

TEACHING TURKISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE AT SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY*

Yong-Söng LI**

Abstract:

The Turkic languages and dialects are/were spoken across a vast area from the Pacific to the Baltic Sea, and from the Arctic Ocean to the Persian Gulf.

The Altaic theory, i.e. the theory about the affinity of Turkic, Mongolian, and Manchu-Tungus, including or excluding Korean, is not accepted by all scholars. One group of scholars believes that the Altaic languages represent a group of genetically related languages. Other scholars hesitate to accept the genetic affinity as a definitely proved fact. Other scholars display a clearly pronounced negative attitude, rejecting the genetic affinity, and refuting the Altaic theory.

In the Orkhon inscriptions which are the oldest written records of Turkic, there are two passages related to an ancient Korean kingdom of Goguryeo (고구려/高句麗, 37 BC – 668 AD). After that time, the Koreans had little contact with the Turks for a long time until the Turkish troops took part in the Korean War (25 June 1950 – 27 July 1953) within the UN troops. The Koreans learned the Turkish language from those Turkish troops.

Except for some language courses at private educational institutes, the Turkish language is taught at four universities in Korea. Turkish was taught for the first time in September 1955 at Seoul National University. Until the 1st semester of 2012, the Turkish course belonged to the Department of Linguistics at the College of Humanities. Since the 2nd semester of 2012, the Turkish course belongs to the Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations at the same college.

* This is the corrected and enlarged version of the paper presented during workshops on teaching Asian languages and culture entitled “Cultures in Conversation: Teaching Asian Languages and Cultures”, Poznań, Poland, 23-25 February 2015.

** Dr., Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations, College of Humanities, Seoul National University, Seoul, yulduz77@naver.com

As far as the author observed at Seoul National University, there was no student who wanted to learn Turkish further or to specialize in Turkic linguistics. The primary reason is that practically nobody except a few persons can earn a livelihood in the field of Turkology in Korea.

In November 2012 and June 2013, Yunus Emre Institute of Turkey requested the cooperation with Seoul National University. However, this request was rejected by Seoul National University. Thus, we lost a good opportunity for further development of Turkish language instruction at Seoul National University.

Key words: Korea, Seoul National University, Turkic languages and dialects, Turkish language instruction, Turkish troops, Yunus Emre Institute.

Seul Devlet Üniversitesinde Yabancı Dil Olarak Türkçenin Öğretimi

Özet:

Türk dil ve lehçeleri Büyük Okyanus'tan Baltık Denizi'ne ve Kuzey Buz Denizi'nden Basra Körfezi'ne kadar uzanan çok geniş alanda konuşulmuş ve konuşulmaktadır.

Altay teorisi, yani Türk dili, Moğol dili ve Mançu-Tunguz dilinin, Kore dili dahil veya hariç, akrabalığı hakkındaki teori bütün bilginlerce kabul edilmiş değildir. Bir grup bilgin Altay dillerinin genetik olarak ilişkili olan dillerin bir grubunu temsil ettiğine inanıyor. Başka bilginler kesinlikle kanıtlanmış bir gerçek olarak genetik akrabalığı kabul etmemektedir. Başka bilginler ise genetik akrabalığı kabul etmeyerek ve Altay teorisini reddedererek açıkça belirtilen olumsuz tutumunu sergiliyor.

Türkçenin en eski yazılı kayıtlar olan Orhon yazıtlarında bir eski Kore krallığı olan Goguryeo (고구려/高句麗, M.Ö. 37 – M.S. 668) ile ilgili iki pasaj var. Bu zamandan sonra, Türk askerleri Birleşmiş Milletler askerleri içinde yer alarak Kore Savaşı'na (25 Haziran 1950 – 27 Temmuz 1953) katılınca kadar Koreliler uzun bir zaman Türklerle hemen hemen hiç temas etmediler. Koreliler bu Türk askerlerinden Türkçe öğrendiler.

Özel eğitim kurumlarındaki bazı dil kursları dışında, Türkçe Kore'de dört üniversitede öğretilmektedir. Türkçe, ilk olarak Eylül 1955'te Seul Devlet Üniversitesi'nde öğretildi. Türkçe dersi, 2012 yılının birinci dönemine kadar Beşeri Bilimler Fakültesi Dilbilimi Bölümü'ne aitti. 2012 yılının ikinci döneminden itibaren Türkçe dersi, aynı fakültenin Asya Dilleri ve Medeniyetleri Bölümü'ne aittir.

Seul Devlet Üniversitesi'nde gözlemlediğim kadarıyla, daha fazla Türkçe öğrenmek veya Türk dilbiliminde ihtisas yapmak isteyen öğrenci yoktu. Bunun ana nedeni, Kore'de birkaç kişi dışında pratikte hiç kimsenin Türkoloji alanında geçimini sağlayamamasıdır.

Kasım 2012 ve Haziran 2013'te Türkiye'nin Yunus Emre Enstitüsü Seul Devlet Üniversitesi ile işbirliği talep etti. Ama bu talep Seul Devlet Üniversitesi tarafından reddedildi. Böylece, Seul Devlet Üniversitesi'nde Türkçenin öğretiminin daha fazla geliştirilmesi için iyi bir fırsat elden gitti.

Anahtar kelimeler: Kore, Seul Devlet Üniversitesi, Türk dil ve lehçeleri, Türkçenin öğretimi, Türk ordusu, Yunus Emre Enstitüsü.

