

# Two more Uhlenbeck memories (and more Basque parallels)

W. WILFRIED SCHUHMACHER\*

## I. ETRUSCAN AND BASQUE

Already in 1927, C. C. Uhlenbeck pointed to the existence of fossilized remnants of earlier class markers in Basque (viz. the prefix *be-/bi-* to denote body parts; cf. *be-tarri* “ear” or *bi-hotz* “heart”). Today, within the framework of Macro-Caucasian (Basque, Caucasian, Burushaski) further prefixes can be added (which therefore are similar to the system in Niger-Congo languages). Thus, a prefix *a-* has been reconstructed classifying persons and animals:

Cf. Basque: *a-ita* “father”, *a-hizpa* “sister”, *a-tso* “old woman”, *a-xuri* “lamb”.

Going through the limited accessible text material from Etruscan, I even found here evidence of an earlier prefix *a-*: *a-ti* “mother”, *a-pa* “ancestor”, *a-is* “god”. (Cp. also intangible *a-vil* “year” and Basque *a-din* “age!”).

There is another Etruscan-Basque parallel, as there may even be “Anklänge” of an ergative in Etruscan, with a rectus and an obliquus casus (i.e., genitive-dative, or “ergative”); cf. *clan*, “son” *-clen-si*; *clen-ar* “sons” *- clen-ar-si*.

## II. “IRON” IN BASQUE (AND OTHER LANGUAGES)

At the turn of the 18th to the 19th century, 41 chemical elements were known; in 1900 84; later 92; and today about 110. The seven ancient me-

\* Centro de Investigación Risø, Dinamarca.

tals were: gold, silver, mercury, copper, iron, tin, lead - to which the two non-metals carbon and sulfur have to be added.

Already Friedrich Ratzel (1912) pointed out the importance of iron (Fe; element 26; atomic weight: 55.847) in human development (the border between countries with iron and those without coinciding with the borders of other ethnographical fields, such as that of livestock production versus non-production for instance). Generally, when a non-iron society had contact with an iron society, together with the Sache also the Wort was borrowed. Thus, Germanic \**isarna-* "iron" (Gothic *eisarn*; Old Norse *járn*, with breaking) is a Celtic loan word (Celtic *isarno-*), probably dating from the common period in the Alpine areas between ancient Italy and Gaul where Celtic, Germanic, Raetic, Illyrian, Ligurian, Italic and perhaps pre-Indo-European all met in a ancient linguistic mosaic.

C. C. Uhlenbeck (1903:48) in his dealing with the Basque dialectal variants of "iron", thinks that *burdin* > (\**burnin* >) *burni*, even suggesting that *burdin* > *burrin-*. Latin *ferrum* probably is of southeast Asiatic origin; cf. also Hebrew and Phoenician *barzel-* even the form from where Basque *burdin* is derived? (Or from Latin *ferrum*, with *f* > *b*, and vowel metathesis?). Surely, *burdin* is not related to Spanish *hierro*, i.e. ['jero] (< *ferro*), where Nebrija in 1492 mentions that *f* has been replaced by *h*-, even supported by Valdés in the beginning of the 16th century, i.e. *h*- is pronounced as a glottal fricative. *h*- disappears in Castile during the 16th century and today's pronunciation, with breaking of /e/, was already the norm around 1600. There seems therefore to be no basis to link *burdin* to *hierro*.

