Guidelines for users

BiV is a linguistic database that offers information about the syntactic variation and its distribution in Basque dialects. It allows users to search for information on the basis of a particular linguistic feature, a relevant keyword or by choosing a dialect or a specific variety.

Features

In this second edition of BiV, 69 features have been tested in 28 Basque varieties. You can access the list of features by clicking on the 'Features' cell at the main menu. Features are classified in eight areas:

- Case and agreement (24 features)
- Auxiliary alternation (7 features)
- Aspect (9 features)
- Postpositions (6 features)
- Postpositions (locatives) (7 features)
- (In)transitivity (5 features)
- Complementizer (7 features)
- Mood (4 features)

By clicking on each of the areas, you can access the specific features that have been tested. Clicking on the features, users are redirected to the description of each feature, which is organized as follows:

Features have different patterns. Firstly, we present the *generalized pattern*, which involves the one that is more general in Basque dialects. Secondly, we show the *variational pattern*, which refers to the variant that differs from the generalized one. Note that some features have more than one variational pattern, reflecting different choices for the same feature.

Example:

Feature: Expressing possession: *eduki*, *ukan* (v *izan/*edun*)
Generalized pattern: *izan/*edun* 'have' is not only an auxiliary but also a main verb expressing possession.

Variational pattern 1: The lexical verb *eduki* 'have' is the alternative to *izan* 'be'/*edun* 'have' for expressing possession.

Variational pattern 2: The lexical verb *ukan* 'have' is the alternative to *izan* 'be'/*edun* for expressing possession.

The generalized pattern is to have *izan* 'be' and *edun* 'have' for both auxiliary and possessive main verb uses. On the other hand, the alternative variational patterns are two: in order to express possession, to select *eduki* 'have' or to select *ukan* 'have'.

Thirdly, some variational patterns have also *subvariational patterns*, a further variant which specifies the variational pattern in a certain aspect.

Example:

Feature: Differential Object Marking: ikusi nizun (v ikusi zintudan)
Generalized pattern: transitive objects are marked with absolutive case and are cross-referenced by absolutive agreement morphemes on the auxiliary.

Variational pattern: in past verbal forms, animate objects are marked dative and are cross-referenced by dative agreement morphemes on the auxiliary.

Subvariational pattern: some varieties have dative object and dative agreement also in present verbal forms.

The *variational pattern* involves having differential object marking in the past tense, and the *subvariational pattern* involves also having this phenomenon in the present tense. Thus, subvariational patterns are relevant for the varieties having the variational pattern, and further specify some aspects.

By clicking on the *Answers* link appearing in each feature, we can access the dialectal distribution of the feature and its variants. Each feature has a YES or NO value in each of the towns tested. YES means that the variational pattern associated to the feature is present in the local variety. NO means that it is not.
In some local varieties, you will see that some features have both YES/NO. This means that the variational pattern is present, but that the subvariational pattern is not.

In the map, YES answers appears in YELLOW and NO answers have BLUE color. In the features where there are different variational patterns and/or subvariational patterns, each pattern gives rise to a different map.

Keywords
Another way to access the information on morphosyntactic features is to going to the list of keywords, by clicking on the cell that is at the main menu. Users will find a list of some relevant linguistic topics and below each topic, the features that are related. By clicking on the features, users will be redirected to the page of each feature, with the description, the answers and its distribution.

Dialect
Users can also access information by choosing a certain variety. Clicking on the *dialect* cell at the main menu, users find a table with all the local varieties that have been tested. Selecting a local variety, users are redirected to all the answers obtained in that variety: the features that are attested, and those that are not.

How to download information
Users can download the information of the feature and its distribution by clicking on the PDF icon at the top of each page. Additionally, answers tables are also downloadable in csv, xls and xml formats.