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TITLE OF PAPER

**TRANSLATION GAPS IN THE RENDERING OF KOREAN
LEVELS OF FORMALITY INTO ENGLISH AND SPANISH**

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CERTIFICATION

We certify that this research project was presented by Nara Shin and Bryan Guamancela as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the **Bachelor Degree in English Language with a Minor in Translation**.

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We, **Nara Shin** and **Bryan Peter Guamancela Campoverde**,

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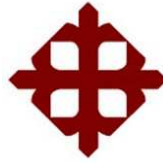
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DEDICATION

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ABSTRACT

This study identifies the various levels of formality in the Korean, Spanish, and English language in order to develop a contrastive analysis of these formality features in each of the three languages based on regular symmetrical and asymmetrical oral discourse employed by native Korean speakers from different social status, and age range of a popular Korean TV series. This cross-linguistic analysis was carried out through a product-oriented research, comparing and contrasting these languages in terms of formality and seeking possible ways to render all the levels of formality and honorifics found in the Korean language. This project is aimed at illustrating the losses that emerge in the translation process, which are caused by the sociocultural and linguistic differences inherent in each language with a view to proposing strategies that can be taken into consideration at the moment of translating Korean levels of formality into English and Spanish.

Key Words:

Korean Language, Spanish Language, English Language, Translation, Levels of formality, Honorifics

1. INTRODUCTION

One of the main objectives of translation studies and research is to provide possible solutions to problems that translators face when undertaking translation processes. Translating the various levels of formality within the Korean language into English and Spanish is a thought-provoking translation problem that needs to be tackled. There are seven verb paradigms or speech levels in Korean, and each level has its own unique set of verb endings, which are used to indicate the level of formality of a situation. This specific feature of Korean language represents a challenge to translators, as there is not an exact way to render these levels of formality. English and Spanish do not have as many ways of addressing people depending of their status or age as the Korean language presents in its inventory. Translating documents through generalization represents a loss in the target text as all or part of the effect that the source text expresses will be absent in the resulting target text.

The Korean culture has become more widespread nowadays; and with this, Korean music, novels and language are being taken to many parts of the world. Korean academies have been set up in some countries, but the problem of translating the different levels of addressing people is still present. Many people are interested in this language and in this culture, and this study would deliver insights into the problem of formality and how this affects conveyance of some special aspects of the message.

1.1. Research question:

How could the various levels of formality in the Korean language be transferred into English and Spanish?

Which levels of formality exist in Korean?

Which levels of formality exist in English?

Which levels of formality exist in Spanish?

1.2. Hypothesis

There are various levels of formality in the Korean language that cannot be transferred into English and Spanish.

1.3. General objective:

To analyze the different levels of formality in the Korean language through the evaluation of oral material originally produced in the Korean language in order to generate parallels at the different levels of textual variables between Korean-English and Korean-Spanish.

1.4. Specific objectives:

- To identify the different levels of formality in the Korean, Spanish and English language
- To analyze the differences between the levels of formality in the Korean, Spanish, and English language.
- To contrast the variations in translations linked to the different levels of formality in the Korean, Spanish, and English language

1.5. Statement of the Problem

The formality features found in the Korean language are part of their culture and uniqueness. This fact has made a difficult task for translators as many languages does not have the same characteristics regarding formality. As a result, many of these translations have suffer of losses as translator did not find an appropriate equivalent and the solution for them is just omit those features.

1.6. Justification of the Study:

The focus of this study is to identify the various levels of formality in the Korean language and find a way for them to be transferred into English and Spanish. For translators, it is important to recognize these levels of formality and

analyze and apply strategies and techniques to compensate them in cases when an equivalent is not found in the target language, so as to achieve a successful rendering. An awareness of the format features will contribute to the compensation of losses in translation that are clearly evidenced in a comparison of the source language and the target message, whose impact will vary accordingly.

Moreover, the analysis of the levels of formality will allow translators a closer look to the Korean culture. Triggering understanding of communication can flow smoothly or be hindered by the translators' sociocultural knowledge, which goes beyond purely linguistic or language proficiency issues. Additionally, this experience will help translators to understand how other cultures affect the society in terms of behaviors, traditions, and etiquette.

2. Literature Review:

2.1. Origins of the Korean Language

Korean is spoken in many parts of the world by more than 75 million people and it is becoming more and more popular each day thanks to the spread of South Korean culture and art. This language is also considered one of the world's oldest living languages due to its origins. (Hallen, 1999). For many years, many scholars and linguists have tried to relate the Korean language roots to one of the big family of languages such as Tibetan or the Indo-European family; however, until these days the real origins have not been corroborated. There exist two prominent views regarding the creation of this language: The Southern theory and the Northern theory.

