

Online Contact Effects of English on the Korean Language: Salient Morphological Features of Korean in Casual Online Situations

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Daniel, Jiyoung. Online Contact Effects of English on the Korean Language: Salient Morphological Features of Korean in Casual Online Situations. *The New Studies of English Language & Literature* 69 (2018): 25-43. The use of the Internet has become an indispensable part of life in the new millennium. One of the most popular activities in the era of the Internet is online communication. Net-Lingo, which is a product of online communication, is a new language variety that differs from both writing and speech as traditionally understood (Crystal 2001). Given that Net-Lingo is considered as a language variety, I describe the prominent linguistic characteristics of Korean Net-Lingo (KNL) from the morphological domain and investigate the specific mechanisms underlying the observable linguistic characteristics. The globalization of the Internet is urging different languages to contact in online communication, especially English as the globally leading language. Based on the description and linguistic analysis, I also examine the impact of English on KNL. I envision an inevitable, vigorous interaction between English and Korean. Therefore, this study will add insights to research on a new type of language contact. (University of North Georgia)

Key words: Korean Net-Lingo, KNL, language contact online, online contact effects, influence of English online

I. Introduction

Needless to say, online communication has been one of the most popular activities of the Internet era. For instance, according to Statista (2016), as of July 2015, Koreans' Internet usage rate for the purpose of communication is 91.4%. This survey result is also supported by Park's (2007) statement that in Korea, "college students enjoy using the Internet

as a means of answering their questions” (244). Since language use, to a large extent, is determined by the context where it takes place (Gao 2006), the Internet has served as an apt space for the development of a new type of language. Some call this (tele)communication language (Kwon 2000), computer communication language (Lee 2000), Netspeak (Crystal 2001), Internet Language (Gao 2004) or Net-Lingo (Daniel 2010; Park 2002). In this study, I will use the term, Net-Lingo simply because this term, which originated from a popular reference website called Net-Lingo.com, has greater visibility than other terms. “Net-Lingo, as a medium of electronically globalized interaction, is a type of language with unique characteristics that are mainly found in written online situations, such as chat rooms, bulletin boards, public websites, social networking sites, online games, blogs, and text messages, but it is not confined to online situations” (Daniel 2010, 115-16). In this paper, I will use the abbreviated form KNL for Korean Net-Lingo. There have been numerous studies on KNL. However, the few academic works have gone beyond mere descriptions, and moreover, few studies such as Daniel (2010) linked the discussion of KNL with contact effects with English online, which is an indication of a new type of language contact differing from a physical contact. It has been reported that English is the cross-culturally dominant language online and is affecting other languages to a great extent (Gao 2004; Hansson & Bunt-Kokhuis 2004). The influence of English is not unusual when it comes to Korean language. One can frequently observe the impact of English in Korean online situations. English, as the global language, has been favored by Korean netizens online.

The goal of this paper is two fold. First, extending from Daniel’s (2010) initial opening, it documents the unique characteristics of KNL from the morphological perspective, as evidenced by the influence of English, based on online data. Second, along with the documentation, it examines the

specific mechanisms that may underly the noticeable morphological characteristics.

II. Literature Review

The study of KNL is approximately twenty years old. Among scholarly works on KNL at the early stage, Inha University (1997) and Kwon (2000) brought people's attention to the significance of investigating KNL. Based on data collected from chat rooms by Inha University (1997) and extended to other online situations such as online games, bulletin boards, text messages, blogs, and e-mails by Kwon (2000), they described various linguistic characteristics of KNL. The more recent work by Daniel (2010) included the data from a social networking site in her research. In this section, my review centers on how KNL has been portrayed in various scholarly works as being shaped in casual online situations from the morphological viewpoint. Since the penetrated use of the Internet is a global phenomenon, I will also exemplify how Chinese and English languages are changing in regard to online communication, respectively.

KNL can be highlighted by several morphological processes such as compoundings and acronyms. It is important to provide clear definitions as guides for understanding these processes. Nevertheless, few studies have attempted to identify those phenomena. Furthermore, different terms have been used to characterize the same phenomenon. In the beginning, I will provide a clear definition of each morphological process, and then I will provide examples from those aforementioned studies.

