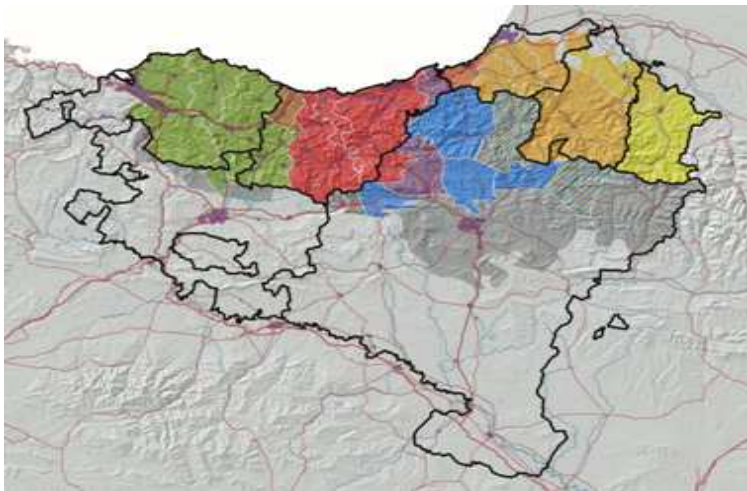


BASQUE SYLLABLE STRUCTURE

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1.



2.

	Labial.	labiodent.	Interdenta	Dental	apicoalveolar	apicolami	Prepalat.	Palatal.	Velar.	Fari.	Uvul.
	-V +V	-V +V	-V +V	-V +V	-V +V	-V +V	-V +V	-V +V	-V +V	-V +V	-V +V
Plosive	p b			t d				c ʃ	k g		
Asp. Plos.	ph			th					kh		
Nasal	m				n			ɲ			
Trill.					r						R
Flap					r						
Fricative		f	θ		ɣ z	s z	ʃ		x	h	
Affricate					ts dz	ts dz	tʃ				
Lateral					l			ʎ			
Glides								j	w		

3. “From a cross-linguistic perspective, the only unusual feature in this consonantal system is the distinction among apico-alveolar /š/, lamino alveolar /s/ and prepalatal (palato-alveolar) /ʃ/ and also among the corresponding affricate segments”. (Hualde 2003, 16)

4. Vowels.

4.a. In nucleus position only vowels can appear /i, e, a, o, u/, and also the falling diphthongs: /ai, ei, oi, au, eu/.

no *aa, *ee, *ii, *oo or *uu,

4.b. When two equal vowels meet:

zahar [saar] – (“old”), *ohol* [ool] (“wood table”); a deletion of one of them

alaba+a (“daughter” + definite sing.) > *alaba* [alaβa]; in some varieties a disimilation can also occur: *alabea* [alaβea]

4.c. When two vowels meet:

consonant epenthesis: *burua* [bu.ru.βa] (“head”), *suertea* [su.βer.ti.a] (“luck”), *mendia* [men.di.ʃa] (“mountain”), *bihotza* [bi.jo.tza] (“heart”)

dissimilation: *bearra* > *biarra* [bi.a.ra] (“necessity”),

consonantization of the vowel: *gau* > *ga.ba* (“night”)

assimilation: *mendia* > *mendie* [men.di.e] (“mountain”)

4.d. Sequences of two vowels: *lehor* [le.or] (“dry”), *behi* [be.i] (“cow”); three vowels: *ohea* [o.e.a] (“bed”) (very scarce)

5. Consonants

5.a. In onset position:

Absolute onset: every consonant except the flap: *toki* “place”, *lagun* “friend”, *txakur* “dog”, *non* “where”, but not *[r-]

regem > *errege* [e.re.ʁe] (“king”), *raton* > *arratoi* [a.ra.toj] (“rat”); *ra.dar* [ra.ðar] (“radar”), *ra.dio* [ra.ði.o] (“radio”)

5.b. in medial onset: *on.do* [on.do] (“well”), *ez.ti* [es.ti] (“honey”), *a.ma* [a.ma] (“mum”), *o.so* [o.šo] (“very”), *he.rri* [e.ri] (“town”)

5.c. In coda position:

Stops: *Nik* [nik] (I, in ergative case), *bat* [bat] (“one”), *bost* [bošt] (five); *doctor* > *dotore* [do.to.re] (“doctor”); but *subjektu* [šub.jek.tu] (“subject”), *hektagono* [ek.ta.ʁo.no] (“hectagon”), etc

Affricates: *hitz* [its] (“word”); no *etz.ti. *Huts* [uts] (“empty”) > *hus.tu* [ušt.tu] (“to empty”); *Hitz* [its] (“word”) > *hizlari* [iz.la.ri] (“speaker”)

Sibilant fricatives: *az.ken* [as.ken] (“last”), *es.ne* [ež.ne] (“milk”); *o.rain.goz* [o.rajn.gos] (“yet”).

