



Minorisation of Asturian (second half of the 20th century)

Due to the war and Francoism, the regionalist cultural activity of the first few decades in the 20th century was mostly cut short. The cultural model established by the new regime favours a dialectal and diglossic vision of Asturian as a folkloric element subsidiary to Castilian, although a linguistic repression as explicit as in other bilingual territories is not going to be implemented due to the low political significance attributed then to the Asturian language.

Image 1. Even though there was no explicit and institutionalized repression against the Asturian language, the Francoist school was a clear tool for acculturation.

Image 2. In the aftermath of the war, one of the most significant events in the linguistic Asturian scene was the remarkable development of dialectal studies with authors such as Josefa Canellada, Jesús Neira or Manuel Menéndez.

Even though the school is an important Castilianization tool where the use of Asturian is diminished, mocked or punished, on a different level Francoism shelters more or less kind, paternalist or symbolic initiatives around *Bable*, always reducing its possibilities to certain registers or areas of use.

Image 3. Rules of the theatre and tale contests held by the Institute of Asturian Studies (IDEA) in 1949, with an explicit limitation as to the use of Asturian.

Image 4. The most Asturianist faction in the IDEA promoted, nevertheless, various initiatives to study and disseminate Asturian, such as the *Festival of Bable*. Organized first as a personal initiative by Constantino Cabal, since 1946 its organization was taken up by IDEA. The Uviéu edition was such a success in public attendance that in later years it was repeated in Xixón and Avilés. This is the news report in the newspaper *Región* on the first edition in Uviéu on October 19th, 1946.

Image 5. The *Mass in Bable*, written by José León Delestal, was once performed in the El Pardo Palace in 1973 in homage to Carmen Polo, Francisco Franco's wife.

Image 6. Entries in the popular *Álvarez Encyclopaedia* on the use of Bable and its ability to act as an identity reference, likening it with a certain ease to other Spanish languages.