Verbal silence may function as a meaningful signifier in all levels of language. Simply from a phonetic(sonic and musical) level up to morphology(poetry and rap) and everyday discourse, verbal silence compliments regular, expected verbal means of expression as its suppletive counterpart that provides a structure for communication. I think it is also noteworthy that silence has the capacity to construct emotions and character, reflect one's identity, and shape authenticity. Personally, the idea that verbal silence may highlight the presence (as well as the absence) of an individual was quite interesting because it operates under the universal, collective wing of language which isn't specific to one individual. I wanted to take this final project

- 1. Understanding Silence in Written Language:
  - Look at poems that use line breaks and single out that line to show what it looks like without the break/how
    people might read them. To show how silence in reading, a sudden halt, the absence/intervention of a flow
    of reading.
    - a. Marking where there are certain rhythms and rhymes: the words they emphasize may silence the other words surrounding them.
    - b. How is this different when they are spoken instead of them being written? As an example for rap, rappers will enunciate certain words in a way to put emphasis differently in comparison to what we would see as rhymes when we look at the lyrics. Thinking of silence not just as where there is an absence of sound, but also as a tool that silences other things by emphasizing another.
  - 2. Look at short pieces of literature or scripts from plays, marking certain punctuation marks like quotes, commas, periods that force us to separate content.
- 2. Comparing the role of Verbal Silence in Different Languages: Korean and English—how and what kind of silences are present?
  - 1. Audio Book Example: compare different people's reading/recording of a certain piece of writing both in Korean and English by looking at the wavelength (the time it took to read the same material) and the text they were reading from. Here I'll select a certain portion of the reading, to compare the different lengths of silences.
  - 2. For each speaker, their silences will be marked and grouped into 4 different categories depending on their lengths: 1 or below seconds, 1 to 3 seconds, 3-5 seconds, and more. Analyze that to see the results and compare it to number (3).
  - 3. Marking the negative spaces, the presence of absence functions as a divider between an otherwise linear, sequential content, of the readings (the written language) and analyzes where the verbal silence lies in comparison to silences indicated in written language. Do they correlate or not?
- 3. Can the length of silence reflect the cultural, social, political character, or context?
  - 1. Record lengths of silence in between discourses in multiple forms of media and look at what the content of the conversations are. Can we see a relationship between the two?

Emptiness cannot be compressed

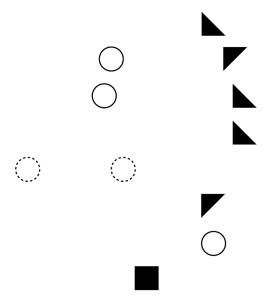
Nor can it fight abuse

Nor is there an endless West hosting elk antelope and the tough cayuse

This is true also of the mind⊖it can get used●

### KAY RYAN

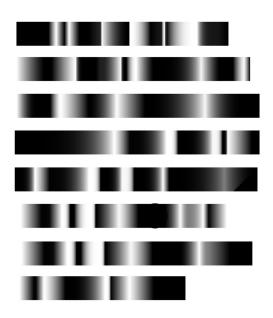
### Emptiness



Emptiness cannot be compressed. Nor can it fight abuse. Nor is there an endless West hosting elk, antelope, and the tough cayuse. This is true also of the mind: it can get used.

#### KAY RYAN

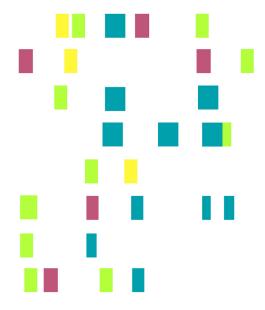
# Emptiness



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# **Emptiness**



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