

## **An Error Analysis of Korean-English Subtitles in the Korean Drama “That Winter, The Wind Blows”**

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### **1. Introduction**

The rapid and constant development of technology has created significant changes and challenges for our lives. The Internet has established a worldwide presence and promoted globalization. The Internet has become a common way of receiving information from every corner. Most of all, many television programs on the Internet are available in many other countries. For example, Hulu offers ad-supported on-demand streaming video of TV shows, movies, and behind-the-scenes footage from NBC, Fox, ABC, and TBS. As people have watched television programs in other languages on the Internet through subtitles, subtitles have become an important and necessary method of bridging the language gap.

Nowadays, Korean movies and dramas with subtitling are popular, even among international audiences. In foreign countries, many natives, as well as Koreans living overseas, can connect with Korean movies and dramas with subtitling both on TV and on the Internet for free. Foreigners learn Korean by listening to Korean while Korean students use the English subtitles to learn English in Korean dramas, especially oral communication skills. As Korean students watch, they have an opportunity to understand how to make sentences and to speak English in each situation. Many students who are studying English in Korea and abroad have been learning to speak English through this method. They find watching Korean dramas an effective tool because they offer a lot of different situations such as informal conversation and common expressions. In addition, international audiences such as Asians (except for Koreans) and Americans who enjoy Korean movies and dramas have an opportunity to learn Korean through them. As a result, the role of subtitles is significantly important to both Koreans learning English and international audiences including Korean-Americans learning Korean and Korean culture. Even so, the importance of subtitling, especially Korean-English, has not been recognized in the academic arena for translation until very recently.

The goal of this paper is to shed light on the academic significance of subtitles translated from Korean into English, especially in the domain of Korean dramas. In addition, it is suggested that it should be followed by detailed studies which analyze the current dominance of subtitling and consistent standards should be given prominence to keep pace with the swift globalization in a unified way. For this purpose, I analyze the subtitles of Korean drama "That Winter, The Wind Blows" (2013) on the Internet sites such as Viki.com, Hulu.com, and Dailymotion.com, etc. The condition of the current study of the use of subtitles in Korea is discussed in chapter 2, chapter 3 explains the methodology of the research, and chapter 4 demonstrates the findings of error analysis on the basis of three categories - syntactic, semantic, and cultural aspects. In chapter 5, the analysis of the specific subtitle errors is

discussed, along with some suggestions regarding how to cope with these errors.

## 2. Literature Review

Diaz-Cintas (2004) argues, "A clear paradox exists which emphasizes the surprising imbalance between the little research on audiovisual translation and its enormous impact on society"(p.50). Many people regard the subtitle as outside the scope of translation and have been led to avoid this field of study. Whitman and Linsen (1992) claim with urgency the need "to dispel the disdain of literary intelligentsia, who seem to dismiss film translating and the degree of difficulty involved in it as not worthy of their attention" (p.17). Disregarding the subtitle in translation would be disastrous. The translated subtitles are the only means for the foreign audience to understand the images on screen.

Attention to the translation of audiovisual images in Korea has only recently begun trailing other countries. It began to increase in the mid and late in 2000s (Kim & Jung, 2010). Sim (2008) focuses on the analysis of subtitled translation of Korean cultural content to increase export and to strengthen international cultural exchange. He argues that the problem of the translation of Korean cultural content is focused in the three dimensions of accuracy, convenience, and reaction as the following: outdated format of translation, low compensation, tight and pending schedule of work, complicated distribution system in overseas market, no expertise in producing supplemental content, shortage of professionals who know and experience the foreign culture, and so forth. He proposes alternatives to solve these problems: development of innovative translation for cultural content guarantee of lower limit of price in the contract of dubbing, subtitles, and translation empowerment of native speakers in the market presenting workshops for international translators and so on.

Translating Korean into English, or conversely English into Korean, is difficult for translators because English and Korean belong to different language groups, and they are vastly different in view of different sentence structures, word form, and usage. According to some Korean linguists, Korean is a complex language on par with Arabic in terms of difficulty (Lee, 2012). Korean includes words from its original Hangeul, derivations of Chinese characters, and those incorporated from other languages. Korean to English translators may be faced with difficult challenges in selecting equivalent words, which could lead to errors. Errors in translated subtitles lead viewers to misunderstand the content, and it may cause global miscommunication. The most problematic point in Korean-English subtitling of Korean dramas is that they are translated by non-professionals. Even though they have been widely used on TV and Internet in America, it is disregarded in academia. This paper presents research of the mistranslations of Korean-English in the Korean drama and sheds light on the necessity of consistent standards in subtitling translated from Korean into English.

### 3. Methodology

This analysis was conducted by investigating two major web sites: Viki.com and Hulu.com which were running in the United States in February and March, 2013. At that time, more than ten web sites in the United States were running Korean dramas on the Internet: viki.com, Hulu.com, Dramafever.com, mysoju.com, mykofan.com, hacienma.net, gooddrama.net, dramacrazy.com, mvibo.com, etc. However, these web sites are blocked in Korea. As the result of this research, it was revealed that only hulu.com provides unique subtitles and the rest of the web sites have the same subtitles as viki.com. Accordingly, the subtitles of two major web sites, Viki.com and Hulu.com were examined. The Korean drama is "That Winter, The Wind

Blows" which ran from February to March 2013 by MBC. The drama has a total of 16 episodes, and the objects of the study are episode 1 and 7. Episode 1 has 934 subtitles, and episode 7 has 770 subtitles. Consequently, the total number of the subtitles is 1704. The study was done in California, USA through the Internet web sites.

