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### The Study of English-Korean translation in English Determiner

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#### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to investigate the uses of English determiners and their processes in the translation into Korean. English noun phrases consist of determiners, pre- and post-modifiers, and a head. This paper will focus on the determiners, as they contribute to the experiential structure of noun phrases. The importance of the category of determiner comes from the DP-analysis which has become a dominant theory in syntax and semantics. Downing and Locke (2002) factored out four major features of determiner as *partition*, *deixis*, *quality* and *quantity*. It is argued in this paper that the determiners in English play important roles in the NP structure in that they are relatively obligatory, while the corresponding category in Korean is low in importance owing to the additional case marking devices for Korean NPs. The argumentation leads to the finding that the determiners in English have the relatively low percentage of realizations by grammatical forms in Korean translations. Despite the low realizations in translations of determiners, the realizations depends on the subtypes and number of English determiners and their information status.

*Keywords:* English Determiner, Korean Determiner, translation, modifier

#### Introduction

The purpose of this study is to analyze the similarity and difference between English and Korean determiners, and to investigate how this difference influence on English-Korean translation. English determiner system is more variety in type and considered as an essential grammatical category. In contrast, Korean determiner is not categorized as single and independent one. Korean determiner is considered as a subcategory of Particles as it does not permit any modification of postposition or affixation (Yang, 2013). Korean determiner is quite different from that of English in their structure and meaning. One of subcategories of Korean determiner which has English determiner's features seems to appear by the speaker's needs and choices not by the grammatical rules. The noun structure of two language also shows explicit contrast in case markers on their head. That is, English noun structure does not specify case marker except for pronouns, while Korean noun structure obligatory specifies case marker by postpositions.

- (1) a. English: NP → English Determiner + Noun
- b. Korean: NP → (Korean Determiner) + Noun [+case]

English has developed their determiner which caused their pre-noun head structure to develop and become essential as shown in (1a), whereas in Korean, obligatory case marker caused post-noun head structure to develop in (1b). This difference may result in English determiner to be absent or replaced by other elements in English-Korean translation, to reflect selecting feature of target lexicon and maintain noun structure stable. Equivalence in translation is expressed through various forms, and textual equivalence, or formal

equivalence refers to the situation when source and target language match in their structure. As there is a tendency to preserve the equivalence in translation, corresponding elements between source and target language will raise the level of equivalence and the more the importance of meaning in source language, the higher the realization of translation will be. To achieve the purpose of this study, chapter 2 is devoted to find out the features of each determiners and analyze their lexical differences. The translation pattern of English determiners to Korean will be analyzed by their sub-categories based on the noun phrase structure and information structure in chapter 3.

### English and Korean Determiner

In this chapter I will show each feature of English and Korean determiner and compare them. Choi(2013) classified Korean determiner as demonstratives, adjectives, and quantifiers in linguistic types. In Korean adjectives which have modifying function are subcategorized under the determiner while English language system draw a line between determiner and adjectives as independent elements. However, English determiner and adjectives are unified at the pre-modifying structure of nouns in Korean, and when learning and using complicated noun phrase, Korean L2 learners do not make clear distinction between those two. Qurik, et al (1985) and others analyzed the difference between English determiner and adjective as below:

Table 1

*Comparison of English determiner and adjective*

Criterion	Adjective	Determiner
Occurrence	Selective	Partly obligatory
Multiple usage	Free	Restricted
Descriptive complements	Permitted	Unpermitted (except for some elements as <i>many</i> )
Comparative and Superlative	Possible	Impossible (except for some elements as <i>many</i> )
Conversion	Impossible	Restricted
Co-occurrence with countable nouns	Free	Restricted
Mutual occurrence sequence	Post	Pre

Lim and Kim (2014:134)

With the grammatical difference presented in table 1, adjectives and determiner can be formally distinguished as the former describes mainly about the property such as size and weight of nouns and the later only refers to the characteristics of nouns. In constructing such long noun phrases, it is evident that English adjective and determiner are in different categories based on their grammatical and formal characteristic. English determiner is independent and essential lexical structure that belongs to the grammatical categories. However, the Korean counterpart does not show the similar function or movement and somewhat in different categorical setting. Yang(2013) describes this difference below:

(2) a. Iegus-un Chulso-eui sae gabang-eida.

This-nom Chulso-poss new bag-is.

b. Iegus-un sae Chulso-eui gabang-eida.

This-nom new Chulso-poss bag-is.

