

Abstract

This bachelor thesis focuses on *tussentaal*, a language variety of Belgian Dutch that contains elements of both the standard language and of dialects, and examines its portrayal in two genre-different contemporary Flemish television series. The theoretical part of the thesis first outlines the history of the Dutch language in Flanders (the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium), i.e., since the division of the southern and northern parts of the former Low Countries, and then touches on the process of standardisation of Belgian Dutch. After outlining the current language situation in Flanders, the thesis defines *tussentaal* and lists several morphosyntactic, lexical and phonological features of this language variety. Furthermore, it addresses the position of *tussentaal* with an emphasis on its status in contemporary television fiction. Using a corpus compiled by transcribing the first episodes of two contemporary Flemish television series, the analytical part describes and compares the portrayal of *tussentaal* in the teen show *wtFOCK* and the thriller *De twaalf* through a selection of typical *tussentaal* features from the phonological, morphosyntactic and lexical levels.

Keywords

tussentaal, Flemish, Dutch, language variety, sociolinguistics, TV shows