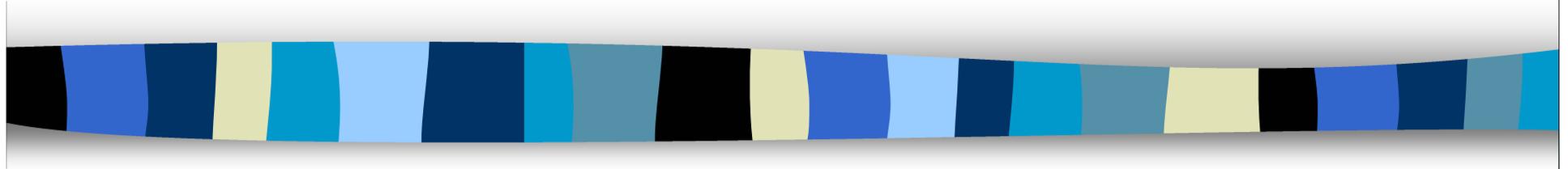
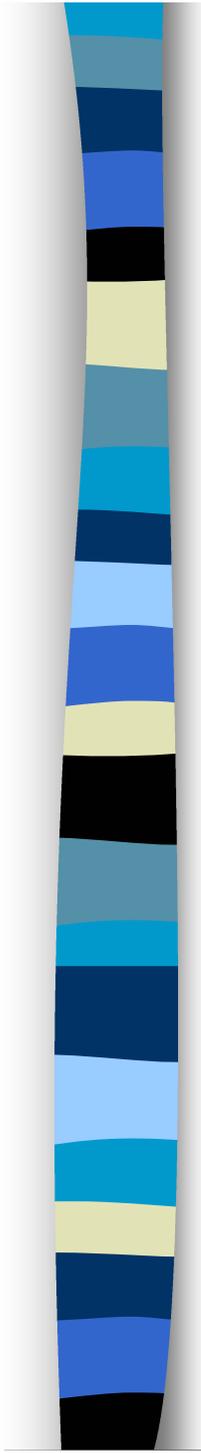


# Double Dutch: Language in the Lowlands

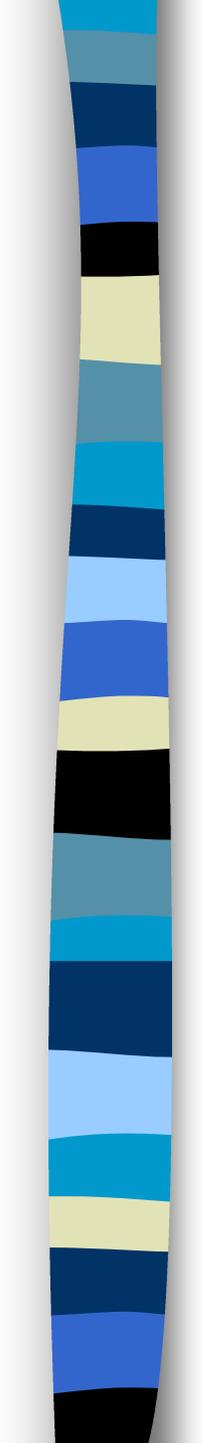


John Nerbonne,  
Director, Linguistic Research,  
University of Groningen  
Curious about the Dutch? 2006



# Double Dutch

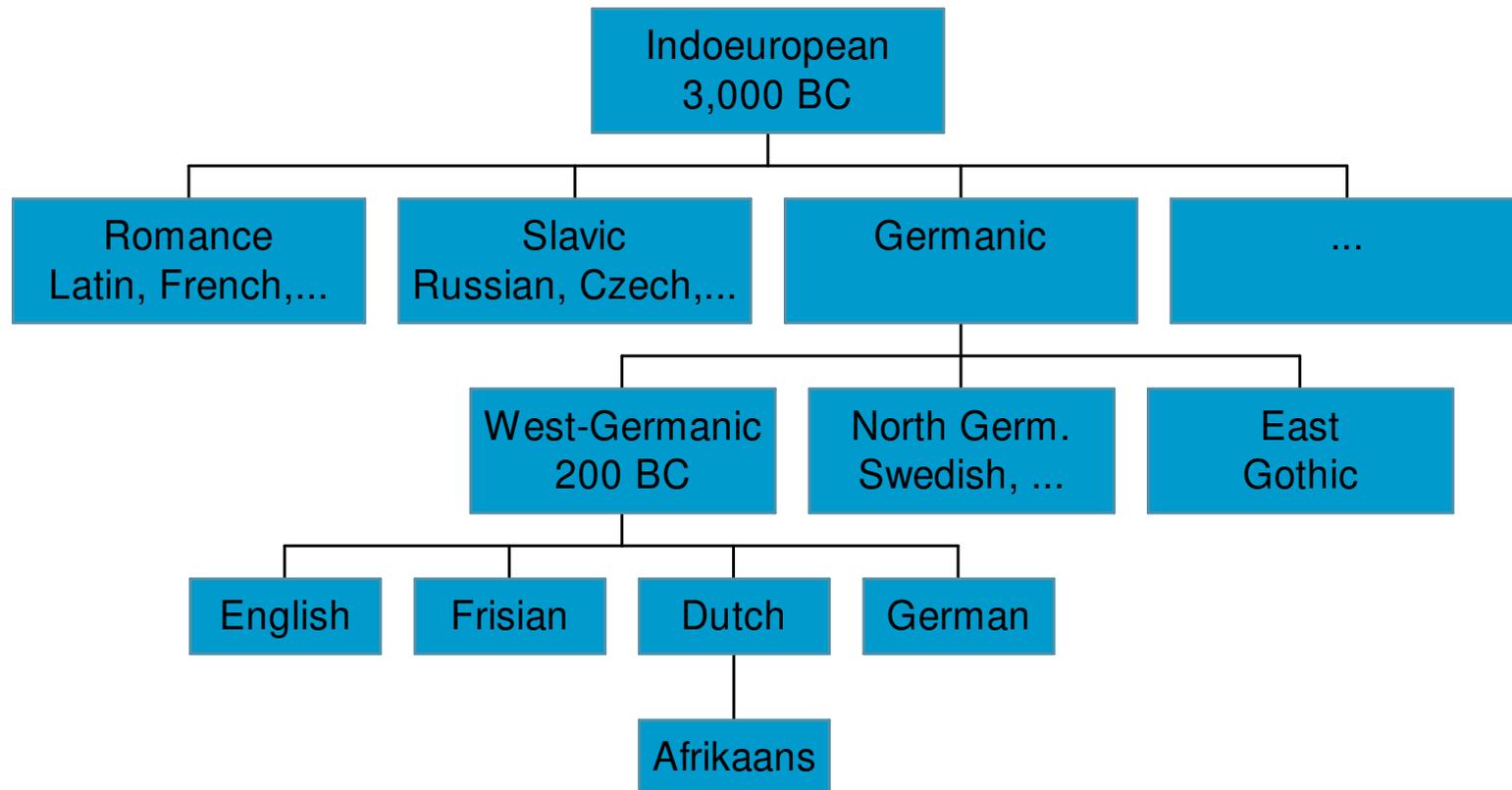
- Basic facts
- History
- Structure
- Influence on English
- Varieties
- Color
- Future

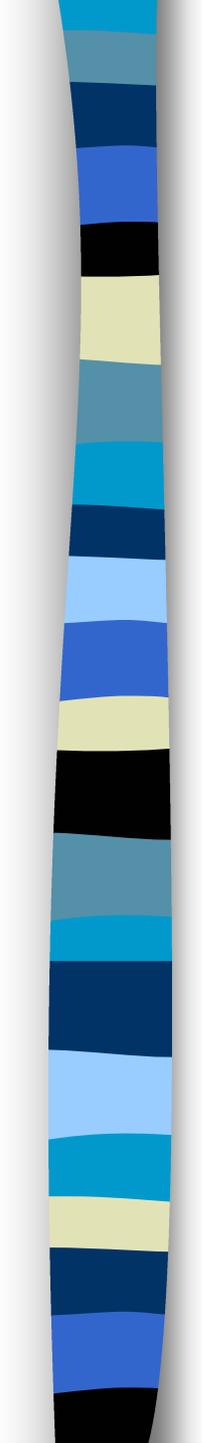


# Basic Facts about Dutch

- 21 million speakers in The Netherlands and Belgium (Flanders)
  - more in Suriname, Aruba, Indonesia
  - approx. 140,000 in US (1990 census)
  - 48th in list of most widely spoken languages (2000)
- Afrikaans is related, nearly intelligible (but speakers not the counted in the 21 mill.)
- “Plattdeutsch” likewise closely related (Low German spoken in Northern Germany)
- Frisian also related, but less closely
- First documents ca. 1100 AD

