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

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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:

- Un chico llegó
- A boy arrived
- Llegó un chico
- A boy arrived

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

- Subject position in Dutch
- Een jongen
- A boy
- float whistled
- but V2!
- Buiten/er/dat
- Outside/There/that
- Adv/OBJ
- float whistled
- een jongen
- a boy

MORE EVIDENCE FOR POSTVERBAL SUBJECTS

Subject position in Dutch
- Een jongen
- A boy
- float whistled
- V

Subject position in Spanish
- Un chico
- a boy
- llegó
- arrived
- V

The present study

Research Questions
1. Will Dutch HS of Spanish show less overgeneralization of preverbal subjects (but deviate from monolinguals?)
2. (When) do bilingual children deviate from monolinguals?

A) Adult Participants
24 heritage speakers
- Born in the Netherlands, or arrived before 5
- Mixed families
- No Caribbean dialects

18 monolingual speakers of Spanish
- Recently immigrated to the Netherlands
- No knowledge of Dutch
- No Caribbean dialects

B) Child Participants
30 heritage speakers
- 9 and 13 years old
- Born in the Netherlands, or arrived before 5
- Mixed families
- No Caribbean dialects

44 monolingual speakers of Spanish
- 9 and 13 years old
- Born and raised in Spain
- No knowledge of other languages

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

Method
Contextualized Scalar Acceptability 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.

Children
Preference Judgment Task:
- El gato llegó
- The cat arrived

Children
Preference Judgment Task:
- Llegó el gato
- The cat arrived

References

Simplification or Cross-Linguistic Influence?

Monolinguals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>9yo</th>
<th>13yo</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bilinguals</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Bilinguals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>9yo</th>
<th>13yo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>Bilinguals</td>
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</tbody>
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Contextualized Scalar Acceptability Judgment Task:
- Some cousins arrived.
- Unos primos llegaron.
- More evidence for postverbal subjects.