

Accent, dialect, and language 2

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Review

- Variation is often motivated by a desire to fit into (or distance oneself) from a group.
- **Stereotypes** are variants that people are well aware of and comment on freely. **Markers** (or indicators) are variants that people are typically not aware of.
- **Accent** refers to variation in pronunciation. Examples are **regional**, **foreign**, and **non-native** accent.
- **Dialect** refers to variation in any aspect of language, including pronunciation, and only refers to native, domestic variation.
- Because these terms are complicated, linguists prefer to use the term **variety**.

Korean terms for variation

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Korean terms for variation

- How do Koreans talk about linguistic variation? How do they use words like 방언, 사투리, and 말?
- Consider how you would describe the following situations, in Korean, assuming that you are from Seoul:
 - 영희: Every time she speaks, it is clear that she is from Daegu.
 - 철수: He is 70 years old, and from Gwangju. When he speaks, it is mostly **unintelligible** to you.
 - 영수: She moved from Busan to Seoul last year. Sometimes she pronounces something in a “Busan-like” way.
 - 철희: He is from Seoul, and his speech does contain any markers from other regions.

Korean terms for variation

- Consider a few more situations:
 - 스티브: He is from another country and started learning Korean in college. When he speaks Korean he makes some mistakes (in both pronunciation and grammar) that make you think his native language is English.
 - 샷샷: She was born and raised in China, but her native language is Korean because she learned it at home from her parents. You think she sounds like a native speaker of Korean, but she does not sound like she is from Seoul.
 - 유진: He was born in the U.S., but his parents immigrated from Korea. He learned some Korean at home, but he cannot speak it well. His native language is English.

Geographic distribution of terms

- The choice of term is not just related to linguistic features: It matters which region of Korea the speech is from.
- These data are from the perceptual dialectology study by Long & Yim (2002), which we will discuss in a few weeks.

Region	말/-mal	사투리/saturi	방언/bangeon
Seoul	79.9%	0%	20.1%
Gangwon	27.7%	34.8%	36.5%
Chungcheong	28.6%	33.9%	37.5%
Jeolla	25.4%	32.2%	42.3%
Gyeongsang	22.8%	38.0%	39.2%
Jeju	21.5%	20.6%	57.9%

Conclusions

- The typical English and Korean terms for varieties do not neatly match up. These differences are important to remember when discussing variation in Korean.
- The Korean terms for variation carry certain connotations:
 - **Saturi** almost necessarily implies “non-standard”.
 - **Bangeon** is a bit more neutral, and suggests a more academic(?) distinction
 - **Mal** seems to be a more generic term used when saturi and bangeon are not appropriate. It also suggests greater legitimacy.
- The issue of **intelligibility** seems to be less relevant for Korean dialectal distinctions, but it may play into the choice between saturi and bangeon.

Homework

- Read O'Grady 2015.