

The Basque radio in the Spanish and French Radio Broadcasting Systems

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1. Introduction

The fundamental relevance of media organizations in the constant (re)construction and development of a community, with all its elements and subtleties, is undisputed. Now and here, going further than the classical watchdog, correlation, transmission and entertainment functions, we want to stress the importance media have on the development of minority languages and, complementarily, on the empowerment of their communities in terms of shared public opinion and sphere, identity, and network of relations with majority language speakers as well.

But for the accomplishment of those functions in any given society it is necessary to have a sound and sufficient group of media system in press and broadcasting. Something that is usually achieved in the case of majority languages, but casts many doubts in communities where their own speech is minority and / or has been "lessened" by socio-political factors of diverse type. In fact, the number and quality of media outlets is, among others, a significant indicator to determine the dynamism a community has in relation to its language and culture. The existence of a consolidated media system means those important social functions are fulfilled. Unfortunately, in most minority language communities it does not exist or its development is deficient

Herbert Hans (1979) said in his quoted study that journalists act as "constructors of nation and society" and as "managers of the symbolic arena". By extension, Zabaleta and alter (2008) apply those functions to the information and content produced by journalists and media organizations. Consequently, they consider the existence of media in minority languages, guarantee the creation and transmission of the national identity.

The objective of the present paper is the study of the radio system living in and serving in the Basque minority language community. The Basque Language Community, politically divided in two states (Spain and France), is located in the Basque Autonomous Region (called Euskadi), Navarre and the northern Basque Country or French Basque Country. The total number of speakers is over 700,000 in a population of 2 million inhabitants.

In this paper, we present the Basque radio map, where Basque is a minority Language and the most stations are using Spanish and French over those who used Basque languages. We also present an inventory of existing stations in Basque language and set the type of the radio station in regard to (1) the quantity, (2) ownership (private, public and social), (3) distribution and (4) potential audience.

2. Literature

The authoress of this paper has written a book on History of Basque Radio Broadcasting (2003) and has written several articles on the situation of stations in the Basque language, because this is one of the main fields of her research. Also in the Basque Country University studies we can find the works written by the lectures Teresa Santos (1999) and Carmen Peñafiel, who, however, focus more on the bilingual stations located in the Basque Autonomous Community. In the other hand, we can find the studies written by Albillo and Sánchez Aranda (1995) focused on the history of the Radio in Navarre.

3. Method

The general method of this paper can be included in the category of what is called *multi-case studies* (Hsia 1988), in which a basic common procedure is set up and various techniques employed to gather information from different sources in each of the cases under analysis.

In this study, the author has focused on monolingual stations in the Basque language. The monolingual minority language medium was operationally defined as a news organization with 70% or more of content/programming in the minority language, general or specialized information content; available to the general or local public and not only to associates or members of an organization (Zabaleta et alter, 2010).

The variable of ownership, referred to the organization that manages the radio station, is labelled as public (owned by public institutions), private (owned by for-profit companies) and social (owned by not-for-profit social organizations). The variable of diffusion is condensed in three categories: local, for organizations whose reach is limited to towns or municipalities; regional spread to the provinces, regions or the Basque language community, and general for those whose de mean program is the same for the entire state or more of a linguistic community.

4. Results

4.1. Classification of radio stations by ownership

4.1.1. Public stations

In Spain, being a highly decentralised country, three public radio broadcasting systems coexist: a national broadcasting (RNE), that can be listened all around Spain and have four programming; many autonomic radio stations, only broadcasted within their respective Autonomous Community, and local public radios, managed by councils (no all of them have radio services).

Following World War II, the RTF (French Television and Radio broadcasting) was created to operate the radio and television in France. The RTF was transformed into ORTF in 1964, and today it manage six radio channels around France; only one, France Blue, has regional programming during certain times of day.

Table 1: PUBLIC RADIO STATIONS

	Alava		Guipuzcoa		Biscay		Navarre		Basque-French Region		Total Basque Community	
	Total stations	In Basque	Total stations	In Basque	Total stations	In Basque	Total stations	In Basque	Total stations	In Basque	Total stations	In Basque
General diffusion	4	0	4	0	4	0	4	0	6	0	10 ¹	0
Regional diffusion	1	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	2
Local diffusion	2	0	5	5	9	1	9	4	0	0	25	10

With regard to public radio, in the Basque Country there are four chains within the Basque Radio and Television. Both of them offer traditional or general programming: Radio Euskadi and Euskadi Irratia. The first broadcast in Castilian language from Bilbao, but in Álava shares many slots with Radio Vitoria and Radio Rioja Alavesa. Euskadi Irratia, however, offers the usual grill from San Sebastian in Basque. These two were joined Gaztea Euskadi in 1990, that offers a music program for young people EITB in 2001 launched a chain called EITB Irratia, but wants to offer a special formula based on the choice of music, still has not got a personality. With emission permitsonly for the Basque Autonomous Community, those radio stations can be listened to in whole linguistic community.

