

CLAUSE TYPE MATTERS

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01 RESEARCH QUESTION

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

02 WORD ORDER OVERVIEW

English

Rigid SVO in main and embedded clauses with little reordering options (De Vogelaer 2007, Kempen & Harbusch 2019)

Russian

Basic SVO in neutral contexts in main and embedded clauses, flexible WO governed by information structure ("given-new" principle) (Kallestinova 2007, Slioussar 2007)

Heritage Russian
in the US

Increased use of SVO order (Laleko & Dubinina 2018, Polinsky 2006, Isurin 2005 Isurin & Ivanova-Sullivan 2008,)

Word order does not always adhere to requirements of IS (Laleko & Dubinina 2018)

03 METHODOLOGY

Language Situations Method (Wiese 2020).

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)

Participants

	N	mean age	gender
heritage speakers	8	15.7	4 females
monos	8	16.6	4 females

Clauses

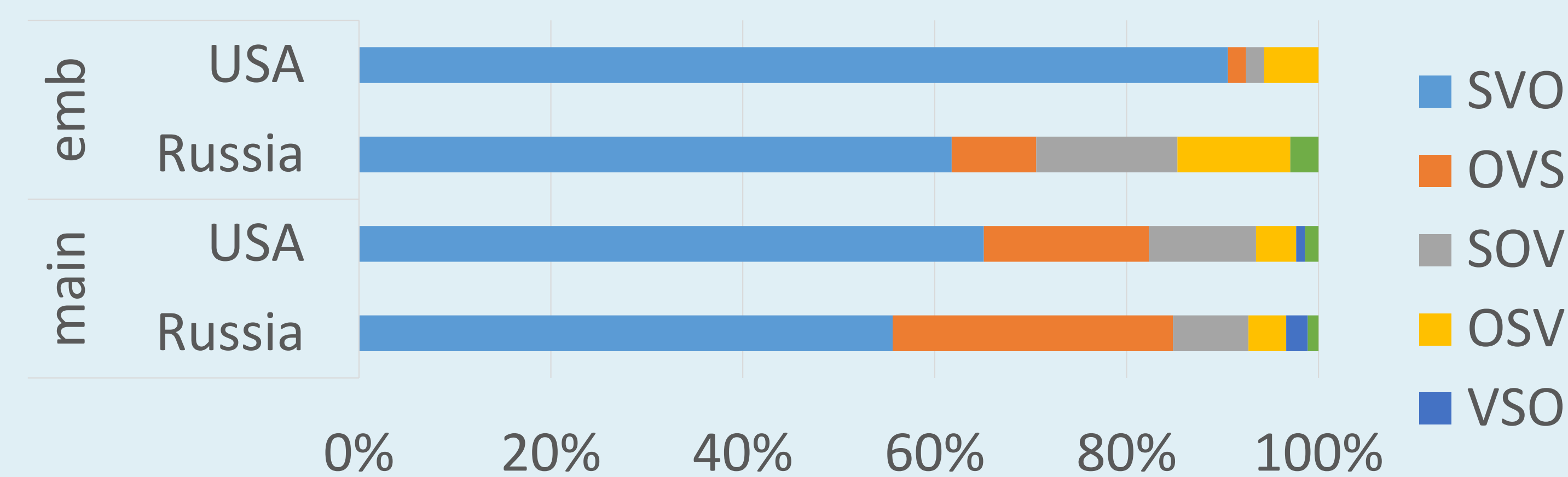
	Number of	main	embedded
heritage speakers	215	53	
monos	178	34	

Annotation of WO patterns: S, V, O (direct and oblique, POS: noun, pronoun). Clause type: main, embedded

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 ($X^2(1, N=87) = 10.47, p = .001$). [see discussion](#)

Main clauses: HSs are similar to 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.

Context: Naprotiv dorogi stojala černaja mašina. Ona byla otkryta.
There was a black car in front of the road. It was open.

Target: i ženščina stojala rjodom s nej
and woman stood beside with her
Snew V Ogiven

'And a woman was standing next to it'
(cf. i rjodom s nej stojala ženščina)
Ogiven V Snew

(HS_US, formal written)

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" (Heine 2006)

- Monolingual Russian: SVO, OVS, SOV, OSV, VSO, VOS
- Monolingual English: SVO

Complexity of embedded clauses leads to increased SVO

- syntactically complex (Sánchez Abchi & De Mier, 2017 for HSs of Spanish, Levy et al 2013 on relative clauses in mono-Russian, Lintunen & Mäkilä 2014 on L2 English by speakers of Finnish, Bulté B. and A. Housen. 2012 on L2)
- 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)