

Error Type Analysis of English Tense and Aspect in Korean-English Translation*

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This paper aims to reveal what types of English tense and aspect Korean translators misuse in their Korean-English translations. Korean source texts make an internal structure of VPs as simple as possible by avoiding using aspect markers. This simple VP structure in Korean texts induce Korean translators to commit tense and aspect errors in Korean-English translation because the structure may allow Korean tense and aspect expressed in VPs to be reinterpreted subjectively on the basis of time adverbial and contextual information. Korean translators made more errors in order of the past tense, the present tense and the present perfect aspect. The present and past tense were overused in their translations while the use of aspect was avoided. The past tense was variously utilized to replace different tense and aspect, and its diverse use resulted in its more errors. This error type analysis in the use of English tense and aspect demonstrates that translation errors may come from lack of knowledge about Korean as well as English, and indicates that translators need to know more about both their source and target languages.

**[tense and aspect error/Korean-English translations/VPs/aspect markers/
시제와 상 오류/한-영 번역/동사구/상표시자]**

I. INTRODUCTION

People have a common perception about the universal term 'time', but different languages have different systems and expressions to materialize the universal time into its linguistic terms 'tense and aspect'. To shift the concept of time, continuity of numerous moments, into tense and aspect in language accurately, numerous grammatical elements

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and functions would be needed. However, it is impractical and impossible to have more than the manageable number of grammatical elements and functions in a language. To express the concept of time as tense and aspect in a language, the language needs to take a specific viewpoint about time, and choose a specific method to incorporate time into the language. Therefore, different languages have different methods to imply tense and aspect depending on viewpoints on time, cultures and thoughts of language users. English and Korean use different methods to express tense and aspect in their own language systems.

Even though both of Korean and English have the same grammatical category of tense and aspect, their methods to express tense and aspect in their languages are different. Therefore, we can expect that Korean translators commit some tense and aspect errors in translating Korean source texts into English. Here we will examine what types of English tense and aspect Korean translators misuse in their Korean-English translations.

To achieve this purpose, Chapter 2 deals with what similarities and differences Korean and English have in tense and aspect, while in Chapter 3 we will review some previous studies on Korean students' misuse of English tense and aspect. Chapter 4 reveals the methodology of this research, and in Chapter 5 we will provide detailed analyses about the error types of English tense and aspect among Korean translators' translation errors. Chapter 1 and 6 are the introduction and the discussion and implication of this paper, respectively.

II. TENSE AND ASPECT IN KOREAN AND ENGLISH

There is no unanimously accepted explanation about tense and aspect as a grammatical category. Different linguists have offered different viewpoints about what they mean and what should be dealt with within the category of tense and aspect¹. In view of the purpose of this paper, it is reasonable enough to review what similarities and differences Korean and English have in terms of tense and aspect. Here we will briefly consider how they are expressed in each of the two languages on the basis of Deokyu Park (1996, 1999) and Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech, and Svartvik (1972).

Generally speaking, both Korean and English have recognized tense and aspect as grammatical categories, and they do not show any great differences in their usages. Let us examine what the two languages have in common when it comes to tense and aspect.

Firstly, the two languages recognize only the present and past tense in consideration of

¹ As for the different definitions about tense and aspect, refer to Comrie (1976, 1985), Jespersen (1924), and Lyons (1968).

their morphological counterparts (Korean: $-\emptyset$ vs. $-\text{ess}$ (-었), English: $-s$ or $-\emptyset$ vs. $-\text{ed}$)². Neither language regards future as tense because it lacks a morphological counterpart. Future time in both languages, which lack future tense, can be expressed by the use of modals (English: will/shall, Korean: $-\text{keyss}$ (-겠)/ $-\text{l-kes}$ (-ㄹ-것)), future-time adverbials (for example, tomorrow or next year) or their two combination³. Let us consider the following examples:

- (1) (a) She studies hard today.
 (b) Yesterday she studied hard.
 (c) I will try to do my best tomorrow.
- (2)⁴(a) 지은이는 오늘 건강하다.
 Jiun-inun onul kenkang-ha- \emptyset -ta.
 Jiun-T today health-be-Tpr-E
 ‘Jiun is healthy today.’
- (b) 지은이는 지난 해 초등학교를 입학했다.
 Jiun-inun cinan hay chodunghakkyo-lul iphakha-ess-ta.
 Jiun-T last year primary school-O enter-Tpa-E
 ‘jiun-T entered a primary school last year.’
- (c) 내년에 한국에서 월드컵 축구가 열릴 것이다.
 naynyen-ey hankuk-eyse weldukep chukku-ka yeli-lkes-i-ta.
 Next year-Ad Korea-L Worldcup soccer-T be held $-\text{M-be-E}$
 ‘Next year World soccer games will be held in Korea.’

The examples in (1) show how each of the present and past tense and future time is indicated in English sentences, while the Korean examples in (2) demonstrate how each of them is implied.

In (2a) and (2b) the present and past tense bound morpheme suffixes ($-\emptyset$ and $-\text{ess}$) in

² The form \emptyset means a formless and invisible zero morpheme to imply the present tense.

³ When it comes to the future tense in Korean, Deokyu Park (1996, 1999) says that Korean does not have the future tense like in English. Deokyu Park (1999) argues that ‘ $-\text{l-kes}$ ’ ($-\text{ㄹ-것}$) and ‘ $-\text{keyss}$ ’ ($-\text{겠}$) are modal verbs with potential meanings of ‘guess’, ‘future time’, ‘possibility’, or ‘willingness’, but imply ‘future time’ only when they accompany future-time expressions. He adds that future time in Korean can be realized only with the aid of future-time adverbials.

⁴ Korean sentences will be represented in Yale Romanization and the following abbreviations will be used: T: Topic Marker, S: Subject Marker, O: Object Marker, E: Sentence Ender, Tpr: Present Tense, Tpa: Past Tense, Aper: Perfective Aspect, Aimp: Imperfective Aspect, M: Modal, Ad: adverbial Marker, L: Locative Marker. Bound morphemes will be signified by a hyphen, and optional elements will be put in parenthesis.

