Creative and routine strategies in the use of multi word units in heritage speakers' narratives.

Inga Hennecke[1] & Evelyn Wiesinger[1]
[1]Universität Tübingen
inga.hennecke@uni-tuebingen.de, evelyn.wiesinger@uni-tuebingen.de

We aim at investigating code-switching and calquing within multi-word units (MWUs) in heritage data. MWUs are generally assumed to be more or less prefabricated or chunked units that can be stored and accessed by the speakers as a whole. In our presentation, we bring together usage-based psycholinguistics and Construction Grammar (e.g. Arnon & Snider 2010; Masini 2009) with cognitively oriented approaches to language contact and bilingualism (e.g. Backus 2015). We will argue that contact phenomena such as code-switching and calquing can be reinterpreted in terms of a continuum between creative and routine usage of MWUs. Example 1 shows an established N Prep N construction that is routinely used by monolingual and heritage speakers. Examples 2 and 3 show creatively filled slots that are typically found in heritage speakers (all examples from CESA):

(1) El **Día de los Muertos**   no lo celebran.
     the   day of the dead   not it celebrate
     'The Day of the Dead, they do not celebrate it.'
(2) para **el día de dar   gracias** ella se   ha dado cuenta (...)
     for   the day of give   thanks she herself has realized
     'for Thanksgiving, she has realized…'
(3) no tienen **agua del   tap** (...)
     no have water of.the tap
     'they do not have tap water'

We discuss narrative data from heritage speakers from CESA with a focus on nominal constructions. Our analysis highlights the importance of an intermediate level between lexical chunks and abstract constructions as well as gradual differences between lexical and grammatical MWUs. Moreover, it suggests that the use of MWUs by Spanish heritage speakers is not necessarily characterized by a lack of proficiency but provides further evidence for considering bilingual heritage speakers as part of the native language continuum (cf. Wiese et al. 2022).

References: • Arnon, I. & N. Snider (2010). More than words: Frequency effects for multi-word phrases. *Journal of Memory and Language* 62, 67–82. • Backus, A. (2015). A usage-based approach to code-switching. In G. Stell (ed.), *Code-Switching between structural and sociolinguistic perspectives*. Berlin: De Gruyter, 19–37. • Carvalho, A. (2012-2014). *Corpus del Español en el Sur de Arizona* (CESA). University of Arizona, https://cesa.arizona.edu/. • Masini, F. (2009). Phrasal lexemes, compounds and phrases: A constructionist perspective. *Word Structure* 2(2), 254–271. • Wiese, H. et al. (2022). Heritage speakers as part of the native language continuum. *Frontiers in Psychology* 12, 717973.