Korean as a Foreign Language in America: On-Go Ji-Sin (溫故 知新)

Ho-min Sohn
University of Hawaii at Manoa
June 27, 2015
Contents

1. KFL before AATK
2. Birth of AATK & First Three Years
3. KLEAR Textbook Project
4. Program Reform: UHM’s Case
5. Conclusion
1.1 KFL before AATK: Korean Community Schools

- **1903-05**: 7,200 Koreans immigrated to Hawaii as plantation workers.

- **1904-**: 11 evening community schools were established in different plantations where Han.gŭl, Korean language and traditional culture, and independence spirit were taught.

- **1906**: Honolulu Korean Methodist Church established official Hanin Kisuk Hakkyo (government-approved): 1st ~ 8th grades

- **1915**: Dr. Syngman Rhee established Hanin Yöja Hakkyo with 57 girl students.

- **1930s-**: 2nd generation Koreans formed the educated Korean-American society with American values and life-styles.
  - Korean-Americans lacked the motivation to learn Korean and culture, because Korea became a Japanese colony.
  - All Korean schools in Hawaii were closed by the 1940s.
1.1 KFL Before AATK: Korean Community Schools

- Since the Korean war in 1952, Koreans began to immigrate to the U.S.
- Korean community schools began to reappear after 30 years of hibernation.

- **No. of Korean Community Schools**
  - 1969: 1 (Honolulu Methodist Church’s school)
  - 1976: 7
  - 1987: 406
  - 1995: 834

- Associations for community schools
  - a. National Association for Korean Schools [NAKS]
    (재미한국학교협의회)
  - b. Korean School Association of America
    (미주한국학교연합회)
1.2 KFL before AATK: KFL in regular K-12 schools

- 1968 Bilingual Education Act
- Initially, transitional bilingual education
- 1985: Los Angeles Hankook Academy was founded by the Korean Academy Foundation
  - evolved into a K-12 institution.
  - All K-12 levels offered KFL classes.
- 1992: 3 Korean/English dual language programs began in the LA unified school district.
- Some transitional bilingual programs tended to shift to programs somewhat similar to Korean/English dual language programs.
- 1994: College Board was almost ready to approve the SAT2 Korean
  - result of the unyielding efforts by the Foundation for SAT2 Korean
1.3 KFL before AATK: KFL in Higher Education

- Universities:
  - 1930s: Columbia (1934 awhile; full-time since 1962)
  - 1940s: Berkeley (since 1942); Hawaii (since 1946)
  - 1950s: Harvard (since 1952)
  - 1960s: Washington; Indiana
  - 1970s: SUNY Stoney Brook; Kansas; Pennsylvania; Brigham Young; USC
  - 1980s: UCLA; Georgetown; George Washington; Illinois; Ohio State; Stanford; Tufts; Maryland; Alaska; Brown; Duke; William & Mary; Chicago; Cornell

- Government institutions: DLI, CIA, FSI, NSA

- MLA: Korean course enrollments and the number of institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enrollments</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>2,375</td>
<td>3,343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutions</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.4 KFL before AATK: International Associations

International Circle of Korean Linguistics (ICKL): San Francisco, March 24, 1975

- **1975-78 Officers and Organizers:**
  - Seok Choong Song (Michigan State U)-President
  - John Koo (U of Alaska)-Secretary-Treasurer
  - Ho-min Sohn (U of Hawaii)-Journal Editor
  - Joe J. Ree (U of Florida)
  - Eung-Do Cook (U of Alberta, Canada)

- **1975-78 Additional Officers:**
  - Gerald Mathias (U of Hawaii)-Newsletter Editor
  - Soon-Ham Park (Hankuk U of Foreign Studies)-Liaison in Korea

- **1977:** Six ICKL members organized a symposium on Korean Linguistics in the Summer Institute of the Linguistic Society of America (U of Hawaii).
- **1978:** *Korean Linguistics Vol. 1* (pp. 195) was published.
- **1979:** 1st International Conference on Korean Linguistics (U of Alaska).
- **1981:** 2nd International Conference on Korean Linguistics (U of Hawaii).
- **2015:** 19th International Conference on Korean Linguistics (U of Chicago) jointly with Harvard Symposium on Korean Linguistics (July 24).
1.4 KFL before AATK: International Associations

International Association for Korean Language Education (IAKLE):
Yonsei University, July 1985

• 3 months after Pres. Chun Doo-Hwan’ 2nd visit to Pres. Reagan, the State Department sent a cultural delegate consisting of 9 KFL faculty to Korea:
  – Nam-Kil Kim (USC)
  – Yong-Key Kim-Renaud (George Washington)
  – Fred Lukoff (Washington)
  – Bong-nam Park (FSI)
  – Mark Petersen (Brigham Young)
  – Yoo-Sang Rhee (DLI)
  – Carol Schulz (Columbia)
  – Ho-min Sohn (Hawaii)
  – Edward Wagner (Harvard)

