

CHAPTER III.

PRONUNCIATION.

Classifying all current sounds under three heads to determine their pronunciation, we have the following:—

(1) The Consonants have in the main the pronunciation which is given them in English.

To this the following are exceptions :

b and *d*, when final, are pronounced like *p* and *t*.

g is a guttural.

h is pronounced whenever it occurs ; its sound is like that of *h* in *hero*.

j sounds like *y* in *yes*.

w has the sound of *v*.

(2) The Vowels have a long and a short sound. Double vowels always have the long sound.

Single vowels are short in words of one syllable when followed by consonants.

Final *a*, *e*, *i*, and *o* are long.

In words of more than one syllable, single vowels are long if the consonant after them is followed by another vowel ; short, if not so followed.

Long *a* sounds like *a* in *father* ; short *a* like *a* in English *bah!* or German *Mann*.

Long *e* sounds like *ey* in *convey* ; short *e* like *e* in *cherry*.

Long *i* sounds like *ee* in *keen* ; short *i* like *i* in *lip*.

Long *o* sounds like *oe* in *woe* ; short *o* like *o* in *pot*.

Long *u* sounds like *u* in French *mûr*, but has no equivalent sound in English; short *u* like *u* in *tub*.

Besides these long and short sounds, the *e* has (1) another prolonged short sound, peculiar to abbreviated Dutch words ending in *e*; and (2) an imperfect sound corresponding to that of the *e* in the first syllable of *represent*. It occurs a.o. in the verbal prefixes *be* and *ge*, and in the inflections of Nouns and Adjectives. Where necessary, the long sound of vowels will be indicated by the acute accent (´); the short by the grave accent (`); the prolonged sound of *e* by the circumflex accent (ê), and its imperfect sound by a curve (ë).

Examples: taal, *language*; lât, *stick*; fâder, *father*; kâlbaş, *gourd*; pá, *father*.

meel, *flour*; vèl, *skin*; békër, *jug*; lèkkërs, *sweetmeats*; sê, *to say*; gëfınd, *found*; bëgrijp, *to understand*; gé, *to give*.

miir, *ant*; wil, *will*; ímand, *somebody*; kindërs, *children*; ní, *not*.

boom, *tree*; ròt, *rat*; pótë, *legs*; skòttël, *dish*; gló, *to believe*.

muur, *wall*; ful, *foal*; búrë, *neighbours*; hüllë, *they*.

(3) There are a few other sounds to be observed.

oe is the perfect English *oo* in *woof*.

y has a softer sound than Eng. *i*, and lies between the *y* of *prying* and the *ay* of *praying*. It seems to come nearest to Eng. *aye*!

ou is slightly softer than *ow* in Eng. *cow*.

aai and *ooi* are pronounced *aay* and *ooy*, with full Dutch sound of *á* and *ó*.

eeu is a combination of full Dutch *é* and sound of Eng. *w*.

oei is pronounced like *ooy*.

eu and *ui* have no equivalents in English, and must be acquired by hearing them pronounced. They approach the German sounds *ö* and *äu*,

Examples: moeg, tired; koei, cow; lyf, body; fry, free; frou, woman; draai, to turn; mooi, pretty; leeu, lion; deur, door; huis, house.

(4) *Reading Exercises.*—Leesoefeninge.

I.

Fàn mòrrè hèt èk àl froeg òpgèstaan.
This morning have I already early got up.

Ek wàs àl buitè foor sònòp. Di skápè èn
I was already outside before sunrise. The sheep and
koeiè èn pèrdè wàs nòg àlmàl in dí králè gèwees.
cows and horses were still all (of them) in the kraals (been).

Ek hèt soo'ntoe gèstàp òm tè siin hoe dí fòlk dí fé
I (have) thither walked for to see how the servants the cattle
tèl. Daar wàs drí Boesmàns by dí hèk, èn toe hùl
count. There were three Bushmen at the gate, and when they

dít oopmaak, bègin dí skápè sómàr uit tè flí. Hoe hùl dít
it opened, began the sheep at once out to fly. How they it

klaar kry, weet èk ní, maar hùl staan èn tèl,
ready got know I not, but they (just) stood and counted,

èn às dí laastè skaap uitsprìng, weet hùl præciis tè
and when the last sheep out jumped, knew they exactly to

sê, hoefèul dí gètàl is.
tell how many the number was.

2.

Skippè faar òp dí sé. Hùl rys tussè dí Kaap
Ships go on the sea. They travel between the Cape

èn àl dí àndèrè partè fàn dí wêrèld. Eenmaal wàs èk
and all the other portions of the world. Once was I

mé mèt soo'n skíp, wàt ná Nátal gègaan hèt. Dí skíp
along with such a ship which to Natal gone is. The ship

wàs 'n stoomboot gëwees. Ons hèt àg dá'ë gëfaar.
was a steamer (been). We (have) eight days sailed.

Dit wàs 'n bítji làng gëwees, maar dí weer wàs dí meestë
It was a little long (been) but the weather was the most

fàn dí tijd slëg. Almàl òp dí skìp hèt dí eerstë dàg
of the time bad. All on the ship have the first day

àl siik gëwòrd. Dit wàs 'n naarhyd òm tē siin hoe
already ill become. It was a sad thing for to see how

dí mēnsē rōndlê. Maar òns hèt daaròm fylig
the people were lying about. But we have however safely

daar àngëkòm. Ek hèt dí lānd bānjë gëlyk, èn òp dí
there arrived. I have the country much liked, and on the

tërùgrys wàs èk by Blomfòntyn, Colesbèrg, Beaufòrt
return journey (was) I at Bloemfontein, Colesberg, Beaufort

Wést èn Dí Pèrl àngëwees.
West and The Paarl touched.

