

A Study on Some of the Regional Dialects of the Republic of Korea

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Abstract

A language, in general, can be studied in terms of its pronunciation, large or small groups of regional dialects, and even the spoken style of individual, which is termed as idiosyncrasy. There may be many regional dialects of a language. It can be said that regional dialects have stood widely in social communicative field, especially in the study of a community and its language. Therefore, this research was carried out to highlight the importance of studying the regional background in learning the Korean language. In this research, the pronunciation of the two regional dialects of Korea, which are originated in Gyeongsang and Jeju, was studied in comparison with the standard Korean language. The present paper also aims to give a chance for those who are studying the Korean language to study the existence of regional dialects because of the different regional backgrounds.

Keywords: regional dialect, social communicative field

Introduction

Language is the most essential medium in the community. Therefore, teaching and learning foreign languages systematically has become the important role to build a society that can be linked to international. That is why, students majoring in Korean as well as those who want to exchange the views or expertise in politics, economics, and technology need to know the regional dialects of Korea in order to be able to communicate effectively with the society of the Korean. This research will be helpful to point out the social background and regional background that are related to the regional dialects of Korea.

This research was written to show the different regional dialects of Korean according to regions. Thus, it is not easy to collect all the regional dialects spoken in all regions in Korea. Consequently, among the eight Provinces in Korea, the important regional dialects of the two Provinces were concisely studied.

This research aims to present those who are learning the Korean language an account of the relationship between the Korean language and regional background.

Research Questions

The questions of this research are as follows.

- How different are the dialects from one another according to the region?
- How similar are the regional dialects and standard language?

Literature Review

In this session, the standard language and regional dialects, and the related researches are presented. As defined by Aung Myint Oo (2010), the characteristics of standard language involve having codifications in grammar and dictionaries, having standard pronunciation and linguistic values of meaning, having the standards according to the basic principles, public acceptance and correspondence with the literary rules and principles.

The varieties of a language are termed as the dialects (Aung MyintOo, 2010). Dialects can be divided into three types, namely regional dialect, social

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dialect or sociolect and temporal dialect. The variety of a language, which differs according to the regions is termed as the regional dialect, the age or social groups as the social dialect or sociolect and the era or the period as the temporal dialect. Of these, regional dialects were chosen as the line of study in the present research. Regional dialects can have different pronunciation, lexicon and syntax. In other words, the accent, the choice of words and even the ordering or sequencing of words to make a sentence may differ based on the geographical position of the region. A standard language is nominated and spoken from the regional dialects. If the accent, for example, is different from the standard language, it can be defined as the accent of dialect.

In the theory of regional dialect, language geography, Professor Seo Sang Gyo(2010) mentioned the origin of language. He defined that regional language is the generation of a language by a society from a specific region. As a result, the language differs according to the nature and characteristics of a society. Regional dialect is, therefore, the variety of a language, which arises due to the different society and different geographical location. In that paper, the nature of regional dialect, its value, the spread of regional dialect, and the division of regional dialect were categorized under the map of regional dialect and that of language.

Another paper on regional dialect is focused on the regional dialect from the middle or central region. This research was carried out by Professor Barg Gayoung Rae (1998) from Department of Linguistics, Korean, Sae Myaung University. The characteristics, the significant factors in terms of pronunciation, lexicon and syntax were studied and discussed in the paper.

The study on sociolinguistics, to be exact, the social dialects in Mandalay was presented by Soe Moe Moe (2006). The study focused on the words used for the tasks, age, education background, and gender through the interviews with the local people, Mandalarians. The data were analysed by comparing and contrasting the terminology and the words used for the tasks, and by making references to the local experts and the dictionaries.

The regional dialect of Innlay was studied by Aung Min Win in 2007. Its main focus was on the system of the use of vowel, not only the pronunciation but also the grammatical structure. The language spoken in Innlay is the variety of the Myanmar language. However, it has no writing system. The researcher used the comparative analysis by using the theory of Daniel Jones' cardinal vowel system. And to represent the pronunciation, HtunMyint's book on linguistics was used.

In this research, the regional dialects of the Republic of Korea were studied in terms of pronunciation, lexicon and syntax.

Research Methodology

The data were collected from the internet web pages and confirmed with the native speakers. The data collected were presented by the transcription of Phonetic signs. It was also presented by descriptive method.