The drama subtitles were recorded into an Excel document by this paper's researcher. To analyze the subtitles, a native English-speaker's intuition is needed, and the document was proofread while watching the drama by a native English-speaker in the U. S. Since the proofreader used to be an elementary school teacher teaching English composition and English grammar in San Bernardino County, California for over 30 years as well as having experience in proofreading/revising, she is well-qualified for proofreading the subtitles. She does not know the Korean language at all and examined it with the view of a foreigner.

Based on the error analysis by native English-speaker, the errors were analyzed and categorized into three major parts according to the reason for the errors: syntactic aspect, semantic aspect, and cultural aspect. The following chapter discusses those errors.

#### 4. Results

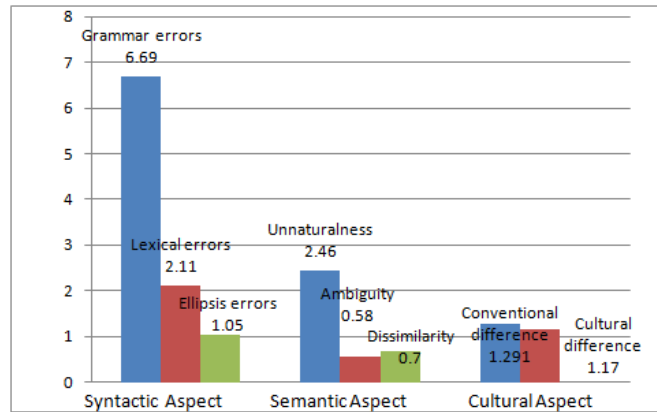
Out of the total 852 subtitles, errors in 137 subtitles were found through error analysis. Those errors are categorized into three main groups: syntactic aspect, semantic aspect, and cultural aspect. The reason they are sorted into each group is as follows: Which aspect does the error impact? The results show the errors in 16.07 % of the subtitles examined. 9.85% of the errors belong to syntactic aspect, 3.75% are in a semantic aspect, and 2.46% of the errors result from the cultural aspect.

Table 1

	Syntactic Aspect (9.85)*	Semantic Aspect (3.75)	Cultural Aspect (2.46)
1.	Grammar errors (6.69)	Unnaturalness (2.46)	Cultural difference (1.291)
2.	Lexical errors (2.11)	Ambiguity (0.58)	Conventional difference (1.17)
3.	Ellipsis errors (1.05)	Dissimilarity (0.70)	

\* Numbers in parentheses show the percentage of the errors.

Table 2



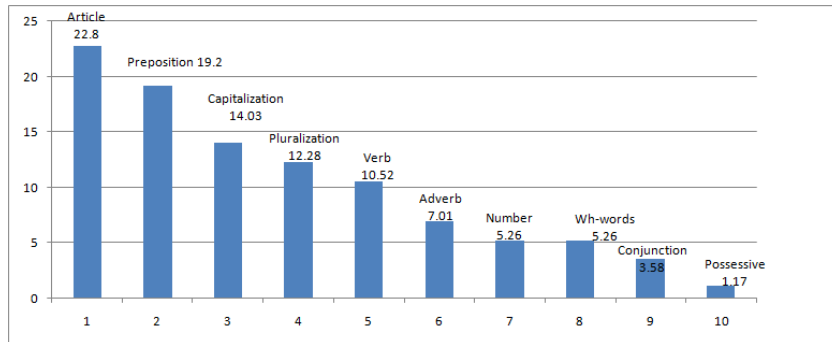
The grammar errors are subcategorized into ten groups as follows:

Table 3

Grammar errors
1. Article (22.80)
2. Preposition (19.20)
3. Capitalization (14.03)
4. Pluralization (12.28)
5. Verb (including verb tense) (10.52)
6. Adverb (7.01)
7. Number (5.26)
8. Wh-words (5.26)
9. Conjunction (3.58)
10. Possessive (1.17)

\* Numbers in parentheses show the percentage of the errors

Table 4



Overall, the most grammar errors type was article with a total of 13 errors (22.80%), followed by preposition with 12 errors (19.20%), capitalization with 8 (14.03%), pluralization with 7 (12.28%), verb including verb tense with 6 (10.5%), Adverb with 4 (7.01%), Number with 3 (5.26%), Wh-words with 3 (5.26%), Conjunction with 2 (3.58), and Possessive with 1 (1.75%). Let us examine about the above errors more specifically in the next section.

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1. Syntactic Aspect

#### 5.1.1 Grammar Errors

##### 5.1.1.1 Article

As noted, the most errors occur in the use of articles such as definite articles (*the*) and indefinite articles (*a(an)*). Since articles such as *a*, *an*, and *the* do not exist in Korean, it is one of the most difficult parts for them. For example, even though the name *PL group* appears very often in this drama, *the* is missed in front of *PL group* in the subtitles. Also, articles are missing

before common nouns such as *taxi*, *chairman*, *guy*, *gambler*, and *chance* while articles are in unnecessary positions, before nouns such as *loyalty*, *helping*. In addition, *a* and *an* should not be the position before plural nouns such as **a** 100 days and **a** 1000 punishments.

