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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Subject position in Dutch

Spanish has flexible word order:

Subject position in Spanish

Spanish is constrained by unaccusativity, focus, definiteness, animacy, verbal aspect, adverbial phrases, and subject heaviness.

Subjects, sentential negation and imperatives in child Spanish and Catalan.

A) Adult Participants
24 heritage speakers
- Born in the Netherlands, or arrived before 5 years old
- Mixed families
- 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

Results

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

Bilinguals

Conclusions

1. Both monolingual and Dutch heritage speakers increase the preference of V2 across the lifetime
2. In Dutch bilinguals, this VS preference is more pronounced in all age groups
3. This over generalization might be due to the influence of V2 in Dutch

References

- Brechje van Osch, Aafke Hulk & Petra Sleeman.
- Elisabet García González, Suzanne Aalberse, Aafke Hulk & Petra Sleeman.
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Simplification or cross-linguistic influence?

El gato llegó

Adults

Method

Contextualized Scalar Acceptability 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.

Children

Preference Judgment Task:

El gato llegó

Un chico llegó.

More evidence for postverbal subjects

The Development of Subject Position:

1. 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

Bilingual
- Do not have monolingual-like knowledge of all factors determining word order

- Zapata et al. (2005); De Prada-Pérez & Pascual y Cabo (2012)

Overgeneralization preverbal subjects

- Pascual y Cabo, D., Lingweid, A., & Rothman, J. Applying the interface hypothesis to Heritage Speaker Acquisition: Evidence from SIBER.