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COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF KOREAN AND RUSSIAN VOCABULARY

<초록>

현재 한국과 러시아의 관계는 문화, 정치, 사회, 경제 분야에서 활발하게 교류하고 발전해 나아가고 있습니다. 이러한 사실을 고려한다면 학자뿐만 아니라 한국과 관련 있는 일을 담당하는 러시아 전문가들이 한국어를 배워서 한국 문화를 이해하고 한국어도 구사할 수 있어야 한다는 것을 의미합니다. 하지만 한국어와 러시아어는 어족의 기원 및 유형적, 형태적으로 다른 언어이기 때문에 처음에 러시아 한국어학습자가 한국어를 접하게 되면 어려움을 느끼게 됩니다. 한국어를 배울 때 가장 어렵게 느끼는 것 중의 하나는 한국어 어휘입니다. 본고에서는 한국어와 러시아어의 어휘 체계를 실제적인 예를 들어 비교하여 살펴보고, 이를 분석하여 차이점을 제시하도록 하겠습니다.

Introduction

Russian language belongs to Indo-European language family, Slavonic language group. While Korean language belongs to Altaic family and is considered to be isolated language. Moreover according to ways of forming grammatical forms, Korean language is agglutinative language, and Russian is flectional one.

Such great differences in language systems create additional difficulties while teaching and learning Korean language by Russian speakers and for Korean-Russian communication on the whole. In this article we will prove that by comparing lexical systems of Korean and Russian languages.

Vocabulary is a sum of all words of one particular language, dialect, etc. [3]

Lexical units are changing continuously, some new units are appearing and some old ones disappear, especially nowadays when due to appearance of new phenomenon and words denoting them, which enter lexical system of language, it is very difficult to measure exact volume of lexical units. Although lexical units form huge on its scale amount, their

do not exist chaotically and incoherently. And development of particular criteria for lexical system is of high importance in order to understand this aspect of language.

Classification of vocabulary of Korean language¹

Consider basic classifications of Korean vocabulary. There are some key criteria on which we can classify Korean words: etymology, parts of speech and semantic categories. [6, c. 93]

First, Korean vocabulary might be classified according to **etymology** of lexical units, i.e. according to word's origin, or, in another words, word's type. [6]

Words existing in one language for any period of time enter language systems of neighbor languages and thus become borrowed. In Korean language it is mostly words from China and West Europe. And the result of their mix is the hybrid words. Shall we look closer on etymology of these words? [6]

For example words like 모습 (appearance), 빛(light), 얼굴 (face), 짓 (act), 부치다 (to dispatch), 오다 (to come) are pure Korean and they are in active use since ancient times. They first appear in ancient literature. But words like 김치 (kimchi), 담배(cigarettes), 괴롭다 (painful) exist in Korean language for a long time and they are meant to be pure Korean, although they originally they came from another languages. [5]

Sino-Korean words are words which origin from Chinese characters. There lots of Sino-Korean words in Korean language. But if look closely it appeared that this group of words consists of Chinese, Japanese, Sanskrit and other words. [6]

For example Chinese words: 산 (mountain), 대궐 (king's palace), 왕 (wan/ruler), 우정 (friendship), 창문 (window); Japanese: 견습 (probation), 본정통 (authentic), 역할 (role); Mongolian: 독로화 (hostage), 송골 (falcon), 조라치(duty); Sanscrit: 달마 (dharma), 불타 (Buddha), 비구니 (Buddhist nun); other Sino-Korean words: 가배 (division), 구라과 (Europe), 지나 (China); Korean: 각시 (wife), 사정 (circumstances), 절차 (process), 차지 (capture). [5]

Examples given above are directly borrowed from China in medieval times, from Japan in modern period, during Koryo dynasty some words were adopted from Mongolian language, with popularization of Buddhism came Sanskrit words, lexical borrowing are also still coming from Europe recording as transliteration and also some words which were

¹ It is based on the examples of vocabulary from DO Wonyeong's presented in the 'lexicology' written by Shin Jiyoung et al. *Understanding Korean Language*.

made by Koreans themselves. All these words have one thing in common – all of them are made of characters, but place and method of their origin differ a lot.

Lexical borrowings are words which were adopted from another language, but are used as native. Apart from the Sino-Korean words there are a lot of examples from English, German, French, Italian, Latin and many other European languages, which settled in Korean vocabulary. There are some words also from Asian languages as Chinese, Japanese, Thai, etc.