I. Introduction

The Turkic languages and dialects are/were spoken across a vast area from the Pacific to the Baltic Sea, and from the Arctic Ocean to the Persian Gulf.¹ The dynamic history of the Turkic-speaking peoples makes it difficult to set up a classification of modern Turkic languages that combines geographic and genetic criteria.² Talat Tekin (1991) proposed a classification of modern Turkic languages into 12 groups according to 6 phonetic features.³

The Altaic theory, i.e. the theory about the affinity of Turkic, Mongolian, and Manchu-Tungus, including or excluding Korean, is not accepted by all scholars. One group of scholars believes that the Altaic languages represent a group of genetically related languages. Other scholars hesitate to accept the genetic affinity as a definitely proved fact. Other scholars display a clearly pronounced negative attitude, rejecting the genetic affinity, and refuting the Altaic theory.⁴

In the Orkhon inscriptions which are the oldest written records of Turkic, there are two occurrences⁵ of the name B²W²K²L²I which is related to an ancient Korean kingdom of Goguryeo (고구려/高句麗, 37 BC – 668 AD)⁶. The name B²W²K²L²I in question can be read as *bök(kü)li* (< **bäkküli* < **mäkküli* 貊句麗) or *bök(kö)li* (< **bäkköli* < **mäkköli* 貊高麗).⁷ The Japanese scholar IWASA Seiichirō (巖佐精一郎, 1911-1935) had already read this name as *bökli* 貊句麗 ‘句麗 of the 貊 *mäk* people’.

After that time, the Koreans had little contact with the Turks for a long time until the Turkish troops took part in the Korean War (25 June 1950 – 27 July 1953) within the UN troops. The Koreans learned the Turkish language from

1 See Tekin & Ölmez 1999: 9.

2 Johanson 1998: 82.

3 See Tekin 1991: 11-13.

4 See Poppe 1965: 148, 154, 155.

5 One in KT E 4; BQ E 5 and the other in KT E 8; BQ E 8.

6 Goguryeo was an ancient Korean kingdom located in Manchuria and northern part of the Korean Peninsula. The name Goguryeo was inherited by Goryeo dynasty (고려/高麗, 918-1392), from which the English word “Korea” stemmed. See Song 2001: 27 and Lee 2005: 82a-86a. By the way, Goguryeo must be read as Goguri (고구리), because the pronunciation of the character 麗 is *ri*, not *ryeo* [*ria*] when it is used as part of the name of a country. Thus, 高麗 must be read as Gori (고리), not Goryeo (고려). Unfortunately, this fact has been largely ignored.

7 Yong Söng Li, “Zu QWRDNTA in der Tuñuquq Inschrift”, *Central Asiatic Journal* 47/2 (2003), pp. 229-241, especially p. 236. 句麗/高麗 is another name of Goguryeo (高句麗). 貊 Maek (= Mäk) or 濊貊 Yemaek is the name of an ethnic group which became the basis of modern Koreans. Goguryeo was also founded by this ethnic group.

those Turkish troops. In the present paper we will treat the Turkish language education at Seoul National University.

II. Teaching Turkish as a Foreign Language at Seoul National University

1. Teaching Turkish as a Foreign Language at the Universities in Korea

Except for some language courses at private educational institutes, the Turkish language is taught at four universities in Korea⁸: Seoul National University, Korea University, Hankuk⁹ University of Foreign Studies, and Busan University of Foreign Studies. Turkish is taught since September 1955 at Seoul National University, since September 2009 at Korea University¹⁰, since March 1973 at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, and since March 1995 at Busan University of Foreign Studies. It was also taught March ~ June 2009 (one semester)¹¹ and March ~ December 2010 (two semesters)¹² at Dankook University.

The Department of Turkish was established in March 1973 at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. Its name changed to the Department of Turkish and Azerbaijani in March 2009.¹³ In addition to this department, the Department of Central Asian Studies was established in March 2004 on another campus of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. At first, Kazakh was taught in this de-

8 Yalçın (2000: 63) wrote as follows:

“Kore’de, Türkçenin ders olarak okutulduğu enstitüler ve üniversiteler şöyle sıralanabilir:

1. Handong Üniversitesi, Uluslararası Araştırma ve Yabancı Diller Bölümündeki, “Türkiye ve Orta Asya Araştırmaları” dersi,
2. Seul’deki Millî Üniversitenin (Seoul National University) Dil Bilim Bölümü’ndeki “Türkçe” dersi,
3. Hoseo Üniversitesi’ndeki, “Orta Asya Araştırmaları” dersi,
4. Kore Üniversitesi’ndeki, “Altay Dilleri Araştırmaları” dersi,
5. Asya Kültürü ve Gelişimi Enstitüsünde (Institute of Asian Culture & Development) bulunan “Orta Asya Araştırmaları” dersi.”

The courses mentioned for 1. Handong University, 3. Hoseo University, and for Institute of Asian Culture & Development are no longer in existence. Seul’deki Millî Üniversitenin is an error for Seul Millî Üniversitesi’nin.

9 한국 (韓國, han-guk) = Korea.

10 I am responsible for the course ‘Turkish Language and Culture’ from the beginning.

11 I was responsible for the courses ‘Turkish’ and ‘Turkish Conversation 1’.

12 I was responsible for the courses ‘Turkish’ from March to June 2010 and ‘Turkish Conversation 1’ September to December 2010.

13 See <http://www.hufs.ac.kr/user/hufsen/english/> and <http://turkazeri.hufs.ac.kr/> (retrieved on 12 February 2015). For the curriculum see Suh 2014: 145-146.

partment, later Uzbek and Kyrgyz were added in March 2008 and September 2011 respectively.¹⁴

The Department of Central Asian Studies was established in March 1995 at Busan University of Foreign Studies. This department changed to the major in Turkish and Central Asian Languages within the Faculty of Russian and Central Asian Studies in March 2014.¹⁵

2. The Beginning of Teaching Turkish as a Foreign Language at Seoul National University

As far as I researched, Turkish was taught for the first time in September 1955 at Seoul National University. On the first page of the campus newspaper of Seoul National University on 13 June 1955 is the following news¹⁶:

“Turkish course opened for the new semester in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Turkish course will be opened from the new semester¹⁷ in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. According to the report of Prof. Seon-Gi KIM¹⁸, the head of the Department of Linguistics, Turkish course will be opened from the new semester in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences through the good offices of the brigadier general Hilmi GİRAY¹⁹, the commander of the Turkish Brigade in Korea, and Turkish active officers proficient in English will be appointed as the lecturer.²⁰ In connection with this matter General GİRAY

14 See <http://www.hufs.ac.kr/user/hufsenglish/> and http://builder.hufs.ac.kr/user/indexSub.action?codyMenuSeq=8897479&siteId=centralasia&menuType=T&uId=1&sortChar=A&linkUrl=1_2.html&mainFrame=right (retrieved on 12 February 2015). For the curriculum see Suh 2014: 147-148.

