

Adverbial(ly) enough

Ton van der Wouden, Meertens Instituut

Barbiers (2001) observes that in Dutch, combinations of adjectives and *genoeg* ‘enough’ can function as adverbial phrases (cf. Broekhuis & Corver 2019):

- (1) Vreemd genoeg deed hij niet aan krachtsport (CGN)
Strange enough did he not on power-sport
‘Surprisingly, he didn’t practice strength sports’
- (2) Als je maar hard genoeg praat (CGN)
If you but loud enough talk
‘If only you speak loud enough

In his original proposal he analyses *genoeg* in cases such as (1) as an affix, but in his (2016) he suggests an analysis in syntactic terms instead. Such a structural analysis does not, however, account for facts like the following:

- (3) The ‘enough’ semantics is completely invisible in (1), but not in (2)
- (4) The construction is restricted to a small number of adjectives

My paper will be devoted to arguing that Barbiers’s new analysis may be correct for cases such as (2), as well as for (some part of) the history of (1), but that for a contemporary description of cases such as (1) it is better to go back to his original proposal in assuming that Dutch has a (relatively new) suffix *-genoeg* that can be combined with certain adjectives to build adverbs. Under such an assumption, the facts listed in (3) and (4) are far less surprising. Time permitting, I will compare this new *-genoeg* with other Dutch adverbialising suffixes such as *-gewijs* (*paarsgewijs* ‘pairwise’), *-halve* (*beroepshalve* ‘professionally’), *-weg* (*gaandeweg* ‘along the way’) and *-erwijs* (*merkwaardigerwijs* ‘surprisingly’) (De Haas en Trommelen 1993: 352-356, Booij 2019).

Selected references

- Sjef Barbiers (2001). Is vreemd genoeg genoeg? B. Dongelmans, J. Lalleman, & O. Praamstra (red.): *Kerven in een rots. Opstellen over Nederlandse taalkunde, letterkunde en cultuur, aangeboden aan Jan W. de Vries bij zijn afscheid als hoogleraar Dutch Studies aan de Universiteit Leiden*. Leiden, Stichting Neerlandistiek Leiden, 15-28.
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