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The influence of dialects on the sociolinguistic perception

of Dutch accents

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Abstract

This thesis investigates the influence of dialect on accent perception in the Netherlands, by trying to answer the following research question: 'what are the differences in the sociolinguistic judgement of Northern and Southern accents in the Netherlands between speakers of Tweants and Limburgish, and what causes these differences?' Previous research has mainly focussed on the perception of accents within the Netherlands, but has not considered the role of dialects in this sociolinguistic topic. To elaborate on the previous findings, this thesis is set out to look into the influence of dialect usage frequency on the perception of accents by looking at the Dutch dialects Tweants and Limburgish, in combination with the accents spoken in the North and the South of the Netherlands. The hypotheses are tested through a speaker evaluation test. The data that emerged from this test are analysed through a means comparison. Results show that the frequency of dialect usage does play a role in accent perception. People who do not speak a dialect are more likely to reject non-standard varieties of Dutch, whilst people who often speak a dialect are more positive towards these varieties. Further research should be conducted with a larger sample, more background information of participants, and with more variables, such as different accents and dialects.

Keywords: sociolinguistics, accents, dialects, speech evaluation test, Dutch, Tweants, Limburgish

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Introduction

The Netherlands may only be 42,508 km^2, but on that small piece of the Earth many language varieties are spoken. The official language of the Netherlands is Dutch, but by taking a closer look at the language situation in the Netherlands, it becomes clear that that is not the only language that is used. In the province of Friesland the official regional language is Frisian, and there are two recognised regional languages: Low Saxon and Limburgish. Furthermore, the Kingdom of the Netherlands even has recognised English and Papiamento as official languages besides Dutch. Within the country of the Netherlands, many ideas and stereotypes surround the regional languages and varieties. Whilst people from the South are seen as jovial, people from the North are considered to be surly (Kanne & Van Engeland, 2019; Smakman & Van Bezooijen, 1997).

There are four main accent regions in the Netherlands: the West – also known as the central zone – the North, the South, and a transitional zone between the North and the South (Driessen, 2006). Prejudice occurs for all of these regions, especially with regards to social clues the speakers of these accents present (Smakman, 2006).

Research into accents in the Netherlands has found that people from all across the country do not automatically reject accented traces in the standard language variety. People from the Western region, which is considered to mirror the standard, are however less tolerant of non-standard varieties. Someone with the accent from the South of the Netherlands is perceived as kind, but also as somebody with a lack of sophistication. Since the Netherlands is undergoing a loss of dialect, it is suggested that the standard variety is becoming more lenient towards other forms of the standard speech, since social and regional differences need to be made apparent in a new way. An example of this is that it does not matter whether a speaker has an accent, but that the strength of the accent is what actually matters. A weak Southern accent is often accepted as the norm. Besides this, the gender of the speaker is relevant; male

speakers are 'allowed' to stray further from the standard variety than female speakers (Grondelaers, Van Hout & Steegs, 2009; Grondelaers & Van Hout, 2010; Grondelaers, Van Hout & Speelman, 2011a; Grondelaers & Van Hout, 2011b; Grondelears & Speelman, 2016; Grondelaers, Van Hout & Van Gent, 2018).

Although previous research on the sociolinguistic image of accents of the Netherlands has been extensive, little research has been done on the sociolinguistic relationship between accents and dialects in the Netherlands. This is why this thesis will try to answer the question of what the differences in the sociolinguistic judgement of Northern and Southern accents in the Netherlands between speakers of Tweants and Limburgish are, and what the causes of these differences are. In order to do so, the following research questions will be answered: 'what are the differences in the identification of accents between speakers of different dialects of Dutch, and what causes these differences?' and 'what is the influence of dialect usage frequency on the sociolinguistic judgements of accents in Dutch, and what causes this influence?'

The hypotheses are that 'people will be more capable of identifying the accent if the speaker is from the same region as they are' and 'the more frequently a person uses a dialect, the more tolerant they are towards the accent of their region.' After a literature review, the hypotheses will be tested through a questionnaire in which participants will be asked to give their evaluation on speech samples from people with a Northern and a Southern accent by means of traits. The traits are divided in three evaluation dimensions: superiority, warmth and dynamism. People will be asked to indicate how well a trait fits a certain speaker using a Likert scale. These participants will also be asked to identify the Dutch province the speaker originates from. After that, background questions will be given in order to determine the origin of a participants, their age range, gender, and how frequently they use either Tweants or Limburgish.

In order to provoke the best results, a pre-test will be carried out. The aim of this pre-test is to find the speaker samples that are most suited for the main test. The samples will be taken from the *Spoken Dutch Corpus* (Nederlandse Taalunie, 2004), which contains a multitude of speaker fragments. Respondents will be asked to indicate where a speaker is from, and how strong their accent is. The samples that are deemed suitable for the main test have to adhere to certain standards; they must be perceived as strong accents, and most of the participants must have correctly indicated the origin region of a speaker.

After the tests have been conducted, the results will be analysed through a frequency table, which will show how many participants identified the origin region of a speaker correctly. Next, a Principal Component Analysis will be conducted in order to establish whether the traits represent the evaluation dimensions. After this, differences between the dimensions-general means and dimension-specific means will be calculated in order to determine what the influence is of dialect usage frequency on the perception of accented varieties of Dutch.

Literature Review

Sociolinguistics

In the field of sociolinguistics, researchers pay attention to the social background of speakers. They study how speakers from different backgrounds may have different cultural assumptions and norms whilst ostensibly using 'the same language'. Hence, the focus of sociolinguistics falls on the use of language within a speech community. The sociolinguistic approach has several aspects. First of all, it is non-prescriptive and non-purist. Furthermore, it is open to variations of language and appreciates changes through time and geographical, social and positions. Besides this, it is also considerate of speech and conversational norms, as it takes the situational conditions of speech into account. It is also sympathetic towards multiculturism and multilingualism. Additionally, it is important to keep the interactive nature of speech and the attitudes and norms of different subgroups within society in mind in sociolinguistics. Lastly, sociolinguistics is receptive to change in language and is responsive to broader contextual issues relating to power, culture and identity (Mesthrie, 2008; Yule, 2016).

Language and society are intertwined in such a manner that society cannot exist without language, as research into early language development shows (Ulbaek, 1998). It is thus needed to take society into account when looking at language. Sociolinguistics is concerned with the relationship between language and the context in which it is used, such as the use of language by different generation, the generalisations that are embedded in language, and the influence of both the sender and the recipient on language use. Because every researcher brings their own experience into sociolinguistic research, it cannot be purely theoretical. There is a need for empirical evidence in order to draw conclusions (Un Nisa, 2019).

In recent studies, culture has been treated as one of the key factors of sociolinguistic systems. It has been claimed that there is a large cultural bias in sociolinguistic research, and that there is an overpowering influence from Anglo-Western ideas in current literature. It is noted that researchers should always be aware of their own cultural background and the challenges this poses in their research (Smakman, 2019).

Language variation. William Labov, a well-renowned sociolinguist, developed the *Variation Theory* in the late 1960s. The theory studies the relationship between factors such as region of origin, age, and, especially, characteristic usage of language and social status . Through correlation techniques, variationists work to reveal the relationship between linguistic and social variables (Mesthrie, 2008). By incorporating techniques from, for example, linguistics, sociology, anthropology and statistics, language use and structure in a natural – or almost natural – situation can be scientifically investigated. Analysis of the vernacular can be very fruitful for establishing the nature of the linguistic system, against which elements that differentiate from the 'norm' can be assessed (Poplack, 1993).

In the present study, the relationship between accents and dialects will be looked at. This will be done in order to reveal the relationship between the language used and social factors that are at play in the perception of the language used.

Accent, Dialects and Standard Language

Standard. The definition of 'standard language' can be difficult to formulate. Finegan (2007) claims that not a single variety of English can be called the standard. This is because there are national standards. Within those standard national varieties, there can be standard regional varieties as well. Finegan argues that there are two ways to determine the standard variety. Firstly, the standard variety can be determined by identifying which variety is used by a group of people in their public discourse. This implies that the language used in media, politics, education, et cetera, determines what the standard variety is. Secondly, the

standardisation of a certain variety can indicate that it has become the standard. When a variety is standardised, it is put into grammars and dictionaries.

What is important to note about the standard variety it that it is, syntactically speaking, not better than other varieties. Although it can be perceived as being the best form the use a language, it is not more grammatical than other varieties, but simply preferred by speakers in certain contexts and situations (Finegan, 2007).

Variation on standard – accent. An accent is a manner of pronunciation characteristic of a particular individual, location, nation or social class (Accent, n.d.). It is noticeable in pronunciation, with differences in intonation, stress and rhythm. There are different factors that can have an influence on the accent of a speaker. Their location can have an influence, which results in a regional or geographical accent. Besides that, their socioeconomic status, ethnicity, social class or influence from their first language can alter the way they speak (Lippi-Green, 1997). Everyone has an accent, even people who do not use their voice to communicate, as accents also occur in sign languages. However, in colloquial speech, 'having an accent' means that the speaker negatively deviates from the norm**.** This implies that, even though everyone has an accent, there are accents that are perceived to be better than others, since one variety can be seen as the standard, and speakers who use a different variety may be perceived as being unequal to users of the standard variety. People with power are often perceived to be speaking a normal, unaccented language. Speech that deviates from this norm is considered to be an accent. This leads to the idea that any deviation from the standard is undesired. Under the influence of people in power, connotations are given to certain accents (Matsuda, 1991).

The main difference between an accent and a dialect is that a dialect is a language variation that differs from the standard language in linguistic areas other than speech, whereas an accent refers specifically to differences in pronunciation (Finegan, 2007). Thus, accents

can only be noticed in phonological differences whilst a dialect differs from the standard language in multiple linguistic areas. Dialects are considered to be varieties of language that are similar to the form spoken by the majority, but differ in the use of certain elements (Carlson & McHenry, 2006).

Non-standard – dialect. The term dialect refers to the language variety characteristic of a particular regional or social group. A dialect can help to identify a speaker's regional, ethic, social or gender affiliation. Dialects therefore are always about language users. Both language and dialects are language varieties, which entails that there is no linguistic distinction between a language and a dialect. Finegan claims that every dialect is a language, and every language is realised in its dialects. This entails that from a linguistic point of view, there are no differences in what is considered to be a language and what is considered to be a dialect (Finegan, 2007).

According to *The Dictionary of Language and Linguistics*, a dialect is a linguistic system that shows a high degree of similarity to other systems so that a least partial mutual intelligibility is possible. A dialect is tied to a specific geographical region, that does not overlap with another dialectical area. Besides that, a dialect does not have a written or standardised form, in that it does not have officially standardised orthographical and grammatical rules. The sociolinguistic approach to dialects focusses on the different uses of standard language and dialect, as well as the greater private use of dialect as well as possible correlations between dialect and social class (Crystal, 2008).

In establishing the vernacular, which is a type of dialect spoken by the ordinary people, there is an important sociolinguistic component at play. The vernacular varieties are socially marked within speech communities. Speech communities may differ significantly in their social embedding of dialect structures, selectively focusing on some variants as dialect icons while ignoring others. The process of social embedding must be taken into account

when the vernacular dialect is normed, as structures are differentially marked in particular vernacular dialect communities (Wolfram, 2000; Yule, 2016).

Research shows that in areas in Germany, it is not the prestige of the standard that figures as the main regulative factor, but the acceptance of the regional variants used. Bellmann (2009) claims that the use of dialect can serve as a means of retreat, of emotion and of internal solidarization, because this world of extreme mechanisation and multiple confrontation with foreign culture, including Americanisation, has led people to lose the touch with their own identity. According to Bellmann (2009), this attitude is widespread, but people are unaware of it, and it is not related to the 'renaissance' of dialects, as it is often referred to in literature.

