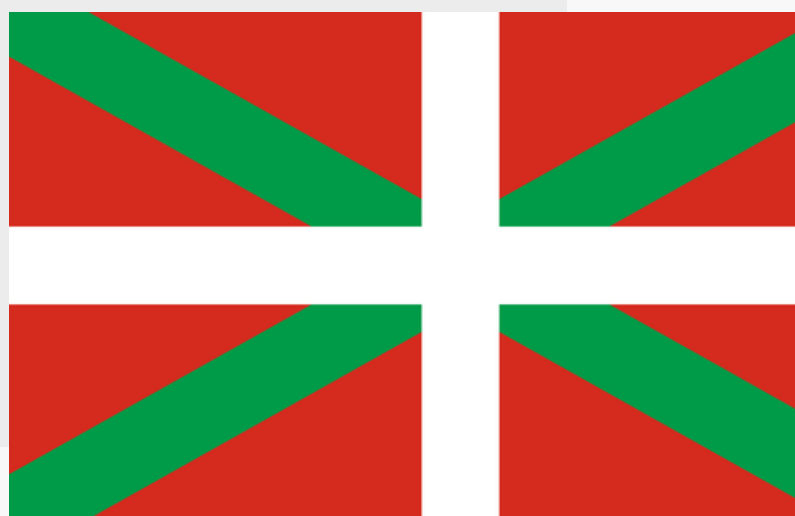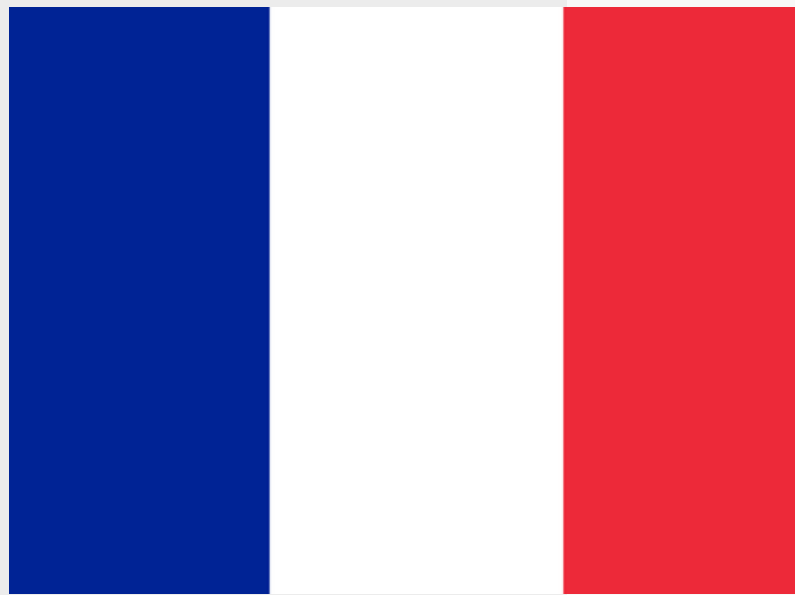M2 FRONT
FAIVRE Jean
CASTRO Pablo
GRAN Noémie

