

# Do deaf and hard-of-hearing people belong to each other?

**Issues of identity and in-group discrimination**

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The art of belonging



**Universiteit Utrecht**



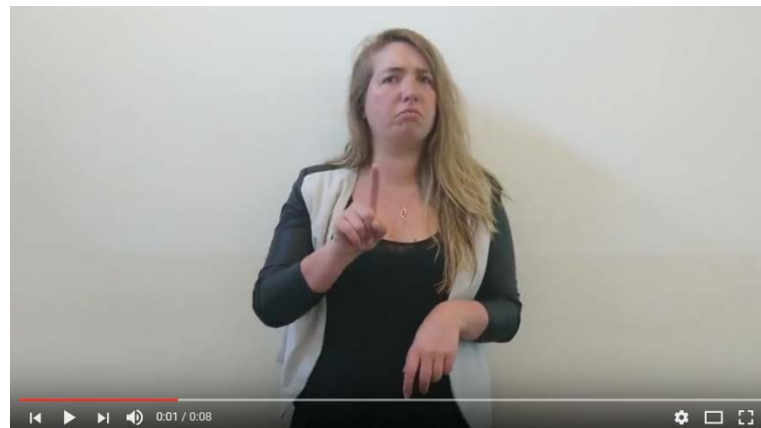
# Introduction

- Medical categories on range of hearing loss
- Separate schools for deaf and hard-of-hearing
- Deaf Identity/Hard-of-hearing Identity
- Social Identity Theory (Tajfel & Turner)
- Research question: “In the group of people with hearing loss in the Netherlands, what are the attitudes from deaf people and hard-of-hearing people towards each other?”

# Method



- Survey questionnaire
- $N = 152$  (deaf: 97, hard-of-hearing: 53, neither: 2).
- Accessible in two languages: Dutch & Dutch Sign Language (NGT)
- Identification, in and out-group evaluation and bias



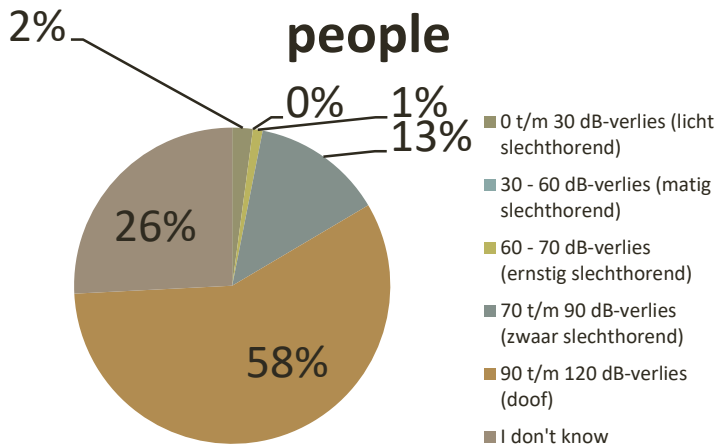
Example of question in sign language

# Participants

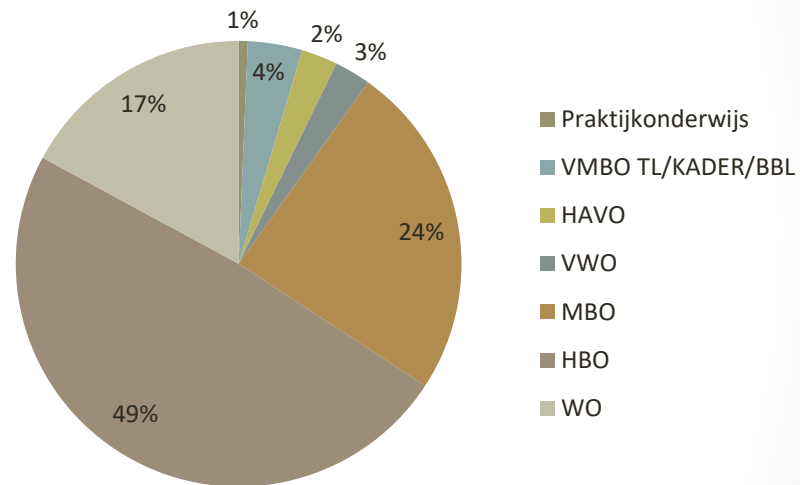
- 150 participants, 56 men, 94 women.
- Age: 14 to 72 years (average: 32.8).
- 97 consider themselves deaf, 53 consider themselves hard-of-hearing
- 6 deaf people say they never have contact with hard-of-hearing people (6.2%)
- 11 hard-of-hearing people say they never have contact with deaf people (20.8%)
- 4 hard of hearing people say they never have contact with hard-of-hearing people (7.5%)

