

## Scrambling in spoken Dutch

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(Abstract)

In this talk I will present the results of a corpus study of scrambling in spoken Dutch. Scrambling is a type of word order variation in Dutch that involves the placement of a direct object relative to an adverb, exemplified in (1)-(2):

- (1) Unscrambled (adverb > object)
- |              |              |                        |                       |                   |
|--------------|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Sonja</i> | <i>heeft</i> | <i><b>gisteren</b></i> | <i><b>de kaas</b></i> | <i>opgegeten.</i> |
| Sonja        | has          | yesterday              | the cheese            | eaten             |
- ‘Sonja ate the cheese yesterday.’
- (2) Scrambled (object > adverb)
- |              |              |                       |                        |                   |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Sonja</i> | <i>heeft</i> | <i><b>de kaas</b></i> | <i><b>gisteren</b></i> | <i>opgegeten.</i> |
| Sonja        | has          | the cheese            | yesterday              | eaten             |
- ‘Sonja ate the cheese yesterday.’

We investigated the scrambling behaviour of direct objects in over 8500 sentences that were extracted from the Spoken Dutch Corpus. We found that scrambling strongly depends on the definiteness properties of the direct object, and that the effect of definiteness is different from what is generally assumed in the literature. The definiteness effect on object scrambling will be explained in terms of accessibility.