

A Study on the Textbooks for Teaching Korean as a Foreign Language

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Abstract

The focuses of this study are to survey the brief history of teaching Korean as a foreign language and the development of the textbooks to teach KFL, and to compare the textbooks designed to teach English as a Foreign Language(EFL) and Korean as a Foreign Language(KFL) in order to find more desirable ways to develop the academic area of teaching Korean as a foreign language. Therefore, this study aims to suggest a more desirable way for the development of teaching materials for KFL for academic purpose, by comparing the composition of a Korean language textbook for academic purposes with the composition of an EFL textbook that has already achieved excellent outcomes.

Keywords

foreign language, textbooks, Korean as a foreign language, English as a foreign language

Introduction

It is the reality of Korean language education that the development of teaching materials of Korean for academic purposes are not so brisk, compared to that of the materials for general purposes, as the education of Korean as a foreign language has just begun to proceed. Therefore, this study aims to suggest a more desirable way for development of teaching materials for KFL(Korean as a Foreign Language) for academic purposes, by comparing the composition of Korean textbook for academic purpose with the composition of an EFL(English as a Foreign Language) textbook for academic purpose that has already achieved excellent outcomes.

Regarding English textbooks, the series of 『Northstar』, ESL textbooks for academic goal(divided by ‘Listening and Speaking’ and ‘Reading and Writing’), was noticed to have the same way of classification. Thus, the researcher intends to analyze the strong points and weak points of the textbook series of 『College Korean for foreign students』 by Ewha Womans University, comparing its composition with that of 『Northstar』 textbook series.

Research Methodology

For the research purposes, the researcher adopted the textbook 『Northstar』 for EFL and 『College Korean for foreign students』 for KFL. The textbook series of 『Northstar』, ESL textbooks for academic goal(divided

by ‘Listening and Speaking’ and ‘Reading and Writing’), was noticed to have the same way of classification. Thus, the researcher intends to analyze the strong points and weak points of the textbook series of 『College Korean for foreign students』 by Ewha Womans University, comparing its composition with that of 『Northstar』 series.

Results and Discussions

1) Listening part

- the data of pictures and photos are monotonous tone
- listening part is positioned after the speaking part, which is not accorded with the acquisition process of human language
- listening activities composed with just the script part and answer part, so speaking activities need to be diversified
- the listening instruction process is result-based, so it needs to follow the systematic process focusing on the process-based instruction

2) Speaking part

- speaking strategies are simple rather than diversified, the strategies contain just the expressions and structures, etc.
- speaking activities require more writing skills than speaking skills
- speaking activities tend to be more passive, so they need to be based on the challenge-centric instruction

3) Reading & Writing part

- the preparatory step for the reading needs to include more data of picture and photos
- the reading activities tend to give weight enhancement of grammar literacy, presenting such a grammatical expressions and several relevant collocation
- the writing part needs to show more writing samples and detailed explanation of how to write for the academic purpose

The academic fields for teaching English as a foreign language and Korean as a foreign language can share much in common for academic research areas. So the comparative study on the textbooks for EFL and KFL can have many beneficial results to find out more desirable way to develop the textbooks in both areas.

This kind of research can give some guidelines for developing more desirable textbooks and teaching materials in teaching Korean as a foreign language.

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