**HUMBOLT**

1. **Where was Humboldt from?**?

Humboldt was German, born in Potsdam in 1767. As a politician, his professional life takes place for many years in the course of Prussia's diplomatic and ministerial work.

It is not surprising, therefore, that on his travels to the Basque Country he has carefully taken care to analyze the politics of the Basques.

1. **Why did he travel to the Basque Country?**

Humboldt made two trips to the Basque lands. The first specifically from 10 to 18 October 1799. On the first trip he also visited several areas of Spain. The passage through the Basque Country was not something casual but something intentional.

Humboldt’s second visit to the Basques was a year and a half later from 27 April to 3 June 1801. He traveled with a friend. On this trip he went exclusively to the Basque Country and its purpose was to get to know in depth the Spanish Basque Country and the French Basque Country. He was trying to take as much information as possible about the country and its language.

1. **¿What anthropolinguistic interest does Humboldt see in the Basques ?**

On his trips he realized that they were unique, with a very peculiar language.

At first he became more interested in geography, physiognomy, customs and folklore.

Then, Humboldt would end up reaching the conclusion of the theory of the concept "Nation" based on his theory of Comparative Anthropology.

1. **What is Comparative Anthropology?**

Comparative anthropology must observe and describe each human individuality in its entirety and with all its relationships.

According to Humboldt, a human being develops according to "everything around them" and "the circumstances that surround them". Therefore, human being must be always analyzed as part of a collective.

*For example:*

*Basques have a culture, a language, customs that bring together to all individuals, but at the same time when compared to the French, Czechs or Spaniards they have their differences. This is what comparative anthropology does, having recognized the differences by comparison, group them according to their similarities.*

**5. What did he discover about the Basques?**

He found that Basque was a popular language that was not particularly determined by literature or grammar and was somehow naturally preserving its structure. For Humboldt, therefore, the study and research of the Basque country proved to be a new challenge.

1. **What does it say about the nation-tongue relationship?**

For Humboldt, tongue and nation are inseparable. He says that the distribution of mankind by nations is only a distribution according to languages. He goes so far as to say that deep down a language... is a nation. He says that a community of men and women is only understood as a nation if the configuration of their language is considered.

1. **What did he think on Basque politics?**

As he was a politician, it is not surprising that on his travels to the Basque Country he had carefully taken care to analyze the politics of the Basques. He was surprised that they have been able to preserve "the autonomous political constitution" over many centuries.

**7. How did he see the future of Basque language?**

It predicted a medium-term decline of Basque in the French Basque Country.

He was convinced that a part of the Basques would survive for a long time, referring to the Spanish part.

But he wasn't optimistic about the language. He said that in less than a century Basque would have disappeared from among the living languages.

Fortunately it hasn't.