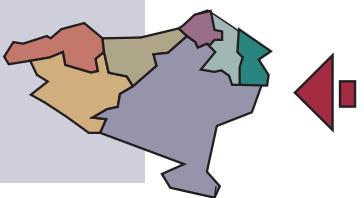


Sociolinguistic situation



Basque in the education system



Català

Galego

Cymraeg

Elsässisch



A fête organised
to support the
Basque language

Introduction

Language competence

Family transmission

Gains and losses in
the Basque language

Attitudes towards
Basque

Basque use



Language competence

Family transmission

Gains and losses in the Basque language

Actitudes hacia el euskera

Basque use

The main achievement of this scientific and precise piece of research is that it has managed to harmonise the efforts of three different regions, all of which are working for the recovery and promotion of the Basque language

The 2nd Sociolinguistic Survey of the Basque Country (1996)

In 1989 the Basque Government's General Secretariat for Language Policy published a study entitled: *A Sociolinguistic Map: A Demolinguistic Analysis of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country as taken from the 1986 census*. Subsequently, in 1991, the 1st Sociolinguistic Study of the Basque Country was carried out. The results of this study are reflected in a piece of work entitled *The Continuity of Basque*. More recently, in 1997, the Second Sociolinguistic Map, which uses data from the 1981, 1986 and 1991 local and regional population censuses was published.

In Navarre, sociolinguistic research began in 1986 with the publication of a piece of work based upon 1986 population census data entitled *The Distribution of the population of Navarre according to the level of Basque Language Knowledge*. Following on from this, in 1995 *Sociolinguistic Research on Basque in Navarre* was published. And finally, in 1997 *the Sociolinguistic Map of Navarre, dynamics and development of the Basque-speaking population* was brought out.



Introduction

Information was collected between December 1995 and April 1996.

Individual interviews with structured questionnaires at the respondent's place of residence were used to obtain said information.

The sample, which was taken amongst the population over the age of 15, comprised 6,359 questionnaires divided up in the following way: 3,495 taken in the Basque Autonomous Community, 1,464 in Navarre and 1,400 in The Basque Country of the North (Iparralde).

The results have been projected to the population over the age of 15 in each of the three areas, using an up-dated version of the 1991 census in the Basque Autonomous Community and Navarre and the 1990 census in Iparralde. Also, in each area, the results have been weighted according to the distribution of the population over the age of 15, sex, age and occupation. In the Basque Autonomous Community and Navarre results were also weighted according to the distribution of Basque speakers and non-Basque speakers (In the Basque Country of the North this was not possible since information about Basque language knowledge is not included in census data).

In the Basque Autonomous Community and Navarre, the sampling system used was multi-stage cluster sampling when selecting the different census sections. In each cluster, families were chosen in a systematic way and in each family the interviewee was chosen in a simple, random way. In Iparralde, the sample was uni-stage and stratified when selecting homes and in each home, as in the other two areas, interviewees were chosen in a simple, random way.

Sampling error for the whole of the Basque Country is $\pm 1,6$ for a confidence level of 95.5 %, when $p=q=50\%$. By area, the sampling errors for the same confidence levels are: ± 2.1 in the Basque Autonomous Community ; ± 2.9 in Iparralde and ± 3.5 in Navarre.

Sociolinguistic situation

Introduction



Language competence	Gains and losses in the Basque language	Basque use
Family transmission	Attitudes towards Basque	

The main achievement of this scientific and precise piece of research is that it has managed to harmonise the efforts of three different regions, all of which are working for the recovery and promotion of the Basque language

The II Sociolinguistic Survey of the Basque Country had the following aims: To carry out an in-depth study of the current sociolinguistic situation of the Basque Country in such a way that information could be compared with the same information gathered in previous years; find out more about the population's interest in and attitude towards the measures which should be taken to promote Basque language use; diagnose family transmission and finally analyse the incorporation and language behaviour of "new Basque speakers".

Just as occurred in 1991, when the 1st Sociolinguistic Survey of the Basque Country was carried out, the Basque Government's Deputy Ministry for Language Policy, the Navarre Government's Language Policy Department and the Basque Cultural Institute in Iparralde have worked closely together on the different stages of this latest study including; questionnaire design and use, adaptation of questionnaires to the different realities and needs of each area, sample design, data collection and finally report-writing.



Introduction

On this occasion we were also able to obtain the collaboration and advice of Richard Bourhis from Quebec University in Montreal.

Sample design was carried out by the Basque Statistics Institute (EUSTAT) in the Basque Autonomous Community, the National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies in Iparralde and the Navarre Government's Statistics Department in Navarre.



Language competence

Gains and losses in the Basque language

Basque use

Family transmission

Attitudes towards Basque

The main achievement of this scientific and precise piece of research is that it has managed to harmonise the efforts of three different regions, all of which are working for the recovery and promotion of the Basque language



The continuity of Basque

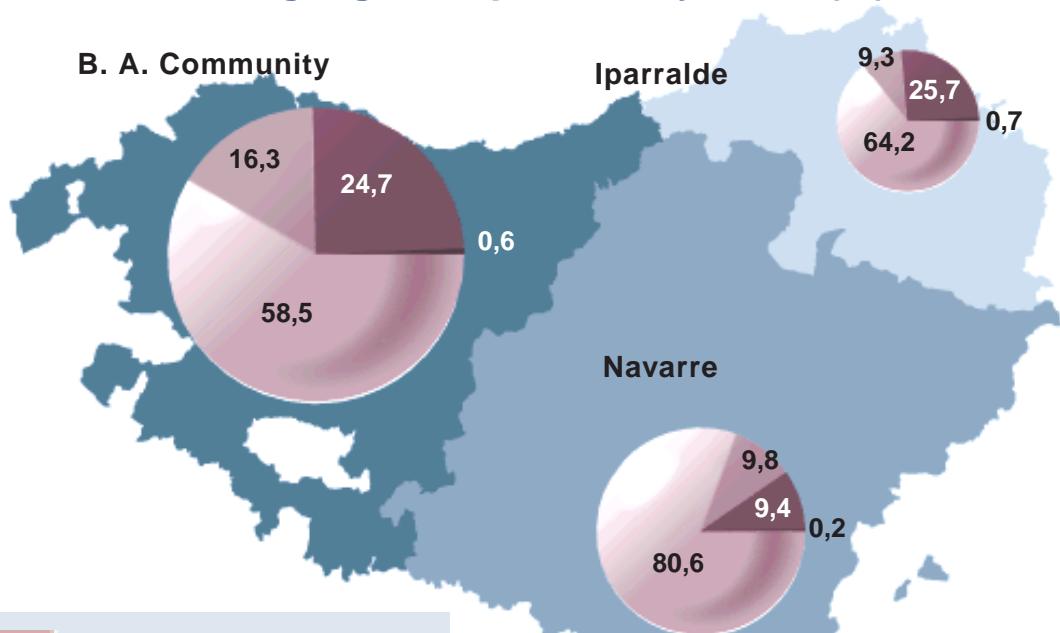


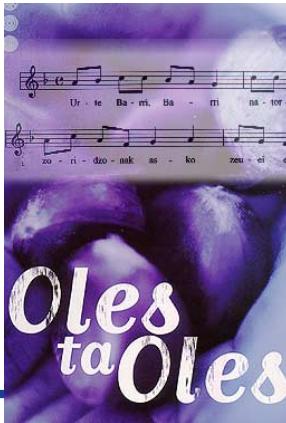


Language competence

One out of every four people (25.7%) are bilingual in the Basque Country of the North and in the Basque Autonomous Community (24.7%) whilst in Navarre this number is only one in every ten (9.4%)

