

FOREWORD

Even though I am the autor, I can claim but a limited portion of the credit for the present book. The idea for a publication containing the main body of my articles on Basque arose in the mind of the distinguished editor of this series, and his was the sole responsibility for the selection of the items to be included.

As to the articles themselves, they could never have been written without the enthusiastic cooperation of my numerous Basque friends and eager informants through many years. Needless to say, they are not to be held responsible for any errors or misconceptions that I may have allowed to invade my expositions.

The articles have been printed in chronological sequence of their publication, not in every case identical to the order in which they were written. Apart from an endeavour to remove the printing errors, some of which hindered intelligibility, the original text of the articles has been kept unchanged. At most, a few of the earlier papers have been supplied with additional footnotes, lettered rather than numbered, and thus clearly marked as not being part of the original text.

Within these pages, considerable attention is paid to such topics as Focus and Word Order, Relative Clauses, the Partitive Determiner, and Adnominal *-eo*, to mention some recurrent themes in my investigations. It is all too obvious, however, that this work cannot substitute in any way for a comprehensive Basque grammar. Providing such a text is an arduous task I have been wrestling with for some time, and which, *Jaungoikoa lagun*, I hope to complete in due course.

I dedicate this book to my devoted wife, Virginia de Rijk-Chan, whose unfailing support during the throes of writing these essays provided sorely-needed encouragement. Moreover, her judicious suggestions were instrumental in rendering the style of the more recent English-language papers much more palatable than it would have been had I been left to my own resources.

Finally, it is a pleasure to acknowledge my debt to Dr. J. A. Lakarra, who has been the most helpful editor any author could wish for. He very kindly shared the burden of proofreading with me, and also helped me cope with Spanish idiom whenever necessary. In short, without his dedicated efforts this book would not have come into existence.

Amsterdam, december 1998