This first theory was strongly supported by the American scholar, Homer. B Hulbert. In his book *The History of Korea*, he related some features in the Korean language with "the Dravidian Languages of southern India" (Hulbert, 1905 p. 34). This theory is based on some syntactic similarities among these languages, e.g. word order (S-O-V), postpositions, absence of relative pronouns, modifiers in a head noun, and some others. In this same theory exists other linguists that relate the Korean roots with the Austronesian languages, and linguistic, anthropological, and archaeological findings confirm this proposal. Within the linguistic features we can find that what Korean shares with these roots are the honorific system and names of body parts, which are comparable to some Polynesian languages. Also, in the anthropological and archaeological findings, elements such as rice cultivation and matrilineal family system have been discovered. Despite all this proof found in Korean territory and culture; this theory is not completely accepted by contemporary linguists (Hulbert, 1905a).

The most accepted theory of the origins of Korean is the Northern theory. This view relates the language with the Altaic family of languages. This theory is more popular since Altaic languages were spoken from the Balkans to the Kamchatka peninsula, which was known later as Yugoslavia to Russia and

Mongolia. From this fact comes the conclusion that “the Tungusic branch of Altaic tribesmen migrated towards the south and reached the Korean peninsula”; (Comrie, 1987, p. 964) from this point it is inferred that Korean comes from Tungusic languages, along with Manchu. Anthro-archaeological evidence serves as proof that Korean is a branch of the Altaic family such as bronze-ware, comb ceramic and shamanism have been found. Not only archaeological proof supports this theory, but linguistic elements also match with this family of language. Regarding grammar, Korean is similar to the Altaic Languages with the absence of gender, number, articles, conjunctions and relative pronouns. They also share vowel harmony and agglutination.

Despite these archaeological findings, some recent excavations have discovered that there was an early race in the Korean peninsula long before the Altaic race migrated to that area. They were known as Paleosiberians and there is no record of the language they spoke at that time, not until the conquerors came and settled down in regions of Manchuria and the Korean Peninsula. From this point, studies show that ancient Korean was divided into two dialects: Puyo and Han Language. This variation depended on the geographical zone where the people lived; the Puyo dialect was spoken in northern Korea while the Han dialect was created in southern Korea (Hulbert, 1905b).

It was not until the seventh century that a standard dialect was spoken in the entire Korean territory. Just after Manchuria was vanquished, three predominant kingdoms appeared: Kokuryo (the bigger one that occupied the territory of Manchuria and some northern portions of the Korean Peninsula), Paekche, and Silla. Each of these kingdoms spoke their own Korean dialect until the seventh century when Silla unified the whole Korean Peninsula and the Han language became the standard language in the nation. Throughout these days, two officially standard dialects are found: the first one is the Seoul dialect, now spoken in South Korea; and the other dialect spoken in North Korea called Pyongyang dialect (Sohn, 2006a).

2.2. Korean Levels of formality

In comparison with English and Spanish, the Korean language has more speech levels. In this language, seven speech styles can be found. Each of them is used to demonstrate respect or courtesy to a speaker or writer's audience (Ahn, 2014, p. 42). Nowadays, some of these seven speech levels are not common anymore; they are disappearing. The higher levels are divided into two. The first one is called *Hasoseo-che*. This speech level is not used anymore in daily life as it belongs to the archaic period. It is used only in Korean historical dramas or movies, and set in older eras and religious text e.g. the Bible, Buddhist scriptures, etc. It is also used when speaking towards a king or queen. The formality of this level is very high and it has a high politeness (Ahn, 2014, p. 48). The second higher level is called *Hasipsio-che* or *Hapsyo-che*; it is less high than the first one, but it is still high. It is generally called the "formal" or the "formal polite". It is used when talking to a stranger when starting a conversation, between colleagues in more formal circumstances, by television announcers, or to customer/clients (Ahn, 2014, p. 49).

Next, the middle levels are divided into three styles. These styles are used when facing some conflict or uncertainty about the social status of someone or both speakers in a conversation. The first one is called *Haeyo-che*; in English, this speech style is known as the "polite" style. It is mainly used in Korean guidebooks for foreigners, among strangers (especially ones that are older than the speaker or of same age), or colleagues (Ahn, 2014, p. 50). The second speech style of middle levels is called *Hao-che*, which is known as the "semi-formal" style in English. It has a high formality and neutral politeness. This speech style is used by older age group of people, officers of the law/detectives, government official/civil-service employees and people of midlife. It is also used in historical dramas like the *Hasoseo-che* of high formality. Thus, it makes the dialogue sound more archaic (Ahn, 2014, p. 48).

The last speech style of middle levels is called *Hage-che*; this causal style is used among close friends, acquainted or intimate, or a member of one's family or household, etc. It can be said that its politeness is between *Haeyo-che* and *Hae-*

che. Consequently, it has a neutral formality and neutral politeness. This style of formality is never used to address family relatives nor children. It is especially used by in-laws in an intimate manner or an elder person when addressing a little person, and sometimes, among manhood friends (Ahn, 2014, p. 48). Lastly, the lower levels are divided into two styles. The first one is commonly called *Haera-che*. It is called the *plain* style in English. This style has a high formality but low politeness. It is used among intimates or family members of similar age, and adults when talking to children. It is also used in impersonal writing such as books, magazines, newspapers, etc. This style is also used for giving examples in grammar books, and in some exclamations as well (Ahn, 2014, p. 50). The second style of the lower levels is called *Hae-che* which is called *intimate* in English. It has both low formality and politeness. It is used among intimates and family member or when talking to children (Ahn, 2014, p. 51).

