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Basque prosody

Within the Basque-speaking territory we find a surprising variety of accentual systems, ranging from a pitch-accent system reminiscent of Tokyo Japanese in the northern part of the province of Bizkaia to several stress-accent systems. In Hualde (2003), I reported on the properties of the Northern Bizkaian Basque pitch-accent system, its similarities with Tokyo Japanese and its historical evolution. I also gave an overview of other Basque accentual systems. In a footnote, I indicated that the accentual system used in Goizueta and a few other towns in Western Navarre was still insufficiently studied. Since then, I have been able to investigate the dialect of Goizueta. This dialect turns out to have a quite different type of pitch-accent system, where both stress and tone are lexically contrastive, as in Swedish (Hualde et al. 2008). Nevertheless, it is clear that the Japanese-like Northern Bizkaian system and the Swedish-like Western Navarrese system are historically connected, since one finds systematic lexical correspondences. In this talk I will compare these two pitch-accentual systems and will try to reconstruct their diachronic development.

References

- Hualde, José I. 2003. "Some ways in which Basque is and is not like Japanese and how it got to be that way". In Shigeki Kaji, ed., *Proceedings of the Symposium Cross-Linguistic Studies of Tonal Phenomena: Historical Development, Phonetics of Tone and Descriptive Studies*, 291-309. Tokyo: Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA), Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.
- Hualde, José I., Oihana Lujanbio & Francisco Torreira. 2008. "Lexical tone and stress in Goizueta Basque". *Journal of the International Phonetic Association* 38: 1-24.