

## The Netherlands: West Frisian

**Group:** Rafailia Poutachidou, Weronika Wylot

**Language:** West Frisian – the most widely spoken language of all of the Frisian languages. It is spoken mostly in the province of Friesland (Fryslân) in the north of the Netherlands.



### Linguistic features (according to WALS and Wikipedia):

#### Phonology:

West Frisian Consonants

		Labial	Alveolar	Dorsal	Glottal
<b>Nasal</b>		m	n	ŋ	
<b>Plosive</b>	voiceless	p	t	k	
	voiced	b	d	g	
<b>Fricative</b>	voiceless	f	s	χ	h
	voiced	v	z	ɣ	
<b>Trill</b>			r		
<b>Approximant</b>		w	l	j	

West Frisian Vowels

	Front				Central		Back	
	unrounded		rounded		short	long	short	long
	short	long	short	long				
<b>Close</b>	i	i:	y	y:			u	u:
<b>Close-mid</b>	ɪ	e:	ø	ø:	ə		o	o:
<b>Open-mid</b>	ɛ	ɛ:					ɔ	ɔ:
<b>Open</b>					a	a:		

West Frisian diphthongs

Starting point		Ending point		
		Front	Central	Back
<b>Close</b>	unrounded		iə	
	rounded		yə uə	
<b>Close-mid</b>	unrounded		ɪə	
	rounded	oi	øə oə	
<b>Open-mid</b>	unrounded	ɛi		
	rounded	œy		
<b>Open</b>	unrounded	ai		ɔu

### Linguistic features:

Nominal categories:

- Unique periphrastic associative plural - The Associative Plural
- Definite word distinct from demonstrative - Definite Articles
- Indefinite word distinct from 'one' - Indefinite Articles
- No case affixes or adpositional clitics - Position of Case Affixes

Verbal categories:

- Second singular - The Morphological Imperative
- Normal imperative + normal negative - The Prohibitive

Word order:

- No dominant order: Order of Subject, Object and Verb; Order of Object and Verb; Order of Object, Oblique, and Verb; Order of Genitive and Noun;
- Order of Genitive and Noun: SV (SOV or SVO)

- Prepositions: Order of Adposition and Noun Phrase
- Order of Adjective and Noun: Adjective-Noun
- Order of Demonstrative and Noun: Demonstrative-Noun
- Order of Relative Clause and Noun: Noun-Relative clause
- Position of Polar Question Particles: No question particle
- Position of Interrogative Phrases in Content Questions: Initial interrogative phrase

#### Simple clauses:

- Expression of Pronominal Subjects: Obligatory pronouns in subject position
- Polar Questions: Interrogative word order

### **Grammar:**

#### Nouns:

- Grammatical gender
- Two genders for nouns: the common gender (de-words) and the neuter gender (it-words)
- Two numbers: singular and plural
- Cases: only the genitive case has survived to the modern times
- Genitive forms rare in spoken language and replaced by prepositional constructions

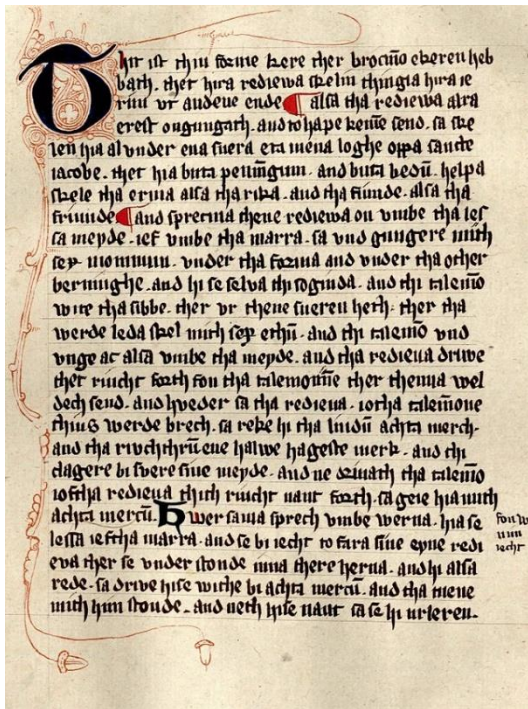
#### Adjectives:

- Inflection of adjectives in pronominal position before common nouns, plural nouns and some neuter nouns
- Three degrees of adjectives: positive, comparative, and superlative

#### Verbs:

- West Frisian verbs inflect for person, number, tense, and mood
- Two inflected tenses: present and past; future tense formed with help of auxiliaries and modals
- Two moods: indicative and imperative (imperative used only in the second person)
- Three groups of verbs: weak, strong, irregular

Old Frisian text (1345)