Table 5. 1 Article errors

Before correction	After correction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairman Oh of PL Group is still in a coma.</li> <li>• PL Group faces <b>the</b> major decision between selecting a new chairman,</li> <li>• I've called for taxi, already.</li> <li>• The alarm went off in chairman's...</li> <li>• He was nice guy.</li> <li>• Why won't you bet on someone who's got 99.9% chance of winning?</li> <li>• I'll give you <b>a</b> 100 days, starting today, exactly <b>a</b> 100 days</li> <li>• Just wait. When it happens again, I will get all tests done.</li> <li>• For <b>the</b> loyalty to the deceased chairman, they would do anything.</li> <li>• I'm the one doing it. You're just <b>a</b> helping.</li> <li>• You're the one who should receive <b>a</b> 1000 punishments, why should I receive.</li> <li>• What? Cheongdam-dong gambler?</li> <li>• Detective Yoon, are you still working for Cheongdam-dong area?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Chairman Oh of <b>the</b> PL Group is still in a coma.</li> <li>→ <b>The</b> PL Group faces a major decision between selecting a new chairman,</li> <li>→ I've called for <b>a</b> taxi, already.</li> <li>→ The alarm went off in <b>the</b> chairman's...</li> <li>→ He was <b>a</b> nice guy.</li> <li>→ Why won't you bet on someone who's got <b>a</b> 99.9% chance of winning?</li> <li>→ I'll give you 100 days, starting today, exactly 100 days</li> <li>→ Just wait. When it happens again, I will get all <b>the</b> tests done.</li> <li>→ For loyalty to the deceased chairman, they would do anything.</li> <li>→ I'm the one doing it. You're just helping.</li> <li>→ You're the one who should receive <b>1000 punishments</b>, why should I?</li> <li>→ What? <b>A</b> Cheongdam-dong gambler?</li> <li>→ Detective Yoon, are you still working for <b>the</b> Cheongdam-dong area?</li> </ul>

#### 5.1.1.2 Preposition

Prepositions are missing, dissimilar, or used in incorrect positions.



Table 5.2 Preposition errors

Before correction	After correction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• His only daughter, Oh Young, is the sole executor <b>to</b> his estates.</li> <li>• If you stay Seoul, he'll do whatever he can to get you to give up the money.</li> <li>• Even if I die <b>in</b> the hands of Boss Kim, I'm done with you.</li> <li>• Without further delay, please focus your attention <b>to</b> the screen.</li> <li>• The media looked at me like a monkey <b>at</b> a zoo.</li> <li>• Where on earth is he taking a blind girl <b>around</b>?</li> <li>• We were following <b>around</b> Myung Ho to catch him in the act...</li> <li>• I have things to do <b>in</b> the next two days, so I won't be able to go there early.</li> <li>• The wind feels good. Just wait, I will take you a place where the wind really feels nice.</li> <li>• Then, it's different than what you <b>found</b> from Jo Moo Chul. (actual object)</li> <li>• He is an Italian chef. He has plans to leave <b>to</b> Italy soon.</li> <li>• Secretary Wang, just a moment ago, Chairman Lee told me that he would support Young <b>for</b> the next election as chairman.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ His only daughter, Oh Young, is the sole executor <b>of</b> his estates.</li> <li>→ If you stay <b>in</b> Seoul, he'll do whatever he can to get you to give up the money.</li> <li>→ Even if I die <b>at</b> the hands of Boss Kim, I'm done with you.</li> <li>→ Without further delay, please focus your attention <b>on</b> the screen.</li> <li>→ The media looked at me like a monkey <b>in</b> a zoo.</li> <li>→ Where on earth is he taking a blind girl?</li> <li>→ We were following Myung Ho <b>around</b> to catch him ...</li> <li>→ I have things to do <b>for</b> the next two days, so I won't be able to go there early.</li> <li>→ The wind feels good. Just wait, I will take you <b>to</b> a place where the wind really feels nice.</li> <li>→ Then, it's different than what you <b>found out</b> from Jo Moo Chul. (information)</li> <li>→ He is an Italian chef. He has plans to leave <b>for</b> Italy soon.</li> <li>→ Secretary Wang, just a moment ago, Chairman Lee told me that he would support Young <b>in</b> the next election as chairman.</li> </ul>

### 5.1.1.3 Capitalization

The most prominent point in the third area of errors, capitalization, is about capitalization of "Mom" and "Dad". "Dad" is a specific reference (when the child says it as the father's name), so it is capitalized like any proper noun. On the other hand, "dad" is a common noun meaning "father" (anybody's). It is only used with disambiguators like "my" or "a" with common

nouns ("my dad", but not "my Dad" just like you wouldn't say "my Tom Smith"). For example, dad in "If dad goes away, I need to be even stronger" should be "Dad" or "my dad". These errors were most common in the area of capitalization.

Also, The titles used before name should be capitalized. The errors found were : "president Kim" should be "President Kim", "attorney Jang" should be "Attorney Jang", and "miss Oh Soo's" should be "Miss Oh Soo's". There were omitted capitalizations, as well: "I'm a namesake President (→president)", "If my brother wants, I'm always ready to give him the Chairman (→chairman) position".

