

Plain language movement protects the right to know and the safety of the citizens in South Korea

- "Language determines human rights."

Keon bum Lee

president of Hangul Culture Solidarity
(the Solidarity for Korean and Hangul culture)
South Korea

I. Korean Language and Hangul

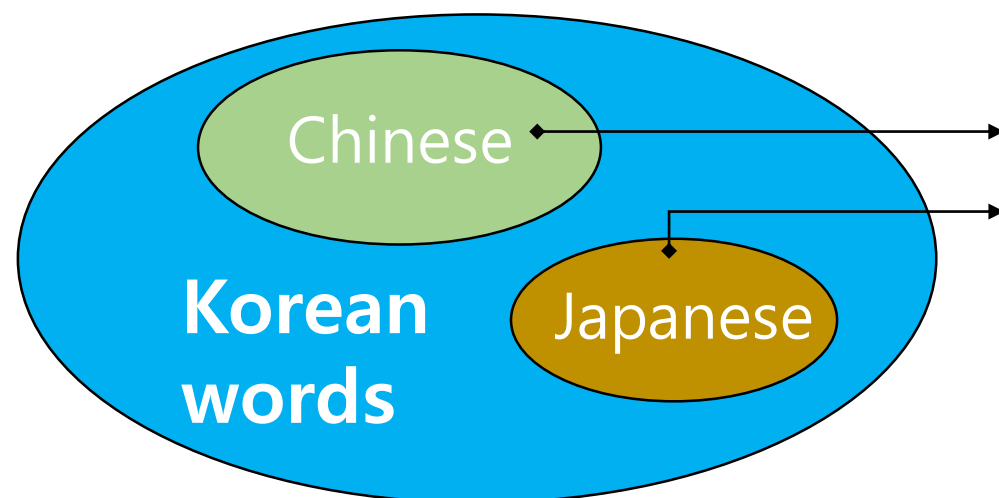
1. Korean language

- The only official language of Korea.
- In the world, 80 million people speak Korean.
- The 13th most-user language.



2. History of Korean language

- Used for 5,000 years.
- Many words are originated from China and from Japan.
- They are based on Chinese characters \Rightarrow Sino-Korean words.
- But, Korean vs Japanese vs Chinese \Rightarrow completely different.



- Based on Chinese characters(Hanja)
- Sino-Korean words

3. Korean's writing system, Hangul.

- Korean characters: 'Hangul'
- King Sejong of the Joseon Dynasty in 1443 created.

Why? ✓ He wanted to let all his people express their will.

- At that time, only Korean nobles (Yangban) used the Chinese characters, Hanja(漢字).
- The Chinese characters did not match Korean and were also difficult to learn.

- Hangul is the characters of 'human rights'.
- Hangul Culture Solidarity carries out Plain Language Campaign based on human rights spirit of King Sejong.

II. Obscure language in Korean

6. Difficult language of Korea

Now

- Korean words are mainly used for words and Hangeul for letters.

Problems?

- Difficult Sino-Korean words that remain in laws
- Increasing use of English words and Roman characters in every field



serve as **barriers to communication.**

7. Difficult legal terms

In legal and administrative terms

- the work of changing Japanese style Sino-Korean words to plain Korean language has steadily taken place since 1945.
- In 2005, the government
 - ✓ began 'Easy to Understand Statute Project',
 - ✓ made an effort the statutes to be written into Hangul only and plain Korean language.

However,

- Many difficult Sino-Korean words are still in major laws, such as civil law and criminal law.
- Those words make it difficult for the general public to understand them.

8. Globalization policy and English language craze

Changes around Korean

- Since the mid-1990s, **the importance of English has been highlighted** along with Korea's globalization policy.
- English grades had been just an important factor in entering universities in the past, but they have extended to the vital criteria in employment and promotion since the late 1990s.

9. English words that drive out Korean words

- The number of scholars and civil servants who studied in America has also increased significantly.
- As these opinion leaders started using many English words, the use of English in newspapers and broadcasts also increased.
- This trend spreaded to safety, welfare, economy and politics sectors, rather than just being used in industry.

10. Problems of English abuse

Why in English?

