ASYMMETRICAL P-STRANDING: Acceptability data from Spanish-English code-switching

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SET UP

- Some languages can extract determiner phrases (DPs) from prepositional phrases (PPs), while others cannot (Law, 2006; Salles, 1995)
  - ✓ ENGLISH: *Elisa doesn't know what friend Fernando is working with*
  - ✗ SPANISH: * *Elisa no sabe qué amigo Fernando está trabajando con*
- Referred to as preposition stranding (or p-stranding)
- Matrix wh-questions, embedded wh-questions, and relative clauses

PUZZLE

- Asymmetry between Spanish and English creates a potential conflict: What happens when a bilingual uses both their languages in the same sentence? Is p-stranding still available in code-switching (CS)?

- In other words, is it possible to extract a Spanish DP out of an English PP or vice versa?
  - *Elisa no sabe* [$_{DP}$ ***qué amigo***]$_i$ Fernando is working [$_{PP}$ **with t**$_i$]
  - Elisa doesn't know [$_{DP}$ **what friend**]$_i$ *Fernando está trabajando* [$_{PP}$ ***con* t**$_i$]

BACKGROUND

- Law (2006): Some languages are subject to a syntax-morphology-interface condition, saying that "elements that undergo suppletive rules must form a syntactic unit Xº" (p. 647)
  - All or nothing: **del** 'of the' (i.e., *de + el*) but also **con el** 'with the'
- Spanish-English CS data with heritage speakers of Spanish suggests incorporation depends on the preposition (Koronkiewicz, 2022)
  - P-stranding accepted only with Spanish-to-English switches (i.e., a Spanish DP with an English preposition)
  - However, only tested *with/con* and p-stranding in embedded wh-questions and relative clauses (no pied-piping, nor matrix wh-questions)

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. Do US heritage speakers of Spanish accept **p-stranding** in Spanish-English CS?
   a. Does it vary by the lexical preposition? (i.e., *with/con, a/to, de/of*)
   b. Does it vary by structure? (i.e., matrix wh-, embedded wh-, relative clause)

2. Do US heritage speakers of Spanish accept **pied-piping** in Spanish-English CS?
   a. Does it vary by the lexical preposition? (i.e., *with/con, a/to, de/of*)
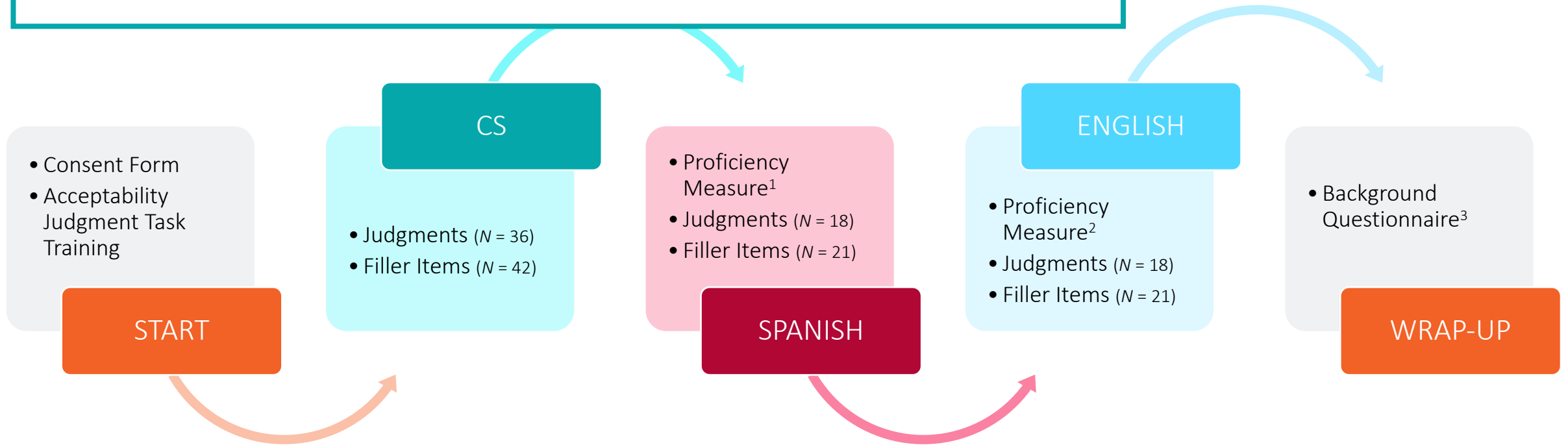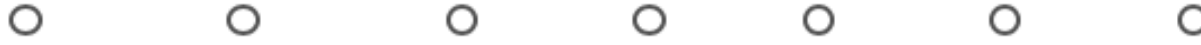   b. Does it vary by structure? (i.e., matrix wh-, embedded wh-, relative clause)

METHODS

- US heritage speakers of Mexican Spanish (N = 21)
  - 19-38 years old (M = 29.0, SD = 5.3)
- Target CS stimuli (N = 36)
  - 2 conditions: p-stranding or pied-piping
  - 3 structures: matrix wh-, embedded wh-, and relative clause
  - 3 prepositions: *with/con*, *of/de*, and *a/to*
  - 2 directions: Spanish-to-English or English-to-Spanish
- Monolingual comparison stimuli (N = 36)

That guy pidió un vaso de agua.

