

Nonstandard yet systematic variation: [s]-insertion in spoken Korean
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The present study investigates variation in stem-final consonant clusters in Korean nouns. This particularly sheds light on nonstandard suffixed forms with epenthetic [s]. The [s]-insertion phenomenon has received little or no attention in the literature. It has even been reported as a speech error. However, I observed that [s]-insertion occurs systematically across dialects and stem-final consonant types. If [s]-insertion were a mere speech error, it would be impossible to account for its consistent and systematic occurrence in real speech. I provide a theoretic account and experimental evidence by conducting a production experiment and using a corpus of modern spoken Korean (Sejong Corpus of Korean), which was established by the National Institute of the Korean Language. In sum, this study describes the actual speech patterns of younger speakers in contemporary Korean. This also provides a pedagogical implication for Korean language education for second language learners since [s]-insertion is the actual variant they encounter in Korean songs, movies, and every day speech while it is neither explained nor mentioned in Korean language textbooks. It will be particularly helpful to teach a variety of innovative forms to second language learners who are at an advanced level in order to respond to their practical questions and curiosity.

Processing mechanisms to resolve *wh*-scope ambiguity in Korean
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The goal of this project is to reveal how linguistic information from each component contributes to the processing and disambiguation of sentences in real time (that is, while speakers are talking to each other). The focus of the study is on Korean sentences containing ambiguous *wh*-words because they can bring many different levels of ambiguity such as word-level ambiguity and sentence-level ambiguity. This study relies on experimental methods in linguistic analysis. It controls for the three variables (the type of question marker, intonation, and word order) carefully, and monitors sentence processing by Korean speakers by applying techniques such as self-paced reading and eye-tracking. The preliminary findings show that, taken independently, the type of question marker is the most important cue for Korean speakers to disambiguate questions. However, when taken together, pitch and word order can become more informative cues for disambiguation than the type of question marker. By analyzing ambiguous questions in Korean, this study reveals the processing mechanism of Korean speakers. In the broader respects, it contributes to the study of the architecture of the human mind and the processing strategies it uses to understand human speech.