This research is focussed on the tactic the interviewer uses while probing. A probing tactic is an interviewer stance towards the answers of the respondent and the reaction following from this stance. In this research three different probing tactics are distinguished: the accommodating, the encouraging and the challenging.

A field experiment was held to determine whether these probing tactics have an effect on the quality and content of the received information. In order to tackle any possible topic-dependency of the effects of the probing tactics, the interviews that were held contained three different topics of social categorisation: 'Amsterdammers', friends and 'allochthons'.

The results of this study are remarkable in the light of what is known about effects of interviewer behaviour in closed interviews and what is often supposed in literature on open interviewing.

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