

Renée van Bezooijen en Rob van den Berg

Taalvariëteiten in Nederland en Vlaanderen: hoe staat het met hun verstaanbaarheid?

Summary

This article reports on the intelligibility of four language varieties spoken in the Dutch language area: three varieties of Dutch from the provinces of Groningen, Limburg, and West-Flanders, and a variety of Frisian. Intelligibility was assessed for three groups of subjects: non-dialect speakers of standard Dutch from the Netherlandic¹ provinces of Noord-Holland, Zuid-Holland, and Utrecht, Netherlandic subjects with passive or active knowledge of dialects spoken in Twente and the Achterhoek, and Belgian subjects with passive or active knowledge of dialects spoken in Brabant and Antwerp. An auditory task was used in which subjects heard semi-spontaneous speech samples of the various varieties and were asked to translate nouns into standard Dutch. Intelligibility was expressed as the percentage of nouns translated correctly. There were considerable differences in intelligibility among the four varieties. Intelligibility depended to some extent on the background of the listeners. For the two groups of listeners from the Netherlands, the West-Flemish dialect appeared to be the least intelligible (66% correct), followed by the Frisian dialect (85%), the Limburg dialect (89%), and the Groningen dialect (95%). For the Belgian listeners, Frisian (75%) and West-Flemish (83%) changed places. Moreover, they experienced more problems with the Groningen dialect (89%) than the Netherlandic listeners.