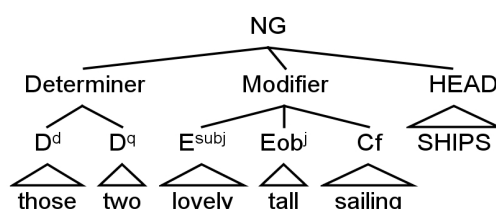
In English, ‘Chulso-eui’ in (2a) belongs to the determiner as it functions as possessive pronoun and ‘sae’ modifies noun in its meaning which function as English adjectives. However, when ‘sae’ moves in (2b), Korean the free order language allows the changed order while English does not.

### English Determiner

There are variety terms referring to the English noun phrase such as NP(noun phrase), NG(nominal group), DP(determiner phrase) based on their theoretical standpoint. In this study, I will refer to this noun combination structure as ‘noun phrase (NP)’. In discussion of Downing and Locke(2002), English NG semantically refers to the experience fields recognized by things and entities, and has four essential constituent elements. Each elements shows their original functions in the sentence structure and can be organized as below:

Figure 1

*Noun Group Structure*



As the first constituent of NG in figure 1, English determiner helps distinguish NG in communicational context, and at the same time represents the logical structure of noun. Downing and Locke(2002) explains that subcategories of English determiner contribute to the experience structure of NG. Analysis of subcategories of English determiner is below:

Table 2

*Traits of English determiners*

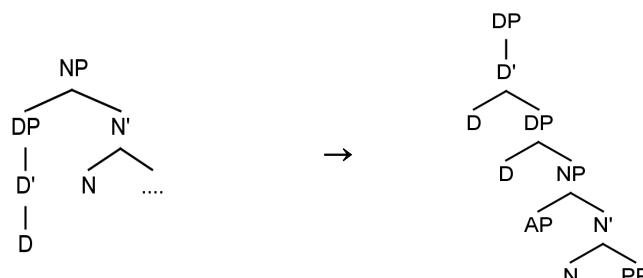
Partition	Deixis	Quality	Quantity
<b>Fraction(ㄸof)</b> half, two-thirds, ... <b>Multiplying(★of)</b> double, treble, etc. <b>Non-specific</b> All of, both of, some of, none of, <b>Other quantifiers</b> cardinal+of the+ordinal+of non-exact+of	<b>Definite</b> the <b>Indefinite</b> a(n), some <b>Specific</b> this, that, these; my, your, ...; <b>Non-specific</b> some, any, no; all, both <b>Exclamatory</b> what (a) .... !	<b>Adjectival</b> same, different, usual customary,  <b>Superlative</b> best, biggest, ...	<b>Cardinal</b> ten, a dozen, a score, hundreds, etc. <b>Ordinal</b> first, second, ...; last, next <b>Non-exact</b> much, little, many, few, less, fewer, fewest, several, enough, some

English determiner developed well the referent vocabularies as shown in figure 2, and lexical level like English quantifier ‘all’ is categorized as non-referent deixis while phrase level ‘all of’ is below non-referring function of partition.

In syntax and semantics, the importance of determiners in noun structure is emphasized most in the DP-analysis. Abney (1987) raised a question to the NG and NP analysis in early

syntax, as they cannot satisfactory explain the multiple determiner structure and suggested the alternative analysis, the DP-analysis.

Figure 2  
*The DP analysis*



Since the DP-analysis also fulfills the isomorphism in semantic interpretation, it was widely accepted in syntax-semantic theories as example below:

- (3) a. Ray is hardworking :  $H(r)$   
       b. All student is hardworking :  $\forall X(S(x) \rightarrow H(x))$   
 (4) a. Ray is hardworking :  $(Ray : x) H(x)$   
       b. All student is hardworking :  $(\forall x:(S(x))H(x))$

Saeed (2009:345)

The example in (3a) and (3b) share same sentential structure while their semantic logics do not match, causing the problem of isomorphism. To solve this problem, the strict theory can be applied yielding the determiner-central analysis in (4). In DP-central interpretation, syntactic and semantic structure coincides, then the process of meaning composition and semantic structure also show agreement. Next chapter is about Korean determiner, the counterpart of the English determiner.

### Korean Determiner

Korean Determiners are organized by their forms, functions and meanings. Form-based subcategories of Korean determiners precede nouns like the English ones, and explain and restrict the characteristics of the nouns. Korean determiner was first established as an independent categories in Sigeung Ju, *Korean Grammar* (1910). In this book, he only focused on modifying function of Korean determiner and processed joeun(good), kun(huge), chakhan(kind), dolgip(???) and etc. as a Korean determiner which showed the essential problems in Korean grammar system (Jang, 2001).

