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

References

Method
Contextualized Scalar Acceptability Judgment Task:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb type</th>
<th>Focus</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unaccusative</td>
<td>Broad</td>
<td>Definite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaccusative</td>
<td>Narrow</td>
<td>Indefinite</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example: Unaccusative → narrow → indefinite

It's my birthday and there are many guests in my house. Suddenly the doorbell rings, but since I'm just receiving a gift from my uncle, I cannot open the door. My wife goes and sees that it's some cousins. When she gets back, I ask her: "Who arrived?". My wife tells me:

Some cousins arrived.

Results per condition:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SV</th>
<th>VS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monolinguals</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage speakers</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results across conditions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Judgment task</th>
<th>Production task</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SV</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VS</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusions
1. Dutch heritage speakers show knowledge of the factors verb type, focus, and definiteness → Partial support for the Interface Hypothesis
2. In judgment, Dutch heritage speakers of Spanish overgeneralize preverbal 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

The Interface Hypothesis
(Quirk & Shattock, 2016)

Subject position in Spanish
Spanish has flexible word order:

Un chico llegó a boy arrived
Llegó un chico Arrived a boy

Subject position with intransitives in Spanish is constrained by:

1. Verb type
2. Focus
3. Definiteness

Verb type and focus are vulnerable (Zapata et al., 2005)
Verb type is robust (Montrul, 2005)

Definiteness during childhood

Subject position in Dutch
Main clauses:

Een jongen floot a boy whistled

But... V2:

Buiten/er schreeuwd een jongen outside/there shouted a boy

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:

Monolinguals
Unacc. Unerg.
Broad Narrow
Def. Indef.

Heritage speakers
Unacc. Unerg. Broad Narrow Def. Indef.

The Interface Hypothesis
(Quirk & Shattock, 2016)

External interface (syntax-pragmatics / discourse) more vulnerable VERB TYPE

Internal interface (syntax-semantics) less vulnerable

FOCUS & DEFINITENESS more vulnerable

Support for cross-linguistic influence