



HAL
open science

Quantification and Domain Restriction in Basque

Urtzi Etxeberria

► **To cite this version:**

Urtzi Etxeberria. Quantification and Domain Restriction in Basque. Semantics - Pragmatics. University of the Basque Country - Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea, 2005. English. NNT: . artxibo-00000053v2

HAL Id: artxibo-00000053

<https://theses.hal.science/artxibo-00000053v2>

Submitted on 18 Jan 2006 (v2), last revised 7 Oct 2010 (v3)

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

QUANTIFICATION AND DOMAIN RESTRICTION IN BASQUE

Urtzi Etxeberria Otaegi

Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea / University of the Basque Country

2005

Abstract

The main goal of this dissertation is to contribute to the understanding of the internal structure of Basque quantification in particular and natural language quantification in general within the framework of Generalized Quantifier Theory (see Montague (1973), Barwise & Cooper (1981), Keenan & Stavi (1986)).

Assuming that quantification in natural languages must always be contextually restricted and that quantificational domain restriction is always encoded syntactically (see Neale (1990), von Stechow (1994), Martí (2003), Stanley (2002), Stanley & Szabó (S&S) (2000)), this dissertation proposes, in line with a recent proposal put forward in Giannakidou (2004), a compositional structure for Basque strong quantifiers where the quantifier internal definite determiner is taken to act as the quantificational domain restrictor. This analysis provides support for the conclusion that the standard analysis of Generalized Quantifiers is correct (contra Matthewson (2001)). The fact that the definite article is excluded from weak quantifiers is taken as evidence for the idea that these elements are neither quantifiers nor contextually restricted, in agreement with what has

been standardly defended in the literature (cf. Milsark (1979), Partee (1988), Diesing (1992), Cooper (1996), von Stechow (1998)). Basque weak quantifiers are shown to be base generated at the predicative type (cf. van Geenhoven (1996), Landman (2002)).

The important role that the determiner plays inside quantificational expressions in languages such as Basque makes it necessary to provide an analysis of the Basque definite article -A. This dissertation claims that the article is the definite determiner everywhere (in opposition to Artiagoitia (2002)), but very flexible in its ability to type shift. This property allows us to account for the various interpretations that the article can get and concludes that existential readings of definites (that can only be obtained in some contexts) are dependent on the kind-level interpretation. For that, it is claimed that Basque is typologically in between English and French: the former makes use of bare plurals to get existential interpretations while the latter needs the definite plus the partitive preposition *de* (*du* for mass terms, *des* for plural count term) to express the same meaning; in Basque, the article is there while the preposition is not. Basque data is also claimed to provide further support for the conclusion that the position originally advocated by Carlson (1977) and extended crosslinguistically by Chierchia (1998c) must be on the right track, contra the so-called ambiguity theory defended by Wilkinson (1991), Diesing (1992), Gerstner & Krifka (1993) and Kratzer (1995).

Acknowledgements:

I finally reached the point where I have to write this part of the dissertation that appears in the very first pages but is written last. To be honest, during the process of writing this dissertation, there have been moments when I thought I would never be able to show my gratitude to those that have helped one way or another to the completion of this thesis... But well!!! Here I am...

I owe my greatest debt of gratitude to the two directors of my dissertation: Ricardo Etxepare and Fernando Garcia-Murga. I have learned a lot from them, both professionally and personally. Ricardo has been interested in my work just from the very beginning of my linguist life; it's been very inspiring and rewarding as well as the greatest of pleasures to have him as an advisor during all these years. I hope his enthusiasm and his knowledge about linguistics have found its way into my work. It was with Fernando that I started to study and understand semantics for the first time, and without his enormous help I doubt I would have been able to understand the simplest facts about semantics. I learned a lot about teaching and about linguistics from him and he showed to me that semantics can be fun... I cannot imagine having a better cocktail of directors, and I really don't know how to thank them. You are great linguists, but greater beings; I want you to know that without your time (those endless brainstorming sessions during your busiest hours), guidance, encouragement, advice, support and friendship (making me laugh about 'markets' and 'animals' at difficult moments of the process) this dissertation would have remained unwritten for sure. Thank you both for everything!!! I hope you enjoyed all this process as much as I did... Ok!! Let us forget about the last couple of months...

Vidal Valmala, Myriam Uribe-Etxebarria, and Javi Ormazabal deserve a special mention. Vidal opened the door to the world of Linguistics for me and his hospitality can not be paid back. Myriam believed in me from the very beginning and I'm sure she is as happy as I am that this process is almost over. Javi's enthusiasm about linguistics in general is amazing, I really enjoyed his lectures (which are real fun!!) as well as the meetings that I had with him; yes Javi yes... the dissertation is on semantics...

Many thanks are due to Alazne Landa, Jon Ortiz de Urbina, Jon Franco, Pablo Albizu, Gorka Elordieta, Joseba Lakarra, Juan Uriagereka, Itziar San Martin, Hiroto Hoshi and Utpal Lahiri.

