

## Incomplete Acquisition in Adult Heritage Language Speakers: The Regression or the Interface Hypothesis?

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This study investigates whether the Regression Hypothesis or the Interface Hypothesis can best explain the patterns of incomplete acquisition and selectivity observed in Spanish heritage speakers. 69 adult Spanish heritage speakers (who acquired English before age 5) and 22 native speakers participated in 3 experiments. Experiment 1 tested knowledge of the preterit/imperfect contrast with different predicates. Experiment 2 tested the indicative/subjunctive contrast. Following Montrul & Slabakovaís (2003) methodology, both experiments used elicited production to command of morphology and sentence conjunction judgment tasks to tap semantic interpretation. Experiment 3 focused on DOM and used oral production and a grammaticality judgment task. Results of the 3 experiments showed significant differences between the native speakers and the heritage speakers, attesting that heritage speakers have incomplete knowledge of Spanish. Since, overall, tense/aspect was retained better than subjunctive and DOM, this result lends support to the Interface Hypothesis.