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# Contents of Korean literature that should be introduced in the Russian Federation

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## Abstract

The purpose of this study is to analyze the contents of Korean literature that had been already published in Russia. The research methods used in this study were literature survey, internet data search and percentage statistics. As a result, 17% of the former ages textbooks, 62% of ancient textbooks, and 21% of modern textbooks are considered to be necessary to publish textbooks on modern Korean literature. In conclusion, the Korean literature to be introduced in Russia is the translation of the work which can have world appeal with the most Korean authentic thing in it.

**Keywords:** Literature, Korean, Literature, Universality, Uniqueness.

# Contenido de la literatura coreana que debe introducirse en la Federación Rusa

## Resumen

El propósito de este estudio es analizar el contenido de la literatura coreana que ya se había publicado en Rusia. Los métodos

de investigación utilizados en este estudio fueron una encuesta bibliográfica, búsqueda de datos en Internet y estadísticas porcentuales. Como resultado, el 17% de los libros de texto de edades anteriores, el 62% de los libros de texto antiguos y el 21% de los libros de texto modernos se consideran necesarios para publicar libros de texto sobre literatura coreana moderna. En conclusión, la literatura coreana que se presentará en Rusia es la traducción de la obra que puede tener un atractivo mundial con lo más auténtico de Corea.

**Palabras clave:** literatura, coreano, literatura, universalidad, singularidad.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The word literature we are using today does not mean academic knowledge of literature in an argument, but it is a translation corresponding to literature in English. The word literature comes from Latin literature, which means record. The littera, which is the perspective, means the letter, and the litterae is the alphabet. Records that were written in clay, wood, stone or paper that cannot be removed are reproduced in organized language. Literature is an art that expresses human thoughts and feelings in language and distinguishes it from other arts in that it is done in the language. Literature is mainly written in the form of letters written in the form of books, but Internet literature and literary texts that do not use letters are included (KO, 2018).

In general, everything written in writing form can be defined as literature. In the West, philosophy, history and science are also mentioned in literature. However, the term literature is more limited to refer to poetry, drama, novels and other literary works. Literature is a universal thing among the ethnic groups that are inherent in and represented by the people, but it also has special characteristics for each ethnic group. It enables the progress of exchanges through understanding the culture of other ethnic groups. It also can be contributed to improving communication ability. It is clear that we need to learn the consciousness and the way of thinking of the target language in order to be able to communicate with natives (KO, ALIKBEROVA & KARIMOVA, 2017: MATANDARE, 2018: MOGHADAMI, MOHEBBI, KHALAFI, AKBARI, FARIDNIA & TABARI, 2018).

The language needed for everyday life would be less of a problem, but learning language for the purpose makes teaching and learning culture and literature more important beyond that. Without teaching and learning the culture and literature of the target language, the in-depth structure of the target language as well as the historical and mental values expressed in the language cannot be understood properly. Thus, language education cannot be separated from cultural education (MUHAMETZYANOV, 2014: HANIMOGLU, 2018: JARAMILLO, 2018).

## 2. METHODS

The research methods used in this study were a literature survey, internet data search and percentage statistics. For the study of Korean literature related to Korea, we conducted a literature survey and an internet survey using Korean books and the Internet. We also refer to the paper published by our researchers for the latest researches of 2016-2018. The published works in the Russian language were searched by using the keyword Korean literature and surveyed the books, theses, articles, introductions to Korean literature that were introduced in Russia. In addition, the Literature Translation Institute of Korea and Institute for the Translation of Korean Classics send us a list of translated and published works from 1965 to July 2018 and received them from the Korean Literature Translation Institute (YOUNG & ALINA, 2017).

The contents of the textbooks, works, papers, and articles about Korean literature introduced in Russia were analyzed according to the research theme, and the data were analyzed by percentage statistics to investigate the frequency of research items. The research period of this study from June 1 to August 31 of 2018, the following content is a survey of Korean literature introduced in Russia through Russian books and the Internet (CHEOL, 2018).

### **3. RESULTS**

The results of this research are as follows.

1. Around 298 pieces of Korean literature data was found. That makes us think that Korean literature has been well introduced in Russia. Textbooks, works and papers have been appropriately introduced. In particular, literary works are taking major place with 76%, which seems to be the efforts of the Literature Translation Institute of Korea;

2. According to the classification of the textbooks survey: 17% of the former ages textbooks, 62% of ancient textbooks, and 21% of modern textbooks are considered to be necessary to publish textbooks on modern Korean literature (KO, 2016);

3. According to the periodical classification of the studied works, 51% of modern works and 49% of ancient and modern works show similar patterns;

4. According to the genre classification of the surveyed works, novels accounted for the most (69%), followed by Sijo (Korean traditional poetic) and poetry (26%);

