

Cité Duits - a polyethnic miners' variety

In the late 1930s and 1940s, locally born children of immigrant coal miners in Tuinwijk, a neighbourhood in the village Eisden in the Belgian Limburg, developed a way of speaking among themselves which they later labelled *Cité Duits*. Having become coal miners themselves, they continued to use *Cité Duits* as an in-group language throughout their lives when working underground as well as in their private lives. We will show that *Cité Duits* is a hybrid variety resulting from combining elements of German, Belgian Dutch and the Maasland dialect spoken in Belgian Limburg through focusing and sedimentation. We argue that *Cité Duits* developed and continues to be employed as a symbolic language for expressing group identity.