6

From the 1990's onwards the spreading of Dutch approximant *r* [ɹ] in coda position has been noted, along geographical and social as well as linguistic-contextual lines, with a complex interaction between these three types of diffusion. In terms of the geography of [ɹ]-diffusion, it is spreading from the central western part of the Netherlands to the peripheral areas of the country (Van Bezooijen 2005, Koppers & Van Bezooijen 2008, Sebregts 2015, Hilton et al. 2016). Sebregts (2015), a study of /r/ variation in ten urban varieties of Dutch, shows that the relative frequency of approximant [ɹ] is high: it is found with around 55% of all coda tokens in the Netherlands. In this paper, we expand on the statistical analysis to bring out the intricate diffusion patterns of [ɹ]. We present new analyses of the social and linguistic patterns of the approximant [ɹ] in the cities investigated in the Netherlands (Leiden, The Hague, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Utrecht, Nijmegen). The change-in-progress towards the use of [ɹ] as the coda allophone in Netherlandic Dutch is confirmed to be from west to east, led by female speakers, and, as our data show, from singleton word-final and coronal contexts to dorsal and labial ones. The latter two are the traditional schwa-insertion contexts (Kirstein 2015), schwa-insertion and the use of [ɹ] being apparently mutually exclusive. While these tendencies appear uniform across the data, the individual cities show differing dynamics with respect to the interactions between social and linguistic factors. In our presentation we will discuss three conflicting scenarios. The convergent scenario is that in some cities, [ɹ] has come to serve as a social marker, accelerating its trajectory as a sound change-in-progress. The cities simply reflect different stages of an ongoing change: once a feature starts to function as a social marker, its spread to other linguistic contexts is facilitated. Secondly, the reverse may be the case with a divergent scenario: [ɹ] strengthens its functions as a social marker once it is used in the marked schwa-insertion context, its use in the word-final and coronal contexts remaining relatively unmarked. A third scenario might be that the schwa-insertion context is an autonomous context that is linguistically separated from the other coda contexts and not a necessarily next target of an expanding [ɹ]. Bezooijen, R. van. 2005. Approximant *r* in Dutch: routes and feelings. *Speech Communication* 47(1-2): 15-31.Hilton, N.H., L. Rosseel, E.M Smidt & M. Coler (2016). Dutch Coda (r) Variation and the Association between [ɹ] and Females. Paper presented at 'r-atics5, Leeuwarden. 18-20 May 2016.Kirstein, Anna. (2015). Schwa epenthesis and schwa deletion. *Taalportaal*. Retrieved from: https://taalportaal.org/taalportaal/topic/pid/topic_20150914151659461. (accessed 20 December 2024).Koppers, J. & R. Van Bezooijen (2008): Maakt de Gooise r een kans in Friesland? Een evaluatieve studie naar de waardering van de r onder meisjes. *It Beaken* 70 (3/4).Sebregts, K. 2015. *The Sociophonetics and Phonology of Dutch r*. Utrecht: LOT.

Roeland van Hout[1], Hans Van de Velde[2], Koen Sebregts[3]

[1]Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands. [2]Fryske Akademy, Leeuwarden, Netherlands. [3]Utrecht University, Utrecht, Netherlands

Title

Different urban scenarios in the rise of approximant r in Dutch?