The cultural values of the society in which it is spoken is reflected by language. Therefore, when learning a language, the learner not only has to learn grammatical rules and lexicon, but also the social and pragmatic rules connected with it (Wang, 1995). Honorifics generally describe language that respects the other party, often by using honorific address terms. However, the Korean language, does not only have different terms of address to show respect to the audience, but also multi-tiered speech levels, with expressions of self-lowering, such as calling oneself as “jeo (저)” instead of “na (나)”, respect towards the subject, object, and complement of the sentence, likewise respect to the audience (Kawasaki, 2014, p. 26).

In South Korea, a father/mother and his/her daughter’s social status is clearly different, but they might use lower speech level to speak to each other (maybe few words are excepted) as they are intimate and conversing in an informal situation. This might sound challenging to learn, but all Korean people even kindergarten children learn it quite easily. For example, children are familiar with the speech levels and they use at least these two informal endings; *-haeyo* (해요), and *-hae* (해). Nevertheless, they learn the other speech levels at school as well.

One of the formal levels which is called “-hapnida (합니다)” is learned and used in the military area and at work places. Accordingly, men, in particular, who experienced mandatory military training and who are in paid occupations, use the formal level more often than women (Kawasaki, 2014, p. 32).

2.3. English Levels of formality

As a contrast with Korean language, English has a simpler grammar system. English comes from the biggest family of languages, Indo-European. This language has been spoken in the Britain region since the early fifth century (Knowles, 2014). English resulted from a mix of languages between the first conquerors (the Romans) and the next invaders that followed them (the Saxons coming from the North Sea), giving as a result, the Anglo-Saxon language. Since that century, English has experienced a lot of changes in grammar, pronunciation, and even in syntax; Modern English.

Throughout time, the different levels of formality in oral and written speech have changed. Even though these levels are not as noticeable as in Korean, they have to be used in everyday communication depending on the environment it is spoken. These levels of formality are: formal, semi-formal, and informal. Referring to the first level, formal register can be defined as a very polite way of addressing someone or something. When talking about written speech, formal register is used in academic articles, official reports, business letters, etc. One key characteristic of formal style is that this type of language is made with longer and more complex sentences; this means proper grammar, correct punctuation, and also the correct usage of sentence structure. The formal level is also used in oral speech. The queen and king discourse are an example of this level, people with a high rank or authority, or any professional in any field uses this register every day (Heylighen & Dewaele, 1999, p. 4).

Unlike Korean, English does not have prefixes or suffixes to reflect respect or authority. The English levels of formality are mainly reflected in the word choice.

For example, a person will use 'buy' in a normal conversation, but in formal language they use 'purchase' to express the same idea. The same case applies to other words like: help/assistance, need/require, next/subsequently, enough/sufficient, etc. Formal language never accepts contractions and avoids phrasal verbs such as 'went up', 'ask for', 'come back', or 'cut down on'. A vaster vocabulary and complicated words are remarkable in this register (Heylighen & Dewaele, 1999).

Semi-formal speech is more used among people, in day-to-day interaction with professors, co-workers, interviews and to talk to an authority. This level of formality is the most common style in every single spoken conversation. It does not use complicated words, instead, uses common vocabulary and allows the usage of phrasal verbs. It is also characterized for its use of polite vocabulary. The usage of words like 'could' or 'please' is very common to make sentences.

Informal language is used in conversations and discussions among friends and people of the same age. This register is very personal, and it may include phrasal verbs, colloquialisms and idiomatic expressions. It is also found in conversations with close friends or chatting online, but not in college writing. Contractions are also accepted, and it is normal to use polite phrases, not just commands, for example 'could' and 'please' (Heylighen & Dewaele, 1999).

Informal language in English is shorter, with simple sentences and simple grammar. In this type of register, speakers do not care about structure nor grammar or vocabulary. This level of formality is used for interacting with friends, speaking or chatting online. Regarding spoken register, hesitation is common when needing a moment to think before speaking. Expression like 'I mean...' or '...you know' or 'gotcha' are commonly used among people (Heylighen & Dewaele, 1999, p. 3).

2.4. Spanish Levels of formality

Spanish language, as a contrast with English, has more formality in written and spoken speech. Spanish has two types of levels of formality in oral communication, as a student does not talk to his professor in the same way as he talks to his friends. First, we have *registro formal* which is cultural language used in literature, speeches, university lectures, dictionaries, and literary performances. It can be said that this level is not common among regular users since its usage of complex words and sentences makes it very professional and difficult to understand for less educated individuals. For example, in a political assembly all of the members may use a formal speech in their interaction with other attendees. This register can also be used by media, certain modern literature and companies as a normal way of communication among them (Marco & Colomer, 2006).

