OUTLINES
OF
BASQUE GRAMMAR.

BY
W. J. VAN EYS.

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EDITED BY
REINHOLD BOST, LL.D., Ph.D.

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BY W. J. VAN EYK.
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PREFACE.

Having been requested by Mr. Trübner to write a Basque Grammar in English, for his Series of "Simplified Grammars," I accepted with pleasure his flattering proposition, but not without some hesitation, as I had to write in a language which is not my own. I may add, that the concise form, which was a condition, has perhaps given occasionally an appearance of dogmatism in settling doubtful points, for the more ample discussion of which I must refer to my Grammaire Comparée.

W. J. VAN EYS.

San Ramn,
November, 1888.
INTRODUCTION.

The study of the Basque Language began with Larrañendi, who composed a Grammar and a Dictionary. Taking the date into account, 1785, his labours are not inferior to many of those which appeared later, and comparatively, they are even much better than some works by recent authors, who have not Larrañendi's excuse—the want of philological training. More and more there prevailed a tendency to condense the whole Grammar into the Verb, as if nothing else was worthy of attention, or offered any difficulty; and, again, the Verbs were condensed into one single Verb, and it was seriously assumed that the Basque language possessed one Verb only. It was not the Verb alone to which such childish theories were applied; anything (and there was much) that was not understood, was considered to be extraordinary, and all that was extraordinary was deemed admirable. Sometimes well-established and undeniable facts (e.g., the existence of the Article) were flatly denied. Evidently those who first wrote about Basque had not the least notion of an agglutinative language (Hungarian, Turkish, &c.) ; but even in our languages, and principally in colloquial expressions, instances enough may be found by which to explain mysterious Basque forms. In our days more serious attention has been paid to Basque Grammar, and it has been found out that Basque, like all
INTRODUCTION.

other languages, has Verbs, Pronouns, Nouns, &c. The confusion about the Verb arises from the agglutinative nature of the language; but still, as was said just now, there are in Dutch, and also in English, instances of agglutination and contraction exactly as in Basque. If I want to say, "Hebt gy het hem geseid" (Have you it to him said), I pronounce the Auxiliary with the Pronoun in one word—by'tem. The apostrophe represents the sound of e in 'begin;' writing the word with ø's, we have Øpetem, which is just as the Basques do. 'Ain't,' and 'Won't,' and the old English 'mist,' for 'I did not know,' are, it is true, exceptional forms, but they also serve to explain what happens in the Basque fiction, where it is the logical consequence of a prolonged want of culture of the language. No one knowing any longer how the Basque fictions were composed, the silly theory arose that they had only a conventional signification, in other words, that they had no signification at all; and this theory has adherents even in our days. Now that it has been discovered how the fictions are formed, it is easy to analyze them, and when Lizarrague says, "Uste due sein othoits daiddóds ornne Atiarì" (Matt. xxvi. 58), "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my father,"—we know that daiddóds is the first person singular of the present indicative of adin, 'can,' preceded by d, 'it.' Thus, dadi (Lizarrague writes daudi) ; o is 'him;' d is 'I' (when final always t—dadi, 'I can it'); in is 'that;' n is a binding vowel. The
translation, beginning at the end, is thus: 'that I to him can it.' After patient investigation, the difficulties little by little vanish; and if some points remain without a satisfactory explanation, the same may be said perhaps of many other languages, even cultivated ones.

It is to be regretted that the Basque Provinces do not take much interest in philological studies; the two periodicals started a few years ago prove this clearly enough, the whole series of 1881 containing nothing about the language.

The sources for the study of the Basque are plentiful enough to give a complete view of what the language is and what it was during a certain period; unfortunately this period is not a long one; the oldest printed book (Poesies Basques, Dechamps) bears the date of 1645, and, as far as I know, no manuscript of an earlier date exists. We have thus not only the oldest Basque book, but the oldest form of the language. The next in rank of age, but the most important of all Basque books, is the New Testament, translated by Liparraguz, 1671. Much later, in 1845, we find Auzilar's Gueroco Guero, 1st ed., the most readable perhaps of all Basque books. These are the three most interesting publications in the Basque language. About the origin of Basque very little, or nothing, is to be said; the probability or possibility that Basque is the ancient Iberian was pointed out by Larrañendi, and formulated by W. von Humboldt as a linguistic axiom in the following words:—'The terms, 'Iberian people' and 'Basque-
speak the same language," (Prüf., p. 177); and again, "The ancient Iberians were undoubtedly Basques" (Prüf., p. 120). As nothing whatever is known of the Iberian language, as no so-called Iberian coin is even read with certainty, except the bilingual ones, as no inscription is deciphered, it is mere pretense to talk about an Iberian language. We want, in order to compare two things, to know at least something of both of them; and still we find the most sweeping assertions made even after Humboldt’s theory had been discussed, with all respect due to the name of the eminent linguist. Mr. Lochaire, Professeur d’Histoire au Lycée de Bordeaux, says, "Constatons simplement la parenté incontestable des deux langues" (Origines linguistique de l’Acquitaine).—Incontestable! and we know not a word of Iberian.

Let us hope to arrive at better results now that a large number of inscriptions have been found in the neighbourhood of Éste, Verona, and Padua. This interesting discovery proves once more the large area occupied by the so-called Iberians.

