

# Igorre accent

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## Abstract

In this article we will be dealing with the accentual system and its phonological rules in the variety of Basque spoken in Igorre. Igorre is located in the Arratia valley, and the local variety of Basque has always been classified as western Bizkaian, the variety spoken in Arratia more precisely. Accentuation in the Basque from Igorre does not follow a pitch-accent pattern but a stress-accent one, and even if there is a general rule, in many cases the rule is not followed. That is why the accentual system in Igorre Basque falls into a special category of western accentuation.

**Keywords:** dialectology, accent, Arratia, Igorre

## 1. Introduction

The aim of this article is to provide a description and phonological rules of the accentuation in the variety of Basque spoken in Igorre, Arratia. We have also classed it within the different Basque accents analysing its similarities and differences with Zeberio Basque.

We have used a corpus of recordings to elder people for this job, both of improvised conversations and questionnaires.

The *Praat* computer program has been used for the acoustic analysis.

### 1.1. Background

Only some short notes have been written on Igorre accent to date: Gaminde (1995a and b and 1998) and Gaminde/Hualde (1995).

Apart from that, and from a broader point of view, information on Arratia accentuation can also be found in Etxebarria (1991), Gaminde (1993) and Hualde (1989, 1990, 1992, 1994 and 1997).

Taking those into account, we consider it necessary to make a deeper description of the Igorre accent.

### 1.2. Features of the accent: background

We have taken Hualde's classification of the accent (1997) as a basis for our analysis. He divided Basque accent into four groups: eastern, middle, several special western accents, and the sound systems of the Bizkaian coast.

Amongst the several special western systems Hualde mentions the 'Zeberio and Arratia' subgroup (p. 167).

Looking at that classification, and before making our own analysis, it seems reasonable to think that Igorre accent should be located within that group of special western systems, namely the Zeberio and Arratia subgroup. So does Gaminde (1998) expressly do mentioning the village of Igorre.

On the one hand, Hualde (1994) states that the accentual system of Igorre Basque does not follow a pitch-accent pattern, and on the other, that all inflected words bear an accent, that the inflectional morphemes mark the limits of the accentual unit, and that the accent does never fall to the right of the inflectional morpheme.

Gaminde and Hualde (1995) affirm what Etxebarria (1991) and Hualde (1992) claimed about Zeberio accent: accent is distinctive.

Hualde (1997) and Gaminde (1998), same as Etxebarria (1991) and Hualde (1992) claimed before, maintain that in order to describe the general pattern of this particular accentual system we need to differentiate monosyllabic and disyllabic roots from root words of three or more syllables. While in the latter type the accent falls on the last syllable of the root in the singular and the determinerless forms, in monosyllabic and disyllabic roots it falls on the article or on the epenthetic vowel. In the plural it falls one syllable before.

## 2. The extrametricality of the last syllable of the prosodic unit

In Igorre speech the last syllable of the prosodic unit is extrametrical. In unmarked words word accent falls on the penultimate syllable when the word comes at the end of the prosodic unit but on the last syllable otherwise:

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- a. *gixoná*                      *astóa*  
*gixoná da*                      *astoá da*  
*gixoná dator*                      *astoá dator*  
*gixoná doa*                      *astoá doa*

The plural forms *gixonak* or *astóak* are paroxitone in all contexts:

- b. *gixonak*                      *astóak*  
*gixonatires*                      *astóatires*  
*gixonatatos*                      *astóatatos*  
*gixonatoas*                      *astóatoas*

In examples like *gixonak*, the accent falls on the penultimate syllable, while words such as *gixoná* are oxitone in essence; nevertheless, at the end of a prosodic unit, the accent moves one syllable to the left in the last instance. As a rule, the accent moves from the last syllable to the last but one at the end of a prosodic unit. This phenomenon shows the extrametricality of the final syllable of the prosodic unit.

The accent carried by the last syllable always moves leftwards when the word is at the end of the prosodic unit:

- etzerá noa*                      *astoá da*  
*etzéra*                      *astóa*

### 3. Description of the accentuation of nouns and adjectives

#### 3.1. Accentuation of unmarked roots

The following paradigms show the accentual system of unmarked roots of one, two, three and four syllables<sup>2</sup>:

*lur* ‘land’

	sg art	pl art	no art
abs	<i>lurré</i>	<i>lúrrek</i>	<i>lúr</i>
erg	<i>lurrék</i>	<i>lúrrek</i>	<i>lurrék</i>
dat	<i>lurréri</i>	<i>lúrreri</i>	<i>lurréri</i>
poss gen	<i>lurréna</i>	<i>lúrrena</i>	<i>lurréna</i>
poss gen + dat	<i>lurrénari</i>	<i>lúrrenari</i>	<i>lurrénari</i>

*asto* ‘donkey’

	sg art	pl art	no art
abs	<i>astoá</i>	<i>astóa</i>	<i>astó</i>
erg	<i>astoák</i>	<i>astóak</i>	<i>astók</i>
dat	<i>astoári</i>	<i>astóari</i>	<i>astóri</i>
poss gen	<i>astoána</i>	<i>astóana</i>	<i>astóna</i>
com	<i>astoágas</i>	<i>astóakas</i>	<i>astógas</i>
adl	<i>astoágana</i>	<i>astóakana</i>	<i>astógana</i>

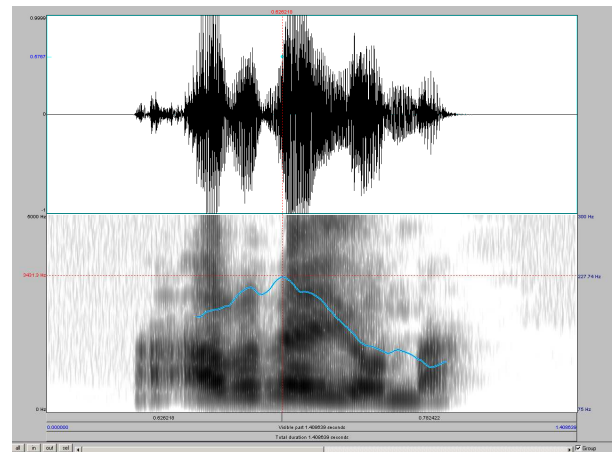
<sup>2</sup> All these examples have been taken when the words are not at the end of the prosodic unit. See Section 2.