LINGUISTIC RESILIENCE :
# THE EXAMPLE O̲F THE FRENCH-SPANISH BORDER

15 Novembre 2023

INTRODUCTION

- Nations are often defined as a geographical space with limits, however it is not a fortress.
- Waves of immigration allowed culture and languages to export.
- Languages are thus borderless entities.
- Notion of resilience in the XXth century in both Spain and France and overcoming totalitarian regimes.
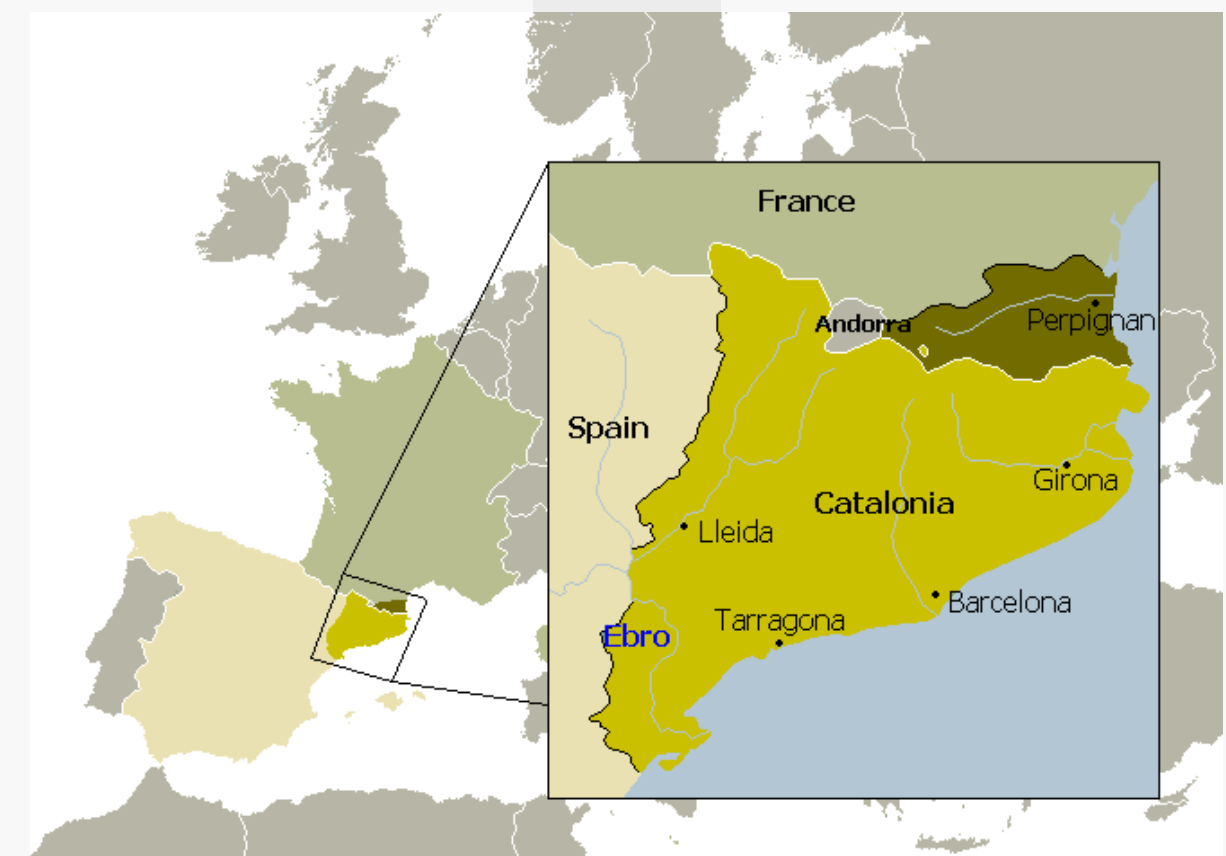
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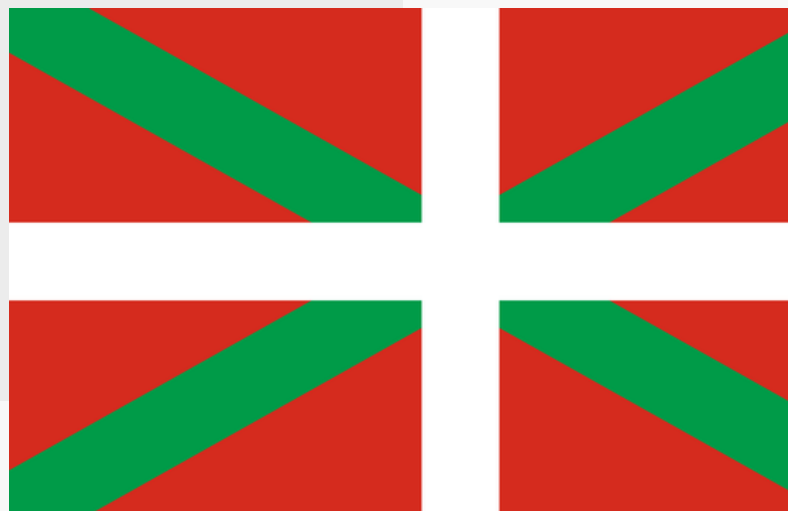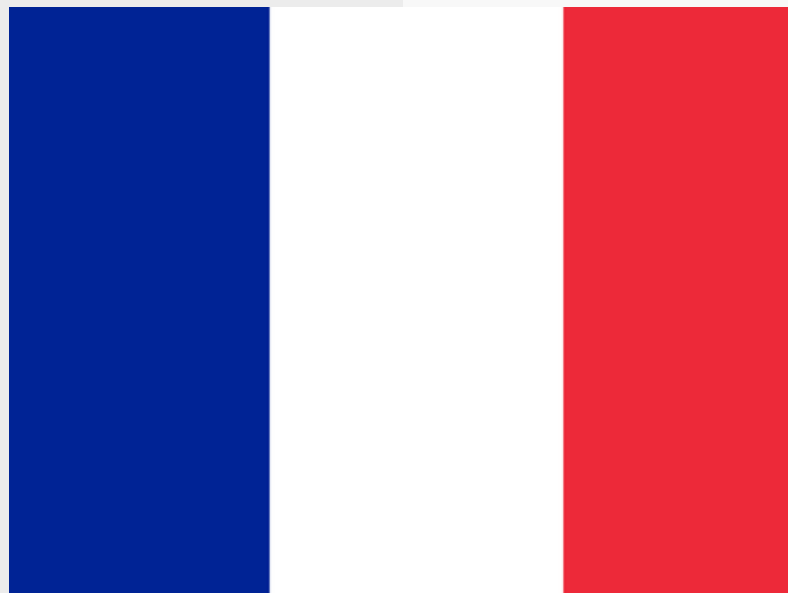
To what extent regional languages can be considered as transcendent entities regarding both the limits of space and time as well as the challenges brought by these two constraints ?