Korean are added to a verb stem to indicate a relevant tense in a sentence as follows:

- (3) (a) Present Tense form
verb stem- \emptyset (other suffixes)-E
(b) Past Tense Form
verb stem-ess (other suffixes)-E

To indicate future time in (2c) a combination of a modal auxiliary (-l-kes) and a future-time adverbial like 'next year' is used. Deokyu Park (1996, 1999) argues that the future tense is not recognized in Korean, and to express future time Korean relies on future-time adverbials and modal auxiliaries like in English.

Secondly, the two languages admit only the two aspects of perfective and progressive⁵. In addition, their basic usage in English and Korean is also very similar in that the former expresses events and situations related to present time, while the latter signifies actions and situations in progress.

Thirdly, after the terms of tense and aspect are classified dichotomously in English and Korean (present tense vs. past tense, perfective vs. imperfective (progressive)), the two languages show the common feature of using tense and aspect to refer to detailed time and aspect in various contexts. For example, in both the languages, the present tense can imply future time with its combination of future-time adverbials, or the progressive can be used to express future time and customary actions in addition to its progressive meaning.

Now let us consider what differences tense and aspect in the two languages show. Firstly, while a verb phrase containing the information of tense and aspect is the main tool determining tense and aspect in English, Korean tends to rely not only on a verb phrase but also on time adverbials and contextual information. Let us consider the following examples:

- (4) (a) He appeared on the stage. He sang a song at that time.
(b) 그가 무대에 등장했다. 그런데 그가 갑자기 노래를 부른다.
ku-ka mwuday-ey tuncang-ha-ess-ta. Kulente Ku-ka kapcaki noray-lul
pwulun- \emptyset -ta.
He-T stage-Ad appearance-do-Tpa-E. And ku-T suddenly song-O sing-Tpr-E

⁵ Deokyu Park (1996, 1999) has used the term 'imperfective' in Korean, not 'progressive,' but Deokyu Park (1996, p. 17) says that each of the 'perfective' and 'imperfective' aspect in Korean is equal to the English perfective and progressive, whose forms are 'have + past participle' and 'be + -ing, respectively.' So he uses 'imperfective' as a term to replace the English term 'progressive' and he does not recognize the conceptual difference between the two terms.

‘He appeared on the stage. And he sang a song suddenly’.

The English examples given in (4a) clearly show that tense and aspect are solely determined by verb phrases, whereas adverbials (‘at that time’) and context only play a role of bolstering the tense and aspect determined by the verb phrases. When we see the Korean examples given in (4b), however, the role between tense/aspect and adverbials/context is reversed. In other words, the present tense used in (4b) is interpreted to be the past tense which is influenced by the context information ‘past tense’ signified by the preceding sentence. We can see that in Korean adverbials and context information overriding tense and aspect expressed by a verb phrase can serve as main tense and aspect determiners.

Secondly, an English verb phrase expressing tense and aspect strictly determines what adverbials it can be co-used within a sentence, but Korean shows less strict co-occurrence restrictions between time-adverbials and tense/aspect markers. This is because Korean adverbial information, in addition to verb phrases and contexts, is the main determiner for expressing time and aspect meanings.

- (5) (a) He arrived yesterday
 (b) *He has arrived yesterday.
- (6) (a) 그는 어제 도착했다.
 ku –nun ecey tochak-ha-ess-ta.
 He-T yesterday arrival-do-Tpa-E
 ‘He arrived yesterday’
- (b) 그는 방금 도착했다.
 ku –nun pangkum tochak-ha-ess-ta.
 He-T just arrival-do-Tpa-E
 ‘He has just arrived’

The English examples given in (5a) and (5b) indicate that adverbials of definite past-time indicators like ‘yesterday’ cannot be used with the present perfect. These examples show that if these co-occurrence restrictions are violated, sentences are judged to be ungrammatical.

However, the examples in (6) show that Korean does not observe the co-occurrence restrictions between adverbials and tense/aspect which English keeps. The sentence in (6b) is grammatical, even though it has a combination of present time indicator ‘pangkum’ (‘just’) plus past tense which breaches a co-occurrence restriction. In this sentence the determiner of tense and aspect is not a verb phrase but the adverbial ‘pangkum’, and so its tense and aspect should be regarded as the present perfect. The adverbial can play a role of determining tense and aspect, and even shift tense and aspect specified in a verb phrase in

Korean sentences. This is the reason why it is compatible with a simple past sentence like in (6b). Therefore, it is impossible to expect strict co-occurrence restrictions like in English to apply to Korean.

Thirdly, English does not allow tense and aspect neutralization except for special cases, while Korean frequently permits tense and aspect to be neutralized⁶. In English a verb phrase performs a main function of expressing tense and aspect, and adverbials and contextual information only play a minor and complementary role in implying tense and aspect. Therefore, if tense and aspect were blurred in English on account of tense and aspect neutralization in tense/aspect markers in VPs, a lot of confusion would be triggered because, in most cases, English adverbials and contexts do not function critically enough to determine tense and aspect. On the other hand, Korean adverbials and contexts, in addition to a verb phrase, function as critical factors to determine tense and aspect. Therefore, though tense and aspect becomes obscure on account of their neutralization in a verb phrase, adverbials and contexts function to recover unclear tense and aspect. This is the reason why Korean allows tense and aspect to be neutralized.

