

Biographical Sketch

Sek Yen Kim-Cho

Education

- 1977 Ph.D. University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, Speech Science
Concentration: Experimental Phonetics
Dissertation: Verification of the Relationships between the Graphic Shapes and
Articulatory-Acoustic Correlates in the Korean Consonants of 1446
(Using Cineradiographic Technique)
- 1956 M.A. Seoul National University, Korean Language and Literature, Korea
MA Thesis: Prosodic Analysis of the Korean Poems
- 1952 B.A. Seoul National University, Korean Language and Literature (first and only female student)

Academic Positions

Professor Emeritus and Adjunct Professor, Department of Asian Studies, University at Buffalo, State University of New York, 2002-present
Adjunct Associate Professor, Linguistics, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, 1995-2002
Seoul National University, Associate Professor, Korean Language and Literature, Korea, 1969-1971
Seoul National University, Assistant Professor, Korean Language and Literature, Korea, 1957-68
Director, Sejong Studies Institute, University at Buffalo, 1997-present
Director, *Nurigeul* Mission Center, Seoul, Korea, 2003-present

Honorary Appointments

1. Member, Advisory Board, New Millennium Commission of Information and Communication, Republic of Korean Government, 1999-2001
2. Member, Advisory Board, "Hangeul Society (Korean Language Research Institute), 1997-1999
*Hangeul is a contemporary name of the Korean Alphabet of 1446, equivalent to Nurigeul which means the Global Writing System
3. Member, Editorial Board, Society of Hangeul Information, Seoul, 1997-present
4. Adjunct Professor, Yanbian University of Science & Technology in China, 1998-present
5. Visiting Research Professor, Speech Science, University at Buffalo, State University of New York, 1967-1968
6. Visiting Research Associate, Invited by Prof. Samuel E. Martin, Linguistics, Yale University, 1962-1963

Books

1. **Research Monograph** (Ph.D. Dissertation), Tower Press, 1977, Seoul, Korea (153 pages)
2. **The Korean Alphabet of 1446** (475 pages), Humanity Books & AC Press, October 2001
 - I. *Expositions of the Original Text, "Hwunmin Cengum"* which means "Correct Phonetic Alphabet for the Instruction of the People (See Section 6: the Theory of Twelve Semi-Tone and Temperament-Tone for the Accurate Sound Recognition of the Human Speech Sounds)
 - II. *The Orthophonic Alphabet (OPA), the *Visible Speech Sounds* (Verified by the Cineradiographic Tracings) *Since the letter shapes of the Korean consonants are *Visualized Graphic Shapes* of the *Place of Articulation, Articulatory Gestures and Perceived Discrete Sounds of Human Speech Sounds*, it was named as "Visible Speech Sounds" by the author. Even deaf people can produce the speech sounds by looking at the letter shapes of Nurigeul script.
 - III. *Annotated Translation of the Original Text* (written in the Chinese characters), *Hwunmin Cengum*, which means *The Ortho-phonic Alphabet/Correct Phonetic Alphabet for the Instruction of the People*
 - IV. *Future Applicability of the Correct Phonetic Alphabet*:
 1. Computerized Visualization of Human Speech Sounds for Global Application
 2. Nurigeul as Counterpart of the IPA (126 Symbols include 74 Pulmonic Consonants, 14 Non-Pulmonic Consonants, 10 Other Symbols and 28 Vowels)

3. Conclusions: (i) Nurigeul Should be the Global Writing System for the Correct Transcription of the Global Languages (ii) Nurigeul is the Script to Accelerate Accurate Transcription of Speech To Text.

3. Multimedia Production of CD-ROM (for efficient learning of the Global Script, *Nurigeul*)
 Title: “Let’s Master the Global Script, Nurigeul in 50 Minutes!”

4. Textbooks for learning the Korean Language

- *Sejong’s Korean* (685 pages), Ilyum Press, Seoul, 1988
- *Living Korean for SAT II*, Vol. One (660 pages, Including Workbooks), Canaan Press, 1996
- *Living Korean for SAT II*, Vol. Two (350 pages), Canaan Press, 1998
- *Living Korean for College*, Vol. One (340 pages), Canaan Press, 1999
- *Living Korean for College*, Vol. Two (357 pages), Canaan Press, 2000

Synergistic Activities

1. Established the *Sejong Studies Institute* in Buffalo in 1997 to developed Sejong’s scholarly achievements of the 15th Century into the contemporary applications in the field of speech production-perception, speech sound recognition and voice dictation, i.e., speech-to-text program, in collaboration with Dr. Yongohk Chin (Professor of System Theory and Communication Engineering, Kyunghee University; President of the Society of Hangeul Information). Prof. Chin has provided experimental verification of the theory of twelve semitones and temperament-tones.
2. In the multimedia production of the CD-ROM for learning Nurigeul, Prof. Deborah Chung (biographical sketch attached), served as the narrator. She acknowledged that Nurigeul is the best alphabet for the transcription of the entire range of human speech sounds. Dr. Chung participates with Dr. Kim-Cho in a project for the transcription of the Chinese language into Nurigeul. Since Chinese characters are ideographic and pictographic syllabary, without getting the help of Middle Language (i.e., Hanyu Pinyin), the language processing of the Chinese characters is impossible. The Romanized type of the Hanyu Pinyin system is the mediating middle language in order to access written Chinese (characters). After spending two years with Dr. Kim-Cho to develop the Nurigeul script for the transcription of the Chinese language, Dr. Chung decided that Nurigeul is the best fit middle language for the transcription of the Chinese language. This is because Nurigeul has a one-to-one correspondence between spoken Chinese and written Chinese.
3. Further development of “Sejong’s Cengum Thought of Rectification” (which enabled Sejong to create the universally applicable correct phonetic/allophonic alphabet for the correct transcription of the human speech sounds) was made together with Prof. Yongohk Chin (Kyunghee University, S. Korea) and Dr. Yong Il Song (Nurigeul Mission Center, S. Korea).
4. Established *Nurigeul Mission Center* in Seoul, focusing on the global literacy program and global reachout for the non-literate and preliterate people, mainly for the unreached people together with Dr. Yong Il Song and Rev. Deborah Oh, August 2003.
5. Dr. Loren Cunningham is President of University of the Nations at Kona, Hawaii. Since Dr. Cunningham and other literacy workers at the campus have been experiencing that the Roman orthography has a certain limitation for the multi-lingual transcription of the minority language, he adopted Nurigeul as the best writing system for the global literacy project.

Citations and Awards

1. Republic of Korea’s Presidential Award in “Recognition of the Research in Hwunmin Cengum, The Korean Alphabet of 1446, October 1991
2. Citation from Hangeul Society (National Research Institute of Korean Studies), October 1991
3. Republic of Korea Nation’s Award in “Recognition of the Contribution to Korean Studies and Outstanding Research on the Implementations of Nurigeul Script, February 1992
4. Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of outstanding service and contributions to the Korean language and Culture Program, Distinguished Scholarship on Hwunmin Cengum Research and Promotion of Sejong Studies, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, February 19, 2002