Language competence by areas (%)





Introduction

Gains and losses in the Basque language

Basque use

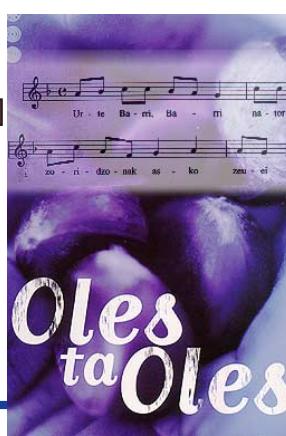
Family transmission

Attitudes towards Basque

One out of every four people (25.7%) are bilingual in the Basque Country of the North and in the Basque Autonomous Community (24.7%) whilst in Navarre this number is only one in every ten (9.4%)

Language competence by areas (%)

	THE BASQUE COUNTRY		BAC		NAVARRE		IPARRALDE	
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
Total	2.428.100	100	1.778.500	100	437.200	100	212.400	100
Bascophone monolinguals	12.400	0,5	9.800	0,6	1.100	0,2	1.500	0,7
Bilinguals	534.100	22,0	438.400	24,7	41.000	9,4	54.700	25,7
predominance of basque	159.600	29,9	128.500	29,3	13.400	32,7	17.600	32,2
balanced	171.500	32,1	141.700	32,3	11.800	28,9	18.000	23,0
predominance of Sp/Fr.	203.000	38,0	168.200	38,4	15.800	38,4	19.000	34,8
Passive bilinguals	352.900	14,5	290.200	16,3	42.800	9,8	19.800	9,3
Sp/Fr monolinguals	1.528.700	63,0	1.040.000	58,5	352.300	80,6	136.400	64,2



One out of every four people (25.7%) are bilingual in the Basque Country of the North and in the Basque Autonomous Community (24.7%) whilst in Navarre this number is only one in every ten (9.4%)

A modern version of traditional songs

We have divided the population into the four following groups depending upon each group's degree of relative language competence in each of the two contact languages.

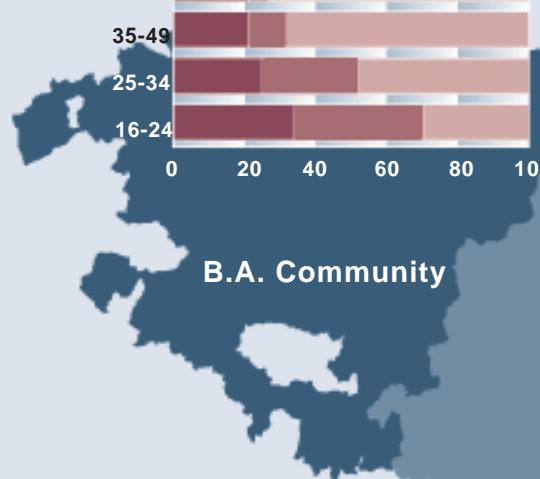
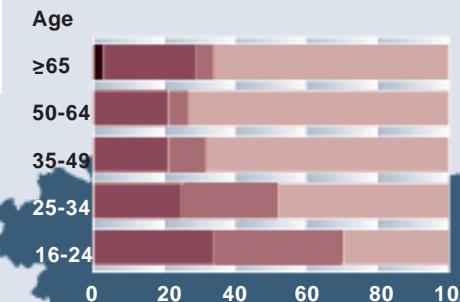
- **Bascophone monolinguals:** those people who speak Basque "well" but who do not speak Spanish/French "well". This group accounts for just 0.5% of the population of the Basque Country, which in numerical terms amounts to around 12,400 people.
- **Bilinguals:** this group speaks both Basque and Spanish/French either "well" or "quite well". It accounts for 22% of the population, i.e. around 534,100 people.
- **Passive bilinguals:** can speak "a little/some" Basque or if they do not speak it can understand it or read it "well" or "quite well". They account for 14.5% of the population (i.e. around 352,900 people)
- **Spanish/French monolinguals:** only know how to speak Spanish or French. They account for 63% of the population (around 1,528,700 people).



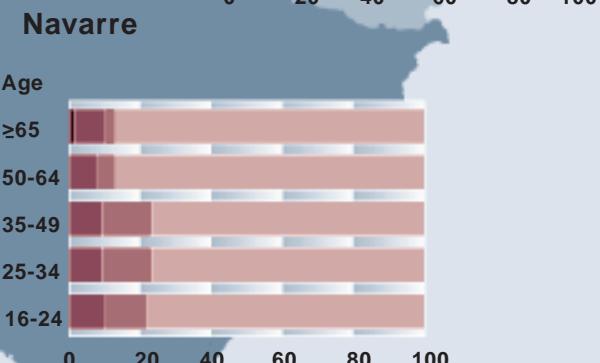
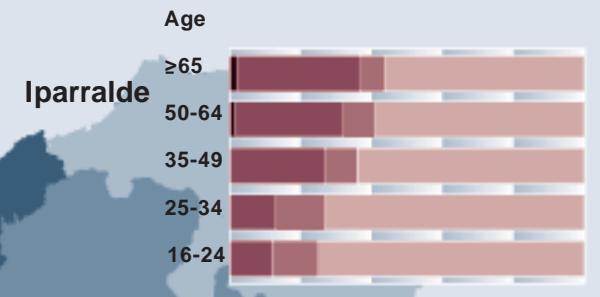
Language competence according to age by areas (%)

Language competence

The Basque language is showing a sustained recovery in the Basque Autonomous Community, and is also recovering, although at a somewhat slower rate in Navarre. However, in Iparralde, a continuous loss of Basque can be observed



- Bascophone monolinguals
- Bilinguals
- Passive bilinguals
- Sp/Fr monolinguals





The Basque language is showing a sustained recovery in the Basque Autonomous Community, and is also recovering, although at a somewhat slower rate in Navarre. However, in Iparralde, a continuous loss of Basque can be observed

Language competence according to age by areas (%)

