Talking in and out of place

Citation for published version (APA):

Document status and date:
Published: 01/01/2018

DOI:
10.26481/dis.20180111lt

Document Version:
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Please check the document version of this publication:

• A submitted manuscript is the version of the article upon submission and before peer-review. There can be important differences between the submitted version and the official published version of record. People interested in the research are advised to contact the author for the final version of the publication, or visit the DOI to the publisher's website.
• The final author version and the galley proof are versions of the publication after peer review.
• The final published version features the final layout of the paper including the volume, issue and page numbers.

General rights
Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

• Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
• You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
• You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal.

If the publication is distributed under the terms of Article 25fa of the Dutch Copyright Act, indicated by the “Taverne” license above, please follow below link for the End User Agreement:
www.umlib.nl/taverne-license

Take down policy
If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us at: repository@maastrichtuniversity.nl
providing details and we will investigate your claim.

Download date: 12 Dec. 2019
Talking In and Out of Place: Ethnographic reflections on language, place, and (un)belonging in Limburg, the Netherlands.

Lotte Thissen

1. Inhabitants in Limburg who are considered to be ‘outsiders’ due to their looks and/or descendance can often speak and understand dialects very well, which makes denying, questioning or ignoring their language practices a painful experience. People should therefore stop asking questions such as ‘where are you from?’

2. Anyone can feel in or out of place depending on the context; even so-called Dutch autochtonen (natives) can feel out of place in Limburg.

3. The concept of foreignness captures the need people have to establish shared feelings of otherness, especially in this globalizing world where national identities are formulated in stringent terms of ‘us’ and ‘them.’

4. Limburg, despite its peripherality, can be regarded as a linguistically diverse area. Speakers in Limburg use linguistic forms associated with local, regional, national, and global levels.

5. The province of Limburg is not unique: the dynamics discussed in this study may be found anywhere, as people all over the world are constantly engaging in linguistic and cultural place-making practices that put forward ideas about who is in and out of place.

6. Self-reflexivity is an opportunity rather than a hindrance to sound research for both anthropological as well as sociolinguistic studies, since the researcher’s Self is an important embodied tool in learning about how others perceive and approach us.

7. A marriage between cultural anthropology and sociolinguistics comes with great benefits: for example, ethnographically studying the ways that people make places meaningful through language and cultural practices as well as emphasizing the value of sociolinguistic analysis in understanding how people align with and distance themselves from one another.

8. Ethnographic insights into society serve as a thermometer for social cohesion and health and should therefore be taken into account by policymakers and politicians.

9. Societal campaigns should explain that language practices and terms, such as ‘the Limburger’ and ‘the Dutch(wo)man,’ are more inclusive and plural than they are currently perceived. Only then will it be possible to bridge gaps and decrease societal segregation.

10. Ph.D. candidates should go for a research stay abroad at another university or institute, since this offers precious writing time in a new environment and opportunities to benefit from the expertise of talented scholars.

11. Toilets are tiny safe havens for ethnographers to jot down observations and conversations in tranquility – even when this means that research participants may suspect serious intestinal problems.

Maastricht, January 2018