Picking up Korean through Japanese – Aids and Pitfalls

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AIDS

I. Relationship between Japanese and Korean

   Grammar: Similar structures, including word order and use of particles;

   Vocabulary: Many Chinese-derived words (Jap.: 35%; Kor.: 60%);

   Pronunciation: Japanese based on syllables, whereas Korean based on individual
   sounds (separate symbols for vowels and consonants).

II. 6 selected systematic sound changes that occur when converting Korean to Japanese:

KOREAN		JAPANESE
1. short vowels	may become	long vowels
2. final syllabic *l*	becomes	*tsu*
3. *h*	usually becomes	*k/g*
4. *ŏ/yŏ*	becomes	*e*
5. *ung*	becomes	*uu (long u)*
6. Final syllabic *k*	becomes	*ki/ku*

Writing Activity Write the Japanese *kana* for each of the following Korean words.

1. *ko-sok-do-ro* _____

2. *kyo-shil* _____

3. *yak-sok* _____

4. *chung-hak* _____

5. *yŏn-pil* _____

*6. *kyŏl-hon* _____

PITFALLS

I. The *patchim* (syllable-final consonant) problem

   Syllable-final consonants:

   Japanese – non-existent except *n* (ん), which is not joined to the following syllable

   Korean – occurs frequently:

     1) A *patchim* is pronounced together with a following syllable-initial vowel (liaison)

     2) A double *patchim* followed by a syllable-initial consonant causes the sound of one

         of the two *patchim* consonants to disappear (usually the first);   BUT

     3) Beware the disappearing **h** (often pronounced as **k** in Japanese)

        Examples: 1) *mok-yo*   sounds like   *mo-gyo*

                    2) *ilk-ta; nŏlp-ta*   sounds like   *ik-ta*

                    3) *kyŏl-**h**on*   sounds like   *kyŏl-on*

II. Single plain consonants between vowels become voiced, while syllable-initial plain

    consonants are unvoiced

        Example: *shi-gan*   (J: *ji-kan*)

III. The particle **ga**

   In Japanese, the particle **ga** is used to mark the subject in all cases.

        Example: *Kou-soku-dou-ro*   **ga**   *(okii)*

                    Ji-kan   **ga**   *(nai)*

   In Korean, the particle **ga** is used if there is no *patchim* ending the previous word,

        Example: *Ko-sok-do-ro*   **ga**   *(kŏ)*

     While the particle **i** is used if there is a *patchim* ending the previous word.

        Example: *Shi-gan*   **i**   *(ŏpsŏ)*,   which sounds like   *Shiga   ni (ŏpsŏ)*

Listening Activity   Write the following phrases in Japanese.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____