*gizon* ‘man’

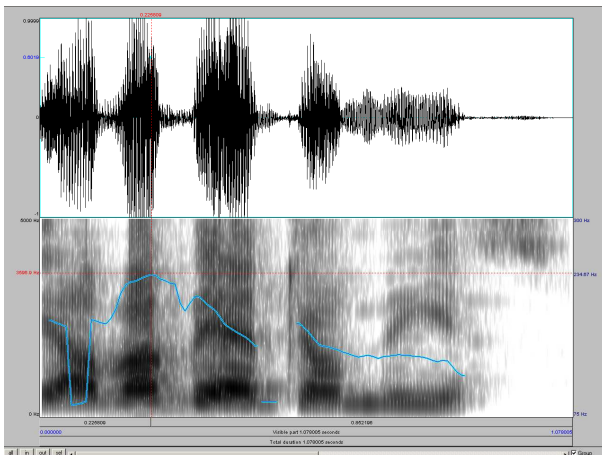
	sg art	pl art	no art
abs	<i>gixoná</i>	<i>gixonak</i>	<i>gixón</i>
erg	<i>gixonák</i>	<i>gixonak</i>	<i>gixonák</i>
dat	<i>gixonári</i>	<i>gixonari</i>	<i>gixonári</i>
poss gen	<i>gixonána</i>	<i>gixonana</i>	<i>gixonána</i>
com	<i>gixonágas</i>	<i>gixonaka</i>	<i>gixonágas</i>
adl	<i>gixonágana</i>	<i>gixonakana</i>	<i>gixonágana</i>
adl term	<i>gixon-áganaño</i>	<i>gixón-akanaño</i>	<i>gixon-áganaño</i>

*abade* ‘priest’

	sg art	pl art	no art
abs	<i>abadéa</i>	<i>abádeak</i>	<i>abadé</i>
erg	<i>abadéak</i>	<i>abádeak</i>	<i>abadék</i>
dat	<i>abadéari</i>	<i>abádeari</i>	<i>abadéri</i>
com	<i>abadéagas</i>	<i>abádeakas</i>	<i>abadégas</i>
adl	<i>abadéagana</i>	<i>abádeakana</i>	<i>abadégana</i>
adl term	<i>abadé-aganaño</i>	<i>abáde-akanaño</i>	<i>abadé-ganaño</i>



Picture 1: *abadéa yoan da*



Picture 2: *abádeatxoan dires*

*alargun* ‘widow/er’

	sg art	pl art	no art
abs	<i>alargúne</i>	<i>alárgunek</i>	<i>alargún</i>
erg	<i>alargúnek</i>	<i>alárgunek</i>	<i>alargúnek</i>
dat	<i>alargúneri</i>	<i>alárguneri</i>	<i>alargúneri</i>
poss gen	<i>alargúnena</i>	<i>alárgunena</i>	<i>alargúnena</i>
com	<i>alargúnegas</i>	<i>alárgunekas</i>	<i>alargúnegas</i>
adl	<i>alargúnegana</i>	<i>alárgunekana</i>	<i>alargúnegana</i>
adl term	<i>alargún-eganaño</i>	<i>alárgun-ekanaño</i>	<i>alargún-eganaño</i>

*bersolari* ‘bertsolari’

	sg art	pl art	no art
abs	<i>bersolaríe</i>	<i>bersoláriek</i>	<i>bersolarí</i>
erg	<i>bersolaríek</i>	<i>bersoláriek</i>	<i>bersolarík</i>
dat	<i>bersolaríeri</i>	<i>bersolárieri</i>	<i>bersolarítri</i>
poss gen	<i>bersolaríena</i>	<i>bersoláriena</i>	<i>bersolarína</i>
com	<i>bersolaríegas</i>	<i>bersoláriekas</i>	<i>bersolaríges</i>
adl	<i>bersolarí-egana</i>	<i>bersolári-ekana</i>	<i>bersolarí-egana</i>
adl term	<i>bersolarí-eganaño</i>	<i>bersolári-ekanaño</i>	<i>bersolarí-eganaño</i>

Looking at these unmarked roots, we soon realize that in the singular and the determinerless forms of three-syllable roots the accent falls on the last syllable of the word root (1)) and one syllable earlier in the plural.

In monosyllabic and disyllabic unmarked singular and bare roots, however, the accent falls one syllable later, that is, the article or the epenthetic vowel are within the accentual unit; on the article in the singular and on the epenthetic vowel in the determinerless form.

At the end of the prosodic unit:

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| a. | monosyllabic<br><i>lúrre</i><br><i>lurré da</i>                     | disyllabic<br><i>au de gixoná</i><br><i>au gixoná da</i>                |
| b. | three-syllable sg<br><i>au de abadéa</i><br><i>au abadéa da</i>     | three-syllable pl<br><i>ónetires abádeak</i><br><i>ónek abádeatires</i> |
|    | three-syllable no art<br><i>iru abáde</i><br><i>iru abadé dires</i> |   |

Therefore, in the singular and plural of unmarked roots of more than two syllables the accent does not fall on the last syllable, that is, on the article, because the last syllable of the prosodic unit is extrametrical.

