

## Language planning and nation building in the Netherlands

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The late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries constitute the seminal period of European nationalism and nation-state building. The linguistic corollary of this was the rise of the so-called standard language ideology, from Finland to Spain, and from Iceland to the Habsburg Empire. Amidst these international events, the case of Dutch in the Netherlands offers a unique example. From the 1750s onwards, the national ideology and the standard language ideology quickly emerged, after which the new discourse of one language–one nation was swiftly transformed into concrete top-down policies aimed at the dissemination of the newly devised standard language across the entire population of the Dutch nation-state. The Netherlands thus constitute an interesting example of the concomitant rise of cultural nationalism, national language planning and standard language ideology.

In my talk, I will argue that ‘standardization from above’ is essentially an eighteenth-century phenomenon closely tied to the rise of nationalism. I will also argue that the Dutch case around 1800 offers a distinctive chance to investigate two of the four crucial concepts in Einar Haugen’s classic theory of standardization that have been relatively underresearched, viz. implementation and acceptance.

### References

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