# Genealogy of Dutch





# How Do We Know Prehistory?

## Dutch

*voet*

*vol*

*vis*

*vader*

*/f/*

## German

*Fuß*

*voll*

*Fisch*

*Vater*

*/f/*

## English

*foot*

*full*

*fish*

*father*

*/f/*

## Latin

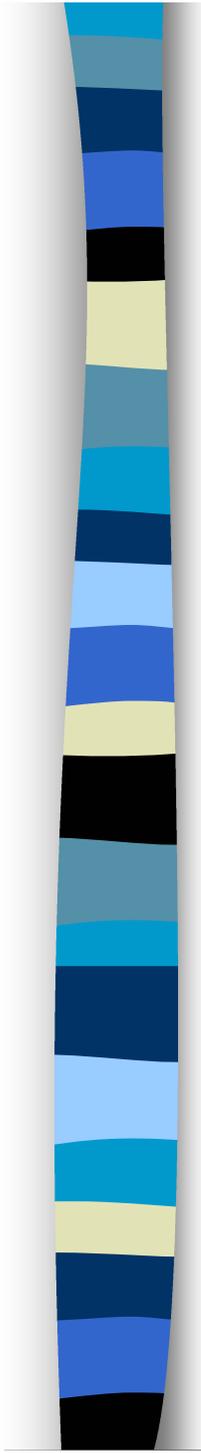
*pedes*

*plenus*

*pisces*

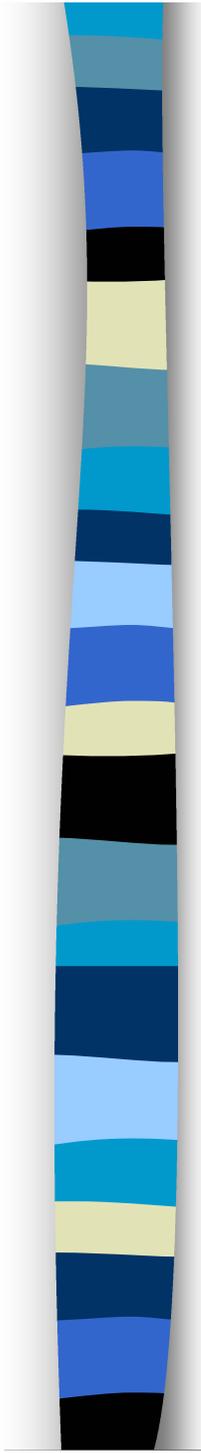
*pater*

*/p/*



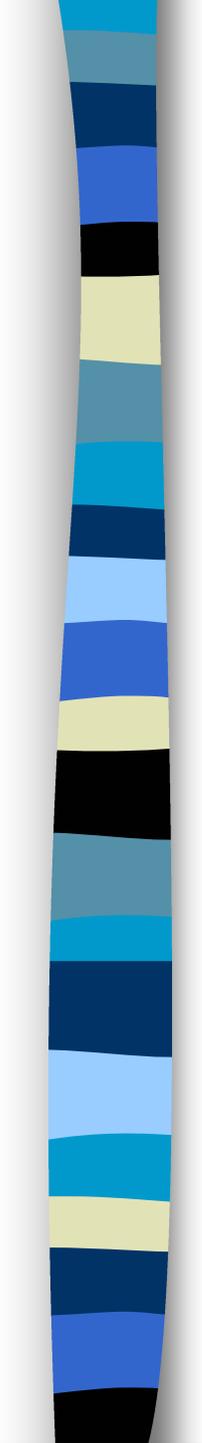
# Influences

- *Statenbijbel* (1637) standardization
- Celtic -- *rijk* 'kingdom', *ijzer* 'iron', *klok* 'clock', *ambacht* 'craft'
- Latin -- *keizer* 'emperor', *straat* 'street', *school* 'school', *poort* 'gateway', *pond* 'pound', *peper* 'pepper'
- Frisian -- *tjalk* 'small boat', *sjokken* 'trudge', *klunen* 'walk w. skates on land', *kapen* 'capture (as a pirate)'



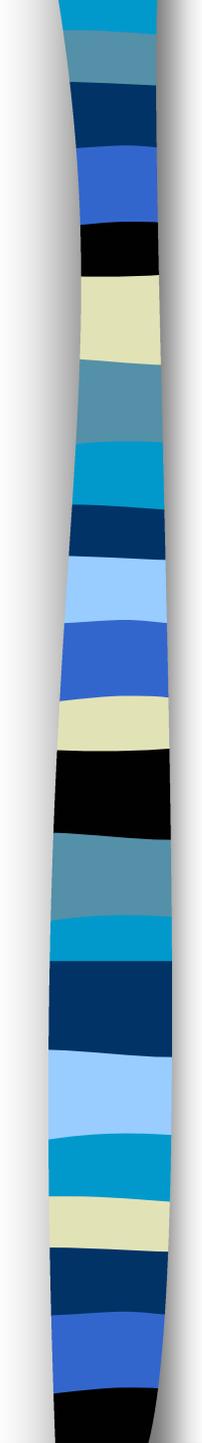
# French Borrowings

- *enquête* 'questionnaire', *bureau* 'office', *bureaucratie*, *administratie*, *officieel*, *procedure*
- *avontuur* 'adventure', *blazoen* 'coat of arms', *lans* 'lance', *rivier* 'river', *kampioen*, 'champion'
- *buffet*, *kasteel* 'castle', *matras* 'mattress', *meubel* 'furniture', *feest* 'feast', *plantsoen* 'plantation'



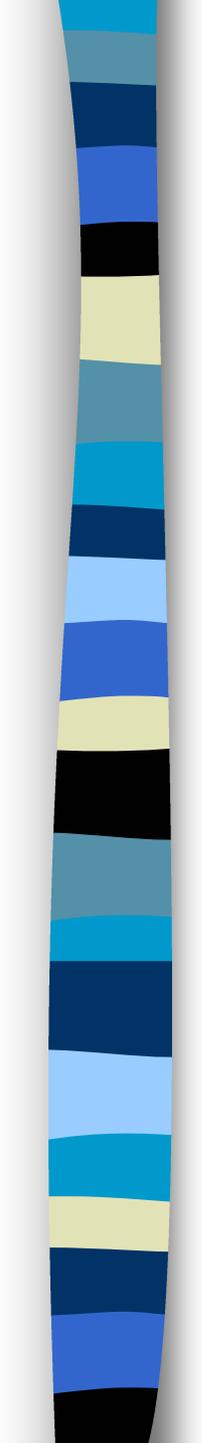
# French Cuisine, Family

- *asperge* 'asparagus', *azijn* 'vinegar', *citroen* 'lemon', *compote* 'stewed fruit', *fazant* 'pheasant', *meloen* 'melon', *prei* 'leek', *rijst* 'rice', *saus* 'sauce', *taart* 'cake'
- *papa, mama*



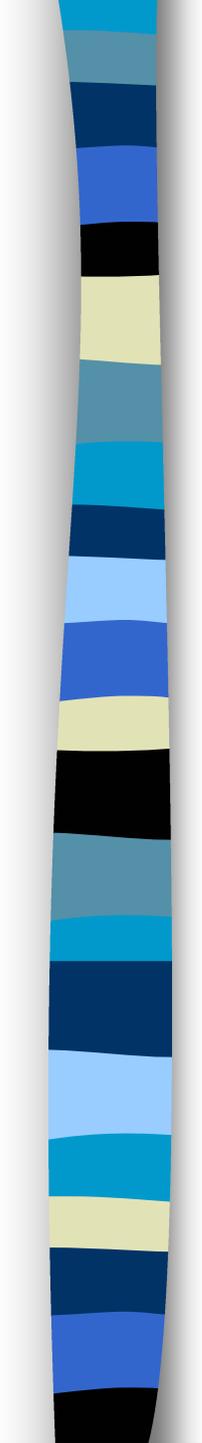
## More Influences

- Spanish -- *cargo, tornado, commando, orkaan* 'hurricane'
- Russian -- *doerak* 'fool', *mammoet* 'mammoth', *apparatsjik*
- Japanese -- *japon* 'gown', *samoerai, sjogoen, geisha, zen, mikado*



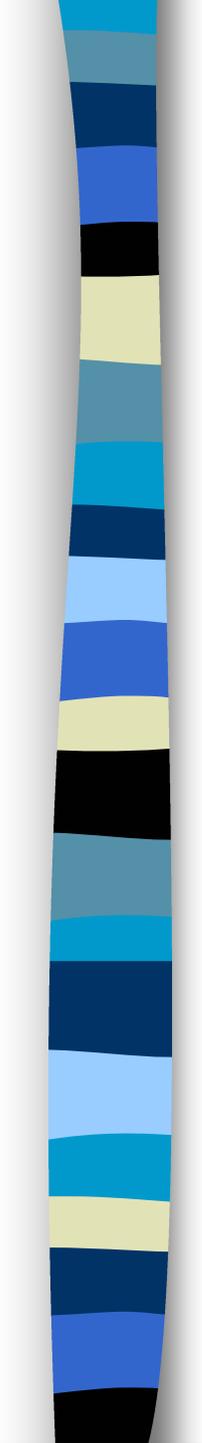
# Yiddisch

- *smeris* ‘cop’, *gesjoemel* ‘dishonest dealings’, *jatten* ‘steal’, *stiekem* ‘secretly’, *bajes* ‘jail’, *gokken* ‘gamble’
- *smoes* ‘dodge, excuse’ *kapsones* ‘insolence, rudeness’
- *lef* ‘guts’, *mazzel* ‘luck’, *gein* ‘joke’
- *mies* ‘bad, poor’ *tof* ‘nice, fine’



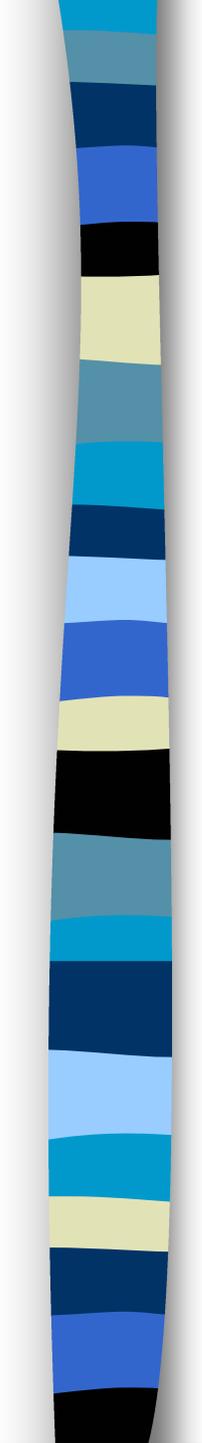
# Colonial Influences

- Sranan -- *bo-bo* 'big shot'
- Indonesian, Malaysian -- *pakkie-an* 'task', *piekeren* 'worry', *pienter* 'smart', *nasi (goreng)*, *bami (goreng)*, *sambal oelek*, *sate*, *ketjap*, *rames*



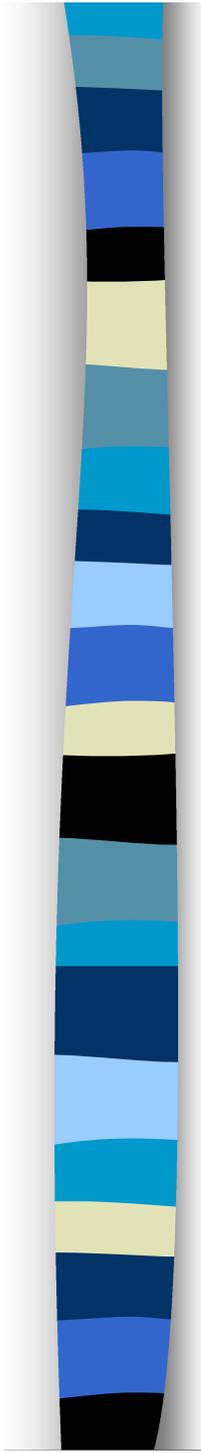
# German Influences

- Medical: *arts, allergie, chromosoom, secreet*  
*`secretion', polikliniek, heilgymnastiek*  
*`physical therapy', homeopathie*
- Psychology: *autisme, paranoia, waanzin*  
*`madness', narcisme, gestaltpsychologie*
- General: *Nachwuchs* `younger generation',  
*überhaupt, Kater* (meaning hangover)