### 3.2. Accent rules

As mentioned in the introduction, Igorre accent is not fixed; it is assigned by means of some general rules.

#### 3.2.1. The singular and the determinerless form of unmarked roots

In unmarked singular and bare roots, the accent falls on the final syllable (1)) when the root has the minimum amount of syllables.

If the root has more than two syllables, the accentual unit is the word root:

sg art	no art
<i>alabéa</i>	<i>iru alabá dires</i>
<i>abadéa</i>	<i>abadé bi</i>
<i>bersolaríe</i>	<i>lau bersolarí dires</i>
<i>alabéari</i>	
<i>abadéagana</i>	
<i>bersolaríegas</i>	

In monosyllabic and disyllabic roots, the singular article and the epenthetic vowel of the determinerless form get in within the accentual unit:

sg art	no art
<i>gixonári</i>	<i>bost gixonári</i>
<i>lagunéna</i>	<i>iru lagunéna</i>
<i>lurré da</i>	<i>edosein lurrék</i>
<i>neskeá da</i>	
<i>astoári</i>	

#### 3.2.2. The plural of unmarked roots

In the plural of unmarked roots, the accent is placed one syllable earlier than in the singular, because the plural morpheme is pre-accenting.

sg		pl
o ó...	→	ó o...
<i>lurréri</i>		<i>lúrreri</i>
<i>lurré da</i>		<i>lúrretires</i>
<i>lurréna</i>		<i>lúrrena</i>
o o ó...	→	o ó o...
<i>gixonári</i>		<i>gixónari</i>
<i>gixoná da</i>		<i>gixónatires</i>
<i>gixonágas</i>		<i>gixónakas</i>
o o ó...	→	o ó o...
<i>alargúne</i>		<i>alárgunek</i>
<i>alargúneri</i>		<i>alárguneri</i>
<i>alargúnegas</i>		<i>alárgunekas</i>
o o o ó...	→	o o o ó...
<i>bersolaré</i>		<i>bersoláriek</i>
<i>bersolaréek</i>		<i>bersoláriek</i>
<i>bersolaréri</i>		<i>bersolárieri</i>

### 3.2.3. Words finishing in -a

Words finishing in -a do not follow the general rule. The accent moves two syllables leftwards instead of one.<sup>3</sup>

a.	sg	→	pl
	o o ó...		o ó o...
	<i>abadéa</i>		<i>abádeak</i>
	<i>abadéa</i>		<i>abádea</i>
b.	sg	→	pl
	o o ó...		ó o o...
	<i>alabéa</i>		<i>álabak</i>
	<i>alabéak</i>		<i>álabak</i>

For instance:

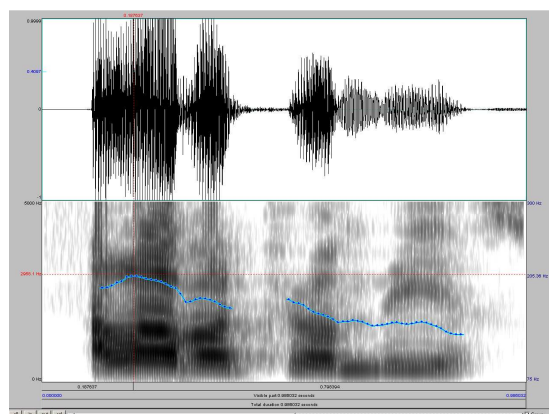
*errotá* 'mill'

	sg art	pl art	no art
abs	<i>errotéa</i>	<i>érrotak</i>	<i>errotá</i>
erg	<i>errotéak</i>	<i>érrotak</i>	<i>erroták</i>
dat	<i>errotéari</i>	<i>érroteari</i>	<i>errotári</i>
com	<i>errotéagas</i>	<i>érrotakas</i>	<i>errotágas</i>

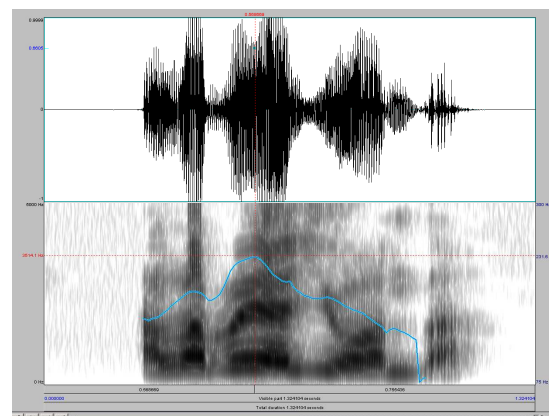
<sup>3</sup> All the examples have been taken when they are not at the end of the prosodic unit.

*alaba* 'daughter'

	sg art	pl art	no art
abs	<i>alabéa</i>	<i>álabak</i>	<i>alabá</i>
erg	<i>alabéak</i>	<i>álabak</i>	<i>alabák</i>
dat	<i>alabéari</i>	<i>álabari</i>	<i>alabári</i>
com	<i>alabéagas</i>	<i>álabakas</i>	<i>alabágas</i>
adl	<i>alabéagana</i>	<i>álabakana</i>	<i>alabágana</i>
term	<i>alabéaganaño</i>	<i>álabakanaño</i>	<i>alabáganaño</i>



Picture 3: *alabéa* *yoan da*



Picture 4: *alabatxoan* *dires*

*makera*<sup>4</sup> 'sow'

	sg art	pl art	no art
abs	<i>makeréa</i>	<i>mákerak</i>	<i>makerá</i>
erg	<i>makeréak</i>	<i>mákerak</i>	<i>makerák</i>
dat	<i>makeréari</i>	<i>mákerari</i>	<i>makerári</i>
com	<i>makeréagas</i>	<i>mákerakas</i>	<i>makerágas</i>

<sup>4</sup> *Txerrama*, *urdama* in standard Basque.