Then, *registro informal* is commonly used at home with family members or in normal interaction with other people. This informal speech is also used in all conversation depending on the formality or informality level of the other person. Vulgarism is also used in Spanish and it is very common and used by any kind of person regardless social status or level of education.

According to Briz & Grupo Val.Es.Co (2002), the usage of these two registers may be defined by the type of features: *situacionales y primarios*. This first one refers to the type of social relation and function between the speakers, the interactional situation in which the communication is developed (distant, familiar), and the type of topic to discuss (specialized/non-specialized). In other words, this feature is beyond the language and determines the type of linguistic variation that needs to be employed. The second one refers to the objective of the interaction (transactional or interpersonal) and the formal or informal tone. In contrast with the first feature, this *primary* defines the communicative variation; what is intended to be communicated (Marco & Colomer, 2006).

2.5. Application of the various levels of formality

In every culture, there are different ways to demonstrate respect and honor to others and that will vary depending on the rank or the relationship. These ways of demonstrating formality can be reflected in acts and in the language employed while interacting with these people.

Talking about Korea, formality is reflected in their society, culture, and language. Ho-min Sohn (2006) affirmed that Korea “has borrowed [...], absorbed, and nativized a large number of words, expressions, and other linguistic features” in its culture and as a result the “Korean culture and society are reflected most productively and distinctly in the vocabulary, but also in the linguistic structure and contextual use of the language” (Sohn, 2006b). For that reason, Korean levels of formality are clearly manifested throughout the Korean linguistic system and in gestures and symbols. Formality is something required in this culture otherwise people may be offended easily (Wong, 2011a).

The application of formality in this language is employed in daily communication when addressing an old person in the street or people who are in a higher social status/rank or just someone older, even only for one year (Wong, 2011b). This honorific system is represented by the usage of pronouns, nouns, particles (prefixes or suffixes), and even verbs.

As a big contrast, English culture does not share this complex feature. The application of formality in English is only based on the word choice and does not affect the syntax or the morphology of the words. One way to indicate politeness in English is the use of titles such as ‘Mr.’ or ‘Mrs.’ as there are no honorific pronouns in this language. For example, in the USA it is possible for a 20-years-old man to address an older man by his first name, after meeting each other for the first time a few moments ago. This example demonstrates that in the English language formality does not play an important role as it plays in the Korean Language.

On the other hand, Spanish does have a certain level of formality within its culture. In comparison with English, Spanish has a pronoun in order to demonstrate respect, it could vary depending on the person’s social status or age

range. This also may affect the daily interaction with others as it is normal to use this level of formality with a stranger in the street or among teachers with students.

In countries like Spain, the pronoun 'usted' is losing its power. They support this in the fact that the second personal pronoun in Spanish is 'tú' instead of 'usted' as they consider this second one as more distant and lacking feelings. Carrasco Santana (2002, p. 41) mentioned that the 'tuteo' (usage of the second person singular) is now a rule in Spain, it occurs among family members and friendship, and in normal interaction with other people regardless their social status or age. However, in South America the usage of 'usted' is very normal and important in every interaction with other people, depending on their level. This pronoun is employed in a family when a child wants to talk to his/her parents or grandparents; the absence of this formality may be considered as disrespectful for some family members.

2.6. Syntactical arrangement of the levels of formality in Korean

Syntax is something fundamental when talking about levels of formality and even more of honorifics in Korean. Syntax can be defined as a group of rules that govern the structure of sentences in a language (Ogden, 1937, p. 18). Spanish and English share almost the same characteristics, as both languages come from the same family of language: the Indo-European family. However, Korean comes from the Asian family of languages, so it does have a different alphabet, different word order and multiple variations of honorifics.

The word order of the Korean language is not similar to English nor Spanish. The word order in a sentence is S-O-V (Choi & Schmitt, 2015). An example of the word order of Korean is *Sarahga sagwareul meokeotda*. *Sarah apple ate* portrays the fact that in the Korean language, the verb goes after the object. Generally, the Korean word order is known as S-O-V, but it is not the only way to arrange sentences. The word order in Korean is considerably free as the position of most of the elements (such as subject, object, etc.) except the verb can be moved

without changing the meaning of the sentence (Choi & Schmitt, 2015). The following sentences are some possible word order variations of Korean:

1) 사라가 사과를 알리시아에게 주었다.

Sarahga sagwareul Aliciaegae jueotda.

(Sarah an apple to Alicia gave)

Sarah gave an apple to Alicia

2) 사과를 사라가 알리시아에게 주었다.

Sagwareul Sarahga Aliciaegae jueotda.

(an apple Sarah to Alicia gave)

Sarah gave an apple to Alicia

3) 사라가 알리시아에게 사과를 주었다.

Sarahga Aliciaegae sagwareul jueotda.