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### III. CAUCASIAN AND BASQUE: PRONOMINAL PARALLELISM

1. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI:  
 LAK "na" (= I); DARGIN "nu" ("nuni") (= I) =  
 BASQUE "ni" (= I);
2. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI:  
 DARGIN (KHAYDAK) "i" (= thou) =  
 BASQUE "i" (= thou);
3. NORTHWEST CAUCASIAN:  
 UBYKH "u-" (= thou) =  
 BASQUE "i" (= thou);
4. SOUTH CAUCASIAN:  
 MINGRELIAN "si" (= thou); SVAN "si" (= thou) =  
 BASQUE "zu" (= thou);

5. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI:  
AVAR “hal’a” (= he); AGUL “hali” (= he) =  
BASQUE “hura” (= he);
6. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI:  
ANDI “ul’ō” (= he); KHVARSHI “il’e” (= he) =  
BASQUE “ure” (= he);
7. NORTHWEST CAUCASIAN:  
KABARDI “ar” (= this); ADYGE “ar” (= that) =  
BASQUE “ure (= he), “arek” (= they);
8. SOUTH CAUCASIAN:  
SVAN “al(a)” (= this) =  
BASQUE “ure” (= he);
9. NORTHWEST CAUCASIAN:  
ABKHAZ “ha” (= we); ABAZA “ha” (= we) =  
BASQUE “gu” (= we);
10. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI:  
RUTUL “zhu” (= you); TSAKHUR “shu” (= you); LAK “zu” (= you);  
CHECHEN “su” (= you); INGUSH “su” (= your); BATS “su” (= you) =  
BASQUE “zu” (= you);
11. NORTHWEST CAUCASIAN:  
ADYGE “so” (= you); UBYKH “s<sup>s</sup>i-” (= you) =  
BASQUE “zu” (= you);
12. NORTHWEST CAUCASIAN:  
UBYKH “wała” (= those) =  
BASQUE “berak” (= they);
13. NORTHWEST CAUCASIAN:  
ABKHAZ “dara” (= they); ABAZA “dara” (= they) =  
BASQUE “berak” (= they).

### Negative

1. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI:  
GUNZIB “-īs” (= not) =  
BASQUE “ez” (= not);
2. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI:  
GODOBERI “-ičha” (=not); BEZHITI “-eche” (=not); AVAR  
“he: č’o” (= not) =  
BASQUE “eko” (= not);
3. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI:  
AKHVAKH “-ka-be” (= not) =  
BASQUE “gabe” (= without).

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IV. BASQUE-BERBER PARALLELS

1. BASQUE “sudur” (= nose) = BERBER “šḍu” (= to smell);
2. BASQUE “zaldi” (= horse) = BERBER “(a-)sarḍun” (= mule);
3. BASQUE “alaba” (= daughter) = BERBER “(t-)arḥa(-tt) (= girl);
4. BASQUE “eko” (= no) = BERBER “aha” (= no);
5. BASQUE “erre” (= to burn) = KABYLE “ereḡ” (= to burn);
6. BASQUE “izeki” (= to burn, to blaze) = KABYLE “ezzu” (= to burn);
7. BASQUE “ezti”, “eztitsu” (= sweet) = KABYLE “iḥid” (= to be sweet);
8. BASQUE “uztartu” (= to join) = KABYLE “erdi” (= to join);
9. BASQUE “estu” (= compact) = KABYLE “ezḥeḥ” (= to be compact);
10. BASQUE “zekor” (= young bull) = KABYLE “(a-)zger” (= cattle);
11. BASQUE “zilindu” (= to flow slowly) = KABYLE “zzerzer” (= to flow);
12. BASQUE “egin” (= to do) = KABYLE “eg” (=to do);
13. BASQUE “uko egin” (= to deny, to refuse) = KABYLE “agwi” (= to refuse, to deny);
14. BASQUE “ille” (=hair), “illetsu” (= hairy) = KABYLE “erric” (= hair);
15. BASQUE “irra” (= dance) = KABYLE “urar” (= dance);
16. BASQUE “sakan” (= gorge, canyon) = KABYLE “(a-)saka” (= ford, gully).