15 See http://www.bufs.ac.kr/html/03_acad/acad_01_03_06.aspx, and http://cms.bufs.ac.kr/cas/html/01/sub01_01.aspx (retrieved on 12 February 2015) and Suh 2014: 143. For the curriculum see Suh 2014: 149-150.

16 See <http://library.snu.ac.kr/site/snu/viewer/DjVuViewer.jsp?cid=1607013&moi=1607013&file=1024827> (retrieved on 23 January 2015).

17 In Korea the 1st (or new) semester and the 2nd semester begin on 1 March and on 1 September respectively.

18 김선기 (金善基, 1907-1992). He was a phonetician and worked from January 1950 to October 1957 at the Department of Linguistics. See http://encykorea.aks.ac.kr/Contents/Index?contents_id=E0009435 and http://hosting01.snu.ac.kr/~linguist/?page_id=591 (retrieved on 12 February 2015).

19 He served from 21 March 1955 to 11 June 1956. See <http://projects.militarytimes.com/citations-medals-awards/recipient.php?recipientid=400662> and <http://www.ahmetakyol.net/korede-turk-birlik-ve-komutanlari/> (retrieved on 12 February 2015).

20 I heard later from Mr. Sang-Ki PAIK (백상기 白相基 [Sang-Gi BAEK], 1930-) that the officer was a captain called Ahmet. Mr. Sang-Ki PAIK served as the English interpreter for

visited personally Seoul National University²¹ last 6 [June] afternoon under the guidance of Prof. Seon-Gi KIM and had a talk with KIM²², the dean the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and other²³ professors. In the meeting General GİRAY emphasized his wish for closer friendly relations between Korea and Turkey through this opportunity and said for his part he would do his best for cultural exchange programs like this now and forever. By the way, according to the account of the same general, the textbooks necessary for the Turkish course are already on order to his own country.”

On the first page of the campus newspaper of Seoul National University on 30 April 1956 is the following news²⁴:

“Book donation by the Turkish troops to the Department of Linguistics at Seoul University

Donation ceremony on 28 [April]

The Turkish troops in Korea donated books to Seoul National University. The donation ceremony of these books was held from two o'clock in the afternoon on 28 [April] in the president's office of Seoul National University. At this donation ceremony, the vice president YOON²⁵, the dean KIM, Prof. Seon-Gi KIM [of Seoul National University], and the brigadier general Hilmi GİRAY of the Turkish troops in attendance. The books were donated by the brigadier general Hilmi GİRAY to the vice president YOON. More than eighty valuable books including *Türk Ansiklopedisi* [“Turkish Encyclo-

the Turkish troops from 1950 to 1956. He attended later the Faculty of Political Science of Ankara University and then served as a diplomat at the Korean Embassy in Ankara for more than twenty years. About him see Gürsel GÖNCÜ, “Unutma Beni! KORE SAVAŞI”, *Atlas* 113 (August 2002), pp. 94-147, especially pp. 126-128.

21 To be more exact, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

22 Sang-Gi KIM (김상기 金庠基, 1901-1977). He was a historian and worked from 1946 to 1962 at Seoul National University, mainly at the Department of Asian History. He served as the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences from 2 May 1952 to 22 January 1957. See http://encykorea.aks.ac.kr/Contents/Index?contents_id=E0009435 and http://humanities.snu.ac.kr/kor_humanities/hum_in_01/hum_in_01_c/hum_in_01_c2/index.jsp (retrieved on 12 February 2015).

23 “Each” in the original.

24 See <http://library.snu.ac.kr/site/snu/viewer/DjVuViewer.jsp?cid=1610781&moi=1610781&-file=1025764> (retrieved on 23 January 2015).

25 Il-Sun YOON (윤일선 尹日善 [Il-Seon YUN], 5 October 1896-22 June 1987). He was a medical scientist and worked from 1946 to 1961 at the College of Medicine of Seoul National University. He served as the vice president from 1954 to 1956 and as the president from 1956 to 1961. See <http://en.snu.ac.kr/presidents>, <http://terms.naver.com/entry.nhn?docId=1133291&cid=40942&categoryId=33385>, and <http://terms.naver.com/entry.nhn?docId=540298&cid=46615&categoryId=46615> (retrieved on 12 February 2015).

pedia”], language books, etc. were donated to the Department of Linguistics of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. By the way, these Turkish troops donated last year approximately 500 language textbooks and 30 gramophone records to the Department of Linguistics.²⁶ The students of this department and the others render thanks [to it]. The Turkish troops send two lecturers to the Department of Linguistics to be in charge of Turkish language instruction.

As seen above, Turkish was taught for the first time in September 1955 at Seoul National University. However, it seems that this fact is not well known in Korea. So, there are following statements:

“There were many changes in the curriculum [of the Department of Linguistics] after the Korean War. ... In addition, the lecturers were invited from the Turkish troops of the UN troops in Korea and the Turkish course began at graduate school. Since around 1956 the lectures of Mongolian and Manchu were also opened.” (*History of Seoul National University 1946-1976* (1976), p. 560)

“Although the lectures continued even in the barracks in Dongdaesin-dong of Busan, the normal education and study were resumed only after the campus was moved again to Seoul in September 1953. The Department of Linguistics received the head professor who specialized in phonetics at the University of London.²⁷ So, naturally there was a groundswell of interest in phonetics and phonemics at the department. The interest in the genealogy of Korean language, the main concern in the learned circles of Korean linguistics at that time, began and the lectures for the languages of Jurchen, Manchu, Mongolian, and Turkish were opened.” (*History of Seoul National University 1946-1986* (1986), p. 720; *History of Seoul National University 1946-1996 II* (1996), p. 25)

“The first educational institution responsible for Turkish studies of our country is the Department of Turkish which was established in 1973 at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. From the beginning, the Department of Turkish deviated from the traditional emphasis on language and literature

26 I saw these books in the late 1980s at the Department of Linguistics before I went to Turkey for the study of Turkology. However, when I returned to Korea 2003, I could see these books no longer. I heard that these books were already discarded. On 14 February 2015, Prof. Jae-II KWON told me on a telephone conversation that there were many books donated by the Turkish Brigade at the Department of Linguistics before 1975 when the campus of Seoul National University was moved to its present location. He gave me some valuable information on Prof. Hyung-Dal PARK and Jae-Gyun EUN. I thank Prof. Jae-II KWON (1953-). He works at this department since November 1994. His research field is the history of grammar. See http://hosting01.snu.ac.kr/~linguist/?page_id=10 (retrieved on 15 February 2015).