*partikera* ‘pocket’

	sg art	pl art	no art
abs	<i>partikeréa</i>	<i>partíkerak</i>	<i>partikerá</i>
erg	<i>partikeréak</i>	<i>partíkerak</i>	<i>partikerák</i>
dat	<i>partikeréari</i>	<i>partíkereari</i>	<i>partikerári</i>
com	<i>partikeréagas</i>	<i>partíkerakas</i>	<i>partikerágas</i>

More examples: *árrabak*, *lándarak*, *érrekak*, *txírrinkek*, *txábolak*, *ótzarak*, *íxerak*, *ítillkek*, *burdikadak* (sg *burdikadéa*)...

Borrowed words: *tóstadak*, *gálletak*, *pátatak*, *ténesak*, *béntanak*, *mórsillek*, *érrudak*, *kártolak*, *kútxillek*...

Words borrowed from Spanish maintain their Spanish accentuation: *tostádea*, *gallétea*, *patátea*, *errúdea*... Therefore, they are marked for the plural and for the singular too.

Words such as *mórsillek*, *kútxillek*, *txírrinkek*, *ítillkek*... show that the accent rule is previous to the rule by which *a>e/i,u*, otherwise we would have \**morsillek*, \**kutxillek*...

The plural of words finishing in *-a* follows the unhabitual rule *a+a>a* instead of the ordinary dissimilation *a+a>ea*; that is, the plural of words finishing in *-a* is one syllable shorter.

no art	sg art	pl art
<i>alaba</i>	<i>alaba+a&gt;alabea</i>	<i>alaba+ak&gt;alabak</i> * <i>alabeak</i>
<i>erreka</i>	<i>erreka+a&gt;errekea</i>	<i>erreka+ak&gt;errekak</i> * <i>errekeak</i>
<i>bentana</i>	<i>bentana+a&gt;bentanea</i>	<i>bentana+ak&gt;bentanak</i> * <i>bentaneak</i>
<i>arraba</i>	<i>arraba+a&gt;arrabea</i>	<i>arraba+ak&gt;arrabak</i> * <i>arrabeak</i>

The general accent rule is followed, that is, the accent moves one syllable leftwards for the plural, but the morphonologic rule *a+ak>ak* takes place before, and the number of syllables is reduced; as a result, the accent moves two syllables to the left and not just one. It is the order in which the rules happen that determines the result.

### 3.2.4. Other declension cases

As mentioned above, in the singular of monosyllabic and bisyllabic unmarked roots, the accent falls on the article as a rule in Arestia.

However, the following cases present no mark in the singular. How does accentuation work in those cases, where does the accent fall?

### 3.2.4.1. Adlative<sup>5</sup>

The adlative case works like the singular article as far as the accentuation of the word is concerned.

sg art	pl art	no art
<i>lurrerá (doa)</i>	<i>lúrretara</i>	<i>lurrétara</i>
<i>aterá (doa)</i>	<i>atéatara</i>	<i>atétara</i>
<i>etzerá (doa)</i>	<i>etzéatara</i>	<i>etzétara</i>
<i>erriré (doa)</i>	<i>erriétara</i>	<i>errítara</i>
<i>itzesóra</i>	<i>itzésoatara</i>	<i>itzesótara</i>
<i>sagarréra</i>	<i>sagárretara</i>	<i>sagarrétara</i>

As shown in the examples, in the plural form, the accent goes on the usual place. The same can be said about the singular form of three-syllable and longer unmarked roots, because in them the accent does not fall on the article.

The difference in the accent placement between one and two-syllable roots and three-syllable and longer ones is lost at the end of the prosodic unit:

*lurrerá doa* → *lurréra*  
*aterá doa* → *atéra*

### 3.2.4.2. Ablative

Unlike the adlative, the ablative is marked; it is preaccenting, that is, it moves the accent one syllable leftwards.

sg art	pl art	no art
<i>lurréti(k)(dator)</i>	<i>lúrretati(k)</i>	<i>lurrétati(k)</i>
<i>atéti(k)(dator)</i>	<i>atéatati(k)</i>	<i>atétati(k)</i>
<i>etzéti(k)</i>	<i>etzéatati(k)</i>	<i>etzétati(k)</i>
<i>erríti(k)</i>	<i>erriétati(k)</i>	<i>errítati(k)</i>
<i>itzesóti(k)</i>	<i>itzésoatati(k)</i>	<i>itzesótati(k)</i>
<i>sagarréti(k)</i>	<i>sagárretati(k)</i>	<i>sagarrétati(k)</i>

### 3.2.4.3. Inessive

The accentuation of the inessive singular case follows more than one pattern.

Sometimes it works like the singular form of the rest of cases: *etzeán da*.

There is no doubt that this is not the most usual accent pattern. In Igorre Basque the accent usually falls on the syllable before the suffix, that is, the inessive case, same as the ablative, is mostly marked.

The determinerless form too presents a dual pattern: *ainbet etzetán* and *ainbet etzétan*, the second pattern being the most common.

