

Effects of shared word order on intrasentential mixing in English-Dutch, Polish-Dutch, and Turkish-Dutch bilinguals

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INTRODUCTION

Intrasentential language mixing = Mixing of languages within a single sentence

- Children take into account grammatical rules of both languages (Meisel, 1994; Myers-Scotton, 1993; Poplack, 1980)
- When grammatical structures do not overlap, language mixing is more effortful (Gollan & Holdrick, 2016; Soesman & Walters, 2021)

HYPOTHESES

Children make more mistakes in ...

1. Mixed than monolingual sentences
2. Mixed sentences where mixing occurs without word order overlap:

	Main clause	Subordinate clause
English		
Polish		
Turkish		

3. Mixed sentences with alternations than insertions
4. Mixed sentences if they have less experience with language mixing in daily life

PARTICIPANTS

Subject + Verb + Object (SVO)

- $n = 26$
- English- and Polish-Dutch
- Word order overlap in main clause

Subject + Object + Verb (SOV)

- $n = 31$
- Turkish-Dutch
- Word order overlap in subordinate clause

MIXED SENTENCE REPETITION

Children repeat 20 sentences of five types:

1. **Insertion** in main clause
Het meisje proeft de **elma** voordat ze het opeet.
2. **Insertion** in subordinate clause
De kinderen moeten stilzitten als mama de **lody** uitdeelt.
3. **Alternation** in main clause
Mijn broertje **grabs the toy** zodat hij zich niet verveelt.
4. **Alternation** in subordinate clause
Vader riep naar ons dat hij **arabayı park ediyor**.
5. Monolingual
De poes wil dat de kinderen haar aaien.

ANALYSES

Generalized Linear Mixed-Effect Models

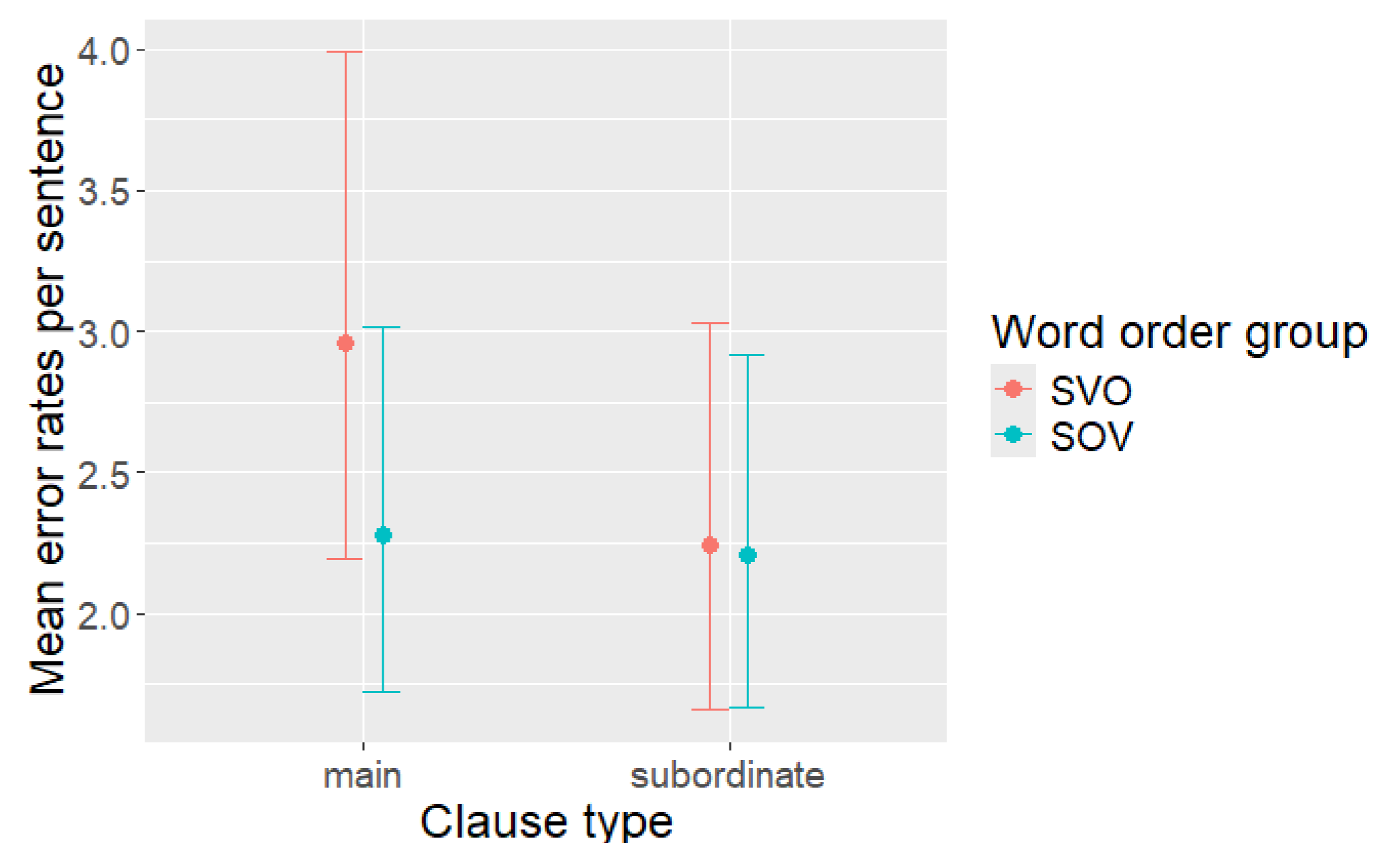
- Outcome: Error rate per sentence
- Controlling for age and language balance

RESULTS

	Estimate	SE	p
Model hypothesis 1			
Monolingual vs mixed	.247	.183	.177
Age	-.313	.084	<.001*
Language balance	-.107	.084	.198
Model hypothesis 2-3			
Main vs subordinate clause	-.277	.134	.039*
SVO vs SOV word order group	-.260	.182	.151
Clause type * group	.244	.094	.009*
Insertion vs alternation	.113	.123	.358
Age	-.286	.082	<.001*
Language balance	-.136	.088	.123

Hypothesis 4

Total error rates on the mixed sentences did not correlate with mixing experience in daily life ($r(55) = .036, p = .794$)



CONCLUSION

First study to systematically examine word order overlap in a sample of children with different language backgrounds

We find no evidence for a facilitating function of word order overlap in language mixing

- Combining error rates and reaction times may provide a more sensitive outcome measure
- Sentence serial order may have played a role
- Consider opposite switching direction (L2 -> Dutch)

CONTACT

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