27 He was Prof. Seon-Gi KIM (김선기 金善琪, 1907-1992).

and started as a department laying emphasis on regional studies. Its teaching staff was comprised of scholars who could decipher the language in question and specialized in braches other than language and literature. ... It [= That the Department of Turkish was established in 1973] is never late in view of the fact that the Department of Turkish was established for the first time at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies in adjacent Japan.” (Suh 1997: 5)

“Although it was not educational institution with specialty in Turkish Studies, the Turkish course was opened very long ago in our academic world. In 1953 together with the returning to the capital [Seoul], Turkish course was opened at the Department of Linguistics of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Seoul National University. It was due to the special consideration of the language theory that the Korean language and the Turkish language belonged together to the same Altaic family. So, two Turkish courses²⁸ are opened until now at this department. Although these courses cannot deviate from the category of elementary deciphering of [foreign] language, their ripple effect as the motivation courses for the students of linguistics cannot be underestimated.” (Suh 1997: 6)

“1953 yılından itibaren Seul Devlet Üniversitesi Dilbilim Bölümü’nde bir Altay dili olan Türkçe için ders verilmeye başlanmıştır (Suh, Jae-Mahn (1997: 6)). 1973 yılı Hankuk Yabancı Bilimler Üniversitesi (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies)’de Türkçe bölümünün açılmasıyla Kore’de artık Türkçe ile Türkiye hakkında ciddi araştırmalara başlanmış ve Türkçe öğretiminde de bir düzen sağlanmıştır. Bundan sonra Kore-Türkiye Kültür Anlaşması çerçevesinde Türkiye’ye gidip eğitim görmüş araştırmacıların 1980’li yılların sonlarından itibaren Kore’ye dönüp çeşitli üniversitelere girmesiyle üniversitelerde Türkçe ve Türk kültürleriyle ilgili derslerin sayısı çoğalmıştır. Bunlar sayesinde Kore’de artık sadece Türkçe ve Türkiye ile ilgili çalışmalar değil, Türkiye dışında bulunan Türk dünyasına ait kültür alışverişi hakkında da çalışmalar yapılmakta ve Asya, (*sic!*) kıtasındaki geniş Türk dünyası tanıtılmaktadır.” (Kim 2000: 49)

“Bununla birlikte, adı geçen üniversite ve enstitülerde, Türkçenin yabancı dil olarak öğretilmesinin çok daha önce, Kore’de, bir hazırlık devresinin yaşandığını söyleyebiliriz. 1950’li yıllarda, Kore Savaşı’na katılmak üzere, Türkiye’den Kore’ye gelen Türk Müfreze Birliklerindeki kimi subaylar ve askerî personel, o dönemde, Koreli öğrencilere ve askerî personele, Türkçe öğretmek için hizmet etmişlerdir. Bu başlangıçtan sonra, Seul’deki Millî Üniversitenin²⁹ (Seoul National University) Dil Bilimi Bölümüne bağlı,

28 Turkish 1 and Turkish 2.

29 Correctly, “Seul Millî Üniversitesi’nin”.

“Özgür Sanatlar ve Bilimler” kısmında, Türkçenin yabancı dil olarak öğretilmesine geçilmiştir (Suh 1997: 1 18). Ancak bu konudaki asıl verimli çalışmalar 1973 yılında, Hankuk Üniversitesi. Yabancı Diller Üniversitesinde³⁰, Türkçe Bölümü’nün kurulmasıyla başlamıştır.” (Yalçın 2000: 63)

“Although the lectures continued even in the barracks in Dongdaesin-dong of Busan, the normal education and study were resumed only after the campus was moved again to Seoul in September 1953. The Department of Linguistics received as the head professor Prof. Seon-Gi KIM who specialized in phonetics at the University of London. So, naturally there was a groundswell of interest in phonetics and phonemics in the department. The interest in the genealogy of Korean language, the main concern in the learned circles of Korean linguistics at that time, began and the lectures for the Altaic languages like Jurchen, Manchu, Mongolian, and Turkish were opened.” (*Thirty-Year History of the College of Humanities of Seoul National University* (2005), pp. 224-225)

“Ülkemizde resmi eğitim organlarında resmi ders olarak Türkçe öğretiminin başlangıcı 1953 yılında Seul Devlet Üniversitesi, Dil, Tarih, Coğrafya ve Fen Fakültesi³¹ (şimdiki Beseri [*sic!*; correctly, Beşerî] Bilimler Fakültesi) Dil Bilimi Bölümü’ndedir. Daha sonraları bu kurs kesintisiz devam etmişse de ancak toplam 2 kursla ve temel seviye ile sınırlı kalmıştır.

Bu arada Nisan³² 1973’te Hankuk Yabancı Diller Üniversitesi’nde bağımsız bir bölüm olarak Türkçe Bölümü açılmış, bununla birlikte Kore’de tam zamanlı Türkçe öğretilmesine başlanmıştır.” (Suh 2014: 142)

3. Teaching Turkish as a Foreign Language at Seoul National University

I could not obtain any information on the Turkish active officers who taught Turkish at the Department of Linguistics, Seoul National University. Concerning this matter, there is no document preserved at this university. Therefore, on 23 January 2015 I sent an e-mail to the attaché office of the Turkish Embassy in Korea and to the Korean Embassy in Turkey. I wanted to know the following things:

- 1) Since when and until when the Turkish troops sent lecturers to Seoul National University for teaching Turkish?

30 Correctly, “Hankuk Yabancı Diller Üniversitesi’nde”.

31 This Turkish translation is not correct and reminds us the name of Dil ve Tarih Coğrafya Fakültesi of Ankara University. The correct Turkish translation would be Fen-Edebiyat Fakültesi.