Table 5.3 Capitalization errors

Before correction	After correction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you're the eldest son of PL group's president, then I'm Steve Jobs' long lost son.</li> <li>• If you're the only son of PL group's chairman, then I must be Steve.</li> <li>• If <b>dad</b> goes away, I need to be even stronger.</li> <li>• Since <b>dad's</b> been sick,</li> <li>• Wasn't that when <b>mom</b> was alive?</li> <li>• Without <b>mom</b> or me...</li> <li>• The engagement was <b>dad's</b> idea.</li> <li>• When <b>mom</b> left, I wanted to do it for <b>dad</b> in the place of <b>mom</b>.</li> <li>• This is the last gift that you can give dad and I.</li> <li>• Look, <b>miss</b> Oh Soo's not...</li> <li>• I'll skip the part about me. Since I want to keep my privacy.</li> <li>• You have a call from <b>attorney</b> Jang.</li> <li>• Or are we going to get <b>president</b> Kim and reclaim what's lost?</li> <li>• I, too, know that I'm a namesake <b>President</b>.</li> <li>• If my brother wants, I'm always ready to give him the <b>Chairman</b> position.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ If you're the eldest son of the PL <b>Group's</b> president, then I'm Steve Jobs' long lost son.</li> <li>→ If you're the only son of the PL <b>Group's</b> chairman, then I must be Steve.</li> <li>→ If <b>Dad</b> goes away, I need to be even stronger.</li> <li>→ Since <b>my dad's</b> (or <b>Dad's</b>) been sick</li> <li>→ Wasn't that when <b>Mom</b> was alive?</li> <li>→ Without <b>Mom</b> or me...</li> <li>→ The engagement was <b>Dad's</b> idea.</li> <li>→ When <b>Mom</b> left, I wanted to do it for <b>Dad</b> in the place of <b>Mom</b>.</li> <li>→ This is the last gift that you can give <b>Dad</b> and me.</li> <li>→ Look, <b>Miss</b> Oh Soo's not...</li> <li>→ I'll skip the part about me since I want to keep my privacy.</li> <li>→ You have a call from <b>Attorney</b> Jang.</li> <li>→ Or are we going to get <b>President</b> Kim and reclaim what's lost?</li> <li>→ I too know that I'm a namesake <b>president</b>.</li> <li>→ If my brother wants, I'm always ready to give him the <b>chairman</b> position.</li> </ul>

5.1.1.4 Pluralization

Since the plural form does not exist in Korean, errors related to singular/plural form were evident. For example, "two pair"(→two pairs), "cherry"(→cherries), and "house"(→houses). In addition, the errors in pluralization seem to result from the lack of information in countable nouns and non-countable nouns. For example, since "estate" means "everything one owns", it should be in the singular form. "Mail" is also an uncountable noun and "one" should not be in front of mail; "There was one registered letter that was hand-written."

Table 5.4 Pluralization errors

Before correction	After correction
• Two pair	→ Two pairs
• His only daughter, Oh Young, is the sole executor to his estates.	→ His only daughter, Oh Young, is the sole executor of his estate.
• Two front teeth. Implant.	→ Two front teeth. Now I have implants.
• It work out to be 78 million won.	→ It works out to be 78 million won.
• I need to cut the cherry in half.	→ I need to cut the cherries in half.
• Everyone is underneath your feet. The mountain, the house...	→ Everyone is underneath your feet. The mountain, the houses...
• There was <b>one</b> registered <b>mail</b> that was hand-written.	→ There was <b>one</b> registered <b>letter</b> that was hand-written.

5.1.1.5 Modal Verb (including verb tense)

Errors regarding modal verbs such as must, can, and would were found, modal verbs used in conditional sentences are especially hard for Korean translators. Also, errors of subject-verb agreement were made.

Table 5.5 Modal Verb (including verb tense) errors

Before correction	After correction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thinking about how proud your father <b>must</b> have been if he were alive.</li> <li>• Of course. Of course I <b>can't</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Thinking about how proud your father <b>would</b> have been if he were alive.</li> <li>→ Of course. Of course I <b>wouldn't (have done that)</b>.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I, for your sake, place a million bells.</li> <li>• Because you cured Yoo Chul's brain, and <b>fix</b> him when he couldn't even sit or stand.</li> <li>• It has been a while since the guy, Jo Moo Chul talk about, has died.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ I, for your sake, <b>placed</b> a million bells.</li> <li>→ Because you cured Yoo Chul's brain, and <b>fixed</b> him when he couldn't even sit or stand.</li> <li>→ It has been a while since the guy, Jo Moo Chul <b>talked</b> about, has died.</li> </ul>

## 5.1.1.6 Adverb

Adverb errors such as *just*, *only*, *ever*, and *completely* were found, especially in their position.

Table 5.6 Adverb errors

Before correction	After correction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I <b>can't just</b> live like this?</li> <li>• Chairman Oh Se Young insisted <b>only on</b> domestic productions.</li> <li>• <b>Like</b> Secretary Wang would <b>ever</b> let me use a knife.</li> <li>• The hyung that I am living with (Oh Soo) lives off his face and fists and is a <b>completely</b> player.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ I <b>just can't</b> live like this?</li> <li>→ Chairman Oh Se Young insisted <b>on only</b> domestic productions.</li> <li>→ Secretary Wang would <b>never</b> let me use a knife.</li> <li>→ The brother that I am living with (Oh Soo) lives off his face and fists and is a <b>complete</b> player.</li> </ul>

## 5.1.1.7 Number

Number errors were discovered; "half a billion" won was mistranslated to "five million won", "7 billion won" was mistranslated to "70 million won", and "10 cm" was to "100 cm".

