Language Journal

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It’s been almost 6 months after I first met my girlfriend. And it’s been interesting to see how the way I talk and text changing. Like many other couples we use language of our own that we would never use otherwise. In a broad perspective the main characteristic of this deviance is ‘애교.’ My girlfriend said she does like that because the words we usually use can’t fully convey her affection. I thought that might explain why I use more onomatopoeia and lisping when talking to her. Similarly, as we communicate much of time texting, I spell the words slightly differently, for example by adding ‘ㅇ’ or ‘ㅅ’ to the end of the words(알았어용, 고마웟) and sending more emoticons(이따봐~~, 응응^^). These tactics prevent my words from being plain and blunt. Usually I don’t use these kinds of tricks, not even when I text my best friends, because I actually don’t care what they might feel. (not meaning that I’m rude.) But I do care how she feels and don’t want to hurt her feeling. The text shown on the smartphone is just only part of the message that I would like to send. In order to fill in the gap I had to add something else to the ‘ordinary’ text. Adding certain kinds of ending is one solution in that it makes the expression softer and hopefully special. Of course in some way this texting makes it more like face-to-face dialogue as we actually speak that way.

I’ve been an ordinary ‘man’ who speaks less, hides his feeling and tries to be decisive. So this experience, which gave me a chance to discover another me acting awkwardly is extraordinary and yet exciting. It’s like something ‘feminine’ inside me woke up. And I came to think that the ‘lisping’ and ‘fluffy’ me might have always been inside but could never come out because of something sociological or educational effect, until I met someone to whom I really want to be sincere. Especially when it comes to one’s characteristic, I’ve met many kinds of people and I sometimes wonder if it is really important whether the person with certain character SHOULD.be either a woman or a man. This kind of classification may be gone sometimes later. It’s also quite interesting to imagine what kind of world it would be.