

## Preface

### Forty years in Bascology and in Linguistics: In honor of José Ignacio Hualde

It will soon be four decades since José Ignacio offered his first contribution to the journal *ASJU* (*Anuario del Seminario de Filología Vasca «Julio de Urquijo» —International Journal of Basque Linguistics and Philology*): “Tone and stress in Basque: a preliminary study”, *ASJU* 20, 1986, 867-896. Although much work of his has followed since then on various aspects of Basque phonology (in particular, the prosodic systems of Basque dialects and of ancient Basque, but also on phonological theory), in the early days he did not disdain syntax (for instance, with articles on case assignment in Basque or restructuring with the particle *ari*).

Very early in his career as a published researcher, José Ignacio has worked on different dialects and varieties of Basque. He even turned his attention to the Basque-Icelandic pidgin or the testimony of a particular type of prosodic system suggested by the testimony of Manuel Larramendi’s work in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. His early research line and contributions led him to deliver two important books in the 1990s in the Supplements of *ASJU*: *The Basque dialect of Lekeitio* (1994) —with the help of Gorka and Arantzazu Elordieta—, one of the first modern monographies written in English on a particular Basque dialect, and *Euskararen azentuerak* (1997), a book on the prosodic systems of different Basque dialects and varieties, which revised significantly the existing knowledge on the topic and stimulated the development of much research in following years. Let us recall that José Ignacio has studied all dialects and many varieties within each dialect.

José Ignacio has collaborated as an author or editor in several books and volumes: *Generative studies in Basque linguistics* (edited with Jon Ortiz de Urbina, 1993), *Towards a history of the Basque language* (edited with Joseba Lakarra and Larry Trask, 1995), or the monumental *A grammar of Basque* (2003, edited with Ortiz de Urbina).

Since the 1990s, he has been an active member of the Advisory Board of *ASJU*, which has helped the journal get visibility and receive manuscripts for publication. Also, J.I. Hualde has also contributed with many articles on issues of Basque phonology in other journals within the community of Bascologists (*Euskera*, *Fontes Linguae Vasconum*, *Uztaro*, *Lapurдум*, *Oihenart*, *Euskalingua*) and in various prominent international journals: *Lingua*, *Linguistics*, *Linguistic Inquiry*, *Diachronica*, *Journal of the International Phonetic Association*, *Language and Speech*, *Phonetica*, *Laboratory Phonology*, *Folia Linguistica*, *Journal of Historical Linguistics*, among others.

J.I. Hualde has also participated in countless conferences, workshops and symposia in the Basque Country and around the globe, as well as in tributes to various bascologists (Mitzelena, de Rijk, Trask, Oihartzabal, Sarasola, Aurrekoetxea, Gorrotxategi, Gaminde, Oñederra, Zuazo). It is also important to add that José Ignacio has also paid a particular tribute to prominent bascologists by recovering their forgotten or little-known texts. (Mitzelena and Jacobsen, on several occasions).

The other major area for which José Ignacio Hualde is widely recognized is Romance phonology and linguistics, especially centered on Spanish. Apart from his many articles in journals and volumes, the books *The sounds of Spanish*, *Introducción a la Lingüística Hispánica* or *Handbook of Hispanic Linguistics* are worth mentioning. His work on the syllable, stress, and intonation in Spanish has been and continues being highly influential for researchers on these topics, as well as his investigations of consonant lenition in Spanish and other Romance languages. José Ignacio's training in general linguistics also permitted him to turn his attention to other languages, including Bantu languages, as Larry Hyman reminds us (cf. Hualde's papers on double object constructions in KiRimi and KiNande in 1989). More often than not, the insights yielded by the study of other languages have had their reflection in groundbreaking associations, such as the prosodic similarity between Tokyo Japanese and the Northern Bizkaian Basque varieties, in terms of their pitch-accent nature and the existence of accented and unaccented words, in what is a striking typological coincidence.

José Ignacio Hualde's work does not end with what we have recalled or summarized so far, of course. We know that he will still provide the linguistic community with many more contributions. Thus, this book of friendship and gratitude, which we present to him now, would be nothing but a sweet stimulus for more work to come.

A couple of years ago or so, when we editors decided which anniversaries we would mark to celebrate José Ignacio's fruitful work and life, we prioritized the classic reference to the author's 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, but it would not have been difficult for us to also pick as a reason the 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> or 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of a given article or book authored by José Ignacio, given the very rich and influential academic production in such a wide variety of topics for forty years.

We have had an excellent response from the vast majority of those invited to the tribute, even better than the organizers had initially expected. Regretfully, there were some friends and colleagues who could not adapt to our deadlines or who could not participate for various reasons. Nonetheless, they wished to express their solidarity by appearing in the *Tabula Gratulatoria* in this volume.

Finally, we want to thank the members of the Editorial Board of *ASJU* for encouraging us to present the volume as a double issue of *ASJU* 57, all participants for their contributions, J.I.'s wife Joyce Tolliver and Manuel Pérez Saldanya for the charming pictures and also for helping with the bibliography of the honoree (Manuel Pérez Saldanya), the UPV/EHU Publishing Service for their facilities, and the printing house Ipar for their service. Last but not least, we are grateful to everyone for their patience during the long time that this big project has taken. Thank you everyone, for everything, and congratulations for many years to come to our colleague and friend José Ignacio.