

# About Korean Language and Its Introduction to Uzbekistan

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**Received:** 18 February 2025; **Accepted:** 16 March 2025; **Published:** 17 April 2025

**Abstract:** The Korean language is considered an agglutinative language, meaning that grammatical meaning and function are altered by adding suffixes to words. This leads to a rich morphology in the language. The Korean language is the official language of both the Republic of Korea (South Korea) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) and is one of the oldest and most unique languages in the world. Its origin and development have a rich and complex history that spans thousands of years. Verbs in Korean are complex and change according to time, person, number, mood, and other grammatical categories. The Korean lexicon contains many Chinese loanwords, reflecting the long history of cultural and linguistic interaction with China. Additionally, the Korean language has unique words and expressions whose meanings cannot always be fully conveyed in other languages.

**Keywords:** Vocabulary, complex, lexical, archaeological, process, cultural, structure, language, concept, word, grammatic, lexicon, agglutinative language.

**Introduction:** The Korean language is the official language of both the Republic of Korea (South Korea) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) and is one of the oldest and most unique languages in the world. Its origin and development have a rich and complex history that spans thousands of years. The language's distinctive features, grammatical structures, writing system, and lexicon set it apart from other languages, making the learning process both interesting and complex. There are several theories about the origin of the Korean language. The most widespread theory suggests that it belongs to a distinct language family—the Koreanic-Japonic family. This theory emphasizes the lexical and grammatical similarities between Korean and Japanese, although the depth of these similarities and the historical connections behind them remain a debated topic. Some researchers point out that the Korean language may also have some connections to the Altaic language family, but this theory has not been sufficiently proven. Therefore, the origin of the Korean language and its relation to other languages is still a significant area of linguistic research. Some scholars believe that the Korean language is an independently

developed language, meaning it does not belong to any other language family.

**Historical development.** The historical development of the Korean language can be divided into three main periods:

**Ancient Period** (before the 7th century BCE – 7th century CE): During this period, the Korean language existed only in oral form and was not written down. Its lexicon and grammar were significantly different from the modern Korean language. Some features of ancient Korean have been identified through archaeological findings and comparison with neighboring languages, but detailed information about this period is limited.

**Medieval Period** (7th to 19th century): During this period, the Hanja writing system (the Korean pronunciation of Chinese characters) began to be used. Hanja was not suitable for the Korean language because it only represented the meanings of words but did not reflect their pronunciation. As a result, during this period, the Korean language began to develop its own distinctive written features. Korean literature flourished during the medieval period, with poetry, stories, and other literary works being created.

Modern Period (19th century – present): In the 15th century, the Korean script known as Hangul was created. Hangul is a phonetic writing system that accurately and simply represents the sounds of the Korean language. The creation of Hangul had a significant impact on the development of the Korean language and helped increase its accessibility. In the 20th century, the Korean language became standardized, and its grammatical rules were clarified. The Korean War and the division of Korea led to the development of two distinct dialects: the North Korean and South Korean dialects. Today, the Korean language is studied and continues to evolve worldwide.

Structure and Features of the Language. The Korean language is considered an agglutinative language, meaning that grammatical meaning and function are altered by adding suffixes to words. This leads to a rich morphology in the language. Verbs in Korean are complex and change according to time, person, number, mood, and other grammatical categories. Word order also plays an important role and is typically arranged in the Subject-Object-Verb (SOV) order.

## METHOD

The writing system of the Korean language is Hangul. Hangul was created in 1446 by King Sejong the Great and is a logical and easy-to-learn writing system. It consists of 19 consonants and 21 vowels; whose combinations represent all the sounds of the Korean language.

Modern Korean orthography differs from the traditional script. There are 40 consonants and vowels in the Korean language, but in this blog, we will focus on the 24 basic consonant and vowel sounds essential for learning Korean. While many people write in Romanized Hangul, it is crucial for learners of Korean to understand how to write Korean consonants and vowels. Therefore, it is recommended to learn Hangul and its basic characters before studying the language, as mastering Hangul will assist you throughout your journey of learning Korean.

There are 14 basic consonants in Korean: ㄱ, ㅋ, ㆁ, ㆁ, ㄷ, ㅌ, ㄴ, ㄹ, ㄷ, ㅌ, ㄴ, ㄹ. If you are learning Korean as a new language, these consonants are essential to your studies. Recognizing these consonants is important. The Korean alphabet also contains five double consonants: ㄲ, ㄸ, ㅃ, ㅆ, ㅉ. These are called "double consonants" because they are written using two identical consonant letters. These double consonants produce a stronger sound. They resemble some English consonants and can be understood through various examples. For instance, the "g" consonant in the English word "goat" can be used to

pronounce these consonants.

