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## Denominal necessity modals in Basque<sup>1</sup>

Ricardo Etxepare (CNRS-IKER) and Myriam Uribe-Etxebarria (EHU-UPV)

### Abstract

Basque has a noun meaning *need* and a modal form, traditionally classified as verbal, homophonous to it, as in English. This paper provides a derivational account of the relation between the nominal and the so-called verbal *need* in Basque, by claiming that the purported verbal cases are derived from the nominal ones. This derivational relation, we argue, does not follow from the incorporation of Basque *need* into a verbal head, as has been recently claimed for English *need*. The necessity modal forms an independent clausal constituent with a DP or a non-finite clause representing the content of the need as its sole argument. This clausal constituent is merged to a high applicative head that introduces in the structure the experiencer of the need. The Basque modal construction resembles in this regard the nominal modal constructions found in some of the celtic languages such as Irish or Scottish Gaelic. This structure is merged with an intransitive verb BE, which provides the verbal support for the construction. The incorporation of the applicative head to BE results in the transitive auxiliary *have* in Basque, a phenomenon that is independently attested outside the modal cases.

### 1. Introduction

This paper focuses on a subset of modal constructions in Basque: those involving the necessity modal *behar* ('need'/'must'/'have to'). *Behar* can take either a DP or an uninflected clause as its complement, as illustrated in (1a,b):<sup>2</sup>

- (1) a. *Liburu bat behar dut*                      b. *Liburu bat erosi behar dut*  
    Book one need Aux(have)      book one buy need Aux(have)  
    'I need a book'                      'I need to/must buy a book'

In addition to the verb *behar*, Basque also has a homophonous noun *behar*, which can be translated as 'obligation' or 'need'. As any other regular noun, nominal *behar* can be modified by an adjective (2a), and be selected by a postposition (2b) or a determiner (2c). It can also select a genitive object, as occurs in typical binominal structures (2d). In this regard, the Basque pair *behar*<sub>noun</sub>-*behar*<sub>verb</sub> is highly reminiscent of the English pair *need*<sub>noun</sub>-*need*<sub>verb</sub>.

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<sup>2</sup> As discussed by Etxepare & Uribe-Etxebarria (2009, 2010a,b,c) and Balza (2010b), there is a wide variety of modal constructions in Basque involving the modal *behar*. In this paper we focus on the type which is usually considered the standard one, that where *behar* follows its complement and selects for a transitive auxiliary and an ergative subject (see Ormazabal 1990a). See also op. cit. above for discussion of the full range of modal constructions with *behar*. See also Haddican and Tsoulas, this volume, and references therein for related discussion.

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- (2) a. *Behar handia dut*                      b. *Beharrean naiz*                      c. *Beharra*  
       Need big    aux                              need-D-post am                      need-D  
       ‘I have a big need’                      ‘I am in need’                      ‘The need’
- d. *Ez dut horr-en beharr-ik*  
       neg aux that-gen need-partitive  
       ‘I don’t have any need of that’

We propose that modal *behar* is a derived verb in the two cases illustrated in (1). In particular, we argue that both in the configuration involving [*behar* + DP] in (1a) as well as in that involving [*behar* + non-finite clause] in (1b), where *behar* behaves as a lexical verb meaning ‘need/must/have to’, this modal is derived from nominal *behar* (see Etxepare & Uribe-Etxebarria 2010a; see also Uribe-Etxebarria 1989b and 1990, for an early version of this idea). Kayne & Harves (2008), Harves (2008) and Kayne (2009) have recently argued that English *need* derives from an underlying structure with the nominal *need* as the complement of a light verb *have* (a verb expressing ordinary possession), as roughly represented in (3):

- (3) HAVE [need ...]

These authors observe, following Isačenko (1974), that those languages that do not possess a possessive *have* also lack a transitive modal verb *need*. Assuming this typological correlation, they propose that modal *need* is derived via incorporation of nominal *need* to possessive *have* (Isačenko 1974 and Noonan 1993).

As shown in (4a), Basque also has a possessive *have*, which freely alternates with a lexical verb meaning “to possess” (the verb *eduki*) in the expression of possession:

- (4) a. *Jonek liburu bat du*                      b. *Jonek liburu bat dauka*  
       Jon-erg book one has                      Jon-erg book one possesses  
       ‘Jon has a book’                              ‘Jon has/possesses a book’

Given this correlation, it is tempting to extend an incorporation analysis *à la* Harves & Kayne to this language. We depart however from the specific underlying structure and the ensuing derivation proposed by these authors for English *need*. We will show that the derived verb *behar* differs both from its English lexical counterpart *need* and from ordinary denominal Basque verbs in several important respects: (i) it cannot take the inflectional morphology that regular verbs take, (ii) it differs from its English transitive counterparts with respect to the arity operations it accepts, and (iii) in the nominal syntactic distribution of the modal item in both transitive and intransitive modal constructions. We argue that the modal noun *behar* is the nominal predicate of a small clause whose subject (either a DP or a non finite clause) is the content of the need, as represented in (5):

- (5) ...[<sub>Small Clause</sub> DP/non-finite clause *behar*]

This clausal constituent merges to an adpositional head that introduces an independent argument, external to the clause: what we informally call the experiencer of the need. The adpositional is the complement of an intransitive verb *be* that provides the verbal support for the construction:

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(6) ...BE [<sub>PP</sub> Subject<sub>EXPERIENCER OF NEED</sub> P [<sub>SMALL CLAUSE</sub> { DP  
 non finite clause } behar<sub>NEED</sub> ] ]

In (6), P incorporates to the copula BE, giving rise to transitive *have*. The underlying structure of modal constructions is thus akin to the one proposed for auxiliary *have* by Kayne (1993).

Under the account advocated for by these authors, the incorporation of the nominal complement *need* to *have* liberates this nominal from any Case requirement. The verb *have* (or a functional projection associated with it) can thus assign accusative case to the complement of *need*, which surfaces with the case typically assigned to the complement: accusative Case. Under the hypothesis we defend here the Case properties displayed by this type of structures is explained in a different way. Since nominal *behar* is a predicate in (6) it is exempted from meeting any case requirements. Transitive *have* is thus available to check the Case features of a nominal other than *behar* (incorporation of *need* is therefore not required to explain how Case is assigned under our approach).

The paper is organized as follows: in Sections 2 and 3, we present the basic syntactic features underlying the constructions involving modal *behar* in Basque, including its Case and agreement properties, as well as the syntactic status of their complement. In Section 4 we review Kayne's (2009) analysis of the verbal/nominal *need* alternation in English, which takes verbal *need* to derive directly from the incorporation of the noun *need* to a light verb HAVE, and show it cannot be directly transposed into Basque. Section 5 develops our alternative, according to which the derived denominal modal construction has its source in an underlying small clause whose predicate is the bare noun *behar* "need" and whose subject is the content of the need. The full structure we propose for this structure is that given in (6) above.

We provide several arguments showing that modal *behar* is a verb derived from this underlying predicative structure. One concerns the behavior of modal *behar* under several arity operations, in the sense of Reinhart and Siloni (2005), and in particular with respect to reflexivization and reciprocalization (Section 5.2.) Additional evidence comes from the analysis of other intransitive modal constructions involving *behar* (Section 5.3.). We further motivate our analysis in Section 6, where we focus on the status of the transitive auxiliary *edun* ('have'). We show that there are other constructions, independent of the modal ones under analysis, which also involve a nominal predicate and the transitive auxiliary *edun* ('have'), and must be derived by the incorporation of an abstract preposition to a copula external to the small clause, exactly as we propose for the modal constructions. Section 7 offers a summary of the paper and concludes the discussion.

## 2. The transitive modal verb *behar*

The Basque modal *behar* behaves as an ordinary transitive verb in many respects, as illustrated in (7).

(7) (Ni-k) liburu hori behar dut.

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(I-erg) book that-Øabs need Aux(have)3p.sg.A-3p.sg.E  
'I need that book'

In (7), *behar* takes a subject and a nominal complement and co-occurs with a transitive auxiliary *dut* ('I have'). As is the case with regular transitive clauses, the subject of *behar* bears ergative case, and the object surfaces with absolutive case. Notice also that, as indicated in the glosses, the auxiliary verb must agree with all the arguments of the predicate (in this case with the ergative subject and the absolutive object). Thus, as soon as we change the subject and the object in (7), the auxiliary shows a different agreement pattern, as illustrated in (8) and (9).

(8) *Zu-e-k liburu horiek behar dituzue*  
You-pl-erg book those-abs need Aux(have)3p.plA-2p.pl.E  
'You guys need those books'

(9) *Zu-k ni behar nauzu*  
You-erg I-abs need Aux(have)1psgA-2psgE  
'You need me'

Following the option available for DPs with structural case in Basque (see Duguine, 2011 and this volume), the arguments of *behar* can be null.

(10) a. *Ni-k liburu horiek behar ditut*  
I-erg book those-abs need Aux(have)3p.pl.A-3p.sg.E  
'I need those books'

b. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ *behar ditut*  
I-erg 3sP-abs need Aux(have)3p.pl.A-3p.sg.E  
'I need them'

(11) a. *Zu-k ni behar nauzu*  
you-erg I-abs need Aux(have)1psgA-2p.sg.E  
'You need me'

b. \_\_\_ \_\_\_ *behar nauzu*  
You-erg I-abs need Aux(have)1psgA-2p.sg.E  
'You need me'

Summarizing: from the point of view of Case and agreement, the constructions involving modal *behar* display all the features typically associated with transitive structures.

In addition to nominal objects, the transitive modal verb *behar* can also take uninflected verbal complements, as illustrated in (12) (see Balza, 2010b, Etxepare & Uribe-Etxebarria 2009, 2010a,b,c and references therein).

(12) *Jone-k etorri behar du*  
Jone-erg come-partc behar Aux(have)3p.sg.A-3p.sg.E  
'Jone needs to/must/has to come'

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Notice that in (12) *behar* behaves as a transitive modal verb: although the verbal complement of *behar*, the verb *etorri* ('to come'), is an unaccusative predicate, the auxiliary selected by *behar* is transitive. This auxiliary displays agreement with the matrix subject, which must bear ergative case (realized as *-k*). This is otherwise impossible in Basque: as shown in (13), unless *behar* is present, unaccusative verbs like *etorri* ('come') can never take transitive auxiliaries or ergative subjects.

- (13) \**Ni-k etorri dut*  
 I-erg come Aux(have)3p.sg.A-3p.sg.E  
 'I have come'

Thus, we have to conclude that the configuration [*non-finite verbal complement + behar*] displays all the features of regular transitive structures: independently of whether the verb of the non-finite verbal complement is transitive or intransitive, the subject must surface with ergative case and the auxiliary must be transitive.

In the following section we summarize some of the most distinctive properties of the configuration [*non-finite verbal complement + behar*], and define the type of non-inflected complement that can cooccur with *behar*.

### 3. Behar and non-finite complements

#### 3.1 Obligatory agreement with the embedded arguments

In (13), the verb of the non-finite complement of *behar* was unaccusative. But, in addition to non-finite intransitive complements, *behar* can also take non-finite transitive predicates, as shown in (14).

- (14) *Ni-k liburua irakurri behar dut*  
 I-erg book-det-abs read need Aux(3p.sg.A-1p.sg.E)  
 'I need/must to read the book'

A distinctive property of this construction is that the main auxiliary necessarily agrees with all the arguments of the embedded non-finite predicate.