• The US faculty had a meeting with Korean faculty to discuss academic cooperation.
• All participants agreed to form IAKLE with Fred Lukoff as the first president.
• 1st international conference was held at BYU in 1986 jointly with ICKL.
IAKLE: Joint-Meeting participants & staff
2.1 Birth of AATK & First 3 years: Birth of AATK

- NFLC and NCOLTL’s proposal (Prof. Ronald Walton)
  - Korean has become a major less commonly taught language
  - No leadership or contact point in Korean language education in the U.S.
  - Korean is rapidly becoming a language of educational and strategic significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agreement with Prof. Walton in January 1994</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An organizational meeting will be held in Washington, D.C. in 1994.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participants will be invited from university, public, government, private, and community sectors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invitees will be determined by NFCL and NCOLCTL in consultation with HM Sohn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald Walton and HM Sohn will co-chair the organizational meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In preparation for a new national association, HM Sohn will draft its charter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All local arrangements will be made by NFLC and NCOLCTL.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All expenses will be paid by the Ford Foundation grant.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.1 Birth of AATK & First 3 years: Birth of AATK

**AATK Board Members:**
- Young-Jin Choi (Korea Society of New York)
- Chin-Hee Kim (Los Angeles Unified School District)
- Han-Kon Kim (Brigham Young University)
- John Koo (Arizona State University)
- Nam-Kil Kim (USC)
- Oak Sook Kim (UCLA)
- Sek Yen Kim Cho (SUNY, Buffalo)
- Young-Key Kim Renaud (George Washington University)
- Hyunjoo Kwon (President, Korean Teachers Association of New York; W.C. Bryant High School)
- Joe J. Rhee (Florida State University)
- Sang-O Rhee (President, National Association of Korean Schools, NAKS)
- Kyung-Nyun Richards (UC, Berkeley)
- Carol Schulz (Columbia University)

**AATK Officers:**
- Ho-min Sohn (University of Hawaii at Manoa), President
- Robert Ramsey (University of Maryland), Secretary
- Yoo S. Rhee (DLI), Treasurer
- David McCann (Cornell University) Editor (Yung-Hee Kim from 1995)
First Board Meeting at NFLC
Washington, D.C. (June 1994)
2.2 Birth of AATK & First 3 years: **First Three Years**

- **Identification of Korean-offering institutions (1996: Newsletter 4):**
  - Colleges and universities: 100
  - Government institutions: 4 (DLI, FSI, NSA, CIA)
  - Secondary schools: 22
  - Korean community schools: 832

- **Membership recruitment (as of 1997: Newsletter 5):**
  - 200 members

- **Assistance to SAT2 Korean:**
  - ETS’s approval of SAT2 Korean, AATK assisted in forming an SAT2 Korean task force and the test development committee
  - ETS implemented its first test in November 1997

**April 29, 1995: Washington, D.C.:** NCOLCTL unanimously approved AATK as its tenth full member.
NCOLCTL’s approves AATK as its 10th full member, Washington, D.C. (April 29, 1995)
First National Conference on Korean Language Education in America
– Asilomar Conference Center, Monterey, on July 11-14, 1995
– Chaired by Yoo-Sang Rhee, assisted by DLI faculty.
– Attendance of about 100 AATK members and supporters

• VIPs:
  – Chong-un Kim, President of the Korea Research Foundation,
  – Ray Clifford, DLI Provost
  – Neil Granoien, Dean of the DLI Korean School
  – Han Jeong-gun, Education Consul of the LA Korean Consul General
  – Sang-O Rhee, NAKS President Sang-O Rhee,
  – Sam-nang Lee, KSAA President
  – Kim Ok-Jin, Program Officer of the Korea Foundation
  – Judith Morag, Educational Testing Service in Princeton

• A total of 34 papers & demonstrations
2.2 Birth of AATK & First 3 years: **First Three Years**

- **Second National Conference**
  - Omni Los Angeles Hotel and Center on June 19-13, 1996.

