

University of Groningen

## Martin & Emma investigate the Dutch dialect landscape

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MARTIN & EMMA



# INVESTIGATE THE DUTCH DIALECT LANDSCAPE



A STORY BY MARTIJN WIELING

em.lit  
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“Martin & Emma investigate the Dutch dialect landscape”

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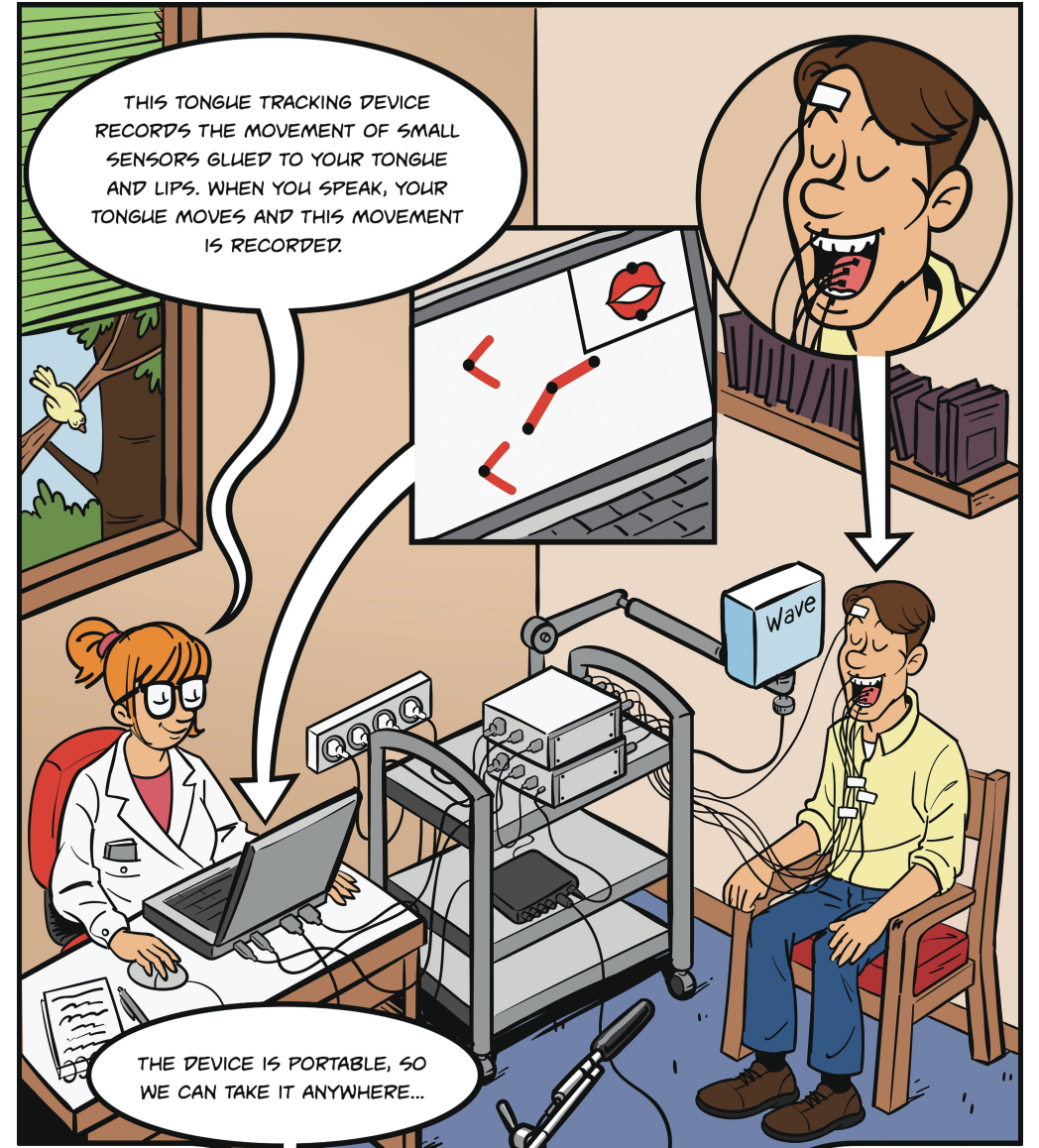
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Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences

IN THE OFFICE OF RESEARCHERS  
MARTIN AND EMMA AT THE UNIVERSITY...