In this thesis, two dialects spoken in the Netherlands, Tweants and Limburgish, will be taken into account. Besides that, another variable is two accents spoken in the Netherlands: the Northern and the Southern accent. The dialects are a regional language within the Netherlands, and are related to the accents. In the region where Tweants is spoken, the Northern accent variety is used, and in the region where Limburgish is spoken, the Southern accent is used.

Language Situation in the Netherlands

Languages in the Netherlands. In the Netherlands, there are two regional languages. The first one is Limburgish, a group of East Low Franconian language varieties spoken in the South-Eastern province of Limburg. Another regional language spoken in the Netherlands is Low Saxon, which is spoken in the North-Eastern provinces of Groningen, Drenthe, and Overijssel. Next to regional languages, there are two official languages: Dutch, which is spoken throughout the entire kingdom of the Netherlands, and Frisian, which is spoken in the province of Friesland in the North-West of the Netherlands (Spruit, 2008).

Dialect versus standard. There used to be multiple stable diglossic situations in which the base dialects and the national standard were clearly separated in Europe. In a stable diglossic situation, the dialect and the standard are used in different domains. The standard was usually the written language. In the present day, a stable diglossic language situation is unlikely to occur, since people travel far beyond the borders of their language region on a frequent basis. However, there are regions of the Netherlands that have an attenuated form of diglossia. This can happen in two ways. The first way in which this can happen is when the old dialects have been levelled out under the influence of the standard, in which they become more like the standard. This can result in the standard being de-standardised. However, this does not lead to a balance between the standard and the dialect, which could be called a standard-dialect continuum. The other option is that the dialect and the standard language are two separate systems that are in close contact with each other. This will eventually lead to a fusion of the two, through code-switching, then code-mixing and then a fusion, in that order (Auer, 2005).

In the peripheral parts of the Netherlands, such as the province of Limburg, the first type of attenuated diglossia is taking place, so the Limburgish dialect has become more like standard Dutch. However, it has not reached the stage of the standard-dialect continuum yet. In the Netherlands, there is dialect continuum and a separate standard continuum. This situation is starting to resemble a diglossic situation. The dialects of the urban area of the Netherlands, the Randstad, are already largely influenced by the standard, whilst the more rural parts still maintain a regional dialect (Auer, 2005).

Before the sixteenth century, there was no unity language in the Netherlands. The 'Dutch' of that time was a collection of dialects, which is now known as Middle Dutch. In the following centuries, people strived for a united language, and started working on a norm language. Dialectal differences were limited because of this, especially in the written

language. During the nineteenth century, a wave of language purism caused dialectal differences to be minimised in spoken language (Nijlen Twilhaar, 2003).

From the beginning of this language purism, the standard Dutch has always been the language with the most prestige. Dialects were to be spoken at home and were subordinate to the standard. In church, the standard language was always used. However, in the past decades, people are increasingly becoming more proud of their dialect. It is not uncommon for a dialect to have an institution linked to it that puts its effort into keeping it alive. These institutions also work on documenting the dialects, such as mapping geographical differences and varieties within the dialect (Nijlen Twilhaar, 2003).

The future of dialects in the Netherlands is dependent on the attitudes of speakers. Most speakers see their dialect as their mother tongue and are loyal to it. However, for a dialect to exist, loyalty is not enough. What is also needed is a positive language attitude by both the speakers and other inhabitants of the Netherlands. This entails that the dialect has to be a recognised language, and that speakers can rightfully call themselves bilinguals. There are three attitudes that the government can adopt on language and dialects. The first is that the government can oppress a dialect. Secondly, the government can be indifferent to dialects. The third role that the government can take on is to play an active role by recognising a dialect and even stimulating the use of a dialect (Nijlen Twilhaar, 2003). Other research (Smakman, 2006) has shown that dialects in the Netherlands are likely to lose the structure and function when the variety is further removed from the standard language. Instead of the dialects, regional varieties are developing, which will eventually replace the dialects. This is also seen in the sentiment that young parents have since they prefer to teach their children the standard variety.

In 1992, the *European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages,* formulated by the European Union, was adopted in order to protect the regional and minority languages in

Europe. In the Netherlands, several languages are protected under the *Charter*; Frisian, Limburgish, Low Saxon, Romani and Yiddish (ECRML, 1992). Although little research has been performed concerning the influence of this charter, it has been shown that the charter can function as an instrument of EU policies. In France, the *Charter* has had an indirect effect in that regional languages are now acknowledged in national language policies (Määttä, 2005).

According to Smakman (2006), the standard language in the Netherlands can be found in the widespread written standard that exists. The pronunciation of this standard is relatively fixed, with deviations caused by regional variations. This version of standard Dutch used to be commonly known as *Algemeen Beschaafd Nederlands* (General Civilised Dutch) a term that stems from a time in which 'proper' language use was promoted by central initiatives. In the present day, this name is considered archaic as it suggests that other varieties are not civilised. The standard variety is now described as *Standaardnederlands* (Standard Dutch). This variety is spoken in the Western cities of the Netherlands, such as Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague. Grondelaers et al. (2011b) claimed that in the Netherlands, there is a spoken and written standard. This standard was established by the higher classes in the Randstad, the urbanised Western part of the Netherlands. Smakman & Van Bezooijen (1997) found that for a layman, the most important factor in establishing the standard spoken variety is the absence of regional indicators.

For this is thesis, it is relevant to be aware of the position that accents and dialects have in the Netherlands. Regardless of the position, there will always be social ideas surrounding both accents and dialects, which can be seen in the sociolinguistic evaluation of these languages or language varieties. This thesis will test whether the frequency of dialect use has an influence on the perception of accents. This will be done for two specific dialects, Tweants and Limburgish, as these are both regional languages that are spoken in different parts of the country.

Tweants. Tweants is a Dutch Low Saxon dialect, stemming from Old-Saxon, which is a branch of Old-West-Germanic. Low Saxon is also known as West Low German (Nijlen Twilhaar, 2003). Dutch Low Saxon is a recognised regional language (Nijlen Twilhaar, 2003; Van Dinther, 2018). The area in which Low Saxon is spoken, stretches far beyond the border between Germany and The Netherlands. It is spoken in Northern Germany and the North-East of The Netherlands (Extra & Gorter, 2001). Bloemhoff (2005) estimated that 1.8 million people use Low Saxon on a daily basis. They also estimated that 62% of people spoke Tweants at home, whilst 76% of inhabitants of Twente can speak Tweants. 47% of the population of Twente reads Tweants frequently – weekly to monthly, whilst 78% is capable of reading Tweants (Bloemhoff, 2005). The region in which Tweants is spoken is indicated in Figure 1.
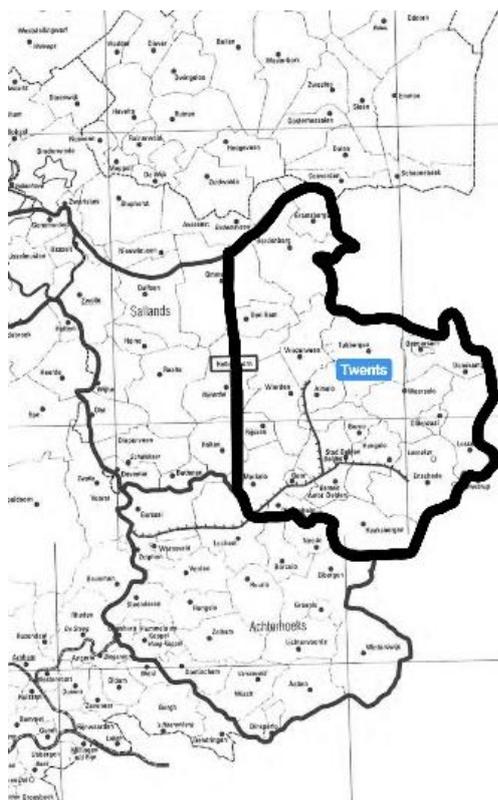
Figure 1. The area where Tweants is spoken within the province of Overijssel (Nijlen Twilhaar, 2003).

Limburgish. Limburgish is a group of East Low Franconian language varieties that are spoken in the area between Venlo in The Netherlands, to Düsseldorf and Aachen in Germany, Maastricht in The Netherlands and Tienen in Belgium (Michielsen-Tallman & Lugli & Schuler, 2017). There are several varieties that fall under Limburgish, as is indicated in Figure 2.
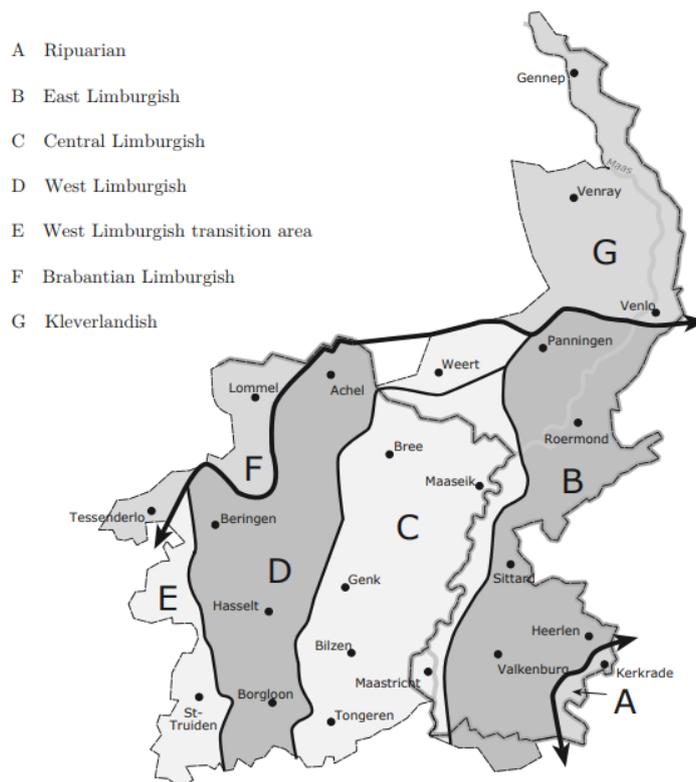
Figure 2. The Classification of the Limburgish dialects (Michielsen-Tallman et al., 2017)

Limburgish is considered to be further removed from the standard variety of Dutch than other regional varieties (Michielsen-Tallman et al., 2017). The regional variety is protected under the *Charter*, after the Dutch government recognised it as a regional variety in 1997. This has led to a council that was appointed by the Dutch provincial government, which task it was to tend to Limburgish, and to further stimulate the use of the dialect (Michielsen-Tallman et al., 2017).

Previous research has found that Limburgish is spoken by all generations within families, and in both formal and informal settings, among all classes within the region. Around 75% of inhabitants of Limburg speak Limburgish. 54% of parents use Limburgish among themselves, whilst 39% also speak Limburgish with their child(ren). An overall slight decline in the use of Limburgish is occurring, as 20 years ago 63& of parents used the dialect among themselves, and 50% spoke it with their children. In comparison to other dialects, this is the weakest decline, as other dialects saw the frequency of dialect usage reduce with 20% on average (Driessen, 2006; Driessen, 2012).

