A Brief Introduction to the Grammar Structure of the Basque Language. Introduction with tables

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March 1ˢᵗ, 2006
(Revised version March 13ᵗʰ, 2006)

Main characteristics of the Basque language are introduced, such as the declination and agglutinative conjugation. Special relevance is given to the noun and verb aspects for the different subject cases and for the indicative, respectively.

1. Introduction.

1.1 The classification of languages:

Languages are often classified, relying on their historic evolution, dividing them in families, which should derive from a common ancestor (i.e. they should be *phylogenetic*) that is usually recovered through comparative methods. This division leads to more specific phylogenetic units (branches), which are families as well. The common ancestor of a family is called *protolanguage*, and languages that surely possess a protolanguage but are not classifiable into a family are called isolated languages. In this case, the protolanguage is not the one of any other known language and thus, these languages (a family on their own) cannot be compared with any other in this way but only through special characteristics that all of them might possess, although not having a common known ancestor. These characteristics can be such as the word structure, the number of syllables of words, grammar structure…

A grammatical classification widely used bases on dividing them by their special typus. So, it is said that languages are **classifying, isolating** or **agglutinative-flective**.

Classifying languages possess special affixes that put nouns in specific categories as found, too in languages like German (*-er*, *-heit*, *-tum*, *-ter* for many of the nouns, *-chs* for a small category of animals) or Greek (*-x* for animals), and in planned languages like Esperanto, too (*-o* for nouns, *-a* for adjectives...), since this makes it easier to classify words and understand the context of a sentence. These categories are believed to be the root of modern *genus* forms for masculine, feminine and neutrum in many flective languages. In classifying languages, the prefix subordinates the whole structure of the sentence, so that all words connected with the substantive acquire the prefix, too, comparable with what is found in very flective languages with the concordance of case, number and genus (e.g. Latin "bonus dominus").

Isolating languages have words as an unchanging unit. Verbs possess only one form and substantives are not declined in any way. Examples of this typus are the *Chinese* dialects, which are highly monosyllabic and isolating languages, as well as *Tibetan*,

too.[1]

Agglutinative-flective languages are *agglutinative* or *flective*, depending on the degree of conjunction between the root and the affix. Words of agglutinative languages are not completely independent. Their <u>meaning</u> is given <u>through affixes</u>. In some agglutinative languages, many affixes are short forms of larger words that are independent[2]. In the case of flexion, the root is changed in a higher level and the meaning of the affixes is clear especially from the context. Because of this, forms of agglutinative languages are usually clearer than in flective ones (what does not say that they have to be easier).
Synthetic-agglutinative languages tend to use many affixes, representing each a unit of meaning, and which do not get fused with others and do not change form conditioned by others. In *synthetic-fusional* languages, the affixes are often squeezed together, joining several meanings in an affix.[3]
Languages of this kind are, for example, the Germanic languages, with a flexion found in the derivation of the verbs. Agglutinative languages are for example Japanese, Finnish, Mayan, Nahuatl and Corean, here especially the Basque language, which is an example of isolated languages, as well as Corean in Asia or the now extinct Etruscan in Italy. The ancestor of Basque is only called Proto-Basque or Aquitanian [4].
In the next sections of this work, some main structural issues of the Basque language will be presented, especially about the Basque noun and the Basque verb. This based upon accompanying declination and conjugation tables that, let it be said, show the synthetic-agglutinative type of this isolated language.

1.2 The Basque Language:

Basque (euskera or euskara) is the language traditionally spoken in the Basque Country (Euskadi, Euskal Herria –the nomenclature can differ with a shift in the meaning), in Northern Spain and Southwestern France. In Spain, a part of it (called *Hegoalde*-Southern part) occupies the so-called Autonomous Community of the Basque Country (CAPV) (formed out of the provinces of *Araba*-Álava, *Gipuzkoa*-Guipúzcoa and *Bizkaia*-Vizcaya) and part of the Autonomous Community of Navarre (province of *Nafarroa*-Navarra). In France (called *Iparralde*-Northern part), it occupies *Lapurdi*-Labourd, *Nafarroa Beherea*-Basse Navarre and *Zuberoa*-Soul in the Dept. of the Pyrénées-Atlantiques. In Spain, Basque has an official status, according to the Basque Statute of Autonomy (also called "Guernica Statute") of 1979, founded on the historic foral laws of the Basque Provinces.

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[1] These is the direction tended by *English*, for example, which as a Germanic language was mostly synthetic-flective but in time became almost completely analytic and highly monosyllabic and isolating, in contrast to German, for example. Spoken French shows a tendence towards isolism, too, since there, most of the affixes are not spoken.
[2] For example, "-ra" in Basque for "to", which is added as an affix to the noun [1]. The analog picture is found with "-ban/-benn" in Hungarian for "in" [2]. An analogy in German would be "-hin" as in "dorthin-to that place", which then would have to be generalized to all nouns (which is not the case. Something as "Schule-hin" does not exist, but "zur (zu der) Schule").
[3] In this context, Esperanto [3] is a synthetic language, since it bases on affixes, the meaning and form of which is static, but not inflectional, since there is no real conjugation and only suffixes give the time meaning along with pronouns. The root/affix system shows more a kind of agglutinative nature, although being this language highly analytical.

The Basque language is divided in many dialects, the main of which are Biscayan (Spain), Guipuzcoan (Spain), High Navarrese (Spain), Low Navarrese (France), Labourdin (France) and Souletin (France). The standardized Basque is called "euskara batua" (Unified Basque), which is aimed to make intercommunication within "euskaldunak" (Basque-speaking people) easier and strengthen the use of this traditional language. In a way, it can be compared with High German ("Hochdeutsch") in German, which is in many ways a supra-language over all German dialects (in Switzerland, for instance, High German is called "*Schreibdeutsch*-Written German").

Basque is an agglutinative language (ergative-absolutive). Therefore, it marks the subjects of transitive verbs in another way than the subjects of intransitive verbs and the object of transitive verbs. Subjects of a transitive verb are marked with ergative, while subjects of intransitive verbs, and the object of the transitive verb, with the absolutive, which is essentially an unmarked form. The ergative case identifies the agent as intentful doer of action of a verb [5].

2. On the Basque Grammar

2.1 The Basque Noun and Declination

There are about 15 declination forms in Basque, which are the *nominative (absolutive)-nor*, the *ergative-nork*, the *dative-nori* (a form of indirect object or complement), the *possessive genitive-noren*, the *associative-norekin*, the *destinative-norentzat*, the *instrumental "z"-case*, the *inessive-non*, the *locative genitive-nongo*, the *allative-nora*, the *terminal ablative-noraino*, the *ablative-nondik*, the *directional-noruntz*, the *partitive* and the *prolative-nortzat*. Here, the second part of the case-name is the name in Basque. Essentially, the declination is given exactly by this name, used as a suffix of the noun root. "Nor" is "who" in English and its suffix represents the aspect of the declination.

The Basque name shows the main part of the transformation of the noun for the different declination (e.g. –k for ergative, -i for dative). Another part, an epenthetic, is added to facilitate pronunciation. It breaks a consonant cluster that is not permitted by the phonotactics of the language [1].

The main way to subdivide the cases might be though the so-called "*mugagabe*", *singular* and *plural* cases. Mugagabe is an undetermined case of the nouns. The declinations, though, can perceive changes from substantive to substantive and especially differ for personal names, and for them for inanimate and animate nouns. The cases nor, nork, nori, noren, norekin, norentzat and the z-case stay almost the same for all subject kinds.

