

## Social Interaction Conveyed by the Sentence-ending suffixes *-Ney* and *-Ci*

The purpose of this study is to revisit the discourse functions of the sentence-ending (SE) suffixes *-ney* and *-ci* by examining knowledge levels and sequential patterns in ordinary conversation. Previous research provides some explanations of *-ney* and *-ci*; *-ney* indicates surprise and counter-expectation (Lee, 2015; Park, 2003; Sohn, 1999). *-Ci* is used to indicate certainty of information and shared information (Lee, 1985; Choi, 2006). Expanding on the previous studies, this study focuses on what types of actions speakers convey using *-ney* and *-ci* and the role of each suffix within a discourse. Data comes from the CallFriend Korean telephone corpus, produced in the late 1990s by the Linguistic Data Consortium (LDC). The LDC corpus data includes 100 naturally occurring ordinary phone conversations between Korean native speakers. I collected a total of 124 tokens of the *ney*-marked description/assessments and 458 tokens of *ci*-marked description/assessments from the corpus data. Quantitative analysis (Corpus method) and qualitative analysis (Conversation Analysis) are used in this study. The following is an example of my analyses in which I identify the two types of actions (assessment and confirmation sequences) conveyed with *-ney* and *-ci* in (1).

### *first position – 1<sup>st</sup> assessment and a request for confirmation*

(1) 1 Min: 아이구 재밋었겠네  
aikwu caymiss-ess-keyss-ney  
wow fun-PST-CONJ-SE  
wow (it) must have been fun-ney

### *Second position – 2<sup>nd</sup> assessment and giving a confirmation*

2 Hee: 재밋었지  
caymiss-ess-ci  
fun-PST-SE  
(it) was fun-ci

Min provides a *ney*-marked first assessment about Hee's brother's visit (line 1). In response, Hee gives a *ci*-marked second assessment in the form of agreement (line 2). I argue that different SE marked assessments present an epistemic asymmetry about the topic they evaluate (Hee's brother's visit), that is, *-ney* indicates a subordinate knowledge level while *-ci* indicates a dominant knowledge level regarding the matter at hand (Heritage & Raymond, 2005). Furthermore, the *ney*-marked assessment and the *ci*-marked assessment convey a confirmation request and confirmation respectively. From such evidence from a large corpus, I conclude the following: 1) Speakers using *-ney* and *-ci* present knowledge differences: 89% of the *-ney* marked opinions indicate a subordinate position and 80% of the *ci*-marked opinions indicate a dominant position, 2) The uses of *-ney* and *-ci* in different sequential positions correlate with certain actions. That is, *-ney* is frequently used by a speaker who requests confirmation (first position). *-Ci* is frequently used by a confirming speaker (second position). My data shows that the *ney*-marked assessments are used predominantly in the first position (99%) while the *ci*-marked assessments are used mainly in the second position (70%). This study sheds light on the role of sequential positions of grammatical resources in discourse. Furthermore, the study shows that *ney* and *ci*-marked utterances serve as specific means that Korean speakers use to implicitly convey their knowledge levels and actions.