As lately the question has been revived in an English periodical, whether the Basques are or were of a dark or of a fair complexion, I may repeat here what I asked nearly ten years ago in my Dictionary, when quoting the words *ñukusu*, ‘naked,’ and *larragorri* or *nar- ragorri*, ‘naked;’ the first signifying ‘red-hair,’ the second ‘red-skin’;—would this not prove that the Basques are, or were, of a fair complexion?
BASQUE GRAMMAR.

CHAPTER I.

The Basque Language.

The Basque Language, spoken in our days on both slopes of the Pyrenean Mountains, stands as yet absolutely isolated, but belongs to the agglutinative languages. There are six principal dialects, differing little the one from the other, from a philological point of view, but differing enough in their extreme varieties to make the one with difficulty intelligible to the other. These dialects are, the Biscayan, the Guipuzcoan, the Labourdin, the Souletin, the Navarrese, and the Low-Navarrese.

CHAPTER II.

The Alphabet.

The original Basque Alphabet is unknown, but it may possibly be found one day in the so-called Keliberian inscriptions. The Latin Alphabet has been adopted, with some slight differences.

The five vowels are pronounced as in Italian. The Souletin dialect alone pronounces e as French è, or German ë.
The Consonants are also pronounced as in Italian, with the exception of, (1) \( y \), which is always pronounced hard, as in 'go,' even before \( e \) and \( i \); (2) \( z \), which has the sound of English \( s \); (3) \( ch \), which is pronounced like \( s \) in 'shall,' preceded by \( t \). The French-Basque dialects write \( tch \). (4) \( f \), which the Spanish-Basque dialects pronounce like the Spanish \( jos \) \( (j) \), and the French-Basque dialects like \( y \) in 'year.' Palatal \( s \) is pronounced like Spanish \( ñ \), or \( gw \) in French \( assew \).

CHAPTER III.

The Phenetic System.

\( K \).—Original \( k \), when final and followed by a suffix, is converted into \( t \), or is eliminated: \( adk \), 'they,' followed by \( n \), 'of,' makes \( an \), for \( aekes \), 'of them'; \( eked \), 'the houses,' followed by \( ra \), 'towards,' makes \( eketara \), and not \( eketara \). Most dialects do not like hiatus, and they introduce (after dropping of \( k \)) \( y \) and instead of \( an \) they say \( aey \); despite, for \( daeha \), 'that thou hast.' The Biscayan dialect sometimes keeps the \( d \) : \( pieaidum \)=\( piea-\)

When \( k \) is not primitive, but when it proceeds from \( ñ \), then medial \( d \) is allowed: \( arkumae \), 'lamb,' from \( arí-ãume \), sheep-child.'

\( Ñh \).—The aspirated \( ñ \) has been preserved in the French-Basque dialects; the others have dropped it; e.g., \( ki \), 'thou,'
is i in Biscayan and in Guipuzcoan. Final á becomes ă:

darke, 'thou bearest it,' from d-aker-ă; final š stands for ḫi,
'thou.' Initial š, coming in consequence of agglutination or
composition in the middle of the word, is hardened to š, or is
eliminated; e.g., sora-kerría becomes sora-kerría, 'madness.'

When š is thrown out the same result follows as with h, i.e., a
hiatus is produced and then prevented by inserting y:

d-arr-ă-š ă becomes deroke (see final š); then deroke (see
initial š), 'I have taken it from him.' Some dialects keep the
š; e.g., nidekaš, 'thou hast me.' Others drop it, and
replace it by y: nidekays, from n-induš-ă.

T is dropped before š; bat and kids make bakid,
'common.'

N' becomes m before š, y—nombait, from nom-bait, 'some-
where;' and before š, ū, ă, ă, the ū is dropped—mora,
'where to' from nom-ru; gisamorakin for gisamotakín,
'with the man;' aistihí, from aistin-ți, 'on the contrary.'

Z before š becomes š: ătšen, for ăšen, 'he was not.'

R.—No word begins with r; there are two kinds of r,
one hard, the other soft. The hard one is doubled when at
the end of the word and when a suffix follows: lur,
'earth;' jarra, 'the earth.' Soft r is never doubled; it is
found in some few words—sr, 'water;' or, 'dog;' srw,
'wood;' srw, 'the water;' srw, 'the dog;' srw, 'the wood.'

The pronunciation of this r is very soft, it is nearly a d.

F is seldom used, and has been replaced by ū.

F is considered as not being a Basque letter; there is
only one word with ʃ, which looks, however, really like
Basque—farra, 'laugh' (substantive).
In consequence of the agglutination, the phonetic laws are continually in action, and have to decide which letters may follow each other. Thus, when two consonants meet in two different syllables, the following rules are to be observed:—The hard explosives after a sibilant, r or the vowels; the soft explosives after l, m, n.

In consequence of these rules, the hard explosives k, t, p are changed to their corresponding soft ones—g, d, b, after l, m, n; e.g., elda, and not elda, 'arrived;' orpi, and not onbi, 'well;' emendi, and not emendi, 'from here.'

The soft explosives, g, d, b, are changed to their corresponding hard ones, k, t, p, after r, the sibilants, and the vowels; e.g., Burgosko, 'of Burgos;' Ortesterra, 'inhabitant of Orthe;' but Okromderra. Lehiskoa, 'that they were to us,' for lehiskoa (from ps, 'us').

Examples of transposition of letters (metathesis, hyperthemia) are very common in Basque; pala=lagsa, 'without;' irud=iluri, 'to appear;' ipar=irapu, 'to ascend, to peer.'

Table of the Mutations of Consonants in Basque Words of different Dialects.

