

# A CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF THE PHONOLOGY OF ENGLISH LOANWORDS IN KOREAN BY FOCUSING ON KOREAN DRAMA AND MOVIE TITLES

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## Abstract

The phonetic inventories of English and Korean vary and these differences become apparent when words from English are spoken and/or written in Korean. A Koreanization of English words take place in an attempt to maintain a certain level of phonetic resemblance. Through a contrastive analysis of English and Korean phonology, consonant clusters, and assimilation rules, this paper aims to analyse how English words change in spoken Korean. It also seeks to acquaint speakers of English with Korean pronunciations of English words. The words in focus are Korean drama and movie titles which have an English name but are written in Korean.

**Keywords:** British English (BE), Korean, Korean English, Contrastive Analysis Hypothesis (CAH), Phonology, Loanwords, Assimilation, Hallyu, Korean movies, Korean dramas

## INTRODUCTION

The spread of the Hallyu wave has seen an increase in the consumption of Korean content across the world. The Korean music and drama industries have played a pivotal role in spreading the Korean soft culture. This has also led to an increase in the number of people wanting to learn the Korean language. Most drama and movie titles have Korean names, the English equivalents of which are made available to the foreign audiences. Some titles, however, are in English itself. While most English speakers from foreign countries would casually assume that Koreans pronounce these English titles in the same way that they do, it does not stand true.

The phonological patterns of any two languages under investigation are different. During language acquisition, there is a tendency of carrying phonemes from L1 and applying it to L2. This phenomenon is clearly observed when Koreans speak and write English.

This paper takes a contrastive analysis approach to English and Korean. Robert Lado, in *Linguistics across Cultures* (1957), states how individuals have a tendency to transfer the forms and meanings of their native language to a foreign language and culture. This tendency is observed in their attempts to speak the foreign language as well as grasp and understand the language and culture of the natives. Contrastive Analysis Hypothesis thus acts as a predictive tool to estimate the difficulties a learner would face while acquiring a new language. It further states that a greater level of similarity of the foreign language and culture to the native language and culture, would make the acquisition process easier, and vice versa.

The focus of this paper is solely on the phonological aspects of English and Korean. Only the segmental features of both languages- consonants and vowel sounds, or phonemes- have been taken into account.

## ANALYSIS

Due to the variations observed in the phonetic systems, and syllable rules (and forms) of English and Korean, there is never a full transfer of pronunciations. The phonemic sounds of English loanwords undergo a drastic phonetic transformation when spoken by Koreans. The Korean writing system does not make a full allowance for effective reproduction of the original spelling either. Thus, the spoken and written aspects of the Korean language significantly influence the understanding of actual English phonemics.

The table below which provides a list of Korean alphabets and their corresponding IPA symbols.

Consonants.

Letter	IPA Symbol	Letter	IPA Symbol
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ㄱ	/k/ (or /g/) <sup>3</sup>	ㅂ	/b/ (or /p/) <sup>4</sup>
ㅋ	/k <sup>h</sup> /	ㅍ	/p <sup>h</sup> /
ㄲ	/kk/	ㅃ	/pp/
ㄴ	/n/	ㅅ	/s/
ㄷ	/d/ (or /t/) <sup>5</sup>	ㅆ	/ss/
ㅌ	/t <sup>h</sup> /	ㄹ	/l/ or /r/ <sup>6</sup>
ㄸ	/tt/	ㅁ	/m/
ㄺ	/dʒ/ <sup>7</sup>	ㅇ	/h/
ㅊ	/tʃ/	ㅇ <sup>8</sup>	/ŋ/
ㅌ	/dʒdʒ/		

#### Vowels

Letter	IPA Symbol	Letter	IPA Symbol
ㅏ	/a:/	ㅠ	/ju/
ㅑ	/ja:/	ㅣ	/i/
ㅓ	/ɛ/	ㅡ	/u/
ㅕ	/jɛ/	ㅘ	/wa/
ㅗ	/ə/	ㅙ	/wɛ/
ㅛ	/jə/	ㅚ	/wə/
ㅜ	/e/	ㅜ	/we/
ㅠ	/je/	ㅟ	/wi/
ㅝ	/o/	ㅡ	/ui/
ㅠ	/jo/	ㅟ	/oi/
ㅞ	/u/		

It is also essential to know the Korean syllable structure beforehand to gain an understanding of how English words get written in the Korean script which then influences their pronunciations.