DUTCH DIALECTS SOUND  
VERY DIFFERENT FROM ONE ANOTHER.  
DO YOU THINK THE DIFFERENCES  
ARE VISIBLE IN SPEAKERS' TONGUE  
MOVEMENTS, EMMA?

I DON'T KNOW, MARTIN.  
LET'S FIND OUT WITH  
OUR BRAND-NEW TONGUE  
TRACKING DEVICE!





THIS TONGUE TRACKING DEVICE RECORDS THE MOVEMENT OF SMALL SENSORS GLUED TO YOUR TONGUE AND LIPS. WHEN YOU SPEAK, YOUR TONGUE MOVES AND THIS MOVEMENT IS RECORDED.

THE DEVICE IS PORTABLE, SO WE CAN TAKE IT ANYWHERE...

THEN LET'S TAKE IT TO TWO SCHOOLS TO CHECK FOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE LOCAL DIALECTS!



ON A MONDAY MORNING...

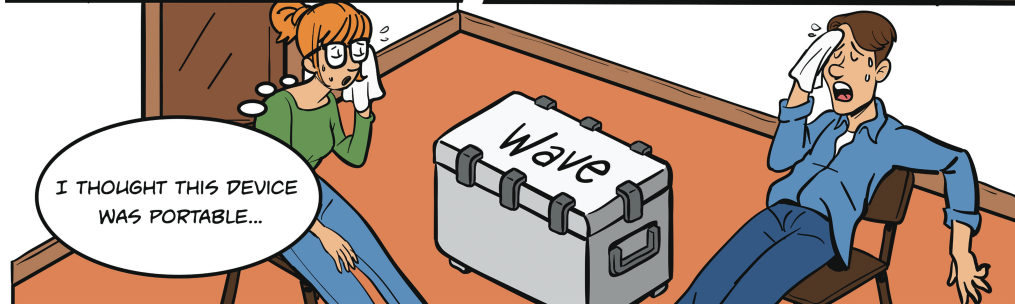
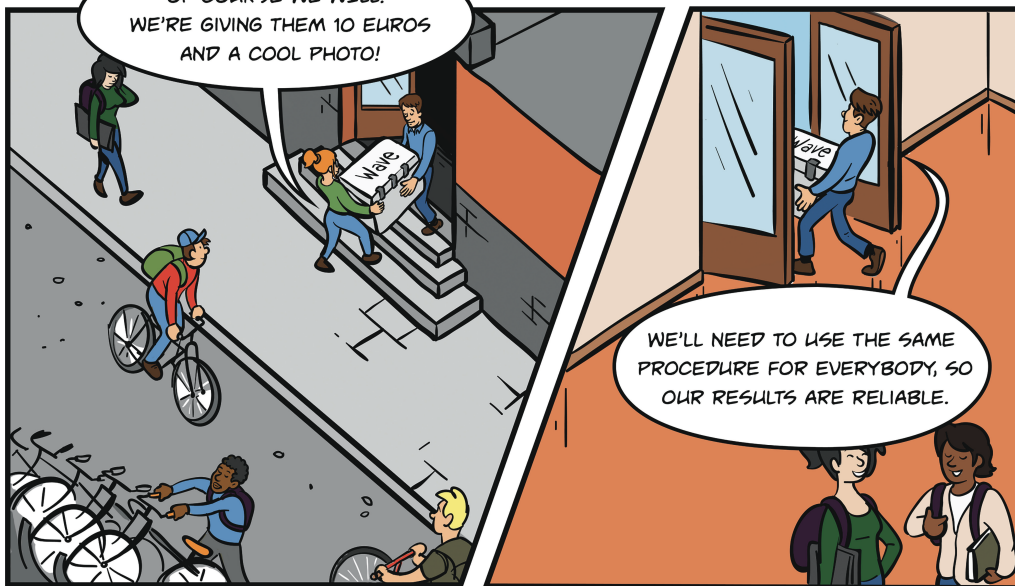
WE'LL BE HERE FOR A WEEK. I HOPE WE GET AT LEAST 15 PARTICIPANTS...

OF COURSE WE WILL! WE'RE GIVING THEM 10 EUROS AND A COOL PHOTO!

