Child and Adult Heritage Spanish in the Netherlands

the Development of Subject Position

van Osch, B.A.; García González, Elisabet; Hulk, A.C.J.; Aalberse, S.P.; Sleeman, A.P.

Citation for published version (APA):
Child and Adult Heritage Spanish in the Netherlands: The Development of Subject Position

Brechje van Osch, Elisabet García González, Suzanne Aalberse, Aafke Hulk & Petra Sleeman
University of Amsterdam

elisabet.garciaoglez@gmail.com
b.a.vanosch@uva.nl

Subject position in Dutch

Een jongen float whistled V
but V2!

Subject position in Spanish

Spanish has flexible word order:

Un chico llegó
A boy S
Arrived a boy V

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

Subjects with intransitives in Spanish are prone to vulnerability in (bilingual) acquisition.

More evidence for postverbal subjects

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

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


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.

Adults

El gato llegó

Children

Preference Judgment Task:

Llegó el gato

Simplification or Cross-linguistic Influence?

Heritage speakers

Speakers of a minority language, acquired during childhood in a naturalistic setting in the home context.

Previous Research:

Children

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

Bilingual
- No previous research

Adults

Monolingual
- Verb type & focus influence word order
- Many other factors, such as definiteness as well

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

Simplification or Cross-linguistic Influence?

Simplest hypothesis: Internal factors and attrition of Spanish subject realization and word order variation

Lexical similarities: Subjects, sentential negation and imperatives in child Spanish and Catalan.

More evidence for postverbal subjects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monolinguals</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9yo</td>
<td>13yo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bilinguals</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9yo</td>
<td>13yo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>10.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

Adults

El gato llegó

Children

Preference Judgment Task:

Llegó el gato

References