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Título: Attitudes towards Basque standard (Euskara Batua) and dialects of Basque: an empirical study

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Basque is the minority language in the Basque Autonomous Community (BAC), in Navarre and in the French regions of Lower Navarre, Labourd and Soule[1]. In recent decades, there has been a remarkable growth in the number of Basque speakers, most of them are L2 Basque speakers (the so-called *euskaldun berri*). Normally, L2 Basque speakers learn the Euskara Batua standard variety of Basque.

In the late 1960s, this standardized variety was created by 'Euskaltzaindia' (the Basque academy)[2]. The promoted Batua version was created on the basis of central dialects. However, the central dialect speakers disregarded the newly created standard variety as artificial, as did the speakers of other dialects. Over the past years, Euskara Batua has been present in the professional and academic world whereas the dialects are mainly used within the family domain. At the same time, there is a new generation for whom Euskara Batua is the mother tongue and the only variety of Basque they know. Forty years after its creation, Batua still generates controversies among the Basque speaking society.

Several studies have investigated the progress in the use of Basque (Inkesta Soziolinguistikoa 2005, 2009; Altuna and Joly, 2007). However, there is still little research done on Basque sociolinguistics regarding attitudes towards Euskara Batua and dialects of Basque (Amorrortu, 2001a, b, c; Amorrortu et al. 2009). Therefore, the aim of the present study is to analyze the attitudes Basque speakers (L1 and L2 Basque speakers as well as Basque-Spanish bilinguals) have towards Batua and the dialects of Basque. More specifically, the goal of this study is to investigate whether the L1 of Basque speakers has an influence on their attitudes towards the standard Batua and the dialects of Basque. That is:

- Whether L1 Basque speakers have more positive attitudes towards dialects of Basque than towards Batua.
- Whether L2 Basque speakers have more positive attitudes towards Batua than towards dialects.



- Whether Basque/Spanish early bilinguals have similar attitudes towards Batua and dialects as L1 Basque speakers do.

An additional purpose of the study is to analyze whether speakers from different BAC regions vary in their attitudes towards Euskara Batua and the dialects of Basque.

The participants in the experimental study were 251 Basque speakers from different regions of the BAC and from different linguistic backgrounds. They completed a 50-item questionnaire, whose results were submitted to statistical analysis. The findings indicate that L1 Basque speakers do have more positive attitudes towards dialects of Basque than towards Batua standard. The opposite trend is observed among L2 Basque speakers. As far as the bilingual speakers are concerned, there seem to be two different patterns of behavior: more L1-like and more L2-like. Speakers of Basque differ in their attitudes towards dialects and Batua standard depending on the region they live in.

The overall results indicate that all the participants show positive attitudes towards both the dialects and Batua standard, whereas Basque/Spanish bilinguals bridge the differences between both.

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[1] According to EUSTAT, in the BAC, 17.6% of the population was L1 Basque speakers. 3.3% was Basque/Spanish bilingual from birth, whereas 31.9% was L2 Basque speaker (Inkesta Soziolinguistikoa, 2009).

[2] Due to the great array of Basque dialects in use, the aim of Euskara Batua was to facilitate the communication between the speakers of different varieties and to sustain the ethnolinguistic vitality of Basque.

Título: Cómo la escuela va perfilando la variedad estándar de la lengua (vasca)

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Uno de los temas cruciales en el ámbito lingüístico que se han desarrollado en el siglo XX en el País Vasco es el de la normalización del euskera, canalizada en gran medida a través del desarrollo de la educación bilingüe. La institución escolar desempeña un papel decisivo en el proceso de normalización, en la medida en que es el recurso prioritario para extender el bilingüismo en la sociedad mediante la escolarización de las nuevas generaciones (Parlamento Vasco, 1982).

Una de las dificultades enfrentadas en el proceso de normalización de la lengua vasca ha sido el tema de los dialectos y su relación con la variedad unificada de la lengua, esta última en proceso de definición lingüística y de implantación en la sociedad. Durante los últimos 45 años las relaciones entre la variedad estándar y el dialecto han evolucionado: desde el