Perceptions of Overijssel and Limburg

A recent study by Kanne et al. (2019) showed that people from Overijssel and Limburg differ in how they perceive the mentality of the speakers of their accent, but that both groups greatly value their dialect. In the province of Limburg, people feel more connected to their province than to the Netherlands as a whole, whilst in Overijssel, people feel equally connected to their region (Twente) as the Netherlands. When Limburg and Overijssel are compared, the people in Limburg are proud of their province, whilst people in Overijssel are proud of their region, that is, Twente. In Overijssel, the mentality of the people is seen as an important binding factor. In Limburg people are proud of their culture and language or dialect, with more than half of the participants speaking the dialect frequently. An interesting difference occurs when people are asked how proud they are of how 'down to earth' they are, as Overijssel ranks at the third place, whilst Limburg ranks last out of the twelve provinces

In Overijssel, people are proud of Tweants, with one person describing it as 'a no-nonsense sounding dialect'. In Limburg, people are proud of their dialect and their traditions, such as Carnival (Vasteloavend in Limburgish). Vasteloavend is a tradition that makes people

feel connected to their environment. The Limburgian accent is something that must be treasured, as the 'soft g' (a front-velar fricative) gives the inhabitants a distinctive marker.

It was also tested if there is something that people were ashamed about concerning their province. In Overijssel, people can also be ashamed of their mentality, due to a lack of assertiveness and a behaviour that is described as 'bekrompen' (narrow-minded). In Limburg, the language is the main aspect people are ashamed of. Some people think that other Limburgians should put more effort into speaking standard Dutch because their language can come across as strange to people outside of their region.

In this research, 45% of the Limburgians said they spoke Limburgish at home all the time. Only 12% of the people of Overijssel said they did so, with a higher percentage of participants speaking a dialect often or sometimes.

In Limburg, people feel that their province is perceived in a wrong way by the rest of the country Besides that, both people in Overijssel and Limburg believe they do not receive attention from the national media and politics. In Limburg, people even have the idea that their province is depicted in a negative and stereotypical way in the national media (Kanne et al., 2019).

The findings from Kanne et al. (2019), Driessen (2012), Michielsen-Tallman et al. (2017), and Nijlen Twilhaar (2003) help to construct an image of the perceptions of the dialects in the Netherlands. However, for the thesis it is also relevant to know what the perceptions are of accents in the Netherlands.

Previous Research on Accent and Dialect in the Netherlands

Smakman (2006) found that people from the West of the Netherlands are less tolerant of regional accent traces in Standard Dutch than people from other parts of the Netherlands. This phenomenon also occurs the other way around; people from the West are more tolerant of Western traces in Standard Dutch than people from other parts of the Netherlands. It is

important to note that non-standard elements in the standard are never fully rejected. This shows that there is always some acceptance towards variety. Grondelaers et al. (2011b) found that the widespread accent variation that has developed, is becoming increasingly accepted. Even though the accent that is seen as the standard variety is considered to be the most prestigious and most beautiful, other accents are not rejected.

More research into the perceptions of accents among speakers of Dutch was done by Grondelaers et al. (2009) in order to determine whether accent-flavoured speech triggers social meaning They presented speech samples from four major regions of the Netherlands – Randstad, the South, the North, and a transitional zone in the East - to participants. Except for the Eastern zone, all of these regions have typical characteristics that make them identifiable to native speakers of Dutch. Participants were asked to rate speech samples from these regions on eighteen scales. The results showed that accent attitudes appear to be nationally determined, as there was no in-group bias. They also showed which elements of a person's speech are indicative for their accent, and that it is hard for native speakers of Dutch to determine if a speaker is from the transitional zone.

Grondelaers et al. (2010) claimed that regional accents can be valuable cues towards the origin and status of a person. The Dutch regional variety from the Randstad is considered to display social factors, such as competent, professional or conceited. Someone with an accent from Limburg can be perceived by others as kind, but also as somebody with a lack of lacking of sophistication. In order to do determine what the social judgements of accent are, Grondelaers et al. (2010) conducted a speaker evaluation test. This study entails that listeners rate samples of language or accent varieties on a number of scales. After the rating, a factor analysis is carried out by the researchers to detect the basic components of social judgments. These results led to insight in the perception of accents. The accent from the Randstad is perceived as the most prestigious variety, and is seen as most appropriate for formal settings.

The accent from the South of the Netherlands was not seen as prestigious, but the speakers were seen an integer, and their speech was valued to be the most beautiful. The researchers found that it does not matter to listeners whether a speaker has a non-standard accent, but rather it matters which non-standard accent it is. It is suggested that this is caused by the loss of the use of dialects in the Netherlands over time. This caused the standard variety to become more lenient and accept other forms as well, in order for social and regional differences to be apparent.

Further previous research into the evaluation of prestige in Dutch accents showed that a mild Limburgian accent and a mild Randstad accent elicit slightly lower prestige scores. However, speakers with a strong Limburgian accent are seen as significantly less prestigious than speakers from the Randstad. This led to the conclusion that it is not only relevant which accent a speaker has, but that the strength of their accent is also an influencing factor. The final conclusion of this research is that standard Dutch is not one variety, but made of by multiple varieties, of which some have more prestige than others (Grondelaers et al., 2011a).

Grondelaers et al. (2018) deepened the insights into prestige in Dutch accents by taking the role of accent strength and the gender of the speaker into account. Previous research had never considered the influence of accent strength, and all the research concerning Dutch accents until 2018 had been conducted using speech samples of males. This is striking, since it has been found that females are more likely to adapt non-standard variations (Smakman, 2006). In their research, Grondelaers et al. (2018) considered three new evaluation dimensions: superiority, warmth, and dynamism. Again, they found that mild accents are more likely to be accepted as being prestigious, which can especially be seen in the Southern accent, which scored high on the superiority dimension. It was found that female speakers are restricted in how far they can deviate from the norm compared to male speakers, as female speakers with a broader accent lost superiority. However, females with broader

accents were seen as more dynamic. One important finding of this study was that laymen in accent recognition were unable to recognise mild accents from the South as being an Southern accent. In the methodology section it will be stated why this is relevant for this thesis.

The findings from the different works by Grondelaers and other researchers give an insight into the place accents have within the Dutch speech community. This thesis will on the techniques used by Grondelaers in his various previous research in order to determine whether there is an influence of dialects on the perception of accents. In order to do, fragments from the *Spoken Dutch Corpus* (SDC) (Nederlandse Taalunie, 2004) will be used in a speaker evaluation test. The participants will be asked to rate the samples on three evaluation dimension, to determine whether the use of a dialect has an influence on the perception of accents. In order to test what the sociolinguistic judgements of speakers of Dutch dialects of Dutch accents are, three evaluation dimensions will be applied. Earlier research has led to the selection of the three dimensions currently at hand.

Evaluation Dimensions

Superiority. In order to test whether an accent is considered to be prestigious or not, the evaluation dimension 'superiority' can be used. Through this dimension, details on the status of a language variety can be found (Grondelaers et al., 2018). This is linked to two types of prestige: overt and covert. Overt prestige is given to the form that is considered to be the standard variety, and will show superiority (Yule, 2016), whilst covert prestige is present in a language variety that is not considered to be the norm, but that is attributed positive values. Covert prestige will be visible on other evaluation dimensions, namely warmth and dynamism (Labov, 2006).

Warmth. As explained earlier, Grondelaers et al. (2018) show that, personality traits such as solidarity or personal integrity were featured in sociolinguistics, whilst in sociology the term warmth was used. In sociology, the evaluation dimension warmth takes traits into

account that amount to the perception of intent, such as trustworthy or reliable (Cuddy, Fiske & Glick, 2008). Although this can have a partial overlap with dynamism, a test by Grondelaers et al. (2018) showed which adjective traits load on warmth and not on dynamism. The traits found for warmth are nice, helpful, and a nice personality.

Dynamism. As was shown in Grondelaers et al. (2018), the evaluation dimension dynamism allows research on accents to consider modern varieties that are not considered to be the norm. Through this dimension, emerging standard varieties can be found and analysed (Grondelaers et al., 2016).

Corpus Spoken Dutch

The audio fragments that will be used in this thesis will be extracted from the *Spoken Dutch Corpus* (Nederlandse Taalunie, 2004). The corpus was constructed between 1998 and 2004, and contains samples of spoken Dutch. It contains almost 1,300 speech samples of Dutch and Flemish speakers in different language use situations. There are fifteen different categories, that can be divided in read-aloud samples and spontaneous samples. The read-aloud samples were extracted from, among others, radio reports or news programmes. The spontaneous samples were collected through, among others, interviews, spontaneous conversation, both on the phone and in real life, and political debates.

For every entry in the corpus, there is a plethora of metadata available. The available information of speakers consists of elements such as gender, age, place or region of birth, and level of education. For every recording, there are details about the average pace of speech, the location of the speaker, and the date of the recording.

In order to navigate the SDC, the creators developed a corpus exploitation software *Corex*. This allows users to narrow down the entries based on characteristics of the speaker and/ or the location.

The corpus was designed in such a manner that it is able to serve many and diverse interests. Because it was not compiled for a specific purpose, the corpus is widely used in different areas of research. The SDC was used to improve speech recognition technology, but was also used in more theoretical areas such as phonology, semantics and sociolinguistics. Before the SDC was constructed, little research into spoken Dutch was possible because there were no resources (Van Eerten, 2007; Van Oostdijk, 2000).

Influence of the Author

The issue of the author's identity posed by Smakman earlier in this thesis is an important one. The author of this thesis did not grow up in either one of the regions, but has been exposed to Tweants from a young age because of family relations, whereas they only became acquainted with speakers of Limburgish at a later stage in life. It is exactly this difference in exposure that lead to the current research question. By being an outsider to all of these dialects and accents, the author does not feel preference to one of the dialects or accents.

Study 1

A pre-test was carried out in order to select samples that are most suitable to be used in a speaker-evaluation task. The aim of the pre-test is to find the most accentuated samples of speech from a selection of samples from the SDC.

Methodology

Speech stimuli. Stimuli were extracted from *Spoken Dutch Corpus* (Nederlandse Taalunie, 2004) on the basis of the province of origin of a speaker. Sixteen entries in the corpus were selected and edited in order to form audio samples that lasted not more than thirty two seconds, and consisted of full sentences. The speakers from SDC were selected on their region and gender. The samples were all free-speech, taken from interviews, political debates and conversations between friends. Transcripts of the samples can be found in Appendix 1. Eight people from Overijssel and eight people from Limburg were chosen, with an equal number of male and female speakers. All the speakers were adults at the time of recording. The fragments were clearly audible and had minimal interfering noise. In Study 1, eight samples from Limburg (four female, four male) and eight samples from Overijssel (four female, four male) were included. The samples (between twelve and thirty two seconds) were played once. All stimuli were normalized with regards to volume using an audio editing programme, Audacity (Mazzoni & Dannenberg, 2000).

Respondents and task. The sixteen samples were played to seven participants in a randomized order. The participants were selected on two criteria; they do not speak Tweants or Limburgish and they do not have previous experience with accent recognition. All the respondents were female and aged between 20 and 26.

Participants were asked to determine the regional background of the speakers of the sixteen samples. They had to indicate which Dutch province the speaker originated from. Participants were also asked to determine how strong the accent of a speaker was on a Likert

scale from 1 (*very weak)* to 7 *(very strong)*. At the beginning of the test, participants were

advised to use head phones. At the end, participants had the opportunity to give comments.

Results

For the sixteen samples, it was determined how many participants judged the general accent

zone - Northern or Southern - in the correct way. As described by Grondelaers et al., the

Northern zone covers the provinces Groningen, Drenthe, Friesland and Overijssel. The

Southern zone consists of the provinces Limburg, North-Brabant and Zeeland (Grondelaers et

al., 2018).

The mean accent strength was also determined. This led to the results as displayed in Table 1.

Table 1. *Accent Strength means, Accent Strength Ranges and Percentage of Correct Regional*

Identifications as a Function of Speaker Region and Speaker Gender.