Thanks also to Arantzazu Elordieta, Xabier Artiagoitia, Itziar Laka, and Marijo Ezeizabarrena.

I would also like to thank Blanca Urgell and the whole Department of Linguistics and Basque Studies at the University of the Basque Country for having accepted my dissertation (some three years ago) and for solving all the (last time) bureaucratic problems.

Neither this dissertation nor the ones coming in the future would have been completed had not been for some enthusiastic Basque linguists who decided to create a PhD Program in Linguistics at the University of the Basque Country.

Brenda Laca, Anastasia Giannakidou, Luisa Martí, Louise McNally, Javi Ormazabal, Juan Uriagereka, Hamida Demirdache, Jon Ortiz de Urbina, Utpal Lahiri and Mixel Aurnague have accepted to be (possible) members of my committee and I thank them for that and for discussion on different parts of this dissertation.

Thanks also to Beñat Oyharçabal, Luisa Martí and Mixel Aurnague for writing and signing the favourable reports. Thanks also to Orin Percus.

Special thanks are due to Anastasia Giannakidou, Brenda Laca, Luisa Martí, Louise McNally, Jason Stanley and Juan Uriagereka for bearing with so many emails and for replying to them patiently...

This work has benefited a lot from helpful conversations with Anastasia Giannakidou and Ora Matushansky. Thanks for shaping (via email) my view of the definite determiner in general and Basque article in particular.

Discussion with visiting professors has been of great help, among them: Gennaro Chierchia, Tim Stowell, Elena Herburger, Louise McNally, Brenda Laca, Luisa Martí, Yuki Kuroda, Tom Roeper, Danny Fox and Richard Larson.

I would like to thank my fellow students at Gasteiz (from University of the Basque Country and elsewhere) for creating a good intellectual (though not only) atmosphere around me, and for friendship: Aritz Irurtzun and Maia Duguine (for being always there and for much much more... gora gu!! See you soon in Baiona), Susana Huidobro, Milan Rezac and Melanie Joutteau, Bill Haddican, Kepa Erdozia, Euridice Arregi, Sonia Rodríguez, Nerea Madariaga, Nagore Calleja, Nerea Mitxelorena, Ibon Manterola, Adam Zawiszewski, Junkal Gutierrez, Julen Manterola, Eider Gutierrez, Mikel Santesteban, Oihane Barrenetxea, Izaskun Villareal, Brendan Costello, Javi Fernandez, Celine Mounole, Mertxe Uria. I hope I'm not forgetting anyone.

Thanks also to the Catalunya connection for linguistics and for fun: Sergio Garcia, Angel Gallego, Francesc Roca and Joan Miquel Contreras (see the title??).

I cannot forget about my non-linguist friends for emotional wellbeing and for making my life so much fun and for more; you know who you are... I hope we keep for years and years those Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and some weeks even Sunday dinner parties... Julen, if everything goes as it should (and so I hope!!), I will still take

advantage of your generosity (part of the 12% that you pay on taxes) during the following two years... I'm sure you don't mind ;-) Besarkada bero bat...

Of course, my family deserves special mention: my father Angel and my mother Begoña, they have even suffered more than I have just thinking that I was in front of the computer for entire days and weeks... My brother Jon (pala eta pelota ateatzen jun hai!!) and his wife Amaia and their little Garazi; my sister Olatz (my second mum, muxu haundi bat!!) and her partner Fran and their little Amaia and the little boy on the way. Thank you for your unconditional love. They have always supported and encouraged (and even helped with Basque data), and I feel enormously fortunate to have such a wonderful family. During the last three-four months they have kept asking me whether what I was doing would ever reach an end or not... Bukatu detela azkenen!!! Datorren asteko bazkariako menua pentsatzen jun!!!!

Thanks also to my second (Izaro's) family: Iñaxi (for your constant good mood and for that wonderful paella you cook on Saturdays), Josu (for being kind-hearted), Santos (for your kindness; I love listening to your stories...) and Olatz (for being so kind). Uncle Joxe Migel. And Maritxu. Jesus, we miss you...

Izaro is as responsible for the completion of this thesis as anyone. Without her patience (loads of it), support, kindness, humour (at my more desperate moments) and love this would have been neither possible, nor worth... Thanks for being always there, but mainly for playing down the magnitude of my most vital problems: such as "what the hell is that crazy Basque article -A doing everywhere??" ("bah!!! esantzazu gezur txikiren bat... ta goazen kafetxo bat hartzea..."). In the end, it seems the three of us have been able to get on quite well. It is to Izaro that I dedicate this work. Muxu haundi bat bihotzez!!!

This dissertation would not have seen the light unless I had got financial support from: the research grants UPV 033.129-HA036/98, 9/UPV00033.130-13888/2001 and 9/UPV 00114.130-16009/2004 by the University of the Basque Country as well as the research grant BFF2002-04238-C02-01 by MCYT-FEDER.