- (15) (*Zu-k ipuin-ak irakurri behar zenituzke*  
 You-erg stories-det.pl.-abs read-ptc need Aux(have)3p.pl.A-2p.sg.E  
 'You would need to/would have to/should read books'

In (15) the auxiliary verb *zenituzke* shows agreement both with the ergative subject (*zu*, 'you') and with the absolutive DP *ipuinak* ('stories'), the complement of *irakurri* 'to read'. If we add another argument in the non-finite verbal complement, the main auxiliary also has to agree with it. This is illustrated in (16a-c). In (16a) we have introduced a dative argument in the non-finite complement of *behar*, the DP *Elenari* 'to Elena', and the auxiliary must agree with it. If the auxiliary fails to agree with any of the embedded arguments, as in the case of (16b) and (16c), the result is ungrammatical.

- (16) a. (*Zu-k Elena-ri ipuin-ak irakurri behar zenizkioke*

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You-erg Elena-dat stories-det.pl.-abs read-ptc need Aux(have)3plA-3sgD-2sg.E  
'You would need to/would have to/should read stories to Elena'

- b. \* (Zu-k) Elena-ri ipuin-ak irakurri behar zenioke  
You-erg Elena-dat stories-det.pl.-abs read-ptc need Aux(have)3sgA-3sgD-2sg.E  
'You would need to/would have to/should read books like these to Elena'  
(→ no number agreement with the 3p.plural absolutive)

- c. \* (Zu-k) Elena-ri ipuin-ak irakurri behar zenituzke  
You-erg Elena-dat book-det.pl.-abs read-ptc need Aux(have)3p.plA-2p.sg.E  
'You would need to/would have to/should read books like these to Elena'  
(→ no agreement with the dative argument)

(16b) is bad because the main auxiliary fails to agree in number with the embedded object (the form *zenioke* shows singular agreement with the embedded object *ipuinak*, which is plural and not singular). (16c) is illformed because the form *zenituzke* does not show agreement with the embedded 3 p.sg. dative DP *Elenari* 'to Elena'.

### 3.2. The interpretation of the embedded subject

One property of the type of construction illustrated in (12) or (14-16a), where *behar* takes a non-finite complement, is that the embedded subject is obligatorily controlled. If the subject is not controlled, the embedded non-finite verb must surface with a different morphology: it must take the suffix *-tzea* (See Duguine, this volume, and San Martin, this volume, for related discussion). This requirement is illustrated in (17-18):

- (17) *Jone-k<sub>i</sub> [ Δ<sub>i</sub> etorr-i ] behar-ko du*  
Jone-erg come need/must-prospect Aux(have)3sgA-3sgE  
'Jone will have to come'

- (18) *Jone-k<sub>i</sub> [(zu<sub>j</sub>/ Δ<sub>k</sub>) etor-tze-a ] beharko du*  
Jone-erg<sub>i</sub> (you<sub>j</sub>/ Δ<sub>k</sub>) come-tze-D behar-prosp Aux(have)3sgA-3sgE  
'Jone<sub>i</sub> will need that you /Δ<sub>k</sub> come'

Summarizing, the construction involving modal *behar* behaves as a transitive structure, both when *behar* takes a DP or a non-inflected verbal complement: the subject surfaces with ergative Case and the auxiliary is transitive. Further, in addition to agreement with the subject, the transitive auxiliary must also agree with the complement (when this is a DP) or with all the arguments of the embedded verb (when the complement is a non-inflected clause). Finally, when the complement is a non-finite clause, this modal construction is an Obligatory Control structure (the embedded subject is interpreted as being obligatorily controlled by the matrix subject).

We have seen that *behar* can take a non-inflected clause as its complement. But, what is the size of this embedded complement? We address this question in the next sections.

### 3.3. Lack of aspectual modification

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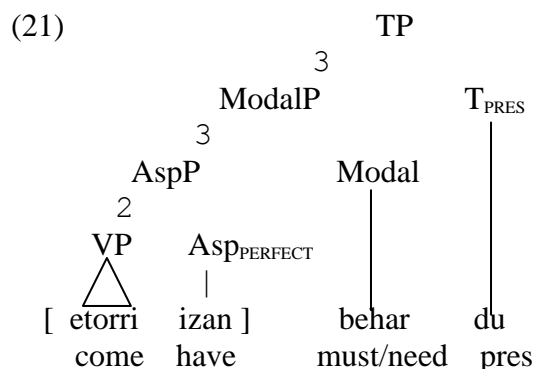
In the previous sections we have shown that the complement of *behar* can be a VP, when the embedded non-inflected complement is intransitive (unaccusative), as in (19a), and we have also shown that it can be a vP, since the embedded non-finite predicate can be transitive, as in (19b).

- (19) a. Subj<sub>ERG</sub> [VP  $\emptyset$ <sub>CONTROLLED SUBJ</sub> V<sub>INTRANSITIVE</sub> ] BEHAR Aux<sub>TRANSITIVE</sub>  
 b. Subj<sub>ERG</sub> [vP  $\emptyset$ <sub>CONTROLLED SUBJ</sub> (DP<sub>DAT</sub>) DP<sub>ABS</sub> V<sub>TRANSITIVE</sub>] BEHAR Aux<sub>TRANSITIVE</sub>

Let us now consider whether it can be bigger than that. We will start by analyzing whether the uninflected verbal complement of *behar* allows aspectual modification (that is, whether it can be an AspP). Consider the example in (20).

- (20) *pro etorri izan behar du*  
 s/he come have must/need AuxTR-3p.sg.Erg.

In (20) the verb *izan* ('to be'/'to have')<sup>3</sup> functions as an aspectual verb, and can be (roughly) translated as perfect *have*. If we followed the traditional analysis of Basque as a head final language, the phrase structure that corresponds to (20) would be that in (21).<sup>4</sup>



Under this analysis, (20) would be the Basque counterpart (the mirror image) of the English (22a) or the Spanish (22b). Note that in these examples, the modal takes scope over the aspectual verb (*have/haber*), just like *behar* takes scope over the perfect *izan* in (21).

- (22) a. *She* [<sub>MODP</sub> *must* [<sub>ASPP</sub> *have* [<sub>VP</sub> *come* ]]] [modal > have<sub>PERF</sub> ]  
 b. *Ella* [<sub>MODP</sub> *debe* [<sub>ASPP</sub> *haber* [<sub>VP</sub> *venido* ]]] [modal > haber<sub>PERF</sub> ]

However, the interpretation of (20) does not correspond to the interpretation of the examples in (22): while the examples in (22) have an epistemic interpretation, (20) does not license the epistemic reading and only allows a root construal –contrary to what follows from the structure in (21), the Perfect does not operate on the verb *come*, but

<sup>3</sup> Basque has no distinct infinitival form for the intransitive and transitive auxiliaries, which show different roots in their finite forms. Both have the same non-finite form, which is also their citation form: *izan*.

<sup>4</sup> Whether Basque is really a head final language or not is still subject to debate. The reader is referred to Arateax, Artiagoitia & Elordieta (eds.) (2008), and references therein, for extensive discussion on the head parameter in Basque.



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rather on the modal *behar*. Further, speakers only accept (20) as a variant of the root modal construction in (23), where the aspectual head *izan* follows, instead of preceding, the modal *behar*.

- (23) *Etorri behar izan du*  
Come need/must have Aux  
'(S)he has had to come/(s)he needed to come'

We thus conclude that, despite appearances to the contrary, in (20) *behar* does not take an AspP as its complement. In other words, in (20) Asp must be hierarchically higher than the modal, as it constrains the interpretation of the modal (*behar*), and not the interpretation of the complement of the modal (*etorri* 'to come').<sup>5</sup>

The conclusion that modal *behar* cannot take AspP as its complement is further confirmed when we turn to aspectual heads other than the perfect. Consider the examples in (24).

- (24) a. \* [ *Liburua irakur-tzen* ] *behar du*  
book-A read-tzen must/need Aux  
'S/he must read a book (habitually)/S/he need to read a book (habitually)'  
b. \* [ *Liburua irakur-tzen ari* ] *behar du*  
book-A read-tzen progr. must/need Aux  
'S/he must be reading a book/S/he need to be reading a book'  
c. \* [ *Liburua irakurri-ko* ] *behar du*  
Book-A read-prospective must/need Aux  
'S/he must/needs to go to read a book'

In (24a) we have attached different aspectual affixes to the complement of the modal, the verb *irakurri* ('to read'). In (24a) we have suffixed the morpheme *-tzen*, which is an aspectual marker used in continuative and habitual constructions. In (24b) we have added the complex aspectual marker *-tzen ari*, used to express progressive aspect. Finally, in (24c) we have the aspectual head *-ko*, used to express prospective aspect, attached to *irakurri*. As the grammaticality judgments indicate, all these constructions are ungrammatical: modal *behar* cannot take aspectually inflected complements.<sup>6</sup> Note that this possibility is not ruled out in other languages, as shown by the examples in

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<sup>5</sup> For detailed discussion on how to derive the different lineal orders of modal constructions involving aspectual verbs in Basque under a head final or head initial approach to Basque, see Haddican (2008) and Balza (2010a). See also Demirdache & Uribe-Etxebarria (2009) for the interface between the morphosyntax of Basque modals and the different modal construals they can give rise to.

<sup>6</sup> The only exception are cases like (i). In (i) the complement of *behar* licenses a progressive reading: '(s)he must be reading a/the book'.

(i) *Liburua irakurtzen egon behar du*  
Book reading be must Aux

But notice that (i) is not an exception to the generalization we have given in the text. The reason why (i) is good is because *egon* is a lexical verb which, as its Spanish lexical counterpart *estar*, can give rise to a progressive construal. In other words, even if the complement of *behar* has a progressive reading in (i), the head of the complement of *behar* is not an aspectual morpheme (a functional head), but rather the lexical verb *egon*; thus, *behar* selects a VP, and not an AspP, in (i).

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(25), where the modals *deber* (Sp. ‘must’/‘have to’) and *must* take progressive, perfect, and even perfect progressive complements:<sup>7</sup>

- (25) a. *Ella debe haber leído el libro*  
a’. *She must have read the book*
- b. *Ella debe estar leyendo el libro*  
b’. *She must be reading the book*
- c. *Ella debe haber estado leyendo el libro*  
c’. *She must have been reading the book*

Summarizing, in contrast with modal verbs in other languages, transitive modal *behar* cannot subcategorize for an AspP in Basque.

### 3.4. Temporal modifiers

Further evidence that the non-inflected complement of the modal has a reduced size comes from the study of temporal adverbials: non-finite constructions preceding the modal do not admit any temporal modifier, as illustrated below. In (26a) the adverb *atzo* (‘yesterday’) modifies *behar*: the need is thus located in the temporal span that corresponds to *yesterday*. As soon as we add a temporal modifier in the embedded complement, the sentence becomes ungrammatical, as shown in (26b), where we have introduced the adverb *gaur* (‘today’).<sup>8</sup>

- (26) a. *Jon-ek atzo etxean egon behar zuen*  
Jon-erg yesterday home-loc be need Aux [3p.sg.A-3p.sg.E]  
‘Jon needed to be at home yesterday’
- b.\* *Jon-ek atzo gaur etxean egon behar zuen*  
Jon-erg yesterday today home-loc be need Aux[3p.sg.A-3p.sg.E]  
‘Yesterday Jon needed to be at home today’

Since, as we have seen in the previous section, modal *behar* cannot take AspP as its complement, we interpret the impossibility to license independent temporal adverbials in the non-inflected complement as an indication that this complement cannot be a TP either.

