

A Study on the Presentation of Intermediate Level Grammar in Korean Learning Mobile Applications

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This study aims to identify existing problems and suggest a way forward to improve the quality of the intermediate level grammar contents in current Korean language learning mobile applications. For this purpose, the study references other studies to establish the goal for the intermediate Korean grammar and explores five mobile applications to uncover their problems for intermediate level users.

First section covers the background and the need for this study, as well as the previous study done on the Korean language learning applications. Second section talks about the characteristics of mobile applications and the goal of the intermediate Korean grammar. Based on the previous studies, the goal of intermediate Korean grammar is for the students to be able to understand the following: i) the differences between the meaning of grammar similar to or extended to those acquired in the beginner level and to be able to use in right circumstance; ii) various expressions of the same meaning and use them appropriately to suit each situation; iii) the complex grammar with many restrictions.

In the third section, the study analyzes the composition and teaching-learning content of five Korean language learning applications using Korean language textbooks and application analysis criteria. From the analysis, the noticeable problems were: i) the organization of how grammar was presented was not effective for users to learn; ii) the lack of number of intermediate grammars introduced; iii) the presentation of the meaning and rule was not effective for users to learn; iv) the lack of explanation about the grammar; v) absence of grammar with similar meaning; vi) explanation written in English; vii) lack of conversational examples; viii) lack of examples that show the meaning and rules of the grammar; and ix) the absence of practice tools for users to actually practice and assess what they just learned.

In the fourth section, after finding these problems, the study chooses two grammar examples as the study target and performs an in depth study on how these two examples are presented in mobile applications and suggests exemplary models as the way forward for future applications. The study selects the intermediate grammar ‘-느라고’ and ‘-아/어지다’ to explore the teaching-learning content of those grammar in each application and results in few improvement points: i) both the meaning and usage of the grammar should be presented; ii) there should be conversational examples to provide the situation in which the grammar is used; iii) visual materials should be used; iv) grammar with similar meaning should be provided and examples should be given to identify the differences; v) practices and activities should be provided; vi) feedback on incorrect answers should be provided.

For the last section, the study is concluded by describing its limitation and possible future studies.

Key Words : Korean language learning application, Learning utilizing mobile application, intermediate level grammar, teaching-learning contents of grammar, presentation of grammar