There are 10 vowels in Korean: ㅏ, ㅑ, ㅓ, ㅕ, ㅗ, ㅛ, ㅜ, ㅠ, ㅡ, ㅣ. Each vowel produces a distinct sound, and they appear in nearly all Korean words.

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Dialects and Accents. Due to the geographical diversity of the Korean Peninsula, there are several dialects and accents in the Korean language. The most widely spoken dialects are the Seoul dialect (South Korea) and the Pyongyang dialect (North Korea). These dialects differ in pronunciation, lexicon, and grammar but are close enough to be mutually intelligible. Other regional dialects also exist, but their differences are much less pronounced compared to the Seoul and Pyongyang dialects. Standard Korean is based primarily on the Seoul dialect. Let's take a look at the Jeju dialect as an example.

Jeju Dialect (제주 방언 - Jeju Bangeon) refers to the dialect spoken only on Jeju Island, located off the southwestern coast of South Korea, about a 45-minute flight from Seoul. The Jeju dialect is one of the hardest to understand in South Korea, as it has its own unique language. This makes it difficult for Koreans from different regions to understand the Jeju dialect. For example:

- "Welcome" (어서 오십시오) → 혼저 옵서 (means "Welcome" in Jeju dialect).
  - "Please come and see" (와서 보고 가세요) → 왕 뵙 갑서 (means "Come and take a look" in Jeju dialect).
  - When you land at Jeju Airport, you will see a sign with the message 혼저 옵서, so pay attention to it the next time you visit Jeju Island. In Jeju, the last two syllables of words are often combined, changing the pronunciation. For instance:
    - 밥 먹었니? (Did you eat?) → 밥 먹언 (Jeju dialect).
    - 이거 했어? (Did you do this?) → 이거 행? (Jeju dialect).
    - 알았어 (I understand) → 알안 (Jeju dialect).
- Some examples comparing the standard Korean and Jeju dialects:

- 여기서 서울에 전화할 수 있지요? (Can I make a call to Seoul from here?) → 여기서 서울더레 해집주앙? (Jeju dialect). Here's the translation of your text from Uzbek to English:

- Where are you from? (어디서 오셨습니까? / eodiseo osyeotseumnikka?)  
"Siz qayerdansiz?"

The Modern State and Prospects of the Korean Language. Currently, the Korean language is being studied worldwide, and its popularity continues to grow. Learning this language is not only important for cultural exchange but also for developing economic cooperation. Due to South Korea's global influence and its economic development, the Korean language plays a significant role in international relations. The development of modern technologies, the internet, and mass media is helping the spread of the Korean language.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

At present, countries where Korean is taught as a foreign language include China, Japan, certain states in the USA, France, Germany, Russia, Brazil, Paraguay, Australia, Thailand, the Philippines, Turkey, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Vietnam (since 2021, the Vietnamese Ministry of Education added Korean as a first foreign language), Indonesia, Laos, India, Sri Lanka, Paraguay, and many others, including Uzbekistan.

The future of the Korean language is predicted to be bright. Its study will continue, and its influence will grow stronger. The study of the language's unique features and rich cultural heritage makes learning Korean more interesting and informative. The use of modern teaching methods and technologies will make the process of learning Korean more effective and convenient.

The Korean language stands out for its ancient history, complex grammar, rich vocabulary, and unique writing system. Its global popularity is closely tied to South Korea's economic and cultural development. The future of the language is bright, and its study will continue because it plays an important role not only in cultural exchange but also in the development of economic and political relations. The use of modern teaching methods and technologies will make this process easier and more interesting.

The Development of Teaching Korean in Our Country. Korean is one of the most popular foreign languages in Uzbekistan and has even been included in Uzbekistan's second foreign language curriculum. Additionally, the number of countries accepting Korean as a subject in entrance exams has been increasing. In 2014, only four

countries accepted it, but last year, the number increased to 10, including Uzbekistan, Japan, France, Malaysia, and others.

At the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, significant changes occurred in Korean education. Western pedagogical methods were introduced, and the Korean language was standardized. While traditional methods were not entirely abandoned, several new approaches became popular.

