Subject Position in Spanish as a heritage language in the Netherlands

*Interface Vulnerability and Cross-linguistic Influence*

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Citation for published version (APA):

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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:

- Verb type
- Unaccusative
- Unaccusative
- Narrow
- Broad
- Subject
- Definite

Subject position in Dutch
Main clauses:

- Unaccusative
- Narrow
- Definite

Contextualized Scalar Acceptability Judgment Task:

- Verb type
- Focus
- Subject

Method
Contextualized Scalar Acceptability Judgment Task:

- Verb type
- Unaccusative
- Narrow
- Broad
- Subject
- Definite
- Indefinite

Results per condition:

Monolinguals

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Heritage speakers

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</tbody>
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Results across conditions:

- Participating speakers: 24 heritage speakers
- Participants: 24 heritage speakers
- Monolinguals: Spanish
- Heritage speakers: 22 heritage speakers
- Production task

Conclusions

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

2. In production, 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.

References