32 Correctly, Mart, i.e. March.

- 2) The name and rank of the lecturers who were sent to Seoul National University; the duration of their teaching
- 3) The nature of Turkish course (for example, optional major subject, number of credits, lecture time per week, undergraduate subject or graduate subject)

Six hours later I received an answer from the attaché office of the Turkish Embassy in Korea. It reads as follows:

- 1) At present there is no information they can give me.
- 2) The data I requested should be identified.
- 3) If any data is identified, they will contact me.

However, I did not receive until now any other reply from the attaché office of the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Korea.

Four days later, i.e. on 27 January 2015, I received an answer from the Korean Embassy in Turkey. It reads as follows:

- 1) Regarding the data I requested, the attaché office of the Korean Embassy in Turkey sent on that day an official document to the Archives of the Turkish General Staff Directorate of Military History and Strategic Studies³³.
- 2) They requested an interview for that week.
- 3) It seems somewhat difficult for them to answer me that week.
- 4) They will reply to my question within the next week.

I sent e-mails two more times to the Korean Embassy in Turkey and asked whether they received the reply of the Turkish side or not. On 13 February 2015, I received an answer from the attaché of the Korean Embassy in Turkey. It reads as follows:

- 1) Regarding the matter ‘Supporting lecturers for Turkish course to Seoul National University by the Turkish Brigade in Korea’ that I asked, they sent an official document to the Archives of the Turkish General Staff Directorate of Military History and Strategic Studies.
- 2) Until then on 13 February they could not receive the answer.
- 3) Upon my e-mails to the [Korean] embassy, they called the institute several times, but the only reply they heard was “Please wait.”

33 Genelkurmay Askerî Tarih ve Stratejik Etüt Başkanlığı Arşivi in Turkish. Its abbreviation is ATASE.

- 4) Though the reply will be received due to the request through an official document, it is unclear whether they can give me the answer of the Turkish side until my conference.
- 5) If they receive the reply in the next week, they will contact me again.

On 20 February 2015, I received an answer from the attaché of the Korean Embassy in Turkey. It reads as follows:

- 1) Regarding the matter I asked last time, they received the official reply of the Turkish General Headquarters on 20 February.
- 2) The ATASE checked on the archival documents but could not find any related content.
- 3) They scanned the documents of the Turkish side and sent it to me as an attachment.

Apart from the information on the Turkish active officers who taught Turkish at the Department of Linguistics of Seoul National University, the course catalogs before 1971 are not preserved at this university. As the data before 1971, I could find only three materials as follows:

- 1) Catalog of Seoul National University 1959-1960 [서울대학교 일람 1959-1960]³⁴
- 2) Catalog of Seoul National University 1959-1960 [서울대학교 요람 1966-1967]³⁵
- 3) Curriculum of Seoul National University 1966-1967 [서울대학교 교과과정 1968-1969]³⁶

All the course catalogs of Seoul National University after 1990 are digitalized.³⁷ I checked over all the course catalogs of Seoul National University from 1971 to 2001.

The information on the Turkish course obtained from these materials can be tabulated as follows:

34 See <http://library.snu.ac.kr/site/snu/viewer/SNUPDFViewer.jsp?cid=6446&moi=1797581&file=2977361> (retrieved on 23 January 2015).

35 See <http://library.snu.ac.kr/site/snu/viewer/SNUPDFViewer.jsp?cid=6446&moi=1797582&file=2977362> (retrieved on 23 January 2015).

36 See <http://library.snu.ac.kr/site/snu/viewer/SNUPDFViewer.jsp?cid=6446&moi=1721815&file=2265757> (retrieved on 23 January 2015).

37 See <http://sugang.snu.ac.kr/search.html> (retrieved on 23 January 2015).

year	course name	semester	teacher	division	time per week	credit
1959	Turkish	?	?	major elective	[3]	3
1960	Turkish	?	?	major elective	[3]	3
1966	-----					
1967	-----					
1968	Turkish	1 st	[Hyung-Dal PARK]	major elective	[3]	3
		2 nd			[3]	
1969	Turkish	1 st	[Hyung-Dal PARK]	major elective	[3]	3
		2 nd			[3]	
1971	-----					
1972	Turkish	2 nd	Hyung-Dal PARK ³⁷	major elective	3	3
1973	Turkish	1 st	Hyung-Dal PARK	major elective	3	3
	Turkish	2 nd			3	
1974	Turkish	1 st	Hyung-Dal PARK	major elective	3	3
	Turkish	2 nd			3	
1975	Turkish	1 st	Jae-Gyun EUN ³⁸	major elective	3	3
1977	Turkish 1	1 st	Jae-Gyun EUN	major elective	3	3
	Turkish 2	2 nd			3	

37 박형달 (朴亨達 [Hyeong-Dal BAK], 1934-). His major was syntax. He worked from March 1967 to February 2000 at the Department of Linguistics. See http://encykorea.aks.ac.kr/Contents/Index?contents_id=E0009435 and http://hosting01.snu.ac.kr/~linguist/?page_id=591 (retrieved on 12 February 2015). On 14 February 2015, Prof. Jae-II KWON told me on a telephone conversation that Prof. Hyung-Dal PARK taught Turkish from 1965 [correctly, 1967] to 1974.

38 은재균 (殷載鈞, 1941-December 1978). His major was Turkish syntax. He stayed in Ankara more than one year from 1976 to 1977. Therefore, the Turkish course was not opened in 1976 at the Department of Linguistics due to the absence of teacher. After his death, the Turkish course was not also opened several years maybe due to the same reason. All this information is according to the telephone conversation on 14 February 2015 with Prof. Jae-II KWON of the Department of Linguistics. Jae-Gyun EUN submitted his master's thesis entitled 'On the Two Types of Participles Forming Relative Clause Constructions in Turkish [터어키語의 關係句節構成을 이루는 分詞의 두 가지 類型에 대하여]' to the Department of Linguistics of Seoul National University in November 1972. It was approved on 10 January 1973. One copy of it is preserved in the library of Seoul National University.