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V. “HEAD”, A GLOBAL ETYMOLOGY

1. PAPUAN YELETNYE (= southeastern Papua-Niugini) “kaḥl” (=fore-head);
2. PAPUAN AHEAVE (= Papua-Niugini) “haro” (= head);
3. PAPUAN KEURU (= Papua-Niugini) “haro” (= head);
4. PAPUAN OPAO (= Papua-Niugini) “haro” (= head);
5. PAPUAN OROKOLO (= Papua-Niugini) “haro” (= head);
6. PAPUAN UARIPI (= Papua- Niugini) “haro” (= head);
7. PAPUAN MARIA (= Southeastern Papua-Niugini) “kiri’a” (= head);
8. PAPUAN KAIPI (= Papua-Niugini) “harofave” (= head);
9. PAPUAN TOARIPI (= Papua-Niugini) “harofave” (= head);
10. PAPUAN SEPOE (= Papua-Niugini) “harokuku” (= head);
11. PAPUAN YIDINY (= Queensland) “dalu” (= forehead);
12. PAPUAN BIAMI (= Papua-Niugini) “taluba” (= head);
13. PAPUAN ENGA (= Papua-Niugini) “kalápae” (= headdress /: part of /);

14. ETHNICALLY-PAPUAN AUSTRONESIAN DAHUNI (= Papua-Niugini) “kulu-gu” (= head);
15. ETHNICALLY-PAPUAN AUSTRONESIAN CEAMAMANIA (= Papua-Niugini) “kulu-gu” (= head);
16. ETHNICALLY-PAPUAN AUSTRONESIAN LEILEIAFA (= Papua-Niugini) “kulu-gu” (= head);
17. ETHNICALLY-PAPUAN AUSTRONESIAN BOLOWAI (= Papua-Niugini) “Kulu-gu” (= head);
18. ETHNICALLY-PAPUAN AUSTRONESIAN FIJIAN “koro” (= upper part of the head);
19. ETHNICALLY-PAPUAN AUSTRONESIAN KWAIO (= Malaita in the Solomon Islands) “dala” (= forehead);
20. ETHNICALLY-PAPUAN AUSTRONESIAN LAU (= Malaita in the Solomon Islands) “dara” (= forehead);
21. ETHNICALLY-PAPUAN AUSTRONESIAN WABO (= northwestern Irian Jaya) “durere” (= head); (see MONGOLIAN No. 40);
22. ETHNICALLY-PAPUAN AUSTRONESIAN MOTU (= Papua-Niugini) “kwara” (= head); (see INDIC CENTRAL PAHĀRĪ, KUMAUNĪ No. 45);
23. AUSTRONESIAN CHAM (= Vietnam) “hàluv” (= head);
24. TIBETO-BURMESE YĀDWIN “k'à-luk-kwai” (= head); (see MONGOLIAN No. 41);
25. TIBETO-BURMESE ANĀL “ka-lū-chē” (= head); (see TRANS-PACIFIC ESKIMO No. 43);
26. TIBETO-BURMESE TIPURĀ “k'ö-rök” (= head);
27. TIBETO-BURMESE ANDRO “hū-rañ” (= head);
28. TIBETO-BURMESE KADU “ha'làn” (= head);
29. TIBETO-BURMESE BODO (or BĀRĀ) “k'ā-rā” (= head);
30. TIBETO-BURMESE DĪMĀ-SĀ “kō-rō” (= head);
31. TIBETO-BURMESE MIŠMI, DIGĀRŪ “kūrū” (= head);
32. TIBETO-BURMESE MO-S'Ō “kūlü” (= head);
33. TIBETO-BURMESE KŌM “ka-lū” (= head);
34. TIBETO-BURMESE HLŌTĀ “kurr” (= head);
35. TIBETO-BURMESE GURUNG “kra” (= head);
36. TIBETO-BURMESE MĀGARĪ “tā-lu” (= head);
37. AUSTROASIATIC WĀR (= Assam) “k'liä” (= head);
38. AUSTROASIATIC K'ĀSĪ (= Assam) “k'lt” (= head);
39. AUSTROASIATIC AINU (= Hokkaido) “keoro”, “kioro” (= brain);
- 39.a. AUSTROASIATIC MON (= Burma) “halang” (= crown of the head);
- 39.b. CENTRAL ASIAN KOTT (= Sayan Mountains) “karakh” (= forehead);
40. MONGOLIAN “toloγai” (= head); (see ETHNICALLY-PAPUAN AUSTRONESIAN WABO No. 21);
41. MONGOLIAN SAUKPĀ “t'olā-gwai” (= head); (see TIBETO-BURMESE YĀDWIN No. 24);

