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van Osch, B.A.; García González, Elisabet ; Hulk, A.C.J.; Aalberse, S.P.; Sleeman, A.P.

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**Child and Adult Heritage Spanish in the Netherlands: The Development of Subject Position**

Brechje van Osch, Elisabet García González, Suzanne Aalberse, Aafke Hulk & Petra Sleeman

University of Amsterdam

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**Heritage speakers**
Speakers of a minority language, acquired during childhood in a naturalistic setting in the home context.

**Subject position in Spanish**
Spanish has flexible word order:
- **Subject position in Dutch**

Spanish is constrained by unaccusativity, focus, definiteness, animacy, verbal aspect, adverbial phrases, and subject heaviness.

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

This makes subject position a highly complex phenomenon, prone to vulnerability in (bilingual) acquisition.

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**Previous Research:**

**Children**

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

- **Bilingual**
  - No previous research

**Adults**

- **Monolingual**
  - Verbs are used to focus influence word order (Hertel, 2005; Lozano, 2005)
  - Many other factors, such as definiteness as well (Rigo, 2011)

- **Bilingual**
  - Do not have monolingual-like knowledge of all the factors determining word order (Cayla et al., 2000; De Prada-Pérez & Pascual y Cabo, 2012)
  - Overgeneralize preverbal subjects (Hinch-Baatz, 2007; Mertrix, 2005; Cayla et al., 2005)

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**Methods**

**Children**

- **Preference Judgment Task:**

Three dogs are playing at the beach and having a lot of fun. While they play, their friend the cat comes and sees them and he gets very sad because they had not asked him to join them.

**Adults**

- **Contextualized Scalar Acceptability Judgment Task:**

Es mi cumpleaños y hay mucha gente de visita en mi casa. De repente suena el timbre pero como estoy recibiendo un regalo de mi tío, no puedo abrir la puerta. Va mi esposa y ve que son unos primos. Cuando regresa, le pregunto: ¿Quién llegó? Mi esposa me dice: It’s my birthday and there are many guests in my house. Suddenly the doorbell rings, but since I’m just receiving a gift from my uncle, I cannot open the door. My wife goes and sees that it’s some cousins. When she gets back, I ask her: ‘Who arrived?’ My wife tells me:

Uns primos llegó. Some cousins arrived. O O O O O O

Pregunto unos primos. Arribé some cousins. O 1 0 2

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**References**