

Summary

The goal of this thesis is to describe the language attitudes of journalists in the Dutch and Flemish press on the corpus of newspaper articles from both areas. Subsequently, the Dutch and Flemish attitudes are compared with each other.

The theoretical part explains the diversity of the Dutch language in both areas. Firstly, it traces the history of the Dutch language in the Netherlands and Flanders from the splitting of the Netherlands and Flanders in the sixteenth century until today. It also shows that language is closely related to the identity of each person. Description of the language attitudes and of the language attitudes research follows. Firstly, attitudes are defined and then their components and their base are described. Research on language attitudes may be made using different methods. Examples of specific research into language attitudes are here, as well as methods of research, which are also described.

In the next part of the thesis the goal is set, the hypothesis is established, and the method of working with the material is introduced. Articles are analyzed using the Content Analysis method. Then, the clipping service of The Nederlandse Taalunie is presented. This service helps to collect articles about the language of the Netherlands and Flanders. Since not all articles collected in this way correspond to the topic of the thesis, they had to be classified into the satisfactory and unsatisfactory. 43 Dutch and 35 Flemish articles dating from mid-May 2008 to mid-June 2010 were finally included in the corpus.

The practical part is divided into three main sections. In the first section, the articles are divided according to the newspapers in which they were published. In the next section, the articles are divided according to their topics. In the last section, proceeded by individual topics, the articles are classified into smaller groups and concrete examples of articles are provided. In each section the analysis is carried out for Flanders and the Netherlands in particular. Finally, according to these sections the Dutch and Flemish journalists' attitudes to language are formulated. These attitudes are then compared with each other.

The hypothesis was formulated as follows: 'Flanders took the language of the Netherlands, but they have never fully accepted it. The difference between Dutch in the Netherlands and Dutch in Flanders will be most discussed in Flanders, because the Flemish need to emphasize their position against the Dutch in the Netherlands. The Netherlands has no need to defend their language/variant from Flanders, therefore journalists publish in the press in the Netherlands on other language issues. This is also why I think that in Flanders many more language articles are published'.

By the research, the hypothesis is largely confirmed. Flemish journalists feel the need to mark out their position regarding the Dutch in the Netherlands, so they write mainly about the difference between Dutch in the Netherlands and Dutch in Flanders. Dutch journalists feel no need to do that, therefore they publish on other aspects of the Dutch language. However more Dutch than Flemish articles were collected, if we calculate the proportion of articles against the population of both areas, we find that, per capita, there were twice as many articles published in Flanders as in the Netherlands.

The analysis of language attitudes reveals that Flemish journalists write mostly about the Dutch literary language. They point out that the language of the Flemish people is called Dutch, but also stress that the Flemish variant of Dutch differs slightly from the Netherlands. By contrast, Dutch journalists emphasize to their readers the need for linguistic accuracy of text. Most of their articles deal with grammar and grammatical faults. Flemish journalists mark out their language position in regard to the Netherlands. Dutch journalists are afraid in terms of language of the concurrence of English. The difference of attitudes is justified by the different histories of the Dutch language in the Netherlands and Flanders, and different national identities.