**Gutturals.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>K</th>
<th>Vowel or following consonant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>s, s, ch. Karamika=saramika, 'scratch.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t</td>
<td>Xandur=xentur, 'humpbacked.'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>G</th>
<th>Vowel or following consonant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a, s, e. Gale=xale, 'inclined.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>Ikemika, 'flight.'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j</td>
<td>Ekikun=echikun, 'landlord.'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BASQUE GRAMMAR.

$B$

$g . . . Baturza=parte, 'parent'.

$m . . . Bilgor=mi'zor, 'wet'.

$f . . . See P.

$M$

$a$ or $f$. Maman=dam or $fan$, 'brain'; iben=imini=
ipini=tsai, 'to put'.

PALATAE.

$ts . . . Ikakali=tsalel, 'to turn, to revolve'.

$Ch$

$ta . . . Jikasa=ita=so, 'sea'.

$d (?), Jikuri=adari, 'alike'.

$N$

$a . . . See H.

LINGUAES.

$d . . . See D.

$L . . . See L.

$R$

$m . . . See N.

$g . . . Evarin=ermagi, 'being with young'.

CHAPTER IV.

The Definite Article 'A' (the).

The Article is the demonstrative pronoun, formerly $ar$, or $as$, 'that'—now $a$, 'the': eke, 'house'; eke $a$, 'the house', which is written in consequence of the agglutinative nature of the language.
AGGLUTINATION.

When s is followed by a suffix, generally the r reappears; e.g., sas becomes aris, 'of the.' As the plural is b, the plural Article is arak (Bisc) 'the,' French lez; but this is not the form of the Article; arak is only used as a demonstrative pronoun. The Article being always agglutinated to the noun, it does not exist by itself, and pisas, 'the man;' becomes pisasak, 'the man;' b is simply added to the noun with the article.

CHAPTER V.
Agglutination.

Agglutination consists in putting one word behind another so as to form a more or less homogeneous compound; e.g., pisas, 'man;' pisas, 'the man;' pisasasadi, 'for the man;' dikeus, for d-keu-u, 'U-see-it.'

The agglutinated word, or syllable, or letter, may be preceded by a, e, i, o —

When a precedes, the a is always the article, except in some few words which end in a, like cis, 'father.'

When e precedes, this letter is merely a binding letter; thus, ket, 'one,' with the article, makes ketas, 'the one,' and as subject of a transitive verb bašak; but ket without the article, and represented as acting, would be basak, which cannot be pronounced, and thus e is interpolated—bašak. This e is at the same time the characteristic of the indefinite form, i.e., the noun without article. Consequently words which do not admit of receiving a definite form, like pro-
nouns, have all of them an e before the suffix, if any inter-
polation be necessary; e.g. the pronoun a, 'that,' (formerly
ar), followed by the suffix a, becomes arak, 'that,' and arak,
'these.' e serves only here to distinguish two identical
forms. k in the first example is the suffix of the agent
(subject of a transitive verb), and in the second one the
suffix of plural. norbaikit, 'some one,' with the suffix of
action k, becomes norbaiket, not to distinguish it from
another norbaiket, but because t and k are not allowed
to follow each other. E is thus a neutral vowel, em-
ployed when a could not be made use of, or for pro-
nunciation's sake.

When e precedes, exclusion is expressed: Giaiekoj ioela bgere, 'We men, we shall go.' In French, 'Nous autres
hommes,' . . . O + k is most probably a contraction of the
demonstrative pronoun egek.

J will be discussed in the next chapter. (See ik.)

CHAPTER VI.

§ 1. The Noun, Substantive and Adjective.

The Basque language distinguishes the substantive, the
adjective, and the verb—e.g., 'house;' basi, 'great;' joesa, 'to go.'

What is known as gender in other languages is unknown
in Basque.

Number is either singular or plural. The suffix of the
plural is e; e.g. giaieko, 'the man;' giaiek, 'the man;'


THE ADJECTIVE.

emakume, 'the woman;' emakumeak, 'the women.' The plural noun is never without the article; 'men' cannot be expressed.

There is no declension in Basque; the modifications expressed in other languages by cases or by prepositions, are rendered in Basque by suffixes, which are always agglutinated to the noun: salle, 'horse;' sallio, 'the horse;' salliren, 'of the horse;' sallido, 'of horses;' sallidat, 'one horse;' etc.

The noun, when followed by the article a, is called the definite noun, and when not followed by the article a, it is called the indefinite noun.

The Adjective.

As number is unknown, and as the plural is expressed by adding the plural article, there remains only to show how the degrees of comparison are formed. The comparative is formed by the suffix po, added to the definite adjective—handia, 'great;' handiago, 'greater;' and the following 'than' is expressed by bako or bizio—en bako handiago, 'greater than you.' The superlative is formed by the plural genitive, followed by the article a. Thus, handi, 'great;' handia, 'of the great' (see "The Suffixes"); handiaria, 'the of the great;' pizunen handiaria, 'the greatest of (the) men'—or, also, pizunetatik handiaria, 'the greatest among men.'
CHAPTER VII.

The Suffixes.

The grammatical relations, expressed in other languages by cases or by prepositions, are expressed in Basque by suffixes; e.g., migabe, for mi-gabe, 'without me.' Har-gatik, for har-gatik, is exactly the English 'therefore;' har is the demonstrative; gatik is 'for.'