### 3.5. Negation

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<sup>7</sup> The examples in (25), with present tense, only license an epistemic reading. However, modal constructions inflected for the past frequently allow other modal readings. See Condoravdi (2002), Laca (2005, 2008) Borgonovo & Cummins (2007) and references therein for related discussion. See also Demirdache & Uribe-Etxebarria (2008a, b, 2010) for an approach that derives the different modal readings allowed by past modal constructions from a single phrase structure, without appealing to dedicated functional projections.

<sup>8</sup> One could argue that the ungrammaticality of (26b) is based on a semantic restriction: the impossibility of licensing the two adverbials *yesterday* and *today* in the same sentence. However, as shown by Etxepare & Uribe-Etxebarria (2009), the constraint must be syntactic, as the double adverbial modification is possible when the embedded non-finite clause surfaces following, instead of preceding, the modal. See Haddican & Tsoulas (this volume) for related discussion.

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Another property of the construction under analysis is that it does not license negation in the embedded complement. Thus, while a negative embedded complement is possible in other languages, as illustrated by the Spanish and English modal sentences in (27), its Basque counterparts in (28) are totally ungrammatical (no matter what the position of *ez* (Neg) in the embedded complement is).

(27) a. *Debes no quedarte en casa tanto tiempo*  
must-you Neg stay-CL at home so long  
'You must not stay at home for such a long time'

b. *You must not stay at home alone*

(28) a. \**Zu-k [etxea-n ez geratu] behar duzu*  
You-erg home-loc Neg stay need Aux[3p.sg.A-2p.sg.E]  
'You must not stay at home'

b. \**Zu-k [ez etxea-n geratu] behar duzu*  
You-erg neg home-loc stay need Aux[3p.sg.A-2p.sg.E]  
'You must not stay at home'

c. \**Zu-k [etxea-n geratu ez] behar duzu*  
You-erg home-loc stay neg need Aux[3p.sg.A-2p.sg.E]  
'You must not stay at home'

We thus conclude that the complement of *behar* cannot be a NegP either. This is not a surprising fact, considering the conclusions we have reached in the previous section. If, as Laka (1990) has defended, NegP is hierarchically higher than TP (Neg selects for TP in Basque), the fact that this type of modal construction does not seem to be able to take TP complements correlates with the fact that it cannot take NegP complements either.<sup>9</sup>

Summarizing the discussion so far: the complement of transitive *behar* can be either a DP or a non-finite clause (not larger than a vP).

Recall that at the beginning of this section we have shown that the matrix auxiliary has to display agreement with all the arguments of the embedded predicate. If this is correct, it suggests that, in contrast with other non-finite constructions, the embedded arguments cannot check their Case and agreement features within the non-finite clause and must look at the matrix domain to do it (See Duguine 2011 for related discussion).

#### 4. Alternative approaches to modal *behar*

##### 4.1. Modal *behar* as an incorporated noun

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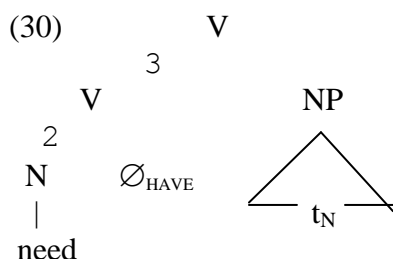
<sup>9</sup> This is again another difference that distinguishes modal constructions where the non-inflected complement precedes *behar* from those ones where it follows this modal. While, as shown in the text, Negation is not licensed when the complement precedes *behar*, it is licensed when this complement follows *behar*. See Etxepare & Uribe-Etxebarria (2009, 2010a,b,c) for detailed discussion of these facts. The reader is referred to Haddican & Tsoulas (this volume) for related discussion.

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Harves and Kayne have recently argued that the English modal verb *need* derives from an underlying structure where a nominal *need* is the complement of a transitive light verb *have* (a verb expressing ordinary possession) (Harves 2008, Harves & Kayne 2008, Kayne 2009), as very roughly represented in (29=3):

(29) have [<sub>NP</sub> need ]

Assuming this structure, they propose that modal *need* is derived via incorporation of nominal *need* to the light verb (see also Uribe-Etxebarria 1989b, 1990 for related discussion). For ease of exposition, we could represent it schematically as in (30).<sup>10</sup>



This analysis is based on the observation that transitive *need* implies the presence in the languages of transitive *have* (see Isačenko 1974 and Noonan 1993, Bhatt 1998).

Notice that although *need* remains a noun after incorporation to the empty verb *have*, the fact that it incorporates to this verbal head explains why it shows up “disguised” as a verb. On the one hand, “incorporation of the nominal *need* into the verbal head *have* results in the appearance of a transitive verb *need* inheriting the accusative Case licensing properties of *have*” (Kayne op.cit.: 4). Since the incorporated noun *need* does not need Case, *have* can assign Case to the complement of *need*, eliminating the need for the preposition *of*. Thus, if we start with a structure like (31), the incorporation of *need* into *have* would explain why in (32) *need* behaves as a transitive verb and why the object of *need*, the DP *a new car*, surfaces as the object of the transitive modal construction and receives accusative Case.

(31) *They have [need of a new car] > they [need+Øhave]<sub>V</sub> [a new car]<sub>ACC</sub>*

(32) *They need a new car*

In the absence of incorporation, *need* itself requires Case, either from *have* or from a *P*.

(33) a. ? *They have need of a new car*

b. *They are in need of a new car* Kayne (2009)

Summarizing, under Harves & Kayne’s analysis *need* is, strictly speaking, never a verb (it is a noun). But, although *need* is not a verb, for the reasons we have just discussed it surfaces as if it was one from the point of view of theta-role assignment and Case. Further, its incorporation into the empty head *have* also explains why it surfaces with verbal inflectional morphology, just as as any other verb in English.

<sup>10</sup> For ease of exposition, we represent the copies left by movement as traces.

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- (34) a. *There will need to be more work done*  
b. *He has always needed a sister*  
c. *Despite needing a sister*  
d. *They don't need to stay*  
e. *They haven't needed to talk to us*  
f. *They couldn't possibly have needed to do that* (Kayne 2009)

The incorporation analysis proposed by Harves & Kayne captures the generalization that only languages that have a possessive auxiliary-like *have* possess also a transitive *need* and explains in a simple and an elegant way the verbal behavior and the inflectional properties of the denominal modal *need*.

#### 4.2. Problems for an incorporation analysis of the modal in Basque: the inflectional morphology of *behar*

Just like English, Basque also has an auxiliary-like transitive *have* in possessive constructions, as shown in (4a) above and in (35) below.

- (35) *Zu-k liburu asko dituzu*  
You-Erg book many-Abs Aux(have)3psgErg-3ps.pl.Abs  
'You have many books'

Basque also has the counterparts of the two English structures in (31-32):

- (36) a. *Nik [horr-en beharr-a] dut*  
I-Erg [that-genit need-det] Aux(have)3psgA-1psgErg  
'I have (the) need of that'
- b. *Ni [horr-en beharr-ean] nago*  
I-Abs [that-genit need-locative] am  
'I am in (the) need of that'

Further, it also has a modal *need* that behaves as a transitive verb, taking either NP/DP complements or vp/VP dependents. In this regard, it is tempting to extend an incorporation analysis à la Harves & Kayne to this language.

We depart however from the derivation proposed by these authors for English *need*. As shown above, English *need* surfaces in all respects with the appearance of a regular verb. However this is not the case of Basque *behar*. While, as shown at length above, it is true that it behaves as a regular transitive verb, modal *behar* shows a sharp difference with regard to the inflectional paradigm displayed by ordinary verbs in Basque.

The first difference between this modal and other regular verbs is that in contrast with the majority of verbs in Basque –which take a special type of suffix (*-tu*, *-n*, *i*) in their citation form (what is traditionally called 'the participial form)–, *behar* bears no suffix whatsoever.<sup>11</sup> This is illustrated in (37).

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<sup>11</sup> See Haddican & Tsoulas (this volume) and references therein for related discussion on the so called participial/citation forms in Basque.



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‘To need’                      ‘Needing’                      ‘So that (s)he may need’

We thus contend that the necessity modal *behar* is related to its nominal base in a way other than ordinary syntactic incorporation.

Finally, there is another property of *behar*, related to the one we have just discussed, which separates *behar* from the rest of the verbal paradigm, and which has to do with the attachment of aspectual inflexional suffixes. While aspectual morphemes usually attach directly to the verbs in Basque (see (42)), the modal verb *behar* does not take any aspectual markers (except for the suffix of prospective aspect *-ko*),<sup>13</sup> rather the aspectual morphemes must attach to a dummy auxiliary *izan* ‘be/have’.

- (42) a. *Hartu dut*  
 take-perf Aux  
 ‘I have taken it’
- b. *Hartzen dut*  
 take-imp Aux  
 ‘I usually take it’
- c. *Hartuko dut*  
 take-prospective Aux  
 ‘I will take it’
- (43) a. *Behar izan dut*  
 need be-perf Aux  
 ‘I have need it’
- b. *Behar dut*  
 need Aux  
 ‘I need it’
- c. *Behar izaten dut*  
 need be-imp Aux  
 ‘I usually need it’
- d. *Behar izango / beharko dut*  
 need be-prosp / behar-prosp Aux  
 ‘I will need it’

This is an unexpected result if, as proposed for English *need*, the Basque noun *behar* also incorporated into a silent counterpart of *have*. All these properties lead us to reject an incorporation analysis of modal *behar*, and look for an alternative explanation which derives the correlation between the existence of a transitive verb *have* and the existence of transitive modals in a different way. Before we move onto Section 5, where we develop our analysis of transitive *behar*, we want to emphasize that, under Harves & Kayne’s proposal, the “transitive” properties of modal *need* do not directly follow from an incorporation operation of *need*, but rather from the fact that *have* can take complements and assign accusative Case. What the incorporation analysis does is liberate the verb so that, instead of checking the case features of *need*, it checks the case feature of the complement of *need*. In the analysis we defend in this paper, where *behar* is a nominal predicate, the issue of how this element checks its Case feature does not arise even if *behar* does not incorporate onto *have*, as predicates need not be assigned Case.

In the following section we develop our analysis of *behar*.

## 5. Building a denominal modal

### 5.1. The underlying structure of transitive modal *behar*

<sup>13</sup> *-ko* is an adpositional suffix that can directly attach to bare NPs, as well as some postpositional phrases (see Goenaga, 2003, and Artiagoitia, this volume).

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Following our earlier work (Etxepare & Uribe-Etxebarria 2010a), we will argue that the constructions involving transitive modal *behar* under analysis derive from an underlying structure, represented in (44a), where *behar* starts out as the nominal predicate of a small clause and the content of the need is the subject of this small clause.<sup>14</sup> As shown in (44b), the experiencer of the need is related to the small clause by means of an adposition, akin in its function to applicative morphemes. The incorporation of this adposition to a higher raising predicate BE yields the so-called transitive auxiliary *edun* ‘have’ in Basque. As we will show in Section 6, the analysis of *have* as a derived verb is independently attested in Basque for configurations other than the strictly modal ones.