5. Riddle genre is not well introduced. You can get a glimpse of the emotions of Koreans through riddles, and improve language skills such as onomatopoeia through riddle vocabulary. That is why the publication of a book on Korean mystery is requested (CHEOL, 2017); 6. It is necessary to introduce the characteristics of Korean literature. In other words, the uniqueness and universality of Korean literature, the characteristics of the period of Korean literature, the characteristics of North Korean literature and last but not least the translations of important works are also considered necessary (KO, 2014);

7. The subject of Korean literature translations into the Russian language is diversified and needs to be expanded qualitatively. Not only Korean national institutions but also other nonprofit foundations, individuals, and Russians translation experts actively participated to diversify the subject of translation. It is necessary for Korean literature to actively intervene in classical literature as it is now. In fact, in the case of Korean essays, there are also Russian publishers who are willing to pay for the publication (BROWN & LEVINSON, 1978);

### 4. DISCUSSION

The researchers' study on the elements and items of the contents of Korean literature in Russian universities continued from 2013 to 2018. The contents of this research include 16 pieces of Korean Literature, 2 pieces of Korean myths and legends, 2 pieces of Korean poetry, 3 pieces of Korean culture and 5 pieces of

Korean language education works. In this study, there are 16 following elements of Korean literature studied in the previous research analysis of Learner's Needs for Korean Literature Content of Korean Learner in Russia: Korean Literature in General; Characteristics of Korean Literature; Characteristics of Chinese Literature; Characteristics of Classical Literature; Characteristics of Ancient and Modern Literature; Characteristics of Modern Literature; Literature; Literary criticism; Teaching-learning methods; Use of cultural contents in Korean literary works; Present and Future of Korean Literature.

As the above study, based on the necessary elements of the Korean literacy curriculum selected in the previous research published in December 2017. There was a questionnaire survey for Korean professors from various Russian and CIS universities on Factors that Russian Professors Think Important in Korean Literature Education and Factors that Think of the Most Interesting Genre Items in Korean Literature. As a result, we surveyed the elements of education contents of Korean literature studied in the previous research and obtained meaningful results about important items and genres to teach in this one. In other words, it is proved that the 16 major elements of Korean literature, which are classified in the range of Korean literature to Russian language learners in Russia. In addition, Korean professors in Russia prefer modern literature in the range of classical literature and contemporary

literature without regard for classical literature, and they are interested in the field of modern literature in terms of genre.

The main contents of Korean literature for the improvement of Korean communication skills are summarized as follows.

First, the riddle is a good learning material that can help understand Korean culture and emotion and improve Korean vocabulary ability. For example:

1. 갓 태어난 병아리가 찾는 약은? 삐약

What medicine does the newborn chick look for? Ppi-yak (onomatopoeia for the chick; the second half stands for medicine in Korean)

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2. 고기를 먹을 때마다 쫓아다니는 개는? 이쑤시개
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Which dog is chasing after eating meat? I-ssu-si-gae (toothpick; the last part stands for dog in Korean)

3. 공중 화장실이란? 비행기안의 화장실

What stands for a public toilet? A toilet in an airplane (the word  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$  has two meanings: public and air)

Gold is gold, gold that especially thieves like? Ya-geum yageum (onomatopoeia for the adverb gradually; the second half of each word stands for gold in Korean)

5. 날마다 가슴에 흑심을 품고 있는 것은? 연필

What is holding a black heart in its chest every day? Pencil

What is the text that makes everyone laugh happily? Singgeul beong-geul (onomatopoeia for the bright smile; the second half of each word stands for text in Korean)

What is the fastest rice cake to eat? Heol-le beol-tteok (onomatopoeia for the adverb hurriedly; the last part of the word stands for rice cake in Korean)

What we eat and then die but cannot help but eat? Age

The opposite word for fish (mul-kkogi)? Bul-gogi (Korean barbeque) (the first part of the word fish stands for water and the first part of the word bulgogi stands for fire)

10. 물은 물인데 잘 보이지 않는 물은? 가물가물

Water is water, but invisible water? Ga-mul ga-mul (onomatopoeia for the adverb faintly; the second half of each word stands for water in Korean)

Second, Korean myths and legends have a different meaning to other nations.

In Korean mythology, it is common to see that gods and humans form a family relationship. In founding mythology, it is the mythology of Dangun and the myth of the waterway that reveals the relationship between God and humanity. In Myth about Dangun, Hwanwoung ascends to the human world with his strong position as a new militia and opens up Shinshi to rule and assist human beings. Both bear and tiger are trying to become a human, also bear named Ungnyeo wanted to conceive. Ungnyeo made through the tough way and fulfilled her desire. It becomes a parent and a child relationship through Dangun, the king of human beings, who was born by Ungnyeo. The king of the Gojoseon - Dangun is a divine human being born through the union of God and human.

The myth of Suro is about King Suro's queen Heo Hwang-ok that was a human being princess from a distant country called Ayuta, but following the order, she married Suro. There was the same shamanistic myth Chun Ji Wang Bon Puri where the powerful god Jong Ji wang chooses a human woman as his life partner. In the Korean mythology, from the god and human being relationship, we can see that human being is imperfect but made a step on the evolutionary ladder and on the other side there is a God being who is perfect, but there is a lack of existence. Thus, the two beings meet and complete each other.

