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

Spanish has flexible word order:

- Un chico llegó arrived
- A boy 
- V
- Llegó un chico
- Arrived a boy

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

- Zapata et al., 2005, De Prada-Pérez & Sorace
- Subject heaviness

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Previous Research:

Children

Monolingual
- Have knowledge of verb type by age 2
  - Sel, 2001
- No previous research on other factors

Bilingual
- No previous research

Adults

Monolingual
- Verb type & focus influence word order
  - Hertel, 2003; Li, 2003
- Many other factors, such as definiteness as well
  - Rogers, 2011

Bilingual
- Do not have monolingual-like knowledge of all the factors determining word order
  - Zapata et al., 2005; De Prada-Pérez & Pascual y Cabo, 2012

Overgeneralize preverbal subjects
  - Hinch & Hertel, 2003; Li, 2003
- Some other factors
  - Rosales & Cabo, 2003

References


Conclusion:

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

Subject position in Dutch

Een jongen S
- Boy V
- Whistled

Subject position in Dutch

Een jongen S
- Boy V
- Whistled

Subject position in Dutch

Een jongen S
- Boy V
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Subject position in Dutch

Een jongen S
- Boy V
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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
- The cat arrived

Children

Preference Judgment Task:

El gato llegó
- The cat arrived

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