List of Suffixes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Suffix</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ë</td>
<td>ë, mark of agent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>é</td>
<td>é, mark of plural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>à, 'in.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ë, 'to.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s, 'by.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ëh, 'some.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ko, go, 'of.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kotat, 'for.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tza, 'for.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tzaiko, 'for.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hâ, 'with.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>haiko, 'for.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha, gae, 'with.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no, 'until.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dik, tik, 'of.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bezän, 'in.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pae, 'under.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gae, 'in.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gana, 'to, at.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gandik, 'from.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gatik, 'for.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>re, 'towards.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rako, 'towards.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>raño, 'until.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reni, 'towards.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha, 'on.'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The suffixes are joined, some of them to the definite, and others to the indefinite noun, or also to both, i.e. the noun with or without the article.
1. Those joined to the definite and indefinite noun: ḳ, subject-agent; ṭ, 'of'; ʾ, 'to'; ṣ, 'by'; ḥin, 'with'; tass, 'for.'

E.g. Ḍemā + ḳ, makes Ḍemakh, 'man.'
NDERA + ṭ, makes Ḍemak, 'the man.'
Gisaa + ṣ, makes Giasa, 'by man.'
Bilhān + ṣ, makes Bilhān, 'by the man.'
Ekēn + ṭ, makes Ekēn, 'in the house.'

2. Those joined to the indefinite noun: ṭa, ṭaw, ṭaḥ, 'towards;' ṭaw, 'until;' ḳn, 'of;' ʾāk, ṭāk, 'from, out;' ṭāk, corresponding to 'some;' ʾān, 'on, by.'—

Ekēn, 'towards (the) house' (not ekēn).
Ekerēn, 'from (the) house.'
Ekēn, 'of some man.'
Ekēn, 'on horse (horseback).'</Ekēn, 'from out of the house.'

3. Those joined to the definite noun: ṭa, 'in;' ṭaw, 'to;' ṭaw, 'from;' ṭaw, 'in' (our locative). Thus, ṭeka, 'in the house,' and never ṭeka; ṭaḥ, 'in God.'

When words have no definite form, like pronouns, proper names, ṭa, one is obliged to put these suffixes to the indefinite noun: ṭa, 'I,' can never be sin, 'the I,' thus, ṭa-ṣa makes ṭaṣa, 'in me.' Bilhān-ā = Bilhān.
§ 2. The Suffix with the Plural Nouns.

When the Suffixes are agglutinated to plural nouns, the 3rd, mark of the plural, is scarcely ever maintained, but is generally converted into it; or it is dropped, and the hiatus caused by this dropping of k is prevented by inserting y:—

Hank, 'these' + k (agent) makes hauyak, for kauyak.
Gionak, 'the men' + m 'of' = gionmen, = gionaken.
Eckak, 'the houses' + ko, = eckalko, = eckak-ko.
Orick, those' + ra, = orietara = orick-ra.

§ 3. Description of the Suffixes.

K is the characteristic letter of the subject-agent, i.e. the subject of a transitive verb. For shortness sake we shall call it simply the agent, in distinction to the subject of the intransitive verb, which will be called the patient. Thus, ni eitori naia, 'I have come;' but ni budebai, 'I know it.
(In Basque, as in French, 'come' being an intransitive verb, is conjugated with trans, 'to be,' of which naia, 'I am.')

The Spanish-Basque dialects observe this difference between agent and patient in the singular only. But the French-Basque dialects have kept it up in both numbers; e.g., hauxak joan dira, 'the children have gone:' hauxak is the usual, unaltered, plural. Logeko dokiorek berntzat bertsiezetan, 'the doctors of law took for themselves.' . . .
Dokiorek (agent) from dokiorezak; after dropping medial k—dokiorez, then dokiorek. Ki is thus the termination of the plural agent.
THE SUFFIXES.

X, the Suffix of Plural.

When followed by the suffixes 3, ra, resa, tik, ko, and a (locative), it becomes t. Eckes + s does not make eckases, but eckast, 'in the house.' Cys + ra becomes cysera, 'towards these.' It is very seldom that k is maintained: giomaker (Blas.) for giomastas, 'with the men.'

The dropping of k is much more frequent than the mutation of k into t: e.g. Adh, 'those,' becomes as agent Adak for adeh.

The Suffix IX.

This suffix corresponds to 'de' partitif of French grammar, and in English it is generally not rendered at all, or rendered by 'some': Barurik ettu, 'He has no judgement;' Badem opirik, 'You have some bread.' In French one would say, Il n'a pas de jugement; Vous avez du pain. The 'de,' called partitif, explains nothing. I think one must consider (in Basque as in any other language) 'bread,' 'judgment,' &c., as words of an indefinite nature in point of number, and which are accompanied in English by 'some' or 'any' in Dutch by nothing at all, leaving the noun without any modifying word, either article or preposition, or adverb; and in Basque by ik. It is most probably nothing else than the plural k preceded by t, to which has been assigned, for some reason or other, an indefinite meaning. In fact, when I say in English, 'I have not seen any house like yours,' it is clear that 'house' though a singular conveys the idea of a plural: without plurality no comparison could have been established. It is thus the characteristic suffix
of the indefinite plural, and is originally a plural form. 
Ark biderik azko basuen, 'he had many motives,' in French, 
besoan dze. The r in biderik is for the sake of euphony. 
Ez dago gloriarik janapaloaren agindak garde pabe,'There 
is no glory, or there is not any glory, without the observance 
of God's commands.' 'Glory' in this instance does not 
present itself to the mind at once as a plural, because it 
does not admit so easily of a plural form; but if the example 
were, 'there is not any child without its defects,' one would 
think at once of a plural form.

The Suffix N.

