

## **Dialect contact in a Basque valley**

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Recent dialectological work on southern (Spanish side) Basque suggests that a series of isoglosses in the central Basque Country is moving eastward. Over the last few centuries, several features of western Gipuzkoan (G) dialects have encroached on neighboring eastern High Navarrese (HN) varieties (Zuazo 2010, 2013). This article presents speech data collected in sociolinguistic interviews in the Southern Basque valley of Bidasoa-Txingudi, traditionally a geographical and cultural unit located in the border with France. The primary goal of this study is to determine whether quantitative apparent-time evidence exists for changes in progress and, if so, who is in the vanguard of these changes.

The paper will describe a series of dialect-based changes in progress in this Basque valley, based on data collected in sociolinguistic interviews with twenty local Basque L1 speakers. Dialectal variation in elements chosen from different parts of the grammar will be examined: two lexical items, two morphosyntactic alternations on auxiliary verbs, and a phonological process. In particular, several claims are made about dialect contact in Bidasoa-Txingudi. Strong apparent-time evidence exists that four out of five of these elements are undergoing change. What the relevant age limits are remains to be investigated, but older speakers tend toward forms characteristic of the traditional dialect of the valley (mostly eastern), whereas younger speakers prefer western forms.

These preliminary results suggest three main directions for further research. First, a more thorough understanding is needed of speakers' attitudes toward these varieties in order to understand all processes of change and dialect contact. Second, much more research is needed into the historical context underlying the gendered distribution of G and HN forms. Finally, an examination of a broader range of linguistic features is needed to gauge the effects of standardization on the local vernacular.