

## **Frisian on social media: language usage patterns among Frisian-Dutch bilingual teenagers**

Over the last decade, research has shown that minority languages have conquered a place on the internet (c.f. Cunliffe 2019; Jones & Uribe-Jongbloed 2013). Studies about the online use of Frisian show that despite a linguistically diverse audience and limited writing proficiency, the majority of Frisian speakers use Frisian on social media to some extent (Jongbloed-Faber et al. 2016; 2017; McMonagle et al. 2018).

Late 2019 – early 2020 a new survey was set out among Frisian-Dutch bilingual teenagers about their language use on social media. The study is a replication of the study that was conducted in 2013-2014 (n≈2,000). The 2013-2014 study revealed that on WhatsApp, Frisian is used the most: over half of the L1 teenagers use it often or all the time. Teenagers' peer group, language attitudes, and one's writing proficiency are strong factors that explain the use of Frisian on social media (Jongbloed-Faber et al. 2016).

While WhatsApp has remained popular among teenagers, the shift from Facebook and/or Twitter to Instagram and/or Snapchat may have repercussions on the teenagers' use of their linguistic resources. A first analysis of the 2019-2020 study shows that the use of Frisian on WhatsApp among L1 teenagers has slightly increased. However, Frisian does not play a significant role on Instagram: emojis are even used more. In contrast, the use of Frisian on Snapchat approximates the use on WhatsApp and over half of the L1 teenagers use Frisian often or all the time on this medium. The offline language patterns influence language choice on social media the most, followed by writing skills and language attitudes.

This talk will discuss the full analysis of the latest study: which language usage patterns of the Frisian-Dutch bilingual teenagers can be identified, which factors influence the use of Frisian on the different types of social media, and how has the use of Frisian on social media evolved between 2013 and 2020.

### **References**

- Cunliffe, D. (2019). Minority Languages and Social Media. In: Hogan-Brun, G. & O'Rourke, B. (eds.). *The Palgrave Handbook of Minority Languages and Communities*. Palgrave Macmillan, 451-480.
- Jones, E.H.G. & Uribe-Jongbloed, E. (eds.). (2013). *Social Media and Minority Languages: Convergence and the Creative Industries*. Bristol: Multilingual Matters.
- Jongbloed-Faber, L., Van de Velde, H., Van der Meer, C. & Klinkenberg, E.L. (2016). Language Use of Frisian Bilingual Teenagers on Social Media. *Treballs de Sociolingüística Catalana* 26: 27-54. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2436/20.2504.01.107>
- Jongbloed-Faber, L., van Loo, J., & Cornips, L. (2017). Regional Languages on Twitter: A comparative Study between Frisian and Limburgish. *Dutch Journal of Applied Linguistics* 6(2): 174–196. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1075/dujal.16017.jon>
- McMonagle, S., Cunliffe, D., Jongbloed-Faber, L., & Jarvis, P. (2018). What can Hashtags tell us about Minority Languages on Twitter? A Comparison of #cymraeg, #frysk and #gaelge. *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/01434632.2018.1465429>