	AGE					
	TOTAL	≥65 years born during or before 1931	50-64 born between 1931 and 1946	35-49 born between 1947 and 1961	25-34 born between 1962 and 1971	16-24 born between 1972 and 1980
BAC	100	100	100	100	100	100
Bascophone monolinguals	1	1	0	0		
Bilinguals	25	26	21	21	25	33
Passive bilinguals	16	5	6	11	27	37
Sp/Fr monolinguals	58	67	73	68	48	30
NAVARRE	100	100	100	100	100	100
Bascophone monolinguals	0	1	0			
Bilinguals	9	9	9	9	9	11
Passive bilinguals	10	3	5	14	14	12
Sp/Fr monolinguals	81	87	86	77	77	77
IPARRALDE	100	100	100	100	100	100
Bascophone monolinguals	1	2	1			
Bilinguals	26	35	31	27	14	11
Passive bilinguals	9	6	9	9	13	13
Sp/Fr monolinguals	64	56	60	64	73	75



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Gains and losses in the Basque language

Basque use

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Attitudes towards Basque

The Basque language is showing a sustained recovery in the Basque Autonomous Community, and is also recovering, although at a somewhat slower rate in Navarre. However, in Iparralde, a continuous loss of Basque can be observed

The sociolinguistic map

First of all, it should first be stated that in each of the three areas which comprise the Basque Country, Bascophone monolinguals are mainly elderly people. The average age of this group is over 64 and hence it will gradually disappear.

a) The Basque Autonomous Community

The number of Spanish/French monolinguals clearly drops amongst the younger sectors of the population as a result of the increase in the number of bilinguals, especially passive bilinguals. What is more, this tendency is even more marked amongst those younger than 16 (according to the information collected on this subject through the parents of this age group).

b) Navarre

There has also been an increase in the number of bilinguals and passive bilinguals in the younger population sectors in Navarre, although this increase is a lot less marked than in the Basque Autonomous Community.

c) The Basque Country of the North (Iparralde)

In Iparralde the tendency is exactly the opposite to that in the Basque Autonomous Community and Navarre with the proportion of bilinguals dropping drastically amongst younger sectors of the population and the percentage of French monolinguals increasing.





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Bilinguals were born in the Basque Country, Basque is their mother tongue. Living in a mainly Basque-speaking family environment, they are interested in the Basque language and support its promotion

Bascophone monolinguals, i.e. those who speak Basque but who do not speak Spanish/French have the following identifying characteristics.

- They were born in the Basque Country, their parents are Basque speaking and their mother tongue is Basque;
- Their family and nearest social surroundings are totally Basque-speaking. They are over the age of 50 (in fact the vast majority are over 64) and they have hardly received any education (not even primary education);
- They mainly live in rural areas;
- They are very interested in Basque and support Basque language promotion.

Bilinguals (i.e. those who speak both Basque and Spanish/French) have the following distinguishing traits.

- They were born in the Basque Country and the majority of them have Basque-speaking parents;
- The majority have Basque as their mother tongue, although a relatively large minority (17%) have Spanish/French as their mother tongue;
- Their family surroundings are mainly Basque-speaking, although their circle of friends and working environment are not so much;
- They are very interested in Basque and support Basque language promotion;
- Although the majority live in towns with less than 25,000 inhabitants, a third live in urban or semi-urban areas.





Bilinguals were born in the Basque Country, Basque is their mother tongue. Living in a mainly Basque-speaking family environment, they are interested in the Basque language and support its promotion

The main trait of **passive bilinguals**, i.e. those who can speak a little/some Basque is that they are young. Two out of every three are under the age of 35 and the majority have Spanish/French as their mother tongue, although 17% have had either Basque or Basque and Spanish/French as their mother tongue. This group is also characterised by the following traits.

- Their family and social surroundings are more Spanish/French speaking than Basque speaking;
- They are interested in Basque and over half support Basque language promotion;
- The majority live in urban or semi-urban areas;
- A tenth are immigrants and slightly over a third have immigrant parents;
- Their education level is above average;
- The majority received their education either in Spanish or French and almost two thirds have attempted to learn Basque outside the compulsory education system.

Spanish/French monolinguals (i.e. those who can speak Spanish/French but cannot understand Basque) make up 63% of the population and although their characteristic traits basically coincide with those of the rest of the population, they do have the following distinguishing features.

- Their mother tongue is Spanish/French;
- Their family and social surroundings are mainly Spanish/French speaking;
- Over a third are immigrants and almost a quarter have immigrant parents;
- A quarter are in favour of Basque language promotion, another quarter against and the rest do not adopt a clear stance either in favour or against;
- The majority live in towns with a population of over 25,000 inhabitants;
- On average they are slightly older than the rest of the population.

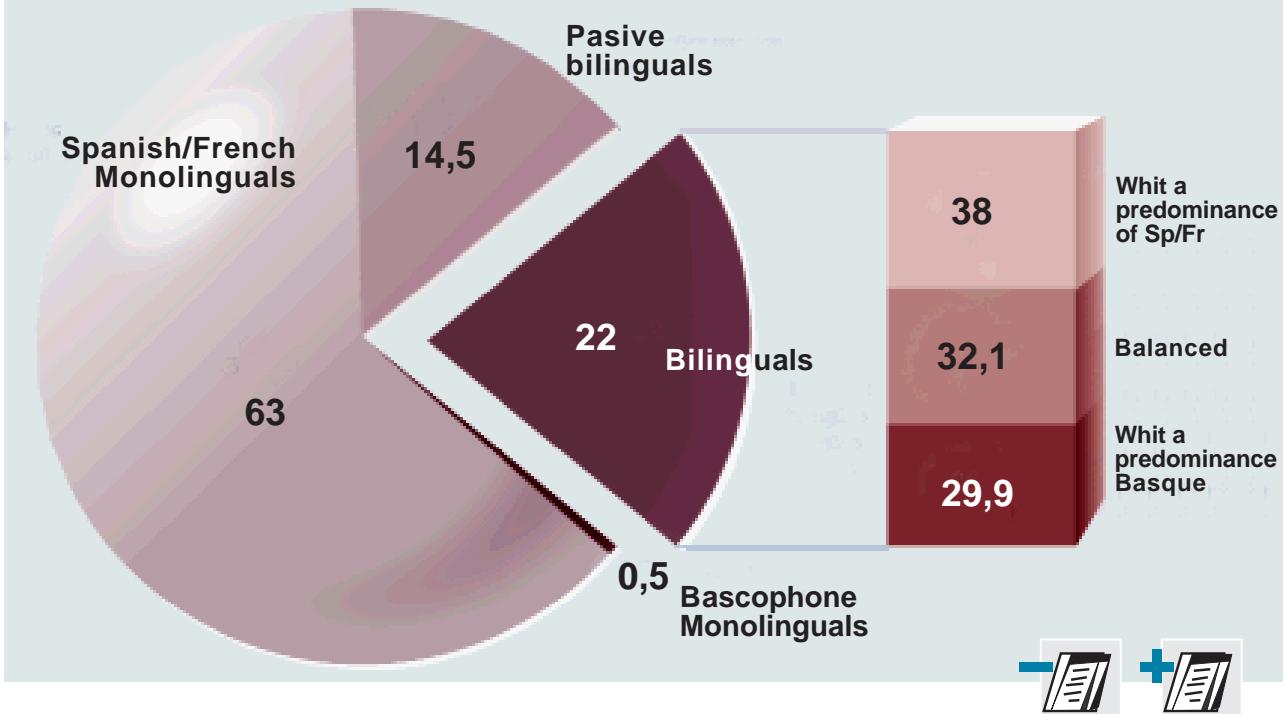




Language competence

Four out of every ten bilinguals (38%) state that they express themselves better in Spanish/French than in Basque. This ease of expression is directly related to the person's mother tongue

