This bachelor thesis deals with the Dutch and Flemish policies towards immigrants in the 1970s and 1980s and the role attributed to language in them. It examines the arguments and concepts by which both the policies were motivated and legitimated and evaluates critically their usual periodization. It points out the risk of a wrong reading of the Dutch „tweesporenbeleid“ of the 1970s as based on multiculturalism instead of expectation of return of the immigrants into their home country. It concentrates on the Minderhedennota of 1981/83 as the main turning point leading to the interpretation of the allochton-issue as socio-economic problem and examines the public debate on the basis of documents of the Dutch parliament. The acquisition of Dutch as second language, it states, always played a crucial role in the policies. Since the 1980s, more attention was paid to evaluation of school curricula in terms of non-discrimination of non-native speakers. In the Flemish case, less systematical approaches were stated. The policies were less centralized and crucially influenced by the fact of bilingualism and the competition between Dutch and French in Belgium.