In large Uzbek cities, there may be independent language courses teaching Korean. These are commercial organizations that are not affiliated with any Korean university. Many Uzbek students pursue higher education in South Korea. They apply directly to South Korean universities and study there, not in Uzbekistan. This reflects an important area of educational exchange. Although there are no Korean universities in Uzbekistan, there is considerable educational cooperation and exchange between the two countries.

The growing popularity of the Korean language in Uzbekistan is linked to several factors, all of which are interconnected and the result of complex historical and socio-cultural processes. These factors can be summarized as follows:

Economic and Cultural Influence of South Korea: South Korea's rapid economic development and global influence are significantly visible in Uzbekistan as well. South Korea's achievements in electronics, automotive, cosmetics, and other industries are widely recognized in Uzbekistan, and this has increased interest in developing cooperation with the country. As part of this cooperation, the demand for learning Korean is rising, especially among those working in business, tourism, and technology.

Impact of Popular Culture (K-Pop, K-Drama): South Korea's popular culture, particularly K-Pop and K-Drama films, has spread worldwide, including in Uzbekistan, which has greatly increased interest in learning the Korean language. The younger generation is eager to learn Korean to understand their favorite songs and actors, as well as to communicate directly with them. The popularity of BTS, Blackpink, and other K-Pop groups, as well as Korean dramas, is motivating many young people in Uzbekistan to learn the language.

Expansion of Educational Opportunities: In recent years, opportunities to learn Korean in Uzbekistan have expanded significantly. Various higher education institutions and private centers now offer Korean language courses, and online learning platforms are also growing. This creates favorable conditions for

those interested in learning Korean. Institutions like the Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies and the Tashkent State University of Economics are training specialists in the Korean language. Korean cultural centers also organize courses for learning Korean, such as Inha University in Tashkent. Inha University in Tashkent (IUT) is a branch of Inha University in Korea. It offers programs in Computer and Information Engineering and Logistics. It was established based on the decision of the first President of Uzbekistan as a result of cooperation between Inha University in South Korea and the government of Uzbekistan, aimed at developing IT leaders. The academic programs at Inha University in Tashkent are very similar to those at Inha University in Korea.

South Korean universities also provide extensive opportunities for students from Uzbekistan. The competition for university spots is intense because many students are competing for spots at the country's most prestigious universities, which offer bachelor's, master's, professional, and doctoral degrees. The three most prestigious universities in South Korea, known as "SKY," are Seoul National University, Korea University, and Yonsei University.

Korean higher education traditionally emphasizes lecture-based approaches, focusing heavily on memorization and recall. However, recent reforms have promoted more interactive, student-centered methods, encouraging critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaborative learning. Many universities follow a semester system in their curricula, offering courses in various subjects.

Many universities in Korea offer scholarships to international students based on academic ability or financial need. Additionally, the Korean government provides two scholarship programs: the Global Korea Scholarship (GKS) and the Korean Government Scholarship Program (KGSP). These scholarships cover living expenses, tuition, and even travel costs. It is recommended to conduct extensive research on the cost of education in Korea and apply for scholarships to help reduce the overall expenses.

The national development priorities greatly influence the curriculum, with a focus on fields such as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), which are considered vital for economic growth. At the same time, humanities and social sciences also play a key role, reflecting the importance of preserving culture and intellectual development. Universities are increasingly incorporating international perspectives and collaboration into their curricula, reflecting the globalization of higher education.

One of the advantages of studying at Korea's top

universities is the availability of unique programs and specializations. These universities offer a broad range of courses in various fields, including business, engineering, humanities, and social sciences. For instance, Seoul National University is renowned for its strong

programs in science and engineering, Yonsei University is famous for international relations and business programs, and Korea University offers comprehensive programs in various disciplines. Familiarizing yourself with the unique programs and specializations offered by these universities will help you find the perfect match for your academic interests and career aspirations.

The Development of Relations Between Uzbekistan and South Korea. While the history of relations between Uzbekistan and South Korea is relatively short, over the past decade, cooperation between the two countries has significantly developed. This growth in cooperation, along with increased economic and cultural exchanges, has heightened interest in learning the Korean language. This interest is particularly high among young people and is linked to the influence of popular culture and the processes of globalization.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the growing popularity of the Korean language in Uzbekistan is a complex process linked to South Korea's economic and cultural influence, the widespread impact of popular culture, expanded educational opportunities, and the growth of tourism. This process contributes to the strengthening of relations between Uzbekistan and South Korea and enhances cultural and economic exchanges between the two countries. Learning the Korean language not only allows for mastering the language but also provides an opportunity to become familiar with Korea's rich and ancient culture.

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