1978	Turkish 1	1 st	Jae-Gyun EUN	major elective	3	3
	Turkish 2	2 nd			3	3
1982	Turkish 1	1 st	Jae-Mahn SUH ³⁹	general elective	3	3
	Turkish 2	2 nd			3	3
1983	Turkish 1	1 st	Jae-Mahn SUH	general elective	3	3
	Turkish 2	2 nd			3	3
1984	Turkish 1	1 st	Jae-Mahn SUH	general elective	3	3
	Turkish 2	2 nd			3	3
1985	Turkish 1	1 st	Jae-Mahn SUH	general elective	3	3
	Turkish 2	2 nd			3	3
1986	Turkish 1	1 st	Jae-Mahn SUH	general elective	3	3
	Turkish 2	2 nd	Dae-Sung KIM ⁴⁰		3	3
1987	Turkish 1	1 st	Dae-Sung KIM	general elective	3	3
	Turkish 2	2 nd			3	3
1988	Turkish 1	1 st	Jin-Ju HONG ⁴¹	general elective	3	3
	Turkish 2	2 nd			3	3
1989	Turkish 1	1 st	Jin-Ju HONG	general elective	3	3
	Turkish 2	2 nd			3	3
1990	Turkish 1	1 st	Jin-Ju HONG	major elective	3	3
	Turkish 2	2 nd			3	3
1991	Turkish 1	1 st	Jin-Ju HONG	major elective	3	3
	Turkish 2	2 nd			3	3
1992	Turkish 1	1 st	Jin-Ju HONG	major elective	3	3
	Turkish 2	2 nd			3	3
1993	Turkish 1	1 st	Jin-Ju HONG	major elective	3	3
	Turkish 2	2 nd			3	3

39 서재만 (徐在万 [Jae-Man SEO], 1940-). His major is international politics. He worked from [March] 1974 to August 2004 at the Department of Turkish of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. See <http://turkazeri.hufs.ac.kr/> (retrieved on 14 February 2015).

40 김대성 (金大成 [Dae-Seong KIM], 1955-). He received a Ph. D. degree in January 1997 at Hacettepe University with the dissertation 'A Comparative study of Higher Education of Turkey in Atatürk's Period and Korea under the Japanese Rule' in Turkish. He works since [March] 1984 at the Department of Turkish of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. See <http://turkazeri.hufs.ac.kr/> (retrieved on 14 February 2015).

41 홍진주 (洪眞珠, 19?-). I heard only that she took a graduate course in Turkey, was later appointed a full-time teacher at the Department of Turkish of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, but submitted her resignation soon.

1994	Turkish 1	1 st	Jin-Ju HONG	major elective	3	3
	Turkish 2	2 nd			3	3
1995	Turkish 1	1 st	Han-Woo CHOI ⁴²	major elective	3	3
	Turkish 2	2 nd			3	3
1996	Turkish 1	1 st	Han-Woo CHOI	major elective	3	3
	Turkish 2	2 nd			3	3
1997	Turkish 1	1 st	Han-Woo CHOI	major elective	3	3
	Turkish 2	2 nd			3	3
1998	Turkish 1	1 st	Han-Woo CHOI	major elective	3	3
	Turkish 2	2 nd			3	3
1999	Turkish 1	1 st	Kyoo-Seok YEON ⁴³	major elective	3	3
	Turkish 2	2 nd			3	3
2000	Turkish	2 nd	Kyoo-Seok YEON	major elective	3	3
2001	Turkish	2 nd	Kyoo-Seok YEON	major elective	3	3
2002	Turkish	2 nd	Kyoo-Seok YEON	major elective	3	3
2003	Turkish	2 nd	Yong-Söng LI ⁴⁴	major elective	3	3
2004	Turkish	2 nd	Yong-Söng LI	major elective	3	3
2005	Turkish	2 nd	Yong-Söng LI	major elective	3	3

42 최한우 (崔漢宇 [Han-U CHOE], 1955-). He received a Ph. D. degree in December 1989 at Hacettepe University with the dissertation ‘Türkçe ile Korecenin Karşılaştırmalı Morfolojisi’ [‘The Comparative Morphology of Turkish and Korean’]. He works since December 2005 as the president of Korea University of International Studies. See <http://www.kuis.ac.kr/eng/sub1/menu01.asp> (retrieved on 14 February 2015).

43 연규석 (延圭錫 [Gyu-Seok YEON], 1957-). He received a Ph. D. degree in May 1996 at Ankara University with the dissertation ‘Türkçe ve Korecede Yansımaların (Onomatopoeie) Karşılaştırılması’ [‘The Comparative Study of Onomatopoeia between Turkish and Korean’]. He works since March 2002 at the Department of Turkish of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. See <http://turkazeri.hufs.ac.kr/> (retrieved on 14 February 2015).

44 이용성 (李容成 [Yong-Seong LEE], 1964-). He received a Ph. D. degree in June 1998 at Hacettepe University with the dissertation ‘Türk Dillerinde Sontakalar’ [‘The Postpositions in the Turkic Languages’].

2006	Turkish Language and Culture	1 st	Yong-Söng LI	cultural	3	3
	Turkish Language and Culture	2 nd			3	3
2007	Turkish Language and Culture	1 st	Yong-Söng LI	cultural	3	3
	Turkish Language and Culture	2 nd			3	3
2008	Turkish Language and Culture	1 st	Yong-Söng LI	cultural	3	3
	Turkish Language and Culture	2 nd			3	3
2009	Turkish Language and Culture	1 st	Yong-Söng LI	cultural	3	3
	Turkish Language and Culture	2 nd			3	3
2010	Turkish Language and Culture	1 st	Yong-Söng LI	cultural	3	3
	Turkish Language and Culture	2 nd			3	3

2011	Turkish Language and Culture	1 st	Yong-Söng LI	cultural	3	3
	Turkish Language and Culture	2 nd			3	3
2012	Turkish Language and Culture	1 st	Yong-Söng LI	cultural	3	3
	Turkish 2	2 nd			3	3
2013	Turkish 1	1 st	Yong-Söng LI	cultural	3	3
	Turkish 2	2 nd			3	3
2013	Readings in Turkish 1	1 st	Yong-Söng LI	major elective	3	3
	Readings in Turkish 2	2 nd			3	3
2014	Turkish 1	1 st	Yong-Söng LI	cultural	3	3
	Turkish 2	2 nd			3	3
2015	Turkish 1	1 st	Yong-Söng LI	cultural	3	3

As seen above, Turkish has been taught 3 hours per week as a 3-credit course almost continuously at Seoul National University which is widely considered to be the most prestigious university in Korea. Yong-Söng LI, i.e. the author, is responsible for the Turkish course for the longest time at this university. Since the 1st semester of 2010, all the students taking Turkish course must weekly take part in one hour of practice by the native speaker.