<sup>5</sup> The declension cases derived from the adlative case, such as adlative approximative *norantz*, adlative terminative *noraino*, and adlative destinative *norako*, work the same way.

sg art	pl art	no art
<i>lurréan (dao)</i>	<i>lúrretan</i>	<i>lurrétan</i>
<i>etzéan (dao)</i>	<i>etzéatan</i>	<i>etzétan</i>
<i>erríen</i>	<i>erríetan</i>	<i>errítan</i>
<i>itzesóan</i>	<i>itzésobatan</i>	<i>itzesótan</i>
<i>sagarréan</i>	<i>sagárretan</i>	<i>sagarrétan</i>

In words finishing in *-a*, the accent falls on the last syllable in the singular form, on the first syllable in the plural, and on the last syllable of the root in the determinerless form.

sg art	pl art	no art
<i>errotán</i>	<i>érrotatan</i>	<i>errotátan</i>
<i>tabernán</i>	<i>tábernatan</i>	<i>tabernátan</i>
<i>plasán</i>	<i>plásatan</i>	<i>plasátan</i>
<i>ormán</i>	<i>órmatan</i>	<i>ormátan</i>
<i>serrán</i>	<i>sérratan</i>	<i>serrátan</i>

Marked words ending in *-a* follow two patterns: some stick to the accent pattern of the absolutive case for all forms of the inessive case, and some others carry the accent on the first syllable in the singular and plural forms and one syllable to the right in the bare form (see 3.2.3).

a.

abs sg art	ine sg art	ine pl art	ine no art
<i>déndea</i>	<i>déndan</i>	<i>déndatan</i>	<i>déndatan</i>
<i>dénporea</i>	<i>dénporan</i>	<i>dénporatan</i>	<i>dénporatan</i>

b.

abs sg art	ine sg art	ine pl art	ine no art
<i>bentánea</i>	<i>béntanan</i>	<i>béntanatan</i>	<i>bentánatan</i>
<i>domékea</i>	<i>dómekan</i>	<i>dómekatan</i>	<i>domékatan</i>

However, there are words that can be marked, *eskólea* for instance, and that show all possible patterns depending on the speaker. Sometimes it behaves as an unmarked word by analogy: *eskolán*; and some other times it shows both marked accentuation patterns:

- maintaining the accent pattern of the absolutive: *eskólan*
- carrying the accent on the first syllable: *éskolan*

#### 3.2.4.4. Locative genitive

The locative genitive case suffixes work like the inessive suffixes, usually moving the accent to the left, and sometimes bearing it.

- Habitually: *plasákoa*, *erríkoa*, *dimékoa*, *etzékoa*, *itzesókoa*, *burúkoa*, *uríkoa*, *emékoa*...

b. Non-habitually:

*pentzu emoten yako edo kalabasea solokóa*

*or euki gindun, txabolea eon san, labéa albokóak eta bien artean*

*da gero urteuresan errueda bikóak, errueda bikóak oin be emen daos adornu te diferente*

*gure ama da orkóa*

sg art	pl art	no art
<i>lurréko</i>	<i>lúrretako</i>	<i>lurretáko</i>
<i>etzéko</i>	<i>etzéatako</i>	<i>etzetáko</i>
<i>erríko</i>	<i>erríetako</i>	<i>erritáko</i>
<i>itzesóko</i>	<i>itzésotaako</i>	<i>itzesótako</i>
<i>sagarréko</i>	<i>sagárretako</i>	<i>sagarrétako</i>

#### 3.2.5. Marked roots and suffixes

Although Igorre accent is distinctive, there are some roots and suffixes that present particular accent patterns.

Some words carry the accent on the same syllable of the root across the paradigm in the singular, in the plural and in the determinerless form.

Ex: *afárie*, *áitite*<sup>6</sup>, *akíllue*<sup>7</sup>, *aldérdie*, *ámama*<sup>8</sup>, *armósue*<sup>9</sup>, *arrákala*, *arrástie*, *aspírea*<sup>9</sup>, *átzea*, *baskárie*<sup>10</sup>, *basérri*, *básue*, *bedrátzi*<sup>11</sup>, *belárrie*, *béstea*, *égie*, *egúskie*, *érderea*, *eskútillea*<sup>12</sup>, *éurre*, *éuskerea*, *gánae*, *galdárea*, *girigílla*<sup>13</sup>, *gónea*, *góroe*, *igítie*, *intxúrre*, *iñúrrie*, *ipískie*<sup>14</sup>, *itárgie*<sup>15</sup>, *ixíkoa*, *kámpo*, *karábie*<sup>16</sup>, *kollárea*, *kórtea*, *landárea*, *lapíkoa*, *léku*, *léngusue*, *léngusiñe*, *libúrue*, *madárie*, *maskíllue*<sup>17</sup>, *mallúbie*<sup>18</sup>, *mállue*, *óllarra*, *ollásko*, *págoa*, *sútea*, *táloa*, *titérea*, *txábilea*<sup>19</sup>, *txubelásoa*<sup>20</sup>, *txúxo*<sup>21</sup>, *urkúllue*, *usédio*...

	sg art	pl art	no art
abs	<i>lékue</i>	<i>lékuek</i>	<i>léku</i>
erg	<i>lékuek</i>	<i>lékuek</i>	<i>lékuk</i>
dat	<i>lékueri</i>	<i>lékueri</i>	<i>lékuri</i>
adl	<i>lékure</i>	<i>lékuetara</i>	<i>lékutara</i>

<sup>6</sup> Also *aitíte*.

<sup>7</sup> *Akuilu* in standard Basque.

<sup>8</sup> Also *amáma*.

<sup>9</sup> *Aspira* = *azpira*, *oramahi*

<sup>10</sup> Also *báskarie*.

<sup>11</sup> Also *bederátzi*.

<sup>12</sup> *Eskutailla* in standard Basque.

<sup>13</sup> *Girigillea* = a type of plough

<sup>14</sup> *Ipiski* = *ipizki*, *ipitz*, *mandar*

<sup>15</sup> Also *idérgie*.

<sup>16</sup> *Karobi* in standard Basque.

<sup>17</sup> *Maskillu* = *maskelu*, *pertz*, *lapiko*

<sup>18</sup> *Mailuki* in standard Basque.