I - First half of the comparative study : the Basque language

1. Résilience in the Basque Country : the process of the XXth century.
2. Resilience in France during a permanent crisis.
3. Cooperation between two distinct contexts merging into one.

II - Second half of the comparative study : the Catalan language

1. Résilience in Catalonia : a drastic destiny opposed to Catalonia.
2. Resilience in France following the events of the XXth century.
3. The tools of cooperations between two distinct country and one people.

I - BASQUE LANGUAGE

Euskararen aurkako erasoengatik erreparazioa noizko?
Euskaldunen zapalkuntzaren memoria

Before Franco

- The Basque Country failed to become autonomous in 1932 at the beginning of the Second Republic.
- Basque was therefore not considered an official language.

During Franco

- Franco unified the country under one flag and one language : Castillan.
- « If we want to be worthy of this salvation, and honor the one who has saved us, all Spaniards must do three things: Think like Franco, feel like Franco and speak like Franco, who, speaking in the national language, has imposed his victory. »

After Franco

- Constitution of 1978 allowed the Basque identity to take form.

I - BASQUE LANGUAGE
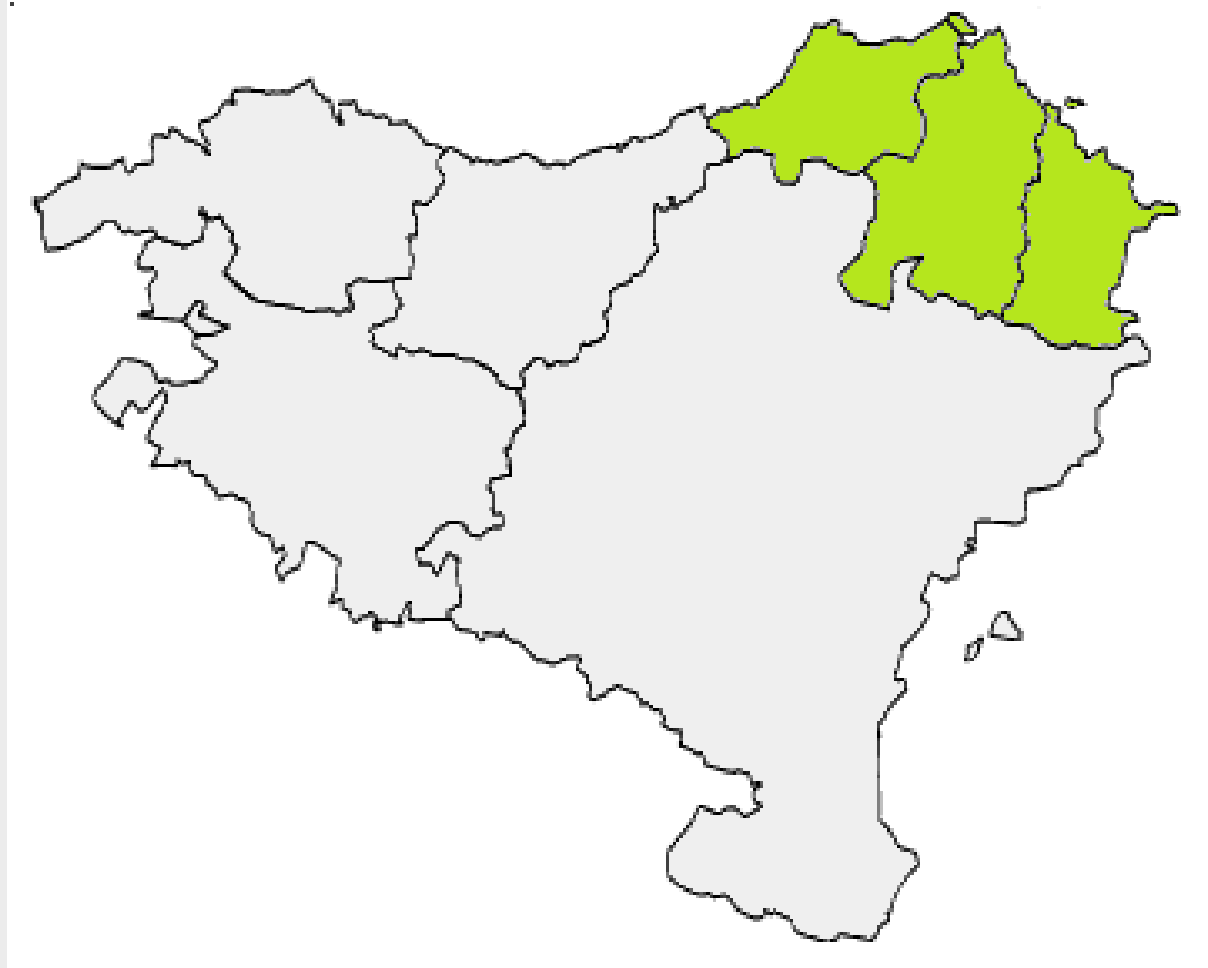
Resilience across the border : the Basque community in France

- The Republic institutions and the hegemony of the French language
- A late institutional acknowledgement (1951)
- Resilience via violence
- Civil resilience: an important associative networks
- Indirect language resilience: non-language based identity resilience

I - BASQUE LANGUAGE
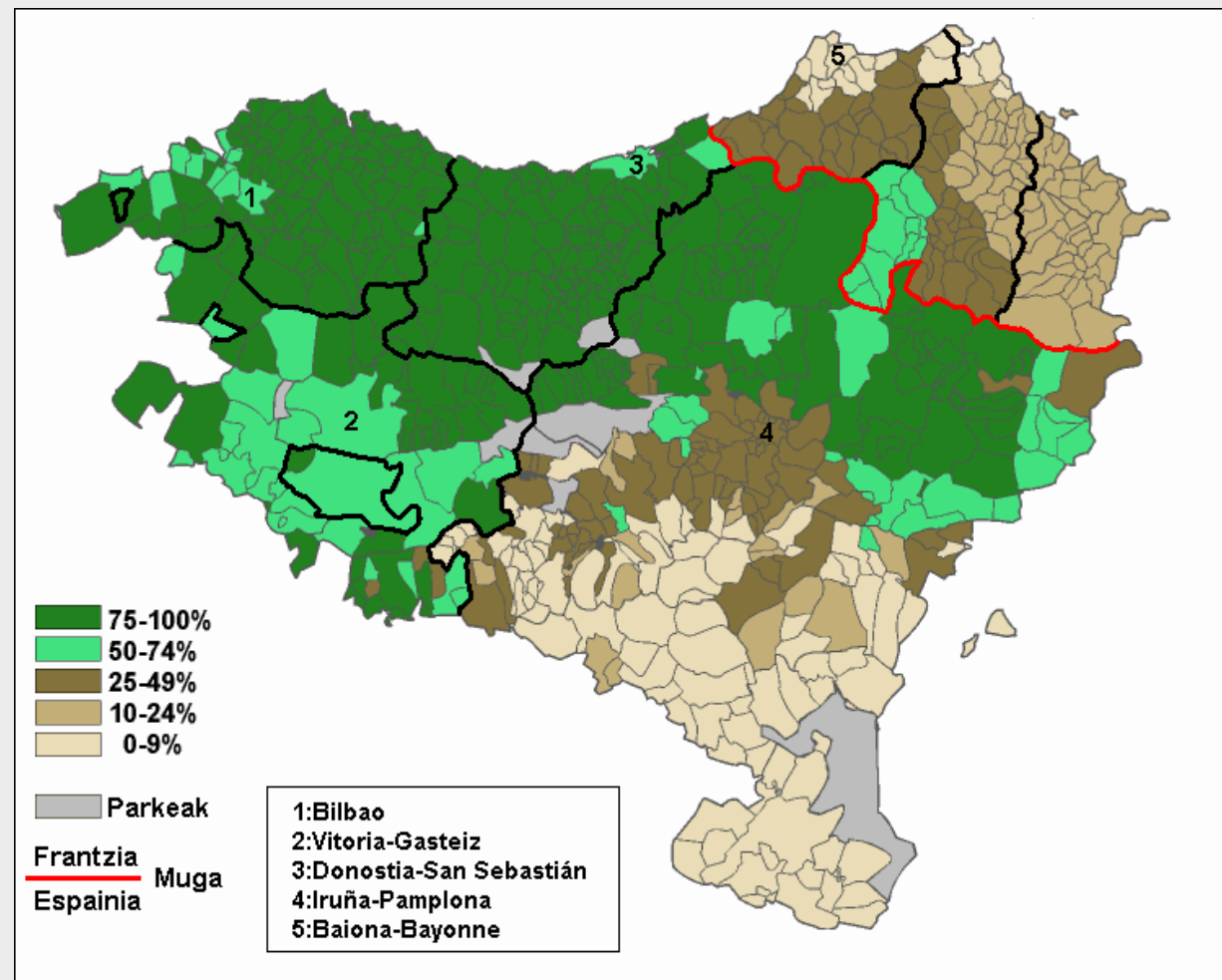
Cooperation across the border : the Basque community in France