(Sarah to Alicia an apple gave)

Sarah gave an apple to Alicia

4) 알리시아에게 사과를 사라가 주었다.

Aliciaegae sagwareul Sarahga jueotda.

(to Alicia an apple Sarah gave)

Sarah gave an apple to Alicia

5) 사과를 알리시아에게 사라가 주었다

Sagwareul Aliciaegae Sarahga jueotda.

(an apple to Alicia Sarah gave)

Sarah gave an apple to Alicia

6) 알리시아에게 사라가 사과를 주었다

Aliciaegae Sarahga sagwareul jueotda.

(to Alicia Sarah an apple gave)

Sarah gave an apple to Alicia

All of the examples given above have exactly the same meaning of 'Sarah gave an apple to Alicia', although all of them demonstrate different word orders. In this case, the verb, which comes at the end of each sentence, is the only element that does not change its position. Thus, it is noticeable that Korean is a verb final language. It is evident that the word order in Korean is comparatively free with verbs as they are always fixed at the end of the sentence (Choi & Schmitt, 2015, p. 3).

Verbs, nouns, and pronouns in Korean have a huge transformation and it is very flexible for their honorific system. For that reason, it is very important to observe the speaker's or writer's relationships along the subject of the sentence and the audience in this language. The system of honorifics of the Korean language is far-reaching since it indicates the speaker's relationship towards the subject of the sentence and speech levels to indicate the speaker's relationship towards audience (Ahn, 2014).

Regarding nouns, when a speaker talks to someone whose status is superior, he or she must use the subject's superiority by using appropriate nouns or verb endings. Usually, someone's status is superior whether he/she is older than the speaker e.g. a teacher, professor, stranger of same or greater age, employer, a customer, client or others. Someone's status is same or inferior whether he/she is a younger *stranger*, a student, an employee, worker or others (Ri, 2005). A speaker must be aware of the honorifics and their correct application *because* if the speaker uses inappropriate or wrong speech level, the audience may be easily offended (Wong, 2011b).

There are several special nouns instead of using plain ones. A typical example is using *성함* (seongham) instead of *이름* (ireum) for "name" (Choo &

Kwak, 2008). Furthermore, the honorific suffix -님 (-nim) is added to numerous kinship words to make them of higher formality. In this way, someone might address his or her own older brother as 형 (hyeong) but regarding someone else's older brother as 형님 (hyeongnim) (Ahn, 2014).

The following are some examples of special nouns (plain and honorific forms):

Plain noun	Honorific noun	English translation
이름 (ireum)	성함 (seongham)	Name
생일 (saengil)	생신 (saengsin)	Birthday
나이 (nai)	연세 (yeonse)	age

Chart 1: Honorific Nouns

The following sentences show a comparison with the application of both, plain and honorific nouns:

When addressing someone of same age or younger than the speaker:

1) 내 생일은 3 월 13 일 이야. (applied plain noun)

(Nae saengileun samwol sipsamil iya.)

My birthday is on March 13th.

When addressing someone older than the speaker:

2) 저희 할아버지 **생신**은 7 월 7 일이에요. (applied honorific noun)

(Jeohui halabeoji **saengsineun** chilwol chilil ieyo.)

My grandfather's **birthday** is on July 7th.

The terms used in both sentences have the same meaning, but they clearly distinguish the level of formality as in the second sentence the honorific noun is used. Thus, it can be easily noticed that the second sentence is for someone older than the speaker.

The following are some examples of honorific suffix -님:

Plain noun	Honorific suffix –님 (-nim)	English translation
할아버지 (halabeoji)	할아버님 (halabeonim)	paternal grandfather
어머니 (eomeoni)	어머님 (eomeonim)	mother
형 (hyung)	형님 (hyungnim)	a male's older brother
선생 (seonsaeng)	선생님 (seonsaengnim)	teacher

Chart 2: Honorific nouns

1) 형, 영화배우처럼 춤을 추던데.

(Hyung, yeonghwabaewucheoreom chumeul chudeonde.)

Brother (older), you were dancing like a star.

2) 형님, 영화배우처럼 춤을 추시던데요.

(Hyungnim, yeonghwabaewucheoreom chumeul chusideondeyo.)

Brother (older), you were dancing like a star.

Both sentences in English have the exact same meaning. However, in Korean, the first sentence is addressed toward a speaker's own older brother and the second sentence is addressed towards someone else's older brother to demonstrate respect.

Regarding honorific verbs, in Korean, if -시- (-si-) or -으시- (-eusi-) is added after the root and before the ending of a verb, it becomes an honorific verb. Therefore, 받다 (batda: to receive) becomes 받으시다 (badeusida: to receive). In Korean, there are only a few irregular verbs that form honorifics (Ahn, 2014).