Language Competence. The Basque Country (%)





Four out of every ten bilinguals (38%) state that they express themselves better in Spanish/French than in Basque. This ease of expression is directly related to the person's mother tongue

Language competence

Bilinguals according to age by areas (%)

	AGE GROUPS					
	TOTAL	≥65 years born in 1931 or before	50-64 born in 1931 and 1946	35-49 born in 1947 and 1961	25-34 born in 1962 and 1971	16-24 born in 1972 and 1980
BAC	100	100	100	100	100	100
Bilinguals	25	26	21	21	25	33
with a predominance of Basque	29	49	44	27	12	19
balanced	32	28	32	34	34	33
with a predominance of Sp/Fr.	38	23	24	39	54	47
NAVARRE	100	100	100	100	100	100
Bilinguals	9	9	9	9	9	11
with a predominance of Basque	33	44	49	32	19	21
balanced	29	32	25	34	25	27
with a predominance of Sp/Fr	38	23	25	34	57	52
IPARRALDE	100	100	100	100	100	100
Bilinguals	26	35	31	27	14	11
with a predominance of Basque	32	52	38	16	9	4
balanced	33	29	41	31	36	29
with a predominance of Sp/Fr.	35	20	20	53	55	67



Four out of every ten bilinguals (38%) state that they express themselves better in Spanish/French than in Basque. This ease of expression is directly related to the person's mother tongue

Teaching Basque to adults

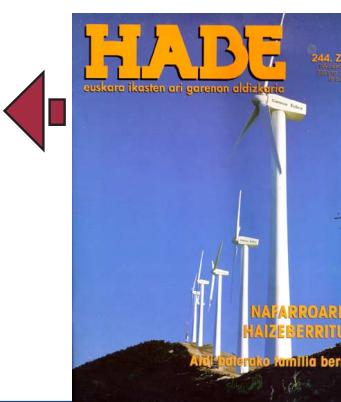
In the Basque Country as a whole four out of every ten bilinguals (38%) state that they find it easier to express themselves in Spanish or French than in Basque, one out of every three (32.1%) that they express themselves with equal ease in both languages and almost the same amount (29.9%) find it easier to express themselves in Basque.

- **Balanced bilinguals** have characteristics which are similar to those of the whole of the group of bilinguals described in the previous section.

- **Bilinguals with Basque as their predominant language**, i.e. those who find it easier to express themselves in Basque than in Spanish/French have a slightly different profile to the rest of bilinguals.

- They were born in the Basque Country with Basque-speaking parents and they have Basque as their mother tongue;
- Almost two thirds are over the age of 50, i.e. the average age of this sub-group is a great deal higher than the average age of bilinguals as a whole;
- Due to age, their educational level is lower, there is a greater proportion of retired people and the majority have not studied Basque outside the compulsory education system;
- Their family and social surroundings are mainly Basque-speaking, although their working environment is not;
- They live in mainly Basque-speaking areas in towns with less than 25,000 inhabitants.





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Four out of every ten bilinguals (38%) state that they express themselves better in Spanish/French than in Basque. This ease of expression is directly related to the person's mother tongue

- **Bilinguals with Spanish/French as their predominant language** have the following distinguishing traits:

- They were born in the Basque Country but only half have Basque-speaking parents and a third have Spanish/French as their mother tongue;
- Half are under 35;
- The majority have studied Basque. Their family and social surroundings are only partially Basque-speaking;
- They have a high level of education and two thirds work in the tertiary sector or in the administration;
- Almost half live in urban or semi-urban areas.

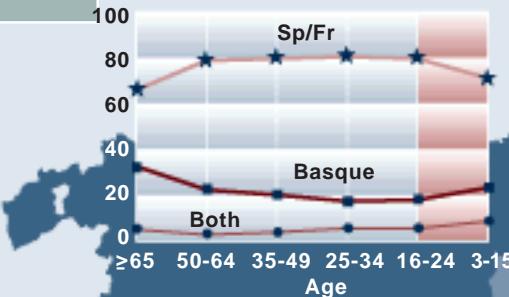




Family transmission

In the Basque Autonomous Community and Navarre, the decline in the number of people with Basque as their mother tongue has been halted; however, this decline continues in Iparralde

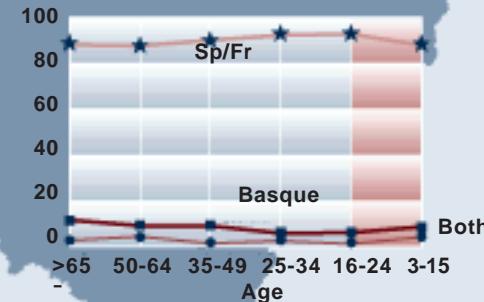
Mother tongue according to age group and area (%)



Iparralde

Navarre

B. A. Community





In the Basque Autonomous Community and Navarre, the decline in the number of people with Basque as their mother tongue has been halted; however, this decline continues in Iparralde

Family transmission

Mother tongue according to age group and area (%)

MOTHER TONGUE	AGE GROUPS						
		≥65 years born in 1931 or before	50-64 born between 1931 and 1946	35-49 born between 1947 and 1961	25-34 born between 1962 and 1971	16-24 born between 1972 and 1980	3-15 born between 1981 and 1993
B.A. COMMUNITY	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Basque	20	31	21	19	16	17	22
Both	4	4	2	3	5	5	8
Spanish/French	76	65	77	78	79	78	70
NAVARRE	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Basque	8	11	9	9	6	6	8
Both	2	2	4	1	2	1	4
Spanish/French	90	87	87	90	92	93	88
IPARRALDE	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Basque	26	38	31	26	16	11	6
Both	5	2	3	5	7	10	14
Spanish/French	68	60	65	69	77	79	80



In the Basque Autonomous Community and Navarre, the decline in the number of people with Basque as their mother tongue has been halted; however, this decline continues in Iparralde

Intergenerational language transmission

In the BAC not only has loss of the Basque language as a mother tongue been halted, there is also an important increase in the amount of family transmission of the Basque language. The data for Navarre also indicate a recovery, although slightly lower degree..

