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

Subject position in Spanish

Spanish has flexible word order:

Subject position with intransitives in Spanish is constrained by unaccusativity, focus, definiteness, animacy, verbal aspect, adverbial phrases, and subject heaviness

Subject position in Spanish

Spanish has flexible word order:

Will Dutch HS of Spanish show less overgeneralization of preverbal subjects (but deviate from monolinguals?)

(De Prada-Pérez & Pascual-Cabo, 2012)

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, 2005; Lizarejos, 2005)
- Many other factors, such as definiteness as well (Rogge, 2011)

Bilingual

- Do not have monolingual-like knowledge of all the factors determining word order (Ocampo et al., 2005; De Prada-Pérez & Pascual-Cabo, 2012)
- Overgeneralize preverbal subjects (Hertel, 2005; Ocampo et al., 2005)

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

Llegó el gato

Monolinguals

Bilinguals

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

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

44 monolingual speakers of Spanish

- 9 and 13 years old
- Born and raised in Spain
- No knowledge of other languages

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


SIMPLIFICATION OR CROSS-LINGUISTIC INFLUENCE?