The biggest number of borrowings comes from English. According to “Big dictionary of standard language” (표준국어대사전) next in number of borrowed words comes German, French, Latin, Russian, Greek and Japanese correspondingly. A small number of borrowings come from Polish, Turkish, Arabian and some other languages. [5]

Examples of borrowed words [5]:

From English – 버스 (bus), 엔진 (engine), 주스 (juice), 케이블 (cable)

From German – 겹스 (gips), 아르바이트 (arbeit), 카르텔 (Kartell), 히스테리 (hysterie)

From French – 뉘앙스 (nuance), 데뷔 (debut), 발레 (ballet), 쿠데타 (coup d’Etat)

From Italian – 소나타 (sonata), 아카펠라 (a cappella), 카지노 (casino), 피날레 (finale)

From Latin – 미사 (missa), 비브리오 (vibrio), 사탄 (Satan), 에이엠 (AM/Ante Meridiem)

From Russian – 보드카 (vodka), 아지트 (agitation center), 트로이카 (trio of horses), 프락치 (fraction)

From Greek – 감마 (gamma), 아가페 (agape), 로고스 (logos), 카오스 (chaos)

From Japanese – 가라오케 (karaoke), 미싱 (mishin), 스시 (sushi), 코스프레 (cospre)

From Polish – 에스페란토 (esperanto)

From Turkish – 키오스크 (kiosk)

From Arabian – 히잡 (hijab)

Hybrid words are words which appeared due to combination of words from other languages. They can be divided into 4 groups:

1. Korean word + Sino-Korean word: 눈도장 (눈圖章, to give strong impression), 돈세탁 (돈洗濯, money laundering), 아산화구리 (亞酸化구리, sub oxidation of copper).

2. Korean word + borrowing: 몰래카메라 (몰래 camera, hidden camera), 쇠파이프 (쇠 pipe, metal pipe), 밍크고래 (mink 고래, whale), 비디오가게 (video 가게, video shop).

3. Sino-Korean word + borrowing: 간판스타 (看板 star, sign star), 개인택시 (個人 taxi, private taxi), 박스기사 (box 記事, front page article), 샤워실 (shower 室, shower room).

4. Korean word + Sino-Korean + borrowing: 노벨상감 (Nobel 賞감, Nobel prize laureate), 전화벨소리 (電話 bell 소리, sound of bell), 휴대폰가게 (携帶 phone 가게, mobile phone shop), 글로벌화하다 (global 化하다, to globalize). [5]

Almost all of these words were made by derivation or word combination. Especially hybrid words appeared in modern times.

There is percentile scale in “Big dictionary of standard language” on the Korean vocabulary. According to this scale 25.28% of vocabulary are pure Korean, 57.12% - Sino-Korean, 5.26% - borrowings and 12.28% are hybrid words. [5]

Next type of classification is **part of speech** classification. According to it there are 3 groups of words: parts of speech, affix/flection and words which have no part of speech marks. [6]

Traditionally there 9 parts of speech in Korean: nouns, pronouns, numerals, active verbs, verbs of state, attributive adjectives, adverbs, exclamations and particles.

Second group is classified by the morphemes, which perform particular functions. **Affixes** fulfill the role of coinage by adding to the word or to the word’s root. **Flections** are particles which are added to the word stem.

There are also noun and verb phrases consisting of 2 and more words which often include special terms, idioms and proverbs and some contractions like “개” (from 그 아이 “that kid”) or “대요” (from -다고 해요 reported speech contraction) and other contractions of noun and verb phrases. They do not belong to any part of speech and thus form their own group. [6]

And the last type of classification is on **lexical unit meaning**. Lexical units might be classified according to their semantic categories. This equates to organization of chaotic lexical units. Moreover from the perspective of specified criteria it makes word search easier. Traditionally Korean ancestors used to compile special Sino-Korean dictionaries in order to study Confucian fundamentals, while in Europe special thesaurus were compiled for text writing practice. Below there are 43 semantic category described in “Modern

Korean learner’s dictionary of semantic categories” (의미로 분류한 현대 한국어 학습 사전). It includes about 14.000 lexical units. [4]

System of semantic categories from “의미로 분류한 현대 한국어 학습 사전”:

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1) 인간과 인간관계 | 24) 나라 이름 |
| 2) 가족과 친인척 | 25) 국가와 정치 |
| 3) 성과 결혼 | 26) 법과 질서 |
| 4) 신체와 생리작용 | 27) 국방 |
| 5) 병과 치료 | 28) 사회와 사회활동 |
| 6) 삶과 죽음 | 29) 경제와 경제활동 |
| 7) 감각과 감각기관 | 30) 직업과 직장 |
| 8) 생각과 감정 | 31) 산업 |
| 9) 성격과 태도 | 32) 연료와 에너지 |
| 10) 의생활 | 33) 도로와 교통 |
| 11) 식생활 | 34) 자연현상 |
| 12) 주생활 | 35) 동물 |
| 13) 말과 글 | 36) 식물 |
| 14) 언론과 출판 | 37) 모양 |
| 15) 정보와 통신 | 38) 빛과 색채 |
| 16) 교육 | 39) 수와 수량 |
| 17) 과학과 학문 | 40) 시간 |
| 18) 종교와 믿음 | 41) 공간과 우주 |
| 19) 문명과 문학 | 42) 상태와 정도 |
| 20) 예술 | 43) 동작 |
| 21) 취미 | |
| 22) 놀이와 게임 | |
| 23) 운동 | |

