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:

- Subject heaviness constrained by SIMPLIFICATION OR CROSS-LINGUISTIC G
- Verb type & focus influence word order
- Many other factors, such as definiteness as
- No previous research on other factors

Subject position in Dutch

Dutch has less overgeneralization of preverbal subjects (but deviate from monolinguals?)

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

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?

The present study

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

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

Previous Research:

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

Bilingual
- No previous research on other factors

Adults
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

Method

Contextualized Scalar Acceptability Judgment Task:

Children
Preferential Judgment Task:

Adulst

References