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Edited by Chungmin Lee, Greg Simpson and Youngjin Kim

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## The Handbook of East Asian Psycholinguistics

A large body of knowledge has accumulated in recent years on the cognitive processes and brain mechanisms underlying language. Much of this knowledge has come from studies of Indo-European languages, in particular English. Korean, a language of growing interest to linguists, differs significantly from most Indo-European languages in its grammar, its lexicon, and its written and spoken forms – features which have profound implications for the learning, representation and processing of language. This handbook, the third in a three-volume series on East Asian psycholinguistics, presents a state-of-the-art discussion of the psycholinguistic study of Korean. With contributions by over sixty leading scholars, it covers topics in first and second language acquisition, language processing and reading, language disorders in children and adults, and the relationships between language, brain, culture, and cognition. It will be invaluable to all scholars and students interested in the Korean language, as well as cognitive psychologists, linguists, and neuroscientists.

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# The Handbook of East Asian Psycholinguistics

*Volume III Korean*

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Greg Simpson

and

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## Preface

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This is the third and last volume of the three-companion-volume series on East Asian psycholinguistics. East Asian here includes Chinese, Japanese and Korean, the languages that have received increasing interest in psycholinguistic research beyond the Indo-European languages. The three languages reveal extremely interesting typological characteristics; Japanese and Korean are strikingly similar in structure and various other respects, although they show surprisingly important and subtle differences. Chinese, on the other hand, contrasts more sharply with Japanese and Korean in typological patterns, although the three share certain areal commonalities such as the use of numeral classifiers. Korean and Japanese are similar grammatically, but not lexically and phonologically. Because of many commonalities in grammar, the two languages are often compared and contrasted linguistically and psycholinguistically (see *Japanese/Korean Linguistics* 1 to 15, CSLI, among others). Korean is generally hypothesized to belong to the Altaic language family, which encompasses Manchu-Tungusic, Mongolian, and Turkic languages. Japanese is also often believed to be an Altaic language, whereas Chinese belongs to the Sino-Tibetan language family. Korean and Japanese are thus distinct from Chinese genetically and typologically. However, the two languages have a vast amount of culturally borrowed Sino-Korean and Sino-Japanese lexical items, respectively, even adopting Chinese characters minimally in Korean and vastly in Japanese in their writing systems.

Therefore, the idea of the trio in companion volumes is crucial for comparative studies, not only among the three but also between the three and other languages including English. The editing of this Korean volume took somewhat longer than the Chinese and Japanese volumes but we are glad to be finished, with a time lag that has allowed us to reflect some last-minute, up-to-date developments in the field of Korean psycholinguistics. The study of Korean acquisition started about three decades ago, followed by research on processing; neurological studies appeared most recently and have now become popular.

Theoretical and experimental advances in psycholinguistics have been made largely on the basis of the linguistic revolution and cognitive revolution led by

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Chomsky's generative paradigm since mid-1950 and the study of English in that paradigm. But the diversity- and usage-based functionalist trend and the connectionist model have also contributed to the advancement of the field in their own ways. Psycholinguistic studies of Korean as well as of Chinese and Japanese reflect diverse developments in theory and practice, and contribute to broadening the horizon of perspectives, demonstrating both universals and specifics of the Korean, Japanese and Chinese languages and of human language in general.

We did our best to include all the currently available representative research in Korean psycholinguistics, grouping them roughly into two sections: Language Acquisition and Language Processing, which include brain mechanisms and neurological processes. We hope that this book, together with the previous Chinese and Japanese companion volumes, will contribute to a greater understanding of the basic concepts and issues in psycholinguistic research on the East Asian languages and in the study of the human mind.

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