

## What to wear today?

### Convergence and divergence in Dutch clothing terminology

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This paper reports on a corpus-based investigation into naming preferences in Belgian Dutch and Netherlandic Dutch for fourteen clothing terms. The study (Daems et al., accepted) is a follow-up of Geeraerts et al. (1999), in which soccer and clothing terminology from 1950, 1970 and 1990 was analysed as an indicator of standardisation in Dutch. This study extends the clothing corpus with new, comparable data from 2012 collected from magazines, to represent standard language, and shop windows, as a substandard register. Focusing on lexical uniformity, we rely on the onomasiological measure of lexical variation designed for the aforementioned study, which calculates the differences in lexicalization preferences for a given concept in the two regions. For example, Table 1 shows the concept OVERHEMD '(dress) shirt', which can be lexicalized by *hemd*, *overhemd* and *shirt*. The degree of uniformity between Belgian Dutch and Netherlandic Dutch can be measured in terms of overlapping lexicalization preferences (summing the smallest relative value for each term:  $(19+0+7) = 26\%$ ).

OVERHEMD (MAN)	Neth.Dutch	Belg.Dutch
<i>hemd</i>	19%	93%
<i>overhemd</i>	12%	0%
<i>shirt</i>	69%	7%

Table 1 - Lexicalization preferences for OVERHEMD (MAN)

The present-day material is compared to the uniformity levels obtained by Geeraerts et al. (1999), which shows new insights on the linguistic situation in the Low Countries. The diachronic convergence between Belgian Dutch and Netherlandic Dutch confirmed in the original study seems to have come to a halt in 2012. Furthermore, the recent data suggest that the distance between the lower register shop windows and the standard language in magazines remains largest in Belgian Dutch.

#### References

- Daems, Jocelyne, Kris Heylen & Dirk Geeraerts. Accepted. 'Wat dragen we vandaag: een hemd met blazer of een shirt met jasje?'. [Accepted for publication in *Taal en Tongval*.]
- Geeraerts, Dirk, Stefan Grondelaers & Dirk Speelman. 1999. *Convergentie en divergentie in de Nederlandse woordenschat. Een onderzoek naar kleding- en voetbaltermen*. Amsterdam: P.J. Meertens-Instituut.