



KOREAN LANGUAGE STYLES

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ABSTRACT

The Republic of Korea is one of the countries in East Asia in which Confucianism is regarded as a system of moral and ethical values that regulate the relationship of people and encourage them to be followers of the highest wisdom that determines the norms of justice, righteousness and conformity of man, whatever place he occupies in the socio-social hierarchy.

Korean traditions also require the expression of reverence in speech when addressing the interlocutor or object of conversation, if such are parents, grandparents, older brothers and sisters, officials, guests, etc.

The variety of communication styles creates certain difficulties not only for students of the Korean language. In Korea itself, today's younger generation of Koreans also has difficulty using these styles. This is due to changes in the socio-social structure of Korean society, occurring as a result of the modernization of the country's economy.

KEYWORDS

Culture, Confucian ethics, structures, degree of politeness and style of writing, familiar or friendly style, conversation, dialogue.

The culture of relations between Koreans built vertically - as a set of higher norms of wisdom and ethics, in which a hierarchical subordination of values and virtues is established, reflects the five principles of relations: the emperor and the subject, father and son, older brother and younger brother, husband and wife, two friends.

According to these principles, the father should treat the son kindly, and the sons should treat the father with filial reverence; the older brother should treat the younger brother with kindness, and the younger brother to the elder with respect; the husband should treat his wife fairly, and the wife should treat her husband with helpfulness; the ruler must treat the subjects favorably, and the subjects must treat the ruler with loyalty.

Confucian ethics created a solid foundation for the relationship between Koreans. The social world, in accordance with Confucian teachings, is divided into clear structures: senior - junior, leader -

subordinate, etc. At the same time, the socio-socio-political structure of society is also strictly hierarchical - the connections in it are mainly vertical. This means that the relationship between equals (manager – leader, subordinate – subordinate) is much less significant than the relationship of subordination (manager – subordinate).

These features of Confucian ethics and traditions are manifested in Korea in the behavior of interlocutors, in their specific gestures, bows, special manners of greeting, in written and oral forms of expression of politeness, courtesy and reverence. Therefore, it is important for Korean language learners to know and understand the appropriate degrees of politeness and the styles of written and oral communication used by Koreans.

It must be remembered that in communication with unfamiliar people, especially with women, you cannot change the styles of communication. For example, from a polite official style to abruptly switch to a familiar or friendly style. This can be misconstrued and perceived as insult or harassment.¹

Korean traditions also require the expression of reverence in speech when addressing an interlocutor or object of conversation, if such are parents, grandfather, grandmother, older brothers and sisters, officials, guests, etc. Expressions of politeness used by Koreans emphasize the difference in social status and age of the interlocutors.

The entire speech and writing orientation of Koreans in communication can be expressed by the formula: "Higher" - "Equal" - "Inferior". They also include 7 styles of politeness, which I will analyze below.²

- **Higher**³

1. 하소서체 Highly formal officially polite style.

Traditionally used when addressing a king, queen or high-ranking person. It belongs to archaic styles, used exclusively in historical dramas and the Bible.

Present. 하나이다

Present. 하시나이다.

2. 합쇼체. Officially polite style.

Modern conversational officially polite style. Also called: Formal polite style. A common style when communicating with a stranger. As a rule, at the first meeting, the conversation begins with this style, gradually moving to less formal styles.

Used:

1-Between strangers at the first meeting.

2- Usually between male employees.

3-Tv presenters.

4- When contacting customers.

5- In some stable expressions, such as 만나서 반갑습니다.

¹ <https://korean-teapot.blogspot.com/2014/02/7.html>

² <https://www.divelang.ru/blog/useful/stili-rechi-v-koreiskom-yazike/>

³ Polite style, high degree of politeness (used in a formal setting and shows increased respect for the interlocutor)

"Glad to get acquainted"

present. 합니다

Present. 하십니다.

- Equal⁴

3. 해요체. Informally polite style.

The most common style in the modern language. It is considered an informal polite style.

Used:

- 1- In phrasebooks for foreigners.
- 2- Between strangers, especially the older generation.
- 3- Usually between female employees.
- 4- Between strangers of a younger generation, as an alternative to the officially polite style.
- 5- As a less formal polite style between strangers or between acquaintances (not intimate) today.

Present 해요

present.하세요.

4. 하오체. Formal neutral style.

Semi-formal or "medium" style. It was originally a poetic style, and was also used in uncertain social situations. However, due to the excessive use of power by representatives during the dictatorship, it acquired a negative connotation. Accordingly, it is practically not used by the generation that grew up in the period after the democratization of Korea. Mainly used by the older generation (over 60)

Used:

- 1- Sometimes, between people of the older generation, government workers, police officers, middle managers. Middle-aged people, people who are at the middle social level, temporarily leading those who are usually higher in status.
- 2- In writing, especially by men, mostly on the Internet.
- 3- In historical dramas, to give the dialogue an archaic tinge.

Present. 하오

Present 하쇼/ 하시오

5. 하계체. Neutral style.

Medium-familiar style of communication. It is not used in relation to children, and is never used in communication between blood relatives. Not too common in communication, mainly used by the older generation (over 60)

Used:

- 1- Some old people in relation to young people, friends or non-blood relatives (son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father-in-law, mother-in-law, etc.), in a friendly manner.

⁴ Informal style, high degree of politeness (the most frequently used style, shows general respect for the interlocutor)

2- Sometimes between male friends.

3- In novels.

Present. 하네

Present. 하시네

- **Inferior**⁵

6. 해라체. Official-familiar style.

Simple conversational style. It is used in writing, when the narrative is conducted as in the third person. In impersonal writing, such as instructions, manuals, etc. This style is common in colloquial speech when referring to younger or peers.

Used:

1- When contacting close friends or relatives - approximately the same age, and adults when talking with children.

2- In impersonal written language (in books, newspapers, magazines....) in some exclamations.

Present 한다

present. 하신다

7. 해체. Unofficial-familiar style.

A widespread conversational style.

Used:

1- When talking with children.

2- Between close friends and relatives.

Present. 해/하여

Present. 하셔

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⁵ Informal style, low degree of politeness (friendly, family relations)