

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Thematic Classification of Korean Proverbs for Korean Language Education

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Abstract

This paper examines the importance and cultural value of teaching proverbs in Korean language education. Currently, in the field of Korean language teaching, proverb education is primarily concentrated in intermediate and advanced courses due to the prioritization of basic communication skills and the linguistic difficulty involved. However, proverbs are more than mere linguistic expressions; they are cultural products that embody the Korean way of thinking, history, and lifestyle. This study identifies the distinctiveness of Korean culture through 100 proverbs categorized by themes such as food, clothing, shelter, animals, nature, and humanity. Based on this, the research aims to propose educational methods that enable foreign learners, particularly Uzbek-speaking learners, to gain a deeper understanding of Korean culture and develop effective communicative competence.

KEY WORDS

Korean language, Proverb education, Cultural value, Communicative competence, Categorization by theme.

INTRODUCTION

The primary reason why the teaching of paremiological expressions in Korean language education has not been sufficiently activated is, first and foremost, the prioritization of establishing perfect daily communication skills. In other words, it is not easy to allocate class time to teaching paremiological expressions. Even when these expressions are acquired, foreign learners rarely use them appropriately for the context due to the numerous factors they must navigate during communication. While a lack of knowledge in paremiology does not seriously hinder daily interaction, its use makes conversation more intimate and engaging. It is an undeniable fact that employing paremiological expressions contributes to smooth and effective communication. Among these, proverbs hold a special significance as they provide an opportunity to understand a people's way of thinking, culture,

and history. Failing to understand various proverbial expressions prevents one from fully grasping interesting situations. Proverbs increase rapport and ensure effective communication by fostering an understanding of national thought and culture. Therefore, special attention must be paid to teaching proverbs for holistic communication.

Besides enlivening speech, proverbs—due to their semantic conciseness—help convey the speaker's intention either strongly or gently and are sometimes used to express feelings and intent succinctly and directly. For proverbs to function fully in the speech of Korean language learners across various communicative situations, it is essential to focus on their communicative function. In Korean language teaching, the use of proverbs has mainly been implemented in textbook-based formats targeted at advanced learners. This is a result of the

inherent characteristics of proverbs, such as the presence of low-frequency lexical units, the extensive use of literary and metaphorical imagery, and grammatical structures rarely used in modern times.

Furthermore, proverbs are mainly taught to intermediate and advanced learners, which is evaluated as an inevitable process given their specific traits. Analysis shows that proverb education to date has been organized primarily from the perspective of "language-centered culture education" and has targeted high-level learners due to the complexity of the expressions.

Language is deeply connected to culture. In real life, one can accurately perceive the meaning of linguistic expressions only by sufficiently understanding the cultural background embedded within them. Most languages possess various idiomatic and phraseological expressions unique to them, and studying them is an excellent way to understand the diverse culture of that country. Every language has differences in

thinking and perspective through which cultural aspects and lifestyles can be understood.

Therefore, by taking proverbs as material and analyzing the Korean cultural elements within them through thematic classification, this study aims to reveal the value of proverbs as cultural education material for foreigners. The lexical units in proverbs serve as the theme and the core idea expressing their meaning. Although proverbs often consist of everyday vocabulary, their high level of abstraction makes them difficult to understand and apply without a cultural background.

Based on 100 proverbs used in Korean language educational institutions, a detailed classification was conducted according to the primary areas of lifestyle culture: food, clothing, and housing. For instance, "Food Culture" was set as a major category, subdivided into "Staple and Side Foods" as a middle category, and further split into small categories like "Rice Cake" or "Soup" with their corresponding proverbs.

