Clitic-doubled Left Dislocation in Heritage Spanish:
Judgment vs. Speeded Production Data

This project examines whether early Spanish-English bilinguals (heritage speakers, HSs) distinguish when it is discursively appropriate to use Spanish Clitic-doubled Left Dislocation (CLLD) in a timed production task. It also compares these HS production results with HS judgment data and production data from adult second language (L2) learners.

A CLLD-ed constituent moves to the left periphery and is duplicated with a clitic pronoun (1a). Focus Fronted (FF) (1d) or Clefted (1f) constituents also move to the left periphery, but without clitic-doubling. The presence/absence of clitic-doubling is related to presence/absence of anaphoric relation to previous discourse (López, 2009) (1a-f).

(1) CONTEXT: Where do you see [ANTECEDENT Pedro]?
      ACC[+hum] Pedro María Cl.acc see.3rd in the park
      Pedro, Maria sees him in the park.
      ACC[+hum] Luis María Cl.acc see.3rd in the park
      Luis, Maria sees him in the park.
   c. [#FF PEDRO] María [NO clitic-doubling] ve en el parque.  (# [+anaphor] FF)
      ACC[+hum] Pedro María see.3rd in the park
      PEDRO Maria sees in the park.
   d. [FF LUIS] María [NO clitic-doubling] ve en el parque.  (✓ [-anaphor] FF)
      ACC[+hum] Luis María see.3rd in the park
      LUIS Maria sees in the park.
   e. [# pre-verbal object Pedro] es a quien María [NO clitic-doubling] ve en el parque. (# [+anaphor] Cleft)
      ACC[+hum] Pedro is to whom Maria see.3rd in the park
      Pedro is the one that Maria sees in the park.
   f. [# pre-verbal object Luis] es a quien María [NO clitic-doubling] ve en el parque.  (✓ [-anaphor] Cleft)
      ACC[+hum] Luis is to whom Maria see.3rd in the park
      Luis is the one that Maria sees in the park.

There are contradicting accounts of whether constructions at the syntax-discourse interface, such as CLLD, are vulnerable for HSs. A judgment experiment (Leal Mendez et al., 2015) finds that HSs pattern with L1-dominant Spanish speakers. However, Sorace (2011) predicts divergence for bilingual populations due to processing limitations and Montrul and Polinsky (2011) argue this hypothesis should apply to HSs given their status as early bilinguals.

Processing pressure can be induced by production (Grüter et al., 2012) and time constraints (Sorace, 2011), which is why we use a speeded production task. Twenty Spanish HSs and twenty L1-dominant Spanish controls completed the study. Participants were given a context and responded orally to 24 questions that required either CLLD (2) or FF/clefts (3).
(2) **CONTEXTO:** Visitas a tu viejo amigo de Salamanca, Manuel, la próxima semana. Juan te pregunta:

_Juan_: ¿Cuándo ves a nuestros amigos de Salamanca?

_Tu_: Manuel...

(3) **CONTEXTO:** No vas al trabajo para llevar a tu hijo Luis al doctor. Juan hace una pregunta, pero quieres decirle que llevas al doctor a Luis y no a Pablo:

_Juan_: ¿Por qué llevas al doctor a tu hijo Pablo?

_Tu_: ¡No! Luis...

Preliminary results show that, while 87% of the HSs distinguished between discourse contexts in the judgment task, this percentage went down to 40% in production. This results indicate that heritage speakers have a control-like linguistic knowledge (judgment), but this is affected by bilingual processing limitations in real-time language use (production). In principle, this findings support Sorace’s (2011) prediction of non-native divergence. However, processing limitations did not prevent 40% of the participants to perform in a control-like fashion, which supports Leal Mendez et al.’s (2015) converging data.