The following examples are common of both plain and honorific verbs:

Plain verb/adjective	Regular honorific	Meaning
가다 (gada)	가시다 (gasida)	to go
예쁘다 (yeppeuda)	예쁘시다 (yeppeusida)	to be pretty
크다 (keuda)	크시다 (keusida)	to be tall
Plain verb/adjective	Irregular honorific	Meaning
먹다 (meokda)	드시다/잡수시다 (deusida/japsusida)	to eat
배고프다 (baegopeuda)	시장하시다 (sijanghasida)	to be hungry
자다 (jada)	주무시다 (jumusida)	to sleep
있다 (itda)	계시다 (gyesida)	to be

Chart 3. Regular and Irregular Honorific verbs (Ahn, 2014, p. 47) and (Choo & Kwak, 2008).

Regular verbs examples:

1) 내 동생은 예쁘다.

(Nae dongsaengeun yeppeuda.)

My younger sister is pretty.

2) 우리 선생님은 예쁘시다.

(Wuri seonsaengnimeun yeppeusida.)

My teacher is pretty.

In this case, the verb “pretty” is used in two ways. In the first sentence a plain verb is applied and in the second sentence a regular honorific is applied by just adding -시- (-si-) after the root 예쁘- (yeppeu-) and before the ending -다 (-da).

Irregular verbs example:

사라는 보통 11 시에 잔다.

(Sarahneun botong yeolhansie janda.)

Sarah usually sleeps at 11 o'clock.

저희 엄마는 보통 11 시에 주무십니다.

(Jeohui eommaneun botong yeolhansie jumusipnida.)

My mother usually sleeps at 11 o'clock.

As shown above, irregular Korean verbs also change depending on the honorific level. In the first case, as there is no addressing to someone with respect, the verb stays plain. However, the second sentence shows the level of formality as the addressee is someone older. In that case, the main verbs totally change, plus an infix is added to show respect toward the person being talked about.

Regarding honorific particles, there are two particles that have honorific counterparts in Korean. The first one is -께서 (kkeseo). This is the honorific form

for -가/이 (ga/i), which is the subject/identifier particle. Accordingly, -이/가 (i/ga) can be replaced by -께서 (kkeseo). And -께 is the other honorific form for -에게/-한테 (-egae/-hante), which is the dative/object particle; -에게 is formal and -한테 is informal. They are used for when the subject is giving or receiving something from the object. Nowadays, -께서 (kkeseo) is not always necessary to use when making an honorific (Choo & Kwak, 2008, p. 30). For instance, 어머니는 무엇을 하세요? (eomeonimeun mueoteul haseyo?) “What does your mother do?” does not sound non-honorific in Korean since 어머니 is already an honorific form for 엄마 or 어머니 and 하세요? is an honorific form for 해요? However, 어머니께서는 무엇을 하세요? is more honorific and polite way to demonstrate respect.

2.7. Syntactical arrangement of the levels of formality in English

English language lacks formality as there is no such difference when addressing people from different social contexts. It can be said that formality in English is based on the type of speech employed in different contexts, taking into consideration pronunciation, sentence structure and word choice (Heylighen & Jean-Marc Dewaele, 2002). As a contrast with other languages such as French, which has very complex formality syntax, English is simpler in this aspect.

In this language, the way to demonstrate respect and honor is by the usage of title prefixing someone’s name. The common titles applied to any person are: *Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms. Sir, Dr.*, or other titles depending on the addressee. Further than these titles, there is no other syntactical feature to be mentioned in this language in the formality level. Comparisons made by some scholars proof that English formality nowadays, in most circumstances, vanished (Abley, 2017).

2.8. Syntactical arrangement of the levels of formality in Spanish

Spanish is flexible to honorifics and, in comparison with English, this language is rich in verbal morphology and pronouns when talking about formality (Zagona, 2002, p. 7). First, pronouns in Spanish are chosen depending on the level of formality of the addressee i.e. the social relation of the speakers. The speaker may choose from the inventory of pronouns e.g. *tú, usted, vos, os, le, te*, etc. However, these are not the only ways to demonstrate respect in Spanish, there are also other ways to address others with respect such as titles (*señor, doña...*). Alba de Diego & Sánchez Lobato (1980, p. 102-103) provide another list of classification in Spanish formality:

Generic titles: *señor, señora*

Parental titles: *padre, tío*

Other relation titles: *amigo, compañero*

Metaphorical titles: *mi vida, mi cielo*

Second person: *tú, usted*

In other terms, it is about “words or linguistic expressions that speakers use to appeal directly to their addressees” (Jucker y Taavitsainen, 2002, p. 1). The usage of these words comes from the 4th Century when the second person in plural started to be used toward the emperor as a form of respect for his high rank in the political authority; however, later it became common to use this pronoun with the high class to show respect and also the remarkable social distance and courtesy (Sampedro Mella, 2016). At this point, the application of pronouns in addressing someone younger than the speaker, the second person singular is applied i.e. ***Tú*** *estuviste muy cerca de terminar; más sin embargo todo el esfuerzo ahora ha sido en vano*. However, if the addressee is someone older than the

speaker, the second person of the plural applies in that case i.e. **Usted** *estuvo muy cerca de terminar; más sin embargo todo el esfuerzo ahora ha sido en vano.*

3. Methodology

Based on the analysis of the translation methods applied in different renderings, it was necessary to use product-oriented research in order to investigate how valid the translation product is from different perspectives. Those perspectives are linguistic aspects, mainly syntax as the languages analyzed in this project come from different language families, and as a result, they differ in word order, sentence structure, and grammar. They also differ in morphology, as the complexity of Korean levels of formality occurs in words and within words. Discourse analysis was also required in this project, as formality is commonly used in day-to-day conversations in Korea.