42. LUORAWETLAN KAMCHADAL (= Kamchatka) “xewl” (= fishheads);
43. TRANS-PACIFIC ESKIMO (= Hudson Bay) “karetak” (= brain); (see TIBETO-BURMESE ANĀL No. 25);
44. TRANS-PACIFIC QHESHA (= Bolivia) “qalla” (= cheek);
45. TRANS-PACIFIC MAYA (= southeastern Mexico) “hool” (=face);
46. INDIC CENTRAL PAHĀRĪ, KUMAUNĪ “k’wàro” (= head); (see ETHNICALLY-PAPUAN AUSTRONESIAN MOTU No. 22);
47. INDIC KĀŚMĪRĪ “kala”, “hīr” (=head);
48. INDIC ŚĪŪNĪ “kāl”, “kāl” (= head);
49. INDIC SARĪKOLĪ “kāl”, “kal”, (= head);
50. INDIC TADZHĪK “kalla” (= head);
51. INDIC MALDIVIAN DIVEHI “kōr” (= cheek);
52. INDIC KĀT’IYĀWĀDĪ “tālā” (= head);
53. DRAVIDIAN TAMIL “tali” (= head);
54. DRAVIDIAN KORAVA “teli” (= head);
55. DRAVIDIAN KAIKĀDĪ “t’āl” (= head);
56. DRAVIDIAN IRULA “tēlē” (= head);
57. DRAVIDIAN MALAYALAM “tal” (= head);
58. DRAVIDIAN KANNADA “tal” (= head);
59. DRAVIDIAN BADAGA “tālē” (= head);
60. DRAVIDIAN TUḶU “tare” (= head);
61. DRAVIDIAN GŌNDĪ “talā” (= head);
62. DRAVIDIAN TELUGU “tal” (= head);
63. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI TABASSARAN “kūl” (= head);
64. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI AGUL “kīl” (= head);
65. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI RUTUL “q ul” (= head);
66. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI KRAZ “q al” (= head);
67. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI LEZGI “q il” (= head);
68. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI BUDUKH “t̄ᵛ aḷ” (= head);
69. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI CHECHEN “korta” (= head); (see SYRIAN ARAMAIC No. 84 + CUSHITIC BOGO No. 86 + BASQUE-INFLUENCED EUROPEAN CATALAN No. 95);
70. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI ARCHI “kart̄i” (= head); (see SYRIAN ARAMAIC No. 84 + CUSHITIC BOGO No. 86 + BASQUE-INFLUENCED EUROPEAN CATALAN No. 95);
71. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI ANDI “kher̄to” (= occiput); (see SYRIAN ARAMAIC No. 84 + CUSHITIC BOGO No. 86 + BASQUE-INFLUENCED EUROPEAN CATALAN No. 95);

72. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI TABASSARAN “khert” (= occiput); (see SYRIAN ARAMAIC No. 84 + CUSHITIC BOGO No. 86 + BASQUE-INFLUENCED EUROPEAN CATALAN No. 95);
73. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI AGUL “gardan” (= occiput); (see SYRIAN ARAMAIC No. 84 + CUSHITIC BOGO No. 86 + BASQUE-INFLUENCED EUROPEAN CATALAN No. 95);
74. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI KRAZ “gardan” (= occiput); (see SYRIAN ARAMAIC No. 84 + CUSHITIC BOGO No. 86 + BASQUE-INFLUENCED EUROPEAN CATALAN No. 95);
75. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI ANDI “gorzu” (= cheek); (see SYRIAN ARAMAIC No. 84 + CUSHITIC BOGO No. 86 + BASQUE-INFLUENCED EUROPEAN CATALAN No. 95);
76. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI TABASSARAN “gartsal” (= cheek); (see SYRIAN ARAMAIC No. 84 + CUSHITIC BOGO No. 86 + BASQUE-INFLUENCED EUROPEAN CATALAN No. 95);
77. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI TSAKHUR “kal<sub>7</sub>e” (= head);
78. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI LEZGI “kel<sub>7</sub>e” (= man’s head);
79. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI DARGIN “wela” (= occiput);
80. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI TABASSARAN “kele”, “kel<sub>7</sub>e” (= skull);
81. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI KRAZ “ka<sub>7</sub>ṛa”, (= skull);
82. EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI AVAR “ka<sub>7</sub>ṛ<sup>8</sup>en”, (= cheek);
83. BERBER (= northwestern Africa) “(a-)kelkel” (= brains), “qa<sub>7</sub>ṛu” (=head);
84. SYRIAN ARAMAIC (= Syria) “gulgulto” (= skull); (see EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI Nos. 69-76) + (see CUSHITIC BOGO No. 86);
85. ISRAELI HEBREW “galgol(ε<sub>th</sub>)” (= skull); (see EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI Nos. 69-76)+ (see CUSHITIC BOGO No. 86);
86. CUSHITIC BOGO (= northwestern Africa) “kirkirta” (= head); (see EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI Nos. 69-76)+ (see SYRIAN ARAMAIC No. 84);
87. CUSHITIC SAHO (= northeastern Africa) “kalkale” (= head); (see BERBER no. 83);
88. CHADIC NJEI “kirre” (= head);
89. CHADIC MODGEL “gol” (= head);
90. CHADIC MARGI “kir” (= head);

91. SUDANIC BAREA “kele” (= head);
92. SUDANIC BERTAT “kulu” (= head);
93. SUDANIC MORU “kuru” (= up);
94. EUROPEAN ICELANDIC “heili” (= brain), “kollur” (= head);
95. EUROPEAN CATALAN “galta” (= cheek); (see EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI Nos. 69-76 by way of Caucasian-related composite Basque); “clepsa” (= skull), “cara” (= face);
96. EUROPEAN ALBANIAN “krýe” (= krüe); (= head), “krerë” (:krerö) (= head/: livestock/);
97. EUROPEAN CZECH “hlava” (= head);
98. EUROPEAN POLISH “głowa” (= head);
99. EUROPEAN RUSSIAN “golova” (=head);
100. EUROPEAN-INFLUENCED BULGARIAN “glava” (=head);
101. YEMEN-BASED DRAVIDIAN AND EAST CAUCASIAN NAKHO-DAGHESTANI-INFLUENCED CARIAN SUBSTRATUM OF GREEK “kára” (= head, skull).

#### LABURPENA

I. Bai etrurierak bai euskerak honako bi ezaugarri gramatikal hauek dituzte: pertsonen dagokien *a*- aurrezia eta daitekeen ergatiboa.

II. *Burdin* euskal hitzaren etimologia ez da segurua oraindik ere (Asiako maileru bat, ziur aski).

III. Euskal herriak eta hizkuntzak, Ekialde Erdetik zetozenak, zibilizazioaren lehenengo sakabanaketa aroan Pirineoetara iritsi zirelako nabaritasun lexikal gehiagorik badago.

IV. Pirineoetako euskal hizkuntz berrien eta Gibraltarreko itsasartez beste aldeko hizkuntz berberiarren arteko oinarrizko hiztegiaren paralelismo lexikalen adibideak aurkezten dira. Hizkuntz berberiar horiek zibilizazioaren sakabanaketa lehenengo arokoak dira.

