May 2023

Dear Editorial Board,

It is my pleasure to submit the manuscript entitled “On the Acquisition of Differential Object Marking in Child Heritage Spanish: Bilingual Education, Exposure, and Age Effects” for submission to the special issue on Current Approaches to the Acquisition of Heritage Spanish edited by Dr. Alejandro Cuza. This manuscript has not been published before and is not currently being considered for publication elsewhere. There are no conflicts of interest associated with this manuscript, and there has been no financial support for this work that could have influenced its outcome.

In this article, I explore how individual variability and bilingual education shape Spanish heritage speakers’ command of differential object marking, a syntactic structure that previous research has shown is vulnerable to loss in adult populations. This particular paper evaluates both production and comprehension data from children enrolled in a dual-language immersion school, as well as age-matched peers in traditional, English-only schools. This is a novel approach to the study of heritage languages and reveals the impact of dual-language schooling, as the participants who received this type of schooling had an advantage over peers in their use of this structure. The paper cites other components of this special edition to make connections across studies that argue in favor of Putnam and Sánchez’s (2013) theory of heritage language acquisition and maintenance since they emphasize the role of multiple experiential variables. These findings also have implications for teaching Spanish to heritage language learners in dual-language education schools.

I believe that *Languages* is an ideal forum for my research article given its long history of high-quality scholarship in Spanish as a heritage language, particularly within this special issue, which has placed great emphasis on the factors that can shape myriad outcomes of acquiring Spanish as a heritage language. Thank you in advance for your consideration of my manuscript and I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Sincerely,



Patrick D. Thane, Ph.D.