<sup>19</sup> *Txabila* = *txirrika*

<sup>20</sup> *Txubelaso* = *ugaraixo*, *igel*

<sup>21</sup> *Txuxo* = *txuzo*, *txorimalo*

	sg art	pl art	no art
abs	<i>básue</i>	<i>básuek</i>	<i>básu</i>
erg	<i>básuek</i>	<i>básuek</i>	<i>básuk</i>
dat	<i>básueri</i>	<i>básueri</i>	<i>básuri</i>
adl	<i>básure</i>	<i>básuetara</i>	<i>básutara</i>

	sg art	pl art	no art
abs	<i>ollásko</i>	<i>olláskoak</i>	<i>ollásko</i>
erg	<i>olláskoak</i>	<i>olláskoak</i>	<i>olláskok</i>
dat	<i>olláskoari</i>	<i>olláskoari</i>	<i>olláskori</i>

	sg art	pl art	no art
abs	<i>belárrie</i>	<i>belárriek</i>	<i>belárri</i>
erg	<i>belárriek</i>	<i>belárriek</i>	<i>belárrik</i>
dat	<i>belárrieri</i>	<i>belárrieri</i>	<i>belárri</i>
adl	<i>belárrire</i>	<i>belárrietara</i>	<i>belárritara</i>

New words borrowed from Spanish keep their original accentuation in general: *ártea, kótxea, békea, telebisiñóa, istitútoa, unibersidádea, grabasiñóa, entrebístea, kaséta, mikrófonoa, teléfonoa, ordenadóra, gránjea...*

Some suffixes too, such as, *-garren, -tar, -en* (superlative), *-txu, -txi, -xe, -txe, -ago* and *-egi*, are marked, and they make the accent of the word fall on the preceding syllable in all forms of the paradigm, that is, they are pre-accenting. For example:

- *-garren: bígarrena, irúgarrena, saspígarrena, sortzíggarrena...*
- *-tar: dimóstarra, errítarra, bilbótarra...*
- *-en: ónena, txárrena, báltzena, gorriena, sárrena...*
- *-txu: umétxue, mutíltxue, astótxue, txarrítxue, txikítxu...*
- *-txi: neskátxie, alabátxie...*
- *-xe: onéxek, onéxeri, orráxe, onáxe, aráxe...*
- *-txe: eméntxe...*
- *-ago: andíagoa, txikíagoa, suríagoa, garbíagoa...*
- *-egi: andíegi, txikíegi, gorriegi, suríegi...*

The suffix *-dun* is also marked, but unlike those listed above, this one bears the accent: *bixerdúne, euskaldúne, erdaldúne...*

Therefore, apart from marked roots, there are also marked suffixes; but what happens with the accent when both, the marked root and the marked suffix, coincide in the same word?

The accent will be marked by the root. In those cases, the accent is not given by the suffix: *bedrátzigarren, basérritar, kánpostar, igórrestar, tálotxu, básutxu, bástuagoa, fuérteagoa, bástuegie.*

### 3.2.6. Two-syllable root words with the accent pattern of longer root words

Although there are just a short number of them, some two-syllable root words show the accent pattern of longer root words; that is, the accent falls on the last vowel of the root and not on the article:

*seme* 'son'

	sg art	pl art	no art
abs	<i>seméa</i>	<i>sémeak</i>	<i>semé</i>
erg	<i>seméak</i>	<i>sémeak</i>	<i>semék</i>
dat	<i>seméari</i>	<i>sémeari</i>	<i>seméri</i>
poss gen	<i>seméan</i>	<i>sémean</i>	<i>semén</i>
com	<i>seméagas</i>	<i>sémeakas</i>	<i>semégas</i>
caus	<i>seméagaiti(k)</i>	<i>sémeakaiti(k)</i>	<i>semégaiti(k)</i>
ben	<i>seméantzat/-tzako</i>	<i>sémeentzat/-tzako</i>	<i>seméntzat/-tzako</i>
'about'	<i>seméan ganean</i>	<i>sémeen ganean</i>	<i>semén ganean</i>
abl	<i>seméagandi(k)</i>	<i>sémeakandi(k)</i>	<i>semégandi(k)</i>
adl	<i>seméagana</i>	<i>sémeakana</i>	<i>semégana</i>
adl approx	<i>seméaganantz</i>	<i>sémeakanantz</i>	<i>seméganantz</i>
adl term	<i>seméaganaño</i>	<i>sémeakanaño</i>	<i>seméganaño</i>

*Ume* and *andra* behave like *seme*.

### 3.3. Accented and unaccented words

In Igorre Basque not all words are accented.

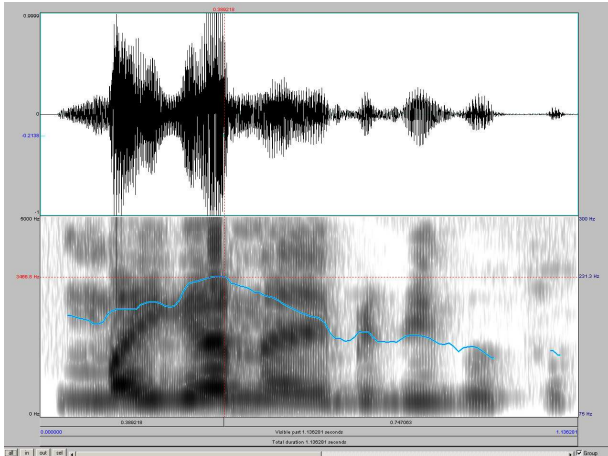
Only the last word of a prosodic unit made up of unmarked words carries an accent.

The accent rule works for unmarked words within the prosodic unit.