N corresponds to our—
1. Locative.
2. Genitive.
3. Relative Pronoun.
4. Conjunction 'that.'

1 & 2. The origin of n is most probably the demonstrative 
aux, with the signification of locality. Bilbao, 'in Bilbao,' 
was originally Bilb-o-_aux.

This locative was later extended to express the genitive, 
as in Latin.*

3. The relative sentence was formerly added to the principal 
sentence by a demonstrative; so in Basque.

4. The demonstrative aux is used as a conjunction (as 
in English 'that'), but in the contracted form of a.

* Max Müller, Lectures, 1, p. 222, 1st ed.; A. H. Sayce, Principles, 
p. 252.
N as a Locative.

N, except when it is agglutinated to the name of a place, is always added to a definite noun; e.g., ekena, ‘in the house’—never eken; but Madridus, Bilbao, because names of places cannot have a definite form.

To express the same grammatical relation in the plural form, one adds s to the plural noun, and the mark of the plural k is converted into t; thus, ekena + k + s becomes ekena + t + s, or eketenas, ‘in the houses.’

N is never added to names of persons. (See Suffix pos.)

When words do not admit of a definite form, like pronouns, numerals, etc., s is agglutinated in the shape of tan; e.g., es, ‘this,’ followed by s, ‘in,’ is not eges, but onetas, ‘in this,’ just as if es were a plural form. Hirun, ‘three,’ followed by s, makes hiruztan, and not hirusan. This apparent anomaly may proceed from the necessity of showing that it is an indefinite form; and as the indefinite form is a plural (see suffix ša), so the termination tan will have been agglutinated to this kind of words.

N as a Genitive.

As a genitive, s is agglutinated to definite and indefinite words; sensu + s makes sensuera, ‘of son;’ the r is to prevent hiatus. Sense + s makes senseera, ‘of the son;’ the r here belongs to the article a, which takes up the original r when a suffix follows.
The Basque dialect likes hiatus, and drops very often r—sonem, semian, &c.

In the plural form the k is eliminated according to the rule, e.g., gizonek for gizonean, for gizonakan, 'of the men.' Hane, 'these;' hauen, for hasket, 'of these.'

**N as a Relative Pronoun.**

The relative was originally a demonstrative word, and the sentence, eroi duan liburua, 'the book that he has bought,' was most probably in the original eroi duan soa liburua; du, 'he has,' followed by so, from soa, becomes duen.

**N as the Conjunction 'that.'**

The conjunction was formerly in many languages, and also in Basque, a demonstrative word, and the sentence, 'I think, that he will come,' was originally 'I think that, he will come.' The transposition of the comma explains clearly the difference.

**The Suffix 1.**

I corresponds to 'to'—gizoe, 'man;' gizoei, 'to man;' gizoea, 'the man;' gizoeari, 'to the man.' In the plural the k is dropped, and gizonebi becomes gizonei, or in the French-Basque dialecte gizonei.

**The Suffix 2.**

This suffix is rendered by 'by' or 'with;' e.g., burua, 'by heart;' mabilao, 'with the stick.' Beto burua, 'full
with earth.' If the noun terminates with a consonant, as
is the case with far, it is necessary to interpolate r. With
a plural noun, k is converted into t: gisamak+z becomes
gisametak, 'by or with the men.' The Bisalian dialect alone
has preserved k, and also g instead of k; the other dialects
have taa and sua, all corruptions of zaaz.

This termination (taaz, sua, zaaz) is employed like tan
(see n), with pronouns, numerals, &c. Hek+z makes hezaz,
or ketaa, 'by these.' The Socielin has the very corrupt
form eva.

The Suffix dix or tix.

This suffix corresponds to 'from,' 'since.' Nedik azetaz?
'Where from do you come?' Hasteik kontesta epicea . . . ,
'Resist from the beginning to him.' With plural nouns, the
rule is always the same: echet+z+k-diz becomes echetaetkek.

The Suffix kox or ko.

This suffix is employed in different ways: (1) to express
comparison (see the Degrees of Comparison). (2) As cor-
responding to 'from' or 'of.' Burgosko, 'from Burgos';
seopia, 'from where,' larrako, 'of (the) earth, or terrestrial';
awtsado, 'of before,' i.e. preceding; awtsatoak, 'those of be-
fore's ancestors. The last examples prove that Basque,
like many other languages, employ the genitive of a noun
as an adjective. (3) Ko or po serves, as Spanish de, to form
the future: enasao deta, 'I have to give' = I shall give.

The Suffix tet.

Tet corresponds to 'for,' and is added generally to the

noun, followed by *a* (genitive); e.g., *pienarentitā*, 'for the
man'; *pienarenti*, 'for the man.' When added to the
noun in its unaltered form, the signification is somewhat
different: *roviant danakot*, 'I hold him for mad.'

The Suffix *kan* or *gan*.

This suffix belongs to the Biscayan dialect, and is erroneously quoted as *kas* or *gas*, because the *â* belongs to the
noun; *â* alone is the suffix 'in.' It is a plural form in use
for the singular and the plural.

The Suffixes *kan* or *gan*.

*Gana, ganabo, correspond to 'towards,' 'into'; *jainan-
gaena biko a jainanaka, 'to raise one's heart unto God.' *Gane*
signifies 'from'; *norgandik a nakes*? 'from whom do you
come?'

The Suffix *gan*.

*Gabe, bage, babs, bagus, 'without,' is always added to
definite nouns: *opisabas*, 'without bread.'

The Suffix *no*.