Let us consider the following Korean examples showing the neutralization of tense and aspect:

- (7)(a) 그는 지금 밥을 먹고 있다.
 ku-nun cikum pap-ul mek-ko-iss-ta.
 He-T now rice-O eat-Aimp-Tpr-E.
 ‘He is eating cooked rice now’
- (b) 그는 지금 밥을 먹는다.
 ku-nun cikum pap-ul meknun-Ø-ta.
 He-T now rice-O eat-Tpr-E.
 ‘He is eating cooked rice now’
- (c) 그 때 그가 등장하더니 노래를 불렀다.
 kuttay ku-ka tungcangha-doni noray-lul pwul-ess-ta.
 That time he-T appear-(Tpa)and song-O sing-Tpa-E
 ‘At that moment, after he appeared, he sang a song.’
- (d) 그 때 그가 등장하더니 노래를 부른다.
 kuttay ku-ka tungcangha-doni noray-lul pwulun-Ø-ta.
 That time he-T appear-(Tpa)and song-O sing-Tpr-E

⁶ Neutralization of tense and aspect indicates that actual tense and aspect in VP, a tense and aspect marker, are blurred, and therefore actual tense and aspect should be determined by contexts and adverbials because the superficial tense and aspect in VP do not reflect actual tense and aspect. For more information about tense and aspect neutralization, refer to Comrie (1976, 1985).

‘At that moment, after he appeared, he sang a song.’

The two examples in (7a) and (7c) show that their VPs contain accurate tense and aspect indicators. However, each of their counterparts in (7b) and (7d) has a neutralized simple tense. The sentence in (7b) corresponding to (7a) has the present tense by deleting the indicator of aspect, which is additionally implied by the time adverbial “now”. The sentence in (7d), the counterpart of (7c), has the neutralized present tense after deleting the indicator (-ess) of the past tense which is also implied by the time adverbial “that time” in the sentence.

In conclusion, there is little difference in the usage of tense and aspect between Korean and English, but Korean and English have a big difference in how to indicate tense and aspect in their VPs. While English sentences have unambiguous time and aspect indicators in VPs, Korean ones can have neutralized tense and aspect because Korean tends to simplify tense and aspect markers in a verb phrase when they are predictable on the basis of adverbials and contextual information.

III. LITERATURE REVIEW ON THE USE OF ENGLISH TENSE AND ASPECT OF KOREAN LEARNERS

Until recently Korean researchers have not paid much attention to translation studies, and therefore it is not easy to find a lot of research in the field of translation studies. What is worse, when our interest is limited to the Korean–English translation research, the amount of research literature available for previous research is much smaller. Below is a presentation of previous studies that dealt with the topic of tense and aspect in Korean translations.

Chul Park (2004) did error research on tense and aspect in Korean-English translation. The purpose of his study was to reveal what influence Korean tense and aspect has on the acquisition of English tense and aspect by examining the use of English tense and aspect in Korean-English translation.

The subjects of his experiment were 111 Korean college students and 18 native speakers, and the English tense and aspect tested in the experiment was limited to the past tense and perfect aspect. He made an English passage from which some words were removed and asked subjects to fill in the blanks by appropriately changing verbs given in parentheses. The following is the example he gave to his subjects:

(8) Mohammed Ali (win) _____ his first world title in 1960.

His experiment is to demonstrate that when Koreans learn English, Korean tense and aspect has an impact on the tense and aspect of English. He found in this research that the similarities and differences of the tense and aspect systems of the two languages determined the positive and negative influences of Korean on the use of English tense and aspect. In other words, when both the languages share some features of tense and aspect, the first language has a positive effect on the second language, but when there are some different features of tense and aspect in the two languages, the impact of the first language on the second language turns out to be negative.

For example, Korean students showed higher accuracy (about 83%) in the proper use of the English simple past tense, while they displayed lower accuracy in the proper use of the English present and past perfective (past perfective: about 30%, present perfective: 45%). Korean has the simple past tense indicator '-ess', which is a perfect counterpart to the English simple past tense marker '-ed', and therefore Korean learners of English have little difficulty in the use of the English past tense. On the other hand, in Korean the past tense is frequently used on behalf of the past perfective or the present perfective, even though the language has its perfective indicator '-e-iss'. Some Korean contexts where their past tense can be interpreted as perfective depending on adverbials or contexts can cause more difficulty in learning the tense and aspect of English. The conclusion he reached is that because the tense and aspect of Korean impact the understanding of these features of English, Korean linguistic features should be taken into account when English is taught to Koreans.

As far as error research on tense and aspect in Korean-English translation is concerned, we cannot ignore Yujin Jung (2006). She aimed to reveal how precisely Korean learners of English understand the usage of English tense and aspect in given contexts. She asked each of her subjects including 15 high school students and 15 adults to translate two English source texts into Korean, each of which comprised about 400 words.

Firstly, Yujin Jung (2006) noted that most of her subjects used the simple past tense in their Korean translation products to deliver the English perfect aspect not accompanied by time adverbials or other time elements. She argued that the reason for this was because Korean learners were not taught to use the Korean counterpart to the English perfect aspect. Secondly, when subjects translated English perfective implying the meaning of completion because of lack of adverbials, they tended not to specify perfective in their Korean translations. Thirdly, when the same tense and aspect of English were translated into Korean, different translators used different tense and aspect in their Korean translations. She argued that this was triggered by the ambiguity of Korean tense and aspect expressions. In addition, she said that Korean translators committed translation errors on account of the influence of Korean tense and aspect.

The third research to attract our attention is Sunghyun Lee (2008). The purpose of his

study was to suggest effective and applicable methods to teach English tense and aspect to Korean learners of English by analyzing Korean students' errors in the use of English tense and aspect. He chose 129 subjects in a Korean high school, and made an experiment about the proper use of English tense and aspect.

He made up English experimental sentences with a blank for the part related to English tense and aspect, and provided three choices for each blank, only one of which subjects could choose. All experimental sentences had Korean translations to help subjects choose an answer, and Korean translation parts corresponding to blank parts in English sentences were underlined to help subjects be more aware of what they were doing. The following example is one sample sentence:

- (9) I (work, am working, have been working) on the night shift for several weeks.
 <저는 몇 주 동안 야간 근무를 하고 있어요.>

In the above English sentence subjects were asked to choose one proper English answer for the blank after referring to its Korean translation.