A vowel is the minimum requirement of a syllable. A syllable may contain a minimum of one, and a maximum of two consonants. Korean syllables are structured in the following way-

V - 이 - /i/ - teeth

VC - 옷 - /ot/ - clothes

CV - 배 - /bɛ/ - stomach

<sup>3</sup> The /g/ sound is less frequent as compared to /k/.

<sup>4</sup> /b/ is an allophone of /p/ in Korean. In many places, it is represented as the plain /p/. In this paper, the Korean letter (ㅂ) will be represented by /b/. Further explanations would be given in the Consonant Assimilation section.

<sup>5</sup> The /t/ sound occurs as a voiceless stop in the word final position. In the onset position, the main sound is /d/, which is considered as an allophone of /t/. These points will be covered later on.

<sup>6</sup> The Korean letter (ㄹ) is pronounced as either /l/ or /r/ depending on its position in the word.

<sup>7</sup> /dʒ/ is considered an allophone of /tʃ/ and is represented as a plain /tʃ/ in many places. Pertaining to this paper, the Korean letter (ㄺ) will be represented as /dʒ/.

<sup>8</sup> The letter (ㅇ) functions both as a place holder before a vowel in the onset position, and as the /ŋ/ sound in the coda position.

CVC – 손 - /son/ - hand; 밤 - /ba:m/ - night

With an understanding of Korean phonemes and syllable formation rules, English and Korean sounds would now be examined with exclusive focus on drama and movie titles.

### 1. Consonants

Select English consonants that are either absent in Korean, or occur a bit differently will be taken into study. Six fricatives that are absent in Korean- /f/, /v/, /θ/, /ð/, /z/, and /ʒ/, and the fricative /s/ that occurs differently; affricates /tʃ/ and /dʒ/; and the approximants /l/ and /r/ will be studied.

#### 1.1. /f/

The voiceless labio-dental fricative /f/ in English, is absent in Korean. Koreans tend to confuse /f/ with /p/. The strongly aspirated Korean phoneme (ㅍ) /p<sup>h</sup>/ replaces the English /f/ since it is assumed to have the closest resemblance.

##### 1.1.1. (Table) Drama titles with /f/ in them

Title in English	Transcription	Title in Korean	Transcription
Coffee Prince	/kɒfi prins/	커피 프린스	[k <sup>h</sup> əp <sup>h</sup> i p <sup>h</sup> urinsu]
Forest	/fɒrɪst/	포리스트	[p <sup>h</sup> oresut <sup>h</sup> u]

*Coffee Prince* is an excellent example where both English sounds /f/ and /p/ are observed. Both of these have been represented by the Korean phoneme ㅍ. The /f/ in Coffee is replaced /p<sup>h</sup>/ as mentioned afore. The /p/ in Prince however, does not get aspirated, and sounds much like the voiceless bilabial plosive /p/ in English, for it is followed by a weak vowel (ㅡ) /u/ which acts as an epenthesis.

/f/ is in the word initial position in *Forest*. Here too, /f/ is replaced with /p<sup>h</sup>/, the end result of which is the Korean pronunciation of Forest as [p<sup>h</sup>oresut<sup>h</sup>u].

#### 1.2. /v/

Korean lacks the voiced labio-dental fricative /v/ which is present in English. The English /v/, hence gets replaced by the voiced bilabial plosive (ㅂ) /b/ for it is assumed to have the closest resemblance.

