

Preface

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**Grammatical Analyses in Basque and Romance Linguistics:
Papers in honor of Mario Saltarelli**

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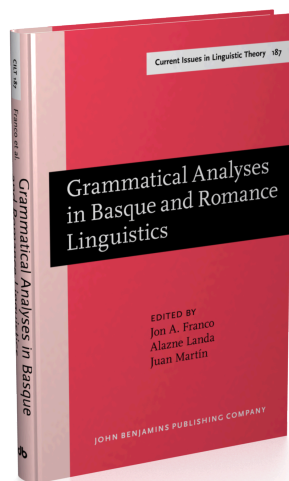
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Preface

This volume contains fifteen papers on current theoretical issues in Basque and Romance linguistics. Although Basque and Romance languages are typologically different and have different genetic origins, one thousand years of coexistence have shown certain parallelisms in their respective grammars. Some scholars have previously noticed those similarities between the two language families, however, it was Mario Saltarelli who first offered a *formal* linguistic account of phonological and syntactic phenomena occurring in these two language groups. Thus, the compilation of articles in both Basque and Romance linguistics serves more than one purpose. In addition to paying tribute to Saltarelli's work by acknowledging his formalization of this relational insight, this volume comprises research on languages with strong geographical and historical kinship.

Furthermore, the volume is designed in such a way that it reflects Mario's past and present career as a linguist. On the one hand, due to the rich variety of articles on Romance linguistics, the book resembles a volume of the LSRL Conference, which Mario has supported as an organizer, referee, and participant on numerous occasions since its inception. The Basque component recognizes Mario's work in Basque linguistics, one of the first works cited in a Basque linguistics data base being his 1988 book, *Basque*. This together with his support of Basque graduate students in linguistics and research on Basque has made him a great ambassador for the Basque Country in the US.

The majority of the papers provide analyses in the syntax semantics interface. There are also four papers in syntax, two in phonology and one in morphology. Fresh analyses of long standing challenging phenomena in Romance and Basque linguistics such as geminates, the evolution of Basque plosives, clitic doubling, clitic clustering, directionality of clitization, the role of agreement, focus, the interaction of voice and aspect, unaccusativity, semantic interpretation and syntactic structure of Determiner Phrases, obviation, control, and anaphoric and pronominal binding are provided in light of recent developments in the Generative Grammar framework. All of these linguistic fields and most of these topics have been addressed by Mario at some point of his career as a researcher.

Acknowledgments

The editors want to express their gratitude to the real makers of this volume, the contributors. From the very first day we launched the idea, we received immediate support and encouragement from the contributors. However, the main reason why we should be thankful to them is, without doubt, the quality of their articles.

At the initial stage of the planning of the book we were able to count on relevant feedback from José Ignacio Hualde and Jon Ortiz de Urbina. Also Domnita Dumitrescu, Fernando Martínez-Gil, Frank Nuessel and Carmen Silva-Corvalán have been with us backing the project in many different ways. The team of reviewers for the Basque Center of Language Research (LEHIA) helped us review all the articles. Judy Dyer gave us a useful hand with the proof reading. Teresa Fernández was a great help with the formatting of the articles. Anke de Looper, the Benjamins representative, and Konrad Koerner, the Series editor, have been coaching us with respect to the actual editing, clarifying several points and answering a good number of questions pertaining technical details. To all of them we are indebted.

In the process of putting this volume together, the editors have been productive in more than one way. Thus, three children, Eukene, Jack and Unai, were born during this period. We owe them much of the time put into this book.

Finally, the editors were fortunate enough to have Mario as their syntax professor in graduate school at USC. Our gratitude to him stems from those years and many that followed. Indeed, Mario's personality exhibits many properties that the ideal professor should have. This book is dedicated to him, especially to his enthusiasm as a linguist, and his philosophy of life. We hope it is worthy of him.