Description
The most prominent of these links Korean to the Altaic languages of central Asia, a family that includes Turkish, Mongolian, and Siberia's Tungusic (for example, Manchu) languages. Others would argue for including Uralic languages (Hungarian and Finnish) and Japanese in this macro family. Although not definitively proven, this affiliation is accepted by most Korean linguists and deemed likely by Western linguists as well. The competing theory associates Korean with the Dravidian languages of southern India or with Austronesian languages. Determining Koreans' linguistic affiliation is complicated by a long history of contact with the Japanese and Chinese languages. Not surprisingly, Korean shares certain linguistic features with each of these languages.

Korean Language Structure

Korean is an agglutinative language, meaning that it forms words and expresses grammatical relations by attaching particles or suffixes to a word. Some features are:

- **Honorifics**: Korean has a system of honorifics that affects verb endings and vocabulary. The level of politeness and respect indicated by these forms is essential in conversations. If someone doesn't use the proper honorifics, it can be disrespectful and create problems.
- **No articles**: Korean does not use definite or indefinite articles. Needing to have context of the conversation to understand if something is plural or not, even the gender of a certain thing, the context is needed.
- **Noun particles**: Korean uses particles attached to nouns to mark case roles, like subject, object, or location. Those help to know when certain nouns have ended and how they are used in the sentence.
- **Verb-final**: Sentences in Korean typically end with a verb. The word order is subject-object-verb (SOV), which ends up with the idea of needing the whole sentence to understand. It's improbable that the sentence is just the verb, and that way it can be understood.

Nouns

Korean nouns can undergo changes depending on the grammatical case they are in. For plural formation, the language has some rules:

1. **General plural**:
    - The plural form of most nouns is created by adding 들 **(deul)** to the noun.
    - Example:
        - 책 (chaek) = book → 책들 (chaekdeul) = books
        - 사람 (saram) = person → 사람들 (saramdeul) = people

2. **Honorifics and Special Forms**:
    - Some nouns, especially when referring to people or important things, have honorific versions.
    - Example:
        - 어머니 (eomeoni) = mother → 어머님 (eomeonim) = respectful form of mother

Verb Conjugation

Korean verbs are conjugated based on tense, politeness, and the subject's role in the sentence. The verb endings change depending on these factors:

1. **Politeness levels**:
    - **Formal polite**: Adding **-**습니다 (seumnida) or **-**ㅂ니다 (bnida).
        - Example: 먹다 (meokda, to eat, casual) → 먹습니다 (meokseumnida) = I eat (formal)

    - **Informal polite**: Adding **-**요 (yo).
        - Example: 먹다 (meokda, informal) → 먹어요 (meogeoyo) = I eat (informal polite)

2. **Tenses**:

    - **Past**: Adding **-**았**/**었**/**였 (at/ot/yot) before the verb ending.
        - Example: 먹다 (meokda) → 먹었어요 (meogeosseoyo) = I ate

Pronouns
Korean pronouns can be simple or honorific, based on the relationship between the speaker and the listener. That also influences the level of politeness during the conversation. Here are some examples:

1. **Pronouns**:

    - I: 나 (na, informal), 저 (jeo, formal)

    - You: 너 (neo, informal), 당신 (dangsin, formal)

Example Sentences

1. **Casual**:
    - 사람들은 책을 읽어요. (Saramdeureun chaegeul ilgeoyo.) = The people read books.

2. **Honorific**:
    - 어머니는 집에 계세요. (Eomeoni-neun jibe gyeseyo.) = My mother is at home (respectful form).

Model

Nouns

- haksaeng – student
- seonsaengnim – teacher
- chingu – friend
- mul – water
- jib – house
- haksang – school

- kpop – K-pop
- aideol – idol
- eumak – music
- norae – song
- albom – album

Verbs
- gada – to go
- meokda – to eat
- masida – to drink
- boda – to see/watch
- malhada – to speak
- saranghada – to love
- isseoyo – to exist / have (polite form of "itda")