Table 5.7 Number errors

Before correction	After correction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no... I mean you embezzled <b>five million won</b>.</li> <li>• No, you embezzled <b>70 million won</b>.</li> <li>• I'll aim <b>100</b> cm to the right.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ No, the amount you embezzled is <b>half a billion won</b>.</li> <li>→ No, the money you embezzled is <b>7 billion won</b>.</li> <li>→ I'll aim <b>10</b> cm to the right.</li> </ul>

#### 5.1.1.8 Wh-words

Wh-words such as *why* and *what* were transposed.

Table 5.8 Wh-words errors

Before correction	After correction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why do you take us for?</li> <li>• I'm curious to see that Oh Soo ...</li> <li>• What did I quit school and become a gangster?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ What do you take us for?</li> <li>→ I'm curious to see what Oh Soo ...</li> <li>→ Why did I quit school and become a gangster?</li> </ul>

#### 5.1.1.9 Possessive

In some instances, possessive indicators were omitted.

Table 5.9 Possessive errors

Before correction	After correction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The word is out on Chung-dam streets.</li> <li>• Living with distant and scary dad.</li> <li>• Tomorrow, Miss should prepare for the anniversary party of the company's founding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ The word is out on Chung-dam's streets.</li> <li>→ Living with <b>our</b> distant and scary dad.</li> <li>→ Tomorrow, Miss should prepare for the company's anniversary party</li> </ul>

#### 5.1.1.10 Conjunction

Conjunction errors were found. *Even if* is about the future while *even though* is about the past. Although it should be differentiated, depending on the tense, it sometimes wasn't.

Table 5.10 Conjunction errors

Before correction	After correction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Even if</b> I called you after a long time, you say okay without any hesitance!</li> <li>• <b>If</b> Secretary Wang and Myung Ho insist that everything's over, right?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ <b>Even though</b> I called you after a long time, you said okay without any hesitation!</li> <li>→ Secretary Wang and Myung Ho insist that everything's over, right?</li> </ul>

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## 5.1.2 Lexical Errors

Lexical errors resulting from the lack of appropriate language usage were exhibited most. For example, "attorney" and "lawyer" have the same Korean language meaning. However, "lawyer" is a kind of job while "attorney" is used for a title such as policeman and officer. While "policeman" is used for a job name, "Officer" is the title. A similar error is "boss" and "President". The use of "boss" can seem oppressive and crude while "President" appears more dignified and official. Thus, they should have been used depending on the situation in the drama.

Also, "enlightenment" and "sun shine" are used differently. "Enlightenment" means mental realization of something while "sun shine" refers to good circumstances or environment. This choice was inappropriate.

Another kind of error is the different gender words: "maid" and "servant",

"slut and "gigolo", and "trouble-making girl" and "trouble-maker".

Other distinguishable errors are as follows: "fatigue" and "body ache", "in fact" and "actually", "relation" and "relationship", "move" and "influenced/persuaded", "hesitance" and "hesitation", and "come" and "get".

Table 5.1.2

Before correction	After correction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lawyer</b> Jang?</li> <li>• <b>Boss!</b></li> <li>• <b>President</b> Kim (of the gang) thinks you have the money.</li> <li>• Will there really be a moment of such <b>enlightenment</b>?</li> <li>• <b>maid</b></li> <li>• He's a total <b>slut</b>.</li> <li>• You don't look at all like a <b>trouble-making girl...</b></li> <li>• Your loyalty is still alive. Even if I called you after a long time, you say okay without any <b>hesitance!</b></li> <li>• <b>fatigue</b></li> <li>• <b>In fact</b>, I have some things to take care of tomorrow and the day after.</li> <li>• Secretary Wang and Lee Myung Ho would insist this <b>relation</b> was already over. Right?</li> <li>• I think Oh Soo <b>moved</b> the majority of conservative shareholders who were against Young.</li> <li>• When you <b>come</b> out, wait for me in Switzerland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ <b>Attorney</b> Jang?</li> <li>→ <b>President!</b></li> <li>→ The <b>boss</b> (of the gang) thinks you have the money.</li> <li>→ Will the <b>sun shine</b> down on me as well?</li> <li>→ <b>servant</b></li> <li>→ He's a total <b>gigolo</b>.</li> <li>→ You don't look at all like a <b>trouble-maker...</b></li> <li>→ Your loyalty is still alive. Even if I called you after a long time, you said okay without any <b>hesitation!</b></li> <li>→ <b>body ache</b></li> <li>→ <b>Actually</b>, I have some things to take care of tomorrow and the day after.</li> <li>→ Secretary Wang and Lee Myung Ho would insist this <b>relationship</b> was already over. Right?</li> <li>→ I think Oh Soo <b>influenced/persuaded</b> the majority of conservative shareholders who were against Young.</li> <li>→ When you <b>get</b> out, wait for me in Switzerland.</li> </ul>

### 5.1.3 Ellipsis Errors

Most ellipsis errors do not affect the meaning of sentences, but can sometimes creates and awkward flow and confusion, it is important to include all clarifying words. The errors made are as followings.