##### 1.2.1. (Table) Drama titles with /v/ in them.

Title in English	Transcription	Title in Korean	Transcription
Voice	/vɔɪs/	보이스	[boisu]
Leverage	/li:vəridʒ/	레버리지	[lebəridʒi]
Stove League	/stəʊv li:g/	스토브 리그	[sut <sup>h</sup> obu ri:gu]

In *Voice*, /v/ is in the word initial position, and in *Leverage*, in the word middle position at both places, it has been replaced by /b/ and hence, [boisu] and [lebəridʒi] respectively.

'Stove' in *Stove League* has /v/ in the word final position. Unlike the English /stəʊv/ where the pronunciation ends at /v/, the Korean pronunciation does not simply end with the substituted /b/. Vowel epenthesis (ㅡ) /u/ is added resulting in [sut<sup>h</sup>obu].

#### 1.3. /θ/

The voiceless dental fricative /θ/ is absent from Korean phonology.

If in the word initial position, /θ/ gets replaced by an aspirated (ㅍ) /s'/. The English word 'three' would go on to become [ssuri] in Korean.

In the coda position, the voiceless alveolar (ㅍ) /s/ replaces /θ/. In certain cases, the /s/ sound becomes an aspirated /s'/ sound. Korean assimilation rules do not allow /s/ in a standalone coda position. /s/ becomes /d/ in the word final position. Hence, /s/ is paired with /u/ to form the syllable /su/ replacing /θ/ due to the corresponding phonetic similarities.

##### 1.3.1. (Table) Drama titles with /θ/ in them.

Title in English	Transcription	Title in Korean	Transcription
Youth	/ju:θ/	유스	[ju:su]
Blue Birthday	/blu: bɜ:θdeɪ/	블루 버스데이	[bʉllu bəsudei]

*Youth* has /θ/ in the coda position and it has been replaced with /su/, thereby becoming [ju:su].

'Birthday' from *Blue Birthday* has /θ/ in the word middle position. /θ/ gets replaced here too and hence, [bəsudei].

1.4. /ð/

The voiced dental fricative /ð/ does not exist in Korean. It is replaced by the voiceless alveolar plosive (ㄷ) /d/. Mother (마더) is pronounced as [ma:də] in Korean, with /d/ effectively replacing /ð/ from the English /mʌðə(r)/.

1.5. /z/

The voiced alveolar fricative /z/ is not a part of the Korean phonetic system. The voiceless alveolar affricate (ㅈ) /dʒ/ of Korean replaces the English /z/ as its closest phonetic replacement.

*Bad and Crazy* (배드 앤 크레이지), the phonetic transcription of which is /bæd ænd kreizi/ in English, becomes [bædu ən kʰu Reidʒi] in Korean. The /z/ sound in 'crazy' is softened by /dʒ/.

1.6. /ʒ/

Korean does not have the palato-alveolar fricative /ʒ/ either. /ʒ/ too, is substituted by /dʒ/.

For example, *Entourage* (안투라지), pronounced as /ɒntura:ʒ/ in English becomes [a:ntʰura:dʒi] in Korean. It must be noted that in Korean, the sound does not merely end at /dʒ/, but goes on to become /dʒi/. This is because if /dʒ/ is in the coda position, its pronunciation changes to /d/ as per Korean assimilation rules. The addition of the vowel /i/, turns the /dʒ/ of what would have been the coda position into the initial consonant of the new syllable /dʒi/.

1.7. /s/

The voiceless alveolar fricative /s/ is present in Korean. In the word initial position, the Korean (ㅅ) functions much like the English /s/.

/s/ never occurs in the word final position in Korean. As per Korean assimilation rules, /s/ in the word final position sounds like /t/. Hence, vowel epenthesis /u/ is added to /s/ whenever it occurs in the coda position and together they form a separate syllable /su/.

/su/ is also applicable in places when /s/ occurs in a consonant cluster. Since consonant clusters do not form a part of the Korean language structure<sup>9</sup> (except a few fixed ones), adding /u/ after /s/ becomes necessary.

In *Switch* (스위치), the word initial sound /s/ in English /switʃ/ and Korean [suwitʃi] is the same.