- There is a growing **tendency to write important words in English**.
- In most cases, the words with obscure meaning are used **just to draw attention**.

However Koreans feel English is difficult

- Many **middle-aged and older people** who haven't properly learned English.
- Many people who have learned English but **haven't used it for a long period** find it difficult to understand sentences that are mixed with English words.
- Moreover, the efficiency of English education is not high
 - because Korean and English are entirely different languages,
 - and there are very few opportunities to communicate with English speakers.

11. Legislation of plain language use

In the government

- In 2005, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, which is in charge of Korean language policy, enacted **Framework Act on the Korean Language**, providing that official documents should be written in Hangeul.
- But even if they were written in Hangeul, there were still foreign words that the public cannot understand.
- The act was revised in 2017 to supplement the need to write official documents **“using terms and sentences which ordinary citizens easily understand”**.

III. Plain Language Movements in Korea

13. Plain language campaign of private sector

- Plain language campaign in Korea has mainly been led by the private sector.
- Until the 1990s after liberation in 1945, it was important to change the words from Japanese and unfamiliar Sino-Korean words from old literature into plain words.
- This work revolved around the group of scholars called 'the Korean Language Society'.

- Since the 2000s, the abuse of foreign languages, especially English words, emerged as the major issue.
- The civic group, Hangeul Culture Solidarity is leading the work to turn these into plain words.

www.urimal.org

한글문화연대

회원 가입 | 문서 교정 | 활동 | 사랑방 | 한글아리아리 | 자료실 | 말 다듬기 | 한마디

반갑습니다. 환영합니다. 한글문화연대

공지 한글문화연대에 의견 보내기

후원: KEB 하나은행
294-910009-56304

우리말을 사랑!
함께 해요~

홍보대사 방송민 지석진

한자 둘러싼 오해와 그 진실

한글문화연대

국립국어원
이렇게 다들었어요

한글문화연대 옛날 누리집

방 나눔

- 분류 전체보기 (2372)
- 회원 가입 및 후원 안내 (2)
- 문서 교정요청 사항 (1)
- 활동 (590)
- 사랑방 (1374)
- 한글아리아리 (304)
- 자료실 (79)
- 한글문화연대 소개 (6)
- 말 다듬기 (10)

우리말 사전 - 바로가기

국립국어원 표준국어대사전.
국립국어원 다듬은 말 찾기.
한국어 맞춤법/문법 검사기.
표어자 변환기.
트라이얼 사전.

최근에 올라온 글

[누리방송 5-142] 대학생들의...
한글 아리아리 737.

한글문화연대 주요 활동

개헌 정책 토론회

헌법을 알기 쉽고 우리말답게

"第3條 大韓民國의 領土는 韓半島와 그 附屬島嶼로 한다."
"제3조 대한민국의 영토는 한반도와 그에 딸린 섬으로 한다."

알기 쉬운 헌법
만들기의
목적과 방법

[알림] 개헌 정책 토론회 - 알기 쉬운 헌법 만들기의 목적과 방법/2018년 2월 7일

지금 한글문화연대는...

플랫폼

많이 들어는 봤는데...

외국어 법령 용어	외국어 법령	외국인 용어
카드세일	19	매뉴얼
단차	20	낙석
스크린도어	21	도색
연전원스	22	도어
헛드레일	23	로프
노면	24	마대

어려운 법령용어 쉽게 바꿔 달라 제안서 내다.

2019년 8월 30일, 한글문화연대 이경범 대표가 법제처에서 연 "알법 아이디어 공모제"에 제안의견서를 냈다. 법령에 나오는 어려운 안전용어와 쓸데없이 사용한 외국어를 쉬운 말로 바꿔달라는 제안이다. 자세한 내용은 아래와 같다. ◇ 현황 및 문제점 1...

[알림] 2019 바른말 쉬운 말 고운 말 민화표어 공모전(~9/22)

- 아름다운 말이 아름다운 세상을 만듭니다. 우리말 사랑, 한글 사랑을 주제로 삼아 우리말을 어지럽히는 외국어 남용, 지나친 줄임말 사용, 비속어와 욕설 사용, 혐오 표현, 맞춤법 파괴, 일방적 소통 따위를 고치고 국어 생활에 관한 나눌의 생각을 담아..

