

## **Automatic recognition of Frisian speakers: using computers to discriminate the Frisian accent and voice**

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Accents have been the focus of scientific interest for the insight they provide into second language learning and language contact, but have also been extensively studied from a sociolinguistic perspective to understand the performative powers of language. Questions that remain largely unsolved are what properties determine an accent exactly, how an accent is related to speakers' language proficiency, and to which extent accentual properties are identifiable by humans on the one hand, and computers on the other. In this project we will manually annotate different accents for different words in the Frisian language. Subsequently, we will use machine learning techniques like support vector machines to cluster the different Frisian pronunciations of these words. The end result will be a map with the different accents of Frysian in Friesland. This will improve our knowledge about the different accents in the Frisian language.