Child and Adult Heritage Spanish in the Netherlands
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Citation for published version (APA):
Subject position in Dutch

During Spanish has flexible word order:

- Zapata et al., 2005, De Prada-Pérez & Pascual, 2012

Subject position in Spanish

Spanish has flexible word order:

- Un chico llegó arrived
- Llegó un chico Arrived a boy

Subject position with intransitives in Spanish is constrained by unaccusativity, focus, definiteness, animacy, verbal aspect, adverbial phrases, and subject heaviness.

Previous Research:

Children

- Monolingual: Have knowledge of verb type by age 2
- Bilingual: No previous research on other factors

Adults

- Monolingual: Verb type & focus influence word order
- Bilingual: No previous research on other factors

Method

Contextualized Scalar Acceptability Judgment Task:

- Some cousins arrived.
- Unos primos llegaron

Results

- Bilingual and monolingual preference of VS across the lifetime

Conclusions

- Both monolingual and Dutch heritage speakers increase the preference of VS across the lifetime
- Dutch bilinguals, this VS preference is more pronounced in all age groups
- This overgeneralization might be due to the influence of V2 in Dutch

References

- Pascual y Cabe, D., Lobue, A., & Rothman, J. Applying the Interface Hypothesis to Heritage Speaker Acquisition: Evidence from SOMERFLY. 500