Child and Adult Heritage Spanish in the Netherlands

the Development of Subject Position

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

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Abstract:

This paper explores the development of subject position in adult and child heritage speakers of Spanish in the Netherlands. It examines the influence of various factors such as language background, age, and level of proficiency on subject position in both languages.

Background:

The study is part of a larger project examining language contact and development in the Netherlands. It builds on previous research in Spanish and Dutch and aims to understand the role of language background in subject position.

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?

Method:

Adults

Contextualized Scalar Acceptability Judgment Task:

- El gato llegó

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.

Results:

- Monolinguals
- Bilinguals

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:


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