

# Syntactic Transfer by Korean Learners of English



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# 1. Introduction



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- Literature review:
- (1) contrastive analysis(CA)
- (2) error analysis(EA)
- (3) interference, transfer
- (4) overgeneralization
- (5) intralingual and developmental errors
- (6) The purpose of this lecture



# The major areas

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- 1) word order,
- 2) ellipsis,
- 3) articles,
- 4) prepositions,
- 5) tense,
- 6) verbs,
- 7) number,
- 8) comparatives.
- \*\* Examples from Park, et al. (1994) unless specified.

## 2. Word order

### ■ Korean:SOV

- (1) I good feel
- (2) Those words never  
heard of .
- (3) Can you recommend the best one?  
(KWD 2001-12-14)
- (4) I don't have much time to read. (KWD2001-12-14)
- \*\*\* Today korea's weather is fine. (KWD 2002-12-04)
- \*\*\* Today was very difficult but exciting.(KWD 2000-11-28)

### English:SVO

- (1) I feel good.
- (2) I've never heard of  
those words



# Word order

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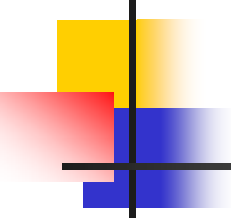
- (5) I think it'll be really great memory you both for.
- (6) no I will have many tests from next year 17.  
(starting from January 17, next year)
- (7) Anyway, every my mistake, write down!
- You wanna wear this my ring?
- I and my children are all right.
- This paper said about our this year's fortune  
(data from Sohn 1986)



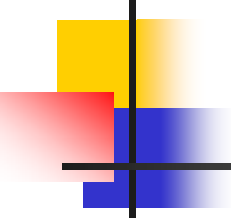
# Word order

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- (8) your friend is how old? (KNWD 2002– 10–03)
- I'm your student who take Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> class (KNWD 2003–03–31)
- Dear Park Professor. (KNWD 2003–03–31)
  
- (9) Washington president. 'President Washington'
- (10) thanksgiving always is celebrated in November. 'Thanksgiving is always celebrated in November'
- (11) But Canada is except. 'except in Canada'

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- Two questions arise:
  - (1) What makes the English word order so early acquired?
  - (2) Does the L2 word order verify that interference is not operative?



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- can do/ halsuissda
  - The girl whom I *met* yesterday
  - naega eje *manassden* gu sonye  
I yesterday meet-past the girl
  - the pretty girl/ *yebbeun* sonye (pretty girl)
  - not many errors on word order compared with other types of errors



# Ellipsis

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- (1) ( ) Today was hot. 'It was hot today.'
- ( ) Have to teach ( ) how to study.
- 'You have to teach them how to study.'
- ( ) Know how to go. 'You know how to go.'
- ( ) Have to persevere until ( ) send ( ) a car.
- 'You have to persevere until I send you a car'
- In Korea ( ) have four season.
- (KWD 2002-12-04)
- 'There are four seasons in Korea.'
- 'Korea has four seasons.'



# Ellipsis

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- (2)
- I ( ) thanked for. ‘I thanked you for that.’
- I ( ) didn’t my best ‘I didn’t do my best.’
- I used to ( ) absent from .
- ‘used to be absent from my class.’
- I ( ) determined to do.
- ‘I am determined to do it.’
- I felt English class ( ) duller and duller.
- ‘I felt English class become duller and duller.’
- What do ( ) eat for breakfast? (subject deleted)
- ‘What do you eat for breakfast?’(KWD1999-11-29)



## 4. Articles

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- Korean topic(-nun) and focus (-ga) makers
- Three different types of errors in the use of articles can be observed:
  - (1) the omission of articles
  - (2) the addition of articles
  - (3) the misuse of articles



# (1) the omission of articles

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- 1. I believe Thanksgiving Day is the biggest holiday in ( ) U.S.
- 2. ( ) First immigrants were called pilgrims.
- 3. ( ) Pilgrims were good friends with ( ) Indians
- 4. ...after ( ) harvest.
- 5. ...after they had arrived in ( ) new land.

