

Standard Basque

A Progressive Grammar

Volume 1: The Grammar

Rudolf P. G. de Rijk

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This book is dedicated to the Basque people

*The bertsolari Lazkao-txiki to the Dutch guest, from a recording made August 1965 in Ormaiztegi
(in the Goierri dialect of southern Guipuzcoa):*

Baldin zuk ontzat artu badezu / Euskalerriko egona,
Gauz auxe eskatutzen dizut gaur / zu holandatar gizona:
Zabaldu zazu emengo berri / naiz txarra eta naiz ona.
Esan izkuntza zar bat badala / ia galduan dagona.

.....
Baldin zu bizi bazera eta / zartu eta emen izan,
Emen mintzoa galdu liteke, / oraintxen dijuan gixan.
Emen ezjakin gazterik bada, / zuk gazte aieri esan:
Ni gazterik etorritakuan / olaintxen itzegiten zan.

Translation:

If you have found your stay in the Basque country pleasant,
Then I ask of you today, man from Holland, this:
Make known the news from here, be it bad or good.
Say that there is an old language that is almost lost.

.....
If you live long and are here in your old age,
Our language may be lost, the way things are going.
If there are unknowing youths here, tell those young people:
When I came here as a young man, people used to speak in this way.

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