Data Analysis and Data Interpretation

There are many regional dialects in Korea according to the regions. Among them, some regional dialects differ from the standard language only a little while some differ to a certain extent. There are regional dialects according to the Provinces of Korea: Gyeonggi, Gangwon, Chungchoeng, Gyeongsang, Jeolla and

Jeju. Among the Provinces in Korea, the major regional dialects of Gyeongsang Province and Jeju Province were studied in this paper.

Regional Dialect in Gyeongsang Province

In this part, the pronunciation of some of the words in Gyeongsang Province were analysed and interpreted by making comparisons with the standard language.

The different pronunciation because of the vowel sounds can be seen in the following.

Standard language	Pronunciation	Regional dialect	Pronunciation	Meaning
아버지	/ābòdzī/	아부지	/ābūdzi/	Father
어머니	/āmòni/	머무니	/òmūni/	Mother
형	/hjǎ /	형아	/hijā /	Brother
제	/dzēgā /	지	/dzīgā /	I

The words used in daily life also vary due to the difference of consonant sound.

Standard language	Pronunciation	Regional dialect	Pronunciation	Meaning
길	/gīl/	질	/dzīl /	Path
김치	/gīmtçi/	짐치	/dzīmtchī/	Pickled vegetables
고추장	/gōtchūdžā/	꼬장	/kōdžāŋ/	Chili sauce
모래	/mōrē/	몰개	/mōlgē/	Sand

There are also some words that have the same meaning but the standard language and regional dialects are totally different.

Standard language	Pronunciation	Regional dialect	Pronunciation	Meaning
다리	/dāri/	달구지	/dālgūdžī/	Bridge
정수리	/dzòshūri/	짱배이	/tçāŋbēi/	Fontanelle
목	/mōg/	모가지	/mōgādžī/	Neck
엉덩이	/ŋdŋi/	궁디	/gūŋdī/	Buttock
모두	/mōdū/	마카	/mākhā/	All

By making silent and abbreviation the middle and ending sound of multisyllabic words of the regional dialects in Gyeongbang Province, the regional dialect also varies from the standard language.

Standard language	Pronunciation	Regional dialect	Pronunciation	Meaning
아이	/āiduʔl/	아	/āduʔl/	Baby
쌍둥이	/sāŋduʔŋi/	쌍디	/sāŋdi/	Twin
문둥이	/mūnduʔŋi/	문디	/mūndi/	Porch

By speaking the ‘ㅁ’/ba/ consonant at the final consonants, it is different from the standard language.

Standard language	Pronunciation	Regional dialect	Pronunciation	Meaning
짜다	/tçādā/	잡다	/tçābdā/	Bitter
쓰다	/suʔdā/	씹다	/sībdā/	Use/ Sour
시리다	/siridā/	시럽다	/shīrōbdā/	Be dazzled
더워서	/dōwōshō/	더버서	/dōbōshō/	(As it is) hot
추워서	/tçhūwōshō/	추버서	/tçhūbōshō/	(As it is) cold

The words that have the grammatical meaning in standard language and regional dialect also vary.

Standard language	Pronunciation	Regional dialect	Pronunciation	Meaning
만큼	/mānkhuʔm/	만춤	/māntçhuʔm/	About
벌써	/bōlsō/	하마	/hāmā/	Already
별로	/bjōllō/	빌로	/billō/	Too
괜히	/gwēni/	백지, 맥지	/bēgdzi, mēgdzi/	Very
조금	/dzōguʔm/	짜매이	/tçēmēi/	Few
가끔	/gākūʔm/	간가이	/gāngāi/	Often

It is also found that the voiced tones of the standard language are spoken as voiceless tones in regional dialect.

Standard language	Pronunciation	Regional dialect	Pronunciation	Meaning
개구리	/gēgūri/	깨구리	/kēgūri/	Frog
장대	/dzāŋdē/	짱대	/tçāŋtē/	Pole
족집게	/dzōgdzībgēi/	족집깨	/tçōtçībke/	Pincers
거꾸로	/gōkūrō/	꺼꾸로	/kōkūrō/	Haphazardly

The study of the variety of language used in Gyeongsang Province revealed the differences in some vowel sound, which are resulted by changing that of the standard language. The words used in everyday life also differ, especially because of the consonant sound. What is more, making silent and abbreviation of the middle and ending sound of multisyllabic words and speaking the]ㅁ } /ba/

consonant at the final consonants are also the differences between the regional dialect of Gyeongsang Province and the standard language. The words that convey the grammatical sense are totally different from the standard language.

