Word order in heritage Russian in the US

**CLAUSE TYPE MATTERS**

**01 RESEARCH QUESTION**

Do word order (WO) patterns of heritage speakers (HSs) differ from those of monolingual speakers (monos)?

**02 WORD ORDER OVERVIEW**

- Rigid SVO in main and embedded clauses with little reordering options (De Vogeloer 2007, Kempen & Harbusch 2019)
- Basic SVO in neutral contexts in main and embedded clauses, flexible WO governed by information structure ("given-new" principle) (Kallestinova 2007, Slioussar 2007)

**03 METHODOLOGY**


The current study uses:
- Corpus of adolescent speakers controlled for age,
- Oral and written productions,
- Homogeneous data sample (HSs were either born in the US or came there until age 5)

**04 RESULTS – WORD ORDER IN DIFFERENT CLAUSES**

Overall: HSs in the US produced significantly more SVO orders than monolinguals ($X^2 (1, N=480) = 9.45, p = .002$).

Split into main and embedded clauses revealed interesting results:

- Embedded clauses: HSs produced predominantly SVO and significantly differed from monolinguals ($X^2 (1, N=393) = 3.69, p = .0548$). However, indications that HSs and monos differ from each other regarding the WO and IS.

- Main clauses: HSs are similar to monolinguals ($X^2 (1, N=87) = 10.47, p = .001$).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clauses Type</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>mean age</th>
<th>gender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heritage speakers</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>4 females</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monos</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>4 females</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participants</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heritage speakers</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>53</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monos</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**05 DISCUSSION - WHY DO HSs PRODUCE MORE SVO IN EMBEDDED CLAUSES?**

Transfer? Rather not since HSs were similar to monolinguals in main clauses.

The strategy behind selecting SVO

HSs choose one WO among more available and extend its use to a wider range of contexts.

- Narrowing of options (Haine 2006)
  - Monolingual Russian: SVO
  - Monolingual English: SVO

Complexity of embedded clauses leads to increased SVO

- processing of embedded clauses is less accurate than processing of main clauses (Baker & Wagner 1987 on processing of false information in main and embedded clauses; Sanford 2002)
- acquired later than main clauses (Kuiken & Vedder, 2019 for L2 acquisition, Ovčinnikova 2011 on mono Russian and h- Russian in Israel)

Outlook: word order in h-Russian in Germany (poster of P3)