	Completely unacceptable	Mostly unacceptable	Somewhat unacceptable	Unsure	Somewhat acceptable	Mostly acceptable	Completely acceptable
¿Qué le parece esta oración?	O	O	O	O	O	O	O

START
- Consent Form
- Acceptability Judgment Task Training

CS
- Judgments (*N* = 36)
- Filler Items (*N* = 42)

SPANISH
- Proficiency Measure[1]
- Judgments (*N* = 18)
- Filler Items (*N* = 21)

ENGLISH
- Proficiency Measure[2]
- Judgments (*N* = 18)
- Filler Items (*N* = 21)

WRAP-UP
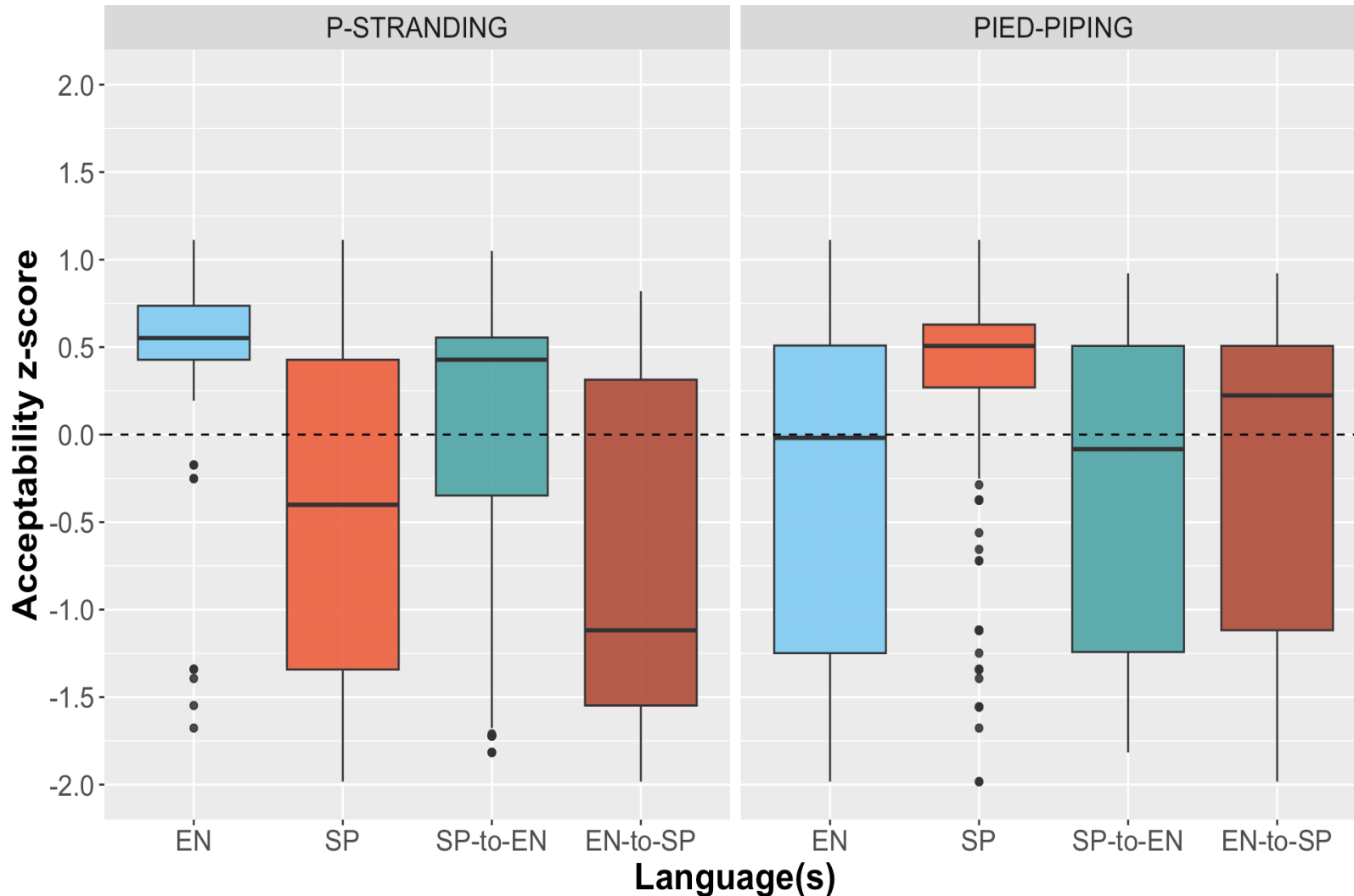- Background Questionnaire[3]

[1] Modified Spanish cloze test (Montrul & Slabakova, 2003)

[2] Modified English cloze test (O'Neill et al., 1981)

[3] Bilingual Language Profile (Birdsong et al., 2012)

P-stranding and pied-piping acceptability by language(s)

Most consistent finding is the expected: p-stranding received acceptable ratings in ENGLISH and pied-piping received acceptable ratings in SPANISH

Significant effect for language ($p < .001$), and a significant interaction between language and condition ($p < .001$)

For p-stranding:
EN / SP-to-EN > SP > EN-to-SP

For pied-piping:
SP > EN-to-SP > EN / SP-to-EN

No significant main effects for structure, nor for Spanish lexicalization ($p = .069$); however, significant main effect for English ($p = .002$): *to > with > of*

WRAP-UP

- Confirms and expands the previous syntactic findings regarding p-stranding in Spanish-English CS, suggesting that D+P incorporation presents itself in switched contexts with a Spanish preposition
  - Seems to be consistent across different syntactic structures with different lexical prepositions
- Including pied-piping:
  - Helps clarify that the effect for English lexicalization *to* > *with* > *of* is not specific to p-stranding
  - Complicates our understanding since, at least for these individuals, this syntactic structure is not entirely parallel between the two languages

¡GRACIAS!

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