Conjunctions
- geurigo – and
- ttoneun – or
- hajiman – but
- wae냐하면 – because

Grammar
Korean has specific sentence structures, particularly with subject-object-verb (SOV) order and the use of particles to mark subjects, objects, and other sentence components. Additionally, Korean has various particles for case markers, topics, and conjunctions, which need to be incorporated into the grammar. For this case, were are going to use the most basic sentence structure, not conditional sentences, questions, etc,. straightforward situations only.
1. Initial Structure
In Korean, sentences (S) often consist of noun phrases (NP) followed by verb phrases (VS). However, the subject, object, and verb are marked with particles. The way to start the structure will be:
S → NP NP VS
S → NP VS
S → VS

2. Noun Phrases and Verb Phrases
The way to give the noun phrases and verb phrases a breakdown is to take into consideration the sentence structure established beforehand:

NP → CR + SubjParticle
NP → CR + ObjParticle
NP → CR
NP → CR + NP

VS → VoR + TenseMarker + PolitenessEnding
VS → VoR + PolitenessEnding
VS → VoR + TenseMarker
VS → VoR

For the nouns, there are 2 different types, the subject and the object, and Korean has a different particle for each one of them; that is why they need to be different variables. And the verb needs only one structure, but it needs to have the start of the verb, the tense, and how polite it has to be.
3. Verb and Noun Subcategories
As it was established before, there are roots for the verb (VoR), tenses, and politeness, which in our case are going to be:
VoR → gada | meokda | masida | boda | malhada | saranghada
TenseMarker → at | eot
PolitenessEnding → eoyo | seumnida

For nouns, we will be using common ones (CR) and their particles:
CR → 'haksaeng' | 'seonsaengnim' | 'chingu' | 'mul' | 'jib' | 'haksang' | 'kpop' | 'aideol' | 'eumak' | 'norae' | 'albom'
SubjParticle -> 'eun' | 'neun' | 'i' | 'ga'
ObjParticle -> 'eul' | 'reul'

5. Conjunctions
and the conjunctions, which help add more information to the sentences:
Conj → 'geurigo' | 'ttoneun' | 'hajiman' | 'waenyaheumyeon'

6. Ambiguity and Left Recursion
Korean allows multiple noun phrases to be connected with conjunctions. To eliminate the ambiguity in some cases, a new structure needs to be defined:

NSC -> NP | NP Conj NP

- NPC represents a noun phrase connected by conjunctions.

- Conj represents conjunctions.

- NP represents a single noun phrase, as it was written before.

Changing the structure of the sentence to:
S -> NSC VS | NSC VS NSC | S Conj S | NSC VS Conj VS | NSC VS Conj NSC VS | NSC NSC VS

7. Final Grammar

- S -> NSC VS | NSC VS NSC | S Conj S | NSC VS Conj VS | NSC VS Conj NSC VS |NSC NSC VS
- NSC -> NP | NP Conj NP
- NP -> CR SubjParticle | CR ObjParticle | CR | CR NP
- VS -> VoR TenseMarker PolitenessEnding | VoR PolitenessEnding | VoR | VoR TenseEnding
- VoR -> 'gada' | 'meokda' | 'masida' | 'boda' | 'malhada' | 'saranghada'
- TenseMarker -> 'at' | 'eot'
- PolitenessEnding -> 'eoyo' | 'seumnida'
- SubjParticle -> 'eun' | 'neun' | 'i' | 'ga'
- ObjParticle -> 'eul' | 'reul'
- CR -> 'haksaeng' | 'seonsaengnim' | 'chingu' | 'mul' | 'jib' | 'haksang' | 'kpop' | 'aideol' | 'eumak' | 'norae' | 'albom'
- Conj -> 'geurigo' | 'ttoneun' | 'hajiman' | 'waenyaheumyeon'

Explanation:
- **S** → Sentence structure allows different valid Korean sentence forms.
- **NSC** → Noun phrase chain with conjunction.
- **NP** → A single noun with its particle.
- **VP** → Verb phrase with stem, tense, and politeness ending.
- **VoR** → Verb roots.
- **TenseMarker** → Shows verb tense.
  PolitenessEnding → Shows the level of politeness in the sentence.
- **CR** → Common Korean nouns used in phrases.
- **SubjParticle** → Particles marking the subject.
- **ObjParticle** → Particles marking the object.
- **Conj** → Conjunctions used to connect phrases.