(44) a. [SMALL CLAUSE { DP  
Non-finite verbal XP } behar ]

b. ...BE [PP DP P [SMALL CLAUSE { DP  
Non-finite verbal XP } behar ] ]

The underlying clausal configuration we propose for Basque necessity modals in (44b) is reminiscent of the type of nominal modal constructions we find in other languages, and in particular of the type we find in some Celtic languages, as discussed among others by Siadhail (1989), Hickey (2009) and Hansen & de Haan (2009) for Irish Gaelic, and by Noonan (1993) and Ramchand (1997) for Scottish Gaelic. In Scottish Gaelic, for instance, necessity modal constructions may be expressed by means of structures of the type illustrated in (45) (from Ramchand, 1997:150). In this example, the phrase *to buy a house* is the complement of the modal expressing obligation or necessity and the obligatory prepositional phrase is necessarily construed as the ‘required buyer’. To account for the interpretation of the embedded subject, Ramchand assumes that the complement phrase contains a controlled subject position (PRO).

(45) *Bu choir dhombh* [ PRO *taigh a cheannach*]  
Obligation to+me house 3p buy-VN  
‘I should buy a house’

Irish too has the option of expressing obligation in modal constructions with the structure illustrated in (46), from Hickey (2009:6); this construction “uses the word *éigean* ‘compulsion, obligation’ and a prepositional pronoun – *de* + personal pronoun – which expresses relevance to an individual” (Hickey op.cit.: 6). The Irish example in (45b), which we borrow from Hansen & de Haan (2009: 77), further illustrates this type of modal construction. The interpretation of these examples leads us to conclude that

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<sup>14</sup> Unless we assume that Basque is head final, the fact that in the type of constructions under analysis *behar* precedes the Auxiliary has to be taken as an indication that it has undergone leftward movement. Haddican (2008) provides strong evidence that this is so. Although we will not enter into the discussion of word order in modal constructions in this paper, we follow this author in assuming that *behar*, or a projection containing this head, moves syntactically from its base position. See Etxepare & Uribe-Etxebarria (2009) for independent evidence in favor of this analysis. We leave open for further research what exactly the final landing site of *behar* is.



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the DP introduced by the adposition and the subject of the embedded predicate must be correferential, in the same way that they were correferential in Scottish Gaelic.

(46) a. *B'éigean dúinn cinneadh a dhéanamh.* (Hickey 2009)

was compulsion to-us decision COMP make-VN

'We had to make a decision.'

b. *Tá feidhm orm teach a thógáil* (Hansen & de Haan 2009)

be-prs need on me house PTL build-VN

'I need to build a house'

We propose that Basque necessity modals have a structure akin in many respects to the Celtic modal constructions illustrated in (45-46). Unlike the structure proposed by Ramchand in (45), however, we take the necessity modal noun *behar* and the content of the necessity to form an independent clausal constituent that we label as a "Small Clause":

(47) [<sub>SMALL CLAUSE</sub> { DP  
Non-finite verbal XP } behar ]

(47) represents a predicative relation between the noun *behar* 'need' and the content of the need, expressed by the subject of the small clause. The structure of the small clause represented in (47) leaves the DP for which the need or obligation is relevant (the DP that is interpreted as having the need or obligation), outside this predicative relation. This DP, which we have been informally referring to as the experiencer of the need/obligation, merges to the clausal structure by means of an adposition (P), as in (48).

(48) ...[<sub>ADPOSITIONAL PHRASE</sub> DP<sub>EXPERIENCER</sub> P [<sub>SMALL CLAUSE</sub> ... ]]

This entire PP is, in turn, the complement of a copula BE into which, we assume, the adposition incorporates:

(49) ...[<sub>VP</sub> BE [ Experiencer P [<sub>SMALL CLAUSE</sub> ... need ] ]]

In order to account for the Obligatory Control interpretation that these structures have (the DP to which we have referred as the *experiencer* obligatorily controls the subject of the non-inflected predicate sitting in the subject of the small clause), for the time being we will assume, in the spirit of Ramchand (1997), that this DP controls a null subject PRO in the non-finite complement, roughly as in (50).

(50) ...[<sub>VP</sub> BE [<sub>PP</sub> DP<sub>i</sub> P [<sub>SMALL CLAUSE</sub> [ PRO<sub>i</sub> ... V<sub>non-finite</sub> ] need ] ]]

The incorporation of the adposition in (50) into BE, a raising verb, yields the transitive auxiliary *edun* 'have' (in the spirit of Kayne, 1993).

We assume that the experiencer checks Ergative case when it raises to Spec of T (see Rezac, Albizu and Etxepare, 2011 for arguments in favour of ergative checking in T) after the incorporation of P to BE and the subsequent derivation of a transitive verb. The

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complex auxiliary, which as a result of the incorporation operation includes a Case licensing adposition, is thus available to check the case of a nominal in the subject of the small clause. The nominal *behar*, being a predicate, does not require a case licenser.

## 5.2. Arity operations with modal *behar*

One revealing property of the necessity modal construction in Basque concerns the limited extent to which it yields to arity operations like reflexivization and reciprocalization.

Basque has two strategies to construct a reflexive predicate: one is by means of the body-part reflexive *possessive pronoun + buru* “one’s head”, and the other one is by detransitivizing the verb, in which case the auxiliary is the intransitive *izan* “be”. This is a strategy shared by inherent reflexives such as *garbitu* “wash” (51a), which do not admit the body part reflexive (51c) despite the fact that they take ordinary objects (51b), as well as by non reflexive verbs such as *ikusi* “see” (52a), which can reflexivize by means of the body-part reflexive (52b) or via insertion in an intransitive structure (52c):

- (51) a. *Jon garbitu da*  
Jon-abs wash Aux(BE)1p.sg.A  
‘John washed’
- b. *Jonek zakurra garbitu du*  
Jon-erg dog-abs washed Aux(HAVE)3p.sg.A.3p.sg.E  
‘Jon washed the dog’
- c. \**Jonek bere burua garbitu du*  
Jon-erg his head washed Aux(HAVE)3p.sg.A.3p.sg.E  
‘John washed (\*himself)’
- (52) a. *Jonek zakurra ikusi du*  
Jon-erg dog-abs seen Aux(HAVE)3p.sg.A.3p.sg.E  
‘Jon saw the dog’
- b. *Jonek bere burua ispiluan ikusi du*  
Jon-erg his head mirror-det-in seen Aux(HAVE)3p.sg.A.3p.sg.E  
‘John saw himself in the mirror’
- c. *Jon ispiluan ikusi da*  
Jon-abs mirror-det-in seen Aux(BE)1p.sg.A  
‘Jon saw himself in the mirror’

The detransitivization strategy is not circumscribed to reflexive predicates, but is shared by a wider spectrum of valency affecting operations. It is an option to express reciprocal

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relations, as well as impersonals, middles and inchoatives (see Etxepare, 2003).<sup>15</sup> In the case of reciprocals, the intransitivization strategy alternates with an overt reciprocal pronoun *elkar* “each other”:

- (53) a. *Bilkura-n ikusi dira*  
Meeting-in seen Aux(BE)1p.pl.A  
‘They saw each other in the meeting’
- b. *Bilkuran ikusi dute elkar*  
meeting-in seen Aux(HAVE)3p.sg.A.3p.pl.E each other  
‘They saw each other in the meeting’

One intriguing property of modal *behar* constructions is that they are impossible in the intransitive reflexive configurations. The impossibility of the detransitivization strategy is apparent in the ungrammaticality of (54a,b).<sup>16</sup>

- (54) a. \**Jon behar da*  
Jon need Aux(BE)1p.sg.A  
‘Jon needs himself’
- b. \**Jon eta Miren behar dira*  
Jon and Miren need Aux(BE)1p.pl.A  
‘Jon and Miren need each other’

Compare the Basque cases with the Spanish verb *necesitar* “need”, related to the noun *necesidad* “need”. The derived verb behaves as a transitive verb regarding reflexivization and reciprocalization. Both can be expressed by means of an arity operation that absorbs the internal argument (see Reinhart and Siloni, 2004, 2005 and references therein). The presence of the clitic *se* in Spanish signals the underlying transitive status of the verb (see Koontz-Garboden, 2007 and references therein):

- (55) a. *Juan se necesita (a sí mismo)*  
Juan CL needs P se self  
‘Juan needs himself’
- b. *Juan y María se necesitan*  
Juan and Maria CL need  
‘Juan and Maria need each other’

---

<sup>15</sup> From this perspective, intransitive constructions are reminiscent of the romance SE constructions. See Grimshaw (1982), Burzio (1986), Mendikoetxea (1999), Labelle (2008), among others, for a discussion of the basic facts in Romance.

<sup>16</sup> The body-part anaphor is possible in those configurations under contexts identical to (57). The reciprocal anaphor is not. For a detailed discussion on arity operations in Basque and on the restrictions affecting the nominal reciprocal anaphor, see Etxepare (2011).

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Although (55a) is admittedly bizarre in pragmatic terms, it is acceptable in a context where a distinction between *Juan* and his potentially different selves becomes available:

- (56) *Juan se necesita (a sí mismo) en plena forma para la entrevista de mañana*  
Juan SE needs (prep himself) in good shape for the interview of tomorrow  
“Juan needs himself in good shape for the interview tomorrow”

Similar examples can be constructed for English *need* constructions (from the internet):

- (57) *Socrates<sub>1</sub> needs Hippias as much as he<sub>1</sub> needs himself<sub>1</sub>*

Nothing of this sort can be constructed with the intransitive reflexive construction in Basque. In this regard, the Basque intransitive reflexive construction contrasts with the body-part anaphor (58a,b):

- (58) a. *Xabierrek bere burua prest behar du biharko elkarrizketa-rako*  
Xabier-erg his head ready need has tomorrow-gen interview-for  
‘Xabier needs himself ready for the interview tomorrow’  
b. *\*Xabier prest behar da bihar-ko elkarrizketa-rako*  
Xabier ready need is tomorrow-gen interview-for  
‘Xabier needs himself ready for the interview tomorrow’

The Spanish (56b) involves an ordinary reciprocal predicate. Nothing like (56b) can be directly constructed with the Basque intransitive reflexive, unlike what happens with ordinary transitive verbs.