In *Search* (써치), the /s/ is slightly aspirated. This aspiration in English is reflected by replacing the /s/ in Korean with its tensed allophone (ㅅ) /sʰ/. Thus, /sɜ:tʃ/ in English becomes [ssətʃi] in Korean.

1.7.1. (Table) Drama titles with /s/ in the word final position

Title in English	Transcription	Title in Korean	Transcription
Abyss	/əbis/	아비스	[a:bi:sw]
Happiness	/hæpinəs/	해피니스	[hɛpʰini:sw]
Two Cops	/tu: kɒps/	투 갱스	[tʰu k'a:psw]
Jugglers	/dʒʌglə(r)s/	저글러스	[dʒɔkulləs:sw]

All of the above examples have the /s/ sound in the coda position which has been replaced by the Korean /su/.

1.8. /ʃ/

While the voiced palato-alveolar fricative /ʃ/ is a phoneme by itself in English and separate from /s/, it is considered to be an allophone of /s/ in Korean.

In Korean, /ʃ/ sound occurs before /w/, /j/ and /i/. With all other vowels, /s/ retains its original sound.

1.8.1. (Table) Drama titles with /ʃ/

Title in English	Transcription	Title in Korean	Transcription
Babysitter	/beibisitə(r)/	베이비시터	[beibiʃitʰə]
Signal	/signəl/	시그널	[ʃigu:nəl]
Shopping King Louie	/ʃɒpiŋ kiŋ lu:i/	쇼핑왕 루이	[ʃɒpʰiŋ wɑŋ lu:i]

<sup>9</sup> Consonant clusters would be studied later.

In *Babysitter* and *Signal*, the English pronunciation of 'si' remains /si/. However, when the Korean allophonic rule is applied to the words, the English /si/ becomes the Korean /ʃi/.

In *Shopping King Loie*, /s/ is followed by a /j/ sound occurring as /jo/, resulting in [ʃjop<sup>h</sup>iŋ].

1.9. /tʃ/

The voiceless palato-alveolar affricate /tʃ/ in English can be found in the word initial, medial, and final positions. In Korean, /tʃ/ retains its original sound in the word initial position. It does not retain its sound in the coda position of a Korean syllable and it changes to /t/. When English words with /tʃ/ in the final position are transcribed into Korean, a vowel is added after /tʃ/ to retain the sound.

1.9.1. (Table) Drama titles with /tʃ/

Title in English	Transcription	Title in Korean	Transcription
Switch	/switʃ/	스위치	[suwitʃi]
Search	/sɜ:tʃ/	써치	[ssətʃi]
Chocolate	/tʃɒklət/	초콜릿	[tʃok <sup>h</sup> ollit]

In *Chocolate*, /tʃ/ retains its sound as it is in the word initial position.

In *Switch* and *Search*, /i/ is added after /tʃ/ in the Korean transcription in an attempt to retain the original /tʃ/ sound.

1.10. /dʒ/

The voiced alveo-palatal affricate /dʒ/ occurs in the initial, medial, and final word positions in English. The Korean phoneme /dʒ/ occurs in the word initial position and, between voiced sounds in Korean. (In some cases, it is considered to be an allophone of /tʃ/, which is an aspirated sound.)

/dʒ/ in the word final position of a Korean syllable would sound like /t/. Since /dʒ/ cannot be in the word final position in Korean, the vowel sound /i/ gets added to it.

For instance, in *Page Turner* (페이지 터너), the end sound for the word 'page' in English is /dʒ/. It is pronounced as [peidʒi t<sup>h</sup>ənə] in Korean, with a /dʒi/ sound in the end.

1.11. /l/ and /r/

The voiced alveo-lateral approximant /l/ and voiced alveolar approximant /r/ are two separate phonemes in English. The Korean letter (ㄹ) stands for both /l/ and /r/.

According to Kim and Smith (2013),

The English retroflex /r/ does not exist in Korean; Korean only has a phoneme /l/ with three distinct allophones: an apical flap [ɾ] in the initial position (as in atom in English), a lateral [l] in the coda position, and a geminate [ll] in the intervocalic position. Thus, in Korean, /l/ and /r/ are in complementary distribution and may be viewed as possible variants of one liquid sound.

