

한국 언어를 통한 문화 교육

(Teaching Korean Culture through the Language)

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With first language learners immersed in their own culture, connections between language and culture often never come to question. For foreign language learners, where true cultural understandings are situated well beyond the textbook, an understanding of language assumes a very different form. This paper tends to explore more effective ways to teach the Korean culture through the language to the foreign students. Language and culture are interconnected and the understanding of this phenomenon will help the language learners to master it better. This paper studies two aspects of Korean culture that have vividly affected the language structure and offers some approaches to use in the classroom.

The first and more important characteristics of the Korean language is the pronoun “we” which demonstrates the strong collectivism of the Korean people. While teaching the common phrases with “우리” many students do not understand the necessity of its usage. It is better to start explaining its origins, for example the conscience of the common race in Korea, which is constituted of only one race.

Secondly, this paper investigates the honorific forms of Korean and its influence in the culture. While studying the formal and informal speech the students need to see and hear the differences of their application in everyday life through games, dialogues or watching videos. Korean polite forms vary ranging from simple polite forms to extreme polite forms. This is the result of the culture of filial duty to elder people and of bureaucratic culture.

All things considered, this paper attempts to propose that it is impossible to learn the language without comprehending the culture of the given language. The relationship between language and culture is a complex one due largely in part to the great difficulty in understanding people’s cognitive processes when they communicate.

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