

## 2.3 Korean variety of English and Konglish

The focus of this part is to discuss the issue of the "nativization" of English in Korea. The major prediction is that when English is used for intranational purposes, there is a possibility that it is different from the usage of Inner Circle Englishes.

Data: web and newspapers

- prepositions.
- lexical creativity

## Prepositions “at” and “in”

Prepositions “at” and “in” which indicate location could be characterized in terms of dimension-type, size, and semantic difference.

### Semantic distinction

- a. She's at Oxford. ['She's a student at Oxford University.']
- b. She's in Oxford. ['she's staying, etc. in the City of Oxford.']

## Prepositions “at” and “in” 2

The writer is a visiting professor of linguistics in Korea University. \_ Ed (05-12-96)

It could be a simple mistake made by an editor, because this part of the text is written by the editor for introducing the author.

## Prepositions “at” and “in” 3

A comparison with the Korean suffix system for English "at" and "in" provides an answer for such usage in writing English.

It is, however, too early to characterize this as a feature of Korean English because others use “at” instead of “in” and consider “in” as an error.

## Lexical creativity 1

In general, the names of people, streets, and buildings etc., tend to be transliterated into the English alphabet in the newspapers.

- a. Though she has previously participated in numerous group exhibitions, Suh is now holding her first solo show through Oct. 15 at the Baeksang Memorial Hall in Anguk-dong, Seoul. (10-11-96)
- b. The management at Shilla Seoul in Changchung-dong, central Seoul, can relate to this scenario. Throughout its 17-year history, the Shilla has been the darling of all luxurious hotels in Seoul, combining all the charms of Korea with modern five-star accommodations (10-18-96)

## Lexical creativity 2: hybridization

Korean	English + Korean (or Korean +English)
a. Halla san	Mt. Halla
b. Indang swu	Indang Sea
c. Hansan do	Hansan Island
d. Kyunggi do	Kyunggi province
e. Suanbo onchen	Suanpo spa

### Redundancy

Ven. Kim, head priest at *Daegak-sa Temple* in Pusan, is a recipient of the Albert Einstein Peace Award. He became the first Buddhist recipient of the award honoring those who have contributed to the betterment of the world and human life (01-22-97)

## Lexical creativity 3: Korean variety of English?

- a. The expanded tastes of local consumers have been catered to by the *megastores* which are a recent thing in Korea (05-10-96).
  
- b. The women's channels have run their own "*Missy Model*" contests and now feature the young, married women winners on a range of its programs (05-26-96).
  
- c. These days if an event, a story, a party or anything, is missing a crucial element, it becomes a "Mandeuk without a ghost." *The Princess Disease*: A girl with the princess disease is a happy one for she believes herself to be beautiful, wealthy, gifted and wanted and loved by many. She is blissfully unaware that others might not see her in quite the same light. So she wafts around in an offensive graciousness born of ignorance, rubbing people up the wrong way with her Cinderella-style clothes and her let-them-eat-cake remarks ... (12-26-96)

## Konglish 1: literal translation case 1

Group 1: Literal translation of L1: case 1. (culture+linguistic)

1-1) He's in his "two-eight" youth. (He looks much younger than his age.)

1-2) Your South Gate is open. (Your fly is open.)

1-3) I'm a drinking whale. (I drink like a fish.)

1-4) My friend always drinks live water. (My friend always drinks spring water.)

1-5) I've got a chicken flesh. (I've got goose bumps.)

1-6) How often did you have meetings in college?

(How often did you go on blind dates when you were in college.)

\*\* I want to put prima into my coffee. (I want to put creamer in my coffee.)



## Konglish 2: literal translation case 2

### Group 2: Literal translation of L1: case 2. (linguistic)

- 2-1) I have a promise. (I've got an appointment/ I have to meet somebody.)
- !2-2) You hurt my stomach. (You've hurt my feelings.)
- 2-3) I couldn't vacate my house.(I had to stay home.)
- 2-4) Do you have fire? (Do you have a light?)
- 2-5) How do you call him? (How do I address him?)
- 2-6) Can you teach me your phone number?(Would you give me your phone number?)
- 2-7) Can I borrow a cigarette? (Can I bum a cigarette?)
- !2-8) Shut your attention. (Mind your own business.)
- 2-9) Did you call me? (Did you want to see me?)
- 2-10) Yes, I am going. (Yes, I'm coming!)
- 2-11) Our stocks will rise up on the KOSDAQ soon.  
(Our stocks will be listed on the KOSDAQ soon.)
- 2-12) My son falls into dinosaurs these days.(My son is really into dinosaurs these days)

## Konglish 3: prepositions

### Group 3: Preposition

3-1) I'll go to abroad.(I'm going abroad.)

3-2) Do you agree to my opinion (Do you agree with me.)

3-3) Where do you live in?(Where do you live?)

3-4) Take on the bus. (Take the bus.)

3-5) He asked more money. (He asked for mor money.)

3-6) I've been waiting him two hours. (I've been waiting for him for two hours.)

3-7) I'll do it tomorrow in morning. (I'll do it tomorrow morning.)

3-8) He is easy to work. (He is easy to work with.)

3-9) It's a present to you. (It's a present for you.)

3-10) That's exactly what I'm talking.(That's exactly what I'm talking about.)

3-11) I want to discuss on the problem.(I want to discuss the problem.)

3-12) I was getting a shower. (I was in the shower.)

## Konglish 4: tense

### Group 4: Tenses

4-1) It's a long time since we met last time.(It's been a long time since we last met.)

4-2) How long are you working here?(How long have you been working here?)

4-3) This place will not open by six.(This place doesn't open till six.)

4-4) My food wasn't arrive.(My food hasn't arrived yet.)

4-5) This morning I have sliped on ice.(This morning I sliped on some ice.)

4-6) When do you leave the office tonight?(When are going to leave the office tonight?)

4-7) He experiences a very hard time emotionally now.  
(He is experiencing emotionally difficult times now.)

4-8) I'm usually working in office.(I usually work in the office.)

## Summary: Korean variety of English and Konglish

Do Koreans have their own variety of English?

- Korea belongs to the Expanding Circle.
- English is not an institutionalized language in Korea.