To an English speaker, it poses a challenge to get the correct pronunciation of the sound. To the Korean ear, it is a challenge to discrete between these two sounds when it hears an English word.

The Korean rules for the correct pronunciation are fairly straightforward.

(ㄹ) is pronounced as /l/ when it is in the word initial and word final positions, and also when it is between a consonant and a vowel.

(ㄹ) is pronounced as geminated /ll/ to retain the /l/ sound of English anywhere in the word, including consonant clusters.

(ㄹ) is pronounced as /r/ when it is between two vowels.

The table below gives a list of dramas with /l/ and/or /r/ in them.

1.11.1. (Table) Drama titles with /l/ and /r/

Title in English	Transcription	Title in Korean	Transcription
Hotel Del Luna	/həutel del lu:na:/	호텔 델루나	[hot <sup>h</sup> el del luna:]
Return	/ritɜ:n/	리턴	[lit <sup>h</sup> ən]
Melancholia	/melənkəuliə/	멜랑콜리아	[melkaŋkollia:]
Orange Marmalade	/ɒrɪndʒ ma:məleɪd/	오렌지 마말레이드	[ɒrendʒi ma:ma:lleidu]

*Hotel Del Luna* is an example where /l/ is both in the word initial and word final position. In both places the sound of /l/ has been retained.

The /r/ in the word initial position of *Return* is pronounced as /l/ in Korean. This is because (ㄹ) must be pronounced as /l/ in the initial position. This rule is extended while speaking English too, and hence, [lit<sup>h</sup>ən].

In *Melancholia*, the /l/ sound has been retained in the word medial position by geminating (≡)- once in the coda position of the preceding syllable, and again in the onset position of the next syllable. This captures /l/ between a consonant and a vowel, resulting in a tense /l/ sound in [mellaŋkkollia:]. In 'orange' of *Orange Marmalade*, /r/ is sandwiched between /o/ and /e/. Thus, /r/ retains its sound in [orendʒi].

## 2. Glides

/w/ and /j/ function as semi-vowels or glides in Korean. They always occur as diphthongs with a vowel following them.

Cheon (2002) states that:

It has generally been accepted that the glides /j/ and /w/ are called semi-vowels or semi-consonants because sometimes they function like the vowels /i/ and /u/ and at other times they act like consonants. ... Traditionally, glides in Korean have been treated as vowels under the influence of the Korean orthographic system. It indicates that on-glides as well as the off-glide have been considered to be structurally a part of the nucleus based on traditional analysis (Y. -K. Kim-Renaud, 1974; H. -S. Sohn, 1987; C. -W. Kim, 1990; Y. -S. Lee, 1994).

### 2.1. /w/

The voiced labio-velar approximant /w/ is an interesting case in Korean. While it occurs as a phoneme by itself in English, /w/ occurs only as a diphthong and a glide in Korean. It exists as /wa/, /wε/, /we/, /wi/, and /wə/. There is also no /wu/ sound in Korean. The /w/ in /wu/ is simply replaced by /u:/.

In *One The Woman* (원 더 우먼)- which is a clever word play on Wonder Woman- both the /w/ sounds occur in different ways. The /w/ in 'one' is a diphthong, while the /w/ in 'woman' is the vowel /u:/, resulting in [wən də u:mən].

### 2.2. /j/

The voiced palatal approximant /j/ does not exist in the Korean phonetic system by itself. It exists as a glide and a diphthong. /j/ in Korean exists as /ja/, jo/, /ju/, /jə/, /jε/, and /je/.

There is no sound like /ji/ in Korean. /j/ is transferred to /i/ in this case and the sound merely exists as /i/.

The main character of *Doctor Lawyer*, is *Han Yi Han*. A phonological transcription of his name in Korean would be /ha:n i ha:n/.

