

Exercise: Wangerooge Frisian definite articles

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- (1) daa quaa djuu faun jeen hirii, wut dait wiin feilt?
then say.3SG DEF girl against her what DEF wine be_wrong.3SG
'Then the girl asks her what is wrong with the wine?' (from a fairy tale)
- (2) nu kumt yu in dan pizel up dait bääd to slaipen
now come.3SG she into DEF living_room on DEF bed to sleep.INF2
'Now she comes into the living room to sleep on the bed.' (from a fairy tale)
- (3) nuu hää dan buur dan fent eelendiig slain mit de swüüpuu
now have.3SG DEF farmer DEF boy horribly beaten with DEF whip
'Now the farmer has beaten the boy horribly with the whip' (from a fairy tale)
- (4) nuu sittert daa twoo beener an de wainwii un huullt bitter
now sit.PL DEF two child.PL by DEF road and cry.PL bitterly
'Now the two children are sitting by the road and crying bitterly' (from a fairy tale)
- (5) de ganse wárelt licht in 't bääd un slept
DEF whole world lie.3SG in DEF bed and sleep.3SG
'The whole world is lying in bed sleeping' (from a literary translation)
- (6) den naum dan breidgumel siin breid bii de haun un den de naahst frün. den giingen yaa naa
then took.3SG DEF bridegroom his bride by DEF hand and then DEF closest relative.PL then went.PL they to
de faun hirii allers huus
DEF girl her parent.PL house
'Then the bridegroom took his bride by the hand, and then the closest relatives. Then they went to the girl's parents house' (from a description of a wedding)
- (7) jee aisker de allers jee sommer de beener
CONJ uglier DEF parent.PL CONJ lovelier DEF child.PL
'The uglier the parents, the lovelier the children' (a proverb)
- (8) nuu fiint yaa all daa breiver deer djuu kööniingswüüf schriiviin hää an hirii mon
now find.PL they all DEF letter.PL which DEF queen written have.3SG to her husband
'Now they find all the letters which the queen has written to her husband.' (from a fairy tale)

Wangerooge Frisian text and glossary

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Beginning of a fairy tale

ainmool is der 'n oolen buur, dan hää three fenter, twein klauk un ään gansen duumen. nuu quaa dan alst, dat hii wul up reizen, deer is 'n walt, deer hää hii heerd, deer licht 'n gansen säckel jil oon biigriviin; won hii dait kriig kan, den kan hii 'n kööniingsdochter kriig, man deer licht 'n grooeten booer far, dan farwaret 'er 't.

nuu gungt hii weg naa dan walt too, nimt 'n hoofäärk un än grooeten knuppel mit. as hii deer nuu kumt, da sjucht dan booer him fon fiirens al, dan brult dan booer saa sweer un lapt gliik up him too un nimt him un smit him reezeveert uur 't haud weg dat dan buurenfent wet fon ongst un nood nich weer hii blift. nuu lapt hii farschiuchtert herduum un fardwillet; nuu kumt hii unner 'n deevban. nuu kumt hii nich wiider iin.

nuu thanket dan oor brooer: hii wul weg un wul lauk weer siin brooer blift. dan gungt nuu uk up dan walt an. as dan booer dan sjucht, da is hii noch feel fargrilder as 't eerst mool, dan smit hii, dat hii licht 'n half stuun biiduuzd. dan fardwillet nuu den uk in de walt, dan kumt uk bii djuu deevban. nuu sint dan foer siin twein fenter weg, nuu is dan duum noch iin. nuu macket dan duum him uk up un quaa jeen siin maam: yuu sil him twoo dick stuk broed reik.