Language transmission is directly related to the language competence of parent/s:

- When both the mother and the father know Basque, 80% transmit only Basque as a mother tongue to their children..
- If only one of the parents knows Basque, the transmission of Basque is much lower: 17% transmit Basque and 17% both Basque and Spanish/French.
 - When it is the mother that knows Basque and the father who doesn't, 21% transmit Basque as a mother tongue to their children.
 - When the opposite is true, this percentage drops by almost half (13%).

To be more exact, in the Basque Autonomous Community and Navarre, loss in Basque language transmission is virtually zero when both the father and the mother know Basque (the figures are actually 0 and 2% respectively for the two areas). Likewise, language loss has also dropped dramatically when only one of the parents knows Basque (from 63% to 12% for children over the age of 15 in the BAC and from 72% to 20% in Navarre).

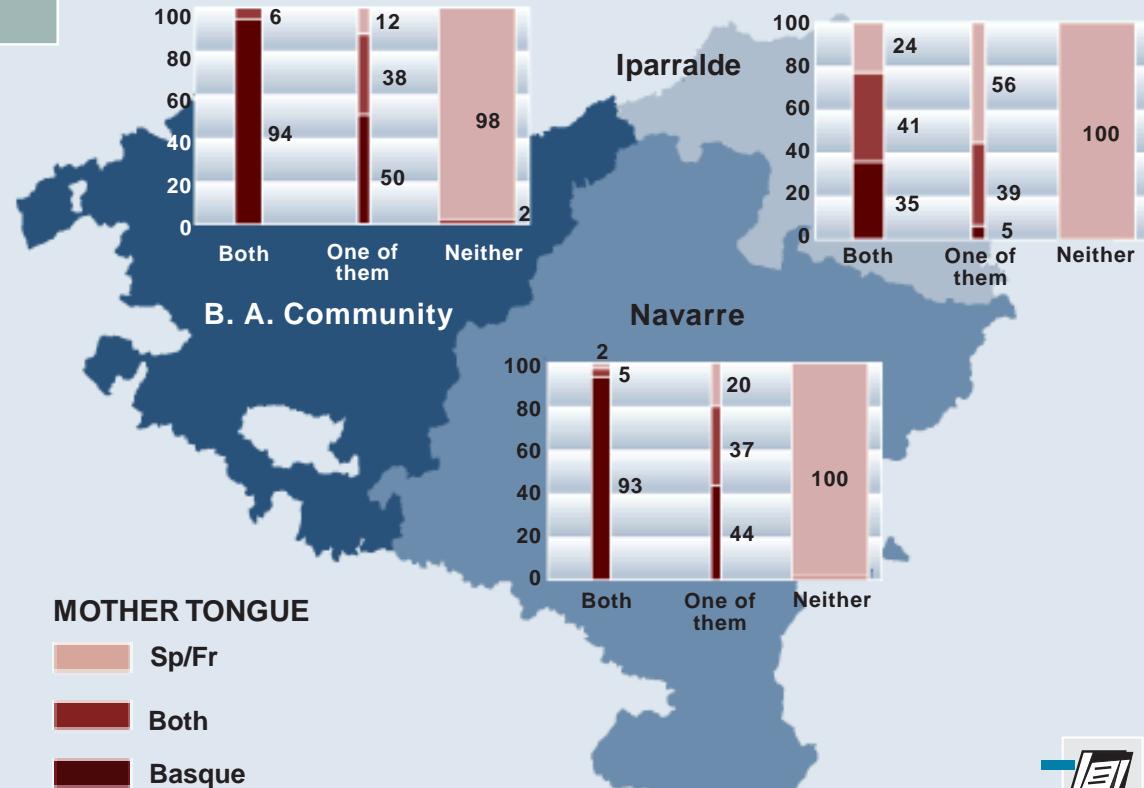
However, in the Basque Country of the North, this loss is 24% when both the father and the mother know Basque and reaches a staggering 56% when only one of the parents knows Basque. Another factor worth noting is that when Basque is transmitted, it is usually done so together with French.





Family transmission

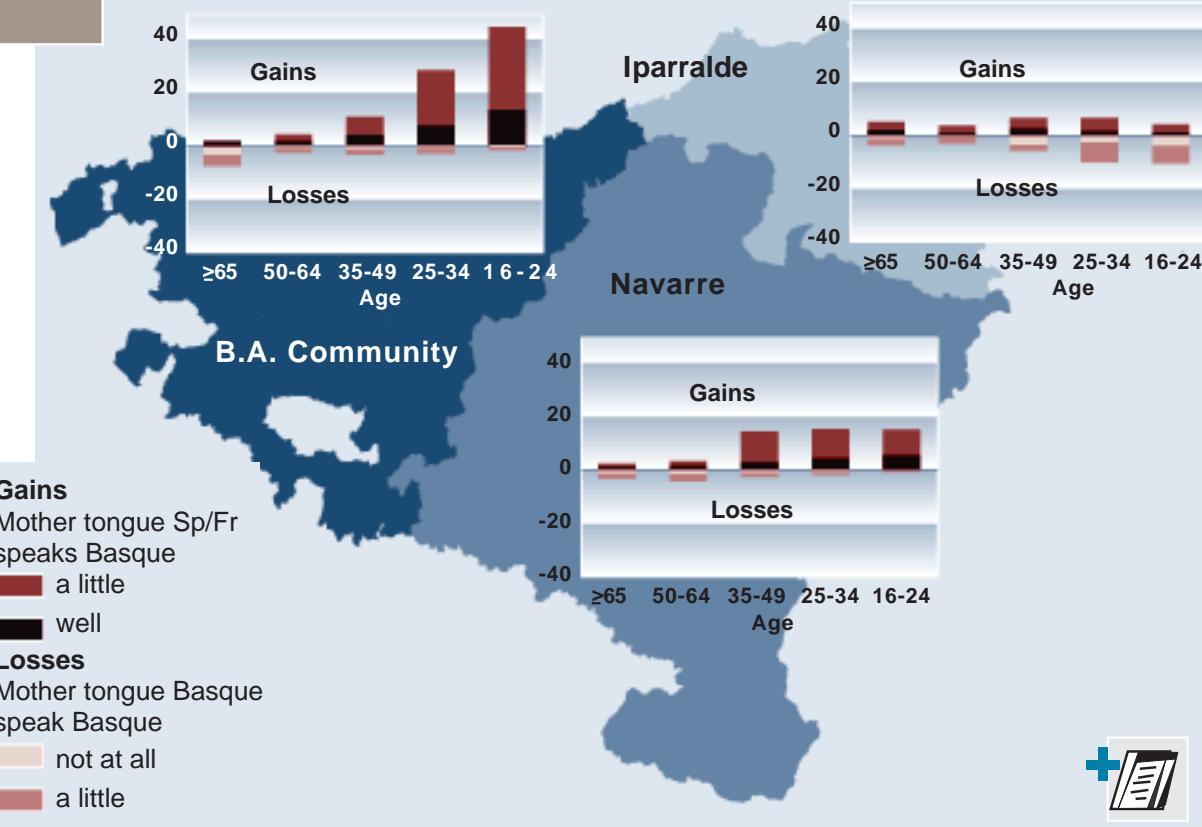
Mother tongue according to parent/s' language competence (those which have children between the ages of 3 and 15) areas (%)