Table 3  
*Semantic categorization of Korean Determiners from advanced researches*

1. Nam and Go (1985)	
Formal determiners	Sae(new), Hun(old), 純(pure), 舊(old) etc.
Numeric determiners	Han(one), Du(two), Eueo(many), etc.
Referential determiners	Ei(this), Gue(that), Aunu(some-), 同(same), etc.
2. Min (1998)	
Formal determiners	Sae(new), Hun(old), Ohjick(only), Baro(just), etc.

Numeric determiners	Han(one), Du(two), Euro(many), etc.
Referential determiners	Ei(this), Gue(that), Yet(past), Oll(whole), etc.

Two researchers below table 3 used same classification frame and varied specific contents. Formals fall under the category of adjectives in English as they semantically function as modifier, yet still work as determiner as gradience feature was given in Min(1993)'s classification model. Numerics and referentials also break down into several details by analysis of Nam & Go (1985). Existing discussion shown below organized the Korean determiner in the similar way of that of English. Following I will compare the English and Korean determiner which have quite different lexical categories.

### Comparative analysis of English and Korean determiner

Yang (2013) compare and analyzed English and Korean determiner. According to his analysis, two determiners are obviously in different syntactic and semantic categories. However, in structural aspect both precede noun and both can construct complicated. Yang (2013) factored out features that are common to both categories as below.

First, numeric expressions in both languages are used as determiners which restricts the meaning of nouns following them.

Second, referring expressions in both languages are used as determiners which restricts the meaning of nouns following them.

Third, possessive expressions in both languages are used as determiners which restricts the meaning of nouns following them.

Fourth, interrogative expressions in both languages are used as determiners which restricts the meaning of nouns following them.

Fifth, when countable noun is used by its own, English obligatory assign determiners while Korean does not.

Yang (2013: 162)

Complex determiner expression shows different order in two languages. In English determiner, at most three determiners can precede a single head. English and Korean determiner shows contrast when piled up as below.

- (5) a. *All the other* students like their professors.
- b. \**These the other* students like their professors.
- c. My friend's students like their professors.
- d. *Juegie jau* chaeck-eun sae chaeck-ieda.  
     *There the* book-NOM new book-is.

In English language system, determiner under each categories in table 2 by Downing and Locke (2002), partition, deixis and quality can pile up as in (5a), yet it does not generally allow elements from same categories to overlap like (5b). However, genitives can be put together to form a complex determiner as shown in (5c). Korean language system, on the other hand, seems to permit those overlapping in (5d). Based on Min(1993), referentials are complexed to make the grammatical sentence.

English determiner and adjectives are classified as different syntactic categories as mentioned earlier. However, the noun-modifying function is grouped together into the formal determiners in Korean grammar. Complex determiners in English and Korean can be contrasted based on their difference of categorization.

- (6) a. *All the other* students like their professors.
- b. \**The all other* students like their professors.

- c. *Chuelso-eui sae* chaeck-eun billin gut-ieda.  
d. *Sae Chuelso-eui* chaeck-eun billin gut-ieda.

Overlapped English determiners as in (6 a, b) are restricted by word order while Korean determiners are in free order. Kim (2011) analyze the order of Korean determiner as follow.

- (7) a. Jeonlado-eui moden namja : All men who live in Jeonlado  
b. Moden Jeonlado-eui namja: All men who are from Jeonlado

Eventually, there are semantic differences between (7a) and (7b). The prior sentence refers to all the men who resides in the specific location, Jeonlado, while (7b) refers to the men born and raised in Jeonlado wherever they are living in now. In Korean genitive determiner, the meaning changes by its lexical order. As free order language, Korean language system allows changes in word order of determiner structure, producing grammatical sentences unlike the English counterpart, yet the meaning may change.

To sum up, English and Korean determiner systems are different in their form and function. The English-Korean translation patterns will be analyzed through three types of texts in Chapter 3.

### English-Korean translation pattern of English determiners

In this study, to identify the translation pattern of English determiners, selected a text from each three genres, then extracted 300 noun phrase forms from each text. The complex determiners extracted are decomposed and categorized as below figure.