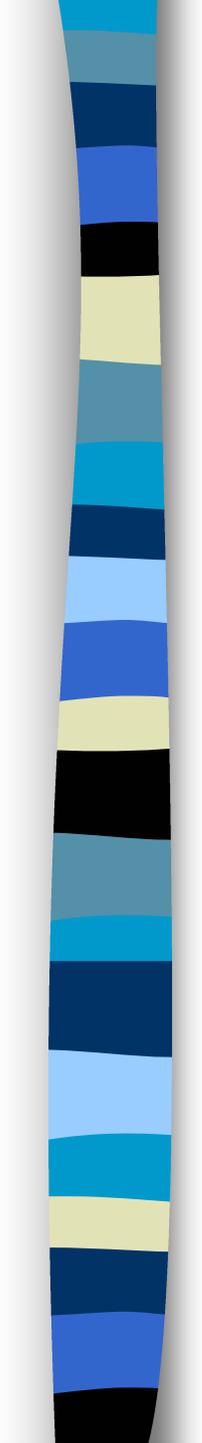
# English Influences

- Too many modern borrowings to count
  - Technology, politics, pop culture, science
- “Reborrowings”
  - *cruise* `pleasure trip on a boat’
  - *gin* `genever’ made popular in England by William of Orange (taxed French imports)



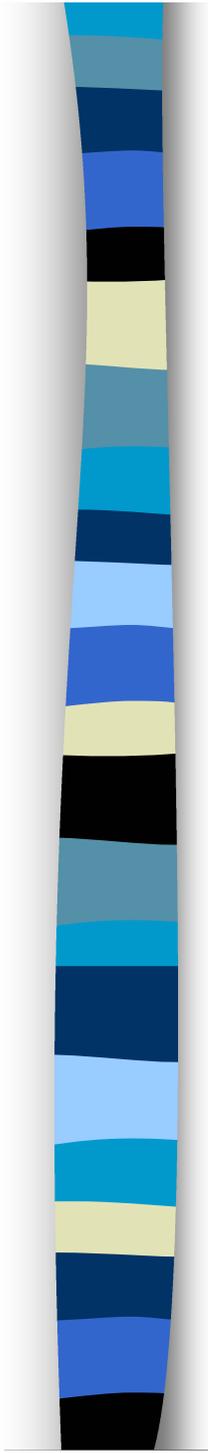
# English Borrowings?

- *stationcar* `station wagon'
- *jack* `jacket'
- *gráfiti* (note stress)
- *cola light* `diet coke'
- *folder* `brochure'
- *liften* 'hitchhike'
- *globaal* 'rough' (*globale schatting*)
- *beamer* `lcd projector'



# Double Dutch

- Basic facts
- History
- Structure
- Influence on English
- Varieties
- Color
- Future

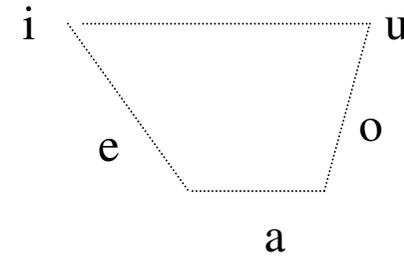


# Distinctive Structure

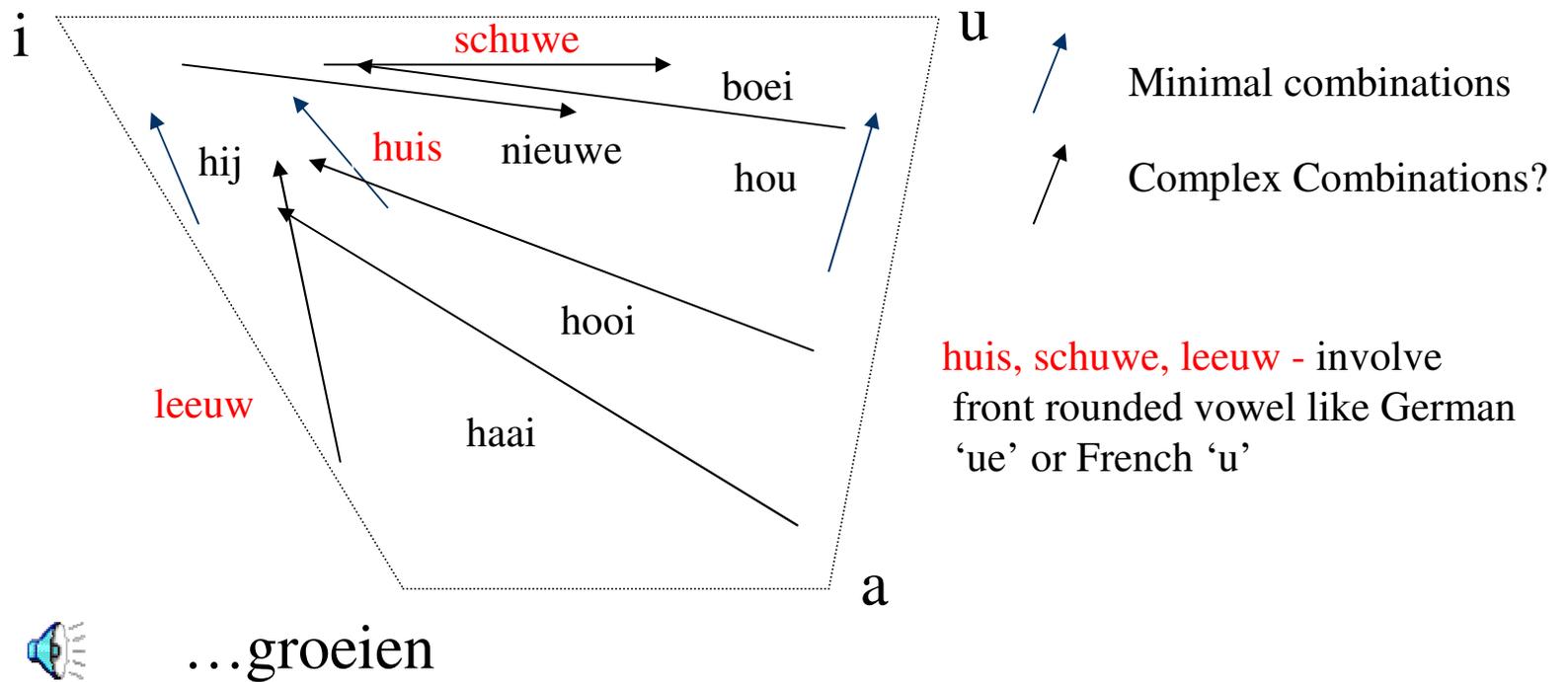
- Sounds
- Spelling
- Words
- Phrases
- Meanings

# Unusual Sounds

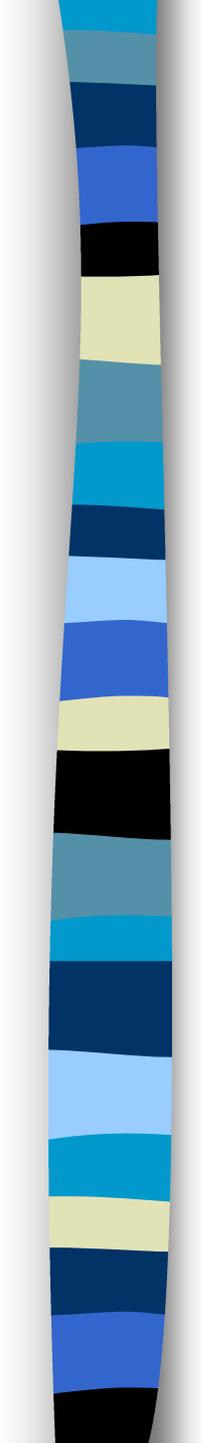
Spanish, Russian



## ■ Diphthongs (combined vowels)

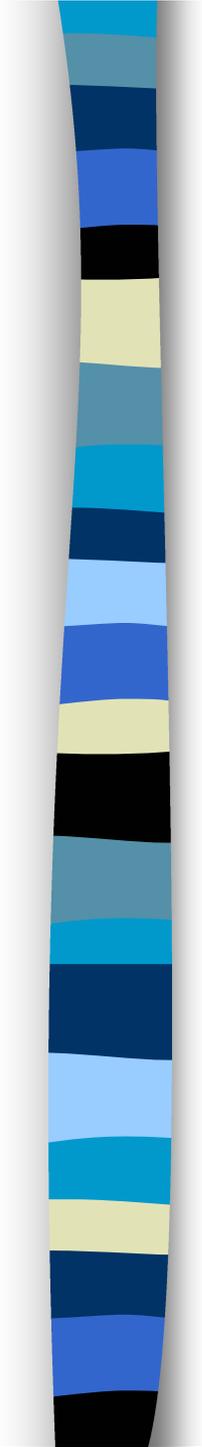


huis, schuwe, leeuw - involve front rounded vowel like German 'ue' or French 'u'



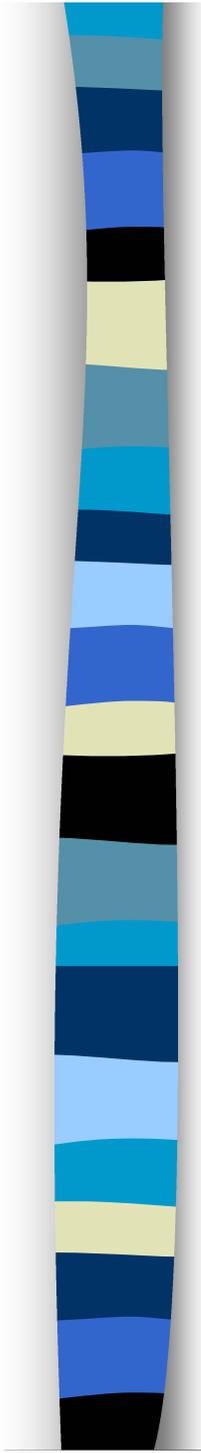
# Unusual Sounds

- ‘harde g’ as in Groningen, lage landen ‘Low Lands’, rug ‘back’, acht (8)
- noiser than German Bach, Russian хорошо
- combination with ‘s’ used as “test” for foreigners (and spies): Scheveningen



