

Abstract: Code switching within the DP with Basque/Spanish data

The present study examines the relative order of adjectives and nouns within a code-switched DP among Basque/Spanish bilinguals. There has been considerable research on what determines word order in code-switching DPs, and several hypotheses have been considered: is this a property defined by the determiner (Bartlett, 2012), the adjective (Cantone & MacSwan, 2009) or the noun (Müller, 2012)? We propose a new look at the problem by using code-switching of Basque/Spanish, two languages whose typological properties in this respect partially overlap. The Basque adjective is rigidly post-nominal, while Spanish classifies its adjectives in four categories, ranging from obligatory pre-nominal (*presunto, supuesto*) to obligatory post-nominal (*económico, radical*). A total of 25 Basque/Spanish bilinguals carried out an acceptability judgment task in which they had to rate Basque/Spanish mixed DPs. We found that neither the N nor the D seems to play an important role in determining the word order in Basque/Spanish code-switched DPs. Furthermore, the study showed that it is the adjective the one that is responsible for word order in these contexts. Thus, our results confirm Cantone & MacSwan (2009).

Works cited:

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