Sonorants: *har.tu* [ar.tu] (“to catch”), *bil.du* [bil.du] (“recoger”), *han.go* [aŋ.ʁo] (“from there”); *bi.har* [bi.ar] (“tomorrow”), *hur.bil* [ur.bil] (“near”), *men.di.an* [men.di.an] (“in the mountain”).

No voiced obstruents: : *bar.da* → *bart* [bart] (“last night”), **du.da* → *dut* [dut] (Aux. 1. P. sg. of *edun* “to have”)

No labials (except in some expressions: eup!): [xi.na.šia] from *gimnasia* or [puf] or [paf] from *pub*. But in new loanwords: subjektu [ʃub.jek.tu] (“subject”), objektu [ob.jek.tu] (“object”), etc.

5.d. Tautosyllabic consonant clusters:

In onset position “muta cum liquida” sequences: *trena* [tre.na] (“train”), *bro.ma* [bro.ma] (“joke”), *grisa* [gri.ʃa] (“grey”), *kalanbre* [ka.lam.bre] (“calambre”), *bo.lon.dres*, [bo.lon.deʃ] (“voluntier”); *fro.ga* [fro.ɣa] (“prueba”), *fru.ta* [fru.ta] (“fruit”), *fla.na* [fla.na] (“creme caramel”)

No other consonant groups: stop [eʃtop], ski [eʃki]

In coda position:

Absolute coda: *Beltz* (“black”), *Hartz* (“bear”), *Huntz* (“yedra”); *Kosk* (“a bite”) and *Bost* (“five”)

Medial coda: *belz.tu* (“to become black”), *e.rans.ten* (“sticking”), *ins.pek.to.rea* (“inspector”)

5.e. Heterosyllabic consonant groups:

Har.tu (to catch), *on.do* (“well”), *hoz.tu* (“to become cold”), *u.ni.ber.tsi.ta.te* (“university”), *ber.tso* (“vers”)

unvoicing occurs after sibilants: -sd- in basque: *ez dakit* [estakit]; the voiced one is maintained in loanwords as in *desdicha* from the Spanish *desdicha*, and in new compounds such as *des.bi.de.ra.tu* (“to stray”)

Affrication of fricatives occurs after consonants:

in sequences of two fricatives: *ez zen* [e.tsɛn] (neg. Part. + 3.p. sg. Pas. “to be”, “it was not”), *ez zegoen* [e.tse.go.en] (neg. Part. +3 p. sg. to be “he/she was not”).

After a sonorant: from spanish *universidad* > eusk. *unibertsitate* [u.ni.βer.tsi.ta.te] (“university”), from *bolsa* > *poltsa* (“bag”)

after the particle *bait* (causal particle): *bait zen* [baj.tsɛn] (bait + 3.p. sg. Pas. *To be*, “because she/he was”) *bait zegoen* [baj.tse.ɣo.en] (bait + 3. p. sg. *To stay* “because she / he was”)

6. Basque syllable structure:

with onset and nucleus $C_2^0 V$:

CV: **be.ro** (“hot”), **ge.ro** (“later”), **la.gun** (“friend”)

CCV: **tre.na** (“train”), **sas.tra.ka** (“bush”), **pro.ba** (“probe”)

with nucleus V:

a.te (“door”), **e.ri** (“ill”), **e.me** (“female”)

with nucleus and coda: $V C_2^0$:

VC: **as.to** (“donkey”), **az.ken** (“the last”), **men.di.an** (“in the mountain”)

VCC: **antz** (“similar”), **ertz** (“corner”), **hortz** (“tooth”)

With onset, nucleus and coda ($C_2^0 V C_2^0$)

CVCC: **beltz** (“black”), **gantz** (“grease, fat”),

CCVC: **tren** (“train”), **flan** (“crème caramel”),

CCVCC: **prest** (“ready”), **braust** (“onomat; falling to the ground”)

7. Vennemann’s preference laws:

The nucleus law:

The head law:

The Coda Law
The contact law

8. Jauregi (2008a): 72,33% are open syllables (CV, V and CCV) and 27.67% are closed: (VC, CVC, VCC and CVCC).

Jauregi (2008b):

CV % 47, 30
CVC % 20, 30
V % 20, 30
VC % 11, 05
CCVC % 0, 77
CCV % 0, 25

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