Child and Adult Heritage Spanish in the Netherlands

*the Development of Subject Position*

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Subject position in Dutch

- Een jongen V floot
- A boy S

Subject position in Spanish

- Un chico V llegó
- A boy S

Subject position is constrained by the presence of intransitives in Spanish is

Previous Research:

Children

- Monolingual: Have knowledge of verb type by age 2
- Bilingual: No previous research

Adulthood

- Monolingual: Verb type & focus influence word order
- Bilingual: No previous research

Bilingual

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

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

44 monolingual speakers of Spanish
- 9 and 13 years old
- Born and raised in Spain

Results

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

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

References