Besides these, in the Basque dial can be tuned four chains operated by National Radio of Spain, RNE Radio 1, which offers a traditional program with no local windows, Radio Clásica, radio formula about classical music, Radio 3 the shadow of the radio project was so successful that in the eighties and wanted to provide a space for culture, and Radio 5 Tdonoticias, which provides a formula based on the information. Following the demise of Radio 4 regional chain, the chains do not provide any content in Basque language and the most of programs are ... from Madrid and only a few programs are made in the Basque Country.

. In Navarre it is not regional or national public station in Basque language, but is received the signal from the public broadcaster of the Basque Autonomous Community, thanks to a relay station installed by a group of citizens of Navarre.

France Blue Radio, French station offers some programs in Basque language, but most of the contents are in French language.

Referring to the local radio, there are very few in the Basque Autonomous Community and Navarre some more. There is no local radio station in the French Basque Country. Although in the early years of democracy, many municipalities boosted local stations, only three local authorities requested a broadcasting license when it issued a decree authorizing him (Getxo,

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Although there is a station in each province, there is only one program for all of them.

Oñati and Arrasate). Currently there are 6 municipalities directly or indirectly manage a radio station in Guipúzcoa (Oñate, Arrasate, Villabona, Idiazabal Beasain Oiartzun), two in Alava (Agurain and Laguardia) and 9 in Bizkaia (Bermeo, Getxo, Gorkiz, Durango, Elorrio , Turtzioz, Zalla, Galdakao and Basauri). In Guipuzcoa all of the stations speak in Basque language; only one of the stations located in Biscay and none from Alava.

In Navarre, there are nine local radio stations, more than half of them in Basque language: Esan-Erran in Basaburua, Aralar in Lekunberri, Beleixe in Jauntsarats, Karrape in Leitza and Irati Irratia in Irati; also has four other broadcasting license municipalities (Pamplona, Artajona, Berriozar, Marcilla and Fontellas), but none of them have programs in Basque language.

4.1.2 Private stations

In Spain coexist a public and a private broadcasting network. Understood as an essential public service, the State laws on broadcasting, but the autonomous governments give licenses in each community; In Euskadi, the Basque government, and the government of Navarre in the Autonomous Community of Navarre. In addition, plenty of radio stations broadcast despite not having a license. Many of these pirate radio stations are located in the Basque language community.

After World War II, French state retained radio broadcasting monopoly and private radios were forbidden; however, commercial stations broadcasted from across the border of Germany; Monac or Luxemburg. In 1981, following pressure from the independent and commercial radio lobbies and pirate broadcasters, the president Mitterrand allowed the licensing of "free" or "pirate" radio stations. Later, in 1982, Fillioud law abolished the state monopoly. Initially, radio are financed by a state subsidy and then financed by commercial advertising, and finally to group themselves into national networks. On other hand, a private radio sector broadcasting from within French borders is reborn.

Table 2: PRIVATE RADIO STATIONS

	Alava		Guipuzcoa		Biscay		Navarre		Basque-French Region		Total Basque Community	
	Total stations	In Basque	Total stations	In Basque	Total stations	In Basque	Total stations	In Basque	Total stations	In Basque	Total stations	In Basque
General diffusion	16	0	17	0	22	0	17	0	8	0	33 ¹	0
Regional diffusion	5	0	2	1	5	1	1	0	1	0	7 ²	2
Local diffusion	0	0	6	0	5	0	7	2	0	0	18	2

¹ Although some radios have stations in each province, it repeats the same program in all of them.

² The programming of five regional stations (Onda Vasca, NGR, Radio 7, Bizkaia Irratia and Arrate) are listened to on more than one province.

In regard to private radio stations broadcasting, no commercial radio of general diffusion offers programs in Basque Language. Most Spanish radio channels have stations in all the Basque provinces located in Spain. In almost all of them offer the same program, although at certain times provide local information, but there is no content in Basque language, only some institutional advertisements. As noted by Professor Ramon Zallo (2003) in the paper on the status of the audiovisual communication in the Autonomous Basque Community, only 3% of commercial FM radio stations speak in Basque language.

In fact, they are only two stations speaking in Basque language in the Basque Autonomous Community, and other two in Navarre. All of them are regional or local.