A table of declinations shows in a better way how Basque nouns are changed through morphemes:

SUBSTANTIVES: Declinations (NOUNS)[1]

		MUGAGABE	SINGULAR	PLURAL	Basic suffix
Absolutive *Who/what*	<u>Nor</u>	Mendi (mount)	-a	*-ak*	-/k
		Seme (son)	-a	*-ak*	
		Haran	-a	*-ak*	
		Mutil (boy)	-a	*-ak*	
	Example:	Ardo zuriA nahi dut: *I want white wine.*			
Ergative *Who/what*	<u>Nork</u>	Mendi-k	*-ak*	-ek	k (k/ek)
		Seme-k	*-ak*	-ek	
		Haran-e-k	*-ak*	-ek	
		Mutil-e-k	*-ak*	-ek	
		Nere semeAK kotxe berria erosi du: *My son bought a new car.*			
Dative *(To) Whom*	<u>Nori</u> to, for	Mendi-r-i	-ari	-ei	i (ri/i)
		Seme-r-i	-ari	-i	
		Haran-i	-ari	-ei	
		Mutil-i	-ari	-ei (mutitei)	
		MaiteRI galdetuko diogu: *We'll ask Maite.*			I'll give it TO the boy

Mugagabe is the undetermined form of the Basque noun. It does not possess an exact analogue in Spanish or English, for example. In some cases, mugagabe represents the noun without article (in Basque, given through the determinative -a). The basic suffix is the one that mostly characterizes the case and often has a link with the Basque name of the declination form (e.g. –en/-noren).

What should be understood under the absolutive and ergative cases was already said. Both can be used for the substantive in what is often the nominative in other languages. Which of them is used for the classic subject, then, depends on the verb. The dative form is the indirect object, which is in English part of the subject, but it does not have to be like that in Basque, as will be seen under the section on the Basque verb. A synthetic form of dative is also found in German, for example, often with the "e"-ending for the masculine (e.g. "Mann→ Manne"; *declination form in extinction*), or else trhough the declination of the article (and less the adjective) (e.g. masculine gingular: "dem, einem"). The structure in German is, however, much more irregular and some different forms coincide (dative feminine singular "den" with accusative masculine singular). In English, however, this was lost almost completely since it evolved from Old English (only remanescences stay, as in "for me" with "me" as dative form of "I". The same with Latin languages, with, for example, the ending "-o" for the "-us/-i" form or "-ae" for "-a/-ae").

Possessive-Genitive	**Noren**	Mendi-r-en	-aren	-en	
		Seme-en	-aren	-en	En
Whose		Haran-en	-aren	-en	(ren/en)
	of, 's	mutil-en	-aren	-en (mutlen)	
		NeskAREN kotxea: *The girl's car.*			
Associative	**Norekin**	Mendi-r-ekin	-arekin	-ekin	
		Seme-r-ekin	-arekin	-ekin	Ekin
With whom		Haran-ekin	-arekin	-ekin	(rekin/ekin)
	with	Mutil-ekin	-arekin	-ekin (mutilekin)	
(Comitative)		Nere anaiAREKIN bizi da: *He lives with my brother.*			
Destinative	**Norenzat**	Mendi-r-entzat	-arentzat	-entzat	
		Seme-r-entzat	-arentzat	-entzat	entzat
For whom		Haran-entzat	-arentzat	-entzat	
	for	Mutil-entzat	-arentzat	-entzat	
		Karta hau zure lagunARENTZAT da: *This letter is for your*			
(Benefactive)		*friend.*			

The possessive-genitive case is the case that gives possession, i.e. it tells that an object has a property link to the noun. In German, it is given with the "Genitiv", with the declined article "des" or "den" for masculine (singular) and "der" for feminine ("den" in plural), on the noun, using mostly an "-s" as suffix, as in English the "'s". Spanish, with only an analytic genitive-possessive form, depends on the preposition "de", as well as the other Neo-Romanic languages, having lost the synthetic Latin genitive form (for example –*i* for the first form "-us/-i" or "-ae" for "-a/-ae"). This evolution is, however, found in Germanic languages as well, since dative is taking the place of genitive in German, for example ("des Manns → von dem Mann(e)"). Spanish, for example, shows remanescences as "mi" ("mi perro-my dog"), as does English in "my" for the declination of "I".

The associative (which can also be found as "comitative") is in Spanish (for example) part of the "circumstantial complement". In Latin, it lies under the ablative case. In German, the differentiation is not so vivid, and it is taken as part of the dative object. However, in both Germanic and Romance languages, the associative form does not represent a case per se, since it is formed analytically with prepositions accounted to another case. The same happens with the destinative (or benefactive) case. With "for, für, per, para…" an analytic form is constructed in many languages, such as English, German, Latin and Neo-Latin languages. However, in German or Latin, for example, the preposition used is linked to a specific case: the accusative one. This is found in Neo-Latin languages only as a remanescence (e.g. "per te" in Italian or "para ti" in Spanish –from the pronoun "tú". In German: "für dich"). In German, the accusative case is found as a more synthetic form (e.g. "Ich liebe dich", which in Middle English was fully declined, too, as "I love thee"). However, many of the flexions are identical to others (e.g. masculine singular accusative "den" and feminine singular dative)

Instrumental	**Z**	Mendi-z	-az	-ez/-etaz	
		Seme-z	-az	-ez/-etaz	z
How/with		Haran-e-z	-az	-ez/-etaz	(z/ez)
What	by, about	Mutil-e-z	-az	-ez/-etaz	
		EskuZ: *by hand;* OinEZ: on foot*;* EgunEZ: *by day*			

Inessive	**Non**	Mendi-tan	-an	-etan	n
		Seme-(ren)gan	-a-(ren)gan	-engan	(n/en)
Where		Haran-e-tan	-e-an	-etan	
	in, at	Mutil-(en)gan	-a-(ren)gan	-engan	
		Urte artAN: *In that year.*			
Local-Gen.	**Nongo**	Mendi-tako	-ko	-etako	go/ko
		--	--	--	
From where		Haran-tako	-ko	-etako	
	of, from	--	--	--	
		ArratsaldeKO autobusa: *The afternoon bus.*			

The instrumental case (ending "–z") gives the aspect of how something is done or by means of what. It doesn't have an exact analogy in Neo-Latin or Germanic languages (as far as I know -N.B.). It is reproduced with the use of "with", for example, and so analytically, according to the context.

The inessive case gives a position. In German, it lies under the category of dative, asking "wo? - where?". The local-genitive gives in a way a case of genitive mixed with Inessive, since it gives a position, but a position that gives the meaning of a subject being part of a place, coming from it. In German, it is often given with "aus" followed by dative. Spanish unites it with the analytic genitive (preposition "de-of").

Allative	**Nora**	mendi-tara	-ra	-etara	ra
		Seme-(ren)gara	-a-(ren)gana	-engana	(ra/a,era)
		Haran-e-tara	-e-ra	-etara	
(To) where	To	Mutil-(en)gana	-a-(ren)gana	-engana	
		BilboRA noa: *I am going to Bilbao.*			
Terminal-Ablative	**Noraino**	mendi-taraino	-raino	-etaraino	raino
		Seme-(ren)ganaino	-a-(ren)ganaino	-enganaino	
		Haran-taraino	-e-raino	-etaraino	
To which point	up to	Mutil-(en)ganaino	-a-(ren)ganaino	-enganaino	
		BilboRAINO noa: *I am going up to Bilbao.*			
Ablativo	**Nondik**	Mendi-tatik	-an	-etan	ik
		Seme-(-ren)gandik	-a-(ren)gandik	-engandik	(tik, dik)
From where		Haran-e-tatik	-e-tik	-etatik	
		Mutil-(en)Gandia	-a-(ren)gandik	-engandik	
		Gaur CaliforniaTIK dator: *He's coming from California today.*			

The allative is in German found under accusative, asking "wohin?". In Spanish, it is a form of the direct object, asking "adónde" ("a" giving the meaning of movement and "dónde-where" of a position). An "upgrade" of this case is the terminal-ablative, which gives an exact position where the movement should end ("aino" is pronounced "año"). A somehow contrary case is the ablative, which gives where the movement began (German with "woher?").