# \* unnecessary 'a' and the omission of 'the'



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- 6. The Pilgrims and the Indians had a big dinner together to give a thanks to God for their good luck.
- 7. In ( ) present, it is a huge ceremony, as big as a Christmas.

## \* the omission of 'a'



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- 8. They had ( ) big dinner.
- 9. They are ready for ( ) wonderful dinner.
- 10. Take care. I'll send you ( ) email.
- (KWD 2001-12-07)

## 2) The addition of articles

- 1. When they reached the land of ( ) United States, they have a little food and clothes.
- 2. The Americans came from the Europe about three hundred and fifty years ago.
- 3. They were good friends with the Indians and tried to grow the corn and other crops...





# The addition of articles

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- 4. Thanksgivings day is the day in which the Christians thank the God.
- 5. When I read a my book, I found that I still have H.W. (KNWD 2002-3-31)
- 6. They had a stillness and a comfort.
- 7. We can eat it by putting it in the boiling water for a moment. (KWD 1999-11-29)
- 8. Well, it's the Korean barbeque. (KWD 1999-11-29)



## (3) The misuse of articles

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- \* misuse of ‘a/an’ when ‘the’ is needed
- 1. I have been went to a hospital for 4 months, and I have to go to a hospital every Tuesday. (KWD 2001-12-14)
- 2. I don't know whether I can get a ticket. (KWD 2000-10-31) ‘the ticket’



## \* misuse of 'the' for 'a'

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- 1. It's the story about the guy who wanna be the best cook. (KWD1999-11-29)
- 2. It is the Korean traditional food. (KWD 1999-11-29)
- 3. The Japanese cookies are famous? (KWD 1999-11-29)
- 4. It is the seasoned beef (KWD 1999-11-29)



## 5. Prepositions

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- The omission

1. I graduated ( ) high school in 1984.

I graduated ( ) Gyeonggi High School.

‘I graduated from Gyeonggi High School.’



# The addition

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2. So I'm missing them by now.

‘ I'm missing them now ’

He doesn't want to marry with her.

‘He doesn't want to marry her’

- Korean: ‘-wa gyeolhonthada  
(somebody with marry)



## The wrong use of preposition

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3. I want to study about many fields
4. – So I can speak and listen a little about Americans.
  - My hobby is reading about any books.
  - And this class is good to me.
  - It takes to me by one hour by bus



## 3 Types of Prepositional Errors

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- Deletion of Prepositions
- Addition of Prepositions
- Wrong use of Prepositions



# For a successful communication

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- (1) when to use prepositions,
- (2) what kind of prepositions
- (3) the acceptable place
- (4) acceptable to match





# 6. Tense

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## The Present Tense Form for the Past

- 1. But as time goes by, I was accustomed to it.
- 2. Once in a while the lab class is terrible for me, because I didn't memorize the Dialogue.
- 3. They have a good terms with the Indians, and grew corn and other stuff together.
- 4. I walk around in Liberty House and then I return to my work (Sohn, 1986)



## The Past Tense Form with the Present Tense Form & Infinitive

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5. So in the second semester, I attended every class and sometimes go to the lab and listen to tapes many times.
6. Now a semester came to an end, but I don't find myself very much improved comparing myself a few months ago. I am sorry for that.
7. I was surprised at the Lab class at first, because I had never have such a class.
8. I did not memorized the dialogue very carefully.



# Passives

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- 1. She **was** really welcomed him.  
My husband **is** recovered his health little by little.  
(Sohn, 1986)
- 'hwanyeong-bad-da' 'hoybog-toy-da' where **bad** and **toy** have passive meaning.  
(Welcome – pass-SE recover-pass-SE)
- 2. I was confusing.  
I surprised, I disappointed



# Perfectives

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1. You guys, don't finish your homework yet?