Table 5.1.3

Before correction	After correction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A call from Secretary Wang.</li> <li>• Being stuck in this smelly hospital with no other than lifeless Secretary Wang.</li> <li>• Let's do then.</li> <li>• Let me put down for a second.</li> <li>• Please applause.</li>   <li>• Nothing wrong.</li> <li>• No, <b>its</b> right.</li> <li>• So Ra framed you after she embezzled President Kims' club and disappeared.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ <b>(There's)</b> a call from Secretary Wang.</li> <li>→ Being stuck in this smelly hospital with no <b>one</b> other than lifeless Secretary Wang.</li> <li>→ Let's do <b>it</b> then.</li> <li>→ Let me put <b>you</b> down for a second.</li> <li>→ Please give her applause.</li> <li>→ Please give a round of applause.</li> <li>→ Nothing's wrong.</li> <li>→ No, <b>it's all</b> right.</li> <li>→ So Ra framed you after she embezzled the boss' club (<b>money</b>) and disappeared.</li> </ul>

## 5.2. Semantic aspect

### 5.2.1 Unnaturalness

Unnaturalness in Korean-English translation does not completely ruin the whole work though, it may confuse and puzzle English speaking viewers. It also does a disservice to Koreans learning to speak English. For example, cons caused the victims to become very angry in one situation. In that case, a more crude response is appropriate in that situation. "What are you doing? Go catch those bastards!" is more natural than "What are you doing? Get them!". Also, "It sounds like you like Italy more than you like me. Sad" is more natural than "You like Italy better than me. You're letting me down." These examples show that with slight changes awkward phrases become more natural.



Table 5.2.1 Unnaturalness Errors

Before correction	After correction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A: How can people live without any reason or meaning?</li> <li>    B: Is that so? (is followed by statement)</li> <li>• Is that right?(sarcasm)</li> <li>• What are you doing? Get them!</li>   <li>• People want to find meaning to their life.</li> <li>• To try to find meaning in life, some people put their life on the line for a loved one they will soon forget.</li> <li>• In this world, where people are all looking for a reason to live...</li> <li>• So, I will also try to look for a reason to live, in this dirty and lousy life.</li> <li>• I agree.</li> <li>• If you're the only son of the PL Group's chairman, then I must be Steve Jobs's hidden son.</li> <li>• There's no one at my house to receive mail, that's why I did it.</li> <li>• You normally don't see that a lot in names, but it's really meaningful.</li> <li>• Oh Young, she is my sister.</li> <li>• You like Italy better than me. You're letting me down.</li> <li>• I think you'll still eat it.</li> <li>• Who do you think Secretary Wang is? To let me use a knife.</li> <li>• She is with Oh Soo, after finishing rehearsal.</li> <li>• Fitting for my perfect body... Crisp shoulders and collar lines..</li> <li>• For the 78 billion won that I'm owing to you, President Kim, I'm doing my best to repay.</li> <li>• She went out to change her clothing as her outfit is uncomfortable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A: How can people live without any reason or meaning?</li> <li>B: → Really?</li> <li>→ I guess not.</li> <li>→ What are you doing? Go catch those bastards!</li> <li>→ Everyone wants to find a reason to live.</li> <li>→ So, in order to find that reason, some risk it all on a fleeting love.</li> <li>→ Everyone says they're looking for life's meaning</li> <li>→ Then should I also try to find some meaning in this screwed up world?</li> <li>→ I know that.</li> <li>→ If you're the eldest son of the PL Group's president, then I'm Steve Jobs' long lost son.</li> <li>→ I did it because there is no one at my house to get the mail.</li> <li>→ Normally, people are not named chik-Il Soo, but don't you think that it's cool?</li> <li>→ Young, that's my sister.</li> <li>→ It sounds like you like Italy more than you like me. Sad</li> <li>→ You'll still have to eat it. (forceful)</li> <li>→ Secretary Wang would never let me use a knife.</li> <li>→ She finished the rehearsal and she's with Soo.</li> <li>→ Perfect fit for my body...Crisp shoulders and collar lines..</li> <li>→ I'm trying my hardest to pay you back the 78 billion won.</li> <li>→ She went to change into more comfortable clothes.</li> </ul>

### 5.2.2 Ambiguity

Ambiguity in languages shows how complex verbal communication might be and instead of regarding it as a problem, it is recognized as a component adding value (Witt, 2008). It takes place when two or more possible meanings are uncertain. If it concerns a single word, it is lexical ambiguity, and if it happens in a phrase, it is called structural ambiguity. In this drama, "He trusted in you more than me." is ambiguous: "He trusted in you more than he trusted in me" or "He trusted in you more than I trust in you". Consequently, to convey the first meaning in this sentence, "He trusted in you more than in me" is better. Also, "As much as me, you like being an actress, don't you?" could have two meanings such as "As much as you like me" or "As much as I like you being an actress." As a result, to express the first meaning, "You like acting just as much as you like me." can avoid the ambiguity.

Table 5.2.2 Ambiguity Errors

Before correction	After correction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My mom said that when I was eight and my sister was six, she got divorced from my dad... but my mom passed away suddenly. Left my sister at his place and left the house with just me, and that's why I'm living like this, as a maid.</li> </ul>	→ When I was 8 and my sister was 6, my mother divorced my father.. She left my sister with my father, and only kept me with her. And my mother suddenly died. So, I ended up the way I am now.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He trusted in you more than me.</li> </ul>	→ He trusted in you more than in me.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The cops are digging around the club and our banks and So Ra is gone.</li> </ul>	→ The cops are digging around the club and our bank accounts and So Ra is gone.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As much as me, you like being an actress, don't you?</li> </ul>	→ You like acting just as much as you like me.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You'll get fired, then.</li> </ul>	→ If you do, consider yourself fired.