Compounding words consist of two or more free morphemes. For instance, Daniel (2009), in her research of newly emerging affixal morphemes online, provided an example from an online newspaper headline. According to her, *Chosun Ilbo*, on the 22nd of November, 2006, employed a word *-nye* 'woman,' in one of its articles about a

woman who works at the Korean embassy. The word, *-nye* ‘woman’ was attached to the word *tay.sa.kwan*¹ ‘embassy,’ leading to *tay.sa.kwan.nye* ‘lit. an embassy woman.’ Compared to its formal expression, *tay.sa.kwan.ey.se kun.mwu.ha.nun ye.ca* ‘a woman who works at the embassy,’ the new expression *tay.sa.kwan.nye* ‘an embassy woman’ is concise, yet comprehensive. Her research also included examples such as *kay.tthong.nye* ‘a woman who did not clean her pet’s excrement,’ which originated from *kay* ‘dog’ + *tthong* ‘excrement’ + *nye* ‘woman,’ *toyn.cang.nye*, meaning ‘a lavish girl’² from *toyn.cang* ‘bean paste’ + *nye*. Her examples also included *cheng.swun.nye* ‘a innocent woman,’ *cik.cang.nye* ‘a working woman,’ *al.pa.nye* ‘a female part-timer.’ While *-nye* is utilized to describe different types of woman, she also claimed that *-nam* is frequently used by Korean netizens to describe different types of man by illustrating new compound words such as *hwun.nam* ‘a warm-hearted man,’ *toyn.cang.nam* ‘a lavish man,’ *kka.chil.nam* ‘a blunt man,’ *cin.sil.nam* ‘an honest man.’ The productivities of these two morphemes were consistently increasing. Five years later, a survey project conducted by the National Institute of the Korean Language (henceforth, NIKL 2014) listed *-nam* and *-nye* as two of the most productive suffixes for creating KNL expressions.

Besides compoundings, acronyms are another method for creating neologisms. According to Sohn (2001), in Korean, as an agglutinative language, the smallest unit is a morpheme, and the binding of letters constitutes a morpheme-based (morphophonemic) syllable. For example, *han.kwuk.in* ‘Koreans’ consists of three morphemes (at the same time,

¹ In Linguistics, the Yale Romanization is commonly used for data analysis. Since my study is grounded in linguistic analysis, the Yale Romanization is used to represent Korean data throughout the entire study.

² It became a degrading term referring to vain young women who want to live like the characters in one of the popular American dramas, “Sex and the City.”

three syllables): *Han* ‘Korea,’ *kwuk* ‘country,’ and *in* ‘person,’ with each morpheme consisting of one syllable. Thus, contrary to English acronyms, which are generally based on the initial letters of words, Korean acronyms are generated by taking the first syllables of nouns (Lee 2003) such as *pen.mo* ‘a sudden meeting’ from *pen.kay* ‘lightning’ + *mo.im* ‘meeting/gathering.’ Scholars, to a large extent, have noticed that acronyms are one of the most common features in online situations. For instance, the two examples by Inha University (1997) and Kwon (2000), *yeng.khwi* ‘quiz on a movie’ and *um.khwi* ‘quiz on music,’ are characterized by the combination of the first syllables of a Korean word and an English loan word, respectively. Kwon (2000) also presented another morpheme, *mo*, which facilitates the mass coinage of KNL acronyms. Her examples include *pen.mo* ‘a sudden meeting,’ which originated from *pen.kay* ‘lightning’ + *mo.im* ‘meeting/gathering.’ On the other hand, Daniel (2010) observed unconventional online expressions such as *k s* from *kam.sa* ‘thanks,’ *ch kh* from *chwu.kha* ‘congratulations,’ and *k k* ‘onomatopoeic expression for laughter,’ in that they are created by taking the initial letters of syllables, just as in English. I propose that her examples reflect cross-linguistic influences from English. Thus, contact effects should be explored. This issue will be discussed further in Chapter 4 with the examination of my recent data.

Scholars have agreed that in the process of coining KNL expressions, certain morphemes play major roles in generating KNL. At the early stage of the emergence of Net-Lingo, Inha University (1997) introduced the frequently occurring morphemes *pang* ‘room’ and *khwi* ‘quiz,’ followed by another morpheme, *mo* ‘meeting’ (Kwon 2000). As mentioned earlier in this Chapter, Daniel (2009) also exemplified *-nye* ‘woman’ and *-nam* ‘man’ as newly emerging suffixal morphemes to create Internet neologisms. Daniel (2010) also observed the high frequency of the English suffix *-er* in online communication to describe netizens who leave a series

of replies, leading to *mwu.phul.le* ‘lurker,’ *ak.phul.le* ‘flamer,’ *pey.phul.le* ‘best praiser’ and *sen.phul.le* ‘praiser.’ The use of this English suffix *-er* was steadily increasing. Six years later, a project conducted by the NIKL (2014) also reported that the English suffix *-er* contributed to the coinage of new KNL terms. While previous studies did not capture the emergence of new prefixes, in Chapter 4, I will provide the recent data to show arising prefixes which are the result of contact with English online.