Gains and losses in Basque in relation to age and areas (%)

Gains and losses in the Basque language

The number of people who have learnt Basque is greater than the number of those who have lost it. Amongst the young population in general there is a tendency to stop Basque language loss and the number of new Basque speakers is on the increase



Gains and losses in the Basque language



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The number of people who have learnt Basque is greater than the number of those who have lost it. Amongst the young population in general there is a tendency to stop Basque language loss and the number of new Basque speakers is on the increase

Gains and losses in Basque by areas

	THE BASQUE COUNTRY		BAC		NAVARRE		IPARRALDE	
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
Total	2.428.100	100	1.778.500	100	437.200	100	212.400	100
Mother tongue Basque								
speaks Basque well	453.600	18,7	366.800	20,6	32.800	7,5	54.000	25,4
speaks a little Basque	50.900	2,1	38.000	2,1	5.500	1,2	7.400	3,5
speaks no Basque at all	36.400	1,5	24.700	1,4	6.100	1,4	5.600	2,6
Mother tongue Sp/Fr								
speaks Basque well	92.800	3,8	81.400	4,6	9.200	2,1	2.200	1,0
speaks a little Basque	253.200	10,4	212.100	11,9	33.800	7,7	7.400	3,5
speaks no Basque at all	1.541.100	63,5	1.055.500	59,3	349.800	80,0	135.800	64,0

Gains and losses in the Basque language



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The number of people who have learnt Basque is greater than the number of those who have lost it. Amongst the young population in general there is a tendency to stop Basque language loss and the number of new Basque speakers is on the increase

Signs in Basque

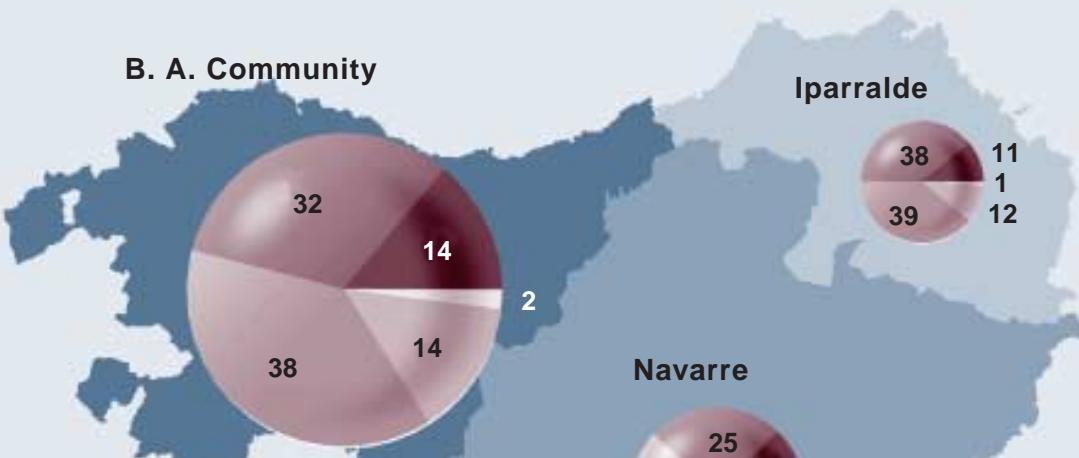
Those people who have either **completely or partially lost their knowledge of Basque** have certain features which, at least partially, can be considered as characteristic of this group: half had both Basque and Spanish/French as their mother tongue. Half of them live in mainly non-Basque speaking families and social surroundings. A little over half are interested in Basque and support its promotion. As far as language competence goes, 58% have partly lost their ability to speak Basque (they still speak a little) and 42% have completely lost their ability to speak Basque (they only know a few words).

Those people who have **Spanish or French as their mother tongue and have learnt Basque** can be said to be mainly young. 72% are between the ages of 16 and 35. The majority have learnt Basque outside the compulsory education system although the very youngest of the group will have learnt Basque within the education system. Other characteristic traits which define this group include: it is comprised of people who were born in the Basque Country but with either one or both parents from outside the region. Their family and social surroundings are only partially Basque-speaking. They are very interested in Basque and support Basque language promotion. Their educational level is a great deal higher than average and a third of those who are employed work for the administration, in health care or in the State school system.



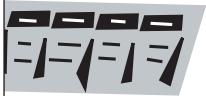
Attitude towards Basque use promotion by areas (%)

B. A. Community



Almost 50% of the population of the Basque Country is in favour of taking measures to encourage Basque learning and use

- Very favourable
- Favourable
- Neither for nor against
- Opposite
- Very contrary





Almost 50% of the population of the Basque Country is in favour of taking measures to encourage Basque learning and use

Attitudes towards Basque

Attitude towards Basque use promotion by areas (%)

ATTITUDE	THE BASQUE COUNTRY	AREAS		
		BAC	NAVARRE	IPARRALDE
Very favourable	14	14	13	11
Favourable	31	32	25	38
Neither for nor against	37	38	30	39
Contrary	15	14	22	12
Very contrary	3	2	10	1



Almost 50% of the population of the Basque Country is in favour of taking measures to encourage Basque learning and use

One of the latest music group

Those people who have a **favourable attitude** towards Basque language promotion do not have any clearly defined traits although they do have some features which characterise them;

- Almost half are Basque speakers;
- The vast majority are interested in Basque and send or would send their children to bilingual schools or schools where all teaching is carried out in Basque. What is more, a third have studied Basque outside the compulsory education system;
- The majority were born in the Basque Country although amongst this group there are fairly large minorities of immigrants or children of immigrants;
- Half have mainly Basque-speaking family and social surroundings.

However, those who show a **contrary attitude** towards Basque use promotion are a more uniform group. Their distinguishing traits are:

- They are Spanish/French monolinguals with family and social surroundings that are mainly Spanish/French monolingual and they mainly live in urban areas;
- Their interest in Basque is low or non-existent and yet in spite of this fact a third send or would send their children to bilingual schools or schools where all teaching is carried out in Basque;
- Over half are immigrants or children of immigrants.

And finally, those who adopt a neutral stance, i.e. are **neither for nor against** are similar to those who have a contrary attitude in the sense that:

- They are Spanish/French monolinguals with family and social surroundings that are mainly Spanish/French monolingual and they mainly live in urban areas;
- Over half are immigrants or children of immigrants;
- And yet they are different in the sense that: they have greater interest in Basque and two thirds send or would send their children to bilingual schools or schools where all teaching is carried out in Basque.