### 5.2.3 Dissimilarity

Dissimilarity means a difference in word choice which has an great impact

on understanding the drama. For example, "lose her eyesight" and "lose consciousness" have totally different meanings, this mistranslation gives viewers misunderstanding. Other errors were made as follows: "every two hours" and "every two minutes", "opening party" and "anniversary party", "little doll" and "puppet", and "a bit" and "so much". The examples in the "after correction" column are literal translations. This could only be known by one who speaks both Korean and English.

Table 5.2.3 Dissimilarity Errors

Before correction	After correction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• But that won't make her completely <b>lose her eyesight</b>.</li> <li>• Among the shareholders, the rumor that you and Lee Myung Ho treated me like a <b>little doll</b>, will be put to rest.</li> <li>• Jin So Ra <b>invite her to</b> the anniversary party. Let her meet Oh Soo there.</li> <li>• Invite Jin So Ra to the <b>opening</b> party. Let's have her meet with Oh Soo there.</li> <li>• She sends me threatening text messages <b>every two hours</b>.</li> <li>• You've aged a <b>bit</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ But I don't think a patient would <b>lose consciousness</b> because of that.</li> <li>→ The shareholders think that you and Mr. Myung Ho control me like a <b>puppet</b>. You'll be able to quiet their suspicions.</li> <li>→ Jin So Ra <b>was invited to</b> the anniversary party. Let her meet Oh Soo there.</li> <li>→ Invite Jin So Ra to the <b>anniversary</b> party. Let's have her meet with Oh Soo there.</li> <li>→ What about So Ra? She's texting threats <b>every two minutes</b>.</li> <li>→ You've aged <b>so much</b>.</li> </ul>

### 5.3 Cultural Aspect

#### 5.3.1. Cultural Differences

America and Korea have very different cultures which affect their languages and cause errors. Korean translators have some difficulty due to their relationship complexities. They call older people brother (or *hyung* or *oppa*), sister (or *onni* or *nuna*), aunt (*ajumma*), uncle (*ajeosi*). Consequently, it causes foreign viewers who do not know Korean culture to confuse the implication. "young master(도련님)" may be misunderstood. Even Korean viewers feel it is too extreme an expression. Also, " Those beggars" shows a cultural difference.

In Viki.com, "거지같은 놈들" is translated into "Those beggars!" while it is translated into "Bastard" in Hulu.com. "Those beggars!" and "Bastard" have very different meanings, but foreign viewers do not understand the meaning of "Those beggars!". In addition, "천벌" is translated into "1000 punishments", "떡밥 주지마라" is "Don't toss me old rice", "감옥에서 쉰밥 먹었냐?" is "Did they feed you spoiled food in prison", "이 여우같이 생긴게!" is "That weasel-like face!", and "너는 꼬리 9개 달린 여우가 분명해!" is "I'm sure you must be a fox with 9 tails." These colloquialisms due to cultural difference would be lost on foreign viewers.

Table 4.3.1 Cultural differences errors

Before correction	After correction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hyung</b></li> <li>• This <b>hyung</b>, serious!</li> <li>• The <b>hyung</b> that I am living with (Oh Soo) lives off his face and fists and is a completely player.</li> <li>• You're looking for your <b>brother</b>?</li> <li>• Isn't this Oh Soo <b>oppa's</b> house?</li> <li>• Even if you don't approve, I will go to the party with <b>Oppa</b>.</li> <li>• I'm Lawyer Jang, your <b>uncle</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Ahjumma!</b></li> <li>• <b>Young master!</b> It's dangerous.</li> <li>• <b>Those beggars!</b> or <b>Beggars like..</b></li> <li>• You're the one who should receive a <b>1000 punishments</b>, why should I receive?</li> <li>• <b>Don't toss me old rice</b> (metaphor for doing something half heartedly).</li> <li>• Did they feed you <b>spoiled food in prison</b>?</li> <li>• That <b>weasel-like face!</b></li> <li>• I'm sure you must be a <b>fox with 9 tails</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ <b>Name</b> or <b>bro</b>.</li> <li>→ Be serious, <b>bro</b>.</li> <li>→ The <b>brother</b> that I am living with (Oh Soo) lives off his face and fits and is a complete player.</li> <li>→ Are you looking for your <b>friend</b>?</li> <li>→ Isn't this <b>Mr./ brother</b> Oh Soo's house?</li> <li>→ Even if you don't approve, I will go to the party with <b>Oh Soo</b>.</li> <li>→ I'm Lawyer Jang,</li> <li>→ <b>Name</b> or <b>ma'am</b>?</li> <li>→ <b>Name</b></li> <li>→ <b>Bastard</b></li> <li>→ <b>heaven's punishment</b></li> <li>→ <b>Stop playing around</b>.</li> <li>→ <b>Have you lost your mind?</b></li> <li>→ <b>What a weasel!</b></li> <li>→ I'm sure you must be a <b>cat with 9 lives</b>.</li> </ul>

### 5.3.2. Conventional Differences

Korean and English have different conventional ways of speaking. First of all, when Koreans answer a question in the negative, they say "Yes" which means "No" in English. The reason for the error was found: when A asks "Can you not see?", the answer should be "No, (I can't see).