Through this experiment he found three facts. Firstly, subjects showed a relatively low error rate in questions requiring the choice of the present and past progressive forms. The error rate in the past progressive (17.1%) turned out to be a little higher than that in the present progressive (14.7%). The higher error rate in the former might be attributed to the interference of its translated Korean because its translated Korean 'ha-ko-iss-ess-ta' (-하고 있었다) corresponding to the English past progressive form 'was + verb + ing' can be interpreted to be either progressive or perfective in Korean.

Secondly, subjects also displayed a low error rate (19 %) in the use of the present tense depicting general truths and natural rules, but they committed many errors in questions in which English stative verbs were required. A higher error rate (24. 8%) in the proper use of stative verbs was thought to be caused both by their ignorance of the characteristics of English stative verbs and by the translated Korean ' ha-ko-iss-ta' (-하고 있다) of English stative verbs, which implies the meaning of progressive rather than the simple present tense in Korean. Therefore, the Korean translation of English stative verbs, which can be used as progressive in Korean unlike English, had a crucial influence on subjects' choosing proper tense and aspect, and this can be part of L1 interference in English learning.

Thirdly, Korean learners of English showed the highest error rate when there is a gap between time and tense because they had to apply difficult rules of English grammar to the choice of tense and aspect. For example, in English the simple past tense is used in more polite expressions and in subjunctive instead of the present tense, and the present progressive is used to express future events. Because of the difference between time and tense, subjects had a lot of difficulty in choosing correct English tense and aspect forms for

blanks requiring the past tense to express politeness (66.7%) and subjunctive (59%), and progressive to signify future events (55%).

On the basis of his findings, Sunghyun Lee (2008) concluded that the gap between time and tense and misinterpretation of Korean translation led subjects to commit more errors when trying to properly select tense and aspect. In addition, he suggested how to teach English tense and aspect to Korean students to minimize such errors.

The last one we introduce here is the research conducted by Oksoon Seol (2009). She explored the different ways of expressing tense and aspect in sentences between English and Korean, and suggested translation strategies to specify tense and aspect in English-Korean translations. She recommended two strategies to achieve smooth and high-quality translation of tense and aspect in English-Korean translation: (1) delivery of tense and aspect through other parts of speech, not through verbs, and (2) rendering of tense and aspect through contexts instead of verbs.

The former strategy was suggested on the basis of lexical/syntactic differences between English and Korean. In other words, this strategy reflects the fact that the Korean tense and aspect, unlike the English tense and aspect, can be signified through adverbials, nouns, and demonstratives, which function as tense and aspect indicators. Let us have a look at the following example, which she provided as an example of the first strategy:

- (10) (a) Source Text: "I've been out here since six o'clock," she said.
 (b) Target Text: "6시부터 여태 여기에 나와 있었단다" 아줌마가 말씀하셨다. (Back Translation: "I was out here up to now since six o'clock," she said.)

In the example given in (10), the verb of the Korean target text is translated into the simple past tense, not the present perfect like English. However, the Korean target text succeeds in capturing the present perfect with a combination of 'since' (부터) and time adverbial 'up to now' (여태) which are newly added in the target text.

The second strategy means that tense and aspect is rendered through the effects of semantic performance instead of external tense and aspect indicators marked by verbs. It is made possible because Korean contexts are allowed to deliver tense and aspect, sometimes overriding the tense and aspect expressed by verbs. Oksoon Seol (2009) suggested the following example:

- (11) (a) Source Text: At the cemetery, Morrie watched as they shoveled dirt into his mother's grave. He tried to recall the tender moments they had shared.
 (b) Target Text: 그는 묘지에서 어머니의 무덤에 흙이 뿌려지는 광경을 지켜보았다. 함께한 좋은 순간들을 기억해보려 애를 썼다.

(Back Translation: At the cemetery, Morrie watched as dirt is shoveled into his mother's grave. He tried to recall the tender moments they shared.)

In example (11), while the tense of the verbs 'watch' and 'try' in the source text was literally rendered into the simple past tense in the target text, the tense and aspect of the other two verbs 'shovel' and 'share' were shifted into the present tense and the past tense from the past tense and the past perfect in source text, respectively. Even though their tense and aspect were changed in the target text, it is not difficult to reason the relevant tense and aspect of the verbs in the target text thanks to precise information about tense and aspect given in the context. She noted how significant and useful these strategies were in English-Korean translation. Furthermore, she argued that translators would need to develop detailed translation skills on time-related expressions in English-Korean translation.

IV. METHODOLOGY

This research examined what types of English tense and aspect errors Korean translators committed in their Korean-English translations. The subjects for this research were twenty three students majoring in translating and interpreting in the Master's Degree Course for Translating and Interpreting at an Australian University, Australia in 2006 and 2007, and each student offered only one translation material, except for only seven students who produced two translation materials, respectively. Their English writing skills were thought to be at an advanced level because the translating and interpreting course in the university requires for admission IELTS of 7.0 overall with 7.0 in both reading and writing or Internet-based TOEFL test score of 100 with 26 in writing.

This research used three types of Korean source texts⁷. The three Korean source texts were entitled "The 12th Pusan International Film Festival" (henceforth, 'PIFF'), which is a newspaper article containing 280 Korean words, "Australian Government Offers Apology for Oppression of its Aboriginal People" (henceforth, 'Apology'), which is an about 220-word news article, and "Asbestos: the Fiber that Brings Sorrow in its Wake"(henceforth, 'Asbestos'), a news article of about 150 words containing a warning message about asbestos. Each of the three source texts has ten target texts, and therefore a total of thirty translation materials were analyzed and found to include about 157 tense and aspect errors. The thirty translation materials for this research were double-checked by two native speakers of English and Korean to make more accurate analyses of tense and aspect.

⁷ The three Korean source texts are provided in the appendix.