### 5.2.1. Pure reflexives and near-reflexives

In recent approaches to binding (see Reinhart and Reuland, 1993 and much subsequent work), reflexivity is a property of predicates, not a property of pronominal items. On this view, the role of reflexive pronouns is not to express coreference but to reflexivize predicates. Reflexive marking of a predicate can be realized lexically (sometimes through a verbal affix) or syntactically (through a SELF anaphor). As observed by Reuland (2001), lexically reflexive predicates and predicates reflexivized by a complex SELF anaphor make different contributions to the kind of reflexive interpretation conveyed by the predicate. The distinct contribution of lexical and syntactic reflexivity is apparent in contexts such as the Madame Tussaud examples first discussed by Jackendoff (1992). As a concrete instantiation of this context, imagine that Ringo Starr goes into Madame Tussaud’s wax museum, which contains a statue depicting him. Upon seeing the statue, Ringo is bothered because the museum has chosen to portray him with a beard, though he himself prefers a shaven look. He decides to take out his razor and shave the statue that portrays him. Reuland notes that in this context, it is felicitous in Dutch to say (59b), which contains an inherently reflexive-marked predicate, but not (59a), a transitive predicate with a reflexivizing SELF anaphor:

- (59) a. *Ringo scheert zich*  
Ringo shaves SE  
‘Ringo shaves himself’ (Ringo≠statue)

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- b. *Ringo scheert zichzelf*  
 Ringo scheert SELF  
 ‘Ringo shaves himself’ (Ringo=statue)

Conversely, it could happen that the statue Ringo discovers at the wax museum is one that doesn’t have a beard. Watching it, Ringo realizes that he looks much better without a beard: he pulls out his razor and begins to shave his own face. In this context, Reuland notes, (59a) is felicitous but (59b) is not. Lidz (2001) points out that the same distinction arises in Kannada between the lexically marked reflexive predicates and those reflexive-marked by a complex anaphor. In the context put forward by Lidz, Ringo Starr enters the wax museum and finds his own statue there. If the verb is lexically reflexive-marked (via a reflexive morpheme internal to the verbal form), the statue interpretation is blocked, and it is himself that Ringo must see (for instance, in a mirror). When the predicate is reflexive-marked by the complex anaphor, the statue interpretation becomes available (Lidz, 2001:128):

- (60) a. *Hari tann-annu nood-i-kond-a*  
 Hari self-ACC see-PP-REFL.PST-3SM  
 ‘Hari saw himself’ (Hari ≠ statue)
- b. *Hari tann-annu-tanne nood-id-a*  
 Hari self-ACC-self see-PST-3SM  
 ‘Hari saw himself’ (Hari = Hari or statue)

The two Basque reflexive strategies differ along the same lines (see Etxepare 2011). Take the verb *ikusi* ‘see’, which admits both the complex anaphor and the intransitive options. In the same context as the Kannada cases, (61a) is perfectly fine, but (61b) is pragmatically odd (assuming that the referent of *John Lennon* can only correspond nowadays to a statue):

- (61) a. *Ringok bere burua ikusi du* *museoan,*  
 Ringo-erg his head-abs seen Aux(HAVE)3p.sg.A.3p.sg.E museum-in  
  
*John Lennon-en ondoan*  
 John Lennon-genit vicinity-in  
 ‘Ringo saw himself in the museum, next to John Lennon’
- c. *Ringo museoan ikusi da,* *#John Lennon-en ondoan*  
 Jon-abs mirror-det-in seen Aux(BE)1p.sg.A, J.L-genit vicinity-in  
 ‘Ringo saw himself in the museum, next to John Lennon’ (Ringo ≠ statue)

In the same context of elicitation as the Kannada sentences, only (61a), with a complex body-part anaphor, is felicitous in the statue reading.

Comparative deletion constructions provide another context where the two types of reflexive relation are distinguished. The lexically reflexive-marked predicates allow only a sloppy interpretation, while the syntactically reflexive-marked predicates allow

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either a strict or a sloppy reading (Sells, Zaenen and Zec, 1987). Lidz provides the following Kannada cases (62a,b) to illustrate this asymmetry (Lidz, 2001:129):

- (62) a. *Rashmi Siita-ginta cheenage tann-annu rakshisi-koll-utt-aale*  
Rashmi Sita-comp better self-acc defend-refl-npst-3sf  
‘Rashmi defends herself better than Sita defends herself’  
\*‘Rashmi<sub>i</sub> defends herself better than Sita defends her<sub>i</sub>’
- b. *Rashmi Siita-ginta cheenage tann-annu-taane rakshis-utt-aale*  
Rashmi Sita-comp better self-acc-self defend-npst-3sf  
‘Rashmi defends herself better than Sita defends herself’  
‘Rashmi<sub>i</sub> defends herself better than Sita defends her<sub>i</sub>’

The same asymmetry between sloppy and strict readings arises in the case of the two reflexivization strategies in Basque. Only in the presence of the body-part anaphor is a strict reading possible (63b), as opposed to (63a):

- (63) a. *Miren bere abokatua baino hobe defendatu zen*  
Miren his lawyer-D but better defended Aux(BE).past  
‘Miren defended herself better than the lawyer defended himself’  
\*‘Miren<sub>i</sub> defended herself better than the lawyer defended her<sub>i</sub>’
- b. *Mirenek bere abokatuak baino hobe defendatu zuen bere burua*  
Miren-erg his lawyer-erg but better defended Aux(HAVE).past his head-abs  
‘Miren defended herself better than the lawyer defended himself’  
‘Miren<sub>i</sub> defended herself better than the lawyer defended her<sub>i</sub>’

The Madame Tussaud’s examples, as well as the comparative deletion cases show that SELF anaphors allow an interpretation in which the anaphor is referentially dependent on its antecedent, but is not necessarily identical with it. Lidz (2001) calls such anaphors *near-reflexives*. The difference between near-reflexive predicates and semantically reflexive predicates is shown in (64) (Lidz, 2001:129):

- (64) a.  $\lambda x [P(x,x)]$  (semantic/pure reflexive)  
b.  $\lambda x [P(x, f(x))]$  (near-reflexive)

(64a) indicates that the two arguments of the predicate P are identical, or that one single entity realizes both roles of the predicate. In (64b), the second argument is a function taking the first argument as input and returning an entity that is representationally related to that argument (Reuland, 2001:481). In many cases, those two representations will be extensionally identical. The near-reflexive function does not prohibit the antecedent and the anaphor from being the same entity in the world, particularly if *f* can be the identity function. On the other hand, in pure reflexive anaphoric relations the anaphor and its antecedent must be identical. This may account for the fact that the intransitive reflexivization strategy, unlike the body-part anaphor in Basque, forces *de se* readings. To illustrate this fact, consider a context where a group of painters examines an old file with drawings from the art school of their youth. One of them, let’s call it Xabier, pulls out an old drawing that he finds extraordinary and starts to praise it. He doesn’t remember that the painting is his (many years have elapsed since art-school),

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but Jon, who is next to him, does. In that context, Jon can say (65a), but cannot say (65b):

- (65) a. *Xabierrek bere burua goraiatu du, baina ez da konturatu*  
Xabier-erg his head-abs praised has but neg is realized  
'Xabier praised himself, but he didn't realize'
- b. *Xabier goraiatu da, # baina ez da konturatu*  
Xabier praised is, but neg is realized  
'Xabier praised himself, but he didn't realize'

The intransitive reflexives therefore, require strict identity between the arguments coindexed in the anaphoric relation, as in (64a). The logical representation in (64a) also allows us to derive the sloppy reading under the relevant predicates. Thus, the sloppy reading obligatory in the case of (62a) and (63a) follows as a result of copying the semantic predicate of the antecedent (65a) in the elided site at LF (66b), and applying the subject arguments (66c) (see Lidz, 2001 for details and a semantic account of the strict readings in the context of this hypothesis):

- (66) a.  $\lambda x[\text{defend}(x,x)]$   
b.  $\lambda x[\text{defend}(x,x)]$  (she) better than  $\lambda x[\text{defend}(x,x)]$  (Peter)  
c.  $[\text{defend}(\text{she}, \text{she})$  better than  $[\text{defend}(\text{Peter}, \text{Peter})]$

Lexically or morphologically reflexive predicates, according to Lidz, never allow the near-reflexive interpretation. The generalization is captured by his Condition R (Lidz, 2001:131):

- (67) Condition R

$\lambda x[P(x,x)] \rightarrow (\theta_1 = \theta_2)$   
semantics       $\theta$ -grid

The condition states that if a predicate is semantically reflexive, then it must be lexically reflexive. Similarly, if a predicate is lexically reflexive, then it must be semantically reflexive. By stating the generalization as an identity condition on the reference of theta-roles, Lidz's condition R comes close to those analyses that view reflexivity as the result of an operation on the argument structure of predicates. One which comes particularly close to Lidz's condition R is Reinhart and Siloni's (2005) "bundling" operation, which takes two theta-roles and forms one complex theta-role. Reflexivization, as argued by Reinhart and Siloni, cannot be just a valency reducing operation as suggested in Chierchia (2004), but one that assigns two distinct roles to a single DP. The lexical operation that derives a reflexive predicate from a basic transitive one specifies that the roles associated to the verbal root apply to one and the same entity:

- (68) a. *Max washed*  
b.  $E(e)$  [wash (e) & Agent (Max,e) & Theme (Max,e)]

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In this sense, reflexivization for Reinhart and Siloni is not a valency reducing operation, but an operation that takes two theta roles and forms one complex theta-role:

(69) *Reflexivization bundling*

$[\theta_i] [\theta_j] \rightarrow [\theta_i-\theta_j]$ , where  $\theta_i$  is an external  $\theta$ -role

The operation they call “bundling” operates on an external argument. It takes the internal argument of a predicate and bundles it with the external one, creating a single, but complex theta-role. In this sense, reflexivization is an arity operation parasitic on the presence of an external argument. Reinhart and Siloni show that the remaining overt argument of reflexive constructions shows properties typical of an external argument. The external status of the single overt argument of reflexive detransitivized predicates can be tracked down also in Basque. Thus, Albizu, Etxepare and Rezac (in progress) note that the absolutive DP of reflexive predicates is unlike the absolutive DP of inchoatives in that it does not alternate with the partitive case in polarity contexts:

(70) a. *Ez da haurr-ik erori putzu horretan*  
Neg is child-part falled well that-in  
‘No child has fallen in that well’

b. *??Gaur ez da haurrik orraztu*  
Today neg is child-part combed  
‘Today no child has combed his hair’

The so-called “partitive case” is a special determiner associated to the existential interpretation of a DP in contexts of polarity, in a way parallel to, say, the genitive of negation in Russian (see Ortiz de Urbina, 1989). It alternates with the determiner in absolutive arguments, which occur either as objects of transitive predicates or as subjects of unaccusative ones. The partitive determiner cannot combine with an external argument, nor with an absolutive one if the latter is not the underlying object of the predicate. One case in point are the subjects of raising constructions built on adjectival (71) and nominal predicates (72):

(71) a. *Haurra gaixo dago*  
Child-D sick is-loc  
‘The child is sick’

b. *\*Ez da haurr-ik gaixo*  
Neg is child-part sick  
‘There is no sick child’

(72) a. *Haurra artzain dago mendia-n*  
Child shepherd is mountain-in  
‘The child is (working as) a shepherd in the mountain’

b. *\*Ez dago haurr-ik artzain mendia-n*  
Neg is child-part shepherd mountain-in  
‘No child is (working as) a shepherd in the mountain’



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If adjectives can only predicate by combining with a functional head that projects a specifier (see Hale and Keyser, 1993; 2002), then the absolutive of adjectival predications is external to the relevant predicate. The same property characterizes nominal predicates, if Baker (2003) is right in claiming that they cannot independently function as predicates, but require an independent copula to do so. As noted by Burzio (1986), adjectival and nominal predicates do not allow *ne*-extraction from their subject in Italian, either. To the extent that the possibility of *ne*-extraction diagnoses the predicate internal status of the argument from which extraction proceeds, the relevant arguments must be external in the sense of having been generated in a position outside the predicate.

### 5.2.2. *The coargument restriction*

For Reinhart and Siloni “bundling” is not in and of itself a lexical operation. They propose a parameter that distinguishes those languages where reflexivization (“bundling”) operates in the lexicon, prior to the insertion of the lexical item in the syntax, and those languages where reflexivization operates at a syntactic level, in the course of the derivation.