- Conference was jointly held with the SAT2 Korean Committee’s first international conference on Korean studies

- **Chair**: Chin-Hee Kim (LA Unified School District)

- **Keynote Speakers**:
  - Ronald Walton,
    Deputy Director of National Foreign Language Education Center
  - Bong Hak Hyun,
    Honorary Co-President of the Committee for SAT II Korean
2.2 Birth of AATK & First 3 years: **First Three Years**

- **Workshops included:**
  - 7 College-level teacher training sessions
  - Overview of Foreign Language Framework and the National Standards
  - Overview of SATII Korean
  - Future of Foreign Language Education in Heritage Schools
  - Teaching Korean Literature and Culture
  - Korean/English Two-Way Immersion Program
  - Honorifics and Lexicon
  - Credential Issues
  - Korean Language Learning
  - Korean Language Acquisition
  - Curriculum Development for K-12
2nd National Conference

Consul General’s Reception

Opening Remarks
2.2 Birth of AATK & First 3 years: First Three Years

Third Annual Conference at Mission Palms Hotel, Tempe, Arizona, August 1-5, 1997, jointly with IAKLE.

- **Chaired:** Joe Rhee (Florida State U) due to John Koo’s (Arizona State U) sudden passing in Beijing
- **Keynote:** David Ramirez, Director of the Center for Language Minority Education and Research at California State University, Long Beach
- **VIP Speakers:**
  - Pres. Kim Jong-eun of Korean Research Foundation,
  - Vice-Pres. Han Seok-jin of the Korea Foundation,
  - Timothy Wong, director, Asian Studies Center, Arizona State U.
- Six teacher training workshops
- Five paper presentation panels

A total of 125 people participated.
2.2 Birth of AATK & First 3 years: First Three Years

THE FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON KOREAN LANGUAGE EDUCATION IN AMERICA

Asilomar Conference Center, Monterey, California
July 11 through 14, 1995

Hosted by: AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF KOREAN (AATK)
In Cooperation with DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE
Supported by: KOREA RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The Second National Conference on Korean Language Education in America

Hosted by the American Association of Teachers of Korean (AATK)
Friday, July 19 through Tuesday, July 23, 1996
The Omni Los Angeles Hotel and Centre
930 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Supported by: Korean Research Foundation
Korea Foundation

In Conjunction with
the First International Conference for Korean Studies
of the Committee for SAT II Korean

The Third Annual Conference of the American Association of Teachers of Korean (AATK), and
the Third Overseas Conference of the International Association for Korean Language Education (IAKLE)
were held jointly as
The International Conference on Korean Language Education
At the Mission Palms Hotel, Tempe, Arizona, August 1-5, 1997

With a Conference Theme of
A Quest for Excellence: An Integrated Approach to Korean Language Education

Supported by
The Korea Research Foundation
and The Korea Foundation

In Cooperation with
The Center for Asian Studies,
Arizona State University
Fundraising for conferences and workshops

1995
- $30,800 from Korea Research Foundation-conference

1996
- $30,000 from Korea Research Foundation-conference
- $10,600 from Korea Foundation-teacher training workshop

1997
- $30,000 from Korea Research Foundation-conference
- $12,000 from Korea Foundation-teacher training workshop
First Three Years-Proceedings

KOREAN LANGUAGE IN AMERICA
Volume 1
Edited by HO-MIN SOHN
American Association of Teachers of Korean

KOREAN LANGUAGE IN AMERICA 2
Volume 2
Edited by YUNG-HEE KIM
American Association of Teachers of Korean

KOREAN LANGUAGE IN AMERICA 3
Volume 3
Edited by SAIHE KANG
American Association of Teachers of Korean
3. KLEAR Textbook Project

- The Korea Foundation (KF) initiative:
3. KLEAR Textbook Project

- 49 KFL educators and administrators representing 41 institutions in Australia, Canada, England, the U.S., and Korea
- DJ Lee and HM Sohn presided the 3 day conference.
  - An agreement to launch a collaborative project with HM Sohn as project director.
- 6 year collaborative project was open to all KFL educators for co-authorships.
  - More than 30 faculty joined as co-authors.
3. KLEAR Textbook Project

• **Major developments after the conference:**
  – grant proposal
  – incorporation of the Korean Language Education & Research Center (KLEAR) with the State of Hawaii
  – conclusion of an agreement between The KF and KLEAR
  – receipt of the first year budget.

• **Formally launched on July 11, 1994**

• Original agreement with KF to develop:
  – 6 core skill textbooks
  – 6 content books, and a
  – dictionary of grammar and usage.

  – The number of core skill books was later increased to 14.
KLEAR Textbooks (UH Press)

Textbooks for language skills (14 volumes)
- Integrated Korean, Beginning I & II; Workbooks I & II (2000, 2010)

Textbooks for content training (6 volumes)
- Korean Composition (2002)

A Dictionary of Korean Grammar and Usage (in preparation)
- 300,000 people have bought a KLEAR textbook since 2000.
- Of these, 97% have purchased *Integrated Korean* series.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 1</th>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Level 3</th>
<th>Level 4</th>
<th>Level 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>74%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Top customer is Amazon, with about 40% of sales.
- Bulk of sales happens through online retailers and wholesalers,
- Top international markets: Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Hong Kong
- UH Press is preparing the e-books for *Integrated Korean* Levels 1 and 2.