In Euskadi, Arrate Irratia broadcast from Eibar (Guipuzcoa), since 1959. Born into a church, is one of the few radios that broadcasted some of its programming in Basque during the Franco regime. (for religious purposes). Its signal reaches of Guipuzcoa and Vizcaya (about 100,000 people can listen to). In Biscay, Bizkaia Irratia is another commercial radio, whit a program in Basque language and it broadcasts to Biscay and a part of Alava (about 150,000 potential listeners).

Xorroxin Irratia from Lesaca and Elizondo is the only Basque commercial radio with license to broadcast, because the other commercial radio, Euskalerrria Irratia, in Pamplona, didn't get a license, although it was the only station in Basque language presented for the whole region.

No commercial radio speaks in Basque language in Basque-French Region. Until the early eighties there were no private radio stations in France. Today, in addition to public radio, private broadcasters can be heard, but only one commercial station is in the northern Basque Country; as discussed below, in French region, most of local stations are associational.

4.1.3. Social radios

Table 3: SOCIAL RADIO STATIONS												
	Alava		Guipuzcoa		Biscay		Navarre		Basque-French Region		Total Basque Community	
	Total stations	In Basque	Total stations	In Basque	Total stations	In Basque	Total stations	In Basque	Total stations	In Basque	Total stations	In Basque
National diffusion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Regional diffusion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Local diffusion	3	0	9	8	9	6	3	0	6	4	30	18

To complete the map of the radio in the Basque Linguistic Community, we mention a third sector of broadcasting. Free, associational or social radios; those are different names to describe similar radio projects. However, it is distinguished by certain nuances, despite having many common characteristics: these radios are non-profit projects managed by cultural or political associations (no parties) and usually self-managed by their members or workers.

There are no social radio stations of general or regional diffusion, so all of them are local, so a few people can listen to them. In recent years, and thanks to the Internet, some of these social radios share contents and programs both among themselves and with other national and international social broadcasters.

Special case is the social radios locating in French or Northern Basque Country. French law divides radio stations in 5 categories: categories C, D and E correspond to stations of state diffusion; category B integrates independent commercial stations of regional or local diffusion, and, finally, there are cultural and scholar radios in category A.

Most associational radios, four, of category A in Northern Basque Country are in Basque language, and the other two are bilingual radios (Basque and French). Last years, the Basque radio stations -Antxeta, Gure Irratia, Xuberoko Boza eta Irulegiko Irratia- have partnered to offer one program jointly under the name Euskal Irratiak (Basque Radios).

4.2. Radio stations by type of contents

	GENERAL CONTENT				SPECIALIZED CONTENT			
	Southern Basque Country		Northern Basque Country		Southern Basque Country		Northern Basque Country	
	Total stations	In Basque	Total stations	In Basque	Total stations	In Basque	Total stations	In Basque
Public radios	30	11	2	0	4	1	4	0
Private radios	22	4	1	0	28	0	8	0
Social radios	23	13	6	4	1	1	0	0

As for the type of content, radio stations are divided into general content and specialized contents. Program of general content stations includes different types of programs: news, talk shows, quizzes, sports, etc... However, specialized radio stations can be classified according to their format as music radio, old time radio, all-news radio, sports radio, economic radio or weather radio...

Major radio organizations include stations of general and specialized contents. Some of these comprehend different styles of music radio (ethnic, young, folk, rock) or thematic contents (economy, sport...).

5. Discussion

1st conclusion: On the one hand, the Basque radio map shows a dominance of the radio in French and Spanish over Basque-language radio. We can observe the almost absence of major commercial stations in the minority language. This is due to the non-requirement of the

use of Basque by commercial radio as the case in Catalonia, where law establishes a minimum quota in that language.

2nd conclusion: Most of public radio stations broadcast is in major languages (Spanish and French) and only the Basque Government managed two stations in Basque language (one of general content, *Euskadi Irratia*, and other of music format for young people, *Gazteak*).

3rd conclusion: On the other hand, we observe that most of the Basque Radio is public or social, and many of them have local coverage. For this reason, in recent years these small stations have set up networks using the Internet to join forces and be taken into account.

Moreover, in regard to social radios, even if they aren't monolingual (in Basque), they use Basque language in their programming in a percentage ranging between 30% and 50%.

4th conclusion: Also, half of the local public radio uses Basque language in their programming, especially in localities where this language is spoken by more speakers. The Basque law about local public radio establishes a minimum quota in the Basque language to give broadcast licenses. As well, these radios use the Basque language because of greater proximity with the public.

5th conclusion: Finally, there are no radios of specialized content -except Basque public radio, *Gazteak*, and a local station in San Sebastian, *Ttan Ttakun*-. In fact, while listeners can choose different schedules in majority languages (French or Spanish), the choice in the Basque language is limited to programs of general content,

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