

Boisen Euskara irakasten

Ez al dakizu, euskara dela; euskaldun egiten gaituena?

Did you not know that it is the Basque language that makes us Basque?

~Xabier Amuriza

Euskaldunon artean Boise ezaguna da atzerrian euskal nortasuna mantendu eta garatu duen herri bezala. Hori jakinda ere, pentsa nolakoa izan zen nire harridura Boiser a etorri nintzenean bertako seme-alabak euskaraz mintzatzen entzun nituenean. Hau zirrara, atzerrira bidaian joan eta euskal herrian banengo bezala sentitzea. Areago esango nuke, Euskal Herriko toki askotan dagoen baino giro euskaldunagoa aurkitu nuen hemen.

Txikitan ikasi nuen abestiak dion bezala, "euskaldun jaio nintzen, euskaldun hazi, euskara hil ezker o ez nuke nahi bizi". Beraz Euskal Museoa n euskara irakastea proposatu zidatenean baiezkoa eman nuen ilusioz beteta, euskara Boisen mantendu dadin nik egin nezakeen gutxiena zela pentsatuaz.

Ni lehenengo mailako irakaslea naiz Euskal Museoko eskolan. Nitaz gain badaude beste hiru irakasle: Oihana, Itxaso eta Megan. Hauek badaramatzate ainbat urte euskara irakasten, eta benetan mirestekoa eta zoriontzekoa da beren lana. Guk ikasle helduak ditugu bakarrik. Haurrek ere badituzte eskolak, bai museoa n baita Boiseko Ikastola n, non Olatz eta Amaia aritzen dira gure arbasoen hizkuntza zabaltzen.

Nik 14 ikasle ditut, gehiengoa euskal jatorrikoa, batzuk aitona-amonei edo gurasoei euskara entzundakoak, baina denak euskara lehenengoz ikasten ari direnak. Astelehenero biltzen gara Euskal Museoa n 2 orduz. Egia esan talde honi irakastea erronka ederra da: taldea handia da eta denentzat irakasketa egokitzen asmatu behar dut, eskola astean behin izateak ikasketa ez du errazten, dugun metodologia ona izan arren ez dago beti gure Amerikar testuinguru eta mailara egokitua...

Honelako zailtasunak izan arren, biziki pozik nabil talde honekin denek izugarritzko ilusioa eta ikasteko gogoia bait dute. Taldeak badu euskararen garrantziaren kontzientzia ere eta hizkuntzaren aldeko ekintzetan parte hartzeko prest dago. Adibide gisa Euskararen Eguna dela eta Ikastolako haurrekin batera Urkoren "Guk Euskaraz, Zuk zergatik ez?"

Boise is known among Basques as a place abroad where the Basque identity has been maintained and supported. Even if I was aware of this, imagine my surprise when I first came to Boise and heard locals speak Euskara. That was so exciting: I had gone on a trip abroad and I felt like I was in the Basque Country. I would say even more, I found a more Basque atmosphere than in many parts back in the Basque Country.

As says the song that I learned as a child, "I was born speaking Euskara, I grew up speaking Euskara, I would not want to live should Euskara die". Therefore, when they asked me to teach Euskara in the Basque Museum, I said yes with excitement as I thought that this was the least I could do to help maintaining Euskara in Boise.

I'm a first-level teacher in the Basque Museum's Euskera class. In addition to me, there are three other teachers: Oihana, Itxaso and Megan. They have been teaching Euskara for several years with an admirable dedication. We only teach to adults, but children also have Euskara classes, both in the Museum and the Ikastola, where Olatz and Amaia work to spread the language of our ancestors.

I have 14 students, the majority are of Basque origin, some of them having heard their grandparents or parents speaking Euskara while growing up, but all of them are studying it for the first time. We meet every Monday in the Basque Museum for 2 hours. Teaching to this group is a nice challenge: I have to figure out how to adapt the syllabus and my teaching to this large group, having class only once a week does not facilitate learning, the teaching material we have is not always adapted to our American context...

Despite such challenges, I am very happy with my group of students as all have an enormous enthusiasm and desire to learn. They are also aware of the importance of Euskara, and are ready to participate in activities to support the language. As an example the video done for the Basque Language Day with the Ikastola kids singing "We speak Euskara, why not you?"

(<http://www.euskalkultura.com/english/news/this-video->

abesten egindako bideoa

(<http://www.euskalkultura.com/english/news/this-video-is-an-invitation-for-euskera-launched-to-the-world-by-the-children-at-the-ikastola-in-boise?p=3>).

Aurreko astean Iñigo Asensioaren "Euskara Munduan" filma ikusi genuen non atzerrian euskara bikain ikasitakoak azaltzen diren, Kolonbiar eta Txinatar bat haien barne. Guzti hauen euskararekiko maitasunak zirrara handia sortu zigun eta guk ere kementsu jarraitzeko zio gehiago eman dizkigu atzerrian euskara menderatzea lortu dezakegula frogatu bait digu.

Baina ez dakit ba guk Boisen horrelako frogarik behar ote genuen izan ere hemen euskara ikasitako asko bait dago. Hauen euskara ikasteko "erraztasunak" harritzen nau ni, euskal herrian bizi diren espainiar edo frantzesen ezintasuna ikusita behintzat. Gogo kontua izango da... Euskal hizkuntzalari Amerikar Larry Trask-ek euskara ikasteko hizkuntza nahiko erraza zela esaten zuen, beste edozein hizkuntzaren pareko zailtasuna duela. Arrazoia zuela dirudi, beraz badirudi euskararen aurka aritzen direnen mito hau amaitzeko garaia iritsi zaigula.

Boisen behintzat gure arbasoek emandako hizkuntz altxor hau zabaltzen eta gure ondorengoei ematen saiatzen jarraituko dugu. "Izan zirelako gara, eta garelako izango dira".

[is-an-invitation-for-euskera-launched-to-the-world-by-the-children-at-the-ikastola-in-boise?p=3](http://www.euskalkultura.com/english/news/this-video-is-an-invitation-for-euskera-launched-to-the-world-by-the-children-at-the-ikastola-in-boise?p=3)).

Last week we watched Iñigo Asensio's movie "Euskara in the world", a film about foreigners having learnt Euskara, such as the self-taught Colombian guy and a Chinese girl working with Basques in China. Their love for our language was very moving and has given us more reason and motivation to as it is a prove that we can get to master Euskara living abroad.

But I do not think that we needed such evidence as there are many people here in Boise who have learned Euskara. Their "facility" to learn Euskara amazes me, at least compared to the difficulties that the Spanish and French living in the Basque Country seem to have. Must be a motivation issue... The American linguist Larry Trask said that Basque is not difficult to learn and that in fact it is a rather easy language to pick up, while mastering it is no more difficult than mastering any other language. From what I see in Boise it seems that he was right, so it is about time that we end the difficulty myth used by the enemies of our language.

In Boise at least we will try to continue expanding this treasure language given to us by our ancestors. "We are because they were, and they will be because we are".