Third, Korea's roots are in classical literature. The revival of the roots of traditional culture in a modern sense is the driving force to draw out the uniqueness and universality. By recreating the Korean culture as a literary work, it is possible to improve knowledge of Korean literature and the ability of Korean communication skills.

The introduction of Korean literature in Russia is also the result of the efforts of Korean government agencies. Since 2000, the translation of Korean literature into Russian has been actively promoted. The Institute for the Translation of Korean Classics was the starting point for the classical Korean language group that was created in 1965 under the sponsorship of the government. In November of the same year, a Korean classical translator was created in accordance with the Institute for the Translation of Korean Classic Act promulgated in August 2007.

It is another public institution under the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology established to build the foundation of Korean Studies research and to succeed and develop traditional culture through collecting, rearranging and translating Chinese classics containing Korean spiritual culture. In 1993, he completed the translation of the Chosun dynasty annals of 229 books of 12 kinds. In 2005, he completed 350 books of Korean literary works. By the end of 2017, 929 books were completed. From June 1 to August 31, 2018, research on Korean literature introduced in Russia through books and the Internet in Russia is summarized as follows. A total of 298 articles were collected as materials, including textbooks, works, papers, and other Internet introductory materials, as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Contents related to Korean literature published in Russia () is a percentage %.

Classification	Textbooks	Works	Theses	Others	Total
Number of	34(11)	226(76)	35(12)	3(1)	298(100)
books (%)					

The total number of the collected textbooks is 34, as shown in Table 2 below.

Age classificatio n	All	Ancient	Ancient and modern period	Late modern neriod	and contempora ry	Modern	Total
Number of books (%)	6(17)	14(41)	5(15)	2(6)	3(9)	4(12)	34
By period	6(17)	21(62)			7(2	21)	(100)

Table 2: Classification of textbooks by period () is a percentage %.

The total of 226 literary works was collected, and the works are classified according to their age, as shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Classification of works by period () is a percentage %.

Age classification	All	Ancient	Ancient and modern period	Late modern period	Modern and contemporar y	Modern	Total
Number	1(0.4)	49((22)	8(4)	57(25)	7(3)	104(4)	226 (100)
of books							(100)
(%)							
By	1(0.4)		114(51)		111(	49)	
period							

The collected 226 pieces of literature are classified by genre as shown in Table 4 below.

Division	All	Ancient	and modern	Late modern	and contempo rarv	Modern	Total
Novel	1(0.4)	29(13)	6(3)	34(15)	2(0.4)	83(37)	155(69)
Sijo		1(0.4)					1(0.4)
Poetry		14(6)	2(0.4)	19(8)	5(2)	17(8)	57(25)
Essay		1(0.4)		1(0.4)		2(0.4)	4(2)
Mytholog		2(0.4)					2(0.4)
У							
Chronicle		2(0.4)					2(0.4)
Drama				3(1)			3(1)
Proverb						1(0.4)	1(0.4)
Comics						1(0.4)	1(0.4)
Total	1(0.4	49((22	8(4)	57(25	7(3)	104(46	226(100
	)	)		)		)	)

Table 4: Classification of works by genre () is a percentage %.

The total number of theses collected is 35. The thesis of the Ph.D. is 19, and other theses are 16 as shown in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Thesis classification () is a percentage %.

Thesis type	Thesis for a degree	Article	Total
Number	19(54)	16(46)	35(100)

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Table 6 shows the total number of Korean literature introduced in the Russian language on the Internet.

Table 6: Korean Literature Introduced in the Russian language on<br/>the Internet () is a percentage %.

Wikipedia	Encyclopedia	Folklore	Total
1(33)	1(33)	1(33)	3(100)

#### **5. CONCLUSIONS**

The 298 Korean literature data searched as in Table 2 suggests that Korean literature has been introduced to Russia. Textbooks, works and papers have been appropriately introduced. In particular, literary works account for the majority of 76%, which is considered to be the efforts of the Literature Translation Institute of Korea. According to the genre classification of the works in Table 5, novels accounted for the largest number of 69%, followed by Sijo and Poetry by 26%. Compared to this, four essays (2%) and two legends and myths (0.4%). In the future, it is necessary to introduce Korean emotions about essay, myth and legend and short stories about life on a daily basis.

Language learning is not all about learning a target language for simple communication. It is time for Korean education to shift from the center of communication skills to the recognition of society and culture including literature. And good work should reflect the particularity of each nation, whether it is world literature or national literature, and at the same time have universal values of mankind. It has a universal appeal that transcends time and space and this universal appeal comes from revealing insights into the nature of human nature based on specificity. Therefore, the Korean literature to be introduced in Russia is the translation of the work which can have world appeal with the most Korean authentic thing in it.

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