Speaker	Means	Range		Percent of Correct Identifications
Limburg Male 1	4	2	5	14
Limburg Male 2	3.1	1	5	29
Limburg Male 3	**4.9**	**3**	**6**	**71**
Limburg Male 4	**4**	**2**	**6**	**100**
Limburg Female 1	**4.7**	**2**	**7**	**86**
Limburg Female 2	4.3	2	5	71
Limburg Female 3	**5.7**	**5**	**6**	**86**
Limburg Female 4	3.9	3	6	29
Overijssel Male 1	3.3	1	5	29
Overijssel Male 2	**4.9**	**2**	**7**	**71**
Overijssel Male 3	5	4	7	43
Overijssel Male 4	**5.6**	**5**	**6**	**100**
Overijssel Female 1	6.1	5	7	86
Overijssel Female 2	5	4	6	71
Overijssel Female 3	**5.1**	**3**	**6**	**100**
Overijssel Female 4	**5.1**	**5**	**6**	**71**

The accent strength of the speakers were judged to be higher than average (Average = 4,

Limburg $M = 4.33$, Overijssel $M = 5.01$). The reliability among the participants was not high

(Cronbach's α = .330).

Discussion

'Overijssel Male 3' and 'Overijssel Female 1' were excluded from the final test because

participants indicated that the quality of these fragments was insufficient. The remaining

fourteen fragments were analysed in order to selected fragments for Study 2. The fragments

were selected based on several criteria. Firstly, the percentage of correct regional

identifications had to be above 50. This excluded four more fragments from being used in

Study 2. Secondly, the ten remaining fragments were ranked based on the mean accent

strength. In order to maintain a balance in the fragments used in Study 2, two males and two

females were selected per province. This was done by selecting the top two per gender-

province combination with regards to mean accent strength. This resulted in eight fragments

that were suitable to be used in Study 2. The fragments that were used are boldfaced in Table

1. The samples that were perceived as being the most accentuated were selected in order to

prevent misjudgements, as previous research has shown that mild accents can be mistaken for

being the standard variety (Grondelaers et al., 2010). The low Cronbach's α could be caused

by the small sample size and the low number of items, but it is hard to determine this.

<center>**Study 2**</center>

Methodology

      Speech Stimuli. The eight fragments indicated in Study 1 as the most suitable were

used. No other alterations were made.

      Measures. Following Grondelaers et al. (2018), participants were asked to rate the

speech fragments in different ways. First, they were asked to rate the fragments with regards

to nine traits. These nine traits were divided in three groups; superiority, warmth, and

dynamism. For superiority, the Dutch equivalents of *nice, educated* and *serious* were included. For warmth, this was *nice, warm personality*, and *helpful*. The adjectives belonging to dynamism were *modern, hip* and *trendy*. Next to this, the traits *physically attractive* and *could be a good news reader* were included. All the traits were presented as Likert-type statements: "According to me, the woman/man in this fragment is …". Participants were asked to give their opinion on a seven point scale with 1 being 'strongly disagree' and 7 being 'strongly agree'. After the traits, participants were asked to determine which Dutch province the speaker was from.

Background information. After this, background information of all the participants was collected. They were asked to indicate their gender, age range, what region they lived longest in before the age of eighteen, and what their relationship to the corresponding dialect (Tweants or Limburgish) of this region is. In case a participant did not grow up in Twente or Limburg, they were asked if they spoke a dialect, and if so, which one, and what their relationship to this dialect is. Participants were given four options to indicate their relationship with a dialect. They could indicate that they do not speak or understand it, that they understand it but do not speak it, that they speak it infrequently, or that they speak it frequently.

Listener-Judges. A total of 40 native speakers of Dutch participated. In order to make a fair comparison between Tweants and Limburgish, only people from areas G and B in Figure 2 filled out the questionnaire, because these areas and Twente have the same standard variety. The people from areas G and B will be referred to as people from Limburg. There were 21 participants from Limburg, and 19 participants from Overijssel. 6 were male, and 34 were female. The gender imbalance among the participants will not be further explored. since the aim of this study is the find the influence of dialect usage frequency, and not the influence of gender.

The average age was 37, ranging from 18 to 85. One person indicated that they do not speak Tweants or Limburgish, but 'Saksisch', which is the Dutch word for 'Saxon'. Age was asked in scale because it is not considered to be of main importance, but it will be taken into account to see if there is an influence of age.

Procedure and Task. Participants were recruited through both personal contacts of the author, and on social media platforms. People accessed the questionnaire on their own device, without the experimenter being present, using the programme Qualtrics (Smith, Smith, Smith & Orgill, 2005). Participants were told that the research was about the image people form about personalities, based on mere voice characteristics. This was done in order to prevent influence from social standards. Respondents were also told that the content of the samples was irrelevant. The text of the instructions can be found in Appendix 2.

This task was designed to resemble a matched-guise test. Matched-guise tests ask respondents to rate a person – that they only hear – on different kind of characteristics, such as height, self-confidence, kindness, etc., whilst the researcher is interested to find out which stereotypes apply to a certain language, accent or dialect (Lambert, Hodgson, Gardner & Fillenhaum, 1960).

Results

First, it is important to note that some participants indicated that they found it difficult to define a distinction between hip, modern, and trendy. However, no one felt that they were unable to complete the test because of this, as they indicated in the comment section.

Almost half of the respondents from Twente indicated that they are able to understand Tweants, but that they do not speak it (N=8). There were six people who indicated that they sometimes speak Tweants, and only three people speak it often. Most of the respondents from Limburg speak the dialect often (N=10), some participants do understand it, but cannot speak

it (N=8), and one person sometimes speaks it. Two respondents indicated that they are unable

to speak or understand it.

Younger people (18 - 25) are most likely to not speak a dialect, but do understand a

dialect (Tweants: N = 4, Limburgish: N = 5). The people who speak Limburgish most often

(N = 10) are mostly aged between 46 and 56 (N = 7). Half of the participants from Twente are

aged between 18 and 25 (N = 8), and they are most likely to sometimes speak Tweants (N =

3) or to be unable to speak it (N = 4). One young participant from Twente indicated that they

speak Tweants often.

Table 2. *Percent of Correct Region Identification and Percent of Correct Province*

Identifications as a Function of Speaker Region and Speaker Gender.

Speaker	Correct Region Identifications (%)	Correct Province Identifications (%)
Limburg Male 1	75.0	47.5
Limburg Male 2	77.5	52.5
Limburg Female 1	77.5	55.0
Limburg Female 2	85.0	72.5
Overijssel Male 1	45.0	25.0
Overijssel Male 2	67.5	42.5
Overijssel Female 1	77.5	57.5
Overijssel Female 2	65.0	30.0

Table 2 lists the percentages of correct speaker identifications. As in Study 1, correct

identification entails that the national region is correctly identified. Thus for speakers from

Limburg, the southern region is correct. For speakers from Overijssel, the northern region is

correct. To bring more context to these percentages, the percentage of correct province

identifications is also included.

With regards to province, 47.8% of the samples were correctly identified. (Limburg

Region = 78.75, Limburg Province = 56.88, Overijssel Region = 63.75, Overijssel Province =

38,75). With regards to gender, 76.3% of the female speakers were correctly linked to their

region, whilst 66.3% of the male speakers were correctly identified. (Female Limburg =

81.25, Male Limburg = 76.25, Female Overijssel = 71.25 , Male Overijssel = 56.25) For

53.8% of female speakers, the province of origin was correctly identified, which happened for

41.9% of male speakers. (Female Limburg = 63.75, Male Limburg = 50.00, Female Overijssel

= 43,75, Male Overijssel = 33.75).

Table 3. *The Percentage of Correct Region Identifications and Percentage of Correct*

Province Identifications as a Function of Participant Origin

Origin Speaker	Origin Participant	
	Limburg (%)	Overijssel (%)
Limburg Male 1 Region	76.1	70.6
Limburg Male 1 Province	61.9	42.9
Limburg Male 2 Region	95.2	70.6
Limburg Male 2 Province	88.2	35.3
Limburg Female 1Region	71.4	88.9
Limburg Female 1 Province	66.7	44.4
Limburg Female 2 Region	95.2	82.4
Limburg Female 2 Province	81.0	70.6
Overijssel Male 1 Region	42.9	52.9
Overijssel Male 1 Province	9.5	47.1
Overijssel Male 2 region	61.9	82.4
Overijssel Male 2 Province	28.9	64.7
Overijssel Female 1 Region	66.7	100.0
Overijssel Female 1 Province	28.9	100.0
Overijssel Female 2 Region	57.1	82.4
Overijssel Female 2 Province	9.5	58.8

When the percentage of correct identifications is taken into further account and the

difference between the origin of the respondents is considered, as is done in Table 3, it

becomes possible to analyse the influence of the respondent's origin in the correct

identification of the speaker. This shows that participants always identify their own accent

region and province better than another region or province. Participants from Limburg

identify the region of a Southern speaker correctly in 84.9% of the samples, whilst they correctly identify the region of a Northern speaker in 57.2% of the fragments. For speakers from Overijssel, the percentages of correct region identifications vary minimally (Limburg = 78.05, Overijssel = 79.43). Identifying the province of a speaker is for both participant groups more straightforward than region identification (Limburg about South = 74,45, Limburg about North = 19.05, Overijssel about South = 48,30, Overijssel about North = 67.65).

After these analyses, a principal component analysis (PCA) was conducted on the data, because this allows for a dimension reduction of a large set of variables. With a eigenvalue >1 and varimax rotation, a three-component and a four-component solution emerged. In the discussion section, possible reasons for this will be explained. For four of the fragments, a three-component solution that showed strong similarities occurred. These solutions were averaged which led to the results in Table 4. The three components, considering the traits that loaded on them, could be labelled as warmth, dynamism, and superiority, similarly to the results in previous research. The traits 'attractive' and 'a good newsreader' did not load on any of the components, which is different from previous findings (Grondelaers et al., 2018).

Table 4. *Factor Loadings of 11 scales on 3 Principal Components After Varimax*

Rotation

	Warmth	Dynamism	Superiority
Chic	-0,066	0,076	**0,776**
Highly educated	0,178	0,028	**0,800**
Serious	0,105	-0,007	**0,741**
Nice	**0,884**	0,073	0,104
Warm personality	**0,886**	0,198	-0,040
Helpful	**0,826**	0,224	0,083
Modern	0,187	**0,627**	0,293
Hip	0,216	**0,864**	0,029
Trendy	0,142	**0,863**	0,072
Attractive	0,459	0,411	0,289
A good newsreader	0,141	0,380	0,498

Note. Loadings >.6 are printed in bold.

However, for four fragments a four-component solution occurred. The average of these results was taken, of which the results are displayed in Table 5. In these results, two components could be labelled as warmth and dynamism, due to the traits that loaded on them, but for the remaining components, no straight-forward label emerged. Of the four fragments that yielded these four-component solutions, three speakers were male, and three speakers originated from Overijssel. In order to allow a fair ground, the traits 'attractive' and 'could be a good newsreader' were left out from further analyses.

Table 5. Factor Loadings of 11 scales on 4 Principal Components After Varimax
Rotation

	Warmth	Dynamism	X	Y
Chic	-0,155	0,258	0,504	0,243
Highly educated	-0,062	0,260	0,443	0,401
Serious	0,238	0,100	0,068	**0,747**
Nice	**0,867**	0,073	0,065	0,006
Warm personality	**0,829**	-0,007	0,138	-0,047
Helpful	**0,788**	0,038	-0,111	0,175
Modern	0,081	**0,634**	0,308	0,039
Hip	0,098	**0,836**	0,204	-0,026
Trendy	0,041	**0,855**	0,178	0,014
Attractive	0,269	0,393	0,509	0,171
A good newsreader	0,138	0,233	**0,727**	0,292

Note. Loadings >.6 are printed in bold.

A further analysis of the influence of the origin of the participant on the judgement of
the accent of the speaker was done through transforming the values given by the participants
into a difference from the total mean. In order to achieve this, multiple steps were taken.

