Child and Adult Heritage Spanish in the Netherlands
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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 S
A boy arrived
Llegó un chico V
but V2!

Subject position in Dutch

Een jongen floated
A boy whistled
Outside/There/that Adv/OBJ

Monolinguals

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<th></th>
<th>0</th>
<th>50</th>
<th>100</th>
<th>150</th>
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<td>VS</td>
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Results

Bilinguals

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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 years old
- 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 years old
- Mixed families
- No Carribbean dialects

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

Method

Contextualized Scalar Acceptability Judgment Task:

Adults

El gato llegó

Children

Preferencia

Research Questions

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

References


SIMPLIFICATION OR CROSS-LINGUISTIC INFLUENCE?