- gixon andié da  
mutil gasteári  
gure etzeá da  
alaba lodíe da*

The rule does not apply when the prosodic unit contains marked words, because marked words are always accented. Marked words bear a lexical accent, which means that accent is assigned at word level.

- belárri andíe  
léngusu gastéa  
léku ederrá da  
góna bellegíe*



Picture 5: *mai gánean ipinikotzut*

## 4. Description of the accentuation of verbs

### 4.1. Non-finite forms

Here are the different accent patterns of the non-finite verb forms in Igorre Basque<sup>22</sup>:

#### a. Infinitives ending in a vowel

past p	pres p	fut p
yó	yóten	yóko
erré	errétan	erréko

#### b. Infinitives ending in -n

past p	pres p	fut p
yán	yáten	yángo
yagón	yagóten	yagóngo
emón	emóten	emóngo
entzún	entzúten	entzúngo

#### c. Infinitives ending in -i

past p	pres p	fut p
así	ástén	asíko
yosí	yóstén	yosíko
ikusí	ikústén	ikusíko
ibilí	ibiltén	ibilíko
ipiní	ipintén	ipiníko

#### d. Infinitives ending in -tu

past p	pres p	fut p
artú	artzéan	artúko
kendú	kentzéan	kendúko
sartú	sartzéan	sartúko
apurtú	apúrtan <sup>23</sup>	apúrtuko
garbitú	garbítan <sup>24</sup>	garbítuko
begitú	begítuten <sup>25</sup>	begítuko

#### e. Marked non-finite forms

past p	pres p	fut p
bóta	bótaten	bótako
yáusi	yáusten	yáusiko

#### f. Infinitives containing the infix -ra-

past p	pres p	fut p
eróan <sup>26</sup>	eróaten	eróango
erákutzi	erákusten	erákutziko
erábili	erábiltén	erábiliko

#### g. Borrowed verbs

past p	pres p	fut p
ákordeu	ákordetan	ákordeuko
prégunteu	préguntetan	prégunteuko
éskapeu	éskapetan	éskapeuko

## 4.2. Marked roots and suffixes

Although there are some marked past participles (see e and f above), such as *bóta*, *yáusi*, *báskaldu*, *erábili* or *eróan*, most of them are unmarked.

The suffix *-tzean* of the present participle (see d) is marked, and it bears the accent in a similar way as the suffix *-dun* (see 3.2.5).

The two-syllable infinitives ending in *-tu* or *-du* take the suffix *-tzean*, although sometimes they can also take the suffix *-tén* by analogy:

*artzéan / artúten*  
*sartzéan / sartúten*  
*kentzéan / kendúten*

*Aginik estotzie kendúten.*

*Bustena lenao es san kendúten emen.*

*Asto emeak iten badeu biorragas sartúten, murriñoa.*

*Esan euen bera alan sartúten estoala ainbeste lagunegas kuartuen.*

<sup>22</sup> All these non-finite forms have been gathered when they are not at the end of the prosodic unit. Ex: *ikusí deu*, *ikústén deu*, *ikusíko deu*.

<sup>23</sup> Also *apúrtuten*.

<sup>24</sup> Also *garbítuten*.

<sup>25</sup> Also *begítan*.

<sup>26</sup> Also *erún* and *erán*.



*Danak or sartúten gintzesan.*

*Eureri be maña artúten yakie.*

Similarly, there are also analogical participles in *-tzean*, such as *aitzéan, pentzéan...*

*Estot pentzéan. dimen se festa eingo deurie ba?*

*Bai, pentzéan dot semean bat an dekola*

That is, analogical present participle forms happen with all types of infinitives.

The infix *-ra-* (see f) found in some non-finite forms is also marked, and it bears the accent in the same way the suffix *-tzean* of the present participle does: *erábili/erábilten/erábiliko, irákatzi/irákasten/irákatziko, erákutzi/erákusten/erákutziko...*

Besides, the suffixes *-ten* and *-ko* of the present and the future participles are pre-accenting, that is, they move the accent one syllable leftwards (see b).

In the present and future participles containing the combinations *-tu -ten* and *-tu -ko* of two-syllable verb roots, the suffix *-tu* is pre-accenting: *apúrtuten, begítuten, apúrtuko, konpónduko...*

When the verb root is monosyllabic, the accent usually falls on the suffix *-tu* (see d):

<i>apúrtuten</i>	<i>apúrtuko</i>
<i>garbítuten</i>	<i>garbítuko</i>
<i>konpónduten</i>	<i>konpónduko</i>

<i>artúten</i> <sup>27</sup>	<i>artúko</i>
<i>sartúten</i> <sup>28</sup>	<i>sartúko</i>
<i>aitúten</i>	<i>aitúko</i>

However, it can be pre-accenting on occasions, like in the pairs: *áituten/aitúten, kénduko/kendúko...*

The same can be said about the suffix *-i*: it is pre-accenting when the combination *-i -ko* takes place<sup>29</sup>:

*ibíliko*  
*ikúsíko*  
*ipíníko*

Like with the suffix *-tu*, the rule does not apply when the verb root is monosyllabic. The suffix *-i* too can bear the accent in such cases:

*bisíko*  
*itxíko*

As for the borrowed forms, although there is a tendency to move the accent back to the first syllable

(see g), the accent can appear anywhere. Hence we find the three accent patterns *ákordeu, akórdeu* or *akordéu*; likewise *ákordeetan, akórdeetan*, or *akordéetan*, etc., the most common pattern being the placement of the accent on the first syllable.

## 5. Distinctive accent in the syntax

### 5.1. The prefix *ba-* in affirmative and conditional clauses

There are characteristic accent patterns used to differentiate affirmative and conditional clauses in Igorre Basque.