Table 1 Classification of Proverbs by Theme

Main Category	Sub-category	Detail Category (Specifics)	Proverbs
Clothing	Clothing	Skirt	Bir xil narxda bo'lsa, qizil etakni tanla
Food	Side Dishes	Tteok (Rice cake), Kimchi, Soup, etc.	Qo'shnining tovug'i g'oz ko'rinar
			Rasmdagi guruchli pishiriq
			Yotib guruchli pishiriq yeyish
			Guruchli pishiriq bermoqchi emas, lekin kimchi sho'rvasini ichadi
			Asal yegan soqov
			Yig'lab xantal yeyish
Main Dishes	Porridge (Gruel)	Sovigan bo'tqa yeyishdek oson	
		Rice	Pishgan guruch boshi egiladi
		Beans, Red beans	Nimani eksang, shuni olasan
Housing	Houses	Ondol (Heated floor)	Yong'in bo'lmasa tutun chiqmaydi
		Well	Quduqdagi qurbaqa
		Straw-roofed house	Qashshoq bo'lsa ham, g'ishtli uy quradi
			Qo'shni ko'chib ketgandek jim
Animals	Shore / Coast	It najasi ham dori bo'lsa topilmaydi	
		Yo'lbars haqida gapirsang, o'zi keladi	
		Sigir orqaga yurib, sichqon tutdi	
		Sigir yo'qolgandan keyin to'rni tuzatadi	
		Toychoq qichqirsa, uy barbod bo'ladi	
		Sichqon o'lgan kabi jim	
		Dum uzun bo'lsa, bosiladi	
		Maymun ham daraxtdan yiqiladi	
	River / Sea	Qisqichbaqa qaltisga yon bosadi	
		Qurbaqa o'rgimchak bo'lganini unutadi	
		Ariqdan ajdarho chiqadi	
		Kit urushsa, qisqichbaqaning beli sinadi	
	Sky	O'rgimchak ham to'r qurmasa, hasharot tutolmaydi	
		Bedana o'rniga tovuq	
Language	-	Chiroyli gapirsang, chiroyli javob olasan	
		Un elansa chiroyli bo'ladi, gap ko'payganda qattiq bo'ladi	
		Tilning oyog'i yo'q, lekin ming li yo'l bosadi	
		"A" boshqa, "O" boshqa	
		Bahona topilmaydigan joy yo'q	
		Kattalarning gapini eshit, foyda bo'ladi	
Nature	Mountain	Borgan sari tog'lar kattalashadi	
		Tog'dan o'tsang, yana tog' kutadi	
		Qatra-qatra yig'ilib daryo bo'lur	
	Water	Harakatsiz suv sasiydi	
		Toza suvda baliq bo'lmaydi	
		Suv yuqoridan pastga oqadi	
		Yuqoridagi suv toza bo'lsa, pastdagi ham toza bo'ladi	
		Bir joyda ranjib, boshqa joyda jahl chiqarish	
		Sovuq suvda ham tartib bor	
	Sky	Quyoshli kun bo'lsa, bulutli kun ham bo'ladi	
		Osmondagi yulduzni olish	
	Road	Ming chaqirim yo'l bir qadamdan boshlanadi	
	Rain	Yomg'irdan keyin yer mustahkam bo'ladi	
	Tree	Xurmo daraxti ostida yotib, pishigini kutadi	
		O'n marta urib sindirib bo'lmaydigan daraxt yo'q	
	Stone	Tuxum bilan tosh urish	
		Mustahkam ko'priknini ham urib ko'rib o't	

	Acorn	Yong‘oq balandligini solishtirish	
	Apricot	Chiroyli ko‘rinib, ichida foyda yo‘q	
Humanity	Body	O‘n gil suv tubini bilsa ham, bir gil odam ko‘nglini bilmaydi	
		Ishongan bolta oyog‘ingni kesadi	
		Qorin o‘rniga kindik katta	
		Kiyim tegsa ham taqdir	
		Uzunmi, qisqami solishtirib bilasan	
		Achchiq dori tanaga yaxshi	
		Bola yig‘lasa, onasi emizadi	
		Yoshligida mehnat qilish foydali	
		Qo‘l ichkariga egiladi	
		Belbog‘ni mahkam bog‘lash	
		Habits / Customs	Ketayotgan kunim bozor kuni bo‘ldi
			Mehnatning tagi rohat
			Shoshilinch ishda xato ko‘p
			Harakat qilgan odam muvaffaqiyatga erishadi
	Pulni suvdek sarflash		
	Qonunni buzsang jazoga tortilasan		
	Nimani eksang, shuni olasan		
	Uch yoshdagi odat sakson yoshgacha boradi		
	Oson topilgan narsa oson ketadi		
	Farzandga qarab ota-onani bilsa bo‘ladi		
	O‘z vazifang uchun javob ber		
	Do‘sting ergashib Gangnamga boradi		
	Yugurayotgan ustida uchayotgan bor		
	Yerda suzishni o‘rganish		
	Yoshligida ishlasang, boy bo‘lasan		
	Emotions	Umid katta bo‘lsa, ranj ham katta bo‘ladi	
		Yomon mehr ham, yaxshi mehr ham bo‘ladi	
		Va‘daga amal qilmasang ishonch yo‘qoladi	
		Kulgan odamga baxt keladi	
		Yaxshilikni unutmaslik kerak	
Do‘stlikdan keyin ayriliq			
Qiyin paytda yordam bergan esda qoladi			
Time	-	Kutgan odamga navbat keladi	
		Har narsaning o‘z vaqti bor	
		Xabar yo‘qligi - yaxshi xabar	
		Har bir inson o‘ladi	
		Vaqt o‘qdek o‘tadi	
		Boshlash bu ishning yarmidir	
		Boshlangan ish tugaydi	
		Yoshligida ishlasang, boy bo‘lasan	
Tools	-	Kuzda yelpig‘ichning qadri yo‘q	
		Marvaridni tizmasang, bezak bo‘lmaydi	
		Bir o‘lchov berib, o‘n o‘lchov oladi	
		Charog‘ tubi qorong‘u	
		Teshik idishga suv quyish	
		Pul pulni keltiradi	
		Pul aylanishda	

Proverbs are highly valuable materials in Korean language education, enabling foreign students to learn both language and culture simultaneously. Through this process, learners

naturally perceive cultural differences, allowing them to explore the unique heritage of each nation in an engaging and effective manner without cultural rejection.

CONCLUSION

Even if one knows the individual meanings of the words used in a proverb, it is not easy to grasp their true underlying significance. Therefore, systematic instruction in proverbs is essential for achieving natural and high-level proficiency in the Korean language. In this chapter, proverbs were classified and analyzed according to their themes. Through this thematic analysis, the cultural context of the era in which these proverbs were created has been reflected and examined.

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