V. Goian aipatutako “homo sapiens”-en oinarrizko hiztegiaren erlikiak banaketa unibertsal bat daukate. “Homo sapiens”-en sakabanaketa orain sei mila (6.000) urte baino hurbilago gertatuko zen.

Aldizkako unibertsalitateak konparatzeko balioa kentzen dio oinarrizko hiztegiari eta, aldi berean, gertakizun historiko goizetikoak mugatzen ditu. Horren ordez, beraz, nortasun kultural, gramatikal eta hiztegiokoak indartu behar dira.

#### RESUMEN

I. El prefijo *a*- referido a personas y la posible existencia de un ergativo constituyen características gramaticales comunes al etrusco y al vasco.

II. La etimología de la voz vasca *burdin*, etc. hierro es todavía incierta (probablemente un préstamo de Asia).



III. Existe más evidencia léxica de que los pueblos y lenguas vascas, procedentes del Oriente Medio, alcanzaron los Pirineos durante el período de la primera diseminación de la civilización.

IV. Se ofrecen ejemplos de paralelismos léxicos del vocabulario básico entre las nuevas lenguas vascas de los Pirineos y las lenguas bereberes al otro lado del Estrecho de Gibraltar, que se remontan al primer período de la diseminación de la civilización.

V. Las reliquias del vocabulario básico del “homo sapiens”, como arriba se indica, tienen una distribución universal. La dispersión del “homo sapiens” tendría una antigüedad de menos de seis mil años (6.000).

La universalidad intermitente resta el valor del vocabulario básico con fines comparativos a la vez que delimita acontecimientos históricos tempranos. Por consiguiente, se deben enfatizar en su lugar las idiosincrasias culturales, de vocabulario y de gramática.

## RÉSUMÉ

I. Le préfixe *-a* référé aux personnes et la possible existence d'un ergatif constituent des caractéristiques grammaticales communes à l'étrusque et au basque.

II. L'Étymologie de la voix basque *burdin*, etc. fer est encore incertaine (probablement un prêt de l'Asie).

III. Il existe plus d'évidence lexicale pour dire que les peuples et les langues basques, provenant du Moyen Orient, atteignirent les Pyrénées au cours de la période de la première dissémination de la civilisation.

IV. On peut voir des exemples de parallélismes lexiques du vocabulaire basique entre les nouvelles langues basques des Pyrénées et les langues berbères de l'autre rivage du détroit de Gibraltar, qui remontent à la première période de la dissémination de la civilisation.

V. Les reliques du vocabulaire basique de l'"homo sapiens", comme indiqué antérieurement, ont une distribution universelle. La dispersion de l'"homo sapiens" serait vieille de six mille ans (6.000).

L'université intermittente amenuise la valeur du vocabulaire basique a des fins comparatives, en même temps qu'elle délimite les événements historiques primaires. Par conséquent, à leur place doivent être exagérées les idiosyncrasies culturelles du vocabulaire et de la grammaire.

## SUMMARY

I. Prefix *a-* denoting persons and the possible existence of an ergative are grammatical features that Etruscan has in common with Basque.

II. The etymology of Basque *burdin*, etc. "iron" is still uncertain (probably a loan from Asia).

III. There is (further) lexical evidence that the Basque peoples and languages reached the Pyrenean Mountains from the Middle East during the period of the early spread of civilization.

IV. Examples are given for lexical parallels of the basic vocabulary between the incoming Basque languages in the Pyrenean Mountains and the Berber languages across the Gibraltar Straits, dating from the early period of the spread of civilization.

V. The relics of the basic vocabulary of "homo sapiens", as noted above, have a universal distribution. The dispersal of "homo sapiens" should have a time-depth of less than six thousand (6000) years.

Intermittent universality detracts from the value of the basic vocabulary for comparative purposes while outlining early historical events. Consequently, the cultural vocabulary and grammatical idiosyncrasies deserve emphasis instead.