

## CHAPTER VII.

Spreekoefenings met di  
Werkwoord "wees."

*Speaking Exercises on the Verb  
"to be."*

Frikki is myn broer.  
Léni is Jan s'n sustër.  
Myn fadër was eers boer  
gëwees.  
Maar nou is hy agènt.  
Wattër dag is dit fandaag?  
Dis di agtiëndè fan Jannëwari-  
maand.  
Dis warèmpël Ma syn fër-  
jaarsdag.  
Dan sal daar sékër banjë gastë  
wees.  
Waar meen jy sal hullë  
wees?  
Ek meen op di plaas fan di ou  
mensë.  
Fërgangë jaar was daar 'n heel  
duisternis gëwees.  
Di karrë hèt rondgëstaan so  
as op 'n fandúsi.  
Di prédikant was ook daar  
gëwees.  
Di heelë buurt hèt gëkom om  
fër Ma gëluk tē wëns.

*Fred is my brother.  
Helen is John's sister.  
My father was first a farmer.*

*But now he is an agent.  
What is the date to-day?  
This is the eighteenth of January.*

*Why, that is mother's birth-  
day.*

*Then, I am sure, there will be  
many guests.*

*Where, do you mean, will they  
be?*

*I mean on the old people's  
farm.*

*Last year there were a whole  
crowd of them.*

*The carts stood about there as at  
a sale.*

*The minister was there, too.*

*All the neighbourhood came to  
wish mother many happy  
returns.*

Is daar weer 'n swarighyd, ou  
broer?  
Ja, èk is nou y'ëntlik rëg in di  
pékël.  
Hoe kom dan so?  
Wel, laat èk nou fër jou fërtèl.

*Is there a difficulty again, old  
chap?*

*Yes, I'm in a real corner this  
time.*

*How is that?*

*Well, let me tell you.*

Di baljuw was fan morrè hiir.	<i>The sheriff was here this morning.</i>
Hy het fër my 'n anskryfing gëbrèng.	<i>He has brought me a writ.</i>
Daar was gistër 'n fonnis teu'ë my uitgewys in di kantoor.	<i>Yesterday, judgment was taken out against me in the court.</i>
Hy hèt gëkom om myn goed an tē slaan.	<i>He came to attach my pro- perty.</i>
Andër week wil hy fër my uitfërkoop.	<i>Next week he wants to sell me out.</i>
Di man was banjë èrgërlik gëwees, sê èk fër jou.	<i>The fellow was very offensive, I tell you.</i>
Hy hèt ampër fër my bëleedig.	<i>He almost insulted me.</i>
Dit was glad fër niit om tē përbeer mèt hom tē praat.	<i>It was quite useless trying to talk to him.</i>
Hy was nèt so koppig as 'n ésël.	<i>He was as heady as a mule.</i>
Yndlik hèt hy tog moet hoor.	<i>At last, however, he had to listen.</i>
Myn ou buurman was hiir by my gëwees.	<i>My old neighbour was here with me.</i>
En di hèt fër hom y'ëntlik fluks di waarhyd gësê.	<i>And he gave him a straight talking to.</i>
Maar di man hèt so fër hom gëskaam, dat hy ni gëweet hèt waar om tē kyk ni.	<i>But the fellow got so ashamed that he did not know which way to look.</i>

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Sal myn frind daar wees, sé jy, as èk kom?	<i>Will my friend be there, do you say, when I come?</i>
Ek hèt so fër hom fërstaan.	<i>That's how I understood him.</i>
Dit was di afspraak, so fërtèl hy fër my.	<i>That was the arrangement, he told me.</i>
Waarom was hy dan ni gistër a'ënd daar gëwees ni?	<i>Why wasn't he there last night, then?</i>
Hy hét gësê hy was al daar gëwes al di andër dag.	<i>He said he had been there the other day.</i>
Di gëwésë magistraat was 'n danig knap man gëwees.	<i>The former magistrate was a very clever man.</i>

- Ons kry sêker nooit meer 'n man soo's hy ni. *We shan't ever get such a man again as he was.*
- Dis daarom al tē jammër dat hy nou hèt moes wèggaan. *It's such a pity he had to leave.*
- Wees jy maar gëduldig, man, dan kom nog als rëg. *Just have patience, and all will yet come right.*
- Maar èk was al so lang gëduldig gëwees, èk kan nou ampër ni langër hou ni. *But I have been patient for such a long time, I can hardly keep up any longer now.*
- Om rëg te wees is di eerstë ding, om fërspoedig tē wees is di twédë. *To be right is the first thing, to be prosperous is the second.*
- Wat sou dit tog wees dat di kop fan myn ni kan rëg kom ni? *Why can it be that my head won't come right again?*
- Ag, dit moet sêker di studeer wees, myn kind. *Oh, that must surely be your study, my child.*
- Jy kan gerus di studi nou 'n bitji laat bly. *You can safely stop your study a little now.*

- Om eerlijk en oprèg tē wees is di bësstë rëkomman-dasi. *To be honest and straight-forward is the best recom-mendation.*
- Dis goed om patriots tē wees, maar di gësonde fërstand moet daarom di eerstë bly. *It is good to have patriotic feelings, but common sense ought always to predomi-nate.*
- Sal ons ni fan a'ënd by mē-kaar kan wees, om di sake dé'ëlik tē bēpraat? *Could we not meet together to-night to discuss these matters thoroughly?*
- Hy hèt al gistër daar moet wees, dit lyk of kom hy glad ni. *He should have been there yesterday, but it seems as if he won't come.*
- Hoe staan dit nou mèt jullë, sal dit foor of teu'ë wees? Jullë moet nou bësliis. *What is your mind now—is it to be yes or no? You must decide now.*
- Myn fadër hèt skaars kan daar wees, toen di ré'ënt afkom. *My father can scarcely have been there when the rain came down.*

Denk jy dit kan waar gëwees het, wat gister in di koerant gëstaan hêt fan di oorlog?	<i>Do you think it can have been true what the paper said yesterday about the war?</i>
Ek sal ni kan sêkër sê ni, of dit waar kan gëwees het, maar dit lyk heel mo'entlik.	<i>I could not say for certain if it could have been true, but it looks very probable.</i>
Dit sal 'n al tē goeië ding wees, as onse distrik kan bêtër ferteu'ênwoordig wees in di parlément.	<i>It would be a capital thing if our district could be better represented in parliament.</i>

Useful Expressions with the Verb "wees."

Ek is haastig.	<i>I am in a hurry.</i>
Ek is fakërig.	<i>I am sleepy.</i>
Ek is fêrwondër.	<i>I am surprised.</i>
Ek is bang.	<i>I fear.</i>
Ek is fan gëdagtë.	<i>I am of the opinion.</i>
Ek is fêrkou'ë.	<i>I have a cold.</i>
Ek is deurmëkaar.	<i>I am muddled.</i>
Ek is fêrlégën.	<i>I am in need.</i>
Ek is skaam.	<i>I am bashful.</i>
Ek is moeg.	<i>I am tired.</i>
Ek is wys.	<i>I am impudent.</i>
Ek is parmantig.	<i>I am insolent.</i>
Ek is gëdaan.	<i>I am done up.</i>
Ek is honger.	<i>I am hungry.</i>
Ek is dors.	<i>I am thirsty.</i>
Ek is lus.	<i>I feel inclined.</i>