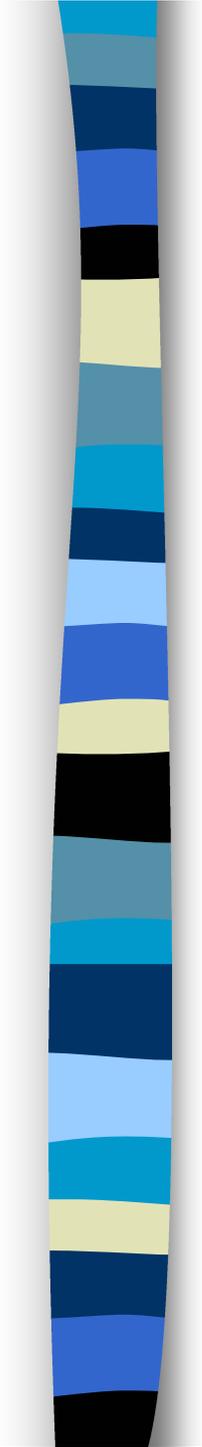
# Spelling

- Dutsj is essensjullie a Loo Sjurmennik lenkwitsj wis det vunkie letter (det riepleezes Y) plus a serieuslie koel ortografie.
- regular reforms, last '95, '06



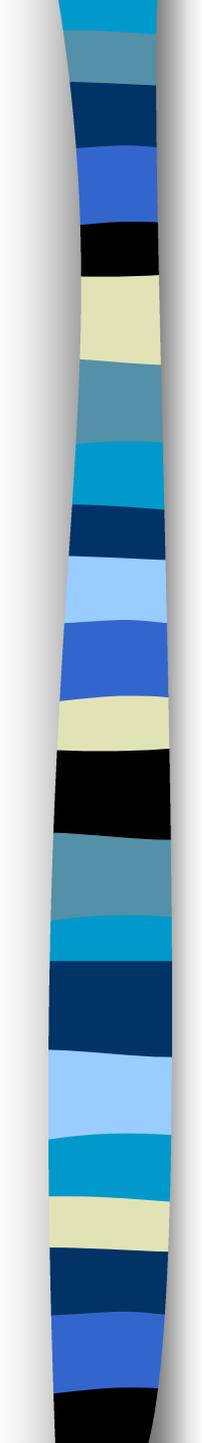
# Unusual Words

- Can anything be a verb?
  - *voetballen, tennissen, bridgen, sudokuen, fitnesssen*, etc.
  - *computeren* `do something w. computers’
  - *musiceren* `make music’
  - *klussen* `do odd jobs’
  - *opsexen* `make sexy’
- *gebiologeerd* `biologized’ (fixated)



# Can anything be diminutive?

- *lam/lammetje* `lamb/lammykins’
- *eventjes* `shortly’-kins
- *tussendoortje* `in the midst of’-kins
- *onder ons-je* ‘[a conversation etc.]  
between you and me’-kins



# Unusual Phrase Structure

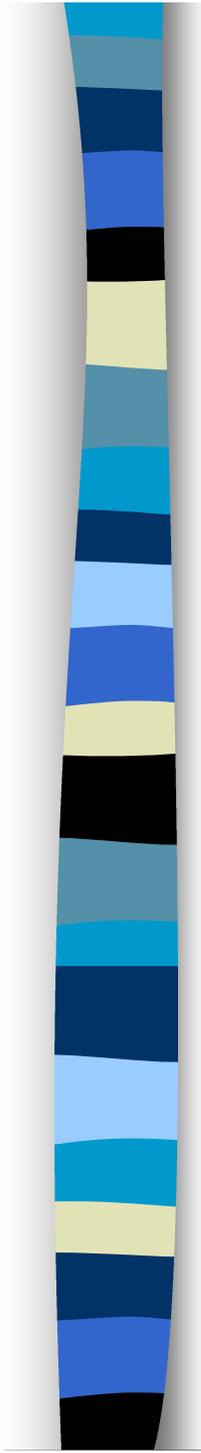
- “Verb Second”  
– like German

Hans gaat morgen naar huis  
Hans goes tomorrow to home  
‘Hans is going home tomorrow’

Morgen gaat H. naar huis  
Naar huis gaat H. morgen

- vestiges in English

In the forest lived a woodsman.  
Never have I been so shocked.



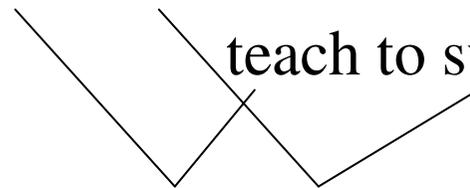
# Unusual Phrase Structure

- Cross-Serial Dependence

Hans vermoedt dat (H. suspects that)

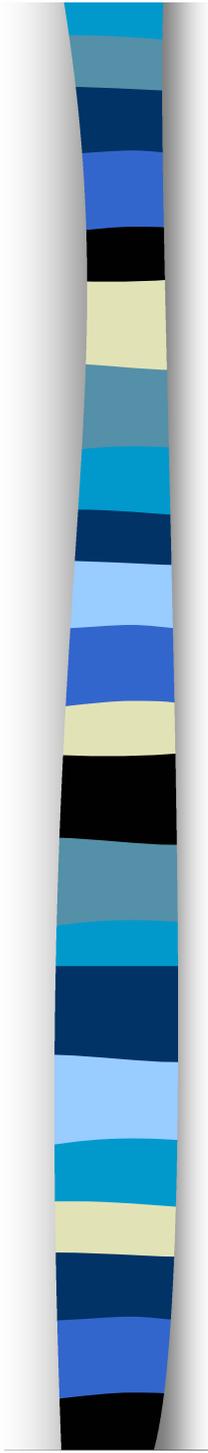
Piet Marie leert zwemmen

teach to swim



‘Hans suspects that P. is teaching M. to swim’

- Subject-Verb Relations Cross

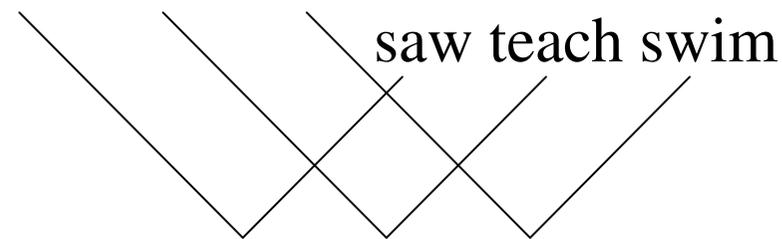


# Cross-Serial Dependence

- Crossing Relations Iterate

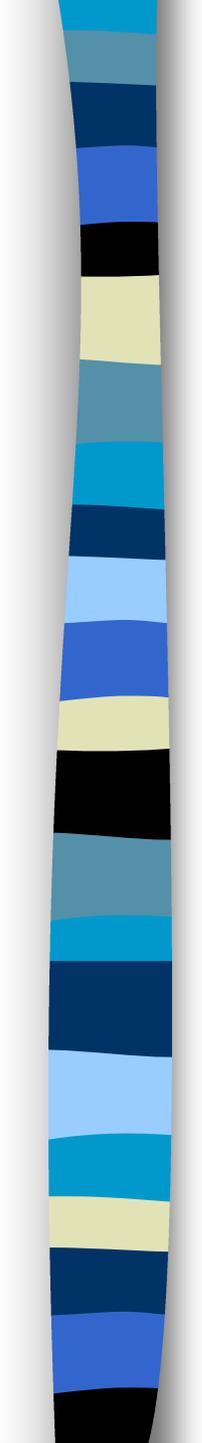
Hans vermoedt dat

Jantje Piet Marie zag leren zwemmen



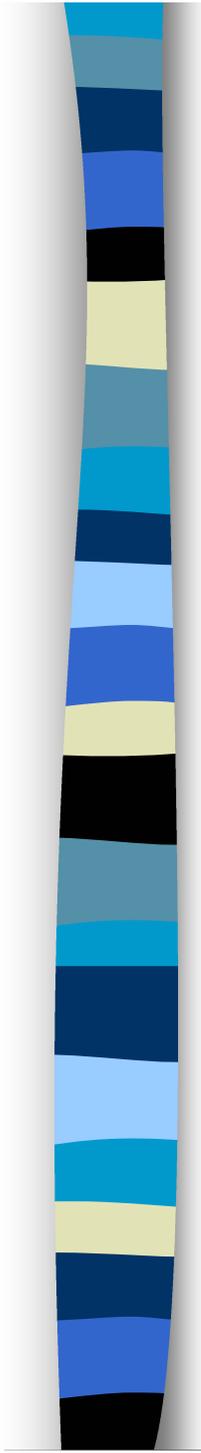
‘H. suspects that J. saw P. teach M. to swim.’

- Theoretically hard to process



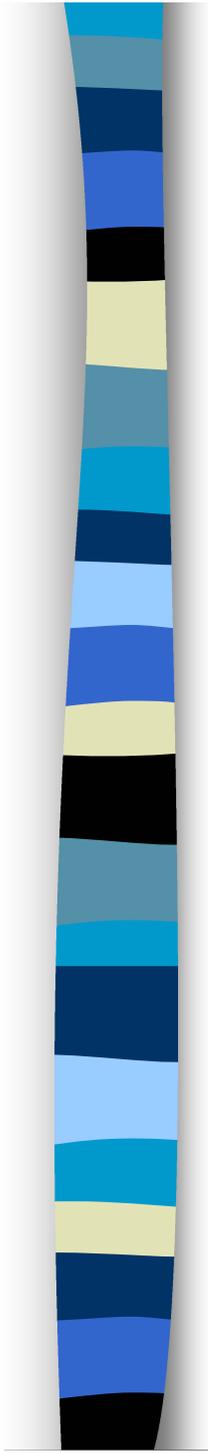
# Unusual Meanings

- ‘Negative items’ occur only with negation
  - English ‘ever’, ‘any’, ‘budge’, ‘give a hoot’
- Dutch has at least 100 of these
  - Groningen research Hoeksema, Zwarts (current rector)



# Double Dutch

- Basic facts
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- Future



# Dutch Borrowings in English

- Shipping and naval

- *boom, bow, buoy, commodore, cruise, dock, freight, keel, keelhaul, pump, skipper, sloop, yacht, smuggle*

- Textiles

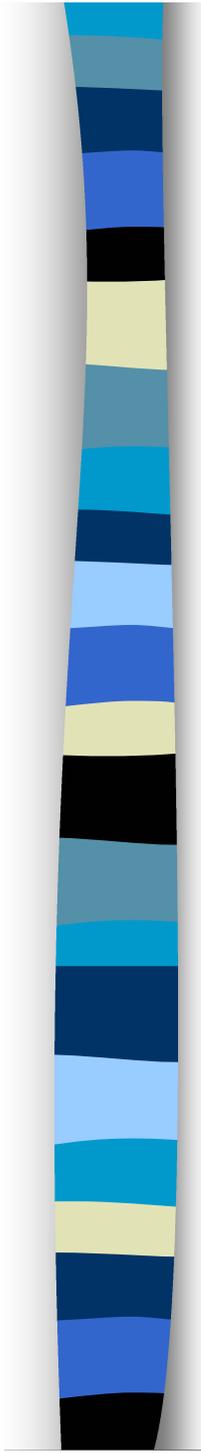
- *bale, duck (cloth), nap, spool, stripe*

