# Background information

‘Straattaal’ has been around for a long time, of course the variant we know now is very different from the variant of the past. You express your identity with language, so young people mutually develop their own language in order to identify with their own age group (Cornips, 2002, p. 20). However, this youth language disappears again between the ages of fourteen and seventeen, but certain words continue to be used because they are said to be generational properties. (Cornips, 2002, p. 20). Nowadays street language is often seen as a language used by young immigrants. It is assumed that these young people do not have a good command of Dutch, but it turns out that young people whose Dutch is poor make less use of ‘straattaal’ while young people who speak Dutch well make more use of ‘straattaal’ (van den Braak, 2002, p. 14). Changing the words or using alternatives arises from the need for something new and creativity. (Van den Braak, 2002, p. 14). There are therefore many different variants of ‘straattaal’, these variants are influenced by different factors such as ethnic composition of the group, place of residence, bilingual upbringing, etc. (Cornips, 2002, p. 20). In recent years, many different cultures have developed in the Netherlands, for example large groups of migrants used to come from a small number of countries and now it is the other way around, which makes the diversity even greater (Jennissen, Engbersen, Hokhorst, Bovens, 2018). This of course also has an influence on the language that is spoken among each other, the chance that you qualify with a different kind of language is increasing and more often. This makes it easier to adopt certain aspects because it becomes more and more pleasant. Young people who hear it from their classmates and take it over because all their friends do it too, it would be more fun than 'normal' Dutch, it would be tougher or you could express yourself better with it and eventually you will touch it used to and is it normal (Van den Braak, 2002, p. 14). It is therefore becoming more and more common to use ‘straattaal’ among young people.

# Reference

Cornips, L., *Autochtone en allochtone jongeren: jongerentaal* 2002.

Van den Braak, J., *Het verschijnsel straattaal: een verkenning* 2002.

Jennissen, R., Engbersen, G., Bokhorst, M., Bovens, M.A.P., *De nieuwe verscheidenheid: De toegenomen diversiteit naar herkomst in Nederland* 2018.