Directional	**Noruntz**	Mendi-taruntz	-runtz	-etaruntz	Untz
		Seme-(ren)ganuntz	-a-(ren)ganuntz	-enganuntz	
In which direction		Haran-e-taruntz	-e-runtz	-etaruntz	
		Mutil-(en)ganuntz	-e-(ren)ganuntz	-enganuntz	

The directional gives a direction of the movement, this meaning not a goal of this movement.

Partitive		Mendi-r-ik		ik
	"any"	Seme-r-ik		
		Haran-ik		
		Mutil-ik		
		Ez dago ardoRIK: *There isn't any wine.*		

The partitive case is what can be translated as "any". It gives a substantive in a not explicit quantity.

Prolative	**Nortzat**	Mendi-tzat		tzat
		Seme-tzat		
Why		Haran-tzat		
		Mutil-tzat		
	MUGAGABE		**SINGULAR**	**PLURAL**	

The prolative case gives a reason. The reason why an action happened, being this reason linked with a substantive.

An important aspect that should be mentioned about the word structure hat to do something with the so-called "galdegaia": "questioned thing". This can be defined as the most important part of the declaration of the sentence and is placed at first in the sentence. For example:

1. *Gaur Californiatik dator* – Today, he is coming from California.
2. *Californiatik gaur dator* - From California is that he is coming today.

1. *Aitak leihoak egin ditu* – Father has made the window.
2. *Leihoak aitak egin ditu* – It is the window what father has made.

1. *Herri txikietara diru ekartzen turistek* – To the small towns do tourists bring money.
2. *Turistek herri txikietara ekartzen* – Tourists bring money to the small towns.

Moreover, the last two examples show something more: "*herri txiki*-small country" (or "small towns") is a unity to which the affix is placed, e.g. *(herri txiki)+a* (THE small country). This can be found often (e.g. *nere anaia* – my son, *karta hau* – this letter) and it is in contraposition to the rule often valid, for example in Spanish (*loS buenoS amigoS* – the good friends) or in German, for instance *(die guteN TageN* – the good days). The contraposition can be well given through a comparison with Esperanto, for example, with the plural form or the accusative case (*bonaJ homoJ* – good men; *Mi amas la bonaN knabinoN* – I love the good girl). The affix is used for both noun and adjective. English speaking people will, however, find this Basque form easier, since concordance is hardly found in modern English, but more as a consequence of the English adjective.

French speakers will know that spoken French hardly shows concordance, although written texts often show it, much as a remanescence of the Latin structure (*bon ami* – good friend (masculine), *bonnE amiE* – good friend (feminine), *leS donneS jolieS* – the good-looking girls). In all these examples, the flexion is hardly spoken.

The declination for personal names is analog to the one of common nouns. It shows, however, some singularities, and within it, declination shows a difference, based on wether the noun is animated, inanimated, or even if it is in the mugagabe form:

PERSONAL NAMES: [1]
Declinations

		MUGAGABE			
			Animated	Inanimated	
Absolutive *Who/what*	**Nor**	Anboto Izarraitz Peru Miren Pello nere semea da: *Pello is my son.*	- -	- -	
Ergative *Who/what*	**Nork**	Anboto Izarraitz Peru Miren AitAK leihoak egin ditu: *Father has made the window.*	-k -e-k	k -e-k	K
Dative (I.C.) *(To) whom*	**Nori** to/for	Anboto Izarraitz Peru Miren Zer esan diezu haurrEI?: *What did you tell the children?*	-r-i -i	-r-i -i	I

As can be seen, the declination of personal nouns depends on the type of object, especially, if it is animated or inanimated. Common names are inanimated, as "tree" or "car", while "personal names" are animated.

Poss. Gen. *Whose*	**Noren** of, 's	Anboto Izarraitz Peru Miren MariAREN lagunak: *Maria's friends.*	-en -en	-r-en -en	en
Associative *With whom*	**Norekin**	Anboto Izarraitz Peru Miren Zure aitAREKIN hitz egingo dut: *I'll speak to your father.*	-r-ekin -ekin	-r-ekin -ekin	ekin

Destinative *For whom*	**Norenzat**	Anboto		-r-entzat	
		Izarraitz		-entzat	entzat
		Peru	-r-entzat		
		Miren	-entzat		
		ZurENTZAT ardo zuria ekarri dut: *I've brought some wine for you.*			

Instrumental *How/with what*	**Z**	Anboto		-z	
		Izarraitz		-e-z	z
		Peru	-z		
		Miren	-e-z		
		InglesEZ: *in English*; beldurrEZ: *for fear.*			

Inessive *Where*	**Non**	Anboto		-n	
		Izarraitz		-e-n	n
		Peru	-(ren)gan		
		Miren	-(en)gan		
		HerriAN: *in the town*; eskolAN: *at school.*			

Loc. Genitive *From where*	**Nongo**	Anboto		-ko	
		Izarraitz		-ko	go/ko
		Peru	--		
		Miren	--		
		CaliforniaKOak dira: *They are from California.*			

Allative *Where to*	**Nora**	Anboto		-ra	
		Izarraitz		-a	ra
		Peru	-(ren)gana		
		Miren	-(en)gan		
		Herri txikiETARAdiru ekartzen turistek: *Tourists bring money to the small towns.*			

Term. Ablative *To which point*	**Noraino**	Anboto		-raino	
		Izarraitz		-aino	raino
		Peru	-(ren)ganaino		
		Miren	-(en)ganaino		
		CaliforniarAINO: *as far as California.*			

Ablative *From where*	**Nondik**	Anboto		-tik	
		Izarraitz		-tik	ik
		Peru	-(ren)gandik		
		Miren	-(en)gandik		
		PellorenGANDIK erosi dut kotzea: *I brought the bread for Pello*			

Directional *In which Direction*	**Noruntz**	Anboto		-runtz	
		Izarraitz		-untz	untz
		Peru	-(ren)ganuntz		
		Miren	-(en)ganuntz		

Partitive		Anboto		-r-ik	
		Izarraitz		-ik	ik
		Peru	-r-ik		
		Miren	-ik		
		Ez dugu haurrik nahi: *We don´t want a child.*			

Prolative	**Nortzat**	Anboto		-tzat	
		Izarraitz		-tzat	tzat
Why		Peru	-tzet		
		Miren	-tzat		

	MUGAGABE SINGULAR PLURAL

PRONOUNS: [1]
Declinations

		1s	2s	2s	1p	2p
Absolutive *What/who*	**Nor**	ni (I)	Hi (thou)	zu (you)	gu we	zuek (you (plural))
Ergative *What/who*	**Nork**	nik	Hik	zuk	guk	zuek
Dative (I.C.) *(To) whom*	**Nori**	neri	hiri	zuri	guri	Zuei
Poss. Gen. *Whose*	**Noren**	nere	hire	zure	gure	Zuen
Associative *With whom*	**Norekin**	nerekin	hirekin	zurekin	gurekin	Zuekin
Destinative *For fhom*	**Norenzat**	nerentzat	hiretzat	zuretzat	guretzat	Zuentzat
Inessive *Where*	**Non**	neregan	hiregan	zuregan	guregan	Zuengan
Alative *Where to*	**Nora**	nerengana	hiregana	zuregana	guregana	Zuengana
Term. Ablative *To which point*	**Noraino**	nerengaino	hireganaino	zureganaino	gureganaino	Zuenganaino
Ablative *Where from*	**Nondik**	nerengandik	hiregandik	zurengandik	gurengandik	Zuengandik

Basque speakers usually do not use "Hi". Its translation is "you" for the singular (as the Middle English "thou", "Du" in German or "tú" in Spanish). Instead of it, "Zu" is used, which is a singular "you" like "Usted" of Spanish or the rench "vu" (in cntrast to "tu").

