

Polish-Basque Dictionary (Project Report)

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The first Polish-Basque dictionary is in the process of preparation. The work is being carried out in the Basque Section of the Department of General and Comparative Linguistics of the Institute of Linguistics, Adam Mickiewicz University (Poznań).

The Basque language (called “Euskara” by its native speakers) is spoken by approximately 700,000 people living in the Spanish provinces of Bizkaia, Gipuzkoa, Araba and Nafarroa and nearly 100,000 in the French department of the Atlantic Pyrenées. It has a different status in each of those provinces, ranging from an official language, as it is Spanish (in Spanish department of Euskadi), to an ethnographic curiosity used for tourism purposes (in France).

The core of the dictionary represents the Euskara Batua – “the Unified Basque”, the literary Basque, while approximately one third of the entries come from other dialect varieties of the language. In order to reflect the fact that the Euskara Batua is a relatively young language and there is an extensive literature written in dialects, it is essential that the mentioned entries should be included in the dictionary.

The dictionary contains approximately 35,000 entries in each section (Basque-Polish and Polish-Basque). Most of the words are illustrated with free and phraseological word-combinations: phrases, idioms, proverbs and sayings. Sample sentences illustrating the words’ meaning in a typical context are provided and the dictionary incorporates not only linguistic but also cultural information. Besides the dictionary itself, the volume contains a short grammatical sketch of Basque.

The Basque-Polish part of the dictionary is primarily based upon the data collected and prepared by the group of Basque linguist researchers *Bostak Bat*. It has been updated and follows the latest recommendations of the *Euskaltzaindia* (Academy of the Basque Language). The word list of Batua is taken from *Batua Hiztegia* – the official Batua word list published by *Euskaltzaindia*.

There are 9 members in the Polish team working in the project, all of them have started learning Basque at the Adam Mickiewicz University while studying Linguistics or Spanish Philology and were perfecting their language skills on intensive courses organised in the Basque Country by *Aurten Bai Foundation*. The raw data, including sample sentences, are taken from the electronic databases of Basque literature, press publications and consulted with native speakers of Basque.

The dictionary is intended for learners of, respectively, Basque and Polish, as well as for Polish linguists who are working on the Basque language, and for all those who are interested in this language. The project will be finished by 2003.