While a number of scholars have focused on the simple descriptions, nearly few scholars investigated a new type of language contact, especially with English which is the dominant language online. Language contact effects with English online, which have been well captured in studies from Gao (2006) and Daniel (2010) on the Chinese and Korean languages online, respectively. By showing the impact of English on Mandarin Chinese, Gao (2006) proposed a new type of language contact, which he described as “one without immigration or emigration as a precondition, which distinguishes it from language contact in its traditional sense” (307). Just as in the Chinese language online, Daniel (2010) provided an initial point on the impact of English on KNL. Grounded on Daniel’s (2010) initial research, in Chapter 4, based on my recent data, I will provide more evidence of the influence of English on the Korean language from a linguistic perspective, and in the light of the findings, I will also investigate the underlying mechanisms that may motivate the changes in the Korean language in Chapter 5.

III. Methodology

3.1 Materials

My data mainly come from the following online situation- social networking sites, blogs, bulletin boards (BBS), public posts and comments on public websites. While I have two years of qualitative observations

of those aforementioned Internet domains, for my data analysis, I illustrate samples, which were collected as recently as possible.

As mentioned in Chapter 2, there have already been numerous studies regarding KNL. To supplement my KNL data, some of the KNL expressions examined in this study come from two KNL references – Dictionary of Computer Net-Lingo Words. (Cho, Kim, & Park 2002) and New Words of 2014 (NIKL 2014) and selected scholarly works including Daniel (2009, 2010), Inha University (1997), Kwon (2000), Lee (2003) and Park (2002). KNL expressions that have already been listed in those aforementioned Net-Lingo references were especially supportive in my data analysis because those expressions have been firmly recognized as KNL terms.

3.2 Procedure

I used the search engine embedded in each domain to query for Net-Lingo terms that I had observed from May 2016 to December 2017. As for the descriptions, any grammatical mistakes and typos in the original texts are left unchanged as much as possible. Nevertheless, to save space and to focus on a specific issue, deleting and modifying texts (spaces and fonts) are assumed to be necessary, but these modifications do not influence the discussion.

Note that the purpose of this study is not to simply describe a list of samples of KNL, but to enrich a qualitative understanding of Net-Lingo from a linguistic perspective.

IV. Results

One of the most noticeable features of KNL comes from the morphological domain which can be characterized by compoundings and

acronyms. Compounding consists of two or more free morphemes. My recent data show that certain English words frequently appear with Korean words, leading to new compound words as shown below.

- (1) 남자들이 저한테 **노관심**입니다.

‘Men have no interest in me.’

http://kin.naver.com/qna/detail.nhn?d1id=8&dirId=80101&docId=268947013&qb=64W46rSA7Ius&enc=utf8§ion=kin&rank=1&search_sort=0&spq=0&pid=TQGW3spVuFZssaW1ZaNsssssrD-271455&sid=cFK4gKu6DLyeQjWdCDjpRQ%3D%3D accessed on February 2, 2017)

- (2) 미혼남녀 90% 인생은 **노꺼**

‘90% of Single Men and Women, Life is not Fun.’

(<http://www.thescoop.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=25086> accessed on November 3, 2017)

These examples were created by combining the transliterated English word ‘no’ and Korean words such as *kwan.sim* ‘interest,’ and *caym* ‘fun,’ leading to compound words: *no.kwan.sim* ‘no interest’ and *no.caym* ‘no fun,’ respectively. Especially *no.kwan.sim* ‘no interest’ was widespread online, and it already made its entry to the ‘New Words of 2014’ published by the NIKL (2014). The following examples also illustrate a type of compound words.

- (3) 직장인보다 나은 백수 **‘갓수족’**, 부럽다~?

‘Envious of those who are unemployed but yet live more comfortably than employed people.’