# Background of participants

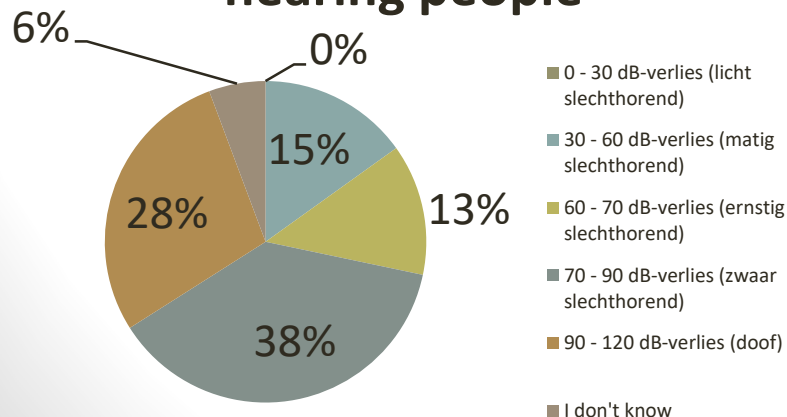
## Hearing loss (dB) deaf people



## Education level



## Hearing loss (dB) hard-of-hearing people



# Results: in-group evaluation

Deaf



M: 9.02  
SD: 1.60

Hard-of-hearing



M: 8.42  
SD: 1.70



# Results: out-group evaluation

Deaf



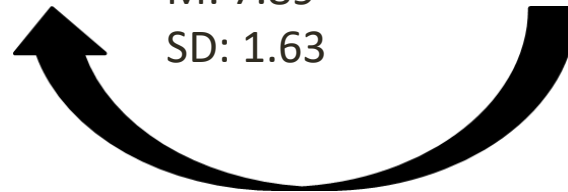
Hard-of-hearing



M: 6.77  
SD: 1.74



M: 7.89  
SD: 1.63





# Results: bias

Deaf



Hard-of-hearing



Bias	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>
<i>Deaf</i>	2.25	2.24
<i>Hard-of-Hearing</i>	.53	1.42





# Results: identification

Deaf



*M: 3.93*

*SD: .68*

Hard-of-hearing



*M: 3.2*

*SD: .62*



# Results

- Deaf and hard-of-hearing people have indeed a more negative attitude towards the other group
- Deaf people are more negative about hard-of-hearing people than hard of hearing people are about deaf people
- Deaf people are more positive about their own group than hard-of-hearing people are about their own group
- The more people identify with their own group, the more negative their attitude is towards the other group



# Conclusion

- Deaf people identify more with their own group than hard-of-hearing. This is probably because deaf people have a clear definition of their cultural group
- Separate education probably has big impact on identity and attitudes. Hard-of-hearing people attended significantly more mainstream schools than deaf people.



# Discussion

- Translation in Dutch Sign Language
- Deafened people
- More research necessary to:
  - Identification hard-of-hearing people
  - Role of education
  - International comparisons
  - Role of associations for deaf/hard-of-hearing



# Thank you for your attention

Questions or comments? Mail to  
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