Child and Adult Heritage Spanish in the Netherlands

the Development of Subject Position

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

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University of Amsterdam

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### Previous Research:

**Children**

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

- **Bilingual**
  - No previous research

**Adults**

- **Monolingual**
  - Verb type & focus influence word order
  - Many other factors, such as definiteness as well (Rogge, 2011)

- **Bilingual**
  - Do not have monolingual-like knowledge of all the factors determining word order (Oliver et al., 2001; De Prado Pérez & Pascual y Cabo, 2012)
  - Overgeneralize preverbal subjects (Hinch-Blair, 2006; Martinez, 2005; Zapata et al., 2005)

### Simplification or Cross-Linguistic Influence?

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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
  - Mixed families
  - No Caribbean dialects

**B) Child Participants**

- 30 heritage speakers
  - 9 and 13 years old
  - Born in the Netherlands, or arrived before 5
  - Mixed families
  - No Caribbean dialects

- 18 monolingual speakers of Spanish
  - Recently immigrated to the Netherlands.
  - No knowledge of Dutch
  - No Caribbean dialects

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

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### Method

**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. Va mi esposa y ve que son unos primos. Cuando regresa, le pregunta: ¿Quién llegó? Mi esposa me dice:

> 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. Va mi esposa y ve que son unos primos. Cuando regresa, le pregunta: ¿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:

#### Adults

- Llegó a casa
- Un chico
- Unos primos
- Quién

#### Children

- Llegó
- Un chico
- Algunos primos

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### Results

**Monolinguals**

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<th>9yo</th>
<th>13yo</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>0.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>VS</td>
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<td>0.4</td>
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</table>

**Bilinguals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>9yo</th>
<th>13yo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>VS</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### 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

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### References


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### Heritage speakers

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