He, she and it (and plural forms) are taken from the demonstrative, as was originally the case in Latin and Neo-Latin (Romance) languages (ille-->el-->él) [4].

There exists another pronoun for "Hi/Zu" in Basque. It is called "Xu" and is intermediate between "Hi" (familiar) and "Zu" (formal). It is conjugated as "Zu". Nevertheless, it is not used much and only Eastern dialects of Basque still know it [6].

It might be interesting that the declination for the "H" and "N" forms are almost equal (while for "zu" and "xu" the declination form is identical), especially in philosophical/ideological means. In this way, the declination of "hi" shows a more personal character than for "zu", since it is in strong relationg with "I", the person who is speaking. While declining for "zu", a distance is achieved from the very grammatical beginning.

Now, some words dependent of the noun (with the Spanish meaning, too):

Question words: **Demonstrative**
ZER: what (qué)   HAU/HORI/HURA: this/that/that over there
NOR: who (quién)   (éste, ése, aquél)
ZEIN: which (cuál)
NON: where (dónde)   HEMEN/HOR/HAN: here/there (aquí/allá/acullá)
NOLA (ZELAN): how (cómo)   HONELA/HORRELA/HALA: this/that way (de esta/esa forma)
NOIZ: when
(cuándo)   ORAIN/ORDUAN: now/then (ahora, entonces)
ZENBAT: how many (cuánto) HAINBESTE: so many (tantos)

Related words:
ZER -> ZERBAIT: something (algo), EZER or DEUS: anything (algo/cualquier cosa)
NOR -> NORBAIT: someone (alguien), INOR: anyone (alguien/cualquiera)
NON -> NONBAIT: somewhere (en algún sitio), INON: anywhere (en cualquier sitio)
NOLA -> NOLABAIT: somehow (de algún modo), INOLA: anyhow (de cualquier modo)
NOIZ -> NOIZBAIT: sometime (en algún momento), INOIZ; SEKULA BEHIN ERE: ever
                                                    (en cualquier momento)
ZENBAT -> ZENBAIT: some, a few (algunos), BAT ERE: any at all (cuantosquiera)

2.2 The Basque Verb

2.2.1 The Basque verb forms

The Basque verb is conjugated in accordance to the objects that accompany him, i.e. depending on how many objects the sentence possesses and if the verb is transitive or intransitive. The objects accompanying the verb are the substantives declined for NOR, NORI and NORK. The NORI object is analog to the dative (or indirect) object. NOR is the nominative (better: absolute) and NORK the ergative form. Which of them is the classical subject depends upon the transitivity of the verb. Intransitive verbs do not possess an object, so the subject is NOR. Transitive verbs possess one or more objects. For NOR-NORK and NOR-NORI-NORK

forms, the (classical) subject takes the form of NORK and the accusative-like form is NOR.

Because of the dependence of conjugation of Basque verbs upon the nouns (and especially since the object lies many times intrinsically in the verb), the Basque objects are taken in modern Grammar as part of the subject (better, as other subjects). It is talked about three different subjects: Nor-, Nori- and Nork- subject. They act on the conjugation, so changing the verb as a subject commonly does [1].

The Basque main verb can adopt 4 forms: [6]
1. The lexematic form, analog to the infinitive form of English verbs,
2. The perfective form, which implies an action that has ended,
3. The imperfective form, which represents an action that still continues,
4. A not marked form. This form is used for the future tense.

Some examples are given below:

English	LEX	PERF	IMP	NM	
to go-take out	atera	atera	ateratzen	aterako	
to collect	bat	batu	batzen	batuko	(one: "bat")
to finish	buka	bukatu	bukatzen	bukatuko	
to drink	edan	edan	edaten	edango	
to boil	egos	egosi	egosten	egosiko	
to bring	ekar	ekarri	ekartzen	ekarriko	
to give	eman	emani	ematen	emango	
to listen/hear	entzun	entzun	entzuten	entzungo	
to say	esan	esan	esaten	esango	
to come	etor	etorri	etortzen	etorriko	
to know	ezagut	ezagutu	ezagutzen	ezagutuko	
to ask	galde	galdetu	galdetzen	galdetuko	(question: "galde")
to clean	garbi	garbito	garbitzen	garbituko	(clean: "garbi")
to take	har	hartu	hartzen	hartuko	
to start/begin	has	hasi	hasten	hasiko	
to die/kill	hil	hil	hiltzen	hilko	
to go (out)	ibil	ibili	ibiltzen	ibiliko	
to write	idatz	idatzi	idazten	idatziko	
to see	ikus	ikusi	ikusten	ikusiko	
to read	irakur	irakurri	irakurtzen	irakurriko	
to go	joan	joan	joaten	joango	
to take	ken	kendu	kentzen	kenduko	
to help	lagun	lagundu	laguntzen	lagunduko	
to love	maite	maitatu	maitatzen	maitatuko	(maite/maitasun: "love")
to go to bed	ohera	oheratu	oheratzen	oheratuko	(to bed: "ohera")
to be glad	poz	poztu	pozten	poztuko	(joy: "poz")
to sell	sal	saldu	saltzen	salduko	
to be sad	triste	tristetu	tristetzen	tristeko	(sad: "triste")
to understand	uler	ulertu	ulertzen	ulertuko	

Most of the Basque verbs are or can be conjugated with help of auxiliaries. This is the analytic form. The form, in which auxiliary verbs are not needed, is the synthetic one. The latter one is the least common in spoken Basque.

- The *lexematic form* is the lexeme of the verb. It is used for subjunctive, imperative and potential. It represents the action without something about the person, number, time…
The lexematic form is also called *stem form* and it is obtained by removing the ending of the perfective (or dictionary) form, usually taking out the ending *-tu*, *-du* or *-(r)*i (although there are cases when the *-t* is let in the lexematic form. The lexematic form is used in written Basque and in the Northern dialects. In the south, the dictionary or imperfective form replaces it [6].

- The *perfective form*, also called *dictionary or supine* form, is the form given in most dictionaries. They usually end in -tu, -du and -i. With help of this ending (-TU), many adjectives and nouns can be transformed in verbs ("garbi"-clean -> "garbitu"-to clean, "bat"-one -> "batu"-unify, collect, "ohe-ra"-to bed -> "oheratu"-go to bed). [6]

The perfective form is used, for example, in:
Etorri naiz: I have come.
Ibili nintzen: I went.
Lagundu zara: You have helped.

