

# The role of prosody in shaping Dutch Renaissance meter

Mirella De Sisto

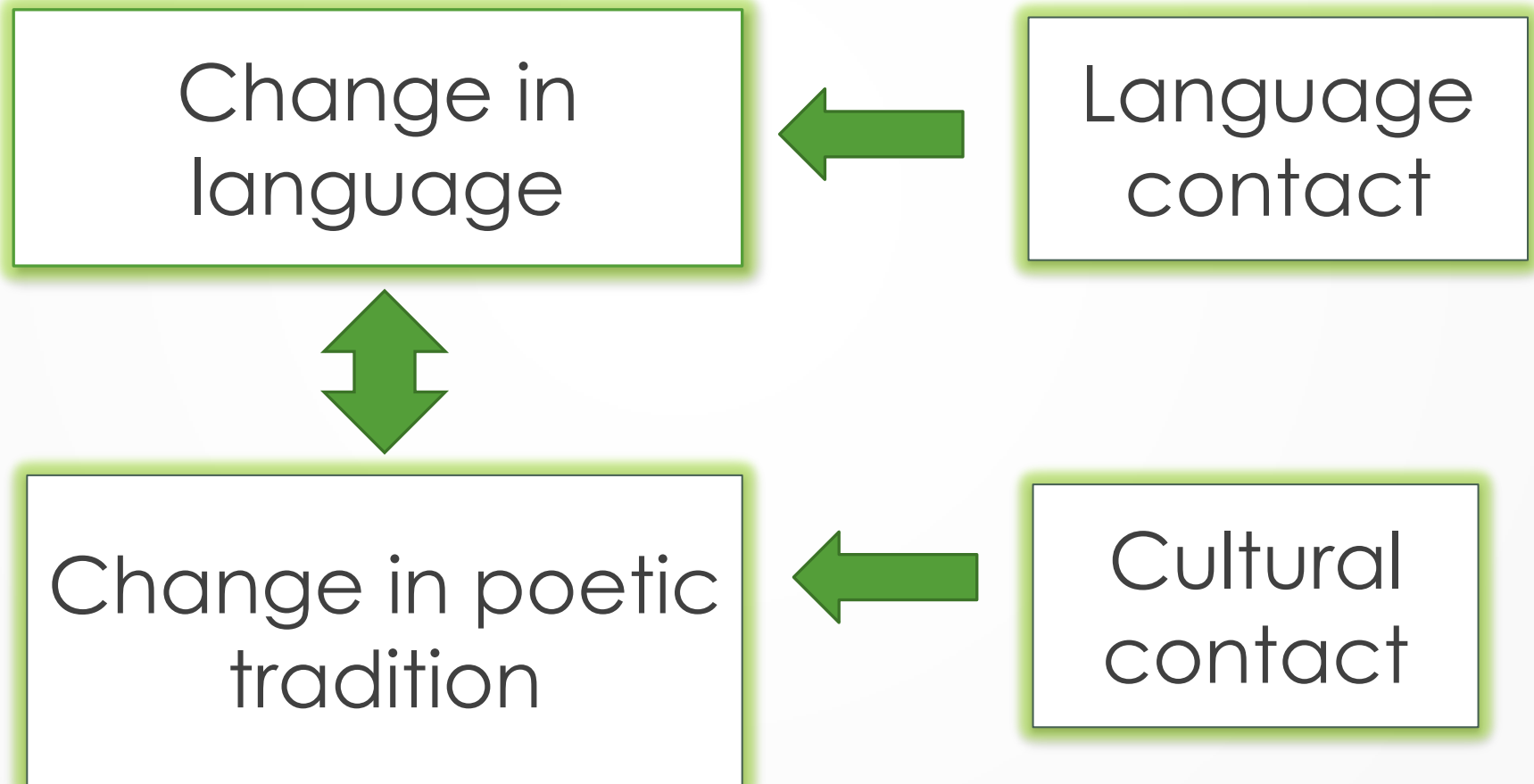
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# Roadmap

- The birth of the iamb in Early Renaissance Low Countries
- The necessary changes for incorporation
- Comparison of source and borrowed form
- The role of prosody in poetry

# The Birth of the iamb in Early Renaissance Low Countries



# The Birth of the iamb in Early Renaissance Low Countries

- During Renaissance
- Radical change in Dutch poetry:
  - From accentual verse
  - To iambic meter

## Two iambic exceptions

- Het leven van Sinte Lutgart by Willem van Affligem
- Saladijn (Marshall 29 ms and Comburg ms)\*

\*Aditi Lahiri & Johanneke Sytsema (AHRC project on Middle Dutch Sentence and Word Phonology)

# Accentual verse and iambic meter

*Accentual verse*

Fraeye historie ende al waer

Mach ic u tellen, hoort naer.