In conditional clauses the accent falls on the prefix *ba-*, whereas in affirmative sentences it is placed one syllable after it.

conditional	affirmative
<i>bánoa</i>	<i>banóa</i>
<i>bánator</i>	<i>banátor</i>
<i>bánabil</i>	<i>banábil</i>
<i>bánao</i>	<i>banáo</i>

### 5.2. Imperative clauses vs completive clauses

The verb forms take the same suffix in these two cases, and the accent placement distinguishes them in Igorre Basque.

- Imperative complement clauses  
*Dátorrela arin.*  
*Ba, dáoela etzea.*
- Complement clauses  
*Ointxe datorréla esan doste.*  
*Soloan daoéla diño.*

### 5.3. Subordinate clauses vs main clauses

The auxiliary verb is accented differently in subordinate and main clauses.

- Subordinate clauses:  
*Kotxea ekarri euen gu yoan gaitesán.*  
*Pastela ekarri euen gutxan daigún.*
- Main clauses  
*Yóan gaitesan sútera.*  
*Éin daigun entrebistea.*

### 5.4. Subordinate clauses vs main clauses in the past

The accent pattern of the auxiliary verb is used to distinguish subordinate and main clauses in the past.

- Subordinate clauses in the past  
*Nik ein neuén modure egin éuen.*  
*Erderas eiten eurién les erderas ein bear.*

<sup>27</sup> *artzéan* is more common.

<sup>28</sup> *sartzéan* is more common.

<sup>29</sup> Patterns like *ikusíko* can also be found, although they are not the most common ones.

- b. Main clauses in the past  
*Gusture páseu neuen ume denporea.*  
*Arek gitxiao kóbraten eurien.*

## 6. Igorre accent vs Zeberio accent

Despite L. L. Bonaparte classified both Igorre and Zeberio Basque within the Arratia local dialect, we find it reasonable to make a comparison between those two varieties.

We choose Zeberio accent, because it is the only variety of Arratia Basque that has been studied in some depth<sup>30</sup>.

Looking at the data, we conclude that Igorre and Zeberio accents coincide except for some toponyms, words ending in *-a*, and non-finite verb forms:

### a. Toponyms

Igorre	Zeberio
<i>Sarásola</i>	<i>Sarasóla</i>

In order to explain those differences, we should gather all the toponyms and compare them, but that is not the aim of this paper.

### b. Words ending in *-a*

Igorre	Zeberio
<i>béntanak</i>	<i>bentának</i>
<i>érrékak</i>	<i>errékak</i>
<i>álabak</i>	<i>alábak</i>
<i>pátatak</i>	<i>patátak</i>
<i>sápatak</i>	<i>sapátak</i>

As mentioned in section 3.2.3, in the plural of words ending in *-a* the accent is placed two syllables earlier in Igorren Basque; in Zeberio Basque, on the contrary, the accent falls just one syllable earlier, same as in other words.

### c. Non-finite verb forms

Igorre	Zeberio
<i>apúrtuko</i>	<i>apurtúko</i>
<i>konpónduko</i>	<i>konpondúko</i>
<i>garbítuko</i>	<i>garbitúko</i>
<i>ikusíko</i>	<i>ikusíko</i>
<i>ibíliko</i>	<i>ibilíko</i>

In Igorre Basque the morpheme *-tu* is pre-accenting in the combination *-tu -ko* (exceptions can be found in monosyllabic verb roots), while in Zeberio Basque the suffix *-tu* bears the accent.

The morpheme *-i* in the combination *-i -ko* is also pre-accenting in Igorre Basque but not in Zeberio Basque.

<sup>30</sup> The data used for this paper are mostly data collected by J. M. Etxebarria (1991), Gaminde (1995), Gaminde (1998), Hualde (1992), Hualde (1997) and myself.

## 7. Conclusions

At the end of this research, we can conclude that:

Igorre accent is not a pitch-accent.

- In this local variety, accent is distinctive.
- All inflected words are accented; the inflectional morpheme marks the limits of the accentual unit, and the accent never falls to the right of it.
- Accent is not predetermined; it is assigned by means of some general rules that help determine the position and direction of the accented syllable.
- In the description of the accent placement, we need to distinguish between monosyllabic and disyllabic word roots, and word roots of three or more syllables. In word roots of three or more syllables the accent falls on the last syllable of the word root: 1]. This is also true for one or two-syllable word roots if we consider that the article or epenthetic vowel is within the accentual unit.
- In the plural the accent is placed one more syllable to the left.
- The accentual system of this local variety, unlike what happens in other varieties, cannot be described with just one formula. It is much more complex, and more than just one rule are needed to describe it wholly.

These are the rules for nouns:

- The accent is 1] in the singular and the plural.
- In the plural the accent moves one syllable to the left.
- In words ending in *-a*, the accent moves two syllables to the left in the plural.
- The ablative, the inessive and the locative genitive case suffixes are pre-accenting.
- There are some marked suffixes and roots: *-garren*, *-(s)tar*, *-en*, *-txu*, *-txi*, *-xe*, *-txe*, *-ago*, *-egi* and *-dun*.

Rules for verbs:

- The accent is 1] in non-finite forms.
- There are some marked roots, suffixes and infixes: *-tzean*, *-ra-*, *-tuten*, *-tuko* and *-iko*.

As the main conclusion, we should say that Igorre accent coincides with the description and features given in the Zeberio and Arratia subgroup of some special western systems in the classification made by Hualde (1997) and accepted by Gaminde (1998). Likewise, we

should add that Igorre accent and Zeberio accent, which belongs to the same special system and which has been studied in depth by Etxebarria (1991) and Hualde (1992), are practically equal.

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