- The *imperfective form*, or *habitual form*, has various uses. It ends in *-tzen* or in *-ten*, according to some rules: if lexematic and perfective form end in -n, this ending is changed to *-ten*. If the stem ending is *-s* or *-z*, *-ten* is added. If it is *-ts*, *-tx* or *-tz*, this is changed to *-s*, *-x* or *-z* and *-ten*. To all other lexemes, *-tzen* is added. [6]

The imperfective form is found, for example, in:
Etortzen naiz: I come
Edaten ari nintzen: I was drinking. ("ari" makes of the tense a continuous one)
Edaten naiz: I drink.
Edaten ari naiz: I am drinking.

- The not maked form is a less basic form, since it is mainly constructed out of the perfective one, with the ending *-ko* or *-go*.

The not marked form is used for example as:
Etorriko naiz: I will come.
Lagunduko genuen: We would help.

- More complex time forms are given with help of:
 ~ "ARI":   It gives sense of a continuous action.

E.g.: *Euria ari du*: It is raining.
Elurra ari du: It is snowing.
~ Giving a different form to principal verb and auxiliary verb (and ARI).
Irakurtzen ari naiz: I am reading.
Irakurtzen ari nintzen: I was reading.
Irakurtzen aritzen naiz: I use to be reading.
Irakurtzen aritzen nintzen: I used to be reading.
Irakurtzen aritu naiz: I have been reading.
Irakurtzen arituko naiz: I will be reading.
Irakurtzen arituko nintzen: I would be reading.

2.2.2. The auxiliary verbs

In Basque, there are two verbs used as auxiliaries: IZAN and EDUN (UKAN). Nevertheless, EDUN is not a real actual verb, but a theoretical one from which modern verbs like UKAN and EDUKI should come from, and especially the stem.

IZAN means "to be" like in *Ni zaharrra naiz*: I am old. *Zu gaztea zara*: You are young.	EDUN is "to have" (not auxiliar) like in *Zer duzu?*: What do you have? *Lagun bat dut*: I have a friend.
IZAN also means "to have" like in *Ni etorri naiz*: I have come. *Gu etorri gara*: We have come.	EDUN is also used as auxiliary verb: *Zer ekarri duzu?*: What have you brought? *Mendi bat ikusten dut:* I see a hill.
IZAN is a NOR and NOR-NORI verb.	**EDUN is a NOR-NORK and NOR-NORI-NORK verb**

Since the case of the subject and object is given through the auxiliary verb, IZAN and EDUN complement each other in a sense.

2.2.3 Declination forms of the verb

NOR:

Sentences followed by no object. Nor (also called zer) as subject:

Following table shows the conjugation of *IZAN:*					
NOR: [7]			*The general form, for synthetic conjugation for NOR is:* [1]		
Indicative	*pres.*	*Past Ind.*	*Present*	*(NOR)*	*indicative*
	Ind. Orain.	*Lehen.*			
Ni	naiz	Nintzen	N-a		
Hi	haiz	Hintzen	H-a		
Hura	da	Zen	D-a	verbal	
Gu	gara	ginen	G-a	lexeme	-z
Zu	zara	zinen	Z-a		-z
Zuek	zarete	zineten	Z-a		-z-te
Haiek	dira	ziren	D-a		-z

The form of conjugation of IZAN mostly represents the form on the right. What can be said is: **-a is used for the present form** **-i is used for the past** **form**	This is used for a conjugation form that does not need IZAN and EDUN. Sentences with such synthetic form can be commonly Changed to analytic ones, using auxiliary verbs (which is the most common form). Nevertheless, the meaning is a little bit different, since **synthetic conjugation** gives a **meaning of an action happening**, while the **analytic** one more of an **action that commonly occurs**.

Indikatibozko Orainaldia -- Orain: "now", aldi: "time".
Indikatibozko Lehenaldia -- Lehen: "first", "before".

Some examples of conjugation of verbs in analytic and synthetic form are:

Etortzen da:	He comes (analytic form)	Here, the verb ETOR-ETORRI is used. The conjugation:
Dator:	He comes (synthetic form)	*NATOR, HATOR, DATOR, GATOZ, ZATOZ, ZATOZTE, ZOAZ.*
Joaten zara:	You come (analytic form)	
Zoaz:	You come (synthetic form)	

The general NOR structure for the present tense is:

NOR-Morpheme	Time morph. pres.: -A-	verbal lexeme

The past tense form of synthetic conjugation is: [1]

Past	*(NOR)*	*indicative*	
N-EN/IN-		-z	-EN
H-EN/IN-		-z	-EN
G-EN/IN-	verbal	-z	-EN
Z-EN/IN-	lexeme	-z	-EN
Z-EN/IN-		-z-te-	-EN
Z-E/I-		-z-te-	-EN

Examples:
ETOR-ETORRI:

NENTORREN, HENTORREN, ZETORREN, GENTOZEN, ZENTOZEN, ZENTOZTEN, ZETOZTEN

Some examples of NOR verbs in synthetic conjugation are the following. They generally follow the table of above. Here are the present and past tense for some examples:

EGON [7]	*Ind. Orainaldia*		*Ind. Lehenaldia*		to be
Ni	nago	*I am*	nengoen	*I was*	
Hu	hago	*you are (t. art)*	hengoen	*you were (thou warst)*	
Hura	dago	*he/there is*	zegoen	*he/there was*	
Gu	gaude	*we are*	geunden	*we were*	
Zu	zaude	*you are*	zeunden	*you were*	
Zuek	zaudete	*you (pl.) are*	zeundeten	*you (pl.) were*	
Haik	daude	*they/there are*	zeuden	*they/there were*	
Lexeme: -GO-					**EGON**
	Zer moduz zaude? = Zer moduz zara?: How are you?				

JOAN [7]	*Ind. Orainaldia*		*Ind. Lehenaldia*		to go
Ni	noa	*I am going*	nindoan	*I was going*	
Hu	hoa	…	hindoan	…	
Hura	doa	…	zihoan	…	
Gu	goaz	…	gindoazen	…	
Zu	zoaz	…	zindoazen	…	
Zuek	zoazte	…	zindoazten	…	
Haik	doaz	…	zihoazen	…	
Lexeme: -OA-					**JOAN**
	Etxera noa = Etxera joaten ari naiz: I am going home.				

ETORRI [7]	*Ind. Orainaldia*		*Ind. Lehenaldia*		to come
Ni	nator	*I am coming*	nentorren	*I was coming*	
Hu	hator	…	hentorren	…	
Hura	dator	…	zetorren	…	
Gu	gatoz	…	gentozen	…	
Zu	zatoz	…	zentozen	…	
Zuek	zatozte	…	zentozten	…	
Haik	datoz	…	zetozen	…	**ETOR**
Lexeme: -TOR-					
	Bilbotik dator = Bilbotik etortzen ari da: I come from Bilbao.				

IBILI [7]	*Ind. Orainaldia*		*Ind. Lehenaldia*		to walk
Ni	nabil	*I am walking*	nenbiltzen	*I was walking*	
Hu	habil	…	henbiltzen	…	
Hura	dabil	…	zebilen	…	
Gu	gabiltza	…	genbiltzan	…	
Zu	zabiltza	…	zenbiltzan	…	
Zuek	zabiltzate	…	zenbiltzate	…	
Haik	dabiltza	…	zebiltzan	…	
Lexeme: -BIL-					**IBIL**
	Kalean gabiltza = Kalean ibiltzen ari gara (gaude): I walk on the street (outside).				

