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# Lexical Means of Expressing Politeness

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**Abstract:** *This article is devoted to the concept of "Politeness" in Korean. The article reveals the types of politeness. This article vividly illustrates the communication culture of the Korean language.*

**Keywords:** *Politeness, culture of speech, speech etiquette, Korean, address.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

South Korea is one of the countries in Asia where Confucian norms are very deeply rooted. Confucianism is connected there as a system of moral and ethical norms, which is associated with the relationship between people and those who support them in correct, fair and virtuous behavior.

In Korean communication culture, a trace of Confucian norms is clearly visible, such as a hierarchical system of relations, supported by five canons in the relationship created by Kun-tzu: the relationship between the emperor and the subject, father and son, older brother and younger brother, husband and wife, as well as two friends.

According to these principles, "the father should treat his son kindly, and sons should treat the father with filial piety; the elder brother should treat the younger with kindness, and the younger brother should respect the elder; the husband should treat his wife fairly, and the wife should be obliging to her husband; the ruler should treat his subjects favorably, and his subjects should be loyal to the ruler." [1.43]

Confucian norms have determined in society a clear system of behavior in communication between Koreans. According to A.A. Kholodovich "Essay on the Grammar of the Korean Language" M.-1954 p.21 society in Korea acts in accordance with Confucian teachings and is divided into relations between an elder and a junior, a leader and a subordinate, a man and a woman, between relatives, etc. It is also worth noting that relations between people with the same position (people of the same age or work) is much easier than in different levels. Therefore, in this work, speech categories will be revealed in this direction.

The norms of Confucian teaching are manifested in all senses of the word, in gestures, manner of communication, bows, respect for elders, in written and oral styles of expression of politeness.

When talking with your interlocutor, it is best to choose a respectful communication style, starting without changing the style from one to the other. Such a complex structure of styles in the speech of Koreans causes difficulties not only for those who study this language as a foreign language, but even for Koreans themselves, especially the younger generation. The reason for this is the rapid modernization of Korea and the strong influence of the West.

In the Korean language there are words 인사, which, judging by the dictionary, translates as "greeting". 인사 하다 means to greet, say hello, and 인사말 are words of greeting.

In Korean, 인사말 is pronounced not only when meeting, parting, but also in any wishes. Therefore, the word 인사 can also be understood as "wish". For example, 안녕히 주무세요 (good night) is 인사, just like 안녕히 계세요 (goodbye). [4.26]

In fact, the term 인사 하다 should be understood as behavior according to the etiquette of politeness, good manners, and 인사성 means politeness, courtesy. For greetings and wishes, the word 안녕 (well-being, calmness) is often used. The adjective 안녕 하다 means calm, prosperous, healthy. The greeting 안녕하십니까? (Hello!) Is not an exclamation, but rather a question like "are you all right?" It must be remembered that 안녕하십니까 or 안녕하세요 is not customary to use when referring to children and service personnel.

Exclamation 안녕! is used in two ways. When stretching, it means "Hello!", And when parting, "Bye!".

In everyday life, Koreans rarely use proper nouns or personal pronouns in the courtesy category, which is often difficult for foreigners to learn the language. For example, the pronoun "You" in Korean is pronounced as "너 (no)" and when speaking sounds rather rude, only close people are also called by name, in another situation it also sounds too familiar. Instead of the pronoun 너, you can use the Korean word 당신, which can be translated as "you" (it is used mainly between husband and wife or people who know well).

However, most often, in order to show respect to a stranger or a superior person, they most often use special words that determine the position of the interlocutor (these are mainly words of Chinese origin) and when addressing in the nominative case they add the suffix - 님 (nim). [10.52]

Word	Suffix	Completed word
교수 (professor)	님	교수님
기사 (driver)		기사님
박사 (doctor)		박사님
누나 (elder sister)		누님

The surname of the interlocutor is often placed in front of such specially indicating words. It is important not to confuse the order, where the surname is put from the beginning and then the position or title of the person follows.