2. O, it's strange! I answered already.

(KWD 2001-16-200)

Even if now, I had a lack of English ability, I'll study English steady. (KNWD 2003-03-31)

3. I didn't sent message over a month, but I thought about you. (KNWD 2003-03-31)

4. I said I have no plan yet. (KWD 2001-11-16)



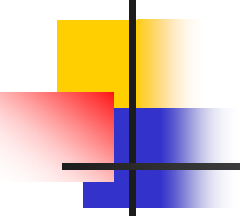
# The omission of 'be' verb

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In English 'be' verb is necessary while in Korean it is not.

- 1. It ( ) difficult to have chat at same time.  
(KWD 2000-06-?) 'It is difficult...'

In Korean 'eoryeobda (difficult)' is a verbal form which can be used independently.



# The use of -ing forms

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1. Are you gonna shopping today?  
Can I reading your paper?  
I have to shopping today.

- The learners analyzed hayyahanda(have to) as ‘must do’ which is a verb form requiring a noun form as its object in the context of ‘I have to shopping today.’
- However in English a verb is needed as in ‘I have to go shopping today.’



# 'be' verb deleted

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1. I living Seoul. (KWD 2002-2-04)

Seoul located in middle of Korea. (KWD2002-12-04)

2. I hungry now.

This is why I watching movie many times.

3. I familiar with her.

You have to patient until I send you a car.

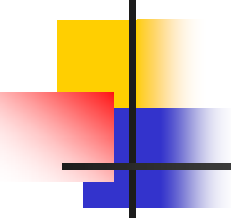


## The omission of infinitive marker 'to'

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- Of course I want chat with my first schejuled partner!! (KWD 2000-11-14)
- In Korean **malhagi weonhanda** (chat want) is acceptable where neither preposition nor postpositional marker is necessary.





## The use of 'be' verb with 'have' in interrogatives

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Oh, is your home have Christmas tree?  
(KWD 2002-12-04)

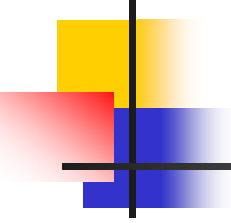
'Do you have a Christmas tree at home?'



## 7. numbers

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- Korean marker, **-dul**, to indicate plurality. If there is a demonstrative before the noun it is obligatory to use ‘**-dul.**’
- 1. He has two son. ‘du adul’  
He always write novel. ‘soseol’
- 2. All of them went to school. ‘mudu-dul’  
Those students lock all door. ‘hagsaying-dul’

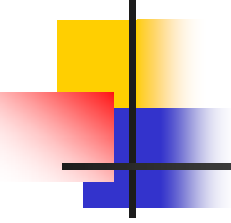
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- 3. When our friends is busy.  
(KWD 2000-11-28)  
I think he don't know this system.  
(KWD 2000-11-14)
  
  - 4. Do the Japanese newspapers reports it largely?  
(KWD 2000-10-31)
  
  - Here the learner is evidently confused with the correct use of number.

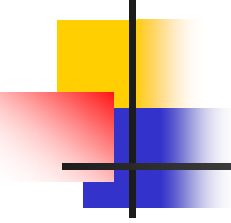


## 10. Comparative Constructions

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- Man is smart than lady.
- Your dress was best.
- Then you have to find a person who speak more worse than I.
  
- In Korean the comparative postposition boda ‘than’ and de ‘more’ which are sufficient.

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- 1. You seem so not good.
  - 2. It overreported the only side.
  - 3. dormitory is strict to act.
  - 4. I live alone in apartment house.
  - 5. They try to contact other people by voice more.

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- 6. One more place I visited.
  - 7. They just receive from the screen.  
(object is missing)
  - 8. next is 3 people.
  - 9. I am good. “I am fine”
  - 10. even if Japanese, it is difficult to say.  
‘It is difficult to say even in Japanese?’



# 11. Conclusion

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- Over 50% of the errors → L1 interference
- CA would predict half of the errors.
- The structural and semantic differences between English and Korean be gradually introduced and clearly taught in a systematic manner.
- The goal should be bi-directional

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