

Seminar on phonetics-phonology and the syntax of Basque

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1 Aims and scope

The seminar has two main objectives. On the one hand, it provides a **course in phonetics and phonology**, which combines (i) training in experimental methods, (ii) a discussion of conceptual approaches, and (iii) an introduction to the fundamental properties of the phonetics and phonology of Basque and their related issues. The second part of the seminar will be dedicated to discussing **issues in the syntax of Basque** and their relation with current syntactic theory. These topics mainly explore aspects of the left periphery of the clause and the domain of TP/IP.

2 Contents

- Phonetics and phonology.
 - Phonetics.
 - * Articulatory and ‘acoustic’.
 - * Basics of experimental design and data-analysis.
 - * Phonetic analysis with *Praat*.
 - Phonology.
 - * Abstract representations and explanatory adequacy.
 - * Derivational approaches & constraint-interaction.
- The phonology of Basque.
 - Segmental phonology.
 - Suprasegmental (prosody and intonation).
- Issues in the syntax of Basque.
 - Word order and the left-periphery of the clause.
 - * Neutral word order: an SOV language.
 - * Focus/*wh*-constructions and negation.
 - * The diachronic perspective.
 - * Clausal embedding.
 - A comparative perspective: case-agreement systems and related issues.
 - * Types of alignment, types of ergativity.
 - * Types of null arguments, licensing mechanisms and linguistic variation.

3 Requirements

Part of the activities will involve the analysis of acoustic data. Students should bring a laptop and headphones for those sessions (if possible, one per student).