Qué nos cuenta sobre el ergativo *euskaldunen kode-alternantziak*? New evidence from case-marking in Spanish-Basque code-switching

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The ergative case marking has been widely studied in psycholinguistics. Several studies in children's (Duguine & Köpke, 2019; Ezeizabarrena, 2012) and adults' production (Rodríguez-Ordóñez, 2020) and processing (Zawiszewski et al., 2011) have provided empirical evidence on the difficulties of Basque bilinguals (especially L2 speakers) in using ergative case. However, little attention has been paid to case marking in Spanish- Basque code-switching (CS). A recent study in Basque CS revealed some trends and restrictions regarding ergative case production based on a limited corpus (Epelde & Oyharçabal, 2020). Thus, the constraints on case marking in Spanish-Basque CS are not fully understood. The goal of this paper, part of my Master's dissertation, is to investigate the relation between ergative case marking and CS in Spanish-Basque bilinguals. These are the RQs:

RQ1. Which patterns are observed in the use of case marking in CS? Are the same patterns observed than in unilingual Basque (i.e. omission errors > commission errors)?

RQ2. Do bilinguals prefer to omit ergative case in CS in comparison to unilingual Basque sentences?

We designed an acceptability judgement task (Bellamy et al., 2022) to test Basque monolingual and Spanish-Basque CS sentences with different structures (Basque- subject/Spanish-predicate vs. Spanish-subject/Basque-predicate) and types of verbs (transitives vs unaccusatives). We plan to have preliminary results by the conference time. This study will provide new evidence on the possible factors favouring the omission of ergative in Basque speakers. Besides, the findings have implications for the understanding of the grammatical constraints in CS in languages with different case systems.

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