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Subject Position in Spanish as a Heritage Language in the Netherlands: Interface Vulnerability and Cross-linguistic Influence
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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
- Llegó un chico

Subject position with intransitives in Spanish is constrained by:
1. Verb type
2. Focus
3. Definiteness

The Interface Hypothesis

- Broad
- Narrow
- Definite
- Indefinite

Method
Contextualized Scalar Acceptability Judgment Task:

- Verb type
- Focus
- Subject

Results across conditions:

- SV
- VS
- other
- missing

Conclusions
1. Dutch heritage speakers show knowledge of the factors verb type, focus, and definiteness
2. Broad
3. Narrow
4. Definite
5. Indefinite

References

Subject position in Dutch

Main clauses:

- Een jongen floot
- A boy whistled

But... V2:

- Buit/en schreeuwde een jongen
- Outside/There shouted a boy

Subject Position in the Netherlands

- Experiment 1:
  - Heritage speakers
  - Participants: 24 heritage speakers
  - Heritable speakers:
    - Born in the Netherlands, or arrived before 5
    - 1 Dutch speaking parent, 1 Spanish speaking parent
    - No Caribbean dialects
  - 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 per condition

- SV
- VS

Results across conditions

- SV
- VS

Support for the Interface Hypothesis