If bundling operates in the lexicon, they argue, it can only apply to co-arguments. Many languages show co-argumenthood restrictions in their reflexivization strategies. For instance, reflexivization cannot apply across ECM constructions in languages like Hebrew or English (from Reinhart and Siloni, 2005:395): (OM=Object Marker)

- (73) a. *Dan maxsiv et acmo intiligenti*  
Dan considers OM himself intelligent  
“Dan considers himself intelligent”
- b. \**Dan mitxasev intiligenti*  
Dan considers-refl intelligent
- (74) a. *Dan considers himself intelligent*  
b. \**Dan considers intelligent*

This restriction is not found in many other languages, however. Reflexivization in Romance languages for instance, can occur across two different predicates, as in Spanish (75a) or French (75b):

- (75) a. *Juan se considera [ \_ inteligente ]*  
Juan SE considers intelligent  
‘Juan considers himself intelligent’
- b. *Jean se voit [ \_ laver les plats ]*  
Jean SE sees washes the dishes  
‘John sees himself washing the dishes’

For those languages, Reinhart and Siloni claim that the reflexivization process is syntactic, and occurs along the derivation under conditions which are very similar to

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those under which A-movement is possible. Reflexivization in Romance can thus spread across causative constructions:

(76) a. *Jean s<sub>i</sub>'est fait [ inviter <sub>-i</sub> ce soir]*  
Jean SE is made invite-inf tonight  
'Jean got himself invited tonight'

b. *Juan se<sub>i</sub> ha hecho [ invitar <sub>-i</sub> esta tarde]*  
Juan SE has made invite-inf tonight  
'Juan got himself invited tonight'

Nothing like this is possible in Basque, where the analogues of (76a,b) are completely out (see Etxepare 2011):

(77) a. *Xabierrek Miren gonbidatu-arazi du gaur gauean*  
Xabier-erg Miren-abs invited-caus has today night  
'Xabier made invite Miren tonight'

b. \**Xabier gonbidatu-arazi da gaur gauean*  
Xabier-abs invite-caus is today night-in  
'Xabier got himself invited tonight'

Causative verbs in Basque are created by affixation of the causative verb *arazi* "make" to the lexical verb. The causative structure is underlyingly biclausal, as shown by Ormazabal (1990b) and Oyharçabal (2002), with the final form being derived by incorporation of the embedded lexical verb to the bound causative verb (as in Baker, 1988). As we have just shown, complex predicate formation, a derivational phenomenon, does not license an intransitive reflexive in Basque.<sup>17</sup>

The Basque intransitive strategy is also sensitive to the thematic boundaries imposed by ECM constructions. We can compare in this regard the French (78a) (adapted from Reinhart and Siloni, 2005:413), with the unavailable Basque (79b), derived by intransitivizing (79a).

(78) *Jean s<sub>i</sub>'entend [<sub>-i</sub> chanter] dans cet enregistrement*  
Jean SE hears sing-inf  
'Jean hears himself singing in that recording'

(79) a. *Jonek [Miren kantatzen] entzun du*  
Jon-erg Miren-abs singing heard AUX(HAVE)3p.sg.A.3p.sg.E

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<sup>17</sup> This constitutes a potential argument against the idea that the difference between languages like Hebrew or Basque on the one hand and Italian or Spanish on the other, concerning the scope of the reflexivization strategy, may be due to the extent to which complex predicate formation is available. This is the view taken for instance by Baauw and Delfitto (2005). They claim that reflexivization is a process that applies at LF, and as such is sensitive to the creation of complex predicates along the derivation. The scope of the reflexivization operation encoded by the *se* clitic in Romance corresponds to the scope of complex predicate formation as a result of incorporation. The Basque causative cases seem to point to the conclusion that the level at which lexical reflexivity is defined does not correspond to the level at which complex predicates are formed.

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- b. \**Jon* [ \_ *kantatzen*] *entzun da*                      *grabazio horr-etan*  
 Jon    sing-ger    heard Aux(BE)3p.sg.A recording that-in  
 ‘Jean hears himself singing in that recording’

Arteatx (2007, this volume) shows that the first-merge position of *Miren* in (85a) is the embedded non-finite clause. However, the case and agreement properties of the subject of the perception complement correspond to the matrix clause. Thus, even if the external argument of the unergative verb *kantatu* (‘sing’) in (79) (the DP *Miren*) would show ergative Case in a finite clause under normal circumstances, in this construction it surfaces with absolutive Case. Absolutive Case is licensed by transitive predicates in their object position, so that the overall structure of the Basque perception complements seems to be very similar in this regard to that of ECM constructions in English. The external argument of the perception complement cannot check its case in the embedded non-finite clause and must rise to the higher verbal projection to do it (see also Rezac, Albizu and Etxepare, 2011). Under this analysis, the contrast between French and Basque follows from the different level at which the bundling operation applies: the lexicon for Basque, and the syntactic derivation for French.

The different status of the intransitivization strategy in Basque and Romance is also apparent in cases where non-lexical arguments are involved. Since non-lexical arguments are by definition absent from the theta-grid of the verb, no arity operation can be defined on them. The issue is different if bundling can operate along the derivation. One set of cases that distinguishes the two types of languages from each other are those related to the presence of a high applicative morpheme, in the sense of Cuervo (2003) or Pylkkanen (2001, 2008). Basque and French, for instance, contrast sharply in the availability of dative reflexivization. The latter is completely impossible in Basque (80c-d), but available in French (80a-b) (see Labelle, 2008). (80a-b) instantiate non-lexical datives, datives that cannot be part of the theta-grid of a lexical entry:<sup>18</sup>

- (80) a. *Jean s’est acheté une voiture*  
 Jean SE is bought a car  
 ‘Jean bought himself a car’

- b. *Jean s’est coupé les cheveux*  
 Jean SE is cut the hair  
 ‘Jean got a haircut’

- c. \**Xabier auto bat erosi da / zaio / du*

<sup>18</sup> In the case of (80b), the dative is the underlying possessor of the body-part *cheveux* ‘hair’. In that sense it is not an independent argument but part of the theme argument of the verb. In (80a), the reflexive clitic cannot be doubled by a nominal anaphor in argument position, unlike in truly thematic dative arguments. Compare in this regard (ia,b):

- (i) a. \**Jean s’est acheté une voiture à lui/soi-même*  
 Jean CL is bought a car to himself  
 ‘Jon bought himself a car’

- b. *Jean s’est envoyé une lettre à lui-même*  
 Jean CL is sent a postcard to himself  
 ‘Jean sent himself a postcard’

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Xabier car one bought is Aux(3psgA)/ 3psgA3psgD/3psgA3psg.E  
'Xabier bought himself a car'

d. \*Xabier ilea moztu da / zaiio / du  
Xabier-abs hair-abs cut Aux(3psgA)/ 3psgA3psgD/3psgA3psg.E  
'Xabier got a haircut'

The ungrammaticality of the examples in (80c-d) holds no matter what auxiliary forms are selected. This includes the forms that contain an agreement index for the indirect object (cf. *zaiio*) or the object (cf. *du*).<sup>19</sup> In other words, it is not because of Case considerations that the indirect objects in (80c.d) cannot enter into the detransitivization strategy, since they are bad irrespective of the particular form of the Auxiliary selected. The reason for the ungrammaticality of (80) therefore must be strictly lexico-semantic.

In the context of the lexical restrictions on the Basque reflexive strategy, the ungrammaticality of (80c-d) follows straightforwardly from the fact that the relevant relations between the event and the dative arguments in question cannot be established at the right level: at the lexical level, those relations do not exist.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> The examples with the transitive auxiliary *du* are bad under the reflexive reading, obviously.

<sup>20</sup> One exception to the behavior of ECM predicates is the Spanish/French borrowing *kontsideratu* (<Sp. *Considerar*/Fr. *Considerer*). It seems to admit the intransitivization strategy:

- (i) [\_ azkarrak] kontsideratzen gara  
Intelligent-D.pl consider-ger we-are  
'We consider ourselves intelligent'

Basque *kontsideratu* presents the following intriguing properties vis-à-vis the other ECM contexts: first, the intransitive predicate only has a reflexive interpretation (iia), not a reciprocal one (unlike, say, Spanish *considerar* in (iib)):

- (ii) a. *Xabier eta Miren azkarrak kontsideratzen dira* (reflexive/\*reciprocal)  
Xabier and Miren intelligent consider-ger are  
'Xabier and Miren consider themselves/\*each other intelligent'  
b. *Javier y María se consideran (el uno al otro) inteligentes*  
Javier and María SE consider each other intelligent  
'Javier and María consider themselves intelligent'  
'Javier and María consider each other intelligent'

The second one concerns modifiability by temporal adverbs. Romance *consider* admits double modification:

- (iii) a. *Los viernes, Javier se considera atractivo los jueves. Siempre anda un día más tarde.*  
Fridays, Javier SE considers attractive on Thursdays. Always walks one day late.  
'On Fridays, Javier considers himself attractive on Thursdays. He's always one day late'.  
b. \**Ostiraletan Xabier ostegunetan kontsideratzen da erakargarria*  
Fridays-in Xabier Thursdays-in consider-ger is attractive

Double modification suggests that underlying *consider* in Romance, there is a bi-clausal structure, with potentially two event arguments to locate temporally. No parallel implication results from the Basque case. The absence of a reciprocal interpretation and the lack of independent temporal modification suggest that the Basque intransitive *consider* behaves as a lexical reflexive, closer to *garbitu* "wash" than to *ikusi* "see". Lexical reflexives in Basque of the *garbitu* "wash" sort do not have a reciprocal reading. The reader is referred to Etxepare (2011) for related discussion. We leave this for further research.

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The intransitive reflexive forms are also impossible under lexically selected datives. Thus, no intransitive reflexive can be created out of ditransitive predicates like *eman* ‘give’, or *igorri* ‘send’:<sup>21</sup>

- (81) a. *Jonek bere buruari gutun bat igorri dio*  
 Jon-erg his head-dat letter one-abs sent aux[3sE-3sD-3sA]  
 ‘Jon sent a letter to himself’
- b. \**Jon gutun bat igorri da / zaio / du*  
 Jon-abs letter one-abs sent Aux(3psgA)/ 3psgA3psgD/3psgA3psg.E  
 ‘Jon sent a letter to himself’
- (82) a. *Jonek bere buruari sari bat eman dio*  
 Jon-erg his head-dat prize one-abs given aux[3sE-3sD-3sA]  
 ‘Jon gave himself a prize’
- b. \**Jon sari bat eman da / zaio / du*  
 Jon-abs prize one-abs given Aux(3psgA)/ 3psgA3psgD/3psgA3psg.E  
 ‘Jon gave himself a prize’

Etxepare (2003:381) observes that the body-part anaphors are forced into all syntactic contexts involving adpositional arguments. This is the case for instance with the locative argument of *sinetsi* ‘believe’, which selects a locative argument in Basque:

- (83) a. *Jonek Mirenengan sinesten du*  
 Jon-erg Miren-loc believe-hab aux[3sE-3sA]  
 ‘Jon believes in Miren’
- b. *Jonek bere buruarengan sinesten du*  
 Jon-erg his head-loc believe-hab aux[3sE-3sA]  
 ‘Jon believes in himself’
- c. \**Jon sinesten da*  
 Jon-abs believe-hab is  
 ‘Jon believes in himself’

As shown in (83), the locative argument of (83) blocks the coindexation of the DPs *Miren* (the complement of the adposition) and of the subject *Jon*. The reason is that *Miren* and *Jon* in this case are not co-arguments: only the subject and the entire PP are (see Reinhart and Reuland, 1993, for similar configurations).

