

Bibliografía

Una geografía diacrónica del Euskara en Navarra,
by A. Apat-Echebarné (Angel Irigaray), 203 pages.
Ediciones y Libros, S. A. Pamplona, 1974.

The student of Basque has for a long time been missing a *history* and *geography* of the Basque country. A history of Euskalerrria (or Euskal Herria) now exists in some form or other, although not easily obtainable by everybody. The present volume on the geography of the country and its language, although restricted to the author's native province Navarre, by being «diachronic» unites in a way both the aspect of history and of geography. As a geographical work it is presented strictly from the point of view of the language, the political geography of the Basque country—which by no means coincides with the linguistic geography—is not taken into account for easily comprehensible reasons: the Basque country has ever mainly been determined by its linguistic boundaries.

Irigaray's geography of the Basque language in Navarre—from many points of view the most important one of the present-day provinces—is as interesting as it is beautifully edited in a handy pocket-size volume. It is illustrated by means of several detailed maps and sketches and well reproduced photos and provided with a bibliography, an index and of place names and another one of persons mentioned.

In brief it may be said that the Geography traces the extension of the Basque language in Navarre (that is the Basque country in as much as the ancient kingdom of Navarre is concerned) through the study of place names and historical documents. For the first chapter, dealing with the situation of Basque in modern times in the area in question as compared to that of seventy years ago, that is in the beginnings of this century, data are readily and directly obtainable. For the earlier periods, L. L. Bonaparte's (there is an admirable photo of the famous *vascólogo*) linguistic map (1863) is of great importance. The second chapter brings us back to the eighteenth century (with information through J. Lizarraga de Elcano and others).

The geography of the country and its language is traced backwards in time and the third chapter deals with documentation pertaining to the seventeenth and sixteenth centuries (with notes about the Ilzarbe writer Juan de Beriain). In the fourth chapter we have reached medieval times (fif-

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teenth century and earlier). In chapter V, our first testimonies of the Basque language in Navarre are presented, beginning with a most interesting notice regarding the Arabian historian (of the 11th or 12th century) Al-Himyari, who in his *Kitâb ar-Raud* refers to *al-bashkiya* (i. e. the Basque language). We are then immediately brought down to the Roman epoch and the material contained in the inscriptions (including those of Aquitania, the Basque country north of the Pyrenees in the Roman days). To many this might actually be the most interesting section in the work.

After the five chapters proper four different Appendices follow, referring to various aspects: lists of *pueblos* in which Basque is or has been spoken, the Basque language in old Navarre, etc. The author is to be complimented on account of this interesting and scholarly account of the position and extension of the Basque language in his native province, from the very beginnings of our information regarding the ancient kingdom in European history and the remarkable ethnic group in Roman times.

Nils M. HOLMER

RESUMEN

En esta reseña bibliográfica, el Vascólogo y lingüista sueco, Profesor Nils M. HOLMER viene a decir, que por fin el estudiante de Vascuence tiene con el libro de A. Apat —Echebarne (Angel Irigaray), una geografía del País y de su lengua vasca, aunque limitada a Navarra—. Por su condición diacrónica abarca la historia y la geografía, no coincidiendo en ésta con los límites políticos; porque generalmente ha sido determinado el País vasco por sus límites lingüísticos.

Es, dice, el más importante trabajo sobre el tema en las provincias, el día de hoy. Bellamente editado en tamaño de bolsillo, e ilustrado con mapas detallados, hermosas fotos y provisto de abundante bibliografía, así como extensos Indices de topónimos y de nombres de personas.

Comienza con la extensión del idioma en la actualidad, comparada con la que tenía hace 70 años. Cita el mapa lingüístico de Bonaparte, así como la *admirable* foto de este sabio; siguiendo documentando en los siglos XVIII, XVII y XVI, con noticias de Lizarraga de Elcano y Juan de Beriayn.

Retrocede después a los tiempos medievales y a los de la dominación árabe, dando la *muy interesante* noticia del historiador Al-Himyari, respecto a la vascofonía de Pamplona. Cita el capítulo de las Inscripciones aquitanas (País vasco nord-pirenaico) con nombres éuskaros, de la Epoca romana; que para muchos puede ser la parte más interesante de la obra; por la que se hace acreedor el autor, al reconocimiento de los estudiosos del tema.