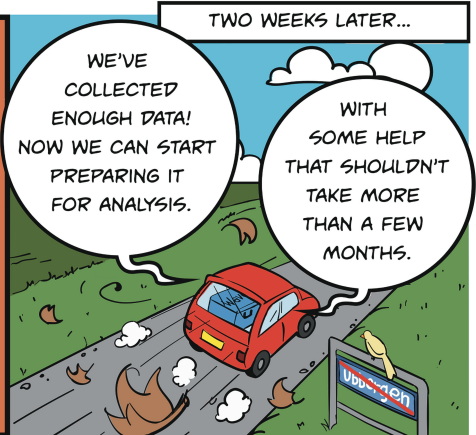
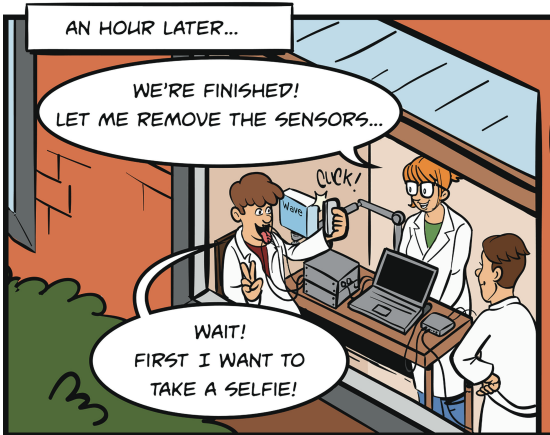
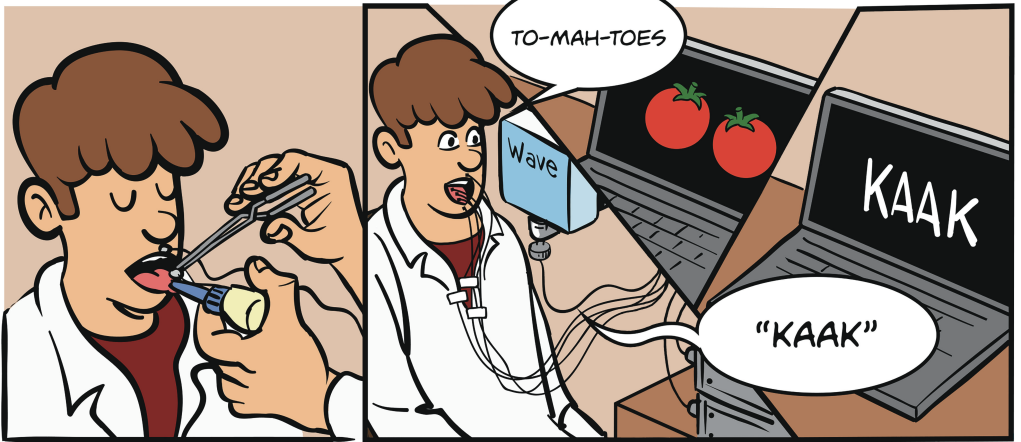
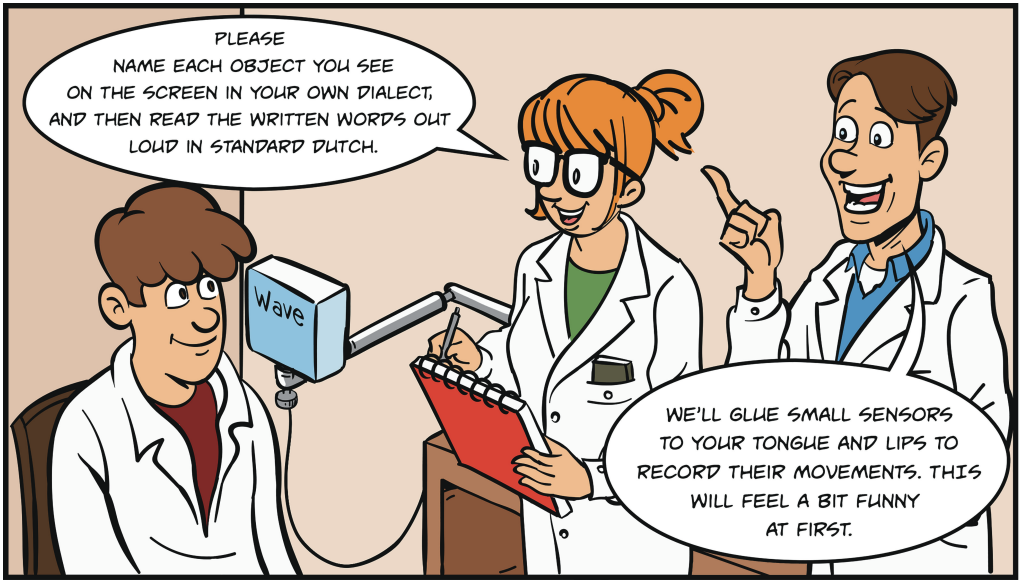
WE'LL NEED TO USE THE SAME PROCEDURE FOR EVERYBODY, SO OUR RESULTS ARE RELIABLE.