- A cultural devellopment at the beginning othe 20th century
- An unbalanced institutional cooperation
- Associative cooperation

II - CATALAN LANGUAGE

Before Franco

- Catalonia has always had more political privileges than the Basque Country, allowing the region to thrive more.
- Fifth article of the 1932 constitution : " « The catalan language shall be the official language of Catalonia, however, the Castillan language will solely be applied in exchanges with the central government of the Republic. »

During Franco

- Regulations and decrees were enacted that banished the Catalan language in 1937 (with the abolition of the Statute and in subsequent regulations)
- Linguistic resistance : Nova Cançó movement.

After Franco

- New reform of Catalonia in 1978.
- Stricter policies than before due to the dictatorship and the sentiment of betrayal.
- Will to emancipate from Spain.

II - CATALAN LANGUAGE

	Household	Colleagues Students	Colleagues Work	Small Businesses	Large Stores	Administration Municipal
Andorra	37,6%	63%	43,7%	53;5%	17,3%	86,2%
Catalunya Nord	1,4%	1,3%	1,8%	0,8%	0,4%	0,3%
Alghero	7,7%		4,8%			
Catalunya Sud	32,1%	44,6%	34,6%	39,5%	34,3%	50,5%
Illes Balears	38,4%	31,1%	25,2%	38,1%	27,1%	40,6%
Franja d'Arago	50,6%	27,4%	28,9%	45,9%	19,9%	38,8%

Personnes utilisant seulement le catalan ou surtout le catalan
Source : chiffres des différentes enquêtes linguistiques des Pays Catalans présentés lors des IV Jornades sobre llengua i societat als territoris de llengua catalana (Barcelona, 2016, DGPL Generalitat de Catalunya). Les espaces non renseignés correspondent à l'absence de données ou à des nombres de réponses insuffisantes pour pouvoir être significatives.

M2 FRONT

- French law and the lack of recognition
- Cultural resilience, the perpetuation of familial legacy
- Local and regional initiative (schools, associations)
- Resilience against external pressures (ex: Molac law 2021)

Resilience across the border : the Catalan community in France

II - CATALAN LANGUAGE

M2 FRONT

Cooperation across the border : the Catalan community in France

- The Euroregion and Eurodistrict, the role of a common identity and language
- Political affiliation between the various Catalan parties, difference with limits regarding political objectives
- Historical and political differencies, limitations of the linguistic unity

CONCLUSION

- The notion of « regional » in « regional languages » can be questioned.
- Regional languages not only represent a symbol of local pride or local identity but rather a symbol of cooperation.

Thank you for listening. We shall be taking questions.