*No, so, or ido, corresponds to 'until,' so is perhaps the
conjunction *aso* which has lost final *a*. The conjunction
'that,' may express 'until,' e.g., 'wait that I come;' or
'wait until I come,' expresses the same idea. The only
objection is the palatal pronunciation of *a* in *aso*.

The Suffix *ra*.

*Ra is rendered by 'to, towards,' or is not rendered at all
THE SUFFIXES.

in English; e.g., esker sao, 'I go (to) home.' Added to a plural noun, it is converted into s; eske+s-ke becomes eske+t-ra, or eskestra, 'to, or towards, the houses.' The French-Basque dialects have sometimes rat for ra, or even la and lat.

The Suffix XIX.

Kin is rendered by 'with,' and is always added to a noun followed by s, i.e. a genitive, and this makes it probable that kin is for kide-s, 'in participation,' 'in company.' Giesmahin, 'with the man,' was thus originally 'in company of the man.'

The Suffixes Ronte, Baithan, Etc.

Ronte or rute (Biscayan) corresponds to ra, 'towards.' Baithan, or beikan, is used for s when persons are spoken of; e.g., ots ni baithan sinkosten daesa,' and he who believes in me.'

Ea corresponds to 'at,' 'with.' Zolbika, 'on horseback';
ska, 'with, or by, looks.' Ea is sometimes to; makillata, 'with, or by, blows of a stick.'

Compounded Suffixes.

There are compound suffixes, just as there are compound prepositions in English like 'towards,' etc. Kastat is rendered by 'in order to' or 'though': 'Eko here esame esusto erraterkoitat (Matt. xii. 30),' 'And bind them in bundles to burn them.' Ate abeite tatekola (for tatekoita?), 'though he be rich.'
Zho, composed of $k$, does not express more than $z$. 
$z$ako, 'because,' $tko$, 'towards,' and some others which offer nothing worth while noticing, and which are to be found in the Dictionary.

CHAPTER VIII.

The Pronouns.

§ 1. The Demonstrative Pronouns.

Nowadays there are four demonstrative pronouns—$a$, $a$, $a$, $a$. Traces of other pronouns, now lost, are found in the flexions of the verb; $a$, as a third person, subject and object; $i$ as a first person, subject; e.g., $kakei$, 'I-see-it,' from $kakei'; $do$e, 'he goes;'—$do$e.

§ 2. The Pronoun $a$.

Originally this pronoun was $a$, or in the Spanish-Basque dialects, which have lost $i$, $ar$, 'that.' The Biscayan dialect is the only one which has preserved $a$ as a pronoun, and at the same time as the article 'the.' In the first case it is written like all other pronouns, i.e. separated from the noun; as an article, it is agglutinated to the noun. When $a$ is followed by a suffix the primitive $r$ reappears, and $a$ becomes $a$, 'of that;' $a$ becomes $a$, 'those;' $ar$
followed by *k*, the suffix of the agent, becomes *ark*. The Biscayan plural *ark* is also *ark*, but the other dialects object to hiatus and have interpolated *y*—*ayek*. When the plural is followed by the suffixes *s, en, x, dië, rone, a* (locative) *k* is converted into *t*; thus, *ayek+k* makes *ayents*, 'in those.'

The French-Basque dialects have preserved, at least some of them, two plural forms—one for the agent, and another for the patient:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient</th>
<th>Agent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hekik.</td>
<td>Hekik.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labourd.</td>
<td>Hek.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varieties,</td>
<td>Hek.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hek.</td>
<td>Hayk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Souletin</td>
<td>Hurek.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hek.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Har* is the singular; *arek* is the plural, which loses the *r* (*arek*), and is contracted in *hek, 'those.' This *hek* followed by *k*, the suffix of the agent, becomes *hekak*.

§ 3. The Singular Pronouns with the Suffixes

*he̱, e, x, xo, ra, die, hone.*

We have seen that when a plural noun or pronoun is followed by one of the above-named suffixes, the *k* of the plural is converted into *t*; this gives to these nouns an appearance as if they were followed by the suffixes *tam, tar, tako, &c.* This view has been adopted until now, but is erroneous, as has been shown; *t* is a converted *k*. But what is not yet explained is, that these terminations, *te̱,
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tas, &c., are found agglutinated to the singular pronouns; e.g. the pronoun a (formerly hor) followed by a becomes horasin, 'in that'; os, 'this,' becomes, when followed by n, onetan, 'in this.' All pronouns, and in general all words that do not admit of a definite form, follow this rule; e.g. nilas, for mi-a; 'by me;' horarretas, 'in thence;' for horar-a, &c.

Perhaps one may find an explanation in the fact that the indefinite form is sometimes expressed by a plural. (Compare ik.)

Some dialects have a special termination ch for expressing what is rendered in French by 'mêmes;' e.g. anchet, 'this;'—celui-ci-mêmes. Anchet and the like are then considered as new themes, to which all the suffixes can be agglutinated.


This pronoun is only used as a patient, 'this;' and for the plural, haak, 'these.' For the agent there is another form, from a theme os, or law, according to the dialects; thus, ochet, haak. The Bizcayan plural is also made of os—oueak. The plural haak is also found as eck, or soek, and aueak; in Souletin, auek. This pronoun has (like hor) an agent and a patient plural form—haak+t hauek; and, after the dropping of medial a, hauek, and then hauek. The other observations made respecting hor are also applicable to this pronoun.

§ 5. The Pronouns On or Sun.