V. TENSE–ASPECT ERROR TYPE ANALYSIS IN KOREAN - ENGLISH TRANSLATION

As mentioned in the previous chapter, subjects were offered three kinds of Korean source texts for English translation; PIFF, Apology and Asbestos. In order to get a glimpse of what features the three source texts show in terms of tense and aspect, I provide an analysis of tense and aspect used in each of the three Korean source texts as shown in Table 1:

Table 1

Tense/Aspect Analysis in the Korean Texts

Total number of tenses used in three Korean source texts:	Number of each of three tenses expressed in VPs	Cases requiring different interpretation of tenses expressed in VPs	Percentage
107	present: 55(51%)	past: 9	16%
		present perfect: 3	6%
		future:2	9%
		present: 41	69%
	past: 49(46%)	present perfect:3	6%
		past perfect: 2	4%
		present: 2	4%
		past progressive: 1	2%
		present progressive:1	2%
	future: 3(3%)	past: 40	82%
future:3		100%	

Table 1 illustrates what features the three Korean texts have in terms of tense and aspect. One linguistic feature shown by the three source texts is that the texts make an internal structure of VPs as simple as possible by avoiding adding aspect markers. This implies that while English verb phrases containing the information of tense and aspect are the main tool to determine the meanings of tense and aspect in English sentences, Korean sentences tend to depend not only on verb phrases but also on time adverbials and contextual information. In Korean, the tense and aspect expressed in VP sometimes should be reinterpreted on the basis of time adverbials and contextual information, which sometimes result in the choice of the tense and aspect indicated by adverbials and contextual information instead of that in VPs⁸. Another feature is that any aspect markers are not used in the Korean texts, and

⁸ Either the reinterpretation of tense and aspect or tense reinterpretation markers imply that superficial tense and aspect in a sentence are different from the tense and aspect they actually mean because of the Korean tense and aspect neutralization phenomenon. So it means that seeming tense and aspect need to be redetermined in consideration of time adverbials and contexts.

future time expressed by modal is rarely used. As these texts show, Korean news articles in particular seldom use aspect. This is because Koreans are likely to think it is less natural to use aspect in VPs in Korean sentences, in addition to their unconscious awareness that the tense and aspect implied by contextual and adverbial information is put before the tense and aspect markers expressed in VPs.

When we compare the present and past tense, we can see another linguistic feature of the source texts. Past tense markers replace the present and past perfect, the present tense, and the present and past progressive, while present tense markers are used to replace the past tense, future time and the present perfect. Therefore, another feature we can see in the table is that past tense markers in VPs are utilized to signify more various tense and aspect. It may be true that the avoidance of aspect markers (preference for simple tense) and the more diverse use of the past tense in VPs characterize these source texts.

The basic principle on Korean tense and aspect is that Korean tends to simplify tense and aspect markers in a verb phrase when tense and aspect are predictable on the basis of adverbials and contextual information. In other words, Korean does rarely permit tense and aspect in a sentence to be indicated redundantly by a verb phrase plus other sentence elements including time adverbials and contexts. Therefore, many Korean sentences have neutralized verb phrases on tense and aspect unlike English sentences with unambiguous time and aspect indicators in verb phrases. Because of this feature of Korean on tense and aspect, which requires considering all elements including tense and aspect markers, time adverbials, contexts, and the like, Korean translators have difficulty in reinterpreting accurate tense and aspect in Korean source sentences. This difficulty in source texts leads them to make some tense and aspect errors in delivering them into target texts.

Korean translators committed a total of 157 tense and aspect errors in their English translations of the three Korean source texts. 70 errors were found in PIFF, 50 errors in Apology and 37 in Asbestos. This fact can be confirmed in Figure 1:

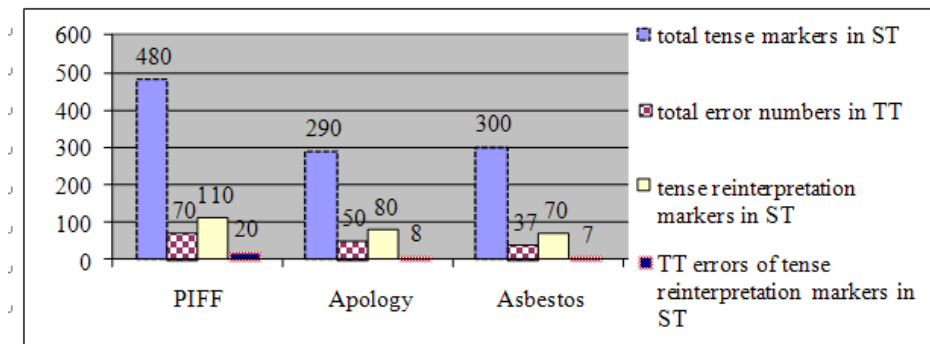


Figure 1. A total of tense markers and error numbers in source and target texts (ST and TT).

In Figure 1, the figures in each of the source text tense markers and tense reinterpretation markers are presented in consideration of the fact that 10 subjects translated each of the three Korean texts containing 48, 29 and 30 tense markers in VPs, and each of 11, 8 and 7 tense reinterpretation markers.⁹ Figure 1 shows us that out of 70 errors in PIFF, 20 errors occurred in VP tense markers requiring tense and aspect reinterpretation, whose total number is 110 in the source text. In Apology, eight out of 50 errors come from 80 VP tense reinterpretation markers, while Asbestos, which shows a total of 37 errors, misinterpreted seven tense and aspect markers among 70 VP tense and aspect reinterpretation markers.

We can see in Figure 1 that the total number of errors in tense and aspect is proportionate to the figures requiring the reinterpretation of VP tense and aspect markers in the source texts, not to the total number of VP tense and aspect markers in the source texts. In other words, even though the error rates (20 out of 110 in PIFF, 8 out of 80 in Apology, and 7 out of 70 in Asbestos) in the translation of tense and aspect markers requiring the reinterpretation of VP tense and aspect markers are not so high, the error rates are also proportionate to the number requiring the reinterpretation of VP tense and aspect markers in the source texts.

