

## Contact and Convergence of English in Korea

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Koreans encounter code-mixing with English almost everyday through television, radio, and newspapers etc. The historical context in which English was introduced in Korea is different from that of India or Nigeria. First, Korea was not a British or American colony. Second, English is not an institutionalized language in Korea. That is, English is not an official language in education or government. However, English has become popular in Korea for several reasons related to the social context of Korea: the political as well as economic relations between Korea and the USA, the international prestige of the USA, and the education system of Korea. Additionally, English is now taught from the fourth grade in elementary schools, starting in 1997.

The major goal of this presentation is to review the results of contact and convergence between Korean and English to see what has happened to both the languages in Korea. This does not mean, however, there are no studies on this topic. The impact of English in Korea has been studied by various scholars at various linguistic levels. This study, however, has attempted to answer these questions through empirical research which is based on different genre studies. Three different genres, advertising, soap-operas, English newspapers published in Korea, represent different discourse domains as well show the characteristic impact at different linguistic levels.

First, I have discussed the diachronic change in Korean's attitude toward English in Korea within the historical context. The economic and political prestige of the USA eventually changed English from "language of the barbarians" to "the prestigious language" in Korea. This change is also related to the historical events such as the liberation from Japanese occupation (1945) and, Korean War (1950-1953).

Second, I have discussed "Englishization" in Korean print advertising. As shown in the research on advertising, English has become a popular medium of expression in Korean advertising since the 1960s. It has become more popular in advertising since 1990s. The issue of the relation between scripts and function is also addressed in this study. The advertising study shows that various functions of English were previously assigned to Hancha(Chinese character words) in Korea. The motivations for the functional shift are: First, political and economic relations between the USA and Korea. Second, the prestige of English at global level in the twentieth century. As a result, not only transliterated forms, but also English phrases and paragraphs written in the Roman alphabet occur in Korean advertisements since the 1990s. Thus, the study of

advertisements shows various aspect of using English in terms of the size of linguistic units as well as scripts. This study has also shown that English loanwords introduce new phonological structures in Korean. The data collected from Korean soap-operas show the multiple identities of English in Korea. The importance of these data is that it supports the claim that we need distinction between CM and CS in the study of code alteration

Finally, I show the aspects of Korean English through a textual analysis using an English newspaper published in Korea. This study attempts to answer the question "Is there a Korean-English?" based on the corpus of the English newspaper. This study also introduces new data base, such as using World Wide Web, in studying world Englishes. The analysis of the data collected from World Wide Web shows that first, culture-specific terms tend to be transcribed into English and the explanation of the terms are given before or after the words; second, some English words acquire new meaning in Korean context (e.g., "missy", "megastore", and "The princess disease"); third, the English prepositions "in" and "at" in certain texts are used differently as compared to AmE; and finally, the use of modals of obligation in KorE is different from that of AmE BrE and AuE. In KorE, the expression HAVE GOT TO does not appear in the corpus.

Regarding the question whether there is a Korean variety of English. I answer both Yes and No. First, the variation of modal auxiliaries, prepositions, and new lexical items could be characteristics of Korean-English used in an English newspaper published in Korea. However, this should be supported by the future research. On the other hand, it seems too early to argue that there is a Korean English based on the above mentioned characteristics. There are two reasons for this argument. First the study is limited to a single newspaper. It is necessary to look at other genres such as English novels written by Koreans, academic writings etc. Second, data from six months of newspapers are too short to prove the characteristics of Korean English. The issue should be studied in long term projects in the future.

The importance of this study, however, is Koreans often use English differently from users of other varieties, although it is too early to argue that Koreans have their own varieties of English. This study should provide an important basis for future research.