Vowel quantity and the fortis-lenis distinction in North Low Saxon

Prehn, M.

Link to publication

Citation for published version (APA):
Acknowledgements

The initial idea for the project was to develop an analysis of the Central Franconian tone accents. Yet, I found myself much more interested in the Low German overlength phenomena of my Hamburg and Lower Saxony origin. ‘Unfortunately’, the title of the project was chosen rather generally as Tone and Intrasegmental Structure in West-Germanic Dialects, which formally allowed me to divert somewhat from the original plan, and to dive into the (also West-Germanic) matter of Low German dialects - not that my promotor and supervisors would have disapproved of my ambitions. Their support was tremendous, and the result is the present dissertation. Therefore, I would like to thank first and foremost my promotor Paul Boersma, and my supervisors Marc van Oostendorp, Ben Hermans, and Wolfgang Kehrein. So many opinions, so much input, such an incredibly huge amount of support! I’m still wowed – and keep wondering how I actually made my way through all of your suggestions and theories. You made my four PhD years definitely a singularly exciting, memorable, and inspiring time.

Besides my promotor and supervisors, one person I owe very much is my husband Arian. Your understanding and support is what made me take on the ‘Dutch adventure’ in the first place. Thank you for being there and sticking with me!

I am further indebted to quite a number of people who helped me to deliver this thesis (almost) in time for the end of the project. Thanks to the A-team Alies and Ariën for being my roommates and for helping me to improve on my Dutch skills (though the skills are already withering away now). Thanks also to my colleague and paranymp Björn. Working together with you in the project was fun! Thanks to Judith (also my paranymp), Marjel, and Leonie for their support with respect to PhD-worries. Special thanks to Markus for his wonderful Estonian support. Thanks to Alex for daring to read some of my chapters. Many thanks to Astrid Kraehenmann for her valuable comments on the stress chapter. Thanks to Wilbert and Frans for their support on the statistics, and to Frans for also carefully reviewing one of the many versions of the descriptive chapter. Thanks to Jan Pieter, Harm, Kees, and everyone else back at the Meertens Instituut. More thanks to Janina Schuldt and Mrs Schrader at the University of Hamburg for their support in making available so many beautiful old Low German recordings. You are just great, and I am very fortunate to know you! The same goes for Antje and Steffen. Your views on Low German are (obviously) very inspiring to me! Thanks also to Prof. Dr. Schröder for making available to me the 1970s recordings of the Wenker sentences of Altenwerder Low German. Thanks to Prof. Dr. Magnus Pétursson for his enthusiasm and support. Thanks to Prof. Dr. Elmar Ternes.

Many, MANY thanks to my family, that is to my parents, to my sisters, and to my grandmother. Even though not fully understanding what I was doing and why, their support never ceased.

Last but not least I would like to thank all of my Low German informants for participating in my – sometimes maybe a little less interesting – linguistic experiments. Without you, this thesis would have been utterly impossible.

Danke!