Basque use

Basque use in different environments. The Basque Country (%) (only Basque speakers, 1996)

FAMILY

With mother

56 8 36

With father

52 7 41

With spouse

50 11 39

With children

67 12 21

At home

47 18 35

LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

With friends

49 20 31

With shopkeepers

44 16 40

With work colleagues

44 17 39

With people at the market

77 8 15

With the local priest

72 10 17

SOCIETY IN GENERAL

At the local bank

51 13 35

At the local council offices

56 15 30

With their children's teachers

78 7 15

At the local health offices

30 14 55

Basque speakers use more Basque than Spanish/French in the family, in their local environment and in several, more formal settings

Mainly Basque

Both Basque and Spanish/French

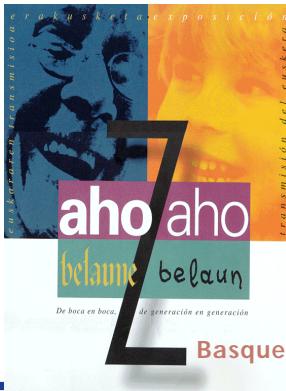
Mainly Spanish/French

0 20 40 60 80 100



Sociolinguistic situation

Basque use



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Basque speakers use more Basque than Spanish/French in the family, in their local environment and in several, more formal settings

Basque language transmission campaign (95-98)

In a **family environment** mainly Basque is used with children. Two out of every three Basque-speakers (67%) use mainly Basque with their children although this percentage goes down if we refer to interviewee's relationships with other family members, even though there is still a greater use of Basque than Spanish/French, since 56% use mainly Basque with their mother, 52% with their father and 50% with their spouse. One out of every ten use both languages indistinctly.

As for the **local neighbourhood and the environment immediately surrounding the family**, there is a clear predominance of Basque in more traditional use areas. Hence, 77% of Basque-speakers use Basque with people at the market and 72% with the local priest. There is also a tendency to use more Basque than Spanish with friends, with 49% using mainly Basque with friends and 20% both languages indifferently. There is a fairly even balance as regards language use with work colleagues and local shopkeepers, with 44% using mainly Basque and 40% mainly Spanish/French.

In more **formal environments** the vast majority of Basque speakers (78%) mainly use Basque when talking to their children's teachers; they use more Basque than Spanish/French with local council civil servants and as for language use with bank/savings bank employees, one out of every two mainly use Basque and one in every six use both languages indifferently. As for language use at the health service, the majority use Spanish/French although there is still a significant minority (30%) who use mainly Basque.



Sociolinguistic situation

Basque use

Over the last five years Basque use with children, friends work colleagues and in more formal environments has increased noticeably

Mainly Basque

1991	1996
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Both Basque and Spanish/French

1991	1996
------	------

Mainly Spanish/French

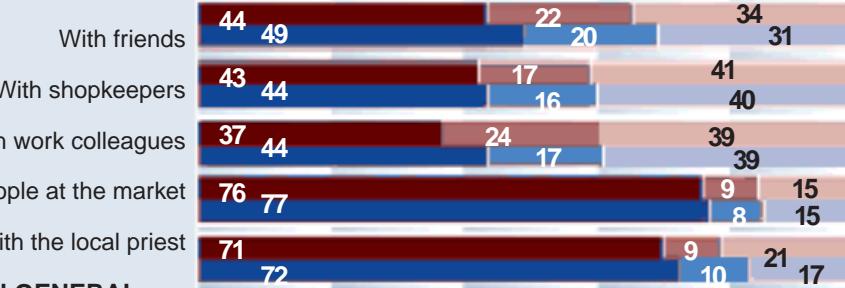
1991	1996
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Basque use in different environments. The Basque Country (%) (only Basque-speakers, 1991)

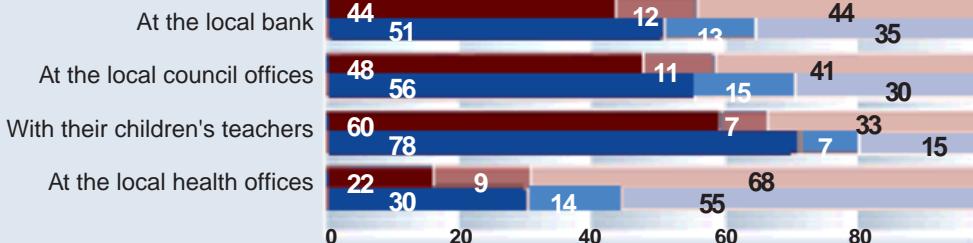
FAMILY



LOCAL ENVIRONMENT



SOCIETY IN GENERAL





Over the last five years Basque use with children, friends work colleagues and in more formal environments has increased noticeably

2nd sociolinguistic map of The Basque Country

In spite of the fact that only five years have gone by, if we compare current results with those obtained from the 1st Sociolinguistic Survey carried out in 1991, there has been an appreciable increase in Basque use, which in some environments has been quite spectacular.

In the family environment, there has been a noticeable increase of Basque use with children (in fact this increase amounts to six percentage points amongst those who mainly use Basque with their children). The percentage use with a person's spouse is the same as in the previous survey and the amount of Basque used with parents has actually decreased by five percentage points. The decrease in Basque use with parents is due to the fact that around 6% of the new generation of Basque speakers (and almost half of those in the 16-20 age-group) have Spanish/French-speaking parents and therefore they have no choice but to speak Spanish/French to their parents.

Outside the family, Basque use with friends and work colleagues has increased by six percentage points and Basque use in more formal environments such as at the local council, bank/savings bank, the health service and with children's teachers by eight points or more.

In short, Basque use has remained stable in the family (it is only in Basque use with children that there has been an increase) and has increased in those environments which are more distant from the family.





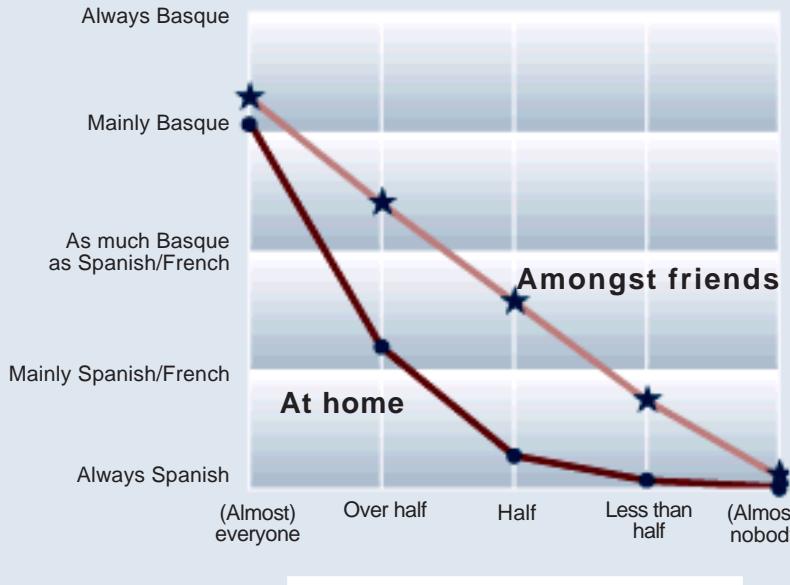
Language competence and the number of Basque speakers in a person's individual network are decisive factors when it comes to Basque usage