- Art

- *easel, etching, landscape, sketch*

- War

- *beleaguer, holster, freebooter, onslaught*



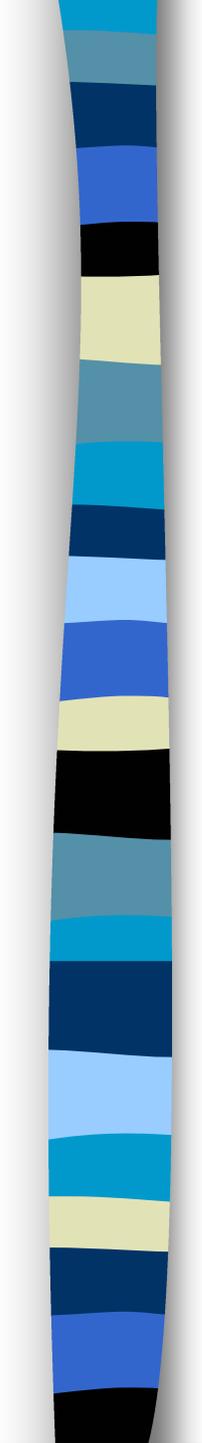
# Dutch Borrowings in English

- Food and Drink

- *booze, brandy, coleslaw, cookie, crullers, waffle*

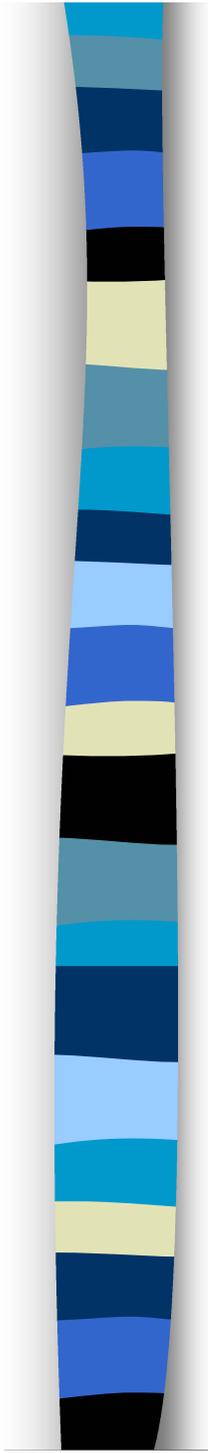
- Other

- *bluff, bully, boss, derrick, dollar, drill, dike, frolic, grime, hunk, kink, runt, scum, slim, snap, spook, stoop*



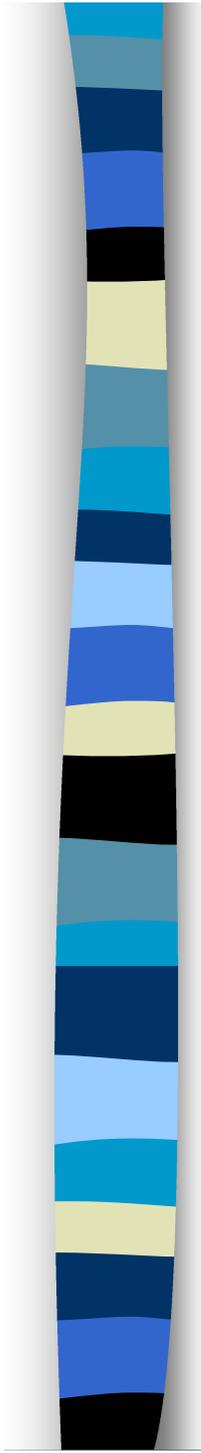
# Dutch Accents in English

- Dutch “English” is excellent—generally
- this [dɪs]/[zɪs], thin [sɪn],
- *Dutch* [dytʃ] (like French *u*, German *ü*)
  - “spelling” mispronunciation
- *Bob* [bɔp], *God* [gɔt], *dog* [dɔk]
- bad/bed [bɛt], language [lɛŋk.fɪtʃ] (Eng. [læŋ.g<sup>w</sup>ɛɪʒ])



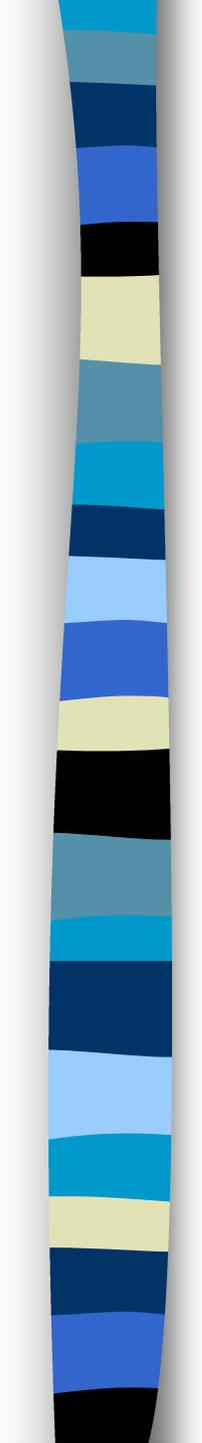
# ‘Dutch’ in English

- ‘double Dutch’ - nonsense
- ‘in Dutch with her’ - in trouble with
- ‘Dutch treat’, ‘go Dutch’ - split costs (no treat)
- ‘dutchman’ - cover-up for construction error
- ‘Dutch courage’ - from alcohol
- ‘Dutch bargain’ - deal made w. alcohol
- ‘Dutch uncle’ - someone with unwanted advice
- ‘Dutch disease’ - politics of consensus (W.Laqueur)
  
- also ‘Dutch oven’, ‘Dutch doors’ -- but mostly negative



# Double Dutch

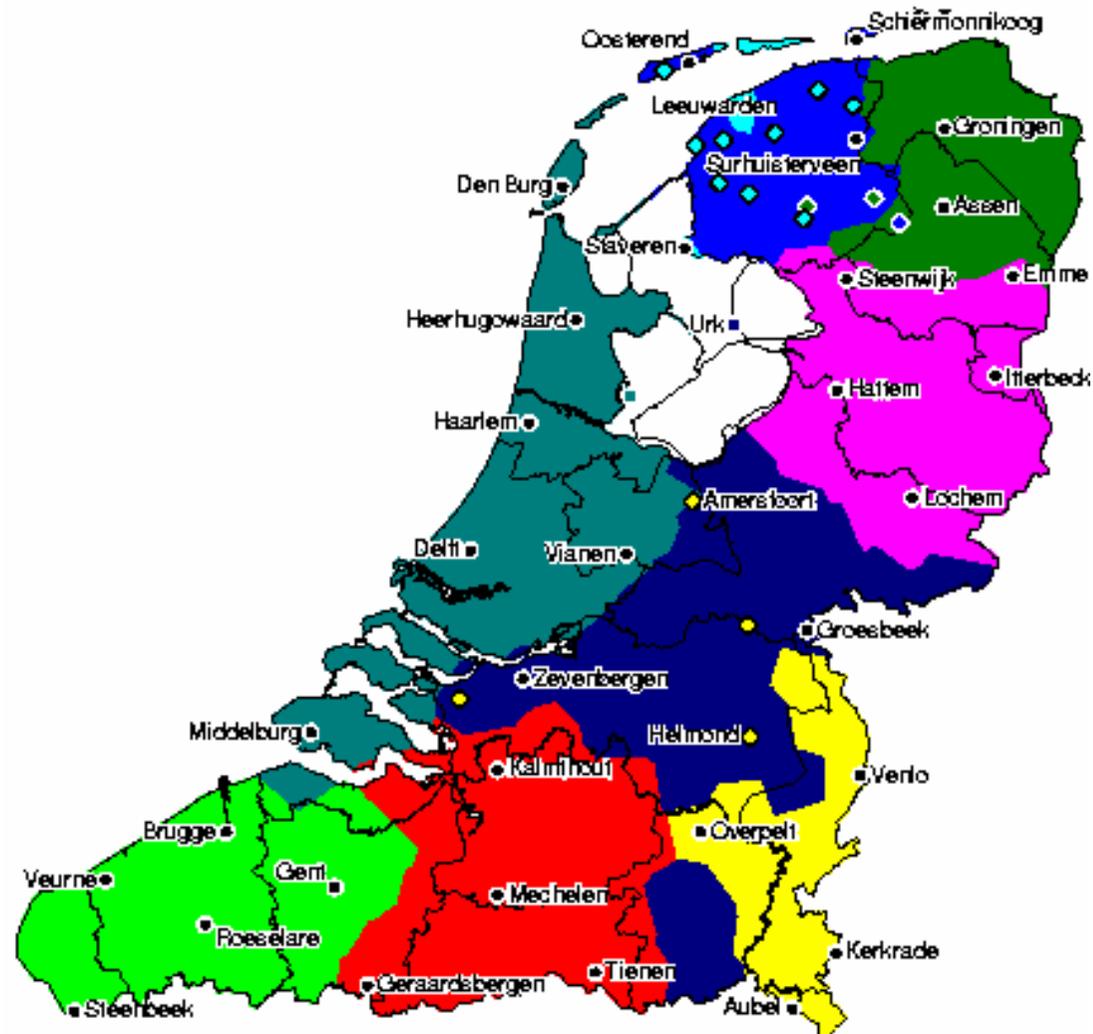
- Basic facts
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# Dutch Dialects

- Experts distinguish 3-5 main areas, approx. 30 areas in total (in only 40K km<sup>2</sup>)
- Frisian recognized as “minority language”
- Lower Saxon, Limburgs recognized as “regional languages”
- Lay interest enormous
  - clubs, songs, web sites, publications