For example,

박교수 님 - Professor Park

이선생 님 - Master Li

In addition to the 님 suffix, you can often hear how Koreans use the nominal courtesy suffix - 씨 (shi), which is used regardless of gender or age. This suffix is used when talking with a stranger, stranger or unfamiliar person, and also when it is not clear what age and status the person is. You can attach both to the surname of the interlocutor and to the first name.

For example,

가윤씨 - Gayun - shi

다미르씨 - Damir - shi

김윤미씨 - Kim Yunmi - shi

Another suffix, but already used by a person higher in status in relation to a person below and mainly by a man to a man is 군.

For example,

박군 - Pak - kun

오군 - O - gun

If you speak with a younger person or with a close friend, then you can often add the suffix - 이 (i) to the name. (However, this only applies to names ending in a consonant).

For example,

우리 수민 이 가 너무 예뻐요

지금 수민 이 가 서점 에서 일 해요

Also, in the vocative case, which is used for familiar addressing by name, you can add the suffix - 아 (a) (if the name ends with a consonant letter) and 야 (ya) (if the name ends with a vowel). It should be noted that in order to use such a suffix, the interlocutor must be a close friend, younger in age, etc.

For example,

민호 - 민호 야 - Minho

수근 - 수근 아 - Sugin

They are used in the proposal:

니가 나야! 문 을 열어!

Having considered some of the courtesy suffixes, one cannot fail to mention the special words, of which there are a lot in the Korean language. The exclusive words in Korean are the more polite forms of common words such as "sleep," "eat," "age," and others that are used in relation to an adult or someone of higher status. [4.31]

The word 먹다 (to eat) in this case changes to 잡수 시다 or 드시다.

Therefore, often in restaurants in Korea, you can hear the phrase "많이 드세요!" - "Bon Appetit".

The word 자다 (to sleep) is changed politely to 주무시다.

In the morning, you can ask your parents "잘 주무 셧어요" - "Did you sleep well?"

The word 말다 (to speak) becomes 말씀 하시다.

If you want the interlocutor to start talking, then use the phrase 말씀 하세요.

The word 묻다 (to ask) comes in the form 여쭙다.

Or the word 있다 (to be, is) -> 계시다 - 선생님 이 어디에 계십니까?

When you invite your interlocutor to ask a question from a person who is older, for example, from a grandfather, you can say "하라  
버지 께 여쭙 보세요" - "Ask grandfather"

The following nouns also have a polite form:

밥 - 진지 - Food

말 - 말씀 - Speech

집 - 댁 - House

생일 - 생신 - Birthday

이름 - 성함 - Name

나이 - 연세 - Age

In the universities of South Korea, there is also a ranking system in communication and graduates of the same university of different years are called by seniority.

선배 (님) (sonbe) - refers to students who are students one year older in the same educational institution as the speaker;

후배 (xube) - refers to students, students on a course younger in the same educational institution as the speaker.

As mentioned earlier, Confucian norms are the basis in family relationships. Apart from words like mom (어머니) and dad (아버지), which are found in all languages of the world, the Korean language has a wealth of special words belonging to each family member and even differs by gender. [6.15] Here is some of them:

언니 - elder sister for female

누나 - elder sister for a male

형 - elder brother for a male

오빠 - elder brother for female

형제 - brothers 자매 - sisters

남매 - brother and sister

삼촌 - unmarried uncle on the part of her husband

외숙모 - aunt from the father's side

이모 - aunt from the mother's side, etc.

Walking along the street or in a store when addressing an elderly stranger, there are special appeals:

아주머니 - used when addressing an elderly woman on the street, in shops, etc.

아저씨 - used when referring to an elderly man over 40 years of age. Often this is an appeal to the seller or driver.

아줌마 - used when addressing an elderly woman in a bazaar, in shops, etc.

In family relationships, speech etiquette plays an important role. Koreans rarely call each other by their first names. The wife often calls her husband 여보 (dear) or 당신 (you), and it is also often customary to call her husband literally the father of the child, for example, 민히 아빠 is the father of Minhi. A husband can often call his wife 자기야 (dear) or simply by her first name. Just like the father, the mother can be called 민히 엄마 - Minhi's mother. And parents call their children simply 딸 (daughter) or 아들 (son).



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