## 3. Vowels

While Korean and English phonetic inventories share most of the vowels, English vowels /æ/, /ɔ/ and /ɒ/ are not seen in Korean phonology.

### 3.1. /æ/

The mid low front unrounded vowel /æ/ exists only in English. Since /ε/, the open mid front unrounded vowel shares the greatest phonetic similarity with /æ/, the Korean /ε/ replaces the English /æ/.

*Happiness* (해피니스) would be pronounced as [hεp<sup>h</sup>inisɯ] in Korean.

### 3.2. /ɔ/

The open-mid back rounded vowel /ɔ/ exists only in English. Korean has the close-mid back rounded vowel /o/. Thus, /ɔ/ is replaced by /o/ due to the close resemblance between the two phonemes.

*Doctor Lawyer's* (닥터 로이어) English transcription /dɒktə(r) lɔiə(r)/ has /ɔ/ in 'lawyer'. /ɔ/ is replaced by /o/ in the Korean version- [da:kt<sup>h</sup>ə loiə].

### 3.3. /ɒ/

The open back rounded vowel /ɒ/ does not exist in Korean. It gets replaced by the close-mid back rounded vowel /o/ or the open front unrounded vowel /a:/.

In *Orange Marmalade* (오렌지 마말레이드), the /ɒ/ of /ɒrɪndʒ/ gets replaced by /o/, resulting in [orendʒi]. In the case of *Entourage* (안투라지), /ɒ/ becomes /a:/ and hence, [a:nt<sup>h</sup>ura:dʒi].

## 4. Consonant clusters

According to Pearce (2012), "A consonant cluster is a sequence of two or more consonants in a single syllable with no intervening vowels."

Consonant clusters are language specific. Consonant clusters which can occur at the onset, medial, or coda positions in English, do not exist in Korean.

Korean orthography allows certain clusters in the syllable final position, but only one of the sounds is fully realized (Shin et al, 2013).

The structure of Korean syllables<sup>10</sup> also limits the effective transfer of English consonant clusters into Korean. Some clusters can be successfully transferred to Korean due to two adjoining syllables whereby one can get the desired sound. Most clusters in English do not follow suit.

All three positions- onset, coda and medial- of consonant clusters would be taken for study.

#### 4.1. Word Initial

In English, for words with two consonants in the initial position, an obstruent is followed by a sonorant.

In *Dream High* (드림 하이), a cluster of two word initial consonants /dr/ is seen. It is adapted as [durim ha:i] in Korean. The vowel /u/ is inserted between /d/ and /r/.

Word initial consonant clusters are not allowed in Korean except in the combination of a consonant and a glide.

For example, in *May Queen* (메이 퀸) and *Duel* (듀얼), the /wi:/ and /ju:/ sounds function as glides after the consonants /k<sup>h</sup>/ and /d/ respectively, resulting in [mei k<sup>h</sup>wi:n] and [dju:əl] respectively. As mentioned before, /w/ and /j/ do not exist as independent phonemes in Korean, but as glides.

When the combination is /s/ + voiceless plosive /p,t,k/, the plosives lose their aspiration after /s/ in English. These plosives are pronounced with strong aspiration in Korean.

##### 4.1.1. (Table) Words with /s/+ /p,t,k/ in initial cluster position

Title in English	Transcription	Title In Korean	Transcription
Spy	/spai/	스파이	[sup <sup>h</sup> ai]
Start Up	/sta:t ʌp/	스타트 업	[sut <sup>h</sup> a:t <sup>h</sup> u ʌp]
Sketch	/sketʃ/	스케치	[swk <sup>h</sup> etʃi]

All the plosives are aspirated in the above examples.

For clusters with two consonants, when /l/ or /r/ are in the second position, different methods are used to retain their sounds.

In *The Classic* (클래식), /l/ is the second consonant of the word initial cluster. Pronounced as /ðə klæsik/ in English, it goes on to become [k<sup>h</sup>ulɾɛʃik] in Korean.<sup>11</sup>

In *Criminal Minds* (크리미널 마인드), /r/ is the second consonant in the word initial cluster and it is transcribed as [k<sup>h</sup>uriminəl maindu] in Korean.

