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### **Migration and Morphological Change in Early Modern Holland**

The province of Holland is the site of two major developments from the late medieval and early modern periods. Demographically, the province rapidly evolves from a densely populated but essentially agrarian area in the thirteenth century to one of the most urbanized regions in Europe by the end of the sixteenth century (De Vries 1984; Lucassen 2002). During the same period the vernaculars of Holland undergo a rather dramatic restructuring of their morphological systems resulting, we argue, from the influx of allochthonous immigrants to nascent urban centers such as Leiden, Haarlem and Amsterdam and the outcome of centuries of ongoing dialect contact. Crucial to this process is the fate of final schwa and final *-n* in the various donor dialects since they represent two of a very small group of morphological suffixes inherited from earlier stages of the language (i.e., final schwa, *-en*, *-(e)t*, *-(e)s*, *-st*). The ongoing demographic shift of rural population surplus to the burgeoning urban center of Leiden brought speakers of varieties into contact which, to varying degrees, had apocopated final schwa and/or final *-n* with speakers who did not.

Focusing on data from South Holland from 1200-1700 we argue that urban centers such as Leiden were the sites of ongoing koinéization processes (Kerswill & Williams 2000; Kerswill & Trudgill 2004) yielding, among other things, deflexion of the nominal/adjectival systems and a restructuring of the system of verbal inflection (Goossens 1974). As a result, earlier alternations of  $\emptyset \sim -\partial \sim -\partial n$  are replaced by  $\emptyset \sim -\partial$ , with original final *-n* repurposed and marginalized to the status of hiatus filler (e.g., *toen hoorde-n-ik* cf. Van Bree 2004:66). All of these developments are viewed as the consequence of the L1 acquisition process of children confronted with heterogeneous input, which was a result of the steady influx of immigrants to the urban centers of Holland in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries.

### **References**

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