

Borrowing from English: Cases-studies on Belgian Dutch

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In this talk I will first briefly contextualize the position of English as a global language, presenting the different ways in which English interacts with other languages around the world. I will then zoom in on the influence of English on Belgian Dutch, carefully outlining why the English-Dutch contact setting deserves our attention. More specifically, a brief historical background will allow me to illustrate the changing relationships and ideologies towards borrowing from other languages in general, and French and English in particular.

In the second half of the talk I will present selected case-studies targeting the influence of English on Belgian Dutch. By combining observational and experimental studies that tackle the production, perception as well as the evaluation of English loanwords, I aim to arrive at a comprehensive insight on the extent to which Belgian Dutch is 'Englishized' and what this entails. Finally, attention will be paid to the implications of the findings for this particular contact setting and for the study of lexical borrowing more generally.