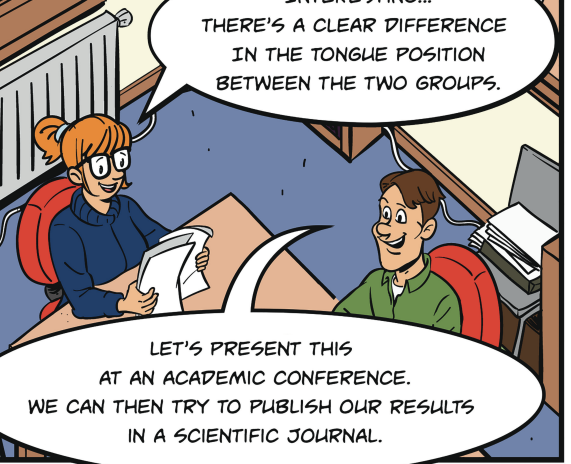
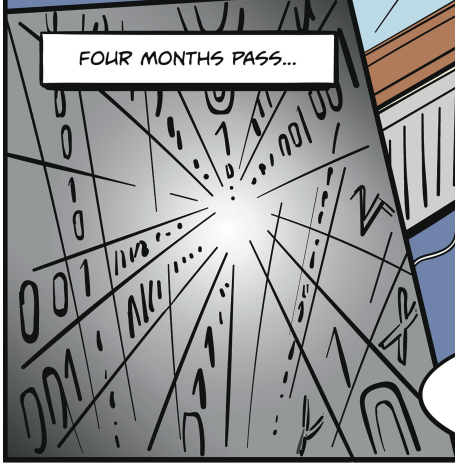
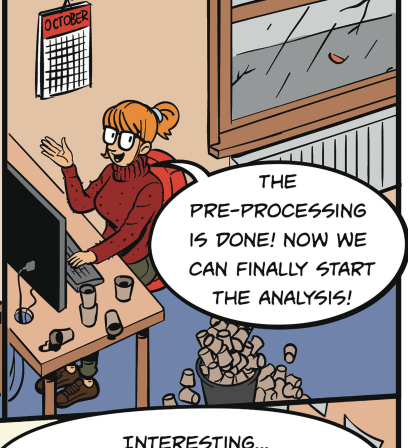
I THOUGHT THIS DEVICE WAS PORTABLE...

