N)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data-collection

- Spontaneous conversations
  - Between 2 speakers
  - About 60 minutes per conversation

Variables

Coding schemes (+ Some examples)

- Monophthongization
  - No monophthongization (Clear diphthong)
  - Slightly monophthongized (Minor diphthong)
  - Monophthongized

- Height
  - e or i (mid-high / close)
  - g (mid)
  - a or ë (mid-low / near open)
  - a (low / open)

LMM

Explanation

- Linear mixed models analyses
  - (using SPSS 19) on Monophthongization as well as Height
  - Factors:
    - Background speaker (T, M, D)
    - City (A, N)
Monophthongization

Results

![Graph showing monophthongization results for different speakers.](image)

MDS

Explanation

- a PROXSCAL Multidimensional scaling procedure with two dimensions
- 12 variants – based on coding scheme
- Monophthongization and Height:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>V11</th>
<th>V21</th>
<th>V31</th>
<th>V41</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>V12</td>
<td>V22</td>
<td>V32</td>
<td>V42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V13</td>
<td>V23</td>
<td>V33</td>
<td>V43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- number per variant counted + percentages calculated
- MDS carried out on the percentages of used variants
- in order to find similarities between (groups of) speakers
- D, T, M: in- and out-group conversations; C: in-group

MDS

Results (1)

25 'lowest' means
26 'highest' means

MDS

Results (2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diph + open</th>
<th>Diph + non-open</th>
<th>Monoph + open</th>
<th>Monoph + non-open</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D A</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D N</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T/M A</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T/M N</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusions (1)

- Dutch with and without strong inter-ethnic ties form one group separate from speakers with Turkish and Moroccan backgrounds who form another group
- Dutch use more standard variants
- speakers with Turkish and Moroccan backgrounds adopt local sociolectal characteristics
Conclusions (2)

- The Dutch are shifting from local sociolect to standard Dutch.
- It looks as though ethnolects are taking the place of sociolects.

Standard Dutch

Thank you.

Questions / comments / suggestions?

- This research is part of the project: Roots of Ethnolects
- Mainly funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO).
- More info about the project, as well as a handout of today’s presentation can be found on

www.rootsofethnolects.nl

go to publications > presentations