

# Grammatical Features in Korean English

## Causes of Grammatical Difficulties

- ☞ **Word by word translation of Korean into English**
- ☞ **Overgeneralization of the English rules**
- ☞ **Different grammatical system from English**

# Four Typical Grammatical Errors

- 1. Active vs. Passive Voice Problems**
- 2. Indirect Agency using 'HAVE' or 'GET'**
- 3. Singular or Plural Endings**
- 4. Answering Negative Questions**

# 1. Active vs. Passive Problems

**increase / change :**

**either take a noun or none as its object**

**➔ passivized or not passivized**

**fire :**

**do take a noun as its object**

**➔ Always passivized**

# 1. Active vs. Passive Problems

(A) KS: The population of Detroit was increased greatly.

☞ The population of Detroit increased greatly.

(B) KS: Recently, her skin color was changed.

☞ Recently, her skin color changed.

(C) KS: I fired from my company last week.

☞ I was fired from my company last week.

Table-1

## 2. Indirect Agency

**Indirect Agency :**

**to use 'have' or 'get' to represent  
the thing done by others not  
speaker**

## 2. Indirect Agency

**(A) KS: Yesterday I cut my hair at the barber's shop.**

**NS: Yesterday I have my hair cut at the barber's shop.**

**(B) KS: I want to take pictures in front of the Eifel Tower.**

**NS: I want to have pictures taken in front of the Eifel Tower.**

**(C) KS: I had a horrible toothache, so I pulled my tooth.**

**NS: I had a horrible toothache, so I had my tooth pulled.**

Table-2

# 3. Pluralization of non-countable nouns

## COUNTABLE NOUN + (e)s

(A) KS : Please pass me two pencil.

☞ two pencils

- Korean : miss plural endings to countable nouns
- English : add '(e)s' at the end of countable nouns i.e.pencils or books.

### 3. Pluralization of non-countable nouns

**NON-COUNTABLE NOUN + (e)s \***

(B) KS : Please send me more informations about your company. 📎 information

KS : She gave me many helpful advices about living abroad. 📎 advice

- Koreans overuse plural ‘(e)s’.

## 4. Answering Negative questions

**NS : Don't you have a meal yet?**

**KS : "Yes." (☞ I didn't have a meal yet.)**

**NS : "Yes." (☞ I have a meal.)**

Table-4

# Conclusion

- **Two main factors that cause grammatical errors in Korean English :**
  - 1. L1 transfer**
  - 2. Overgeneralization of the rule**
- **The investigation of Korean English will be helpful to understand varieties of English over the world.**