



Universiteit
Leiden

Heritage languages compared: Papiamentu, Spanish and Turkish in The Netherlands

Applicants

Eligible proposals must have at least two applicants from Humanities, preferably with an interdisciplinary approach.

Supervisor Name	Discipline
Prof. Dr. Janet Grijzenhout (LUCL)	Experimental linguistics, acquisition of heritage languages in EU
Dr. M. Carmen Parafita Couto (LUCL)	Corpus linguistics, code-switching, Spanish and Papiamentu
Dr. Deniz Tat (LIAS)	Theoretical linguistics, syntax, Turkish

Project description

Provide a brief description of the project (max. 300 words)

Most people in The Netherlands speak more than one language. But how does the mind of a multilingual person handle these languages? Does the multilingual mind have multiple grammars for each language (Amaral & Roeper, 2014), or does it have a single, adaptable grammar for all of them (López 2018)? What happens in the mind of multilingual speakers when they juggle different languages with conflicting features? How can we find out? To answer these questions, we will study multilingual speakers in the Netherlands when they are speaking a single language (unilingual mode) and compare them to when they are using multiple languages in the same conversation (code-switching). Data will be drawn from three multilingual populations: Papiamentu-Dutch, Spanish-Dutch, and Turkish-Dutch. We selectively target the nominal domain, consisting of a determiner, a noun, and an adjective. Nominal constructions in Spanish, Dutch, Papiamentu and Turkish vary along the dimensions of adjective placement, gender, and number. Three novel aspects of this project are (i) the systematic comparison of three different bilingual populations in The Netherlands, (ii) the combination of different age groups (school children, adolescents and adults), and (iii) the combination of research methodologies [including production and comprehension tasks (e.g. director-matcher task or two alternative forced-choice judgement task), yielding the following two synergetic subprojects:

Subproject 1: The multilingual mind: unilingual mode

An enquiry into the unilingual comprehension and production patterns in the three communities.

Subproject 2: The multilingual mind: code-switching mode

An analysis of the code-switching comprehension and production patterns in the three communities.

The two sub-projects will allow us to discuss to what extent bilinguals across different age groups (i) produce strings that can be seen as having the same syntactic structure within and across language pairs, and (ii) converge in their linguistic judgments.

Research Trainee Profile

Each proposal requests two Research Trainees. Describe the general tasks of the research trainees, how these tasks are academically challenging to the research trainees, whether they need any preliminary knowledge (regarding the topic and/or research methods) and which skills the research trainees should have. Also specify which type of students are eligible to apply (Ba, Ma, ResMa).

The research trainees will be involved in all steps of the study: task design, recruitment of participants, data collection, data transcription, data analysis, and write-up of results. The research trainees should be willing to learn how to work with different programmes such as CLAN or ELAN. One of them should know Turkish and the other should know Spanish and Papiamentu. Any level, Ba, or (Res)Ma, is possible depending on the background and motivation of the individual student. Some knowledge of statistics and experience with software packages such as R is welcome but not essential. The research trainees will also learn complementary skills such as project coordination, co-organisation of conferences/workshop,

Collaboration

If applicable: Describe how your research improves collaboration and cross-pollination between the disciplines involved (max. 300 words)

The co-applicants (Grijzenhout, Parafita Couto & Tat) are empirically and theoretically complementary. Grijzenhout brings in expertise in experimental linguistics as well as on acquisition of heritage languages. Tat is a theoretical linguist and a native speaker of Turkish. Parafita Couto has expertise in corpus building and is a native speaker of Spanish. She has also done research on Papiamentu-Dutch bilingualism. Hence, an added value of this collaboration is that it allows us to combine and contrast data from different communities, to join theoretical and methodological expertise in linguistics and psycholinguistics and to study both children and adults to characterize the typology, distribution and frequency of bilingual structures. This collaboration will also strengthen the research endeavours of the newly established Herling (Research Lab for the Study of Heritage Languages of the Netherlands).

<https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/news/2018/11/new-platform-for-research-about-heritage-languages?fbclid=IwAR13oEz85Rrz8wIPhX7tSFkhARZbT4KJlJL3n2niIW0wEMavI3zEvtT9mcg>

Deliverables

Enumerate intended project results: papers, research proposals or otherwise. (max 200 words)

- Joint paper in a bilingualism journal such as *Linguistic Approaches to Bilingualism* or *International Journal of Bilingualism*, in which the trainees will be included as co-authors.
- Building a corpus (with the production task), which will be made available to the research community via the Leiden Linguistic Diversity Corpora initiative, also in collaboration with the Center for Digital Humanities.
- The results may also serve as a springboard for a funding application to the NWO PhD in the Humanities.
- Workshop on grammatical gender in heritage language bilingualism: child and adult acquisition, suppression and transfer of L1 gender.

Planning

Provide a breakdown of the project into phases with tentative timing (max 150 words)

Months 1-2: Literature review, task and stimuli design for the three language pairs.

Humanities Research Traineeship Programme 2018

Months 3-5: Data collection, transcription and coding

End Month 5: Conference/workshop

Months 6-7: Data analysis, write-up and final conference/workshop

Student Application

Provide information on how to apply e.g. required documents for application (resume, motivation letter etc.) and an email address where student applications should be sent to.

Interested students should send an academic resume, as well as a short motivation paragraph (max 100 words) to m.parafita.couto@hum.leidenuniv.nl