As far as I observed, there was no student who wanted to learn Turkish further or to specialize in Turkic linguistics. The primary reason is that practically nobody except a few persons can earn a livelihood in the field of Turkology in Korea. For example, I could not become a full-time teacher or researcher.

As mentioned in Suh 1997: 6, the Turkish courses cannot deviate from the category of elementary deciphering of foreign language. I went to Ankara in November 1989 to study Turkology, because at that time there was no expert in Turkic linguistics in Korea.

Until the 1st semester of 2012, the Turkish course belonged to the Department of Linguistics. The Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations was established in 2012 at the College of Humanities. Since the 2nd semester of 2012, the Turkish course belongs to the Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations. This new department is comprised of the following four majors: 1) Japanese language and civilization, 2) Southeast Asian languages and civilization, 3) Indian languages and civilization, and 4) West Asian languages and civilization. Originally, Central Asian languages and civilization were also considered, but canceled later. The Turkish course became one of the courses for the major in West Asian languages and civilization. By the way, at first the Turkish course would be comprised of the following four courses: 1) Elementary Turkish 1, 2) Elementary Turkish 2, 3) Intermediate Turkish 1, and 4) Intermediate Turkish 2. The Arabic course would be also comprised of such four courses. However, the intermediate courses for Turkish and Arabic were canceled because the equity with Persian and Hebrew was taken into account. The courses ‘Readings in Turkish 1’ and ‘Readings in Turkish 2’ are added to the curriculum.

The current curriculum of Department of the Asian Languages and Civilizations is as follows³⁸:

(1) **common subjects:**

Introduction to the Study of Asian Civilizations
History of the Interaction of Civilizations in Asia
Perspectives in the Study of Asian Civilizations
Supervised Research in Asian Studies

(2) **major in Japanese language and civilization:**

Understanding Japanese Civilization
Understanding Japanese Literature
Intensive Japanese 1
Intensive Japanese 2
Art and Culture in Modern and Contemporary Japan
Art and Culture in Traditional Japan
Reading Japanese of Japanese Texts 1
Reading Japanese of Japanese Texts 2
Classical Japanese Literature
Modern Japanese Literature
Thought and Civilization in Japan
Contemporary Japanese Novel

38 See http://humanities.snu.ac.kr/kor_humanities/hum_in_03/hum_in_03_u/hum_in_03_u3/index.jsp (retrieved on 14 February 2015).

- Topics in Japanese Civilization
Translating Japanese Texts
Comparative Study on Korean and Japanese Civilization
Topics in Japanese Modern and Contemporary Thought
- (3) **major in Southeast Asian languages and civilization:**
Understanding Southeast Asian Civilization
Introduction to Southeast Asian Literatures
Religion and Civilization in Southeast Asia: Special Topics
Art and Architecture in Southeast Asian Civilizations
Traditional Performing Arts and Popular Culture in Southeast Asia
Southeast Asian Literatures: Special Topics
Intensive Thai 1
Intensive Thai 2
Southeast Asia in Global History
Southeast Asian Diasporas Past and Present: The Region and the World
Readings in Malay-Indonesian 1
Readings in Malay-Indonesian 2
Southeast Asian Civilizations: Special Topics
Southeast Asian Civilizations: Country Study
Readings in Vietnamese 1
Readings in Vietnamese 2
- (4) **major in Indian languages and civilization:**
Understanding Indian Civilization
Indian Myth and Art
Understanding Indian Literature
History of India 1
History of India 2
Modern and Contemporary Indian Literature
Classical Indian Literature
Philosophical and Religious Thought of India
South Asian Languages
Art and Culture in Modern and Contemporary India
Readings in Hindi
Readings in Sanskrit 1
Readings in Sanskrit 2
Topics in Indian Civilization
Topics in Indian Philosophy
- (5) **major in West Asian languages and civilization:**
Understanding West Asian Civilization

Ancient West Asian Civilization
Origin and Development of Islamic Civilization
Myth and Literature in Ancient West Asia
Intensive Persian 1
Intensive Persian 2
Art and Architecture in West Asia
Ancient West Asian Languages
Religious Thought in West Asia
Readings in Arabic 1
Readings in Arabic 2
Intensive Hebrew 1
Intensive Hebrew 2
Issues in Modern Middle Eastern History
Readings in Persian 1
Readings in Persian 2
Readings in Turkish 1
Readings in Turkish 2
Readings in Hebrew 1
Readings in Hebrew 2
Readings in Classical Islam

(6) **cultural subjects:**

Sanskrit 1
Sanskrit 2
Advanced Japanese 1
Advanced Japanese 2
Arabic 1
Arabic 2
Malay-Indonesian 1
Malay-Indonesian 2
Hindi 1
Hindi 2
Turkish 1
Turkish 2
Vietnamese 1
Vietnamese 2

In November 2012 and June 2013, Yunus Emre Institute³⁹ of Turkey requested the cooperation with Seoul National University. However, this request was rejected by Seoul National University. As far as I learned, the reason for

39 See <http://www.yee.org.tr/turkiye/en/homepage> (retrieved on 15 February 2015).

this rejection was that Seoul National University would only cooperate with universities, not with institutes. Thus, we lost a good opportunity for further development of Turkish language instruction at Seoul National University.