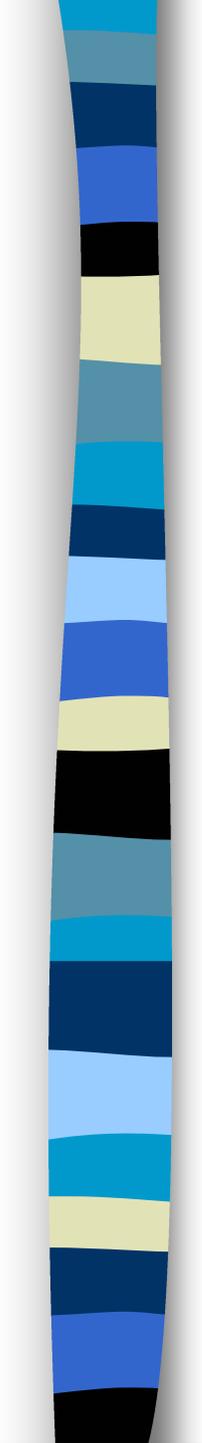
# Dutch Dialect Areas



# How different are dialects from each other?

- Standard Dutch 
- Groningen  
- Zeeland 
- Frisia 
- Flanders  
- Twente  

Ons oude huis is afgebrand  
Our old house [is] burned down



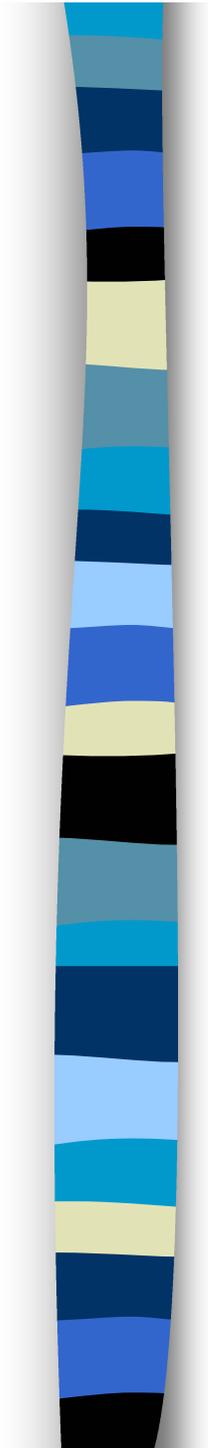
# Dialect Differences

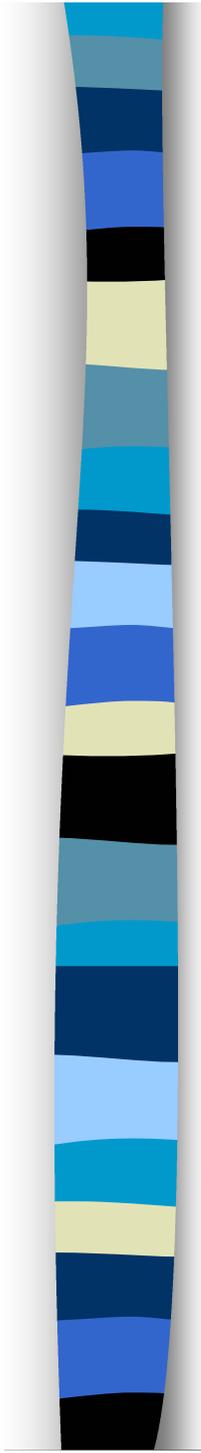
- oude / ouwe / olle
- huis / hus (ü) / hoes
- afgebrand / afbraat / outband / afabraat

# How different are dialects from each other?

- Standard Dutch 
- Groningen  
- Zeeland 
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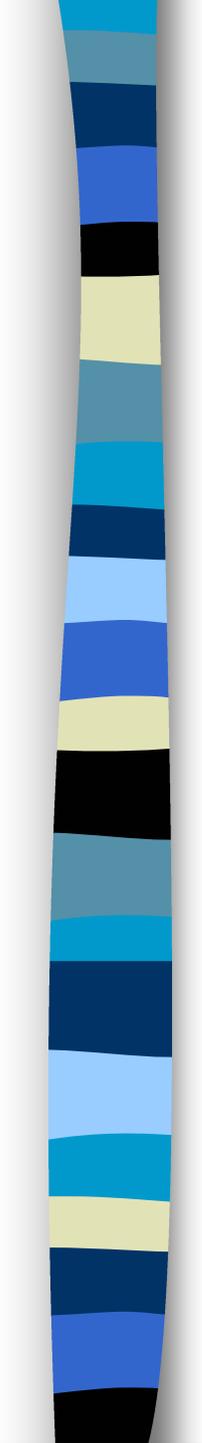
De pastoor heeft goede wijn  
The minister has good wine





# Dialect Differences

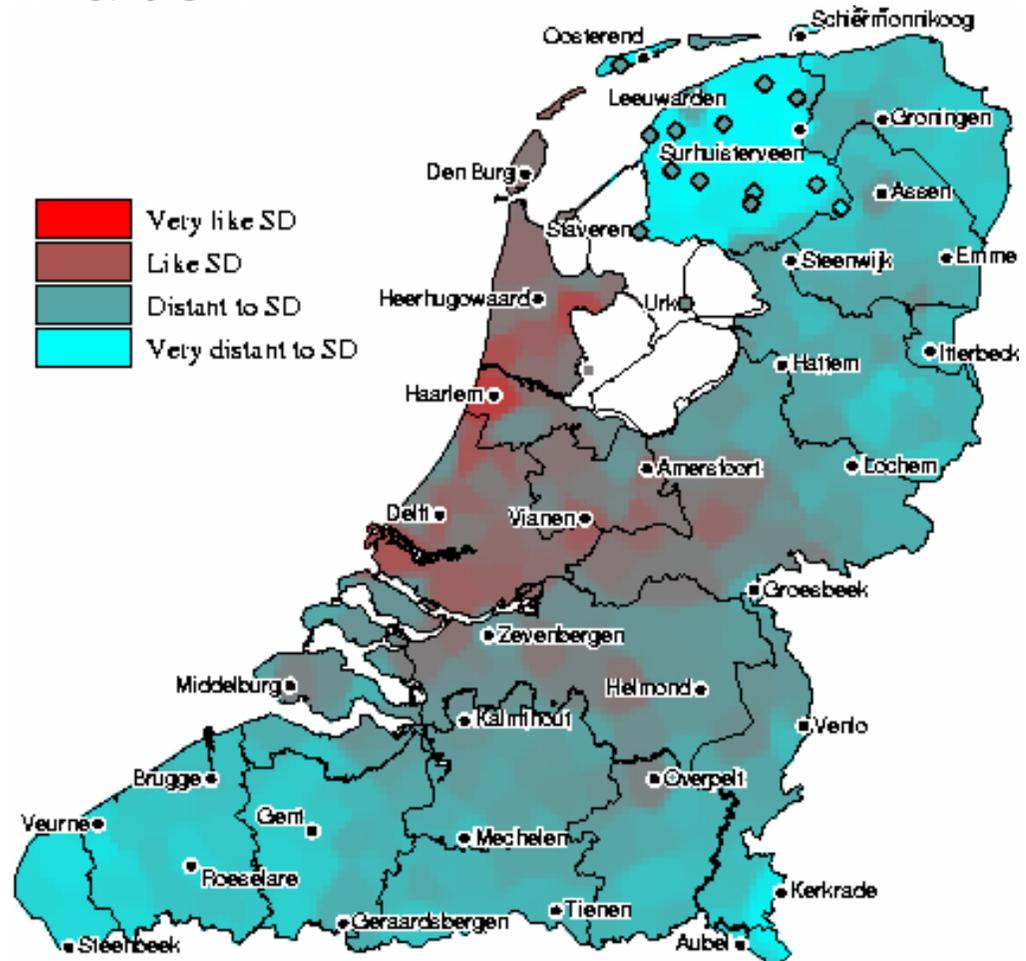
- wijn / win
- xoede / xoeje / xoje / xoeoe / hoede /  
goede / beste
- heeft / het / ai / hat