Figure 3

*English-Korean translation pattern of English determiner analysis model*

No		Pre-S	Determiners				modifiers	Head	Post-S
			Partition	Deixis	Quality	Quantity			
1	1								
1	2								
1	3								
1	4								
1	5								
1	6								
1	7								
1	8								
1	9								
1	10								
2	1								
2	2								
2	3								
2	4								

As figure 3 shows, I will investigate the translation pattern of determiners on their categories, then analyze which sub-categories of determiners are translated in the complex situation. Also, to find out whether the location of noun phrase on sentence may impact the translation pattern, pre and post structure are also setted in the analysis model.

Reiss (2000) classified text as three genres: expletive, informative and active (Kim, 2015). Based on this theory, three texts were chosen.

Table 4

*Translation Analysis Resource*

The Grate Gatsby
(A)people's history of the United States
Keynote Address at the 2004 Democratic National Convention

Texts those main purpose is to deliver information are expected to maintain determiners in translation process while determiners in expletive texts are likely to be omitted. Therefore,

I will take the translational tendency by their text genre into consideration and at the same time examine the translation pattern of each text.

### English determiner usage in Source text.

This chapter the translation pattern of English determiner used in source texts of three genres is analyzed by each sub-categories. Also in deixis, the most frequent element, definitives like the/a(n) which does not have target language counterpart may be omitted in translation, while genitives which contains relational notion will be highly translated as they have more semantic importance.

**Analysis of translation realization per subcategories of English determiners** I investigated the noun phrase structure from three texts and classified them into four sub-categories suggested in table 2. Also, the translation pattern of determiners in source texts were investigated by their categories. In the source texts, more than 90 percent are deixis, while their translation rate is noticeably low. In contrast, quantity takes the lowest part in source text, yet shows highest rates of realization. When analyzed by their genre, deixis are the least translated while in the affective genre *Keynote Address* shows highest translation proportion among three.

In further pages, the detail structure of deixis, which construct determiner phrases in source text in the highest proportion, and their translation pattern will be analyzed.

**Translation realization of Deixis** Based on the categorization presented by Downing and Locke (2002), the deixis can be subcategorized in three types as follow.

Table 5

*Analysis on the translation pattern of the subcategories of deixis*

	Deixis							
	the		a/an		Expletives			
					this/that		possessives	
	Text(%)	TT (%)	Text(%)	TT (%)	text(%)	TT (%)	text(%)	TT (%)
T.G.G	43.7	13.5	30.7	22.19	6.6	38.8	14.4	48.7
P.H of U.S.	67.2	6.2	17.4	10.0	4.1	83.3	7.3	42.8
K.A.	30.1	31.7	26.5	13.7	8.5	79.1	23.0	53.8

In the Table 5, the subcategorization was done by boundness and explicitness of each lexical, then the proportions of each subcategory takes up of total usage were examined. The definite article 'the' shows the highest proportion and the indefinite article 'a/an' follows after. Articles are expected to show no translation since they have no exact counterpart in Korean. The result represent this anticipation as only few are translated in the proportion. Particularly, in the informational text, *The People's history*, the definite article 'the' is rarely translated. In contrast, the definitives, the determiners with more explicit meanings are predicted to be more translated, and the result reflects the prediction. Still, they are translated lower in the expletive text, *The Great Gatsby* as the main focus in translation process of this text might be the aesthetics of language. On the other hand, in the *Keynote Address*, the possessives are frequent and more than half are realized in translation.

Next will be analysis of the compound determiner expressions precedes a noun head.

**Analysis on translation realization of Compound Determiners** The determiners in English are essential structure, and determiners in different categories can be stacked up to

three at most. The noun phrases with more than two determiners were surveyed and also subcategories of each determiners were researched in Table 6 below.

Table 6

*Analysis of complex determiners and their subcategories*

	Partition	Deixis	Quality	Quantity	T.G.G	P.H of U.S.	K.A.
2	✓	✓			3	5	3
		✓	✓		7	6	33
	✓		✓		1	0	0
	✓			✓	1	1	0
		✓		✓	0	5	4
3	✓	✓	✓		1	1	0
		✓	✓	✓	1	1	0

The complex determiners in each text were researched, but their proportion were low. In speech text, deixis which bear referential meaning were put together with the quality determiners 33times. In many cases, the subcategories are combined consecutively. The combination with gap, like first and third or fourth are rare, and when three determiners are combined, no gap was observed.

The translation pattern will be analyzed focusing on English sentence structure in the next chapter.

### The Translation Pattern based on the context of English determiner

While in the prior section, the main discussion was the translation pattern based on the lexical categorization of determiners, from this chapter I will analyze the English-Korean translation realization of determiner phrase, focusing on the characteristics of English sentential structure.