NOR-NORI:

Sentences with indirect object:

Following table shows the conjugation of IZAN: [1]			The general NOR-NORI verb form is:			
present:	**(NOR-NORI)**	**Indicative**	**present:**	**(NOR-NORI)**	**indicative**	
N-a-t-za-i		-T/DA	N-a-		ki-	T
H-a-t-za-i		-K/N	H-a-		ki-	K/N
-------za-i		-O	D-a-	verbal	ki-	O
G-a-t-za-i	-zki	-GU	G-a-	lexeme	ki-	GU
Z-a-t-za-i	-zki	-ZU	Z-a-		ki-	ZU
Z-a-t-za-i	-zki	-ZUE-te	Z-a-		ki-	ZUE-te
-------za-i	-zki	-E	D-a-		ki-	E
NOR		*NORI*	*NOR*			*NORI*

This can be generalized for the present tense in: [1]

NOR morpheme	Present morp. -A-	verbal lexeme	Plural NOR -Z-	ki	Morpheme NORI

"-A" gives the present tense, while "-ZA" is the lexeme for IZAN. Plural forms possess a middle "-Z" and at the end comes the NORI, analog to the dative form.

To use the table, one has to "build" the verb form, according to the NOR and NORI objects, choosing for both the pronoun which characterizes the object (ni, hi, hura, gu, zu, zuek, haiek). An explicit table for the cases can be found here, too.

Examples are:

They came me:	*Haiek neri etorri ZAIZKIT. (Zaizkit: zai: "they"; -t: "to me")*
You (pl.) will come me:	*Zuek neri etorri ZATZAIZKIDATE.*
We will go to you.	*Gu zuei joango GATZAIZKIZUE.*
We approach to him.	*Hurbildu GATZAIZKIE.*
I approach to him.	*Hurbildu NATZAIO.*

synthetic:

It comes good to us.	*Oso ongi datorgkigu:*	*(da-: "it", -tor-: "verb", -gu: "us")*
		Explicit synthetic conjugation tables are found in the next tables.

IZAN: [1]			General synthetic form:			
Past	**(NOR-NORI)**	**indicative**	**Past**	**(NOR-NORI)**	**indicative**	
N-in-t-za-i		-DA-n	N-EN-		---ki-	Da—n
H-in-t-za-i		-KA/NA-n	H-EN-		---ki-	KA(GA--n
Z-in-t-za-i		-O-n	Z-E-	verbal	---ki-	O—n
G-in-t-za-i	-zki	-GU-n	G-EN-	lexeme	-z-ki-	Gu—n
Z-in-t-za-i	-zki	-ZU-n	Z-EN-		-z-ki-	ZU—n
Z-in-t-za-i	-zki	-ZUE-n	Z-EN-		-z-ki-	ZUE-te-n
Z-in-t-za-i	-zki	-ZUE-n	Z-E-		-z-ki-	E—n
NOR		*NORI*	*NOR*			*NORI*

Examples:

		ETOR-ETORRI:
He forgot it:	*Ahaztu zitzaion.*	*Nentorkion*: I came him.
She liked them:	*Gustatu zitzaizkion.*	*Zetzozkien*: They came us.
We approached to you (pl.)	*Urbildu gintzaizkizuen.*	

The table above can be generalized for the past tense in: [1]

NOR morpheme	past morp. -EN-	verbal lexeme	Plural NOR lexeme	ki	NORI lexeme	Past morph. -N

If writing down all the possibilities of IZAN, the table looks as follows (without "HI"):
[6]

Ind. Orainaldia

NOR		NORI (indirect object)				
	neri	*hari*	*huri*	*zuri*	*zuei*	*haiei*
Ni		natzaio		natzaizu	natzaizue	natzaie
Hura	zait	zaio	zaigu	zaizu	zaizue	zaiezaizue
Gu		gatzaizkio		gatzaizkizu	gatzaizkizue	gatzaizkie
Zu	zatzaizkit	zatzaizkio	zatzaizkigu			zatzaizkie
Zuek	zatzaizkidate	zatzaizkiote	zatzaizkigute			zatzaizkiete
Haiek	zaizkit	zaizkio	zaizkigu	zaizkizu	zaizkizue	zaizkie

Ind. Lehenaldia

NOR		NORI (indirect object)				
	neri	*hari*	*Hurí*	*zuri*	*zuei*	*haiei*
Ni		nintzaion		nintzaizun	nintzaizuen	nintzaien
Hura	zitzaidan	zitzaion	zitzaigun	zitzaizun	zitzaizuen	zitzaien
Gu		gintzaizkion		gintzaizkizun	gintzaizkizuen	gintzaizkien
Zu	zintzaizkidan	zintzaizkion	zintzaizkigun			zintzaizkien
Huek	zintzaizkidaten	zintzaizkioten	zintzaizkiguten			zintzaizkieten
Haiek	zitzaizkidan	zitzaizkion	zitzaizkigun	zitzaizkizun	zitzaizkizuen	zitzaizkien

Examples:

ERORI: "to drop"

Niri erori zait: I've dropped it.	*Niri erori zatzaidan*: I dropped it.
Hari erori zaio: He's dropped it.	*Hari erori zatzaidan*: He dropped it.
Guri erori zaigu: We've dropped it.	*Guri erori zitzaigun*: We dropped it.
Zuri erori zaizu: You've dropped it.	*Zuri erori zatzaizun*: You dropped it.
	Zuei erori zatzaizun: You (pl.) dropped it.
Zuei erori zaizue: You (pl.)'ve dropped it.	
Haiei erori zaie: They've dropped it.	*Haiei erori zitzaien*: They dropped it.
*Niri erori zai**zki**t*: I've dropped them.	*Niri erori zatzai**zki**dan*: I dropped them.
	*Hari erori zatzai**zki**dan*: He dropped them.
*Hari erori zai**zki**o*: He's dropped them.	
…	*…*

NOR-NORK:

Sentences with direct object:

The verb EDUN is the auxiliary verb for NOR-NORK. This is its table of conjugation for present tense: [1]		*The general analytic conjugation form is:*		
N-a-	-u------T	N-a-		------T
H-a-	-u------K/N	H-a-		------K/N
D-	-u------ -	D-a-		------ -
G-a-it-	-u------GU	G-a-	verbal	-tza-GU
Z-a-it-	-u------ZU	Z-a-	lexeme	-tza-ZU
Z-a-it-	-u-zte-ZUE	Z-a-		-tza-ZUE-t
D---it-	-u------TE	D-a-		-tza-TE
NOR	NORK	NOR		NORK

The general analytic conjugation form is: **present (NOR-NORK) indicative**

The paradigm for NOR-NORK in present tense is:

NOR morpheme	present morp. -A-	verbal lexeme	plural lexeme NOR '-TZA	NORK morpheme

For EDUN, the verbal lexeme is "U".

Example:

I see a hill: *Mendi bat ikusten DUT*.
I see you: *Ikusten ZAITUT*.
You see me: *Ikusten NAUZU*.

You (pl.) see us: *Ikusten GAITUZUE*.
We see you (pl.): *Ikusten ZAITUZTEGU*.
He sees: *Ikusten DU*.
He sees them: *Ikusten DITU*.

EKARRI:
Dakarzu: You bring it.
Nakarzu: You bring me.
Gakartzazu: You bring us.
Dakart: I bring it.
Zakartzat: I bring you.