Impletentation
To test the grammar, a program in Python needs to be written. Adding the grammar established before, some correct sentences, and some incorrect ones. The program prints the trees for the correct ones, but a string that says the sentences are invalid if the sentences don’t follow the structure.

Correct sentences

1. **haksaeng eul meokda** — Eat the student
2. **chingu eul meokda geurigo saranghada** — Eat the friend and love
3. **seonsaengnim i masida** — The teacher drinks
4. **haksaeng eun norae reul masida** — The student drinks the song
5. **jib eul meokda eoyo** — Eat the house (formal)
6. **haksaeng i saranghada eoyo** — The student loves (formal)
7. **mul eul malhada** — Speak the water
8. **haksaeng eul meokda hajiman chingu eul malhada** — Eat the student but speak with the friend
9. **seonsaengnim eun haksaeng eul saranghada** — The teacher loves the student
10. **haksaeng i meokda geurigo seonsaengnim i malhada** — The student eats and the teacher speaks
11. **haksaeng eul malhada** — Speak to the student
12. **haksaeng i saranghada** — The student loves
13. **seonsaengnim eul masida** — Drink the teacher

Incorrect sentences

1. **jib masida wa chingu eul meokda** — Drink the house and eat the friend
2. **seonsaengnim i meokda wa haksaeng eul saranghada** — The teacher eats and loves the student
3. **chingu eul masida wa jib eul meokda** — Drink the friend and eat the house
4. **albom eul meokda eoyoseo norae masida** — Eat the album and thus drink the song
5. **kpop eul meokda wa eumak eul masida** — Eat kpop and drink music
6. **haksaeng eun haksang eul meokda wa seonsaengnim eul masida** — The student eats the student and drinks the teacher

Running code

To run the code, use the program koreangrammar.py. First, you run the pre-established tests to see if the program shows valid results. The second part is the person running the file trying to write a sentence following the rules. The sentence doesn't have to have any kind of sense, the important thing is that the structure is correct.

To create the Python program for testing the Korean grammar and generating syntax trees for valid sentences, it is needed the library NLTK (Natural Language Toolkit).

Examples of the correct trees

These are for the valid sentences:

Analysis

The structure of the Korean grammar involves parsing and checking various parts of the sentence, such as noun phrases (NP), verb phrases (VS), and their corresponding particles.

1. **Word Segmentation:** The grammar requires the separation of the root word and the endings (like verb stems or noun particles). This process requires checking each word, and with a loop iterating over each word of a sentence, this results in **O(n)** complexity.

2. **Parsing with Loops:** For each sentence, we iterate over its parts (Noun Phrases, Verb Phrases), which is an **O(n)** operation where n is the number of elements in the sentence. Since the structure of the grammar is LL(1), meaning there is no ambiguity, we only generate one possible parse tree, which results in **O(1)** complexity.

3. **Total Complexity:** Since the loops are not nested (only a loop for the sentence and one for each word), the overall time complexity remains **O(n)**.

Korean grammar can be classified as a **Context-Free Grammar (CFG)**.

Context-Free Grammar: Each production rule has a single non-terminal on the left side, and a combination of non-terminals and terminals on the right side (e.g., S -> NSC VS | NSC VS NSC). This structure satisfies the definition of context-free grammar, where the left side has a single non-terminal, and the right side can have both terminals and non-terminals.

While the current implementation uses Python's **NLTK** for parsing the Korean grammar, other tools or languages could be explored for implementing similar functionality. For example, a JavaScript library called **Peggy** (previously known as **Peg.js**) could be a viable alternative.

1. **Peggy for Node.js:**
    - **Pros:** Peggy allows you to define grammar in a separate file and then compile it into a parser. It is highly documented and provides tools for building parsers directly from the grammar.
    - **Cons:** The process of compiling the grammar takes extra time, and the learning curve for setting it up is steeper compared to NLTK in Python.
2. **NLTK for Python:**
    - **Pros:** NLTK provides a straightforward way to implement and test grammars. It doesn't require a separate compilation process, and everything can be kept in a single Python file, which is simpler and faster for development.
    - **Cons:** NLTK is mainly suited for tasks within Python and doesn't have the built-in tools for creating web applications like JavaScript/Node.js can provide.

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