Child and Adult Heritage Spanish in the Netherlands
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Subject position in Spanish

Spanish has flexible word order:

- Subject
- Animacy
- Verbal aspect
- Adverbial phrases
- Subject heaviness

Previous Research:

Children

Monolingual

- Have knowledge of verb type by age 2
  (Bel, 2001)
- No previous research on other factors

Bilingual

- No previous research

Adults

Monolingual

- Verb type & focus influence word order
  (Hertel, 2003; Lozano, 2005)
- Many other factors, such as definiteness as well
  (Roggin, 2011)

Bilingual

- Do not have monolingual-like knowledge of all factors determining word order
  (Cayata et al., 2005; De Prada-Pérez & Pascual y Cabo, 2012)
- Overgeneralize preverbal subjects
  (Hinch-Boyle, 2007; Merret, 2005; Cayata et al., 2005)

SIMPLIFICATION OR CROSS-LINGUISTIC INFLUENCE?

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

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Subject position in Dutch

Un chico llegó home during Spanish

Buiten/er/dat Outside/Therese/that

Adv/OBJ

Subject position in Dutch

Un chico llegó home during Spanish

Buiten/er/dat Outside/Therese/that

Adv/OBJ

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

Três gatos estão à beira da praia e levando muito divertimento. Enquanto eles jogam, seu amigo o gato chega e vê que eles não pediram apergaminhamento a el. Ele diz a eles: ‘Por que você não pediram apergaminhamento a el perguntando?’

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:

El gato llegó

References