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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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 years old
• 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 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

Method
Contextualized Scalar Acceptability Judgment Task:

El gato llegó

Results
Monolinguals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Monolinguals (Mean)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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, 2000; Lozano, 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
  (Capa et al., 2008; De Prada-Pérez & Pascual y Cabo, 2012)
• Overgeneralize preverbal subjects
  (Hinch-Bale, 2007; Hertel, 2000; Capa et al., 2005)

Simplification or Cross-Linguistic Influence?

Subject position in Dutch

**Un chico llegó un regalo**

**Een jongen krijgt een cadeau.**

**Llegó un regalo.**

**Arrived a boy**

**But V2!**

**Prefers preverbal subjects**

**More Evidence for Postverbal Subjects**

Subject position in Spanish

Spanish has flexible word order:

**Un chico llegó**

**Een jongen krijgt een cadeau.**

**Llegó un regalo.**

**Arrived a boy**

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

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References


Supporting Information

SIMPLIFICATION OR CROSS-LINGUISTIC INFLUENCE?