

This article summarizes the process of development of the Korean language. The language Korean people back then spoke was different from the language that Korean people speak nowadays. For example, the article mentioned that there were three major dynasties in Korea and whichever dynasty that had the most power had the right to force the other two dynasties to speak in “their” dialect. Also, it talks about how Korean people used Hanja, which is the body of Chinese characters, before King Sejong developed Hangul.

The author presents his own, and people’s thoughts back then regarding the creation of Hangul by King Sejong. All the historians in the past argued why the creation of Hangul was beneficial for everyone and how it was a good thing. However, the author presents some negative views on Hangul. King Sejong created Hangul so Koreans spoke Korean. Not other languages like Chinese and Japanese. The creation of Hangul gave Koreans their own identification (resistance against the Japanese) and unified Koreans as everyone now spoke the same language. However, he argues that some people, mostly the rich, did not like the development of the Hangul. Back then, only the wealthy people were able to learn the language. Because the creation of Hangul gave the right for everyone to speak the same language, the rich were scared that they might lose their authority. He states that “Hangul erased any distinction among Koreans in the area of communication and brought the social status of the under class dangerously close to the aristocracy.”

This author refers to a professor named Kang Eun-kyo to teach the audience that there were three main different forms of language in Korean history. The professor states “Korea’s written language exists in three parts: Hangul, Korea’s modern alphabet, Han’ja, which is the body of Chinese characters that have been incorporated into Korean, and Mi-ah’l’bhet-gul (there is no ‘ph’ sound in Korean), the Western alphabet used on road signs, train schedules, and even a few newspapers.” This allows the reader to think that just because you were Korean back then, does not mean that they all spoke the same language.

Michelle Lee, “The History of Korean Language, The Overview”, *Brigham Young University*, September 6, 1999, [linguistics.byu.edu](http://linguistics.byu.edu).