The generalization can be extended to dative arguments if the latter are also headed by an adposition, as argued for by Albizu (2001) and Etxepare (2011), and Etxepare and Oyharçabal (in press). The lexical operation underlying the intransitive reflexive cannot operate across the PP. It is the PP that constitutes the argument of the predicate, not the

<sup>21</sup> See Levin and Rappaport (2008) for the selected status of the dative arguments of *give* and *send*.

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DP it selects. Therefore, no co-argument relation can be established between the subject in (81) or (82), and the DP included in the dative phrase.

### 5.2.3. *Back to necessity modals*

With this much background, let us now come back to necessity modals and explain how we derive the properties they exhibit with regard to arity operations.

We have shown above that the intransitive reflexivization strategy cannot apply to modal constructions like the ones illustrated in (54), repeated below as (84).

- (84=54) a. \**Jon behar da*  
Jon need Aux(BE)1p.sg.A  
'Jon needs himself'
- b. \**Jon eta Miren behar dira*  
Jon and Miren need Aux(BE)1p.pl.A  
'Jon and Miren need each other'

From the perspective of the restrictions operative on this strategy, the reason must be that, despite appearances, the two arguments associated to *behar* in the type of structure under analysis are not co-arguments. Note that this is a problem for any analysis that treats *behar* as lexical verb, since both the subject and the object would be co-arguments of *behar*. However, as we will show now, this comes as a natural result from the underlying structure we have proposed in Section 5.1., which we repeat below for convenience. Recall that in this structure *behar* is the nominal predicate of a small clause, whose specifier position is occupied by the content of the need. Since in this case this element is simply a DP (and not a non-finite verbal projection), the underlying structure that corresponds to the examples in (54=84) would be (85).

(85) ...[<sub>VP</sub> BE [<sub>PP</sub> DP1 P [<sub>SMALL CLAUSE</sub> [ DP2] need ]]]

Following the proposal we have made above, the surface subject of *behar* (DP1, the DP for which the need/obligation is relevant, the “experiencer”) and the other DP (DP2, the content of the need) are introduced by different predicates. The subject is introduced by an adposition similar to applicative heads and external to the clause where the content of the need is introduced. DP2 is in turn selected by the nominal predicate *behar*. The intransitive reflexivization strategy is unavailable for examples like (54=84) because DP1 and DP2 are not arguments of the same predicate in (85) and, consequently, no co-argument relation can be established between the experiencer of the need and the content of the need in the lexicon.

### 5.3. *Intransitive predicative constructions with behar*

There is an interesting intransitive variant of the construction with *behar*, which we illustrate in (86):<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> The examples are drawn from the *General Basque Dictionary*, and span from the XVIth to the XXth century. The structure seems to have been limited to the eastern dialects historically, and it is not productive anymore, but has a sporadic literary use.

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- (86) a. *Eta guziak dirade aiuta horr-en behar*  
And all-Abs are help that-genit need  
'And all are in need of that help'  
(*Orotariko Euskal Hiztegia*, vol IV. Pg. 312: Lç *Ins E 7v*)
- b. *Egiazki zu-re behar naiz, zato enekin*  
Truly you-genit need am, come with-me  
'Vraiment j'aurais bien besoin de vous' 'I truly need you'  
(*op.cit.*, vol IV. Pg. 312: Volt 211.)
- c. *Zue-n bear-bear da gure bazkuna; zuek nai zaituzte*  
you-genit need-need is our society ; you-abs want Aux  
'Our society really needs you; they want you'  
(*op.cit.*, vol IV. Pg. 312: Ib. 146)
- d. *Zer-en bear zerate, ene neskatxok ?*  
what-genit need are-you(pl), my girls  
'What do you need, my girls'  
(*op.cit.*, vol IV. Pg. 312: *Zait Sof.* 155)

In contrast with the modal constructions we have analyzed so far, all these constructions with modal *behar* involve intransitive Auxiliaries (the copula BE) and absolutive subjects. The construction in question is reminiscent of the English one in (87), with the caveat that there is no overt adposition present in the former:

(87) *I am in need of a new car*

A direct translation of the structures in (86) to English would yield something like (88):

(88) *\*I am need of a new car*

The examples in (86c) and (86d) provide evidence that *behar* itself cannot be analyzed as an intransitive verb in this construction. In the case of (86c) this conclusion is based on the fact that *behar* is reduplicated. Reduplication does not take place with verbs, but can take place with other types of predicates –including some nominal predicates like *haserre* “anger”, in (89a)–, and with secondary predicates in a small clause (89b).

- (89) a. *Haserre-haserre izateko, besterik ikusi behar nuen*  
anger-anger to-be, other-part seen need Aux  
'To be really angry, I needed to see other (further) things'
- b. *Jon poz-pozik ikusi dut*  
Jon-A happy-happy see Aux  
'I have seen Jon very happy'

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The example in (86d) provides further evidence that *behar* is not an (intransitive) verb in this construction, as intransitive verbs do not take genitive objects in Basque.<sup>23</sup> Finally, the word order facts found in examples like (90a) below also leads us to reject an analysis of *behar* as an intransitive verb in the construction in (88). The reason is that in (90) *behar* precedes Neg and Aux; however, as shown in (90b), Basque does not allow this word order in regular negative sentences involving verbal predicates. As (90c) illustrates, in the word order pattern of regular matrix negative sentences, both Negation and the auxiliary must precede the verb. The copular structure with intransitive *behar* in (86) differs in this regard from the modal constructions involving transitive *behar* we have focused on so far, since the word order pattern exhibited by the latter in negative clauses (both when the complement is a DP or when it is a non-inflected complemente (90e)) is the one we find in regular negative clauses (90d).

(90) a. *Eta egiaz, gizona beste ezeren behar ez da.*

And truly, man-Abs other anything-genit need not is

‘And truly, the man doesn’t need anything else’

(*Orotariko Euskal Hiztegia*, vol IV. Pg. 312: Arr GB 136)

b. ?? *Gizona hona etorri ez da*

man-Abs to-here come Neg is

‘The man hasn’t come here’

c. *Gizona ez da hona etorri*

man-Abs Neg is to-here come

‘The man hasn’t come here’

d. *Ez dut liburua behar*

neg Aux(have)3p.sg.E-3p.sg.A book-A need

‘I don’t need the book’

e. *Ez dut liburua irakurri behar*

neg Aux(have)3p.sg.E-3p.sg.A book-A read need

‘I don’t need to/don’t have to read the book’

While the copular modal construction with *behar* discussed in (86-90) is reminiscent of the English copular modal construction *to be in (the) need of* in (87) and displays some features that set it apart from the the standard construction with transitive *behar*, it is however true that it also shares some properties with transitive *behar* constructions, which are not present in the nominal structures of the type *be in (the) need of*. First, the predicate of the copular construction in (86) can only be *behar* “need” and cannot just be any noun which happens to have a necessity interpretation; for instance, the noun *premia* ‘urgent need’ cannot form part of this type of construction despite the fact that it also encodes a meaning associated with need/obligation.

(91) \**Horren premia naiz*

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<sup>23</sup> Genitive objects are only licensed in some well defined context within nominalizations involving the suffix *-tze(a)*. See Duguine (2011, this volume) for extensive discussion of these constructions.



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That-gen need am  
'I need that'

In this sense, the intransitive copular construction with *behar* in (86) is identical to the denominal modal transitive construction with *behar*, which can only be built out of *behar*, and is not legitimate with just any noun meaning 'necessity' or 'obligation':

- (92) a. *Hori behar dut*  
That-abs need Aux(have)3p.sg.E-3p.sg.A  
'I need that'
- b.\* *Hori premia dut*  
that-abs need Aux(have)3p.sg.E-3p.sg.A  
'I need that'

The relevance of this fact becomes manifest once we note that structures directly parallel to the English *be in (the) need of* can be replicated in Basque with necessity nouns other than *behar*, as illustrated in (93), with the noun *premia*, impossible in the intransitive modal construction:

- (93) a. *You will be in (the) necessity of it*
- b. *Xabier sendagile baten premia-n da*  
Xabier-abs doctor one-gen need-D-in is  
'Xabier is an urgent need of a doctor'

This suggests that whereas (93) is a construction that allows the nouns (*need* and *behar/premia*) to project their referential properties (as shown by the presence of a determiner, obligatory in the Basque construction and optional in the English one), both the intransitive *behar* construction in (86) and the transitive one do not allow this. This difference is possibly related to another property that distinguishes the intransitive *behar* construction in (86) from constructions of the type *be in need of* in (93d-f): only in the latter case can the noun be modified in Basque (94a), as it is in English (94d-f); *behar* in the intransitive construction in (86) cannot be modified at all (94b). In this regard, the intransitive construction (94b) behaves exactly like the transitive one (94c):

- (94) a. *Xabier sendagile bat-en behar gorri-a-n da*  
Xabier doctor one-gen need urgent-D-n is  
'Xabier is in the urgent need of a doctor'
- b. \**Xabier sendagile baten behar gorri(a) da*  
Xabier doctor one-gen need urgent-D is
- c. \**Xabierrek liburu bat behar gorri(a) du*  
Xabier-erg book one-abs need urgent-D has  
'Jon urgently needs a book'
- d. My best friend is in an urgent need of a divorce
- e. US in strong need of appointing ambassador in Azerbaijan

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f. Meanwhile, six patients that were in the urgent need of surgery have died.

Another important difference, which distinguishes the construction in (86) from the construction in (94a) is that, unlike in the latter, the intransitive *behar* cases must necessarily project an argument representing the content of the need. The difference between the two cases is exemplified in (95a, b). In (95b), the content of the need must be overtly realized. In (95a) this is not necessary.

(95) a. *Xabier beharrean da*  
Xabier-abs need-D-in is  
'Xabier is in need (Xabier is in a needy situation)'

b. *Xabier \*(horren) behar da*  
Xabier that-gen need is  
'Xabier is in need of that'

All these properties lead us to conclude that the construction illustrated in (86) is therefore not a reduced version of the fully nominal construction *be in (the) need of*, but is rather the intransitive counterpart of transitive *behar* and also involves a small clause as part of its underlying structure. One last piece of data confirms that we need to distinguish the two constructions from each other: unlike the *be in (the) need of* construction in (94a), the intransitive *behar* construction in (86) is only compatible with stative aspect, realized by the copula *izan* "be". Thus, while *behar* in this case cannot combine with frequentative auxiliaries (96a), the Basque counterpart of the *be in (the) need of* constructions in (93b, 94a) can be combined with frequentative auxiliaries (96b):

(96) a. *\*Xabier horren behar dabil*  
Xabier that-gen need walks  
'Xabier is lately in need of that'

b. *Xabier horren beharrean dabil*  
Xabier that-gen need-D-in walks  
'Xabier is lately in need of that'

The idea that the transitive and the intransitive *behar* construction in (86) are closely related is thus supported by a substantive amount of evidence. The question at this point is what separates the two cases, with intransitive and transitive *behar*. One particularly trivial account of the differences would capitalize on the Case-licensing properties of each of the constructions. We have proposed that the transitive structure includes the following structure (97):

(97) ...[<sub>VP</sub> BE+P [ DP1 (P) [<sub>SMALL CLAUSE</sub> [ DP2] need ]]

(97) involves a crucial component that serves to separate the DP for which the need or obligation is relevant (DP1, which we have informally referred to as the 'experiencer') from the need itself and its content (that is, from the small clause): a high adposition that introduces the subject of transitive *behar* (DP1, the experiencer). Despite the absence of any overt realization of an adposition in the intransitive cases, it is difficult