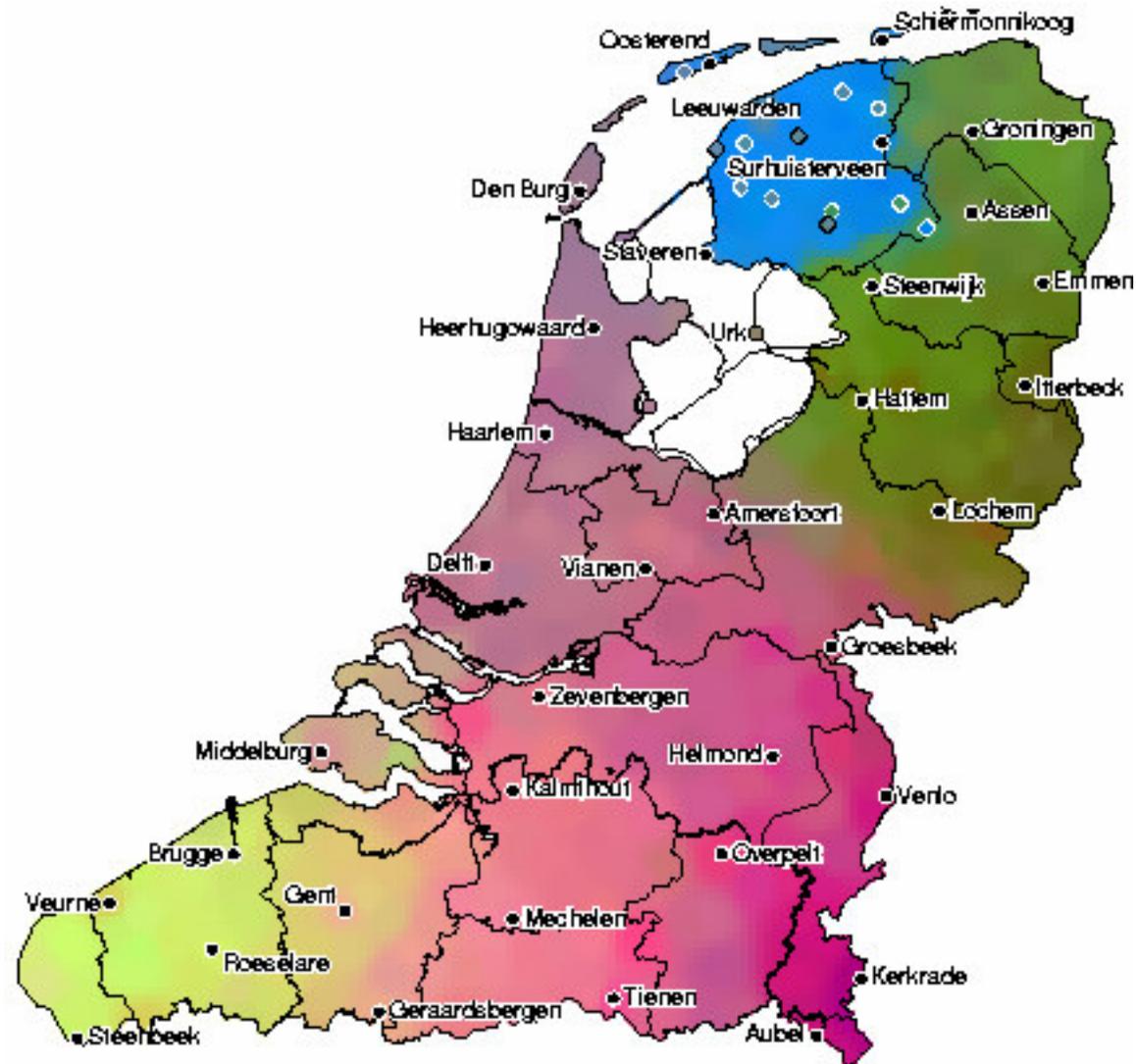
## Other major differences

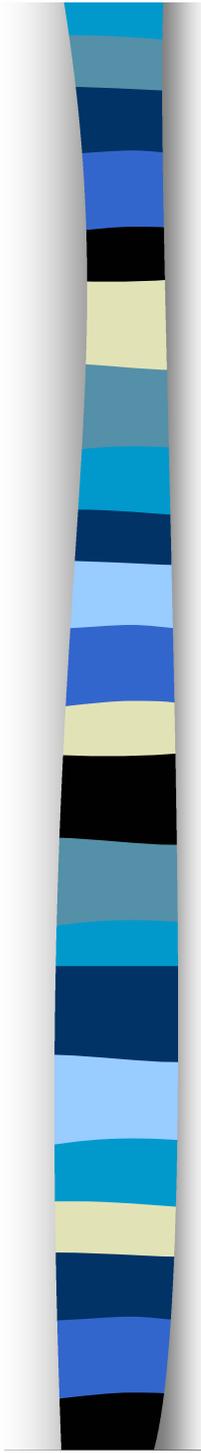
- final n ‘lopen’
  - standard lope, Groningen lop’m
- hard/soft g ‘laag’, ‘Goede’
  - how much “noise” in the g/ch
- aspirated (English-like) vs. unaspirated (French-like) p,t,k
  - p<sup>h</sup>aard, paard

# Dialects vs. Standard Dutch



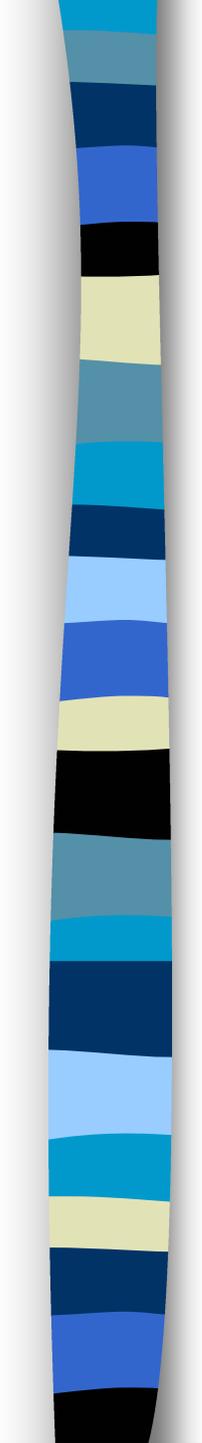
# Dialect Continuum?





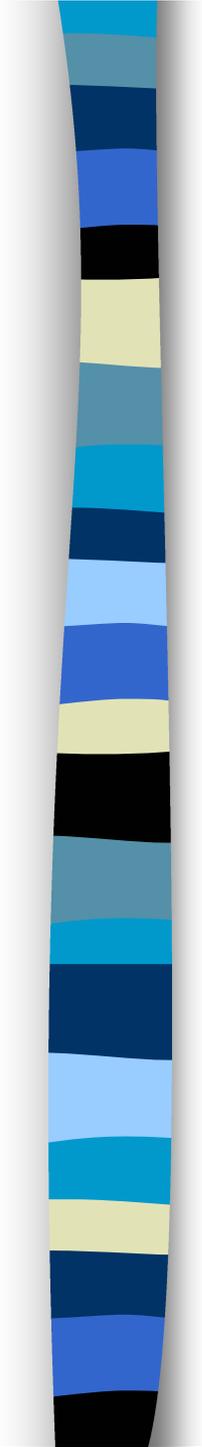
# Double Dutch

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# Color

- Interest in Language
- Coinages with cultural speculation
- Humor
- Obscenity?
- Idioms, Proverbs



# Interest in Language

- *Onze Taal* - private foundation for language issues
- *Taalunie* - government organization for questions of standards, technology
- *Algemeen Woordenboek der Nederlandse Taal* - 45K pages! World's largest Dictionary.
- Six regular language columns in newspapers

**Huib Boogert**

**De Telegraaf**

**Peter Burger**

**Algemeen Dagblad**

**Jan Kuitenbrouwer**

**Volkskrant**

**Liesbeth Koenen**

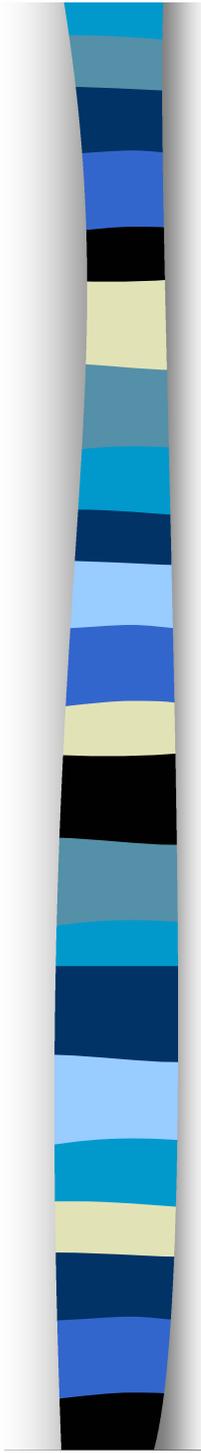
**NRC Handelsblad**

**Wim Daniels**

**Eindhovens Dagblad**

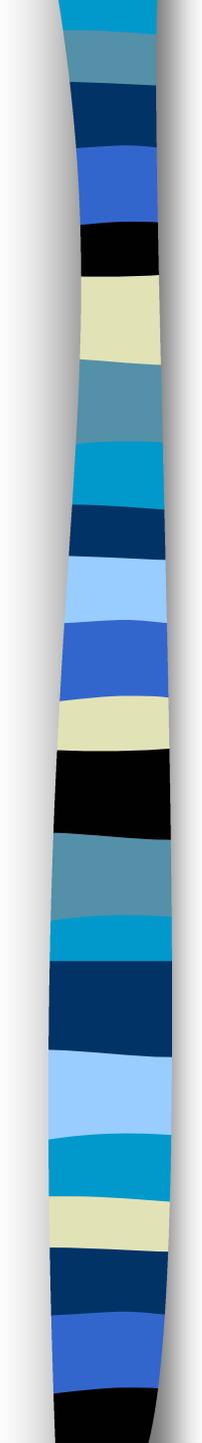
**Ewoud Sanders**

**Nederlands Stadscurant**



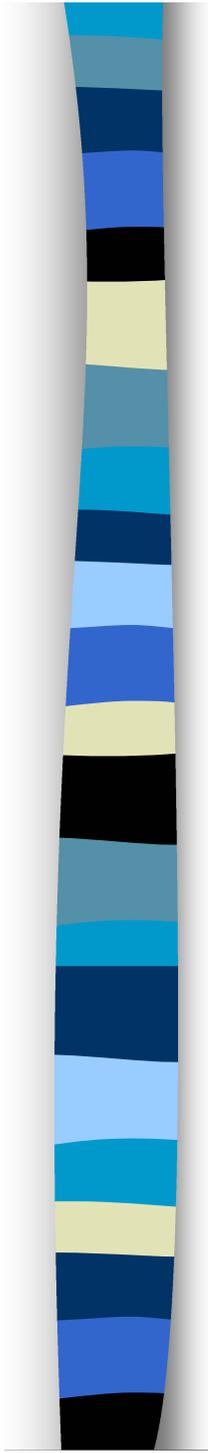
# Interest in Language

- Foreign languages
  - 5 in college-prep. schools (*gymnasia*)
- Excellent facility with English (even TV)
- Foreigners trying to learn Dutch find it difficult to find Dutch who are willing (they all want to practice English)
  - but Dutch are critical of foreign residents “who don’t take the trouble to learn Dutch”



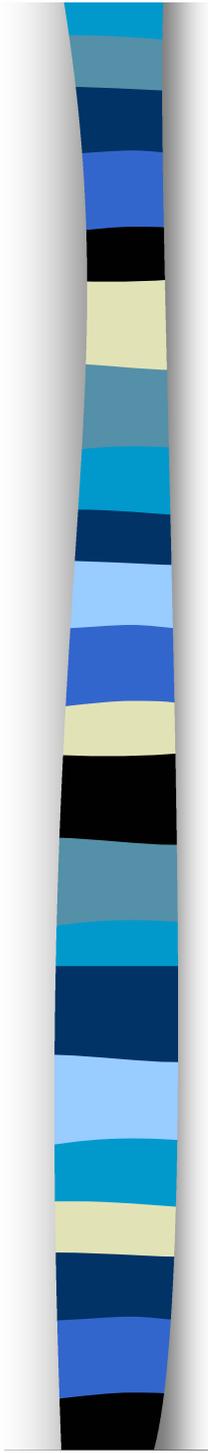
# Culture & Coinage

- *vergadercultuur* - ‘meetings culture’
- *alle neuzen dezelfde kant op* - ‘all noses in the same direction’ -- the goal of decision makers is consensus
- *gedoogbeleid* - ‘policy of tolerance’, esp. w.r.t. soft drugs & sex, sometimes also w.r.t. zoning & safety
- *maaiveld* ‘mowing field’ - whatever pokes out above the rest is cut back
  - derogatory terms for show-offs, braggarts, etc - *kapsones*; *kakkineus*, *elitair of dik doen*; *opscheppen*; *naast je schoenen lopen*; *spatjes hebben*; *jezelf op de borst kloppen*



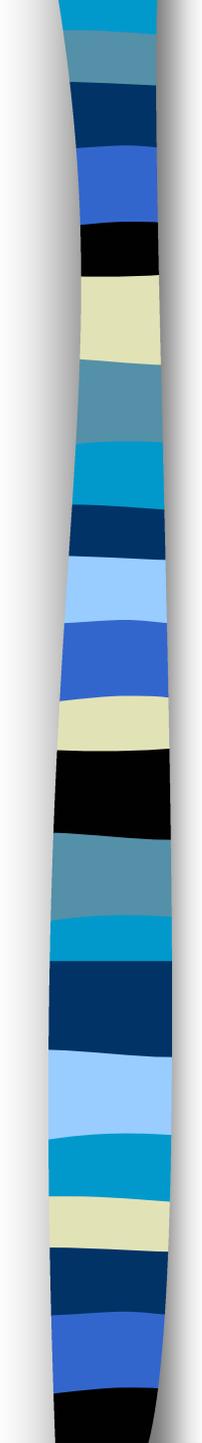
# Culture and Coinage

- *inspanningsverplichting* - ‘responsibility to try’
- *verworven rechten* - ‘acquired rights’
- *planologie* - ‘urban planning’
- *onthutst, verontwaardigd, verbijsterd, ontgoocheld* - lots of words covering indignation
- *wildplassen* ‘urination outside usual facilities’