By the way, I took part in two successive research projects supported by the Korea Research Foundation Grant as follows⁴⁰:

- (7) The 1st research project
subject: Fieldwork Studies of Altaic Languages for Genealogy of Korean
period: September 1, 2003 ~ August 31, 2006
- (8) The 2nd research project
subject: Building Digital Archive of Altaic Languages for the Study of Genealogy of Korean
period: July 1, 2006 ~ June 30, 2009

The director of these two research projects was Prof. Dr. Ju-Won KIM⁴¹ from the Department of Linguistics of Seoul National University. The following Turkic languages were surveyed:

- (1) Altai (Altai-kizhi, Telengit, Teleut dialects of Southern group; Chalkandu, Kumandy, Tuba dialects of Northern group)
- (2) Bashkir (Dim, Ėyĕk-Haqmar, Urta subdialects of Southern dialect; Zilim subsubdialect of Urta subdialect of Southern dialect; Qïđil subdialect of Eastern dialect)
- (3) Chulym Tatar (Middle Chulym dialect, Lower Chulym dialect)
- (4) Chuvash
- (5) Crimean Tatar (Krymchak dialect)
- (6) Dolgan
- (7) Fuyü Kyrgyz
- (8) Gagauz
- (9) Karaim (Crimean dialect, Trakai dialect)
- (10) Kazakh

40 See http://altaireal.snu.ac.kr/askreal_v25/ and http://www.cld-korea.org/eng/archives/archives_1.php (retrieved on 15 February 2015).

41 김주원 (金周源, 1956-). He received a Ph. D. degree in February 1989 at Seoul National University with the dissertation ‘만주 퉁구스체어의 모음조화 연구’ [‘A Study of Vowel Harmony of the Manchu-Tungus Languages’]. He works since September 1999 at the Department of Linguistics of Seoul National University. See http://hosting01.snu.ac.kr/~linguist/?page_id=10 (retrieved on 15 February 2015).

- (11) Khakas (Kača, Kīzīl, Sagay, Shor dialects; Beltir subdialect of Sagay dialect; Koibal subdialect of Kacha dialect)
- (12) Kyrgyz (Čüy, Narīn, Talas, İsik-Köl subdialects of Northern dialect; İčkilik subdialect of Southern dialect)
- (13) Oghuz dialects of Amu Darya region
- (14) Salar
- (15) Shor (Mrass dialect)
- (16) Tatar (in Ufa; Siberian Tatar in Tomsk)
- (17) Tuvan (Kök Monchak dialect, Tsaatan dialect, Uriankhai dialect)
- (18) Urum (Oghuz dialect, Kypchak dialect)
- (19) West Yugur
- (20) Yakut

I could analyze only a part of the collected data. As mentioned above, I saw no student who wanted to learn Turkish further or to specialize in Turkic linguistics. Therefore, at present in Korea there is practically nobody except me who can analyze the collected data from these Turkic languages.

References

- History of Seoul National University 1946-1976*, Published by Seoul National University, Seoul 1976. [서울대학교 三十年史 編纂委員會, 서울대학교 三十年史 1946-1976, 서울 1976]
- History of Seoul National University 1946-1986*, Published by Seoul National University, Seoul 1986. [서울대학교 40년사 편찬위원회, 서울대학교 40년사 1946-1986, 서울 1986]
- History of Seoul National University 1946-1986 II*, Published by Seoul National University, Seoul 1986. [서울대학교 50년사 편찬위원회, 1946-1986 서울대학교 50년사 (하), 서울 1986]
- JOHANSON, Lars, “the History of Turkic”, in Lars Johanson & Éva Á. Csató (eds.), *The Turkic Languages*, London & New York 1998, pp. 81-125.
- KIM, Hyo-Joung [Hyo-Jeong], “Yabancı Dil Olarak Kore’deki Türkçe Öğretimine Bir Bakış”, *Dil Dergisi*, 98 (2000), pp. 47-51.
- LEE, Hong-jik (comp.), (*Enlarged*) *Encyclopedia of Korean History*, Seoul 2005. [李弘植 (編), (增補) 韓國史事典, 서울 2005.] (19th impression of the first edition in 1983)
- LI, Yong Söng, “Zu QWRDNTA in der Tuñuq Inscrift”, *Central Asiatic Journal*, 47/2 (2003), pp. 229-241.
- POPPE, Nicholas, *Introduction to Altaic Linguistics*, Ural-altaische Bibliothek; XIV, Wiesbaden 1965.
- SONG, Ki-joong (comp.), *Glossary of Korean Culture*, Seoul 2001. [송기중 (편), 한·영 우리 문화 용어집, 서울 2001.]

- SUH, Jae-Mahn, “Turkish Studies in Korea: Present Situation and Task”, *Journal of the Korean-Turkish Academic Society*, 1 (1997), pp. 1-20. [서재만, “한국의 터키학 연구의 현황과 과제”, 한·터학회 논총 창간호 (1997), pp. 1-20.]
- SUH, Jae-Mahn, “Kore’de Türkçe Öğretimi”, *Türkiye-Kore Edebiyatı Sempozyumu* [held during 18-20 September 2014 in Gyeongju/Korea], pp. 142-151.
- TEKİN, Talat, *A Grammar of Orkhon Turkic*, Indiana University Publications, Uralic and Altaic Series, vol. 69, Bloomington & The Hague 1968.
- TEKİN, Talat, “A New Classification of the Turkic Languages”, *Türk Dilleri Araştırmaları (Researches in Turkic Languages)* 1 (1991), pp. 5-18.
- TEKİN, Talat & Mehmet Ölmez, *Türk Dilleri — Giriş —*, İstanbul 1999.
- TEKİN, Talat, *Researches into the Orkhon Inscriptions — Kül Tigin Inscription, Bilgä Kagan Inscription, Tuñukuk Inscription —*, translated and annotated by Yong-Söng Li, Seoul 2008. [Talat Tekin (저), 이용성 (역), 돌궐 비문 연구: 쿨 티긴 비문, 빌개 카간 비문, 투뉴쿠크 비문, 서울 2008.]
- Thirty-Year History of the College of Humanities of Seoul National University*, Published by the College of Humanities of Seoul National University, Seoul 2005. [서울대학교 인문대학, 서울대학교 인문대학 30년사, 서울 2005]
- YALÇIN, S. Dilek, “Güney Kore’de Türkoloji Eğitimi”, *Türk Dili*, 583 (2000), pp. 59-66.