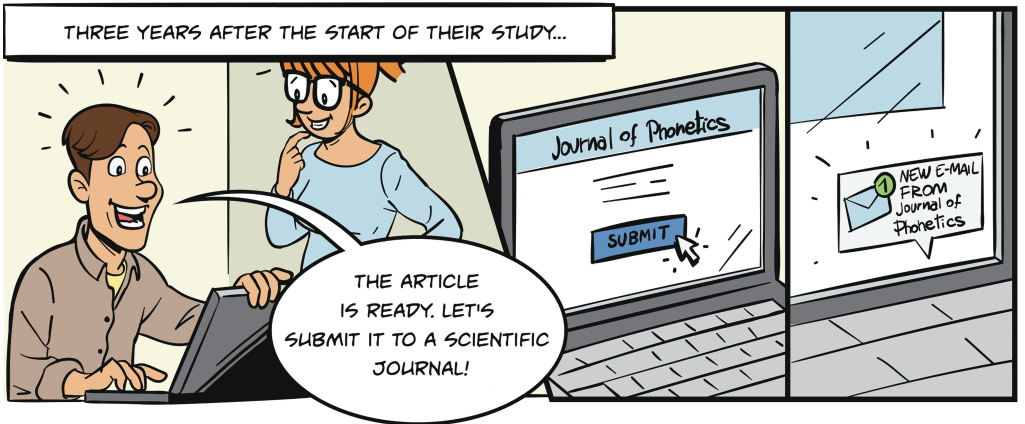
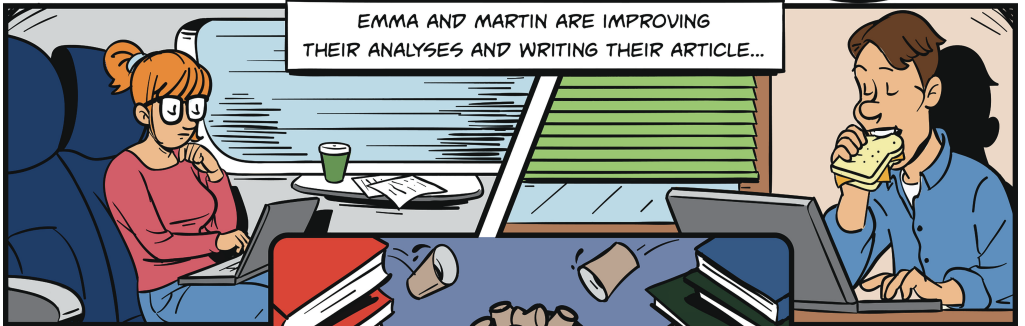
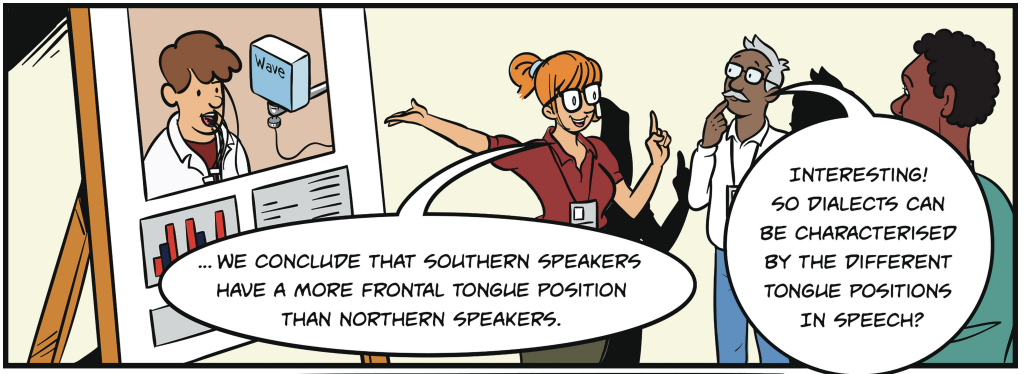
Wave



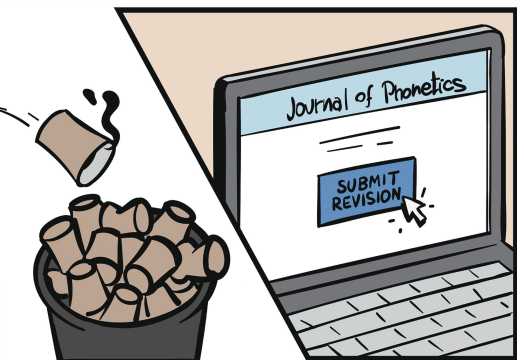
















# SUMMARY OF THE RESEARCH RESULTS



In this study, we recorded tongue movement data of two groups of approximately twenty Dutch high school students. We did this both in Ter Apel (province of Groningen) and Ubbergen (province of Gelderland). The students pronounced words in both their local dialect and in standard Dutch. Our measurements show that the students from Ter Apel position their tongue further back in their mouth than the students from Ubbergen. This difference is visible when the students speak their local dialect and when they speak standard Dutch. Even when the students were silent, in between the pronunciation of two subsequent words, the tongues of the students from Ter Apel were positioned further back. This is a new discovery. While we did know of the existence of differences in the position of the tongue comparing different languages, now we also know that this is possible for different dialects.

What is the use of this finding? The most important outcome of this study is that we have new knowledge about the differences between Dutch dialects. While the results of this study are not directly usable, this new knowledge might be beneficial for learning a new dialect or a foreign language.

For more information you can look at these websites:

<http://www.articulography.com> (movie about the experiment)

<http://goo.gl/B3N7AN> (newspaper article, in Dutch)

<http://www.martijnwieling.nl/publications> (scientific publications)

We thank the directors and the students of the HAVO Notre Dame des Anges in Ubbergen and the RSG Ter Apel for their help!

***Martijn Wieling,***

on behalf of all researchers involved in this study.



In this comic, you'll read how researchers Martin and Emma investigate Dutch dialects. They think the tongues of dialect speakers are very interesting. Do you want to know why? Then start reading quickly!

This comic was made possible by The Young Academy (DJA) of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and is based on the research of Dr Martijn Wieling. Martijn Wieling is lecturer and researcher at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Groningen, and he is a member of The Young Academy. His research on Dutch dialects was financed by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) and was conducted in collaboration with Professor Harald Baayen at the University of Tübingen, Germany.