Glossary

- 'er, empty morpheme
'n indef.art. 'a(n)
't def.art. 'the'
't, see Table 1
ään, see Table 2
ainmool adv. 'once (upon a time)'
al adv. 'already'
alst adj. superl. 'oldest'
an, see up
än indef.art. 'a(n)
as conj. 'as, than'
bii prep. 'by'
biiduuz v. (ptcp. **biiduuzd**) 'stun'
biigrive v. (ptcp. **biigriviin**) 'bury'
bliiv v. (3sg. **blift**) 'remain, stay'
booyer n. masc. 'bear'
brooed n. neut. 'bread'
brooer n. masc. 'brother'
brul v. 'roar'
buur n. masc. 'farmer'
buurenfent n. masc. 'farmer's son'
da adv. 'then'
dait dem. pron. neut. 'that'
dan def. art. 'the'
dan dem. pron. masc. 'that one, he'
dat conj. 'that, so that'
de def. art. 'the'
deer adv. 'there'
deevban n. fem. 'gang of thieves'
den adv. 'then'
der adv. 'there'
dick adj. 'thick'
djuu def. art. 'the'
duum adj. 'stupid'
eerst, see Table 2
far prep. 'for, in front of'
fardwiilii v. (3sg. **fardwillet**) 'get lost'
fargrilder adj. comp. 'angrier'
farschiuchtert adj. 'scared'
farwarrii v. (3sg. **farwaret**) 'protect'
feel adj./adv. 'much, a lot'
fent n. masc. (pl. **-er**) 'boy, son'
fiirens adv. 'far away'
fon prep. 'from'
fooyer n. masc. 'father'
gans adj./adv. 'big, very'
gliik adv. 'immediately'
grooet adj. 'big, great'
gung v. 'go'
hää, see Table 3
half adj. 'half'
haud n. neut. 'head'
heer v. 'hear'
herduum adv. 'around'
hii, him, see Table 1
hoofäärk n. fem. 'hay fork'
iin adv. 'home'
in prep. 'in'
is, see Table 3
jeen prep. 'against, to'
jil n. neut. 'money'
kan v. (3sg. **kan**) 'can, be able to'
klauk adj. 'clever'
knuppel n. masc. 'club, cudgel'
kriig v. 'get'
kum v. 'come, end up'
kööniingsdochter n. fem. 'princess'
lauk v. 'look, investigate'
lidz v. (3sg. **licht**) 'lie, lay'
looop v. (3sg. **lapt**) 'run'
maam n. fem. 'mother'
mackii v. (3sg. **macket**) + up 'get ready'
man conj. 'but'
mit prep. 'with'
mool n. neut. 'time'
naa ... too 'towards'
nich neg. 'not'
nim v. 'take'
noch adv. 'even, still'
nood n. fem. 'distress'
nuu adv. 'then, now'
ongst n. fem. 'fear'
ool adj. 'old'
oon prep. 'in'
oor, see Table 2
quidder v. (3sg. **quaa**) 'say'
reezelveert adv. 'resolutely'
reik v. 'give'
reiz n. fem. (pl. **-en**) 'travel'
saa adv. 'so'
siin, see Table 1
sil v. (3sg. **sil**) 'have to'
sint, see Table 3
sjoo v. (3sg. **sjucht**) 'see'
smiit v. (3sg. **smit**) 'throw'
stuk n. neut. 'piece(s)'
stuun n. fem. 'hour'
sweer adv. 'very, a lot'
säckel n. masc. 'bagful'
thank v. 'think'
three, see Table 2
too, see naa, up
twein, twoo, see Table 2
uk adv. 'also'
un conj. 'and'
unner prep. 'under, among'
up prep. 'on'
– up ... an/too 'towards'
uur prep. 'over'
walt n. masc. 'forest'
weer conj. 'where'
weg adv. 'away'
wiider adv. 'again'
witte v. (3sg. **wet**) 'know'
won conj. 'if, when'
wul v. (3sg. **wul**) 'want to'
yuu, see Table 1

Paradigms

Table 1: Personal/possessive pronouns

		NOM	OBL/REFL	POSS
1SG		iik ‘I’	mii ‘me’	miin ‘my’
2SG		duu ‘you’	dii ‘you’	diin ‘your’
3SG	FEM	yuu ‘she’	hirii ‘her’	hirii ‘her’
	NEUT	t ‘it’	t ‘it’	siin ‘its’
	MASC	hii ‘he’	him ‘him’	siin ‘his’
1PL		wii ‘we’	uus ‘us’	uuz ‘our’
2PL		yum ‘you’	yoo ‘you’	yoo ‘you’
3PL		yaa ‘they’	yam ‘them’	yar ‘their’

Table 2: Declension of the numerals 1–5

		Cardinals	Ordinals
1	FEM/NEUT	ain ‘one’	eerst ‘first’
	MASC	ään ‘one’	eerst ‘first’
2	FEM/NEUT	twoo ‘two’	oor/twoost ‘second’
	MASC	twein ‘two’	oor/tweinst ‘second’
3	FEM/NEUT	thriiuu ‘three’	thrääd/thriiuu ‘third’
	MASC	three ‘three’	thrääd/threest ‘third’
4		fiaur ‘four’	fiääd ‘fourth’
5		fiiv ‘five’	fiifst ‘fifth’

Table 3: Present tense: 1st conj., 2nd. conj. and two irregular verbs

	lauk ‘look’	mack-ii ‘make’	wize ‘to be’	hab ‘to have’
1SG	lauk	mack-ii	sin	hüb
2SG	lauk-est	mack-est	bist	hüst
3SG	lauk-et	mack-et	is	hää
PL	lauk-et	mack-iit	sint	hüb(be)t