**New and Given Information** When a sentence contains both less important and more important information at the same time, there is a tendency to put the more important information at the end, which is called *End-focus principle*. Below sentences shows this tendency well.

(8) a. He gave her a pencil.

b. ? He gave a pencil to her.

The sentence (8a) put proper noun, usually understood as new information at the end and in (8b), given information instead become the end of a sentence. Both sentences are grammatical while (8b) sentence seems to be more awkward than the other. This End-focus principle is one of the cognitive methods to elevate the understandability of the sentence to the listeners. Based on this principle, a sentence can be analyzed as having two parts. A subject is understood as given and objects as old information. In this study, this informational structure of English sentence will be applied to the translation. This study is based on the main assumption that the determiner structure of the nouns in the object position will be translated more exactly than the ones in the subject position. Among three source texts, only the noun phrases that are obviously identified as subject and objects are extracted then their rates of translational realization were compared.



Table 7

*Rates of translational realization of the determiners by their position*

		T.G.G	P.H of U.S.	K.A.
NP + V	TEXT	32	66	33
	TT(%)	28.1	22.7	60.6
V + NP	TEXT	100	74	112
	TT(%)	24.0	24.3	55.3

The table 7 below shows that in the informative text *The People's History*, determiners in both position shows similar rates of translation with the rate of determiners of object position slightly higher. Contrary to the prediction, the determiners in subject position shows quite subtle, but obviously higher rate of realization in the other two texts, *The Great Gatsby* and *Keynote Address*. Taken together, there are no obvious relations between the End-focus principle in English sentence structure and translational realization of determiners.

Further discussion is about the translation pattern of determiners when the noun accompanies modifying structures.

**The presence of modifying structure** The modifying structure of noun gives novel information. Generally, Korean prefers pre-modification while in English both pre and post modifying structure are well developed. Son(2001) explains that the difference occur as Korean is situation-focus language while English is structure-focus language. As modifying structures convey novel information, most determiners of nouns with modifying structures are likely to be omitted in translational process. The translation pattern of determiners followed by the noun with post-modifying structures are analyzed. The post-modifying structure used are of-possessive structure and relatives clauses, which are typical post modifiers.

Table 8

*Analysis of translation of determiners by their post modifying structures*

		T.G.G	P.H of U.S.	K.A.
(NP + of)	TEXT	58	41	78
	TT(%)	13.7	12.1	12.8
(NP + R)	TEXT	25	26	4
	TT(%)	23.0	15.3	0.0
(NP + V)	TEXT	32	66	33
	TT(%)	28.1	22.7	60.6

First, translational realization rate of each texts are examined then compared with the ones without modifying structure and in subject position in Table 8. The determiners with of-possessives are translated more than 10 percent overall and the ones with relative clauses shows variation of translation rate by their texts. Determiners with relative clause in *The Great Gatsby* shows higher translation while in speech context, determiners with relatives are few and rarely translated. When the overall results were compared with the determiners without modifying structure, determiners with modifying structure are less translated as expected. Especially in affective text, determiners without modifiers are translated more than 50 percentage.

### Conclusion

This study analyzed how the English determiners in source texts are translated into the target language Korean. The texts used is selected based on the text categorization suggested by Reiss(2002); the expletive text, the informative text, and the affective text. English determiners are expected to be translated in low rate as they are different from Korean determiners in the lexical developmental process, the obligatory usage, the sentential structure. Based on this assumption, in chapter 2 the differences between English and Korean determiners were analyzed then in chapter 3 the translational realization is examined. Although English and Korean determiners are shows grammatical and semantic difference, they both occur prior to the noun and both can complexed. In chapter 3, the translation rates of determiners by their subcategorizations were surveyed. The obligatory deixis in source language takes the biggest pie of the determiners used but relatively translated lower. This is because the deixis are more grammatical and less informative than other determiners, and there are no counterpart in Korean. Then on the assumption that information structure of English sentence may affect the translation process, the translation pattern of determiners by their position-subject and object- was analyzed. The result shows that this conditional difference does not make any difference in translational realization. However, the presence of modifying structure that gives new information, does affect the translation of determiners. Determiners that precedes the noun with modifiers shows much lower translation than the one without modifiers. In translation process, the English articles are translated into Korean determiners in low rate as expected. However, more information bearing elements, definitive shows higher rate of translation and also affect by the presence of modifying structure.

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