

Abstract

This thesis deals with final schwa in Dutch, especially in ending segments -e and -en, which are today in most of Dutch dialects homophonous because of the elision of final nasal. The first part of the research was designed as a study of the pronunciation of native Dutch speakers. The subject of this part of research was an analysis of recordings of text designed specially for the purpose of the analysis of final schwa with focus on the homophony of final -e and -en. This part used sentences which differed only in the grammatical number a substantive; in some cases verbs were also used. The second part of this research consisted of the perception test with short recordings of semantically ambiguous sentences, with purpose of finding out how native speakers of Dutch differentiate grammatical number in cases where singular and plural forms of words in sentences are homophonous.

Keywords: Dutch - phonology - phonetics - homophony - schwa