These facts indicate that in the Korean-English translation the errors in tense and aspect are likely to be more influenced by the total number of tense and aspect which needs to be reinterpreted in the source text than the total number of their markers in the source text. It is supposed that the more tense and aspect requiring the reinterpretation of VP tense and aspect markers a source text contains, the more errors Korean translators commit. The reason for this may be that Korean translators feel it more difficult to translate Korean source texts having more gaps between superficial and real tense and aspect markers

Now, we need to consider the actual error examples of tense and aspect in Korean-English translation. First, let us look at the main examples in which the wrong past tense was used:

(12) The examples of the misused simple past tense¹⁰

- (a) ST: 영화형식의 실험으로 유명한 영국의 거장 피터 그리너웨이는
'전통적 영화의 죽음' 을 선언했다

⁹ In other words, the figures in tense markers in ST are shown as follows: 10 (people) × 48 (total tense markers) = 480, 10 × 29 = 290, and 10 × 30 = 300. On the other hand, the numbers in tense reinterpretation markers in ST are displayed as follows: 10 (people) × 11 (total tense reinterpretation markers in ST) = 110, 10 × 8 = 80, and 10 × 7 = 70. For the detailed information of the source text tense and aspect markers, refer to the source text analysis in Table 2.

¹⁰ Words in brackets are correct forms to replace the underlined bold words which were misused in translation.

- TT: British director Peter Greenaway who **was** [is] famous for experimental films declared the death of traditional films.
- (b) ST: 호주정부가 과거 원주민들에게 가했던 국가적 탄압에 대해 처음으로 공식사과했다고 AP와 AFP 통신 등 외신들이 보도했다.
 TT: Foreign media, including the Associated Press and Agency France Press reported that on 13 February that the Australian government **made** [had made] the first official apology for its national oppression on the Aborigines in the past.
- (c) ST: 4000년전 발견 이래 기적의 광물로 통했다.
 TT: Asbestos **was known** [has been known] as a miracle mineral since its discovery 4,000 years ago.

The example in (12a) shows that the simple past tense of the underlined verb ‘be’ should be replaced by the simple present tense because the director is still famous. It is thought that the misuse of the past tense in (12a) was influenced by the past tense verb ‘declared’ used in the VP of the main clause. The past tense in (12b) should be changed into the past perfect because the apology had already occurred before foreign media reported it. To choose correct tense and aspect in the example in (12b), it is important to understand the occurrence order of the two events depicted in the main and subordinate clauses. The example in (12c) highlights the importance of English grammar in Korean-English translation. The past tense in (12c) should be changed into the present perfect because the main clause having conjunction ‘since’, which means the initiation of an action or an event in the past, should have the present perfect aspect in its VP.

Let us consider the examples of the misused simple present tense:

- (13) The examples of the misused simple present tense
- (a) ST: 전회 매진됐고 관객들은 감동의 박수를 쳤다.
 TT: Tickets for every class were sold out and the audience **applauds** [applauded] impressive performance.
- (b) ST: 미래의 영화는 극장이 아니라 1대1로 관계를 맺는 랩톱안에 있다.
 TT: Film of the future **is** [will be] in the laptop, where people can form a one-to-one relationship, not in a theatre.
- (c) ST: 규모가 커지고 행사는 늘었지만 단기계약과 자원봉사에 의존하는 스태프들의 비전문성이 문제였다.
 TT: Even though its size **is** [has been] bigger and its event **is** [has been] more diverse, non-professional staff who relied on short-term contracts and volunteers caused the problems.

The example in (13a) shows that the simple present tense of the verb ‘applaud’ was used incorrectly and should be changed into the simple past tense. This kind of translation may be speculated to be caused by a translator’s inattention or misinterpretation of a context because both its context and its VP tense marker in the source text clearly indicate the simple past tense. The tense error shown in (13b) must have been triggered by a translator’s negligence of the time-indicating word future ‘미래’, and should be corrected into future time, even though the tense and aspect marker in its VP indicates the present tense. The error found in (13c) misused the present tense on behalf of the present perfect, and is thought to be one of the errors Korean translators frequently make. Translating Korean source texts, Korean translators are likely to use either the simple present tense or the simple past tense on behalf of the present perfect. The reason for this may be that they do not have a firm knowledge about the use of the English perfect aspect or are easily influenced by the VP tense markers in Korean texts, which use a great number of the present and past tense in their VPs. Korean translators need to improve their knowledge about English grammar, and try to interpret precise tense and aspect to avoid committing this kind of tense and aspect error.

Let us consider the following examples in which wrong perfective was used:

(14) The examples of the misused present and past perfective

(a) ST: 일본에서는 지난해 석면으로 인한 사망자가 700명을 넘었다.

TT: Over seven hundred people in Japan **have died** [died] from asbestos-related diseases last year.

(b) ST: 인체에 다량 들어가면 죽음의 섬유로 둔갑한다.

TT: If asbestos **has been** [is] deposited in the human body, it may change into fatal fibre.

(c) ST: 11년 반 동안 장기집권했던 존 하워드 정부는 정부차원의 사과를 거절했었다.

TT: Former PM John Howard, who reigned for long eleven and half years, **had rejected** [rejected] governmental apology.

The example in (14a) indicates that the error was caused by translator’s insufficient understanding on the usage of English tense and aspect. English adverbials indicating specific past time should be used with the simple past tense, not the present perfect. So the present perfect tense in (14a) cannot be used together with the past time adverbial ‘last year’. The present perfect used in (14b) should be replaced with the present tense because the source text refers to an assumed simple fact. The reason for the wrong usage of the present perfect in the conditional sentence (14b) is used to replace the future perfect ‘will have been’, which indicates that an event will have a possibility of being completed in the

future. The underlined past perfect in (14c) should be changed into the simple past tense because the source text signifies a simple fact occurring in the past. The reason why a translator incorrectly used the past perfect is thought to have been influenced by the tense and aspect marker (-ess-ess) in the VP of the Korean text indicating the past perfect.