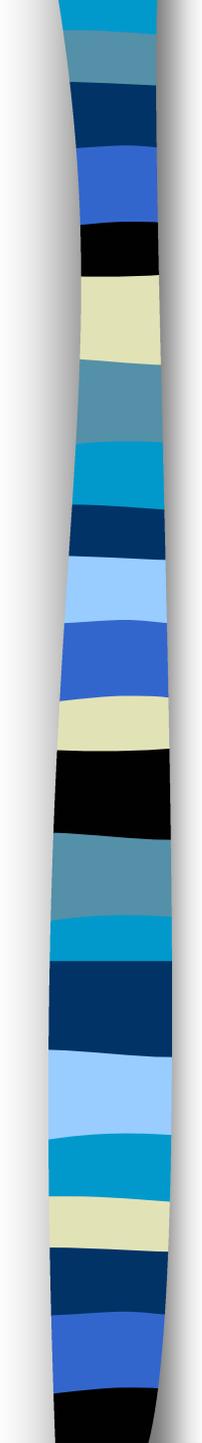
# Humor

- About the Dutch - miserly
  - *How to break up a demonstration? Pass a collection plate.*
  - *Why are Dutch nostrils so big? --The air is free.*
  - *What's a Dutchman do if he wins the lottery? --Recounts the money.*
- In fact the Dutch donate generously



# Dutch Humor

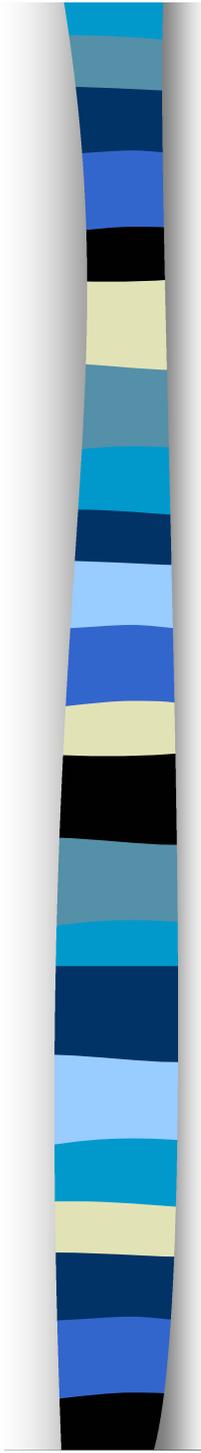
- Strong “*maaiVELd*” streak -- humor that cuts big shots down to size
- “Gonzo” elements, free fantasy
  - Youp van ‘t Hek on Maxima even makes fun of the royal family (uncommon target)



# Everyone loves Cruijff

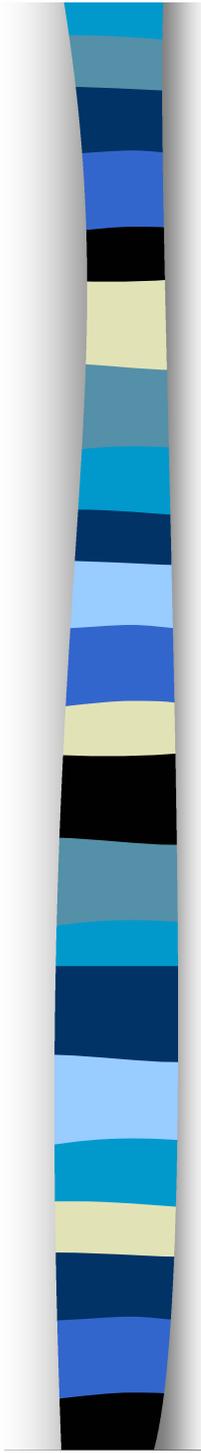
- *"Italianen kennen niet van je winnen, maar je ken wel van ze verliezen."*  
(Italians can't beat you, but you can lose to them.)
- *"Als je wilt scoren, moet je schieten"* (If you want to score, you have to shoot)
- *"Ieder nadeel heeft z'n voordeel"* (Every disadvantage has its advantage)





# Obscenity

- lots of cursing, obscenity
- obscenities focus on genital rather anal area
- less sensitive
  - no “forbidden words” for radio, TV
- cursing - wishing disease
  - *krijg de tering/kanker/tyfus/pokken/stuipen/beroerte!* ‘get TB/cancer/typhoid/smallpox/convulsions/stroke’
  - Van der Waals ‘Dutch Terms of Abuse’ *Maledicta* 13, 2005
    - *Ellending, Pestpokkentypuskankerteringwif!*
- *Bond tegen het Vloeken* ‘Anti-Cursing League’ campaigns in train stations
  - religious focus



# Idioms and Proverbs

- Appreciated in speech and prose
- Idioms often based on water and shipping
- Water

Dat zet geen zoden aan de dijk  
That sets no sod on the dike  
That doesn't help.

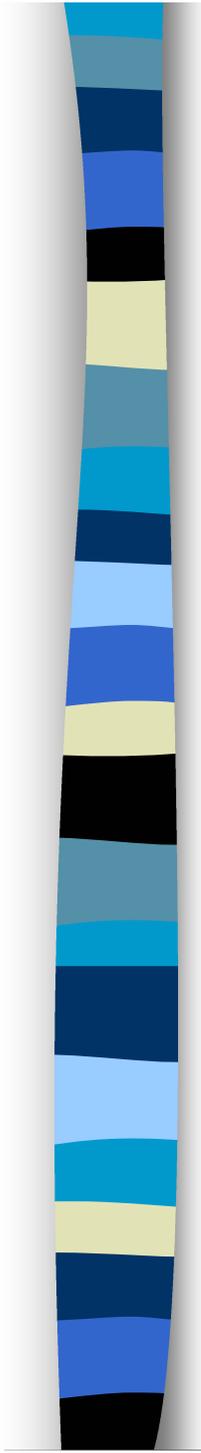
oude koeien uit het sloot halen  
old cows out of the trench haul

Bring up painful memories

van de wal in de sloot

from the bank into the trench

out of the frying pan, into the fire



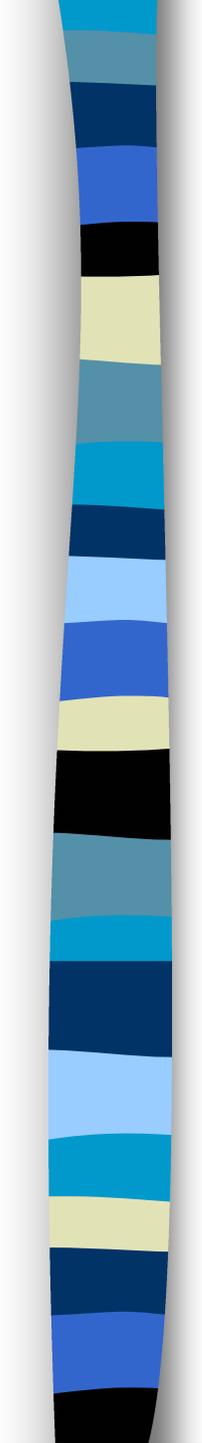
# Idioms and Proverbs

- Idioms based on shipping, fishing

tussen wal en schip vallen  
between shore and ship fall  
fall between the cracks

de beste stuurlieders staan aan de wal  
the best helmsmen stand ashore  
Talk is cheap

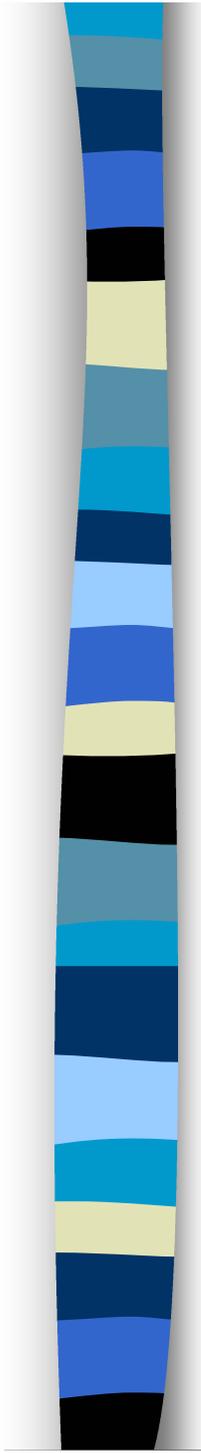
Achter het net vissen  
behind the net fish  
go through the motions with little chance of success



# Proverbs

- Pieter Brueghel the Younger (1564-1638) created a painting dedicated to Proverbs
- Copied his father's work
- Many other versions -- popular topic





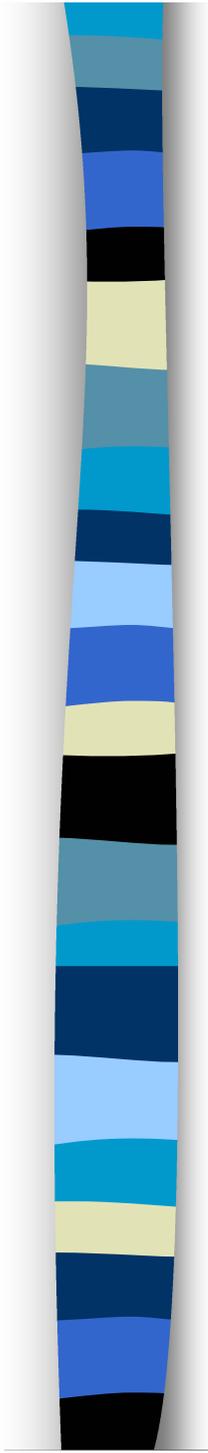
# Dutch -- The Future

## ■ Unrest about influence of English

- Minister of Education Ritzen proposed that universities switch to English (1993)
- Lots of English in everyday Dutch
  - *Ik heb alle hits gedownload van de web*
  - I downloaded all the hits from the web
- English “more attractive” in experiments, but not more reliable, knowledgeable

Giftshop Marianne / Cadeauwinkel Marianne

## ■ Will Dutch survive? --Unquestionably.



# A Bit of Gronings

- Groningers known for laconic understatement
- *Het kon minder* -- high praise  
'It could have been less'
- unlike Eng. 'It could have been worse'
- My wish: when you summarize your stay here, you'll want to say "*Het kon minder*"