Table of conjugation of EDUN *(NOR-NORK)* *Past* *indicative*			The general form: *past (NOR-NORK) indicative*			
N-in-DU-		DA-n	N-e-		-	---en
H-inDU-		KA/NA-n	H-e-		-	---en
-		--en	Z-e-	verbal lexeme	-	---en
G-in-TU-		GU-n	GEN-e-		-	---en
Z-in-TU-		ZU-n	ZEN-e-		-	---en
Z-in-TU-	zte	ZUE-n	ZEN-e-		-	-t-en
-		TE-n	Z-e-		-ZKI/-TZA	-t-en
NOR		NORK	NORK		NOR	

The general paradigm is as follows:

NORK morpheme	union vowel -e-	verbal lexeme	NOR morpheme	past morph. -EN

For EDUN, the paradigm changes to the following:

NOR morpheme	past morph. -IN	verbal lexeme -DU/TU	NORK morpheme	past morph. -N

Examples:
Eraman ninduten: They took me.
Ikusi zintugun: We saw
you.
Hartu gintuzten: They took us.
Lagundu zintuztedan: I helped you (pl.)

ERAMAN (the past form lexeme is -A):
NERAMAN, HERAMAN, ZERAMAN,

GENERAMAN, ZENERAMAN, …

EKARRI:
NEKARREN, HEKARREN, ZEKARREN,
GENEKARREN, ZENEKARREN, …

Lexemes of usual NORK-NOR verbs synthetically conjugated:
EKARRI: -KAR- to bring   ERAMAN: -RAMA- to take
JAKIN: -KI- to know   EDUKI: -UKA- to have (physically in a place)

EDUN is conjugated in accordance with the general paradigm if NOR is in third person. Then, EDUN is of the form:

N-		-U	-en
H-		-U	-en
Z-i-		-U	-en
GEN-		-U	-en
ZEN-		-U	-en
ZEN-		-U	-(z)ten
Z-	IT	-U	-(z)ten
NORK	*NOR*		

Here, it is important to see that the verb is conjugated differently for singular and plural object (--,-it-).

Examples:
Irakurri genuen nobela bat: We read (past) a novel.
Irakurri genituen nobela asko: We read (past) a lot of novels.
Erre zenuten zigarro bat: You (pl.) smoked a cigar.
Erre zenituzten zigarro asko: You (pl.) smoked many cigars.
Ikusi zuten etxe bat: You (pl.) saw a house.
Ikusi zituzten etxe asko: You (pl.) saw a lot of houses.

As commented above, the verb EDUN is only a root of modern verbal forms and verbs as EDUKI (to have). As the auxiliary verb, some books give EDUN instead of UKAN. EDUN is in the form UKAN found then as the root of it and as the verb which, conjugated, gives the forms as "dut", "nuen", "luke", banu", genuen", etc. ("ba-" is a morpheme of affirmation) [8]. The difference between UKAN and EDUKI lies upon EDUKI giving a sense of general "external" possession.

Specific conjugation for "it/they"-object:

UKAN:	[7]		nork-zer
	Ind.Orain.		
Nik	**dut**	**ditut**	I have
Hik	**duk/n**	**dituk/n**	you have (thou)
Hark	**du**	**ditu**	he/she/it has
Guk	**dugu**	**ditugu**	we have
Zuk	**duzu**	**dituzu**	you (sing.) have
Zuek	**duzue**	**dituzue**	you (pl.) have
Haiek	**dute**	**dituzte**	they are
	object sing.	*object plural*	
Nork			

Nork			
	Ind. Lehen.		
Nik	**nuen**	**nituen**	I had
Hik	**huen**	**hituen**	you had (thou)
Hark	**zuen**	**zituen**	he had
Guk	**genuen**	**genituen**	we had
Zuk	**zenuen**	**zenituen**	you (sing.) had
Zuek	**zenuten**	**zenituzten**	you (pl.) had
Haiek	**zuten**	**zituzten**	they had
	object sing.	*object plural*	

Actually, this is the special case for the 3rd person in EDUN. This is, the object is part of a third party. The substantive can be change. In the object only the amount (singular or plural).

Some examples of UKAN and the different singular-plural form used with ergative, as well as the different conjugation in dependence of the object:

Gizonak zuhaitza ikusi dut: The man has seen the tree. (NORK-NOR)
Gizonak zuhaitzak ikusi ditu: The man has seen the trees. (NORK-NOR)
Gizonek zuhaitza ikusi dute: The men have seen the tree. (NORK-NOR)
Gizonek zuhaitzak ikusi dituzte: The men have seen the trees. (NORK-NOR)
Nik ikusi nuen: I saw.
Nik ez nuen ikusi: I didn´t see.
Ikasleak ikusi genituen: We saw the students.

If writing down all the possibilities of EDUN/UKAN, the present tense is as follows [6]:
Ind. Orainaldia

NORK	NOR (direct object) (ZER)					
	ni	*hura*	*gu*	*zu*	*zuek*	*haiek*
nik		dut		zaitut	zaiztet	ditut
hark	nau	du	gaitu	zaitu	zaituzte	ditu
guk		dugu		zaitugu	zaiuztegu	ditugu
zuk	naizu	duzu	gaituzu			dituzue
zuek	naizue	duzue	gaituzue			dituzue
haiek	naute	dute	gaituzte	zaituzte	zaituzte	dituzte

In past tense:
Ind. Lehenaldia

NORK	NOR (direct object) (ZER)					
	ni	*hi*	*gu*	*zu*	*zuek*	*haiek*
nik		nuen		zintudan	zintuztedan	nituen
hark	ninduen	zuen	gintuen	zintuen	zintuzten	zituen
gu		genuen		zintugun	zintuztegun	genituen
zuk	ninduzun	zenuen	gintuzun			zenituen
zuek	ninduzuen	zenuten	gintuzuen			zenituzten
haiek	ninduten	zuten	gintuzten	zintuzten	zintuzten	zituzten

Examples with IKUSI: "to see":

Hark ikusi nau: He has seen me.　　　*Hark ikusi ninduen:* He saw me.
Zuk ikusi nuzu: You have seen me.　　*Zuk ikusi ninduzun:* You saw me.

Zuek ikusi nauzue: .You (pl.) have seen me.　*Zuek ikusi ninduzuen:* You (pl.) saw me.
Haiek ikusi naute: They have seen me.　　*Haiek ikusi ninduten:* They saw me.

Hark ikusi gaitu: He has seen us.　　*Hark ikusi gintuen:* He saw us.
Zuk ikusi gaituzu: You have seen us.　*Zuk ikusi gintuzun:* You saw us.

Zuek ikusi gaituzue: You (pl.) have seen us.　*Zuek ikusi gintuen:* He saw us.
Haiek ikusi gaitue: They have seen us.　　*Haiek ikusi gintuzten:* They saw us.

…

Almost all sentences are built in the same way, using a form of the main verb (for the complex time) and the auxiliary verb:
ATXILOTU: "to arrest"-->　　*Atxilotu naute*: They have arrested me.
HARTU: "to catch"-->　　*Hartu ninduten*: They caught me.
ERAMAN: "to take"-->　　*Eraman ninduzun*: You took me.

