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

Spanish has flexible word order:

- Un chico llegó un regalo.
- Llegó un chico.

Subject position with intransitives in 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.

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

**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?

**Previous Research:**

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

**Adulthood**

- **Monolingual**
  - Verb type & focus influence word order
  - Many other factors, such as definiteness as well
- **Bilingual**
  - Do not have monolingual-like knowledge of all the factors determining word order
  - Overgeneralize preverbal subjects

**Method**

**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:

Een jongen of een girl.

**References**


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

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