Firstly, a contingency table was made featuring the mean of the traits per fragment
(around 72 in total) and the region of origin of the participant. Secondly, the data was divided
into two groups; speakers from Overijssel and speakers from Limburg. This resulted in two
tables featuring the mean response per region, per trait. In order to relate this to labels
discussed earlier, the mean from the traits within one label ('superiority', 'warmth', or
'dynamism') were determined. In order to make a comparison, the total mean per label was
calculated by establishing the average of the relevant traits for each label. Finally, the mean
per label per speaker and respondent origins were compared to the total means per
component. The results of this are displayed in Figure 3 and Figure 4.
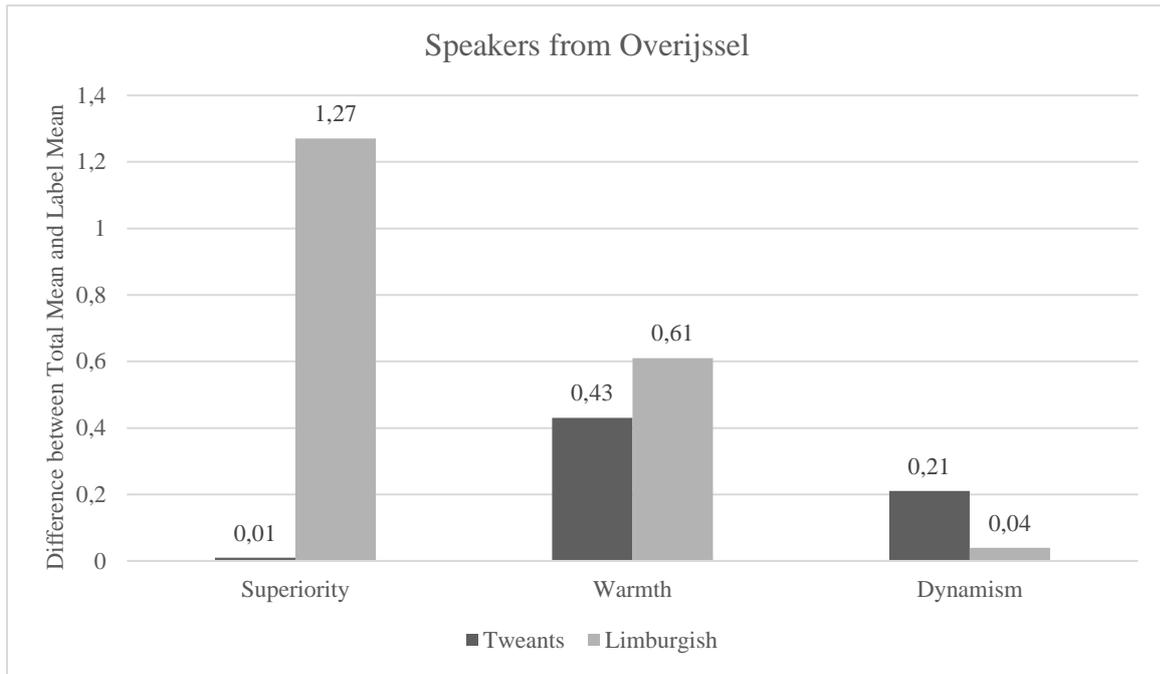
Figure 3. The Difference between Total Label Mean and Dialectal Label Mean in Fragments
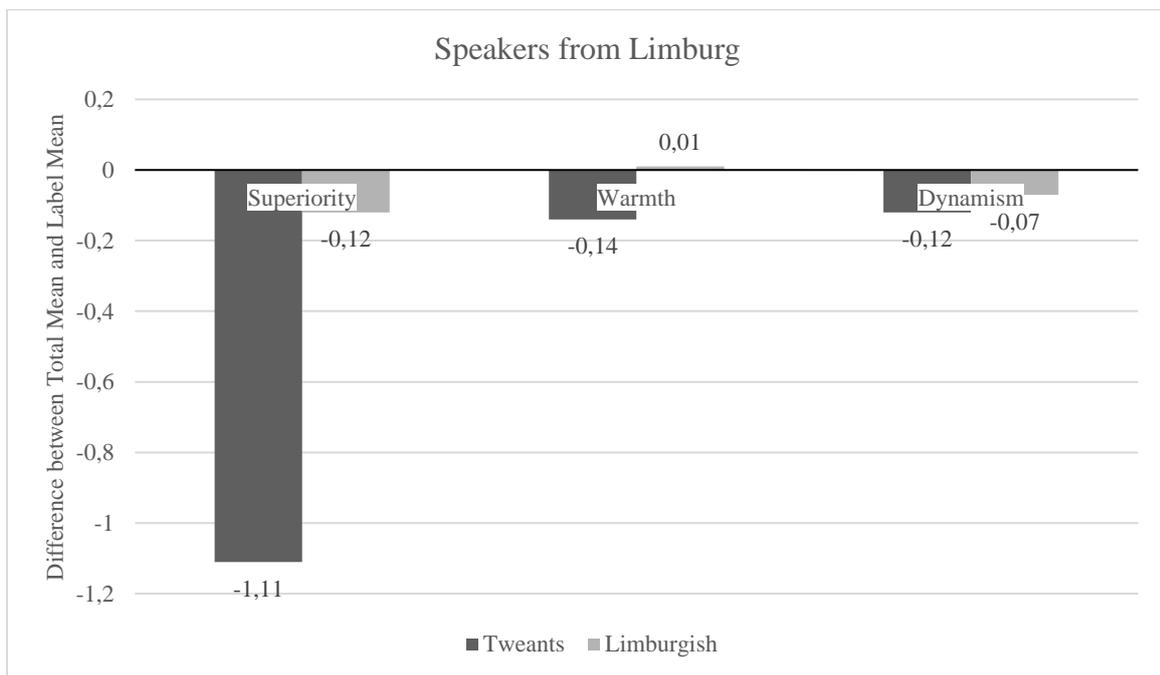
with Speakers from Overijssel

Figure 4. The Difference between Total Label Means and Dialectal Label Means in

Fragments with Speakers from Limburg.

In order to determine the influence of dialect fluency on the sociolinguistic judgement, two contingency tables were made. These tables included the proficiency in either Tweants or Limburgish ('I do not speak and understand Tweants/Limburgish', 'I understand Tweants/Limburgish but do not speak it', 'I sometimes speak Tweants/Limburgish', 'I often speak Tweants/Limburgish') on the one side, and the 72 means per trait on the other side. Next, the mean per fluency level was determined per label of the fragments from Overijssel and Limburg. Then, the total mean per label and province was determined, and these factors were compared. The results are depicted in Figure 5 and Figure 6.
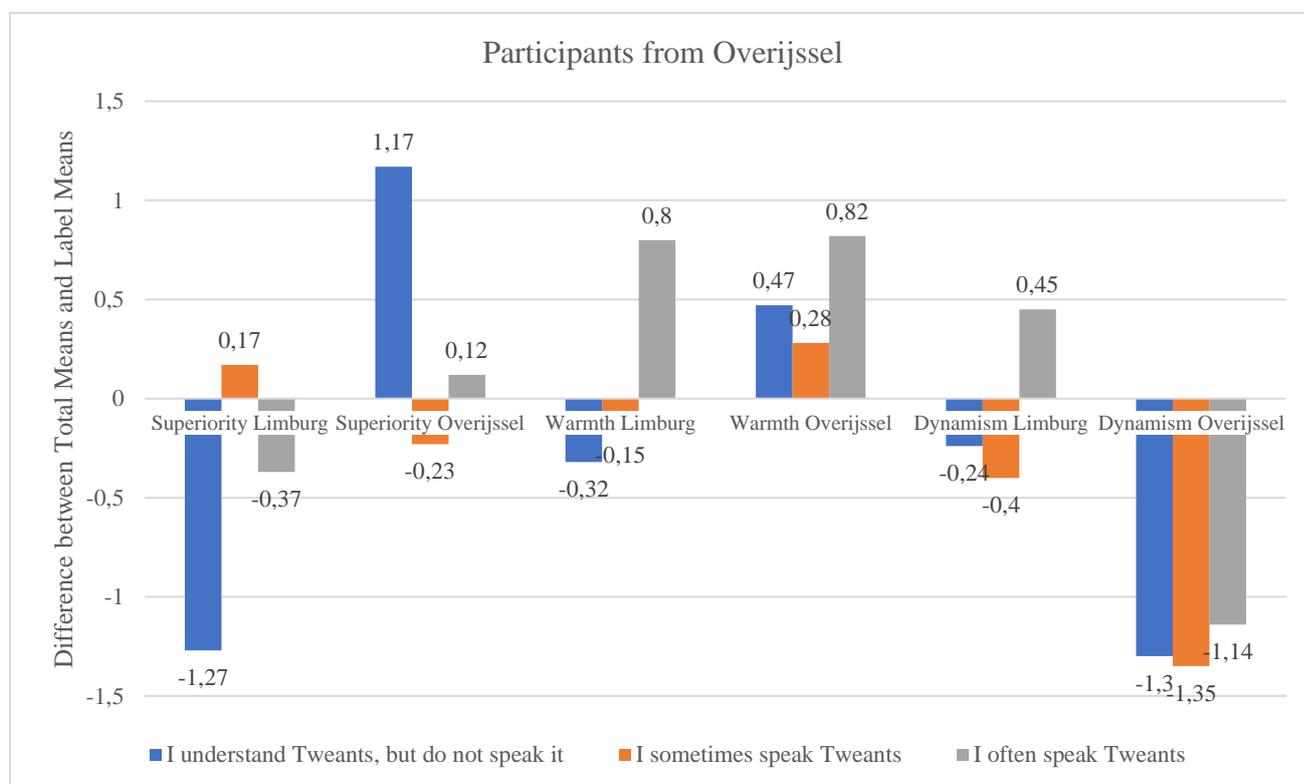