Examples of NORK-NOR verbs synthetically
conjugated: [1]

EDUKI	*Ind. Orainaldia*		*Ind. Lehenaldia*		to have
nik	daukat	*I have*	neukan	*I had*	
hik	daukak-n	…	heukan	…	
hark	dauka	…	zeukan	…	
guk	daukagu	…	geneukan	…	
zuk	daukazu	…	zeneukan	…	
zuek	daukazue	…	zeneukaten	…	
haiek	daukate	…	zeukaten	…	
Lexeme: -UKA-		*ZER: HURA*			**EDUKI**

JAKIN	*Ind. Orainaldia*		*Ind. Lehenaldia*		to know
nik	dakit	*I know*	nekien	*I knew*	
hik	dakik-n	…	hekien	…	
hark	daki	…	zekien	…	
guk	dakigu	…	genekien	…	
zuk	dakizu	…	zenekien	…	
zuek	dakizue	…	zenekiten	…	
haiek	dakite	…	zekiten	…	
Lexeme: -					
KI-		*ZER: HURA*			**JAKIN**

ERAMAN	*Ind. Orainaldia*		*Ind. Lehenaldia*		to take
nik	daramat	*I take*	neraman	*I took*	
hik	daramak-n	…	heraman	…	
hark	darama	…	zeraman	…	
guk	daramagu	…	generaman	…	
zuk	daramazu	…	zeneraman	…	
zuek	daramazue	…	zeneramaten	…	
haiek	daramate	…	zeramaten	…	
Lexeme: -RAMA-		*ZER: HURA*			**ERAMAN**

NOR-NORI-NORK:

Sentences with direct and indirect object:

For NOR-NORI-NORK, the auxiliary verb is EDUN. It is conjugated as follows for present tense:			The general form is:			
	T-	T	Present	(NOR-NORI-NORK)		indicative
	K/N-	K/N			T-	T
D-i-	O-	--	D-a-		K/N-	K/N
	GU-	GU			ki-O-	--
	ZU-	ZU		verbal	GU-	GU
	ZUE-	ZUE		lexeme	ZU-	ZU
D-i-zki-	E-	TE	D-a-		ZUE	ZUE
NOR	NORI	NORK	NOR		zki-E	TE
					NORI	NORK

Examples:

Baseria saldu DIDATE: They sold me the houses (caserío).
Boligrafoa emango DIZUT: I will give you the pen.
Liburuak utziko DIZKIZUEGU: We will leave you (pl.) the books.

The paradigm for EDUN for NOR-NORI-NORK in present tense is:

NOR morpheme	i	plural morph. NOR -ZKI	plural morpheme	NORI morpheme	NORK morpheme

The general one is:

NOR morpheme	present morp. -A-	verbal lexeme	plural morph. -Z-	ki	NORI morpheme	NORK Morpheme

Examples of the synthetic form are:

EKARRI:	ERAMAN:
Dakarkizut: I bring it to you.	*Daramakit*: He takesit to me.
Dakarzkizut: I bring them to you.	*Daramakidazu*: You take it to me.
Dakarkidate: They bring it to me.	*Daramazkit*: He takes them to me.
Dakarkidate: They bring them to me.	*Daramazkidate*: They take them to me.

Table of conjugation of EDUN:			The general conjugation lies upon:			
past		*(NOR-NORI-NORK)*	*Past*	*(NOR-NORI-NORK)*		*indicative*
N-i-		DA-n	N-e-		-ki	-Da-n
H-i-		KA/N-n	H-e-		-ki	-KA/NA-m
Z-i-	---	O-n	Z-e-	verbal	-ki	-O-n
GEN-i-		GU-n	GEN-e-	lexeme	-ki	-GU-n
ZEN-i-		ZU –n	ZEN-e-		-ki	-ZU-n
ZEN-i-		ZUE-te-n	ZEN-e-		-ki	-ZUE-te-n
Z-i-	zki-	E-te-n	Z-e-		-Z-ki	-E-te-n
NORK	*NOR*	*NORI*	*NORK*		*NOR*	*NORI*

The paradigm for EDUN for NOR-NORI-NORK past tense is:

NORK morpheme	i	NOR morph. 3rd. Person	NORI morpheme	past tense morph. -N

The general conjugation table for NOR-NORI-NORK past tense is:

NORK morpheme	union vowel -e-	verbal lexeme	NOR morpheme	ki	NORI morpheme	past tense morpheme -N

Examples:

Eman nizun: I gave (it) to you.
Ekarri zizkidaten: They brought them to me.
Saldu zenidan: You sold (it) to me.

EKARRI:
Nekarkion: I brought it to him.
Nekarzkion: I brought them to them.
Zekarkidan: He brough it to me.
Zekarzkidan: He brought them to me.

Writing down the verb EDUN/UKAN for NOR-NORI-NORK with all the possibilities (letting "HI" out), the table is as follows:

Ind. Orainaldia

	NORI (indirect object)					
	neri	*Hari*	*Huri*	*Zuri*	*zuei*	*haiei*
NORK	**NOR (direct object): hura**					
Nik		diot		dizut	dizuet	diet
Hark	dit	dio	digu	dizu	dizue	die
Guk		diogu		dizugu	dizuegu	diegu
Zuk	didazu	diozu	diguzu			diezu
Zuek	didazue	diozue	diguzue			diezue
Haiek	didate	diote	digute	dizute	dizuete	diete

	NOR (direct object): haiek					
Nik		disquito		dizkizut	dizkizuet	dizkiet
Hark	dizkit	dizkio	dizkigu	dizkizu	dizkizue	dizkie
Guk		dizkiogu		dizkizugu	dizkizuegu	dizkiegu
Zuk	dizkidazu	dizkiozu	dizkiguzu			dizkiezu
Zuek	dizkidazue	dizkiozue	dizkiguzue			dizkiezue
Haiek	dizkidate	dizkiote	dizkigute	dizkigute	dizkizuete	dizkiete

Ind. Lehenaldia

	NORI (indirect object)					
	neri	*hari*	*guri*	*zuri*	*zuei*	*haiei*
NORK	**NOR (direct object): hura**					
nik		nion		zizun	nizuen	nien
hark	zidan	zion	zigun	zizun	zizuen	zien
guk		genion		genizun	genizuen	genien
zuk	zenidan	zenion	zenigun			zenien
zuek	zenidaten	zenioten	zeniguten			zenieten
haiek	zidaten	zioten	ziguten	zizuten	zizueten	zieten

NOR (direct object): haiek					
nik		nizkion		nizkizun	nizkizuen	nizkien
hark	zizkidan	zizkion	zizkion	zzkigun	zizkizuen	zizkien
guk		genizkion		genizkizun	genizkizuen	genizkien
zuk	zenizkidan	zenizkion	zenizkigun			zenizkien
zuek	zenizkidaten	zenizkioten	zenizkiguten			zenizkieten
haiek	zizkidaten	Zizkioten	zizkiguten	zizkizuten	zizkizueten	zizkieten

Examples with EMAN: "to give":

Nik hari eman diot: I've given it to him.   *Nik hari eman nion:* I gave it to him.
Nik zuri eman dizut: I've given it to you.   *Nik zuri eman nizun:* I gave it to you.

Nik zuei eman dizuet: I've given it to you.   *Nik zuei eman nizuen:* I gave it to you.
Nik haiei eman diet: I've given it to them.   *Nik haiei eman nien:* I gave it to you.

 *Nik hari eman di**zki**ot:* I've given them to him.   *Nik hari eman ni**zki**on:* I gave them to him.
…

3. Comments

To give a more exact description of the characteristics of the Basque Grammar would need much more space than this and the necessity of presenting much more grammatical structures of Basque sentences, as well as affixes, word order and so on.
A very important chapter in a complete grammar of the Basque language would need a proper introduction to Basque concordance and word order, thus, among others, to introduce the so-called "galdegaia" (i.e. "the "questioned thing") of the Basque sentence in a more profound way, as it is of basic relevance for a right understanding of a Basque sentence and to reinforce some part of the sentence and make it clearer.
Obviously, an introduction in the subjunctive and even command forms is lacking here, as well as most of morphology and phonology (to give only some examples). Aim of this introduction is, however, only to present the important characteristics of Basque, which might make clear how the language works, in a first approximation. After taking into account that these things exist in Basque and how they would be explained in other languages, it is possibly easier to introduce oneself in the complex but not because of this less interesting structure of Basque grammar.

4. Sources

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