

**AD BACKUS (TILBURG UNIVERSITY, NETHERLANDS)
„INTENSE TURKISH-DUTCH BILINGUALISM LEADS TO
INTENSE TURKISH-DUTCH MIXING. A USAGE-BASED
ACCOUNT OF INCREASING INTEGRATION OF TWO
TYPOLOGICALLY DIFFERENT LANGUAGES”**

Abstract:

This talk will be a bit experimental in the sense that it will reflect an interpretation in progress. The basis will be twofold: first, a comparison between various stages of Turkish-Dutch codeswitching as they appear from the various studies that have been done in the past three decades. Second, the talk will also reflect my ongoing efforts to apply usage-based theory to contact data, in the interest of contributing both to the theoretical basis of contact linguistics and to the empirical reach of usage-based linguistics.

Empirically, Turkish-Dutch codeswitching has increasingly featured types of mixing that seem to reflect increasing integration of the two languages. While earlier data collections mostly showed a clear separation of the languages, with codeswitching mostly taking the form of either regular alternation between Turkish and Dutch, or the insertion of Dutch content words into a Turkish grammatical matrix. From early on, however, there were signs of further complexity. Insertions also appeared into Dutch utterances, but not exactly as the mirror image of the familiar insertion into Turkish. Often, the switch would trigger a longer stretch of Turkish, effectively combining two lexical-grammatical systems into one utterance. More recent data confirmed this development, yielding a constant back-and-forth switching between the languages as the dominant form of bilingual language use. In many cases, it is not all that easy to ascertain what the matrix language is in such cases.

In my talk, I will present a number of these cases and suggest various structural explanations for them, often concluding that it is not possible to decide on the correct structural analysis. In order to account for this, I will rely on a usage-based account of utterance planning and production. I will sketch the general characteristics of this account, discuss the methodological problems involved in providing evidence for it, and explore the wider implications of the account for how we see the seeming naturalness of keeping one's languages separate.

Time: Monday, 29th November 2021 (5 p.m.)

For those of you who want to participate online or would like to attend in presence, please write a message to Christoph Schroeder (schroedc@uni-potsdam.de) before Thursday, Nov. 25.