#### 4.2. Word medial consonant clusters

The obstruent + nasal combination is not allowed in Korean. This leads to the insertion of the vowel sound /u/ between an obstruent and a nasal.

*Signal* (시그널), which is /signəl/ in English, becomes [ʃiguənəl] in Korean.

Nasal + liquid sounds are allowed in Korean. As per Korean consonant assimilation rule, if /n/ is followed by /l/, then the resultant sound is a geminated /l/.

For example, *One Line* (원라인), is not pronounced as /wan lain/ in Korean. It is pronounced as [wol'a:in].

Nasal + voiced obstruent combination is also allowed in Korean, therefore, /u/ is not inserted in the cluster.

For example, *Kingdom* (킹덤) pronounced as /kiŋdəm/ in English, retains the /ŋ/ consonant sound in the Korean pronunciation [k<sup>h</sup>iŋdəm] too.

#### 4.3. Word-final consonant clusters

Nasal + obstruent consonant clusters are allowed in Korean and hence, no vowel epenthesis is inserted.

The vowel epenthesis /i/ is inserted after palato-alveolar affricates /dʒ/ and /tʃ/, when they are in the coda position.

*Page Turner* (페이지 터너) and *Search* (써치) have /dʒ/ and /tʃ/ sounds in their word final positions respectively. In Korean, they are spoken with an /i/ sound added behind them- [peidʒi t<sup>h</sup>ənə] and [s'ətʃi]

The combination of plosive + fricative is also allowed in Korean. The vowel sound /u/ is added after the cluster.

<sup>10</sup> Refer to Korean syllable structure at the beginning.

<sup>11</sup> Refer to 1.11 for rules on /l/ and /r/ sounds.

*Two Cops* (투 캡스), is pronounced as [t<sup>h</sup>u k'a:psu] in Korean. The /ps/ sound is retained, with a vowel epenthesis at the end.

## KOREAN CONSONANT ASSIMILATION RULES

Consonant assimilation rules form a vital part of Korean phonology. The pronunciation of words changes depending on the combination of the coda consonant of the preceding syllable and onset consonant or vowel of the succeeding one. These rules of Korean consonant assimilation get extended to English loanwords too. Knowing these rules can aid in understanding Korean modifications of some English words.

The final consonant in Korean is called 'Batchim' (받침) /ba:tʃim/. The final consonant in Korean is not released due to Neutralisation.

In Korean, consonants in syllable-final position should never be released after complete central closure. All 'released' sounds should be replaced with unreleased sounds pronounced in a similar place of articulation. This rule is called Neutralisation, because the lax/tense/aspirated contrast existing in Korean consonants is neutralised in syllable-final position. (Shin et al, 2013, p. 203)

In most cases whereby an English word is written in Korean, a vowel epenthesis is inserted due to assumed phonetic similarity.

According to Kim (2018),

Among earlier studies on unnecessary adaptations, Kang (2003) claims that this seemingly unmotivated vowel epenthesis is motivated by perceptual similarity between Korean and English forms. [...] One of those factors is release of final stops. Korean word-final stops are never released (Sohn, 1999), whereas word-final stops in English are variably released (Byrd, 1992; Crystal & House, 1988). Kang argues that vowel insertion may make the Korean output form perceptually similar to an English final released stop, noting that stop release in English and an epenthetic vowel in Korean are phonetically similar. (p. 12)

According to Lee, Chul Young (2004), as the final sound of a standalone syllable, a consonant can be pronounced as one of only seven sounds- /k/, /n/, /t/, /l/, /m/, /p/ and /ŋ/ (p. 11).

It is also to be noted that voiced stops /b,d,g/ do not occur in the word final position in Korean. Korean has unreleased voiced stops /p,t,k/ in the word final position.

Select<sup>12</sup> consonant assimilation rules would now be taken for a detailed study.

### 4.4. Final consonant + Vowel

When followed by a vowel, the final consonant retains its original sound.