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to see, on purely semantic grounds, how one would escape the conclusion that a tacit adpositional head, distinct from the need itself, relates the experiencer and the complex unit formed by *behar* and the content of the need in those cases too:

- (98) *Ni horren behar naiz*  
I-abs that-gen need am  
'I need that (lit. I am need of that)'

Given the purely copular contribution of the finite auxiliary, it is hard to see how a reasonable compositional interpretation for (86, 98) could be derived without the help of extra syntactic material. Let us thus hypothesize that the intransitive *behar* constructions in (86) also present a tacit applicative head:

- (99)...[VP BE [PP DP1 P [SMALL CLAUSE [ DP2] need ]]

Unlike in the case of transitive *behar*, however, in the intransitive variant of the construction in (86), the applicative head does not incorporate. This means that the DP inside the small clause does not check its case outside the PP, but is forced to find a case inside the small clause. In a recent analysis of the distribution of the genitive suffix –*ren*, Artiagoitia has convincingly argued that the suffix realizes both structural and inherent cases in Basque. In possessive constructions the genitive has the distribution of abstract case. Genitive case must occur in all arguments of complex possessive constructions (Artiagoitia, 2009:99), in the same way that DPs must be case-marked in finite contexts in this language (see Artiagoitia this volume a,b):

- (100) *Artetaren Pitxitxiren erretratua*  
Arteta-gen Pitxitxi-gen portrait  
'Pitxitxi's portrait by Arteta'

The genitive Case –*ren* differs from a second genitive suffix –*ko*, which has the distribution of a postposition, in that it only attaches to DP arguments of a nominal or a nominalized head (see also Goenaga, 2003). Genitive marked arguments in contexts such as (100) must occur right below the definite determiner but higher than the thematic layer where the possessive relation is defined, and the quantificational layer of the DP, a position that he takes to be derived by A-movement (see Artiagoitia, this volume a,b). Multiple genitive constructions such as the one in (100) show antireconstruction effects reminiscent of movement to A-positions, and give rise to Person/Case constraints of the sort observed in finite ditransitive constructions (Albizu, 1997; Ormazabal and Romero, 2008; Rezac, 2008). In comparison to abstract genitive case, Artiagoitia (2009) also argues that bare nouns in Basque can assign inherent genitive case. Inherent case has some crucial properties that distinguish it from structural genitive case: it cannot attach to more than one argument, and it always expresses the content of the bare noun. One of the relational nouns in Basque that admits a bare occurrence is the noun *berri* “news”. The following pair, which illustrates this contrast, is borrowed from Artiagoitia (2009:106):

- (101)a. *Telebistak Berria egunkariaren berri eman zuen*  
Television-erg Berria journal-gen news given Aux(have)3p.sg.E-3p.sg.A  
'The TV gave news about the journal *Berria*'

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- b. *Telebistak Berria egunkariaren berria eman zuen*  
Television-erg Berria journal-gen news-D given Aux(have)3p.sg.E-3p.sg.A  
'The TV gave news about the journal *Berria*'  
'The TV gave the news of the journal *Berria*'

Whereas in the case of the bare noun *berri* "news" in (101a) the genitive complement can only express the content of the news (they are about a given journal), in the case where the noun has a determiner (101b), the meaning of the genitive complement can be either the content of the news or the element in possession of the news (the possessor of the news). In the latter case, the sentence means something like "the TV gave the news that the journal *Berria* had spread". It is only under the second case that more than one genitive argument is possible:

- (102) *Telebistak Berria-ren zezenketen berria eman zuen*  
Television-erg Berria-gen bullfight-gen new-D given aux[3sE-3sA]  
'The TV gave the news spread by the journal *Berria* concerning the bullfighting'

Those positional and interpretative restrictions lead Artiagoitia to conclude that there is a low syntactic position where genitive arguments can stay, and that unlike the higher positions, this one corresponds to a position where inherent case is assigned. The content restriction on the interpretation of arguments receiving inherent case can be immediately extended to the intransitive *behar* cases in (86): the genitive there marks the content of the need, not the possessor of the need, and it is the argument of a bare noun *behar*. We conclude therefore that the genitive DP in the small clause headed by *behar* receives inherent case from the noun or from some low syntactic projection of the noun.

## 6. P incorporation and transitive auxiliaries

Our analysis leads us to merge the experiencer of the need in a position outside the constituent that includes the nominal predicate *behar* and the content of the need. This structure receives support from the parallelism we can establish with other languages that have nominal modals (Section 5.1.), from the binding asymmetries found between ordinary transitive verbs and *behar* (Sect. 5.2.), and from the nominal syntactic distribution of *behar* in intransitive *behar* constructions (5.3). It is also indirectly supported by the failure of the incorporation hypothesis (of the sort put forward for English *need*, for instance) to account for the whole set of relevant facts analyzed in the previous sections. The structure we propose is repeated here:

- (103) ...[VP BE [PP DP P [Small Clause DP/non-finite clause behar]

The alternative analysis we have proposed to the direct incorporation of the noun *behar* to a light verb *have* requires a particular analysis of the transitive auxiliary as a derived one. We have proposed that the experiencer of the need is merged in the derivation to a silent applicative head (represented as P in (103)), which may end up incorporating to the higher intransitive auxiliary verb BE, resulting in this case in the transitive auxiliary *edun*. The claim makes certain predictions regarding the status of the so-called transitive auxiliary in Basque: in order to make sure that our hypothesis is not *ad-hoc*, it must be

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sustained by independent evidence that transitive auxiliaries in Basque may be derived from structures that involve an underlying applicative or prepositional head of some sort in contexts other than the modal ones studied in this work. As we discuss next, this prediction is borne out. Thus, it has been noted that the transitive auxiliary *edun* may introduce predicative structures where the subject is clearly an oblique argument, but nevertheless behaves as a transitive subject in terms of case and agreement. Consider in this regard (104) (from Etxepare, 2003:414):

- (104) *Nik Xabier aspaldiko adiskidea dut*  
I-erg Xabier-abs long-time-gen friend-D Aux(have)1p.sg.E-3p.sg.A  
'Xabier is an old friend to me' (lit.: I have Xabier an old friend)

(104) involves a transitive clause with an ergative subject, an absolutive object and a nominal predicate. The ergative subject (the ergative first person pronoun *nik*) is interpreted as the person who is related to Xabier by friendship. The sentence can be paraphrased by *Xabier is my friend* or *Xabier is a friend to me*. The ergative subject only has that interpretation if both the nominal predicate (*adiskidea* in (104)) and the object (*Xabier*) are present. Otherwise, the subject can only be understood as the owner of *Xabier*:

- (105) *Nik Xabier dut*  
I-erg Xabier-abs aux[3sE-3sA]  
'I have Xabier'

In view of cases like (105), the question arises as to how exactly the ergative subject relates to the rest of the structure in (104). One possibility is that it is the underlying subject of a possessive phrase that has the nominal predicate as the possessed quality (*my friend*). The right paraphrase in this case would be something like *Xabier is my friend*:

- (106)... [Small Clause Xabier [ my friend]]

Another possibility would be that the ergative subject, just like in the *behar* cases, is merged to a basic predication that states that Xabier is a friend. An independent adpositional head puts together this basic predication with the first person subject:

- (107)...[PP [Small Clause Xabier a friend] to me]

That a possessive relation between the ergative subject and the predicate is not definitional of the construction is shown by other cases where this relation cannot exist. In such cases, the ergative subject is simply an argument on whom the benefit or the interest of the underlying predication falls, and no possessive relation is implied between the subject and the predicate. Consider in this regard (110):

- (108) *Xabier mutil azkarra duzu /dugu /dute*  
Xabier-abs boy smart-D Aux(have)2p.sgE-3p.sgA/1p.plE-3p.sgA/3p.plE-3p.sgA  
'Xabier is an intelligent boy, which benefits/interests you/us/them'  
\*'Xabier is your/our/their intelligent boy'  
(Lit.: we/you/they have Xabier an intelligent boy)

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It may be of interest to note that in the cases at hand, the transitive auxiliary does not freely alternate with the lexical possessive verb *eduki* ('have'):

- (109) a. \**Xabier mutil azkarra daukagu*  
Xabier-abs boy smart-D Have(lexical)3p.sg.A-1p.pl.E.  
'Xabier is an intelligent boy, which benefits us'
- b. \**Xabier adiskidea daukagu*  
Xabier friend-D Have(lexical)3p.sg.A-1p.pl.E.  
'Xabier is a friend, which benefits us'

This is an interesting fact, considering that the lexical verb of possession can alternate with the transitive auxiliary *edun* in ordinary possessive relations:

- (110) a. *Xabierrek adiskide bat du*  
Xabier-erg friend ona has  
'Xabier has a friend'
- b. *Xabierrek adiskide bat dauka*  
Xabier-erg friend one has-lexical  
'Xabier has a friend'

This suggests that the functional head that contributes the oblique theta-role on the subject (the "experiencer" role) is external to the relation between the object of the construction and the nominal predicate. In other words, the lexical entry of the verb of possession *eduki* "have" in Basque does not bear an argument slot for the kind of applicative head involved in this construction. One straightforward analysis for the cases under analysis is one where the subject starts out as the specifier of an applicative head, which assigns the oblique thematic role we have informally referred to as the "experiencer" (the DP for which the need of obligation is relevant):

- (111) ...BE [<sub>PP</sub> I P<sub>for</sub> [ Xabier adiskidea ] ] (Xabier is a friend for me)

Incorporation of P to BE produces the derived transitive auxiliary *edun* "have", and expands the domain where agreement and case checking relations can be established for the elements within the complement of P (the small clause).

If instead of *adiskidea* "a friend" we have *behar* "need", we have the same exact structure we have argued is the underlying structure involving the obligation modal *behar* in Basque in the previous sections:

- (112) ..BE [ <sub>PP</sub> I P<sub>for</sub> [ <sub>Small Clause</sub> Xabier behar ] ]

## 7. Conclusion

The paper has shown that necessity modal constructions in Basque, traditionally considered to be verbal constructions, are derived from a noun meaning *need* in a way

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other than incorporation into a verbal structure. The Basque modal noun *behar* starts out as the nominal predicate of a clausal constituent that has the content of the need as its sole argument. The experiencer of the need (the subject of the construction) is merged independently, as the specifier of an adpositional head that assigns it an oblique role, much as applicative heads do. This adpositional head merges with the clausal constituent including the predicate noun *behar* and its content. The adpositional head can raise and incorporate to a higher intransitive auxiliary BE, giving rise to a transitive auxiliary, as in Kayne (1993). The hypothesis advanced here accounts for restrictions on *behar* constructions which are difficult to explain under the view that the modal *behar* is a transitive verb in Basque. Among the properties of *behar* constructions that naturally fall from our analysis are: (i) the absence of non-finite forms; (ii) the absence of intransitive reflexives directly constructed on *behar*; (iii) the clearly nominal distribution of the necessity modal in intransitive *behar* constructions; (iv) the derived status of the transitive auxiliary in the case of necessity modals, paralleled by other nominal predicative constructions outside modality where the transitive auxiliary can also be shown to be derived by incorporation of a tacit adposition. We also pointed out the parallels that the Basque modal construction presents with other known nominal modal constructions, as those found in some of the Celtic languages (Irish and Scottish Gaelic among others). We hope that the analysis put forward here, as well as the Basque data uncovered, can serve as a modest testing ground for the analysis of the nominal modal construction and its relation to verbal modals in other languages, a topic which remains yet to be extensively studied.

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