

An interplay between cross-linguistic influence and diminished input: The case of child and adult heritage language grammars

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Child and adult heritage language (HL) speakers show high heterogeneity as compared to the baseline. Divergences and innovations observed in HL grammars are suggested to be systematic. Among the possible mechanisms triggering divergences in HL grammars, researchers have proposed cross-linguistic influences from the societal language (SL) and/or input characteristics (such as age of onset of bilingualism, quantity and quality of exposure to the HL, family type (both parents are HL speakers vs. a mixed HL-SL family)). Yet, teasing apart the two effects is not an easy task. Some studies attribute the observed divergences to cross-linguistic influence, also labelled as transfer (for an overview see Van Dijk et al., 2021). Others find no effect of cross-linguistic influence, therefore suggesting that input factors shape HL development and ultimate attainment (e.g., Rodina et al., 2020).

In the current talk, I will overview a series of studies conducted at my lab investigating a variety of morphosyntactic properties of child and adult HL-Russian (such as case morphology, gender/number agreement and concord, aspect) in contact with different Societal Languages (e.g., Hebrew, English). I will discuss the observed presence/ absence of cross-linguistic influence for different in light of research designs (i.e., monolingual-vs.-bilingual, between-bilingual, and within-bilingual comparisons). I will demonstrate that the effects of cross-linguistic influence and diminished input are not mutually exclusive and shape HL grammars in tandem (Fridman et al., 2023; Meir, 2023; Meir & Janssen, 2021; Meir & Polinsky, 2021).

- Fridman, C., Polinsky, M., & Meir, N. (2023). Cross-Linguistic Influence Meets Diminished Input: A Comparative Study of Heritage Russian in Contact with Hebrew and English. *Second Language Research*.
- Meir, N., & Janssen, B. (2021). Child heritage language development: an interplay between cross-linguistic influence and language-external factors. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 12, 651730.
- Meir, N., & Polinsky, M. (2021). Restructuring in heritage grammars: Adjective-noun and numeral-noun expressions in Israeli Russian. *Linguistic Approaches to Bilingualism*, 11(2), 222-258.
- Rodina, Y., Kupisch, T., Meir, N., Mitrofanova, N., Urek, O., & Westergaard, M. (2020). Internal and external factors in heritage language acquisition: Evidence from heritage Russian in Israel, Germany, Norway, Latvia and the United Kingdom. In *Frontiers in Education* (p. 20). *Frontiers*.
- Van Dijk, C., Van Wonderen, E., Koutamanis, E., Kootstra, G. J., Dijkstra, T., & Unsworth, S. (2021). Cross-linguistic influence in simultaneous and early sequential bilingual children: A meta-analysis. *Journal of Child Language*, 49, 897-929.