(<http://www.etoday.co.kr/news/section/newsview.php?idxno=899027#csidxb016ecb7a5439858f6ecb1b85050bc7> accessed on November 4, 2016)

- (4) 송중기, 신촌에 **갓중기**가 떴다.
'Joongki Song, the best Joongki showed up in Shinchon.'
(<http://news.topstarnews.net/detail.php?number=204676> accessed on November 5, 2016)
- (5) 18살 때부터 10년 넘게 기부해온 **갓연아**
'The best Yuna, who has contributed more than ten years since 18 years old.'
(<http://www.insight.co.kr/news/120115> accessed on September 4, 2017)

What is noticeable from all these examples is that they are created by the English word 'God' followed by a Korean word. *Kas.swu.cok*, meaning 'a group of the unemployed who live better than the employed' which originated from *kas* 'God' + *swu* 'unemployed' + *cok* 'group,' and *kas.cwung.ki* from *kas* 'God' + *Cwung.ki* '(Song) Joong Ki.' The last example, *kas.yen.a* is from *kas* 'God' + *Yen.a* 'Yuna.' The transliterated English word *kas* is commonly used to praise something or someone in Korean online communication. Words such as *no.kwan.sim* in (1) and *kas.swu.cok* in (3) made their entries to the KNL reference published by the Korean government due to their high frequency in online communication (NIKL 2014). Doubtlessly, one can perceive the impact of English by observing netizens' use of the English words *no*, and *God*.

Along with compoundings, acronyms are also frequently observed in casual online situations. Compared to English acronyms, in offline situations, Korean acronyms use different linguistic segments. While the former is created by the initial letters of words such as *LOL* for 'Laugh Out Loud,' traditional Korean acronyms are made up of the initial syllables of words. As a result, the smallest unit of Korean is a morpheme, as mentioned earlier in Chapter 2. Acronyms are so beloved in online communication that they make a large portion of KNL.

(6) 10대는 왜 카톡이 아닌 **페메**를 할까?

'Why do teens prefer Facebook Messenger over KakaoTalk?'

(<https://passionvip.blog.me/221142956192> accessed on November 20, 2017)

(7) 김정훈, 수학 천재 **뇌섹남**

'Kim Jeong-hoon, Intellectually Attractive Math Genius.'

(<http://www.stardailynews.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=173410> accessed on November 20, 2017)

This acronym *phey.may* in example (6) is derived from two English words: *Facebook* and *Messenger*, and *noy.seyk.nam* in example (7) originated from *noy* 'brain' + *seyk* 'sexy' + *nam* 'man,' leading to 'a man who is self-confident and intellectually attractive.' Both of these words were beloved by Korean netizens, so they were listed as new words of 2014 by the NIKL (2014). On the other hand, Daniel (2010) exemplified unconventional KNL expressions including *ch kh* 'congratulations,' *k s* 'thanks,' *c s* 'sorry' and *kh kh* 'an onomatopoeic expression for laughter.' What is surprising in casual online situations is that Korean words are reduced to initial letters. This type of expressions is predominant, which corresponds with my observation of the recent data such as *a a* 'I know,' *i c* 'I agree or admit,' *n n* 'no,' and *t t* 'onomatopoeic expressions for being scared or surprised.' To focus on the issue of acronyms and save space, some of the original texts have been deleted and modified.

<ㅇㅇa a from 알아 *al.a*>

(8) 얼굴 그리기 ㅇㅇ

'I know how to draw a face.'

(<http://blog.naver.com/dongwoo3486/221126032295> accessed on October 26, 2017)

<ㅇㅈ i c from 인정 in.ceng >

(9) 이거 레알 (real), ㅇㅈ?

‘Is this for real, do you agree?’

(http://www.ytn.co.kr/_ln/0103_201610081430410064 accessed on September 5, 2016)

(10) 자음 ‘ㅇㅈ’에 네 배우들 모두 어리둥절한 반응을 보였다.

‘for the question of what the expression of the consonants ‘i c’ means, all four celebrities looked puzzled.’

(<http://star.mk.co.kr/new/view.php?mc=ST&year=2017&no=613019> accessed on September 13, 2017)

<ㄴㄴ n n from 노노 no no >

(11) PC 방 라면 안 먹어 봤으면 ㄴㄴ

‘If you have not tried ramen from the Internet cafe, don’t say it.’

<<https://blog.naver.com/byeolyi29/221117141346> accessed on October 29, 2017 >

(12) 차별 ㄴㄴ

‘Don’t discriminate.’

<<https://blog.naver.com/ayj3240/221166964009> accessed on December 20, 2017 >

<ㄷㄷ t t from 텔텔 tel.tel >

(13) “70세이신데 120분 단독 풀 공연 ㄷㄷ 대단하시네.”

‘(He) is 70 years old, but he performed the entire 120-minute performance. Surprised! He is amazing.’