Figure 5. The Difference between Total Label Means and Dialectal Label Means in Fragments with Speakers from Overijssel as a Factor of Dialect Fluency
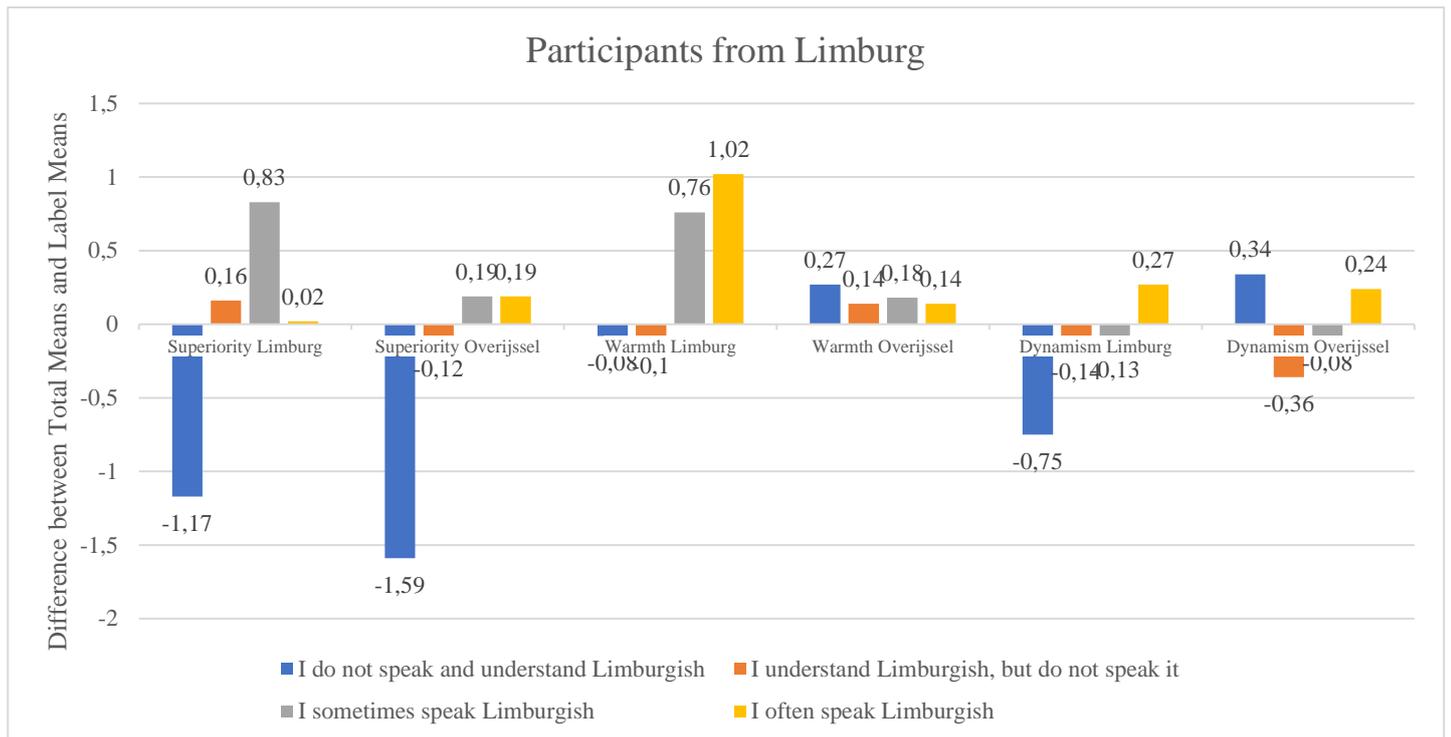
Figure 6. The Difference between Total Label Means and Dialectal Label Means in
Fragments with Speakers from Limburg as a Factor of Dialect Fluency

Discussion

The aim of this study is to determine the influence of a person's dialect on their
perception of different accent varieties of Dutch. The research questions guiding this research
were 'what are the differences in the identification of accents between speakers of different
dialects of Dutch, and what causes these differences?', 'what is the influence of dialect usage
frequency on the sociolinguistic judgements of accents in Dutch, and what causes this
influence?' The hypotheses were: 'speakers of a dialect are better at identifying the origin of a
speaker of their own accent' and 'the higher a participant's fluency in a dialect is, the more
tolerant they are towards the correlating accent'. Multiple causes for these differences were
found in previous research, which will be highlighted in this section.

The difference in accent identifications between speakers of Tweants and Limburgish. To answer the question about the differences between accent identification, participants were asked to identify the province of origin for every speaker. This resulted in the data as shown in Table 2 and 3. Table 2 shows that the region of origin of the Southern accent is found easier to identify than the Northern accent. Another finding is that participants were more likely to correctly identify the province if the speaker was from the South. This is in line with Spruit (2008), who showed that the Southern accent as it is used in this thesis is only spoken in Limburg, whereas the Northern accent can be heard in multiple provinces in the North of the Netherlands. With regards to the ability of participants to identify the region a speaker originates from, which is done correctly in 71.3% of the samples, it must be noted that this is very close to Grondelaers et al.'s findings (2018), who found that 70.2% of their samples were correctly identified. This might be coincidental, or it might suggest more about a general ability among people with regards to identifying accents. When taking the gender of the speaker into account, it appears that female speakers are more likely to be correctly identified on both region and province of origin. Three in four samples show that the origin region of female speakers were correctly identified, compared to two thirds of the samples with male speakers. In respect to the origin province of a speaker, half of the female speakers were connected to the correct province, whilst the province of origin was correctly identified for forty percent of the male speakers.

In accordance with the first hypothesis, participants were indeed more capable of identifying the speaker's origin region when the speaker was from the same region as the participant, as can be seen in Table 3. However, participants from Overijssel were almost equally adequate in identifying the region of a speaker. The participants from Limburg were

more capable of identifying speakers from the South, but managed to correctly identify speakers from the North to a lesser degree that participants from Overijssel.

When participants were asked to indicate what province a speaker was from, it became evident that both participant groups were convincingly more competent at identifying speakers from their own province. Although almost half of the respondents from Overijssel could correctly identify a speaker from Limburg, only one fifth of the respondents from Limburg could correctly identify a speaker from Overijssel. Again, this can be explained by looking at the provinces in which these accents are spoken, as the Southern accent is spoken in fewer provinces that the Northern accent (Spruit, 2008).

The influence of dialect usage frequency on the sociolinguistic judgements of accents. In order to determine what the influence is of dialectal difference among participants on the perception of accents, participants were asked to rate speaker samples on a Likert-scale with questions about traits. After this, participants were asked questions about their language background (see appendix 3 for the questionnaire).

PCA. As described in Grondelaers et al. (2018), three evaluation dimensions were used in order to elicit sociolinguistic judgements from participants. These dimensions were all connected to three traits, and a PCA showed that these traits load on the correct dimensions in half of the samples (Table 4). For the other half, a fourth dimension appeared that could not be identified Table 5). This fourth dimension appeared for three samples of speakers from Overijssel and one from Limburg. Three of these speakers were male. Although it is difficult to draw concrete conclusions from this occurrence, it should be noted that dimension X loaded 'could be a good newsreader', whilst dimension Y loaded 'serious'. In this PCA, the dimension superiority did not occur, but the traits 'chic', 'educated', 'attractive' and 'could be a newsreader' showed a higher interaction than the other traits for component X. This could suggest that both 'attractive' and 'could be a good newsreader' are seen as traits that indicate

superiority. However, for dimension Y, only 'serious' loaded, which might indicate that for these samples, the superiority dimension was distorted because of the presence of an extra trait, 'could be a good newsreader'. These results could indicate that speakers from Overijssel are seen as more suitable for being newsreaders, and as more serious. It could also imply that male speakers are seen as more serious and more competent newsreaders. Combined with the results from the three-component PCA in table 4, where 'could be a newsreader' slightly loads on superiority, and to a lesser degree on dynamism, it could be that female speakers and speakers from Limburg could be seen as good newsreaders, but as less serious newsreaders. Given that the attractive trait slightly loads on both the warmth and dynamism dimensions in the three-component PCA, it could be argued that female speakers and speakers from Limburg are perceived as a different type of attractive than male speakers and speakers from Overijssel. This might lead to the conclusion that female speakers are seen as attractive when they are seen as warm and dynamic, whilst male speakers are considered to be attractive when they sound superior.

General sociolinguistic judgements of speakers from Overijssel and Limburg.
After establishing which traits could be used in further analyses, these traits were combined into the dimensions they represented. After that, the relationship between the evaluation dimensions and the region of origin of speakers was shown (see Figure 3 and Figure 4). When the participants were asked to rate speakers from Overijssel, respondents from Limburg found that these speakers scored high on superiority and warmth, whilst they were regarded as neutral on the dynamic dimension. Listener-judges from Twente found that speakers from Overijssel are warm and dynamic people, but these speakers scored neutral on superiority. This is in accordance with the findings of Kanne et al. (2019), who found that people from Overijssel consider themselves to lack assertiveness and to have narrow-minded behaviour. These are traits that fall under superiority (Grondelaers et al., 2018).

The judgements on speakers from Limburg showed that these speakers score negatively on all the evaluation dimensions by speakers of Tweants. Speakers with the Southern accent are especially seen as less superior than the average speaker, which is a sentiment that it shared, albeit to a lesser degree, by participants that originated from Limburg. Respondents from Limburg perceived the Southern accent to be less dynamic than the norm as well, but were neutral in their perception of the warmth of speakers from Limburg.

These findings do not reflect the entire picture, as they do not take the dialect usage frequency of participants into account. The findings do however demonstrate what the general perceptions by speakers of the same and different accents of the Northern and Southern accent are.

The sociolinguistic judgements by people from Twente. After the analysis in the general judgements of the accent varieties, a second analysis was conducted which took the usage frequency in a dialect into account. The results of this analysis can be found in Figure 5 and 6. In Figure 5 the perceptions of the accents by people from Twente are shown. Firstly, the group of respondents that do not speak Tweants but are able to understand it will be considered. This group finds the Southern accent to carry a strong negative superiority, whilst they feel that speakers from Overijssel have a strong superiority. The evaluation dimension warmth shows a similar tendency, albeit with a less strong deviation from the mean. This could be caused by the similarities the speakers may have to the language variety with which these participants are acquainted. Since they do not speak the dialect, other people will not speak in the dialect to them, but alter their speech to standard Dutch, which is likely to be an accented variety (Bellmann, 2009).

The group of respondents that do not speak Tweants but are able to understand it score both the Southern and Northern accent negatively on the dynamism dimension. However,

they consider speakers from the North to be much less dynamic, which is a sentiment that they share with all the respondents from Twente.

Respondents from Twente that sometimes speak Tweants are generally quite mild in their judgements. Although they consider the speakers from Limburg to be more superior than the speakers from Overijssel, their judgements on superiority do not deviate much from the mean. An interesting result is that this is the opposite response to the respondents that are from Twente but do not speak Tweants and from the respondents that often speak Tweants. This might lead to the conclusion that only understanding a dialect or frequently using a dialect alters the way in which the dialect is perceived, compared to people who use a dialect less frequently. However, as will be shown later in this section, this tendency does not occur in people from Limburg. Respondents from Twente that do sometimes speak Tweants also judge the Northern accent to carry more warmth than the Southern one, but to a lesser extent than the respondents who do not speak Tweants do. The group of respondents that sometimes speak Tweants is the most negative in the perceptions of dynamism. They indicate that both accents are not dynamic, but see the Northern accent as greatly less dynamic than the Southern accent.

Respondents that often speak Tweants give a negative judgement on the superiority of the Southern accent whilst they judge their own accent to be positively superior, albeit it with a slight deviation from the mean. This group of participants is positive about the warmth of both accents, as they judge both to be almost equally positive. Given that the other respondents from Twente negatively judged the accent from the South on warmth, it is interesting to see that the group of participants that often speaks Tweants opposes this sentiment. It could be that these respondents are more prone to value other dialects as well as their own, as dialects are something they are familiar with themselves. This can also be seen in the evaluation this group has made of the dynamic dimension. They are the only group of

people from Twente that rated the Southern accent as positively dynamic, and whilst they feel that the Northern accent is negative on the dynamic scale, they are milder in their judgement than other respondents.

   The sociolinguistic judgements by people from Limburg. There were four groups in the respondents from Limburg. The first group does not speak or understand Limburgish. The effect of this on the judgement of accents can clearly be seen in Figure 5. Compared to the other respondents from Limburg, this group responded in a deviant manner. On the superiority dimension, they judged both the Northern and the Southern accents to be strongly negative. This could suggest, in an extension of the finding of the group of respondents that does not speak Tweants, that not speaking or understanding a dialect leads to an overall negative perception of accents. However, this group does consider the Northern accent to be warm and dynamic, which might indicate that something else is at play. Given that the standard variety of a language is perceived as superior (Grondelaers et al., 2010), it is logical that the people from Limburg that do not speak Limburgish value the accented speech as being greatly less superior. An interesting detail is that this group rates the Northern accent in the most positive way on the dynamic dimension, compared to other respondents from Limburg. However, they are strongly negative towards the Southern accent with regards to the dynamic scale.

   The second group of respondents understands Limburgish, but does not speak it. Out of all the Limburgian respondents, this group stays the closest to the mean in their judgements. These participants consider the Southern accent to be more superior, but find the Northern one to be warmer. Interestingly enough, they value both accents to be negatively dynamic, which is not seen in the other groups. The respondents that do not speak Limburgish but can understand it are the only group to rate the Northern accent as negatively dynamic.