Arranging the above actual tense and aspect errors in a systematic way, we can present what types of English tense and aspect errors Korean translators committed in their translations. Table 2 provides detailed information about error types and frequencies:

Table 2

Types of Tense and Aspect Errors in the Target Text

Incorrect tenses/aspects	Correct tenses/aspects	Number of errors	Subtotal number of errors	Total number of errors
past	present	33	72(45%)	157 (PIFF: 70 + Australian Governments' Apology: 50 + Asbestos: 37)
	past perfect	20		
	present perfect	16		
	future	2		
	past perfect	1		
present	past	49	59(38%)	
	future	4		
	present perfect	6		
present perfect	past	9	16(10%)	
	present	5		
	past perfect	2		
past progressive	present perfect	2	4(3%)	
	past	1		
	present	1		
future perfect	Present	2	2(1%)	
past perfect	past	4	4(3%)	

As the above table shows, Korean translators made more errors in order of the past tense, the present tense and the present perfect aspect, which account for about 93% of the total errors in the translation of tense and aspect. In the target texts the wrong simple past tense was mostly used to replace the correct simple present tense, past perfect, and present perfect, while the present tense was wrongly used on behalf of the correct simple past tense, present perfect and future time. It attracts our attention that only the present and past tense errors constitute about 83% of the total errors. This fact recalls the claim made by Jayeon Lim (2008) that English learners are more likely to opt the English present perfect after they fully acquire the present and past tense. This means that English learners tend to have more difficulty in using the present perfect than the two tenses, and therefore avoid using it. We can guess that this is the reason why fewer errors were found in present perfect than the two simple tenses. The present perfect aspect incorrectly replaced the simple past tense,

the simple present tense and the past perfect. In other cases the past progressive, the future perfect and the past perfect were misused in VPs where other tense and aspect should have been used.

Koreans' preference for simple tense over aspect and their more diverse use of the past tense marker in VPs may be attributed to the Korean linguistic feature: the neutralization of tense and aspect. As a result, these two facts are also manifested in the above error type table of Korean-English translation. In other words, we can see in Table 2 that Korean translators show the overused errors of the present and past tense in their translations by restraining from using aspect. The past tense in particular was overused to replace different tense and aspect and lead to more errors. As far as the Korean-English translation is concerned, however, we cannot exactly know which factor causes the Korean translators to make such tense and aspect errors; the Korean source texts, their English ability or both.

VI. DISCUSSION AND IMPLICATION

To learn English more efficiently as a foreigner, Korean English learners are frequently told the importance of English grammar, and are encouraged to make efforts to know more about English grammar. Without an ample grammatical knowledge about the target language, they will have a lot of difficulty in learning English. As far as English tense and aspect are concerned, Korean English learners should be taught the correct usage of English tense and aspect. Hohsung Choe (2007) also argues that instruction can play a crucial role in learning tense and aspect in his research on the acquisition of the present perfect. Furthermore, English teachers need to explain what differences and similarities Korean and English have in terms of tense and aspect to help English learners understand their correct usage better and prevent them from wrong interference by their mother tongue.

Compared with the importance of English grammar, however, the importance of their knowledge about the mother tongue has been relatively belittled in learning English as a foreign language. Some of them do not realize they can become great users of English only when they have a good command of Korean. Even some Korean translators, who have to use Korean and English fluently, have wrong thoughts about their mother tongue and English: Since they know almost all about their mother tongue they have only to improve English skills.

Nonetheless, both Korean translators and translator hopefuls must have a deeper understanding of English and their mother tongue. They tend to downplay knowledge on their mother tongue in particular because they are likely to have the wrong belief that they know almost everything about their mother tongue. This is the reason why many Korean

translators commit errors in Korean-English translation. This kind of wrong attitude prevents them from studying more about their first language, which explains why unexpectedly translators have a poor linguistic and grammatical knowledge about their first language. If they do not know much about the linguistic and grammatical features of their mother tongue, it may be impossible to compare and understand common and different features between their source and target languages. Lack of such comparative knowledge about working languages must lead translators to commit a lot of errors in Korean-English translation. This fact implies that in English class it may be better to teach English learners English grammar in comparison with Korean grammar to help them be equipped with proper knowledge about common and different features of their source and target languages.

In not only Korean-English but also English-Korean translation classes, teachers are not likely to put so much emphasis on Korean texts as on English texts. For this reason, Korean expressions and grammar are seldom mentioned in Korean translation classes. What is worse, Korean students are regarded as perfect in their mother tongue, and they neither study nor discuss the grammar or linguistic features of the source language. This incorrect teaching method may give translation students the wrong belief that they can be good translators only with good English skills, and do not need to have a rich knowledge about their mother tongue.

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APPENDIX

Korean Source Texts in the Korean-English Translation

(1) The Brief

You are working for a media company which wants to place the following article on their English language website.

호주 정부 “ 원주민 탄압 사죄” :
러드 총리 ‘ 도둑맞은 세대’ 에 첫 공식 사과

호주 정부가 과거 원주민(애버리지니)들에게 가했던 국가적 탄압에 대해 처음으로 공식 사과했다고 AP와 AFP통신 등 외신들이 13일 보도했다. 캐빈 러드 호주총리는 이날 오전 9시 수도 캔버라 국회의사당에서 원주민 대표들과 전직 총리들, 의원들이 지켜보는 가운데 361단어로 된 사과문을 3분 동안 낭독했다.

러드 총리는 사과문에서 “우리는 ‘도둑맞은 세대’와 그 후손의 고통과 아픔, 그리고 남은 가족들에게 사과한다”고 밝혔다. 또 “궁지 높은 사람들과 자랑스러운 문화를 모욕한 데 대해서도 사과한다”면서 “이러한 불의는 절대로, 결코 다시 일어나서는 안 된다”고 덧붙였다.

이날 사과문 발표는 지난해 12월 취임한 러드 총리의 첫 국회연설이다. 총리의 사과는 1910년부터 1970년까지 정부가 동화 정책에 따라 원주민 자녀 3-10명 중 1명을 백인 가정과 단체시설에 강제로 보냈다는 보고서가 나온 지 11년 만에 이뤄졌다. 강제로 끌려간 원주민 어린이들은 전통문화와 생활습관에서 단절됐다는 의미로 ‘도둑맞은 세대’로 불린다.

