Child and Adult Heritage Spanish in the Netherlands
van Osch, B.A.; García González, Elisabet; Hulk, A.C.J.; Aalberse, S.P.; Sleeman, A.P.

Citation for published version (APA):

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Subject position in Spanish

Spanish has flexible word order:

- Un chico llegó 
- A boy arrived

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

Subject position with intransitives in Spanish is

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

Subject position in Dutch

- Een jongen floot
- S
- a boy

but

- V
- 2

Buiteneren/dat

Outside/There/that

Adv/OBJ

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.

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

- Pascual, y Cabo (2012)
- Preverbal subjects. (Montrul, 2005)
- Subject position in Dutch

Subject position in Dutch

- Een jongen floot
- S
- a boy

Subject position in Dutch

- A boy
- S

Subject position in Dutch

- floated
- V

Subject position in Dutch

- een jongen
- S

MORE EVIDENCE FOR POSTVERBAL SUBJECTS

Subjects, sentential negation and imperatives in child Spanish and Catalan. 

Simplification or cross-linguistic influence?