The third group consists of listener-judges that sometimes speak Limburgish. They consider the Southern accent to be more superior than the Northern one, but value both accents as carrying some superiority. With regards to the warmth of the accents, they are positive about both, but consider the Southern accent rather more positively warm. This group finds both accents to be negatively dynamic, with a slight difference between judgements on the Southern and the Northern accents.

The final group, consisting of participants that often speak Limburgish, are positive about both accents on all three of the dimensions. They are marginally positive about the Southern accent, whilst slightly more positive about the Northern accent on the superiority dimension,. This group considers the Southern accent to be distinctly more warm, which might be because the people from Limburg are proud of their regional language and the mentality of the inhabitants (Kanne et al., 2019). With regards to the dynamic dimension they value the accents from the North and the South almost equally positive, slightly preferring the Southern variety.

The influence of dialect usage frequency on the sociolinguistic judgements of speakers from Overijssel and Limburg. Two main points of interest can be found in the data of this thesis. First of all, respondents who did not use a dialect in any form strongly deviated from the other respondents. They judge dialects to indicate a lack of superiority, which is in accordance with previous research. Kanne et al. (2019) found that some people from Limburg feel that other inhabitants of Limburg should put more effort into speaking standard Dutch instead of Limburgish, which indicates a general dislike of dialect usage. Participants who do not speak a dialect but do understand one, deviate to a lesser degree from respondents who do speak a dialect. The participants that do understand a dialect but do not speak a dialect are overall more positive about the dialect that is spoken in their region.

Secondly, participants who often speak a dialect were found to be more positive about both their own and other accents. Two exceptions to this were the judgement of people from Twente, who felt that the Southern accent does not carry superiority and that the Northern accent does not carry dynamism. These findings find a common ground in previous research (Grondelaers et al., 2011; Kanne et al., 2019), where it was shown that strong accents are not seen as superior by people from other regions, and that people from the Northern region of the Netherlands consider other people from their region to be narrow-minded and conservative.

These findings suggest that although the region a speaker is from cannot be ignored, the most important factor in sociolinguistic judgements is the dialect usage frequency of participants. The participants with the highest usage frequencies are most accepting towards non-standard language varieties, regardless of which variety it is, whilst people who do not use dialects are most negative towards deviations from the standard language variety.

Future research. Although this thesis has taken steps into determining the influence of dialectal variation on the sociolinguistic judgement of accents, it also had its limits. First of all, the sample size was too small and not varied enough to represent a population. In future research, a larger amount of participants and a more varied sample can be used in order to see whether the findings of this thesis will be maintained. Because only six male respondents participated, no claims could be made about the influence of a participants gender on the perception of language varieties.

Secondly, it is impossible to account for all the influencing factors that determine sociolinguistic judgements, but future research could be focussed on other factors that influence the perception of accents. More extensive questions about the background of the participants could be asked, such as all the regions they lived in and for how long, how often they interact with people who speak different dialects, and with whom they talk in a dialect.

Finally, more elements could be incorporated in the research. One of these elements could be another regional variety, such as a Western accent or people who speak Frisian. It is also possible to add more evaluation dimensions, in order to see what other perceptions exist of accents. Future research could also take the perception on dialects by people who speak a dialect into account.

Conclusion

This thesis set out to answer the research question: 'what are the differences in the sociolinguistic judgement of Northern and Southern accents in the Netherlands between speakers of Tweants and Limburgish, and what causes these differences?' In order to answer this question, two sub-questions were constructed. These questions were: 'what are the differences in the identification of accents between speakers of different dialects of Dutch, and what causes these differences?' and 'what is the influence of dialect usage frequency on the sociolinguistic judgements of accents in Dutch, and what causes this influence?' The hypotheses to these questions were 'people will be more capable of identifying the accent if the speaker is from the same region as they are' and 'the more frequently a person uses a dialect, the more tolerant they are towards the accent of their region.'

In order to answer the research questions, two test were carried out. The aim of the first test was to find suitable speaker samples from the *Spoken Dutch Corpus* (Nederlandse Taalunie, 2004) that could be used in the second test. This led to eight suitable samples which consisted of two female speakers from Limburg, two male speakers from Limburg, two female speakers from Overijssel and two male speakers from Overijssel, who all spoke in a strongly accented manner. The second test used these samples to test the way in which people from Limburg and Twente perceived accented language varieties from the North and the South of the Netherlands, and what the influence of their dialect usage frequency is. This led to two main findings, one of which is that people are most capable of identifying an accent that is spoken in the region that they came from. Secondly, it was found that the most important factor in the perception of accented speech is the dialect usage frequency of participants. The participants who used a dialect most frequently were found to be the most accepting of non-standard language varieties. It did not matter which variety it was. People who do not use dialects in any form are most negative towards language varieties that deviate

from the norm. Further research with more participants, more background information of the

participants, a more varied sample of the population, and with more variables such as

different accents and dialect will hopefully provide more insights into the differences between

the sociolinguistic judgements of accents in the Netherlands by speakers of dialects.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Transcripts and translation fragments

In this appendix, transcripts and translations of the fragments used in Study 1 and sequentially Study 2. The fragments that are in boldface were used in Study 2, with the name that is used in the methodology and results section in brackets.

Limburg Male 1

Ieder die kreeg een bepaalde opdracht, uh, om iets uit te zoeken, en dat de volgende keer, uh, weer in te brengen, en uh, we probeerden elke keer – de een verzamelde dit en de andere verzamelde die gegevens en daar maakten we dan altijd een verslag van en dat was heel makkelijk voor dat boek hè.

Everyone got a certain task, uh, to research something, and the next time, uh, to contribute that again, and uh, we tried every time – one collected this and the other collected those data and we always made a report and that was very easy for that book huh.

Limburg Male 2

Male: maar toen zei […]: maar dan heb je hetzelfde probleem, dan moet ik van zes cd's//

Female: ja

M: // verschillende stukken overnemen

F: ja, ja.

M: waarvan zij wist dat zij daar nog wel van hield.

F: ja.

M: maar de ene cd is anders opgenomen dan de ander.

F: ja.

M: dus bij de ene cd moet ik weer terugnemen //

F: ja.

M: // moet ik het weer terugzetten, bij de ander staat die hetzelfde maar daar slaat die …

F: maar dat is waarom ik er altijd tegen opgezien heb dat het veel werk is om cd's op te nemen, muziek op te nemen.

M: als je dezelfde cd neemt is er natuurlijk niks ergs want dan heb je altijd hetzelfde geluid.

Male: but then […] said: but you still have the same problem, I need to copy different parts from six CDs. //

Female: yeah.

M: // of which she knew that she quite liked those.

F: yes.

M: but the one CD is recorded in a different way than the other.

F: yes.

M: so for the one I need to put it back, with another one it is the same but there it skips //

F: this is why I have never like the idea of recording CDs – recording music, as it is a lot of work.

M: // but if you take the same CD, of course there is nothing wrong with it because it will always have the same sound.

Limburg Male 3 (Limburg Male 1)

Twee jaar geleden, en voordat echt alle goed voorloopt zal wel een tijdje duren, ik denk dat op termijn de ene vestiging gesloten zal worden, er zijn voor diverse afdelingen te weinig leerlingen, bedoel als je bijvoorbeeld motorvoertuigen neemt, daar zitten nog maar vijf leerlingen op of uh, textiel, ook vijf, zes leerlingen, dat is niet haalbaar.

Two years ago, and it will take a while before everything really goes well, I think that in the long run the one branch will be closed down, for multiple departments there are too few

students, I mean if you take motor vehicles for example, there are only five students there, of

uh, textile, also five, six students, that is not feasible.

Limburg Male 4 (Limburg Male 2)

Ja die man die uh, ja, die uh, die maakte blijkbaar zoveel indruk, op de ontspannen manier

waarop hij lesgaf, de manier waarop hij met de jeugd omging, de manier waarop hij lesgaf en

ons Frans, Franse taal uh, bijbracht. Dat beviel ons, ja ik kan wel rustig zeggen ons, leerlingen

allemaal wel goed.

Yeah that man, he uh, ja, he uh, apparently made such an impression, with the relaxed

manner in which he taught, the way in which he interacted with the youth, the manner in

which he taught and imparted French, uh the French language to us. That pleased all of us,

yeah I can safely say us, students, very well.

Limburg Female 1 (Limburg Female 1)

Female: Uitgevers betalen 11 komma 1 cent per woord.

Male: ja

F: dat is echt een krankzinnige indeling en //

M: een gemiddeld woord?

F: ja maar ik ga dadelijk even uitdrukken. [sic] Uh, per 1 januari, dus over drie dagen

M: ja

F: per 1 januari, uh, na spijkerharde onderhandelingen is dat 11,4 cent geworden

M: en het was 11 komma ?

F: één.

Female: publishers pay 11 point 1 cents per word.

Male: yeah.

F: that is really a ridiculous division and //

M: an average word?

F: yes but I will directly express [sic] *uh, per 1 January, so in three days*

M: yeah

F: per 1 January, uh, after tough negotiations that became 11 point 4 cents.

M: and it was 11 point?

F: one.

Limburg Female 2

Female: ik zei dan heeft hij toch een soort uitbreiding van zijn etalage? Ja, nee, maar dat

moest ook verzekerd worden. Hè //

Male: ja, ja.

F: // want dat is natuurlijk een etalage waar iedereen bij kan.

M: ja ja.

F: maar ze hebben dat toch blijkbaar – want Nop vertelde mij al en ik zag hem //

M: leuk!

F: // gisteren staan en er zijn blijkbaar heel veel mensen die dat toch, uh, - leuk vinden om

daar eventjes een paar noten op te spelen.

Female: I said that he would have some kind of extension from his shop-window? Yes, no, but

that also had to be insured. Right //

Male: yeah, yeah.

F: // because that is of course a shop-window that everyone can touch.

M: yes, yes.

F: but apparently they have still – because Nop already told me and I already saw it //

M: nice!

F: // yesterday and apparently there are a lot of people that do, uh, find it nice to play a couple of notes on it.

Limburg Female 3 (Limburg Female 2

Waarom Duits? Uh, nou mijn oma was Duits, dus ik denk dat van jongs af aan het Duits er al in zit, en vind ik gewoon een leuke taal, en eigenlijk nog bovenal is dat ik graag lesgeef. Dus het vak wat je geeft is eigenlijk maar bijzaak, denk ik. Het gaat erom dat je lesgeeft. En dan daarnaast is het leuk om een vak te geven dat je leuk vindt, maar het lesgeven is het leuke.

Why German? Uh, well, my grandma was German, so I think that I was brought up on German from a young age, and I just think it is a nice language, and most important is that I like to teach. So the subject you teach is actually just a side issue, I think. The point is that you teach. And besides that it is nice to teach a subject that you like, but the teaching is the best part.

Limburg Female 4

Uhm, ik ben het behoorlijk bewust geworden maar ik ben begonnen in het lager onderwijs, het basisonderwijs, aangezien wij toch ook kinderen wilden, dat niet te laat wilden hè, dan moet je zaken combineren. Basisschool is vaak een volledige baan, dat is lastig dus ik uh, wij hebben om de beurt, eerst mijn man en daarna ik, wij hebben de mo-opleiding gedaan.

Uh, I became it quite consciously but I started in the primary education, primary school, given that we also wanted children, and we did not want them too late right, so you have to combine things. Primary school is often a full-time job, which is difficult so I, uh we took turns, first my husband and then I, we did the mo-education*.

*mo-education was an education in the Netherlands in the 20th century to educate people to become teachers of Dutch in secondary education.

5 Overijssel Male 1

Male; ja goed, dan, dan – kijk ik in – dan vraag ik welke termijn nodig is, dan zal ik de motie in die zin herzien nadat de minister gereageerd heeft op mijn motie want ik wil hem niet //

Female: ja.

