

Heritage syntax is not wild!

The past two decades have seen an increasing number of studies on heritage language syntax. While the discussions often centered around notions, such as incomplete, divergent, convergent acquisition and attrition (compared to some kind of baseline), we believe that the time is ripe to ask what the innovations or properties of the newly emerging systems are, why they are the way they are and what mechanisms have led to these changes from the baseline. Building on previous work by Rinke & Flores 2014, Kupisch & Polinsky 2021 for heritage language, Lefebvre, White & Jourdan, 2006 for creole languages), I will further explore the hypothesis that heritage language acquisition is systematic and in fact mirrors language change, though at a higher speed. I will do so based on two areas in morphosyntax: the emergence of articles and the loss of case marking.

References:

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