(<http://star.mk.co.kr/new/view.php?mc=ST&year=2017&no=730779> accessed on November 4, 2017)

(14) 진짜 너무 예쁘십니다. ㄷㄷ

‘You are really pretty (surprised).’

(<http://news.topstarnews.net/detail.php?number=321233> accessed on

November 3, 2017)

The common attribute of the examples from (8) to (14) is that they are not created by the conventional rule of Korean acronyms. All these expressions include initial letters only. The media also recognizes this phenomenon. For instance, *Joongang Ilbo*, one of the major Korean newspapers, on the 8th of February, 2017, while discussing issues arising out of the creation of KNL, quoted the 2017 KNL test which is available online, and acronyms such as *i c* was included as a question to test netizens to define its meaning.

V. Discussion

5.1 Adoption of the English Word Formation

Across languages, there have been findings about the morphological influence of English. For instance, Gao (2006), in his study of Chinese language online, observed that “Chinese netizens have modeled on English in the creation and use of certain expressions, such as the abbreviations (which I term acronyms in this study) *PP* (‘beautiful,’ from *piaopiao* in pinyin), *jj* (‘elder sister,’ from *jiejie* in pinyin), *DD* (‘younger brother,’ from *didi* in pinyin) and *TMD* (‘goddamn,’ from *tamadi* in pinyin)” (304). Similarly, in Korean online situations, acronyms have been viewed as one of the most frequently observed characteristics in KNL. However, Korean netizens’ adoption on the way English acronyms are created is a remarkable piece of evidence to characterize KNL from the morphological perspective. Conventionally, Korean acronyms consist of the initial syllables of words but not of the initial letters of words. However, Korean netizens seemed to be more creative and unconventional. It was Daniel (2010) who provided an initial point on

the influence of English morphology on KNL by providing examples such as *ch kh* from *chwu.kha* ‘congratulations,’ *k s* from *kam.sa* ‘thanks’ and *c s* from *coy.song* ‘sorry.’ “Given the increasing number of non-traditional and innovative acronyms and their high frequency, these newfangled acronyms lead us to believe that the influence of English on KNL is not confined to simply borrowing English letters. It is quite noteworthy that the means of English word *formation* are also being adopted by Korean netizens” (125). Six years later, her claim is reassured by my recent data such as *a a* ‘I know,’ *i c* ‘I agree or admit,’ *n n* ‘no,’ *t t* ‘an onomatopoeic expression for being scared or surprised.’ These recent data indicate that Korean netizens adoption of English word formation has been practically situated and lend their support to Daniel’s claim (2010) of “a new way of creating Korean acronyms online exclusively” (121).

5.2 The Emergence of New Morphemes

The emergence of new affixes is a cross-linguistic phenomenon. For instance, according to Crystal (2001), in English online situations, *-bot* (from robot) has a suffixal function, as in *annoybot*, *chatterbot*, *knowbot* and *mailbot*. His observation in ENL (English Net-Lingo) also demonstrated that certain English morphemes do play roles as prefixes. His examples include *e-*, as in *e-text*, *e-zine*, *e-cash*, *e-money*, *e-books*, *e-managers*, and *e-cards*.

In the Korean situation, certain morphemes routinely appear in online communication. As demonstrated in Chapter 4, newly emerging morphemes include *no-* ‘no’ and *kas-* ‘God’ in order to contribute to word creation such as *no.kwan.sim* ‘no interest’ and *kas.swu.cok* ‘a group of the unemployed who live better than the employed.’ While the NIKL’s (2014) survey helped establish that Korean netizens utilize the English words ‘no’ and ‘God’ in the Korean online situations, this survey was

limited to simple descriptions. My study explores the distinctive use of these words and the underlying mechanisms that may trigger the observable morphological characteristics. Based on the data, the clearly emerging category is the prefix, which is established online.

With respect to *no-* ‘no,’ it can be comparable to the already existing prefix *mwu-*, meaning ‘not having something,’ such as *mwu.kwan.sim* ‘no interest.’ Nevertheless, in online situations, the Korean prefix *mwu-* is often replaced by the English word *no* ‘no’ to convey the same meaning. My careful review suggests that the restrictive use of *mwu-* might have motivated Korean netizens to find an alternative. For instance, *Onlain kanata*, which is operated by the National Institute of Korean Language, is an online bulletin board for answering netizens’ questions related to the Korean language. According to *Onlain kanata* (2018), *mwu-* appears with a Sino-Korean (SK)³ noun, as illustrated in *mwu.kwan.sim* ‘no interest,’ *mwu.kam.kak* ‘insensibility,’ and *mwu.ca.ɸi* ‘mercilessness.’ Contrary to the pre-existing morpheme *mwu-*, the newly emerging morpheme, *no-* is not confined to SK words, to which they are attached. Thus, I suggest that *no-* involves a weaker lexical constraint, compared to *mwu-*. *No-* is not restricted to Sino-Korean terms in online situations. It is likely that Korean netizens utilize the English originated prefix *no-* which can be much more productive than *mwu-*.

