Child and Adult Heritage Spanish in the Netherlands

the Development of Subject Position

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**Subject position in Dutch**

- Een jongen (A boy) floated whistled (V) but V2!
- Buiten/er/dat (Outside/There/that) floated whistled (V) een jongen (a boy) S

**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 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.

**References**


**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:
    - Es mi cumpleaños y hay mucha gente de visita en mi casa. De repente suena el timbre pero como justo estoy recibiendo un regalo de mi tío, no puedo abrir la puerta. ¡Ya 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:
        - Unos primos llegaron. (Some cousins arrived.)

**Subjects**

- **Monolinguals**
  - 18 monolingual speakers of Spanish
- **Bilinguals**
  - 24 heritage speakers
  - 30 heritage speakers
  - 44 monolingual speakers of Spanish

**Heritage speakers**

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