Contrastive analysis methodology was the key for this research project as the aim was to evidence the gaps in translation among the three languages. Based on this, it was necessary to contrast the translation of the same Korean source and how the three translations differed from each other in the rendering in each language.

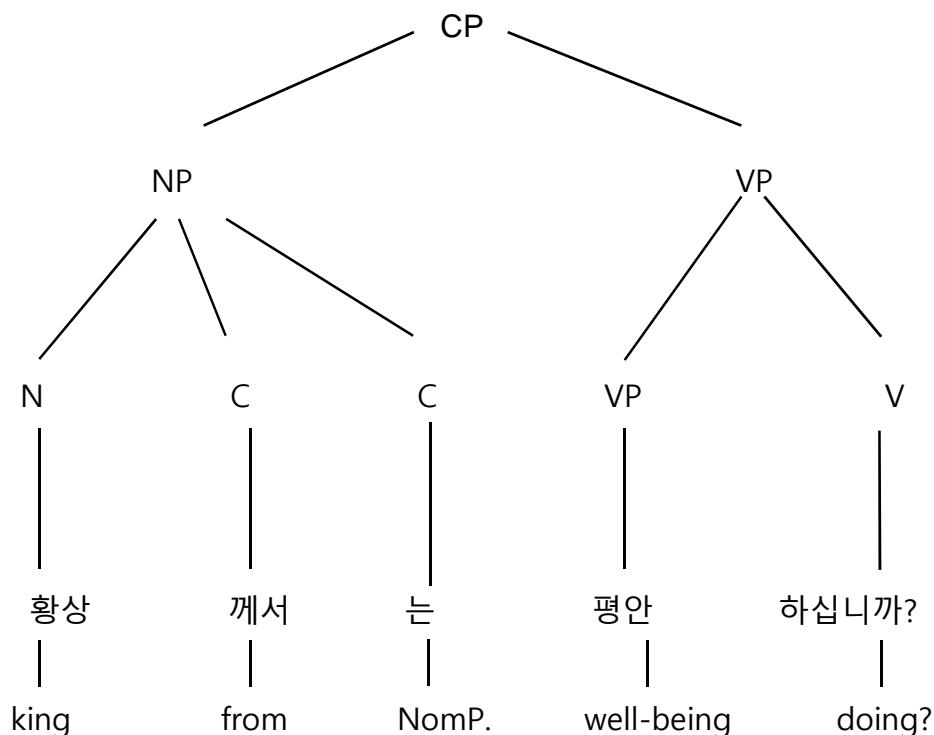
As the methodology used was product-oriented and contrastive analysis, the translation product chosen was a popular Korean TV series named 'Goong', of which some conversations were selected to be analyzed under a scheme of linguistic and extra-linguistic features.

The analysis also included the generation of parsing (syntactic trees) as a way to illustrate how meaning is arranged in the three languages and how variations are perceived in syntactic-semantic terms.

4. Findings

Once the theoretical basis for analysis have been established, the steps into the practical issues that help respond to the aim of this project have to be put forward. One of the most important findings worked out herein is the fact that remarkable differences between English, Spanish, and Korean in syntax exist due to the distinct levels of formality spotted among these languages. In order to show these differences, a popular Korean television series has been chosen. It was broadcast in 2006 under the name “*Princess Hours*” (궁), which was also dubbed and subtitled in Spanish and English due to its success. This TV show was chosen for this project because it posits an interaction of the different levels of formality that exist in Korean among social status: low class, high class and royalty. Additionally, the Spanish and English dubbed version skip this honorific forms as these languages do not share these characteristics.

In the following example, a phrase used in the Korean version of the TV show has been extracted, which illustrates the scene when Queen Dowager uses a formal register. In this phrase ‘황상께서는 평안하십니까?’ (hwangsangkeseoneun pyeonganhasipnikka?), Queen Dowager is using the high level of formality which is called *Hasipsio-che*. Basically, this level has high formality, but also high politeness as it is the register that Queen Dowager uses to address the Emperor. The syntactical analysis will show as follow:



