

**"Comparing structures in heritage languages: research on the dative construction in heritage languages in the Netherlands"**

Pieter Muysken, Suzanne Aalberse, Pablo Irizarri van Suchtelen, Gerrit Jan Kootstra,  
Francesca Romana Moro, Hülya Sahin

In the Netherlands, different heritage languages are spoken. Many of them are undergoing sometimes subtle syntactic changes in the immigrant context. Some of these changes may have to do with convergence to Dutch, some with restructuring due to the more limited heritage language input in the language development process of successive generations, others yet to other processes of grammatical change. In this paper we compare a single structure, the dative, across some of these languages: Ambon Malay, Chilean Spanish, Chinese languages, Moroccan Arabic, Papiamentu, Sranan, and Turkish. For each language we try to establish which scenario of change best accounts for the data.