

## **Abstract**

This thesis deals with final schwa in Dutch in final segments *-e* and *-en*, which are in most of contemporary Dutch dialects homophonous because of the elision of the 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 the text designed specifically for the purposes of the analysing of the final schwa focusing on the homophony of final *-e* and *-en*. This part used a pair of sentences which containing potentially homophonous substantives which differed in their grammatical number. The second part of this research consisted of the perception test using short recordings of semantically ambiguous sentences in order to find out how native speakers of Dutch differentiate grammatical number in cases where singular and plural forms of words in sentences are homophonous.

Although I didn't find any convincing evidence of the influence of elision of nasal on the preceding schwa, the results of the perception test show that the perception of homophonous words differing in their grammatical number is based mainly on the semantics of the word in question and its context.

**Keywords:** Dutch - phonology - phonetics - homophony - schwa