- We need to revise upper-level texts.
4. Program Reform: UHM’s Case

Course Enrollments from Fall 1972 to Spring 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AY Total</th>
<th>72-73</th>
<th>77-78</th>
<th>82-83</th>
<th>87-88</th>
<th>92-93</th>
<th>97-98</th>
<th>02-03</th>
<th>07-08</th>
<th>12-13</th>
<th>13-14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KOR</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>757</td>
<td>1057</td>
<td>1060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JPN</td>
<td>2739</td>
<td>2893</td>
<td>1971</td>
<td>2213</td>
<td>2594</td>
<td>2570</td>
<td>2305</td>
<td>2687</td>
<td>2430</td>
<td>2333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHN</td>
<td>774</td>
<td>432</td>
<td>503</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>584</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>663</td>
<td>894</td>
<td>813</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Until 1987
- Korean only for general education

1987
- MA & PhD in Korean Language/Linguistics and Literature

1995
- BA in Korean

2002
- Flagship Post-Baccalaureate non-degree program

2007
- Flagship MA in Korean for Professionals

2008
- Flagship BA in Korean for Professionals
4.1 Program Reform: **Korean Language Flagship**

---

**KLFC**

- M.A. in Korean for Professionals
  - In residence at the UHM
  - Overseas at KU
- B.A. in Korean for Professionals
  - In residence at the UHM
  - Overseas at KU
- Certificate in Korean for Professionals
  - In residence at the UHM
  - Overseas at KU
- Pre-College Programs
  - In residence at the UHM
Korean Language Flagship B.A. Program

Goals: Cultivate Korea Specialists with superior level proficiency in Korean language and culture and their domains.

Domestic program at UHM
- Intensive Korean courses
- One-on-one tutoring

Overseas program at KU (1 year)
- Intensive language training
- Domain study
- Internship experience
## 4. Program Reform: UHM’s Case

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Programs of EALL Korean Section (As of 2014)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular Programs</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.A. in Korean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor in Korean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate in Korean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.A. in Korean Language &amp; Linguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.A. in Korean Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D. in Korean Language &amp; Linguistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D. in Korean Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 101-102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 111-112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 201-202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 301-302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 307-308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 401-402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 403-404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 421-422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 485K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 486K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course #</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOR 730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EALL 601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EALL 602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EALL 603K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EALL 700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EALL 800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### BA Degree Students in EALL, Fall 2013 & Fall 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semesters</th>
<th>Japanese</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>Korean</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2013</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>85 (37 regular; 48 flagship)</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2014</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>127 (69 regular; 58 flagship)</td>
<td>422</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Bar chart showing the number of BA degree students in EALL for Fall 2013 and Fall 2014, with categories for Japanese, Chinese, and Korean.]
Graduate Students Enrolled in EALL as of Fall 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Japanese</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>Korean</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lang/Ling</td>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>Lang/Ling</td>
<td>Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graph showing the distribution of graduate students by degree and language/literature.
### Conclusion: Lessons Learned

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Korean Proverb</th>
<th>English Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>有志竟成 (유지경성)</td>
<td>Where there is a will, there is a way.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>困窮而通 (곤궁이통)</td>
<td>There is always some way out of difficulty if you really look for one.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>淫而穿井 (갈이천정)</td>
<td>A thirsty person digs a well.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>勿失好機 (물실호기)</td>
<td>Strike while the iron is hot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>作始成半 (작시성반)</td>
<td>Well begun is half done.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>孤掌難鳴 (고장난명)</td>
<td>Collaboration/teamwork is of the essence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>相扶相助 (상부상조)</td>
<td>Interpersonal harmony is everything.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>人和萬事 (인화만사)</td>
<td>An undaunted struggle with adverse circumstances.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>七顛八起 (칠천팔기)</td>
<td>Sincerity moves heaven.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>苦盡甘來 (고진감내)</td>
<td>Pleasure follows hardship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>溫故 創新 (온고 창신)</td>
<td>Innovations through the olds.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.3 My Wish List

- Nation-wide Distance Learning programs
- Strengthening K-16 Articulation
- Upgrading the curriculum and instruction for community schools
- Advanced language teaching as an integral component of Korean Studies with content courses covering essential cultural areas of Korea-related humanities and social sciences
- Many more professorial positions for faculty engaged in Korean language teaching and research on a equal basis with all other disciplinary fields
- More universities with degree programs and/or professional training programs
- Program innovation to include superior-level language and culture training
- Self-sustainable AATK with many grant-supported projects