Subject Position in Spanish as a heritage language in the Netherlands
van Osch, B.A.; Aalberse, S.P.; Hulk, A.C.J.; Sleeman, A.P.

Citation for published version (APA):

General rights
It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other than for strictly personal, individual use, unless the work is under an open content license (like Creative Commons).

Disclaimer/Complaints regulations
If you believe that digital publication of certain material infringes any of your rights or (privacy) interests, please let the Library know, stating your reasons. In case of a legitimate complaint, the Library will make the material inaccessible and/or remove it from the website. Please Ask the Library: http://uba.uva.nl/en/contact, or a letter to: Library of the University of Amsterdam, Secretariat, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, The Netherlands. You will be contacted as soon as possible.
Subject Position in Spanish as a Heritage Language in the Netherlands: Interface Vulnerability and Cross-linguistic Influence

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

Subject position in Spanish

Spanish has flexible word order:

Un chico llegó un chico
A boy arrived a boy

Subject position with intransitives in Spanish is constrained by:

1. Verb type
2. Focus
3. Definiteness

Subject position in Dutch

Main clauses:

Een jongen fluit
A boy whistles

But... V2:

Buiten/etc schreeuwen een jongen
Outside/There shouted a boy

MORE EVIDENCE FOR POSTVERBAL SUBJECTS

Experiment 1: Heritage Spanish in the Netherlands

Participants

24 heritage speakers
- Born in the Netherlands, or arrived before 5
- 1 Dutch speaking parent, 1 Spanish speaking parent
- No Caribbean dialects

18 monolingual speakers of Spanish
- Recently immigrated to the Netherlands.
- No knowledge of Dutch
- No Caribbean dialects

Hypotheses

1. Dutch HS of Spanish will show less overgeneralization of preverbal subjects
2. focus and definiteness are more vulnerable than verb type

Method

Contextualized Scalar Acceptability Judgment Task:

Verbs type
- Unaccusative
- Unergative

Focus
- Broad
- Narrow

Subject
- Definite
- Indefinite

Results per condition

Monolinguals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Spanish Speakers</th>
<th>Dutch Speakers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unacc. Unerg.</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broad Narrow</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definite Indefinite</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results across conditions

Monolinguals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Spanish Speakers</th>
<th>Dutch Speakers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unacc. Unerg.</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broad Narrow</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definite Indefinite</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Heritage speakers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Spanish Speakers</th>
<th>Dutch Speakers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unacc. Unerg.</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broad Narrow</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definite Indefinite</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusions

1. Dutch heritage speakers show knowledge of the factors verb type, focus, and definiteness

Experiment 2: Heritage Spanish in the US

22 heritage speakers in New Jersey
- Born in the US, or arrived before 5
- 2 Spanish speaking parents
- No Caribbean dialects
- Proficiency-matched to the Dutch HS

References


The Interface Hypothesis

Grosjean & Samuels, 2001

External interface (syntax-pragmatics)
- more vulnerable

Internal interface (syntax-semantics)
- less vulnerable

FOCUS & DEFINITENESS
- more vulnerable

VERB TYPE
- less vulnerable

Subject position in English or Simplification?

CROSS-LINGUISTIC INFLUENCE FROM ENGLISH OR SIMPLIFICATION?

Un chico llegó un chico
A boy arrived a boy

Definite

A boy whistled

Arrived a boy

Subject position in Dutch

Main clauses:

A boy flew

But... V2:

Outside/There shouted a boy

Unacc. Unerg.

Unaccusative

Un chico llegó

A boy arrived

Narrow

Silbó un chico

Whistled a boy

Definite

El chico llegó

The boy arrived

Indefinite

Llegó un chico

Arrived a boy

Experiment 2: Heritage Spanish in the US

22 heritage speakers in New Jersey
- Born in the US, or arrived before 5
- 2 Spanish speaking parents
- No Caribbean dialects
- Proficiency-matched to the Dutch HS

Results across conditions:

SV

VS

Other

Missing

Judgment task

Production task

0.5

1.5

2

600

400

200

0

500

1000

1500

2000

3000

4000

5000

6000