2019 바른말 쉬운 말 고운 말 민화표어 공모전

14. Vigilance against nationalist campaign of Korean language

- **The nationalist view** to use Korean instead of Japanese or English was influential until the 1990s as Korean language belonged to the nation.
- In the 1970s, the military regime enforcing dictatorship forced the 'purification of foreign languages' to use nationalism in order to maintain authority, leaving **antipathy against 'language purification'**.

Hangeul Cultural Solidarity

- has roots in plain language movements **in democracy, not nationalism.**

IV. Activities of Hangul Culture Solidarity

15. Plain language and the people's human rights

Hangul Cultural Solidarity

- We focus on turning difficult words in public sphere into plain words.
 - We monitor and correct the use of language by the government and the media.
-
- Public language is mainly created by the government and spread through the media.
 - The 'right to know' of all systems, laws and information that influence the life of citizens can be fulfilled only through plain language.
 - In addition, citizens should not be discriminated against because of their foreign language ability under any circumstances in public space.
 - This is because citizens are at risk of being damaged by their dignity in the face of difficult language.
 - The right to know and equality are the human reasons why we should use plain language.

16. Plain language and civil safety

- The right to know is **more important** than anything else **in the safety** of citizens.
- In 2017, Hangul Culture Solidarity investigated 800 types of web and word documents, and warning messages from government institutions in charge of safety as well as public reports to select **133 difficult safety terms**.
- Hangul Culture Solidarity has attempted to change these, but achieved only about 10% so far.
- The indifference of civil servants and difficulty of amending laws are the biggest barriers.
- On August 30, 2019, Hangul Culture Solidarity has again proposed to the government that 54 difficult safety terms from laws be replaced with plain words.

17. Examples of improving safety terms

- "Green Food Zone":
 - a sign that says that no one can sell the unhygienic food around the school.
- 'screen door':
 - The transparent doors overlaid for safety purpose open with subway doors in Seoul.
- 'sink hole':
 - the hole created when the ground sank

18. Plain language and pursuit of citizen's happiness

- The use of English words is increasing in the government's policies and documents dealing with the wealth, welfare and opportunities to enjoy a better life for citizens.
- This deprives citizens of their right to pursue happiness, who are not competent in English.
- It is also difficult for citizens to express their opinions in the political sphere as they cannot comprehend these terms.
- Difficult words disrupt the smooth operation of the democratic republic by impeding participation of citizens in politics.

✓ "community care"

✓ 'voucher'

✓ 'voice phishing'

19. Strengthened activities in 2019

- We have been **investigating 3,000 press releases of the central government** every year since 2012.
- We compile unnecessary abuse of foreign words and use of Roman characters and announce the results to the press on Hangul Day (the day to commemorate Hangul, 9th October)
- The results contain the ranking of ministries
 - ✓ used many difficult words, such as foreign languages,
 - ✓ the list of foreign words used by civil servants,
 - ✓ and the average number of foreign words in each document.
- Our activities have gained the sympathy and support from many people, and raised awareness among ministers and employees with bad results, creating immediate improvements.

- However, the improvement does **not last long** because there are too many civil servants who write official documents and new foreign terms are pouring in.

Hangul Cultural Solidarity's special and strengthened measures

- Starting in 2019, we **investigate every press release** issued by 18 central government departments and **propose modifications to the authors every day**.
- We examine an average of 1,000 documents every month and sent out 530 official requests for modification. Many changes are now taking place.
- We also **send email to journalists** who used such terms on television and newspaper to suggest modifications. More than 2,000 request letters are sent every month.
- We not only send letters to the members of the media and civil servants who write official documents, but also **put up posters** asking to use plain language in more than 20 broadcasting and newspaper companies and 45 government agencies. We also put a lot of efforts into **online promotion**.

20. Language determines human rights.

Hangul Cultural Solidarity

- Our slogan in 2019 is "Easy and plain words protect the right to know".
- Our campaign of emphasizing human rights is warmly received and widespread among civil servants and journalists.

**Our spiritual foundation of plain language campaign is
"Language determines human rights"**

Thank you