The other is a conventional word order difference between English and Korean. For example, "소라 앞에서 무릎 꿇고 빌어도 부족한데.." was translated into "kneeling down and begging in front of So Ra might not even be enough", but it should be "kneeling down and begging So Ra might not be even enough" without "in front of". Also, "진소라가 오수 오빠가 PL 그룹아들이라고 말했었는데" was translated into "Jin So Ra, Oh Soo, the brother, often said he was the son of PL Group", but it should be "Jin So Ra, often said Oh Soo, the brother, he was the son of PL Group". "내 와이프 가 진소라 팬인데 내 기분을 좋게 해준다고 인터넷에서 진 소라를 찾는 동안 그걸 발견 했데요" was translated into "My wife, I'm a fan of Jin So Ra, was trying to make me feel better and she found it while searching for Jin So Ra on the Internet", but it should be "Because I'm a fan of Jin So Ra, My wife was trying to make me feel better and she found it while searching for Jin So Ra on the Internet". Lastly, since exclamations are different between the countries, the word "Aigoo", which is a greeting is misunderstood as somebody's name. It should be "Wow" or "Ah"

Table 5.3.2 Conventional differences errors

Before correction	After correction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A: Can you not see?</li> <li>• B: <b>Yes.</b> (I can't see)</li> <li>• And you keep <b>interrupting me, mid-sentence...</b></li> <li>• This psycho...</li> <li>• Hey, kneeling down and begging in <b>front</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A: Can you not see?</li> <li>→ B: <b>No.</b> (I can't see)</li> <li>→ And you keep <b>on talking to me disrespectfully.</b></li> <li>→ This is psycho</li> <li>→ Hey, kneeling down and begging So</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>of</b> So Ra might not be even enough,</li> <li>• I know. Jin So Ra, Oh Soo, the brother, <b>often said</b> he was the son of PL Group</li> <li>• My wife, <b>I'm a fan of Jin So Ra</b>, was trying to make me feel better and she found it while searching for Jin So Ra on the internet.</li> <li>• That medicine... Can't you give it to me? Don't worry. I won't use it so <b>easily</b>.</li> <li>• Worked hard everyone.</li> <li>• <b>Aigoo</b>, (looks like somebody's name) good to see you Secretary Wang.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ra might not be even enough,</li> <li>→ I know. Jin So Ra, <b>often said</b> Oh Soo, the brother, was the son of the PL Group's president</li> <li>→ <b>Because I'm a fan of Jin So Ra</b>, My wife was trying to make me feel better and she found it while searching for Jin So Ra on the internet.</li> <li>→ That medicine... Can't you give it to me? Don't worry. I won't use it so <b>lightly</b>.</li> <li>→ Everyone <b>has worked</b> hard.</li> <li>→ <b>Wow</b>, good to see you Secretary Wang.</li> </ul>
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## 6. Conclusion

We discussed the errors of the Korean-English subtitles in the Korean drama "That Winter, The Wind Blows". They were categorized into three main groups of syntactic aspect, semantic aspect, and cultural aspect. According to the error analysis, it is suggested that good translation of the subtitle counts on (1) grammatical correctness (2) semantic accuracy and (3) clear recognition of culture. In addition, through analysis, it is suggested that name-spelling, calling titles, and number notation be consistent. Firstly, the same places or people are subtitled in two different spellings such as *Chungdam-dong* and *Cheongdam dong*, *Dr. Hwan* and *Dr. Han*, etc. This causes viewers to confuse for the same person or place with a different one. Secondly, as mentioned before, Koreans call older people brother (or *hyung* or *oppa*), sister (or *onni* or *nuna*), aunt (*ajumma*), or uncle (*ajeosi*). For consistency, they should use only people's name. The foreign viewers who are not aware of Korean culture are more likely to misunderstand the relationship. However, in the point of view of helping the international audience better understand Korean culture which is

foreign and exotic to them, it is argued that the Korean-specific words should be preserved in translation to bring the international audiences closer to Korean culture. It is argued that consistency in calling titles should be achieved in either way. Lastly, when numbers are used, it should be consistently be one way; preferably Arabic numbers (e.g. 9) or English words (e.g. nine).

Consistency in translation such as name-spelling, calling titles, and number notation is a very important element in subtitling, especially from Korean to English. Korea has increased the export of its cultural contents through international cultural exchange. The importance of subtitle translation of films or dramas is growing every day. Subtitling influences the cultures' sense of subjectivity and gives rise to questions about the ethno-linguistic identity of them. Incorrect subtitles have a defamiliarizing effect on viewers. Consequently, it is emphasized that subtitling has become a major factor in understanding differences in cultures and should be translated using consistent terms with a cultural perspective.

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[Abstract]

**An Error Analysis of Korean-English Subtitles in the Korean Drama  
"That Winter, The Wind Blows"**

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Subtitle translation of Korean films or dramas is growing every day due to the increasing export of its cultural contents. Even so, the academic recognition of subtitles, especially from Korean into English, is lacking in the field of translation.

This paper aims to shed light on the necessity of consistent standards in subtitling translated from Korean into English. To do this, the subtitles of the Korean drama "That Winter, The Wind Blows" (2013) are analyzed. The analysis is through Internet sites such as Viki.com and Hulu.com. The findings of error analysis are grouped on the basis of three categories: syntactic, semantic, and cultural aspects. Through analysis, it is suggested that name-spelling, calling titles, and number notation be consistent. This paper hopes to highlight the importance of Korean-English subtitling of Korean dramas to inform foreign viewers of Korean culture and language all over the world. This will also help Koreans learning to speak English.

▶ Key Words: Korean drama, translation, errors of subtitles, syntactic, semantic, and cultural aspects.

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