Child and Adult Heritage Spanish in the Netherlands
the Development of Subject Position
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Citation for published version (APA):
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
A boy arrived
V

Llegó un chico
Arrived a boy
S

• This makes subject position a highly complex phenomenon, prone to vulnerability in (bilingual) acquisition

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

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
• 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

Method
Contextualized Scalar Acceptability Judgment Task:

El gato llegó
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.

Children
Preference Judgment Task:

Llegó el gato
A boy arrived

Results

Monolinguals

Bilinguals

References


Comparisons

Title

El gato llegó

Llegó el gato

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Journal of Bilingualism

Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Publishing.

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