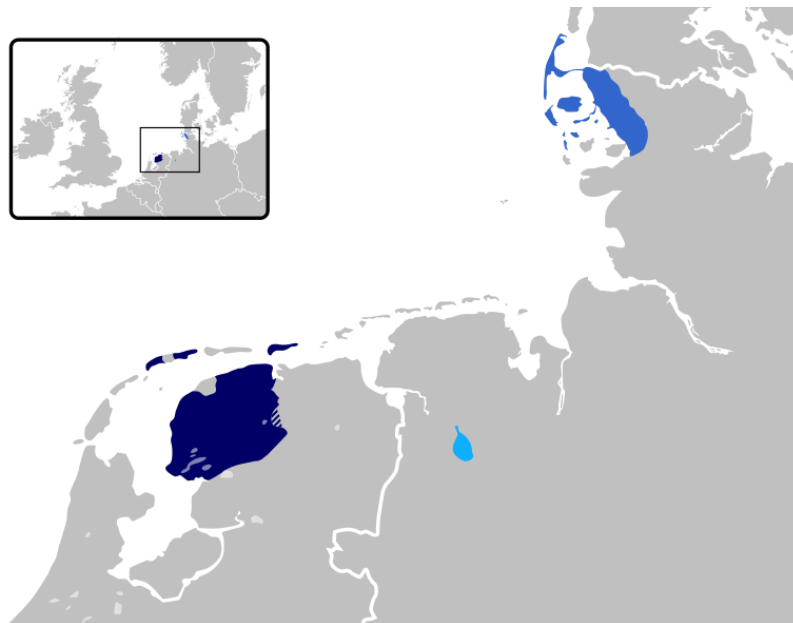
A bilingual West Frisian–Dutch sign in Hindeloopen:



Geographical distribution of the Frisian dialects in the Netherlands:



Present-day geographical distribution of the Frisian dialects in Europe:



- West Frisian
- North Frisian
- Saterland Frisian

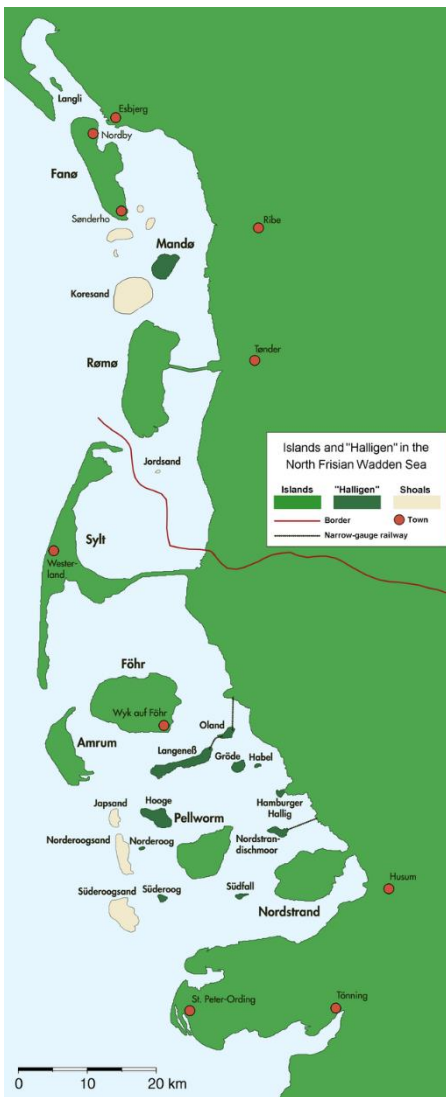
The Province of Friesland, the main locus of West Frisian:



Saterland, a locus of East Frisian:



North Frisian islands, a locus of North Frisian:



#### References

[https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Frisian\\_languages#/google\\_vignette](https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Frisian_languages#/google_vignette)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frisian\\_languages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frisian_languages)

## The Frisian dialects in the Netherlands

### Audio-files



Lutz\_Jacobi\_kandidaa  
t\_PvdA.opus.mp3

West Frisian spoken:



NI-Schibbolet-fries.o  
ga.mp3

Frisian used in the province of Friesland:

The text is: *Bûter, brea, en griene tsiis; wa't dat net sizze kin, is gjin oprjochte Fries*

"Butter, bread and green cheese, whoever can't say that is no genuine Frisian"

### Videos

A conversation in Friesland: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= 2dnNMY3ltw>

### Text

The [Lord's Prayer](#) from the Frisian [Bible](#) third edition, published in 1995, with the corresponding English text from the 1662 [Book of Common Prayer](#):

*Us Heit yn 'e himel,  
lit jo namme hillige wurde,  
lit jo keninkryk komme,  
lit jo wil dien wurde  
op ierde likegoed as yn 'e himel.  
Jou ús hjoed ús deistich brea  
en ferjou ús ús skulden  
sa't wy ús skuldners ek ferjûn hawwe;  
en lit ús net yn fersiking komme,  
mar ferlos ús fan 'e kweade;  
want jowes is it keninkryk  
en de krêft  
en de hearlikheid  
oant yn ivichheid. Amen.*

Our Father, which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done,  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power,  
and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.