This pronoun is only in use as the agent och; (see § 4); it is also found in the compound pronoun meroni; (see § 8).
§ 6. The Pronoun HORI, ORI.

In all the dialects the patient is *orí, or orí, 'that,' and the agent *arrêt, or oréč; and the plural, *arrych. There are thus two themes—orí and or; the second with hard r, doubled when a suffix follows. Orí is never followed by a suffix, except by k—orích, 'these.' On the contrary, oréč, 'of that;' orí, 'to that;' oréčikas, 'for that,' are all formed by or. The Biscaian dialect makes also the plural from or—oréč.

When one of the suffixes a, e, bo, di, ra, ron follows the plural form, then k is converted into t—arrych + a becomes arričian, 'in those.'

§ 7. The Pronoun HURL.

This pronoun exists in all the dialects, except in Biscaian, where the corresponding pronoun is a. Hurl, 'that,' is used in the singular for the patient; the corresponding agent is *ørch or orch, from her. Hurl is not, or is seldom, employed with a suffix: her takes its place—arričik, 'therefore;' orčeč, 'those.'

§ 8. The Personal Pronouns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biscaian</th>
<th>G. L. Low-N.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I, erre, en</td>
<td>en.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thou, er, i</td>
<td>i.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We, gers, gu</td>
<td>gu.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You, zers, zv</td>
<td>zv.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Judging from the verbal flexions, there was formerly
another personal pronoun for 'I;' this was ertz. E.g., dañust, 'I see it,' is formed of di-ikus-t; di, 'it,' ikus the verb, t, 'I.'

The third person is rendered by a demonstrative pronoun; and in the verb it is rendered in different ways. In the present of the indicative of transitive verbs it is conspicuous by its absence—dañust, [hes] 'sees it.' In the same tense of the intransitive verb it is rendered by es—doix, 'he goes.' Perhaps the same pronoun as subject, which we find as object and as initial in dañust=or, di-ikus-t. The use of the pronoun a is nearly obsolete; a has been superseded by the more formal xzu, 'you,' employed as a singular, like English 'you,' and consequently some sign was wanted to distinguish xzu singular from xzu plural, and this sign was found in the plural suffix k. But as xzk might have been taken for the agent, z was inserted, and xzk became the second person plural. In Souletin, xzk.

The suffixes are added to these pronouns just as to the others; xz becomes xak; xzu=mxak, &c.

The emphatic personal pronouns are formed by the addition of a demonstrative pronoun; thus, xz, 'I,' and xzu, 'this,' becomes mxak, 'I myself.' Some dialects add the demonstrative to the genitive—mazak, from maz-ak.


These pronouns are the genitives of the personal pronouns, i.e., xz+n, xzu+n, &c.; final n has been dropped—mxak.

neure aire mure, my.
 cure hire hire, thy.
 geneure genere gure, our.
 senure seure sure, your.
THE PRONOUNS. 25

Neev ed Ie, 'the house of me;' neev ed Ieheal, 'the houses of me.'

The third person singular is expressed by bero, 'his,' for both numbers: the Spanish-Basque dialects have taken beren for the plural 'their.'

The third person can also be rendered by eres, 'of him' =his; and epen, 'of them' =their.

The second person plural being now such, the genitive is ezen, for ezhen, 'of you' =your (plural).

The possessive adjectives 'mine,' 'thine,' &c., are ezeroa or eresoa, biroa, &c.—more literally translated by French 'le mien.'

§ 10. The Reflexive Pronoun.

The pronoun 'self' is rendered by benu, 'head.' Baina benua ezeteau zuena benuet (Mark xiii. 9), 'But take heed to yourselves.' As 'yourselves' is a plural, so benu has the plural form, i.e. benuad-i; and, after the dropping of i, benuad-ezner. (See suffix i.)

§ 11. The Relative Pronoun.

The relative pronoun is rendered by the suffix en (see the suffixes), agglutinated to the verbal flexion; if this flexion ends with a consonant it is liable to the phonetic rules. Dat followed by a becomes duden: Izen duden gianoa, 'The man whom I have seen.' The oblique cases are rendered by the interrogative pronoun zein, e.g., Ezke zein szen en ezea-jabe, 'That house of which you are the proprietor.'
§ 12. The Interrogative Pronouns.

They are—nor, 'who'; see, or sein, 'who, which'; ser, 'what.' Nor de kor? 'Who is there?' Zin de kow?

'What is this?' The suffixes are agglutinated regularly to these pronouns: nor + k = nor k, agent; nor + m = nor m, 'of whom.'

§ 13. The Indefinite Pronouns.

Bat, 'some one;' batwa, 'some' (plural); elihat (Soul-letin), 'some;' bakoa, bakkoits, 'each;' batlaedera, 'every one;' bedara, 'one, single.' Dir Break diraen emaste bede- rarem semkav (1 Tim. iii. 12), 'Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife.' Buna, 'each;' berite, baite, 'other;' kamite, amite, 'many;' iar, sikav, 'somebody;' sambeite, 'some.'—Eta kan ziradetsariik sambeitek (Mark xiv. 67), 'And one of them that were there.' Novbaat, 'some one;' novbeite, 'something;' nor ber, nor ere, 'every one;' eite, 'each other;' adeite, 'any one;' see, 'something.'
CHAPTER IX.

