

Much recent work has discussed ways that ideologies of modernity and development target language use, often through standardization (Errington 1998, Bauman and Briggs 2003, Kulick 1992). This paper shows how such ideologies have borne on language change in a Basque dialect.

Following the end of the Franquist dictatorship in 1975, a newly invented Basque standard, *Batua*, was introduced into Basque schools and media. Previously, no Basque standard existed and Spanish or French was used in prestige domains in which *Batua* is now an option. Since then, a generation of speakers has grown up with exposure to *Batua* through schools and media, which suggests the possibility that younger speakers will borrow features from *Batua* into their vernacular, leading to change in local dialects.

This paper examines variation between *Batua* and dialectal forms of four variables in the town of Oiartzun in an effort to gauge this possible process of change. Specifically, this paper argues that this variation must be understood in terms of (i) ideologies of modernity and (ii) social and economic changes in town life since 1975.

Data for this paper were gathered in sociolinguistic and ethnographic interviews conducted in 2003 and 2004 with 40 native speakers of Oiartzun Basque. The data were later transcribed and analyzed using Goldvarb 2001. Two of the variables are morpho-syntactic: use of a dative clitic for absolutive arguments (dative displacement); and (iii) use of the open class perfect affix *-tu* on closed class verbs *izan*, ('have/be,' Aux) and *egon* ('be'-loc.). Two other variables are phonological: palatalization of /t/ following /i/ and /j/; and (ii) monophthongization of /naIs/, the 1sg. present tense conjugation of the intransitive auxiliary. All four of these features are variably present in local speech but proscribed in *Batua*.

Crucially, apparent time evidence suggests that only two of these features are entering local speech. Younger speakers do not differ significantly from their elders in rates of dative displacement or monophthongization of /naIs/. By contrast, younger speakers do show significantly lower factor weights for (non-standard) t-palatalization and tu-affixation. The difference between these two sets of variables is plausibly related to the fact that the first two are emblematic of local speech. In participants' metalinguistic comments in ethnographic interview data, dative displacement and [nas] use are often mentioned as salient features of the local dialect. In contrast, participants almost never mention the latter two variables.

The fact that salient local features are not giving way to competing standard forms is plausibly related to a rise in dialectal loyalty, which is in turn related to recent changes in town life (Echeverria 2000, Amorrortu 2000). Many community members understand standardization as part of a broader process of modernization, economic development and urbanization that has been advantageous in many ways, but also brought other unwanted changes, including the loss of traditional practices and a perceived weakening in community identity. The ambivalence of many younger speakers toward these changes is reflected in their attitudes toward *Batua* and the local dialect and their use of these in everyday speech.

References:

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