Subject Position in Spanish as a heritage language in the Netherlands

*Interface Vulnerability and Cross-linguistic Influence*

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: https://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

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

Subject position in Spanish
Spanish has flexible word order:

- Unaccusative
  - Subject position with intransitives in Spanish is more vulnerable than focus (De Prada-Pérez & Pascual y Cabo, 2012)

- Unergative
  - Subject position with intransitives in Spanish is more vulnerable than focus (De Prada-Pérez & Pascual y Cabo, 2012)

- Definite
  - Subject position with intransitives in Spanish is more vulnerable than focus (De Prada-Pérez & Pascual y Cabo, 2012)

- Narrow
  - Subject position with intransitives in Spanish is more vulnerable than focus (De Prada-Pérez & Pascual y Cabo, 2012)

- Broad
  - Subject position with intransitives in Spanish is more vulnerable than focus (De Prada-Pérez & Pascual y Cabo, 2012)

- Indefinite
  - Subject position with intransitives in Spanish is more vulnerable than focus (De Prada-Pérez & Pascual y Cabo, 2012)

Previous Research: Heritage Spanish in the US
- Comparing verb type & focus → unclear findings:
  - Verb type is robust (Montiel, 2005)
  - Verb type and focus are vulnerable (Zapata et al., 2005)
  - Verb type is more vulnerable than focus (De Prada-Pérez & Pascual y Cabo, 2012)

- Heritage speakers overgeneralize preverbal subjects
  - (Hertel, 2003; Lozano, 2006; Domínguez, 2013; Zapata et al., 2005, de Prada-Pérez & Pascual y Cabo, 2012)

Subject position in Dutch
Main clauses:

- Unaccusative
  - Adv V S

- Broad
  - Adv V S

- Narrow
  - Adv V S

- Definite
  - Adv V S

- Indefinite
  - Adv V S

Method
Contextualized Scalar Acceptability Judgment Task:

- Verb type
  - Unaccusative
  - Unergative

- Focus
  - Broad
  - Narrow

- Subject
  - Definite
  - Indefinite

Results per condition

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. both focus and definiteness are more vulnerable than verb type

Results across conditions

- SV
- VS
- Def.
- Indef.

Conclusions
- 1. Dutch heritage speakers show knowledge of the factors verb type, focus, and not definiteness
- 2. In production, Dutch heritage speakers of Spanish overgeneralize postverbal subjects, whereas American HS do not prefer either order.
- 3. In production, American heritage speakers of Spanish overgeneralize preverbal subjects

References