The Numerals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Cardinal Numbers.</th>
<th>The Ordinal Numbers.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Bat.</td>
<td>17 Hamaselegi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Bi, biga.</td>
<td>18 Hamaselegi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Hirur.</td>
<td>19 Hemaselegi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Lau.</td>
<td>20 Hoge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Bota.</td>
<td>21 Hogeita.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Sei.</td>
<td>22 Hoge eia bi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Zepi.</td>
<td>30 Hoge eia haman.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Zoroi.</td>
<td>40 Berrego.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Bedereti.</td>
<td>50 Berrego eia haman.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Heman.</td>
<td>60 Hiranogr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Hamakia.</td>
<td>70 Hiranogr eia haman.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Hamabi.</td>
<td>80 Laurego.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Hamahuir.</td>
<td>90 Laurego eia haman.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Hamaewir.</td>
<td>100 Ekha, emu.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Hamahort.</td>
<td>1000 Miwia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Hamasei.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The suffixes are agglutinated to the Numbers, as to the other nouns. Bat, as in the Spanish, is employed in the plural, and becomes baten (see the Indefinite Pronouns). The Ordinal Numbers are formed from the Cardinal Numbers by the suffix garen—bigaren, hirugaren, &c. Bat does not form an Ordinal Number; lekengo, or lengo, corresponds to 'first.'
CHAPTER X.

The Verb.

§ 1. THE VERB IN GENERAL.

The Basque Verb may be divided into three classes, according to its nature, its signification, and its conjugation:

1. Primitive and Derivative Verbs.
2. Transitive and Intransitive Verbs.
3. Regular and Periphrastic Verbs.

A Verb is primitive, like  
A Verb is derivative, like  .
A Verb is transitive, like  .
A Verb is intransitive, like  .
A Verb is regular, like  .
A Verb is periphrastic; as,  , 'I have it in sight';  , 'I see it.'

All Verbs are regular except  , 'to be.'

§ 2. CONJUGATION OF THE REGULAR VERBS.

The Transitive Verb.

Few languages have a more simple way of conjugation
than the Basque language. The present of the indicative contains the verbal theme, preceded or followed by the pronoun—\textit{dakar}, 'I bear-it,' from \textit{d-ekar-}.

§ 3. Moods and Tenses.

The Basque Verb has three moods—the Imperative, the Indicative and the Optative Mood; and two tenses—the Present and the Imperfect. The Infinitive, the Subjunctive and Participles (except the Past), do not exist in Basque. A Verb is mentioned in the Dictionary by the verbal adjective (past participle).

The Imperative.

The second person contains the verbal theme, followed by the pronoun; \textit{eharri}, 'to bear,' makes \textit{ekarh}, 'bear thou,' from \textit{ekar-ki}; \textit{ekarret}, 'bear you,' from \textit{ekar-re}. The third person has the pronoun prefixed—\textit{b-ekar or bekar}, ' (may) be bear.'

The Indicative.

The Indicative has two tenses—the Present and the Imperfect. The present is formed by the verbal theme, preceded by the object and followed by the subject. The present is never without the object 'it,' expressed by \textit{a}; thus, \textit{dakar}, from \textit{d-ekar-}, 'I bear-it;' \textit{dakark}, from \textit{d-ekar-k}, 'thou-bear'est-it;' \textit{dakari}, from \textit{d-ekar-i}, 'he bear-it.' The initial vowel becomes always \textit{a}, with some few exceptions, as \textit{irudi}, \textit{ises}, &c.
The characteristic letters of the subject and object are derived from the pronouns. They are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Object</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>t, L</td>
<td>n, from ni.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>à, thou.</td>
<td>à, ... ài.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— he.</td>
<td>d, ... —</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gu, we.</td>
<td>s, ... gu.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zn, you.</td>
<td>s, ... zn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>— they.</td>
<td>d, ... —</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We saw that the third person is conspicuous by its absence; the other persons are, dahegyu, dahegyu, dahegyu. The third person plural is made from the singular, adding te, a sign of plurality. T as subject has an unknown origin (see the Pronouns).

The second person singular, being superseded by the second person plural, it was necessary to distinguish the new plural, and thus te was added, and dahegyu becomes dahegyu, 'you (plural) bear it.'

If the object be à, 'me' (instead of d), then we get m-akar-ài, or makar, 'thou bearest me;' maker, 'he) bears me;' maderu, 'you bear me,' &c. One cannot take two pronouns (object and subject) of the same person; this would give a reflexive relation, which is expressed in another way. If the object be ã, then the flexions will be a-akar-ã, 'I bear thee;' aaker, 'he) bears thee,' &c. All the presents of all the indicative all the transitive verbs are inflected in this same way.
The Verb.

The Imperfect.

The imperfect never takes up in its section the object; the subject precedes the verbal theme, which is followed by the termination s, a constant characteristic of this tense. The pronoun subject is not i, but a (for si, 'I'), which we find perhaps as object 'me' in the present (e.g., nekarren, 'you bear me').

If an object have to be expressed, it precedes the section, and the subject is then agglutinated to the verb and is followed by the termination s; e.g., a-gram-a-a, or nekarren, 'you bore me.' The imperfect without object will be—

n-eksar-a, or nnekarren, I bore.

b-eksar-a, or nkekarren.

eksar-a, or nekarren.

geksar-a, or gnekarren.

sekhsar-a, or sekarren.

eksar-a, or sekharren.

This form is the more primitive, and is still found in the Bisalian dialect; but in the other dialects it is always found with the following variations:

mnekarren, gnekarren.
nekharren, nsekharren.
sekharren, sekharren.

The principal difference here is the introduction, after the initial vowel, of a, the origin of which is unknown. The initial s of the third person is another deviation from the