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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Subject position in Dutch

- Een jongen A boy
- but V2!
- float whistled V
- een jongen A boy

Results

Subject position in Spanish

- Spanish has flexible word order:
  - Un chico llegó arrived a boy
  - Llegó a boy

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

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
- Llegó el gato

Results

Bilinguals

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