Regional Dialect in Jeju Province

The words for relatives are different between the standard language and the regional dialect of Jeju Province.

Standard language	Pronunciation	Regional dialect	Pronunciation	Meaning
아버지	/ābòdʒi/	아방	/ābāŋ/	Father
어머니	/òmòni/	어멍	/òmòŋ/	Mother
할아버지	/hāābòdʒi/	히르방	/hīnuʔbāŋ/	Grandfather
아저씨	/ādʒòçī/	아주방	/ādʒubāŋ/	uncle
오빠	/òpā/	오리방	/òribāŋ/	brother
할머니	/hālmòni/	할망	/hālmāŋ/	grandmother

There are also some words that have the same meaning but the choice of words of the standard language and regional dialects are different.

Standard language	Pronunciation	Regional dialect	Pronunciation	Meaning
다리	/dāri/	가달	/gādāl/	Bridge/ Foot
서풍	/sòphūŋ/	갈보름	/gālbōruʔm/	West wind
어깨	/òkē/	독지	/dūtçī/	shoulder
떡재료	/tòtçēljō/	떡고슴	/tòkōsuʔm/	Rice powder
계란	/gērān/	독새기	/dōshēgi/	Chicken egg
멍어리	/bòŋòri/	머래기	/mòrēgi/	Dumb

The words that have the grammatical meaning in Standard language and regional dialects in Jeju Province also vary.

Standard language	Pronunciation	Regional dialect	Pronunciation	Meaning
빨리오세요	/pālīòsèjō/	흔저옵서	/huʔndʒòòbsò/	Come quickly
왔느냐?	/oādnūʔnā/	와시냐?	/oāçīnā/	Came?
좋습니까?	/dʒòsūmnīkā/	좋쑤과	/dʒòsūgōā/	Good?
그래도	/guʔrēdō/	경해도	/gòŋhēdō/	However
모르겠지요?	/mōruʔgèdtçijō/	몰르쿠게?	/mōluʔkūgèʔ/	You don't know, do you?
알았습니다	/ārādsūmnīdā/	알았수다	/ārādsūdā/	Have known

In the disyllabic words of the regional dialects in Jeju Province, the back syllable is the same but the fore syllable is different.

Standard language	Pronunciation	Regional dialect	Pronunciation	Meaning
터실	/thðçīl/	계실	/gɛçīl/	Be rough
가뭄	/gāmūm/	고뭄	/gōmūm/	drought
쌀밥	/ālbāb/	곤밥	/gōnbāb/	Rice gruel
깨잎	/kēnīb/	유잎	/jūīb/	Sesame leaf
해녀	/hēnjò/	죤녀	/jōmnjò/	saleswoman

In the disyllabic and trisyllabic words of the regional dialect in Jeju Province, the first syllable is the same but the rest are different.

Standard language	Pronunciation	Regional dialect	Pronunciation	Meaning
버겁다	/bðgðbdā/	버치다	/bðtçhīdā/	Hold
양식	/jāñçīg/	양석	/jāñsðg/	Western style
강아지	/gāññādzī/	강생이	/gāñsēñjī/	Whelp
송아지	/sōññādzī/	송애기	/sōññēgī/	Young bull

There are some words those consonants are the same but the vowels are different in the fore or mid or final syllable of the regional dialects.

Standard language	Pronunciation	Regional dialect	Pronunciation	Meaning
가뭄	/gāmūm/	고뭄	/gonmūm/	Drought
고이고이	/gōīgōī/	고양고양	/gōjāñgōjāñ/	Beautifully
그저께	/guʔdzðgè/	그저끼	/guʔdzðkī/	The day before yesterday
같이	/gātçhī/	꼴이	/gōtçhī/	together
냉이	/nēññī/	난시	/nāñçī/	weed
동기간	/dōñgīgān/	동귀간	/dōñguīgān/	Relations between brothers and sisters

By combining and abbreviating the disyllabic and trisyllabic words of the regional dialects, it can also be varied.