지난해까지 11년 반 동안 장기 집권했던 존 하워드 정부는 과거의 잘못에 대해 현

세대가 죄책감을 느낄 필요가 없다며 정부 차원의 사과를 거절했었다. 원주민들은 러드 정부의 사과를 크게 환영했다. 러드 총리가 사과문을 의회에 제출한 12일 의사당에는 하얀 물감으로 온몸을 장식한 원주민들이 들어와 전통축제를 벌이고, 지난해 새로 구성된 의회 의원들을 환영해 달라고 조상들에게 기도했다. 원주민이 의사당에 들어간 것은 사상 처음이다. 현재 호주 원주민은 45만 명으로 전체 인구(2100만 명)의 2.1%를 차지한다. 이들의 평균 수명은 일반 국민에 비해 17년이나 짧고 5년 이하 유아 사망률은 백인보다 3배 이상 높다. 범죄율과 실업률, 문맹률도 가장 높은 집단이다.

(2) The Brief

An Australian film production company is thinking of entering a film in the 13th Pusan International Film Festival, but wants to know more about the festival just completed. They believe the following article will help them to understand what type of festival it is.

제 12 회 부산국제영화제

제12회 부산국제영화제가 10월 12일 막을 내렸다. 역대 최다 관객에 아시아 최고 영화제의 위용을 과시했다. 그러나 진행, 의전, 통역 등 운영상 잡음이 잇따랐다. 규모가 커지고 행사는 늘어났지만 단기계약과 자원봉사에 의존하는 스태프들의 비전문성이 문제였다. 앤니오 모리코네는 개막식 진행에 불쾌감을 표했고 피터 그리너웨이 감독의 기자회견은 중간에 통역이 교체됐다. 작은 악재들이지만 그간의 성가를 무너뜨릴 수 있다는 우려가 나온다.

여러 구설 속에서도 ‘마스터 클래스’는 호평받았다. 거장 감독의 육성을 듣는 자리다. 박찬욱 감독이 강사로 초대받은 베를린영화제 ‘베를리날레 텔런트 캠퍼스’ 같은 위크숍프로다. 전회 매진됐고 감독의 박수를 쳤다.

영화 형식 실험으로 유명한 영국의 거장 피터 그리너웨이는 “전통적 영화의 죽음”을 선언했다. “디지털 기술 발달로 누구나 영상물을 만들고 휴대폰으로 영화를 보는 시대에 아직도 70년대 틀을 고집하는 전통영화는 죽었다”며 “여기 온 영화의 대부분은 쓰레기다. 미래의 영화는 극장이 아니라 1대1로 관계 맺는 랩톱 안에 있다”고 목소리를 높였다. 21세기 영화감독은 쌍방향 디지털 멀티미디어의 향해자가 돼야 한다는 결론이다.

반면 프랑수아즈 트루슈 감독의 마스터 클래스는 고전적 예술 영화의 향취로 가득찼다. “영화는 인생을 사랑하게 만드는 약, 비타민”이라며 “2만 편의 영화를 봤는데 더 이상 남이 만든 약 처방전이 잘 듣지 않아 직접 감독이 됐다”고 회상했다. 영화와 인생을 일치시키는 고전적 태도도 보였다. “영화를 통해 삶에 대한 모든 것을 배웠으니 영화가 진짜 부모다.” “내가 만든 41편은 모두 내가 직접 겪은 일들이고 내가 처한 당시 현실의

완벽한 반영이다.” 당연히 촬영 현장과 연기의 즉흥성을 강조했다. “우리가 죽을 날을 모르는 것처럼 배우들에게도 시나리오의 결말을 보여주지 않는다. 촬영 후 매일 밤 시나리오를 다시 썼고 극중 날씨도 통제하지 않았다. 가령 ‘남과 여’의 비 오는 장면은 의도한 것이 아니라 촬영 날 비가 오니까 찍은 것이다.”

영화의 죽음을 선언한 감독, 영화는 인생 자체라며 불멸성을 믿는 감독. 어느 쪽이든 공통점은 기술과 돈벌이 이상의 철학과 사유를 담아 영화를 만든다는 것이다. 그것이 이들이 ‘마스터’로 불리는 이유다. 독창적 사유로 자극을 주는 사람. 한국영화의 진정한 발전도 이런 거장들이 속속 나와줄 때 가능할 것이다.

(3) The Brief

A legal practice specializing in asbestos cases has asked you to translate following as background research material.

후화석면

석면은 화산활동 때 용암이 응고하면서 생기는 천연 광물. 머리카락의 약 5000분의 1 정도 되는 가늘고 긴 섬유질 결정체다. 손으로 문지르면 보풀이 일어 먼처럼 되지만 불에 타지도 잘 마모되지도 않는다. ‘영구 불멸’을 뜻하는 그리스어 어원 그대로다. 그래서 4000년 전 발견 이래 기적의 광물로 통했다. 제품화돼 생활 속에 파고든 것만도 3000 여 종이다. 건물을 지을 땐 약방의 감초 격이었다. 브레이크 부품은 석면만한 대체품을 찾기 어렵다고 한다.

그러나 석면은 두 얼굴을 가졌다. 인체에 다량 들어가면 죽음의 섬유로 둔갑한다. 석면 섬유가 분해되지 않고 수십 년간 체내에 남아 폐와 장기를 둘러싼 막을 자극한다. 이 막을 덮고 있는 것이 중피. 석면은 주로 이곳에 종양을 일으킨다. 이 질환은 잠복기가 30~40년인 데다 아직 확립된 치료법이 없다. 석면이 조용한 시한폭탄으로 불리는 이유다.

일본에서는 지난해 석면으로 인한 사망자가 700명을 넘었다. 환경성은 환자가 더 늘어나 5만 명이 중피종으로 사망할 것이란 추산을 내놓았다. 1960~1970년 고도성장기 건축 붐 때 석면을 대량 사용한 점을 감안한 분석이다. 후화석면이란 4자성어가 나온 것은 우연이 아니다.

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