Basque use

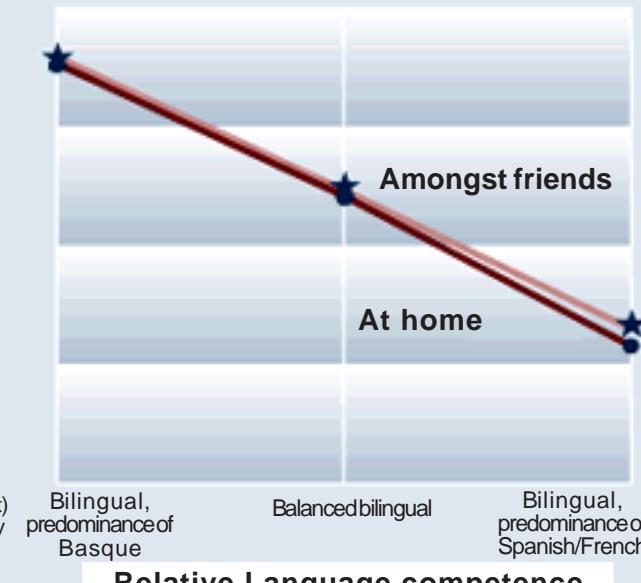
Language use. Euskal Herria (only Basque-speakers, 1996)

Language use

in relation to density of Basque speakers



in relation to relative language competence





Language competence and the number of Basque speakers in a person's individual network are decisive factors when it comes to Basque usage

Promoting Basque use in companies

When everybody in a family surroundings or amongst friends knows Basque then Basque is the language mainly spoken. But it is sufficient for one person not to know Basque in these use environments for mainly Spanish/French to be spoken at home and both Spanish/French and Basque amongst friends. The "network" influence is greater in the family than amongst friends which means that as the density of Basque speakers diminishes, Basque use with the family decreases more than with friends.

It can be said quite unequivocally that there is a threshold in the density of Basque speakers in a person's network below which Basque use cannot be guaranteed. In the case of the family this threshold is quite clear... all members of the family have to know Basque, because it is sufficient for one family member not to know Basque for Basque use to drop dramatically. Amongst friends, said threshold is not quite so clear. It may well not be necessary for everybody in a person's circle of friends to know Basque to guarantee its use but it certainly is necessary for the vast majority to know it.





Language competence and the number of Basque speakers in a person's individual network are decisive factors when it comes to Basque usage

Basque use

In any case it should be pointed out that the density of Basque-speakers in a person's network and the sociolinguistic area are obviously very closely inter-related, or in other words, a person's network depends to a large extent on the sociolinguistic area. Both variables come together to make up one single factor, the sociostructural factor, which is what most influences Basque use.

Relative language competence, i.e. the greater or lesser ease with which a person expresses him/herself in Basque or Spanish is the second factor which decisively conditions Basque use.

Those bilinguals who find it easier to express themselves in Basque almost always speak Basque both at home and amongst friends; balanced bilinguals use both Basque and Spanish and those bilinguals who find it easier to express themselves in Spanish/French speak mainly Spanish/French.





Language use at home according to age (by areas) (%) (only Basque speakers)

Age

≥65	62	13	25
50-64	59	18	23
35-49	53	25	23
25-34	41	20	39
16-24	31	14	56

0 20 40 60 80 100

B. A. Community

Navarre

Age

≥65	49	15	36
50-64	56	15	28
35-49	50	24	27
25-34	36	14	39
16-24	40	8	51

0 20 40 60 80 100

Mainly Basque

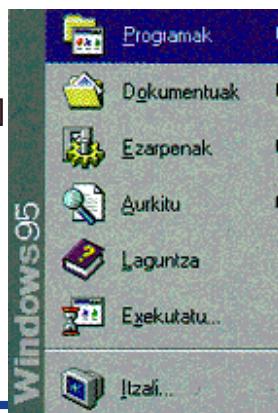
As much Basque as Spanish/French

Mainly Spanish/French

Iparralde

(Age group samples are not large enough)





Basque use at home and with friends decreases amongst the younger age groups

Windows 95 in basque

This drop in use is related to the phenomenon which we have already mentioned before of the important number of people (the majority of whom are young) who had Spanish/French as their mother tongue but who have learnt Basque and who, as a result, obviously do not have a completely Basque-speaking family environment.

This means that as the age of Basque speakers decreases, the number of Basque - speakers in the home also decreases, due to the fact those who have learnt Basque (the majority of whom are young) do not have an entirely Basque-speaking family environment. And as use at home, as we have already shown, is completely conditioned by the density of Basque speakers in the home, there is an important drop in use as the age of the interviewee goes down.

If instead of looking at all Basque speakers, we consider just those families in which all family members know Basque, we can see that, as is illustrated by the graph, Basque use at home hardly changes with the age of the interviewee. There is a small drop in use in the 25-34 age group, but this amount is immediately recovered in the next age group (16-24).

Sociolinguistic situation

Basque use

Basque use with friends increases in the 16-24 age-group due to the huge number of new Basque-speakers

Language use at home when everyone or almost everyone knows how to speak Basque, in terms of age and by areas (%) (only Basque speakers)

Age

≥65	68	13	19
50-64	62	20	18
35-49	49	22	29
25-34	33	24	43
16-24	38	22	40

0 20 40 60 80 100

B. A. Community

Iparralde

(Age group samples are not large enough)

Navarre

Age

≥65	66	10	24
50-64	62	12	26
35-49	53	19	28
25-34	40	21	39
16-24	34	19	47

0 20 40 60 80 100

■ Mainly Basque

■ As much Basque as Spanish/French

■ Mainly Spanish/French





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Basque use with friends increases in the 16-24 age-group due to the huge number of new Basque-speakers

Basque: a language that is used

In the youngest (16-24 age group) Basque use increases once again to 38%. This increase in Basque use amongst the youngest age group in comparison to the 25-34 age group is due, mainly to the fact that the density of Basque-speakers in their group of friends has increased as a result of the large increase in new Basque-speakers amongst the youngest population sectors: half (53%) of young Basque-speakers between the ages of 16 and 24 have friends who are all or nearly all Basque speakers, whilst in the 25-34 age group this percentage is 37%.

In Navarre, this still cannot be observed due to the fact that the process for recovering the Basque language (i.e. the incorporation of new Basque speakers) is less widespread and has occurred later than in the Basque Autonomous Community.