For example, All In (올인) is not pronounced as /ɔ:l in/ in Korean. The letter ㅇ is between two vowels /o/ and /i/. Since it is followed by a vowel, it is pronounced [orin].

### 4.5. /k/ + /m/

When the letter (ㄱ) /k/ in the coda position is followed by the letter (ㅁ) /m/ in the onset position, the /k/ sound changes to /ŋ/. This rule of Korean consonant assimilation is extended to English words too.

*Big Mouth* (빅마우스), has /k/ sound in the coda position of 'big' followed by /m/ in the onset position of 'mouth'. The resulting Korean transcription is [biŋ ma:usu] and not the usual English /big mauθ/. It is to be noted that the /ŋ/ sound is not fully released.

### 4.6. /k/ + /h/

When the letter (ㄱ) /k/ in the coda position is followed by the letter (ㅎ) /h/ in the onset position of the next syllable, the resultant sound is an aspirated /k<sup>h</sup>/. The voiceless /k/ is fully released in this case and merges with /h/ to sound like /k<sup>h</sup>/.

*Romantic Heaven* (로맨틱 헤븐) would sound like [roment<sup>h</sup>ik<sup>h</sup>ebun]. (It is essential to speak the words rapidly to get the essence of the /k<sup>h</sup>/ sound.)

### 4.7. /n/ + /l/

When the letter (ㄴ) /n/ in the coda position is followed by the letter (ㄹ) /l/ in the onset position, it results in a geminated /ll/ sound.

*One Line* (원라인), which has /n/ in the coda position of 'one' and /l/ in the onset position of 'line', is pronounced as [wollain].

<sup>12</sup> Due to limited English Korean drama and movie title examples with respect to consonant assimilation rules, only a few rules have been taken for in-depth study.



#### 4.8. /n/ + /h/

When the letter (ㄴ) /n/ in the coda position is followed by the letter (ㅎ) /h/ in the onset position, the resultant sound is a strongly released /n/ sound. The phoneme /h/ is not pronounced.

*Manhole* (맨홀) is pronounced as [mənol] in Korean. The /h/ sound finds no place in unlike its English version /mænhəul/.

#### 4.9. /p/ + /m/

When either (ㅂ) /b/ or (ㅃ) /p/ in the coda position are followed by the letter (ㅁ) /m/ in the onset position, the resulting sound a geminated /mm/. /b/ is an allophone of /p/ in Korean and in the coda position, both are pronounced as the voiceless stop /p/. The /p/ sound changes to /m/ and hence, a geminated sound is heard in combination with the onset position /m/.

Due to this rule, *Top Management* (탑 매니지먼트) is pronounced as [t<sup>h</sup>a:m mənɪdʒmɛnt<sup>h</sup>u].

## CONCLUSION

The main aim of this paper was to analyse the borrowing of English words into Korean and their subsequent pronunciations. As studied in the paper, pronunciations vary at various levels due to the application of Korean rules to English words by native Korean speakers. This stands true to Contrastive Analysis Hypothesis (CAH) by Lado. Indeed, features of Korean language are transferred to English words resulting in a change in pronunciation.

Some observations made during the pronunciation of English words in Korean are as follows-

1. The absence a majority of English fricatives in Korean has led to an extensive replacement of those by the nearest Korean phonemes.
2. To retain the coda sounds of English in Korean, and also due to assumed phonetic similarities, a frequent use of vowel epenthesis is seen at the end of the words.
3. Gemination is also observed due to letter placement, and assimilation rules.
4. Sounds of letters change depending on their positions in Korean due to assimilation rules and these rules get extended to English words too.

An umbrella approach was taken to cover most aspects of Korean phonology and compare it with English. The main motive behind choosing Korean movie and drama titles in all exclusivity was to let consumers of these contents gain a better understanding of Korean-English phonology through them.

There were certain shortcomings too. Due to the lack of relevant English examples with respect to drama and movie titles, not all consonant assimilation rules could be studied. However, an attempt was made to cover as many rules as examples permitted.

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