Categories given above are further divided into smaller categories, so all the words enter “upper-lower” relations. Words appearing in the same category might have synonymic, antonymous or contrastive relations. [6]

Now we will consider some classifications of Russian vocabulary.

Russian words are divided into Russia-specific words and borrowings according to their etymology.

Russia-specific words are words which emerged in Russian language. They can be divided into 3 layers: **Common-Slavonic** (before XI century), **Old Russian** (XI – XIX centuries), **Proper-Russian** (from XIX century till present time). [1]

It is considered that Russian language as well as most of Eurasian region's languages descent from one Indo-European language, which is proved by the similar pronunciation and spelling of some words. **Common-Slavonic words** (or Proto-Slavic) are the basis of proper-Russian vocabulary. They have only slight difference with other Slavonic languages. Common-Slavonic layer is divided into some semantic categories, such as natural phenomena (*зима, весна, мороз*), parts of the body (*голова, лицо*), flora (*лес, пшеница*), fauna (*кот, ворон*), food (*каша, щи*), everyday items (*стол, сито*), dwelling (*стена, порог*), abstract concepts (*добро, зло*), characteristics (*старый, красный*), actions (*варить, ткать*), numbers (*пять, семь*). [1]

Old Russian layer consists of words, belonging to ancient East-Slavonic dialects: Belorussian, Russian and Ukrainian. Examples of these words are *снегопад, галка, дремучий, зоркий*, etc.

Proper-Russian layer includes words which appeared in Russian language after it stand out of Old-Russian and till present times. These words are connected with new phenomena and denote cultural, scientific, technical innovations.

Borrowings appeared in Russian language due to cultural communications. First borrowings were from **Greek language**, which appeared because of close ties with Byzantine Empire. Their specific feature is sound [f] (*философия, анафема*) and sound [э] (*этика, эпиграф*). Usually Greek borrowings denote cultural, art and science terms. [1]

Borrowings from **Latin language** entered Russian through other European languages. They denote science terms, words connected with education, names, etc. (*аудитория, декан, республика, Павел, Марна*). [1]

Words from **French language** are usually political and military terms, words connected with art (*гравюра, контроль, фюзеляж*). [1]

English borrowings came at the time of Peter I rule. It is military and marine vocabulary, technical terms, etc. (*шхуна, джемпер, чемпион*). [1]

Also a lot of marine words came from Dutch (*лоцман, гавань, дрейф*). [1]

There are also words from Italian (*опера, студия, барокко*), Spanish (*гитара, танго*), Turkic (*атаман, чалма*) and Finno-Ugric languages (*тундра, пихта, пельмени*).

Next classification is based on active and passive vocabulary.

Active vocabulary is vocabulary, which is frequently used in everyday life. **Passive vocabulary** very often includes vocabulary, which is no longer in use or not yet entered in language system.

Historicisms and archaisms are huge part of **passive vocabulary**. **Historicisms** are words denoting past realities (*опричник, крепостной*), **archaisms** are words from the past which have modern equivalents (*чело – лоб*).

Neologisms are words denoting new phenomena but which do not yet entered in active vocabulary. [1]

As for the part of speech division in Russian it happens under different conditions: **morphological** (Fortunatov, F.), **lexico-grammatical** (Vinogradov, V.), **typological**, etc. Most commonly there are considered to be content words and auxiliary parts of speech. Content words are nouns, verbs, adjectives, numerals, pronouns, adverbs, participles and adverbial participle. Auxiliary parts of speech are conjunction, preposition and exclamations. [2] Unlike Korean there is no special group for contractions.

Conclusion

Thus there are great differences in the origin of both languages, their language families, which leads to absolutely different vocabulary systems. It makes special problems with studying Korean language by Russian students and researching it by specialists. Although we looked upon several basic classifications of vocabulary of both languages, there were not a single common point, which could have simplified understanding and memorizing Korean words.

Korean language, being an agglutinative one, differ a lot from common for us European languages. But still being an isolated language of Altaic language family it finds some common features with Turkic languages, which may give some hints on their ties or close communication in the past. This fact somehow helps to learn Korean by people who know Turkish, Tatar or Bashkir language. But this requires additional investigation.

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