Standard language	Pronunciation	Regional dialect	Pronunciation	Meaning
내일	/nēīl/	닐	/ñīl/	Tomorrow
소나무	/sōnāmū/	소낭	/sōnāñ/	Pine tree
저리로	/dzðrīrō/	저레	/dzðrè/	Toward

Standard language	Pronunciation	Regional dialect	Pronunciation	Meaning
종아리	/dzōŋŋārī/	종애	/dzōŋŋē/	Crus
팽나무	/phēŋŋāmū/	풍낭	/phu?ŋŋāŋ/	

The onomatopoeic and mimetic words are also different.

Standard language	Pronunciation	Regional dialect	Pronunciation	Meaning
깜짝깜짝	/kām̄tāgkām̄tāg /	줌약줌약	/dzūmmāgdzūmmāg/	Suddenly
펼끔펼끔	/t̄c̄ilku?mt̄c̄ilku? m/	졸락졸락	/dzōlāgdzōlāg/	A little
피식피식	/phīc̄īgphīc̄īg/	반식반식	/bānc̄īgbānc̄īg/	Coyly
모락모락	/mōrāgmōrāg/	모랑모랑	/mōrāŋmōrāŋ/	Piping hot
강충강충	/kāŋt̄c̄hōŋkāŋt̄c̄hōŋ /	출락출락	/t̄c̄hōlāgt̄c̄hōlāg/	With a hopping gait
헐렁헐렁	/həl̄ŋhəl̄ŋ/	흘락흘락	/hu?lāghu?lāg/	loosely

In the comparative study of the standard language and the regional dialect of Jeju Province, the words for relatives, the onomatopoeic and mimetic words are totally different. There are also differences in the pronunciation of the words having the grammatical sense that shows the end of a sentence. And some of the disyllabic words used in Jeju Province have the same pronunciation for the first syllable with the difference for the second compared to the standard language. In some of the words, there are the same consonants but different vowels in the fore or mid or final syllable of the regional dialect.

Findings and Discussion

The regional dialect in Jeju Province has more variation in syntax and word choice than the Gyeongsang Province. Although it is the same in the regional dialects for relatives in Jeju Province and that of Gyeongsang according to the variation of vowel sounds, vocabulary and syntax, the regional dialects in Jeju Province have more difference of word choice and syntax than Gyeongsang Province.

Although having the same meaning, it is found out that the standard language and regional dialects are totally different. It has been learned that the daily usages of Gyeongsang Province are different from the standard language due to the difference of vowel sound and consonant sound. The regional dialect in Gyeongsang Province has some differences by making silent and abbreviated in the fore, mid and final sound in multisyllabic words. The difference can also be found by speaking the final consonant]ㅂ }/ba/. The voiced tone of the standard language is spoken into voiceless tone.

In the disyllabic words of the regional dialects in Jeju Province, the final consonant is the same but the first consonant is different from the standard language. And in the disyllabic and trisyllabic words, the first syllable is the same

and the rest syllables vary. The vowel sound is the same but the consonant sound is different in the fore, mid and final syllable of the regional dialects. By abbreviating disyllabic and trisyllabic words of the standard language, the vocabularies also differ from one another. There are also the differences of onomatopoeic and mimetic words.

Conclusion

By studying regional dialects, not only the nature of the language but also the atmosphere, customs, belief and the lifestyles of the different regions can be known. It can also be assumed that the further from the urban region, the more unusual the language. Regional dialects can reflect not only the geographical situation but also the social lives of the residents. It is recommended that the regional dialects of Korea have to be explored much more as they are different according the variation of regions and the characteristics of the language have the widespread and deep values.

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မစိုးမိုးမိုး၊ ၂၀၀၆၊ မန္တလေးဒေသိယစကားများ (လူမှုဘာသာဗေဒ) လေ့လာချက်၊
မန္တလေးတက္ကသိုလ်။

မောင်အောင်မင်းဝင်း၊ ၂၀၀၇၊ အင်းလေးဒေသိယစကား၏ သရစနစ်လေ့လာချက်၊
မန္တလေးတက္ကသိုလ်။

အောင်မြင့်ဦး၊ ဒေါက်တာ(၂၀၁၀)၊ ဘာသာစကားသုတေသန၊ ရန်ကုန်၊ ရူဝံစာပေ။

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