

Introduction to Dutch

WILLIAM Z. SHETTER

Introduction
to Dutch

A Practical Grammar

Third Edition
Third Impression

Springer-Science+Business Media, B.V. 1969

Third Edition
Third impression 1969

ISBN 978-94-017-5762-1 ISBN 978-94-017-6149-9 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-94-017-6149-9

© 1969 by Springer Science+Business Media Dordrecht
Originally published by Martinus Nijhoff, The Hague, Netherlands in 1969.
Softcover reprint of the hardcover 3th edition 1969

All rights reserved, including the right to translate or to
reproduce this book or parts thereof in any form

Preface

This grammar arose from the need for a concise presentation of the essentials of the Dutch language which could be used both for independent home study and in groups or classes under formal instruction. With the former aim in mind, the explanations have been made as self-explanatory as possible, and a complete key to the exercises has been provided in an appendix. In the interest of simplicity and ease of reference and review, each grammatical topic is discussed as fully as practicable in one place, and an effort has been made to include only one major grammatical feature in any one chapter. But since a solid foundation can more effectively be achieved through study under trained supervision or with a native speaker of the language, the presentation has also been made adaptable to this type of study. The brief fill-in exercises in each lesson provide a model for any amount of drill, and the dialogues and readings included at irregular intervals as well as the review selections placed after every few chapters can provide the necessary added practice in supervised instruction. Help should in any case be sought with the pronunciation, the principal stumbling-block in the way of either independent or supervised study.

Although the present grammar was originally planned and written for the use of Americans residing in the Netherlands as holders of grants – it was written on a grant in the Netherlands in 1955–56 – it is hoped that it will prove useful to a wider circle of English-speaking persons who wish to insure themselves the greatest possible profit from a stay in the Netherlands through a study of colloquial spoken and written Dutch.

It is a pleasure to express here my indebtedness to friends and colleagues who have made innumerable suggestions and corrections during the preparation of both the first mimeographed version and of the present grammar. My thanks go especially to Dr. J. J. van Dullemen of the U.S. Educational Foundation, who first suggested the work and who has been responsible for seeing it through to its present form, and to Miss A. Huijsinga, Litt. dra., Lecturer in Dutch, University of London, whose critical eye and years of experience in teaching the language have been invaluable

in enhancing clarity of presentation and insuring idiomatic Dutch.
Madison, Wisconsin
September, 1957

Preface to the Second Edition

It is an interesting coincidence that now for the second time a stay in the Netherlands is unexpectedly interrupted for grammar work, this time to prepare a second printing which became necessary much sooner than anyone had anticipated.

I find it impossible to disagree with most of the reviewers that this little book leaves a great deal unsaid about Dutch. Indeed, at this point the temptation is almost irresistible to completely recast large parts of it, both to liven up a few places I now feel to be dull and to take account of this matter and that which we all know to be indispensable for a really good command of the language. However, it not only seems to be the fate of grammar writers to sound contrived and pedantic here and there, but a thoroughgoing expansion would endanger the grammar's avowed aim of providing a simple sketch for the innocent but independent beginner, an aim which it so far appears to have fulfilled with reasonable success. Then too, I might force the publisher to call a halt to too liberal an interpretation of 'tweede druk'; he has already displayed considerable liberality in approving corrections and insertions on nearly every page, plus the addition of an entire new reading selection and an index.

The shortage of adequate reading material has been felt by most of us to be the grammar's most vulnerable point, and here I have what I hope will prove to be a satisfactory answer. Nijhoff's is about to publish *Een goed begin . . .*, a beginning reader done in collaboration with R. B. Bird of the University of Wisconsin which contains graded and exhaustively annotated literary selections plus a complete vocabulary. Although this is a separate enterprise not coordinated with this grammar in any way, it can be used profitably at any time after about the first half or so.

I hope the many persons who in letters, in conversations and in print have discussed and constructively criticized the grammar will accept a blanket statement of my thanks and indebtedness.

Groningen
October 1961

Preface to the Third Edition

The grammar's tenth birthday is the occasion for a new edition incorporating numerous small improvements, most of them reflecting a continuing concern for capturing the colloquial idiom but none of them affecting the basic organization.

The reader *Een goed begin...*, mentioned above, has by now proved itself a useful counterpart to the grammar. The initial selections, which combine simplicity with freshness of style, can be read with no difficulty by the time Chapter 16 has been completed.

Recognition is due, as always, both to the select company of those who offer lists of concrete suggestions – the sharpest-eyed of whom have been students – and to the somewhat larger numbers who, by exhausting the publisher's stock now and then, keep the grammar growing healthily and make possible the pleasant pastime of writing prefaces.

Indiana University, Bloomington

January 1967

Table of contents

CHAPTER	PAGE
Introduction: The Dutch language	1
1. Pronunciation	5
2. Spelling	15
3. The plural	19
4. The articles and demonstratives	23
5. Personal pronouns. The verb	27
6. The verb (continued). <i>Hebben</i> and <i>zijn</i> . The imperative	32
7. Reading selections. The place of the verb	36
8. The adjective. Comparison	39
9. The object pronouns. Reflexives	44
10. Possessive and interrogative pronouns	49
11. Review of the pronouns. Reading selection	53
12. Numbers and dates. Currency and units of measurement	56
13. The verb, past and present perfect tenses (weak)	62
14. The verb, past and present perfect tenses (strong)	67
15. Some irregular verbs. The past perfect tense. Use of the tenses	72
16. The modal auxiliaries. Verb plus infinitive	77
17. The future tense. The present participle and infinitive	82
18. Review of verb forms. Reading selection	87
19. Separable prefixes	91
20. Conjunctions. Relative pronouns	96
21. Word order: The place of the verb	102
22. The word <i>ER</i> . Prepositional compounds	108
23. Diminutives	113
24. The passive voice	117
25. Reading: <i>Prinsjesdag</i>	122

26. Telling time	125
27. Idiomatic usages of some common verbs	130
28. Word formation and derivation	136
29. Reading	141
Appendix A: A list of the most useful strong and irregular verbs	144
Appendix B: Key to the exercises	147
Dutch-English vocabulary	170
English-Dutch vocabulary	187
Index	195