



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Setting the standard: norms and usage in Early and Late Modern Dutch (1550-1850)

Lismont, E.

Citation

Lismont, E. (2025, April 2). *Setting the standard: norms and usage in Early and Late Modern Dutch (1550-1850)*. LOT dissertation series. LOT, Amsterdam. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/4210054>

Version: Publisher's Version

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/4210054>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Setting the Standard
Norms and usage in
Early and Late Modern Dutch (1550-1850)

Eline Lismont

Propositions

1. Prescriptivism was primarily effective in embedding the ideology of a standard language in society, but its discursive influence also instigated changes in language use.
2. The linguistic success of prescriptivism depends not only on the socio-historical context but also on the (socio)linguistic properties of the features being standardised.
3. The fact that prescriptivism primarily influenced ongoing trends in language use supports the idea that standardisation is a phenomenon where top-down forces interact with bottom-up processes of language convergence (cf. Joseph, 1987).
4. Even a small influence of prescriptivism can have strong ripple effects.
5. In addition to traditional prescriptive sources, such as grammars and schoolbooks, we need to consider a wide array of genres to fully understand language standardisation.
6. While a scenario-based approach to prescriptive influence can provide valuable comparative insights into the relationship between codified norms and usage, it is essential to prioritise the specific socio-historical context being studied.
7. In addition to a stratified usage corpus that includes different genres, the regional dimension is equally important for investigating the reach of norm implementation.
8. An annotated and searchable database of historical normative works of Dutch would greatly facilitate the study of language norms and metalinguistic commentary.
9. Language policies and prescriptions that disregard actual usage undermine their own effectiveness.
10. Language policies that promote multilingualism are essential to dismantle prejudice and create a more inclusive society.