Speaking of *kas-*, online, one of the striking characteristics lies in the fact that it can function as the prefix. On this issue, my attention centers on what motivates the English word ‘God’ to undergo a unique grammaticalization process through a semantic shift. By unique grammaticalization process, I mean *kas-*, which is originally a noun, can

³ The Korean vocabulary consists of “three components: native words and affixes, Sino-Korean words and loan words” (Sohn 2001, 13). According to Sohn (2001), “all Chinese character-based words are called Sino-Korean” (12).

also function as a prefix in Korean online situations. In the modern Korean lexicon, there is a similar prefix *kay-*. I, however, suggest that *kay-*, meaning ‘very’ is not strong enough to convey the emphasis of supreme value. Since there is no competing prefix in offline situations, it is reasonable to assume that Korean netizens have been searching for a new term to connote the meaning of supreme value, and they may have shifted the English word ‘God’ to a prefix *kas-* in casual online communication.

While none of the previous studies made predictions of *no-* and *kas-* as emerging prefixes in KNL, I propose that these two morphemes have increasingly prefixal functions. Daniel (2009) made an initial opening on the emergence of new KNL morphemes. In her research, she proposed that *-nam* and *-nye* were newly emerging suffixes. Following her proposal, in 2014, the NIKL (2014) also acknowledged *-nam* and *-nye* as two of the most productive prefixes in the creation of KNL expressions. While morphemes *-nam*, and *-nye*, are based on Korean words, in my recent data, *no-* ‘no’ and *kas-* ‘God’ are based on English words, arising as new prefixes in KNL. These morphemes are already spawning so many expressions as in *no.caym* ‘no fun,’ *no.kwan.sim* ‘no interest,’ *no.mwu.cok* ‘lit. no more uncle,’⁴ *kas.swu* ‘the unemployed person who lives better than the employed,’ *kas.swu.cok*, ‘a group of unemployed people who live better than the employed,’ *kas. swu. si. tay* ‘an era with a number of *kas.swu*.’ It is worth capitalizing that these morphemes are so productive and widespread that they have virtually become prefixes in online situations and will continue to expand the mass coinage of KNL expressions.

⁴ *no.mwu.cok* refers to a group of middle-aged men who pursue young and sophisticated look and lifestyle.

VI. Conclusion

With the ever-growing development of the worldwide Internet, online communication is getting faster and easier, compared to traditional communication. English, as the globally leading language, is making its way into other languages including Korean online, just as it is offline.

Here I provided an elaborate picture of language contact online from the morphological perspective. First, I provided two important findings: KNL acronyms from only initial letters; the emergence of new prefixes such as *no-* and *kas-* and the motivations of their use. Drawn from Daniel's (2010) study and my recent data, KNL acronyms from initial letters, as a result of adopting English word formation, debunk a common assumption that Korean acronyms are based on the initial syllables of words. This new way of forming KNL acronyms has clearly been accepted as standard practice online. Reference to Gao's (2006) study on Chinese Internet Language also helped account for Korean netizens' adoption of English word formation given that Net-Lingoes, to a certain extent, show cross-linguistically comparable tendencies in terms of how netizens shape a language online.

Previous studies (Daniel 2009; NIKL 2014) helped establish that certain morphemes are products of online contact effects with English, especially the English suffix *-er*, evidenced by the impact of English on KNL. While previous studies provided the suffix, in this study, I introduced newly emerging prefixes such as *no-* and *kas-*. In discussing what motivates such practice in online communication, I attributed such practice to the restrictive use of an existing prefix *mwu-*, leading to the emergence of *no-* and the absence of a prefix, offline, in terms emphasizing supreme value, resulting in the appearance of *kas-*.

In light of my findings, I highly capitalized on the impact of English on KNL, which reflects a new type of language contact. As online contact

is likely to be easier and faster than conventional physical contact, I envision that contact with different languages online will vigorously increase and, in turn, the investigation of contact effects with different languages online deserves further exploration. Continued research not only will add new insights on the research of language contact in its traditional sense (Gao 2004), but also will help to develop a better grasp on the direction of language change.

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