**KOREAN CULTURAL ESSAY**

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Korean Language Skills 2 (LGE931N1A)

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The first time I watched a Korean movie was 6 years ago, then I continue to watch Korean variety game show as recommended by my friend. In Korean variety show, Korean culture is being shown vividly. I watched 2 shows, Running Man (런닝만) and Infinity Challenge(무한도전). Each show has a different concept but they both presented the cultural image very interestingly. From that, I've learned some cultural event which interests me a lot. That's one of the reasons why I began to learn Korean.

Both variety show present Korean Culture image really well, but Running Man show kind of present it way more interest by playing some games related to it. Running Man is a show presented by 8 members who played different roles in the show. Each show lasts for a day in real life or one hour and a half an episode. The theme changes every episode and you can’t predict unless it is a special cultural event coming up. The show was first on-air in 2010 and it has reached 424 episode and still continue. From what I know from the show, Korea has many major events such as New Year(설날), Mid-Autumn(주석), Start of Farming season(한식) and so on. All events are spread throughout the year. I found that some of their events are very special, such as Farming Season event. This cultural event exists so that all South Korean need to respect on what they eat every day is from the hard work of the farmer. On the first day of this event, some member of the government will go to some of the farms and begin to work as a farmer for a little bit, to wish them luck on the new harvest season. On the other hand, Running Man game show also play some game related to that such as competition between teams on who can grow the most or who can harvest the most. Along with that is the Mid-Autumn event. This event last for 3 days, a day before the Mid-Autumn, or Chuseok, the Chuseok day and the day after that. During the time, Korean can stay at home with their family and relax after a half year of hard working. The main meaning of Chuseok is to thanks the ancestors that blessed them for a successful harvest season (this harvest season also mean regular working, not just at the farm) and hope they will still bless and help them on the next one. In order to do that, they have to go visit their ancestors' tomb, clean them and show them what you have harvested in the year. I love this cultural event so much because it gives an opportunity for families to spend their time together for at least once a year. Before the holiday, people wish each other a safe driving home and tell them no matter how busy they are if they have to work during the holiday, please go home at least once. This holiday also considered a national holiday and the 2nd most important holiday in the year, after the Lunar New Year. The traditional food is Songpyeon (송편) and drink is Baekju (백주). In Chuseok, people usually play games like wrestling and Juldarigi (줄다리기). I found that this cultural event has the most differences compared to mine cultural event, which is still Mid-Autumn but celebrated in a different way. First thing is about food, where we usually eat moon cake and doesn’t have any special drink. After that, we enjoy the holiday by playing some games such as Dragon Dance, making specific toy related to the festival and playing around with it. The most common sign in our Mid-Autumn is about that toy. We can make the toy to any shape using just wood and red glass paper, then we put a candle inside, hang it or walk around with it. Before the festival start, we give each other gift. The more close relationship they are, the bigger the gift. The gift is representing for how well did you do last year so if they gift is big, it means you did really well and want to share the luck with the others. Other special about our event is you can take the gift you just received and give it to somebody else without hassle. In my opinion, I will still like the Korean Mid-Autumn festival more because of how they respect the person who gave them the luck and blessed for their work and they need to remembrance. This variety show, Running Man has helped me a lot in Korean culture as they have presented really well throughout the episode by oral and activities. This game show is very popular in the world and they have many subtitle language available so doesn’t matter if you want to learn Korean or interest in Korea or not, this is a must-watch show for relaxing and get a bit more knowledge about the culture of Korea. I would suggest this game show for people who are under 30 years old as the content, activity, and concept will likely to match them the most.

I would love to discover more about Korean culture as I find myself really interest to it. I’ve been to Korea and in love with the people there. There are many things I’ve learned from Korean life of style as well as some of the cultural event too. Taking the Korean language help me understand more about the people, culture, and especially lifestyle. “You live a new life for every language you speak. If you know only one language, you live only once” - Czech proverb

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