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

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:

- Un chico llegó a un chico
- Llegó un chico

Definiteness

- Verbs type: robust
- verb and focus are vulnerable
- verb is more vulnerable than focus

- Heritage speakers overgeneralize preverbal subjects

Subject position in Dutch

Main clauses:

- Een jongen floot
- But... V2: Buit/en er schreeuwde een jongen outside/there shouted

Subject position with intransitives in Spanish is constrained by:

1. Verb type
2. Focus
3. Definiteness

Subject position with intransitives in Spanish as a Heritage Language in the Netherlands:

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

Method
Contextualized Scalar Acceptability Judgment Task:

- Examples: "Un chico llegó a un chico" (Spanish)
- "Een jongen floot" (Dutch)

Results per condition

Conclusions
1. Dutch heritage speakers show knowledge of the factors verb type, focus, and definiteness
   - Partial support for the Interface Hypothesis
2. In production, Dutch heritage speakers of Spanish overgeneralize oververbal subjects, whereas American HS do not prefer either order.
3. In production, American heritage speakers of Spanish overgeneralize preverbal subjects
   - Support for cross-linguistic influence

References

The Interface Hypothesis

- External interface (syntactic-pragmatics/discourse) more vulnerable => less vulnerable
- Internal interface (syntax-semantics) more vulnerable => less vulnerable

FOCUS & DEFINITENESS

- VERB TYPE more vulnerable => less vulnerable

- SV VS other missing

Results across conditions:

- Unacc. Unerg.
- Broad Narrow
- Def. Indef.

- n.s.

- Unacc. Unerg.
- Broad Narrow
- Def. Indef.

- SV VS

- n.s.

- Monolinguals
- Heritage speakers

Experiment 2: Heritage Spanish in New Jersey

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