Het was op enen avontstonde

Dat karel slapen begonde

(Karel ende Elegast, 13th century)

*Iambic meter*

Mijn lief, mijn lief, mijn lief; soo sprack mijn lief mij toe,

Dewijl mijn lippen op haer lieve lipjes weiden.

De woordtjes alle drie wel clær en wel bescheiden

Vloeiden mijn ooren in, en roerden ('ck weet niet hoe)

Al mijn gedachten om staech maelend nemmer moe;

(PC Hooft, 17th century)

# Adaptation of the meter

- First attempts:

- Isosyllabism in the French manner

- Iambic foot-based

(Gasparov 1996, Zonneveld 1998)

- Only iambic meter managed to spread

# Adaptation of the meter

French-like syllabic line

En ist de liefde niet, wat ist dan dat my quelt?

En ist de liefde ooc, wat mach de liefde wesen?

Is sy soet ende goet, hoe valt sy hert in desen?

Is sy quaet, hoe is dan soo suede heur gewelt?

(Jan van der Noot)

(Gasparov 1996:193)

Iambic foot

Met cunst verslijt u tien, die u cunt bemueien,  
 Der negen Nymphen spel; die eertijts waert geraect,  
 Op den twee-topten-berch, daer ghi sijt nat gemaect.

(Jan van Hout)



# Adaptation of the meter

- 2 types = phases:
  - before and after theorization

(Kazartsev 2008)

- Geographical distinction: south vs. north

(Gasparov 1996, Zonneveld 1998)

## Why a foot-based meter?

- The way of implementing the Romance poetic form into a stress-timing language
- Changes in the phonological stress system (French loanwords)

What is the role played by prosody?

# French and Dutch Renaissance meter

- The resulting meter had little in common with its source
  - Iambic vs. isosyllabic
  - Number of feet vs. number of syllables
  - stress pattern vs. none
  
- But: caesura

# French and Dutch Renaissance meter

Je vous donne de moi la part qui est meilleure :  
C'est l'esprit et la voix, qui, menés et conduits  
Sous le flambeau d'Amour, des éternelles nuits  
Sauveront votre nom paravant que je meure.

(Jean Antoine de Baïf)

Met cunst verslijt u tien, die u cunt bemueien,  
Der negen Nymphen spel; die eertijts waert geraect,  
Op den twee-topten-berch, daer ghi sijt nat gemaect.

(Jan van Hout)

# French and Dutch Renaissance meter

French alexandrine  
colon

Dutch iambic meter  
foot

Is it only because of word stress?

Italian endecasillabo:

- Colon
- Word stress

# Cola vs feet

- If the colon level is constrained:  
no constraint at the foot level

Metrics derives its rules from language

(Lotz 1960, Golston & Riad 1999)

# Poetry and Prosody

- Metrical rules refer to prosodic bracketing (Hayes 1989)
- In poetry: prosody outranks syntax (Golston & Riad 1999)
- In Spanish and Italian endecasillabo:
  - the colon coincides with the phonological phrase

(Piera 1980, 2003, Nespor & Vogel 1986)



# Poetry and Prosody

## *Poetry*

- Colon in French
- Foot in Dutch

## *Prosody*

- The phonological phrase in French  
Same tasks as
- The phonological word in Dutch  
(Oostendorp 2000)

# Poetry and Prosody: a bigger picture

	<b>Prosody</b>	<b>Meter</b>
French	Phonological Phrase	Colon
Italian	Phonological Phrase (word stress)	Colon (pattern foot level)
Spanish	Intonational Phrase (word stress)	Colon (pattern foot level)
Dutch	Phonological Word	Foot
English	Phonological Word	Foot

# Poetry and Prosody: a bigger picture

- One metrical form, different instantiations
- Prominent prosodic level = prominent metrical level
- Prosody plays a role in determining metrical constraints

# Conclusion

- The project 'The birth of the iamb in Early Renaissance Low Countries'
- Adaptation of the new meter into Dutch poetic tradition
- French cola and Dutch feet
- French phonological phrase and Dutch phonological word
- A bigger picture

Thanks for the  
attention!

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