M: // onbewust, zeg maar, onderdrukken – onder druk zetten. Het gaat mij om het belang om straks bij de evaluatie dat er, uh, ja, ook dat goed te kunnen meten.

Male: okay well, then, then – I look into – then I ask with term is needed, and I will revise the motion in that way after the minister has reacted to my motion because I do not want to //

Female: yes.

M: // oppress – pressure him subconsciously, so to say. All I care about is the interest to be able to measure this, later in the evaluation.'

Overijssel Male 2 (Overijssel Male 1)

Male 1: Ik vind het juist zo relaxed om bijvoorbeeld – ja, ff weer naar huis te gaan – als je bijvoorbeeld je broertje een keer jarig is dan kom je een keertje naar huis of je hebt iets thuis laten liggen ofzo, weet ik wat, dan ga je //

Male 2: doordeweeks?

M1: // ja dan ga je een keer doordeweeks – ik ben gisteren nog ff naar huis geweest om die tent te halen.

Male 1: I think it is just so chill to for example – yeah, nip back home – if for example your brother has his birthday, you will go home for once or if you have forgotten something at home, I do not know, and you will //

Male 2: on a weekday?

M1: yeah on a workday you will go – I went home for a bit yesterday to pick up that tent.

Overijssel Male 3

Male: Ik had altijd heel erg medelijden met die man, als ik dan zag wat voor een werkstuk ik

inleverde, en wat een stapel aan werkstukken hij altijd //

Female; ja

M: // op zijn – dan dacht ik hoe – gaat hij dit allemaal redden?

Male: I always pitied that man, if I saw what kind of essays I handed in, and the pile of essay

he always //

Female: yeah.

M; // had on his – then I thought how – will he be able to do this?

Overijssel Male 4 (Overijssel Male 2)

Male: Hier heeft hij het volgens mij twee keer over gehad //

Female: hoe zo?

M: // Champignons Dordogne. Nou ik vind dit ook - voor daar vind ik het veel gemakkelijker.

F: maar want?

M: champignons die blancheren wij gewoon af, en dan maken we een knoflookroomsaus en

dan doen we die champignons erdoorheen, dus je krijgt een knoflook – of uh, de champignons

krijg je in een sausje.

Male: i think he talked about this two times, //

Female: why?

M: Mushrooms Dordogne. Well I think the – for there this is way easier.

F: but why?

M: we just blanch the mushrooms and make a garlic cream sauce and we put the mushrooms

in that, so you get a garlic – or uh, the mushrooms is a sauce

Overijssel Female 1

'En uh, toen uh, was ze nogal wakker en dan was ze weer stil maar niet huilen ofzo, maar
tegen half drie was ze echt – ik zei: nou dan mag ik haar er wel uit halen, nou is ze echt aan
het sikkeren [sic], dan eh, slaapt ze toch niet weer. Kwam ik daar, stond ze rechtop in bed!'
'and uh, then uh, she was sort of awake but then she would be quiet again but not really
crying or anything, but by the time it was half two she was really – I said: well I can take her
out [of bed] now, now she is really 'whining' and uh, she will not go back to sleep. I arrived
there, and she was standing upright in bed!'

Overijssel Female 2

Als je ook in de politiek uh, het maakt niet uit welk onderwerp het is, bepaalde zaken tegen
komt, dan vind ik gewoon dat je het bespreekbaar moet maken, dan moet je ook niet
achterbaks via de rug – via een ander om zaken aan de orde stellen, maar dan moet je gewoon
naar die persoon toe gaan. Maar ni   v leen als het om personen gaat moet je het zo doen,
maar ook bepaalde zaken, als je ergens iets tegen komt moet je aan de orde stellen.
If in politics uh, it does not matter which subject, you encounter certain matters, I think you
should make that the subject of discussion, you should not slyly over someone's back – via
someone else to set things right, but you should just go to that person. But not only if it is
about people, you should also do this with certain matters, if you encounter something you
should make that the subject of discussion.

Overijssel Female 3 (Overijssel Female 1)

Ik had ook niet het idee het een voorspelling was van hem, maar uh, een streven van hem om
uh, de kerk uit te roeien en door ze eigenlijk een beetje te misbruiken uh, want ja, ze hadden

toch nog aardig wat macht, de kerk, en dan kon hij mooi zijn rassenleer door die pastoors en dominees laten verspreiden

I did not think it was a prediction he made, but the pursuit of him to uh, annihilate the church and by sort of exploiting them, because yeah, they still had quite some power, the church, and he could easily use that to make those priests and reverends spread his racial doctrine.

Overijssel Female 4 (Overijssel Female 2)

De meesten die strandden wel door stages, en dan was er soms een enkeling die gewoon niet geschikt zijn om voor de klas te staan, maar bij de meesten was het ook zo van uh, gewoon niet op kunnen brengen om acht weken lang, vijf dagen in de week, om half negen in zo'n school aanwezig te zijn.

Most of the people dropped out because of internships, and then sometimes there was one person who just was not made out to teach, but for most people it was just like, uhm, just not being able to muster up the will to be present at half eight in a school, for eight weeks, five days a week.

Appendix 2 – questionnaire study 1

In this appendix, the questionnaire for Study 1 is displayed in both its original form and an English translation. The following instruction was given:

Voor mijn bachelor thesis doe ik onderzoek naar accenten. Deze vragenlijst bestaat uit 16 fragmenten van ongeveer 20 seconden. Per fragment zullen er twee vragen gesteld worden. Voor optimale resultaten kan het gebruik van een koptelefoon handig zijn, maar dit is niet verplicht. Deelname aan het onderzoek duurt ongeveer 10 minuten.

I am conducting a research into accents for my bachelor thesis. This questionnaire consist of sixteen fragments of approximately twenty seconds. Two questions will be asked per fragment. For optimal results, the use of headphones is advised, but this is not compulsory. Partaking in the research will approximately take 10 minutes.

The following questions were asked for the sixteen fragments of Appendix 1.

1. Uit welke provincie komt deze persoon volgens u? Er is geen goed of fout antwoord.

   From which province does this person come according to you? There is not right or wrong answer.

Drenthe	Noord-Brabant
Flevoland	Noord-Holland
Friesland	Overijssel
Gelderland	Utrecht
Groningen	Zeeland
Limburg	Zuid-Holland

2. This question is about accent strength. There is no right or wrong answer. The accent of this person is:

   a. Very weak

   b. Weak

      c. A little bit weak

      d. Neutral

      e. A little bit strong

      f. Strong

      g. Very strong

A final question allowed people to leave any comments or remarks they had.

Appendix 3 – questionnaire study 2

In this appendix, the questionnaire conducted for Study 2 is displayed in both its original form and an English translation. This is the instruction that was given to participants. Voor mijn bachelorthesis doe ik onderzoek naar persoonlijkheden. Ik kijk of het mogelijk is om op basis van alleen stemkarakteristieken een goed beeld te vormen van iemands persoonlijkheid. Daarom laat ik u naar 8 geluidsfragmenten van ongeveer 20 seconden luisteren. De inhoud van de zinnen die u zal horen is niet relevant. Per fragment zullen er vragen worden gesteld over de persoonlijkheid van de spreker. Voor optimale resultaten kan het gebruik van een koptelefoon handig zijn, maar dit is niet verplicht. Deelname aan dit onderzoek duurt ongeveer 15 minuten.

I am doing research into personalities for my bachelor thesis. I am researching whether it is possible to form a good image of someone's personality on the basis of just voice characteristics. In order to this, I will let you listen to 8 audio fragments. The content of the sentences you will hear is not relevant. Per fragment, you will be asked questions about the personality of the speaker. For optimal results, the use of head phones is recommended, but this is not compulsory. Partaking in this research will approximately take 15 minutes.

The following questions were asked about the fragments as indicated in Appendix 1.

1. Luister naar het volgende fragment en beantwoord de vragen. Het fragment kan meerdere keren worden afgespeeld als dit nodig is.

   De vrouw/man/persoon in dit fragment is volgens mij …

   Chique   Behulpzaam

   Hoogopgeleid   Modern

   Serieus   Hip

   Aardig   Trendy

   Warm   Aantrekkelijk

Een goede nieuwslezer

Listen to the following fragment and answer the questions. The fragment can be

played multiple times if this is needed.

According to me, the woman/man/person in this fragment is

Chic	*Modern*
Highly educated	*Hip*
Serious	*Trendy*
Nice	*Attractive*
Has a warm personality	*Would be a good newsreader*
Helpful	

Per trait, people could indicate how suitable they found a certain trait for a certain sample of

the basis of a Likert scale with the following options: sterk mee oneens, mee oneens, een

beetje mee oneens, neutral, een beetje mee eens, mee eens, sterk mee eens. *Strongly disagree,*

disagree, slightly disagree, neutral, slightly agree, agree, strongly agree.

The following screenshot shows the lay-out of these questions:

Luister naar het volgende fragment en beantwoord de vragen. Het fragment kan meerdere keren worden afgespeeld indien dit nodig is.

0:00 / 0:23

De vrouw in dit fragment is volgens mij ...

	Sterk mee oneens	Mee oneens	Een beetje mee oneens	Neutraal	Een beetje mee eens	Mee eens	Sterk mee eens
Chique	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Hoogopgeleid	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Serieus	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Aardig	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Warm	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Behulpzaam	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Modern	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Hip	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Trendy	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Aantrekkelijk	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Een goede nieuwslezer	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

2. Uit welke provincie komt deze persoon volgens u? Er is geen goed of fout antwoord.

    From which province does this person come according to you? There is not right or

    wrong answer.

    Drenthe   Noord-Brabant

    Flevoland   Noord-Holland

    Friesland   Overijssel

    Gelderland   Utrecht

    Groningen   Zeeland

    Limburg   Zuid-Holland

3. Wat is uw geslacht?

What is your gender

Man – *male*

Vrouw – *female*

Dat zeg ik liever niet – *I prefer not to say*

4. Wat is uw leeftijd?

What is your age?

12-17

18-25

26-35

36-45

46-55

56-65

66-75

76-85

Ouder dan – *Older than* 85

5. In welke regio heeft u het langst gewoond tot uw 18ᵉ levensjaar?

    In which region did you live for the longest period of time before the age of 18?

    Twente

    Limburg

    Een andere regio, namelijk: another region, namely: …………….

6. (This question was displayed if Twents was selected in question 5)

    Wat is uw verhouding met Twents?

    What is your relationship with Tweants?

    I spreek en versta het niet – *I do not speak or understand it*

    Ik versta het wel, maar ik spreek het niet - *I do understand it, but i do not speak it*

    Ik spreek het soms – *I sometimes speak it*

    Ik spreek het vaak – *I often speak it*

7. (This question was displayed if Limburg was selected in question 5)

    Wat is uw verhouding met Limburgs?

    What is your relationship with Limburgish?

    I spreek en versta het niet – *I do not speak or understand it*

    Ik versta het wel, maar ik spreek het niet - *I do understand it, but i do not speak it*

    Ik spreek het soms – *I sometimes speak it*

    Ik spreek het vaak – *I often speak it*

8. Spreekt u een dialect?

    Do you speak a dialect?

    Ja, namelijk – *yes, namely………*

    Nee – *No*

9. (This question was displayed if Yes was selected in question 8)

    Wat is uw verhouding met dit dialect?

What is your relationship with this dialect?

I spreek en versta het niet – *I do not speak or understand it*

Ik versta het wel, maar ik spreek het niet - *I do understand it, but i do not speak it*

Ik spreek het soms – *I sometimes speak it*

Ik spreek het vaak – *I often speak it*

A final question allowed people to leave any comments or remarks they had.