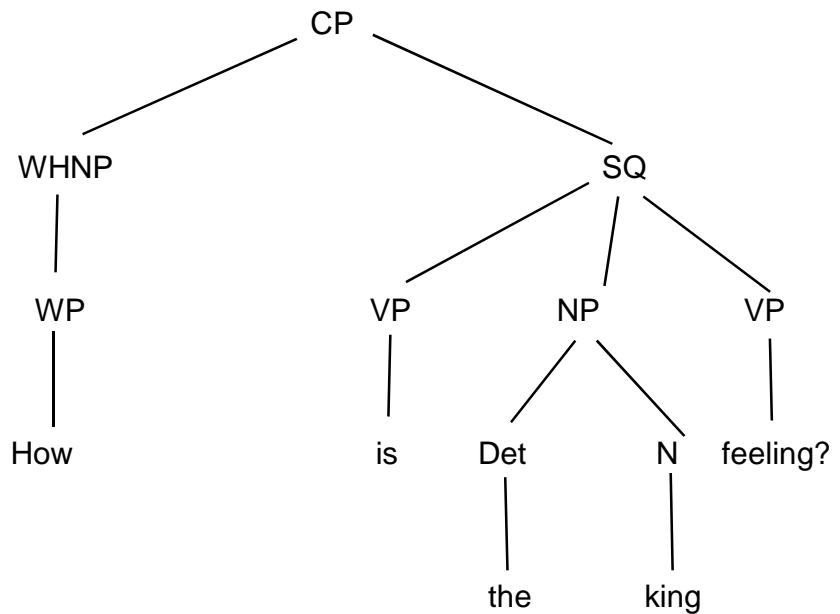
Graph 1: Syntactic analysis of Korean phrase. (Princess Hour, 2006)

Graph 1 shows the syntactic structure of the phrase above. Although the phrase is simple, its level of formality is complex as many suffixes and infixes affect the whole structure. The NP is formed by the noun itself (황상) but as it is something spoken by Queen Dowager; it has to include the infix -께서 and the nominative particle -는 to show the formality that the situation requires.

As this research is a cross-linguistic analysis, the same phrases of the source language (Korean) will be used in the translated version of Spanish to show the discrepancies found while rendering this Korean TV series into another language. Although Spanish does have certain levels of formality, it does not share the same characteristics in those levels as Korean. Therefore, there will be many losses at the moment of rendering the translation.

The communicative translation chosen by the translator in English is “How is the king feeling?”. However, the interrogative is: Is that an accurate and faithful translation? The analysis of the same phrase into English shows that it does not transmit the same discourse features that the source language contains. As

mentioned before in this paper, English lacks formality and there are few ways to demonstrate honorifics.

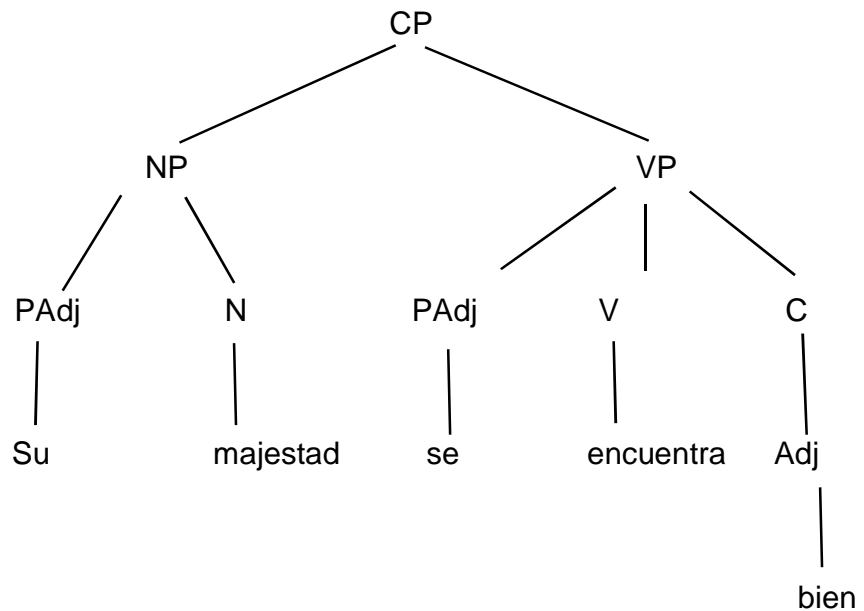


Graph2: Syntactical analysis of English phrase. (Princess Hour, 2006)

As shown above, it is a simple question that can be pronounced by anyone: high, middle, low, king, president, or just a simple person. Unlike Korean, this verb and noun do not have affixes within or at the end of words. The composition of the sentences is simple, and the only formality found is the honorific title 'king'. The loss in translation is when the particle *-께서* cannot be transferred into English and there is no equivalent that can be attached to the noun phrase to give formality to the word. The same case happens in the VP when the source language uses *하십니까* to express the honorific coming from Queen Dowager. Such elements are missing and the richness of the Korean language is lost regarding syntax and culture, that are attached to the language itself.

Communicative translation in Spanish of the same phrase is *¿Su majestad se encuentra bien?* Does this rendering transmit the high formality level that Korean expresses? It cannot be said that Spanish rendering does not show a

formality level; however, it can be said that the rendering does not fully transmit the honorific level employed by Queen Dowager.

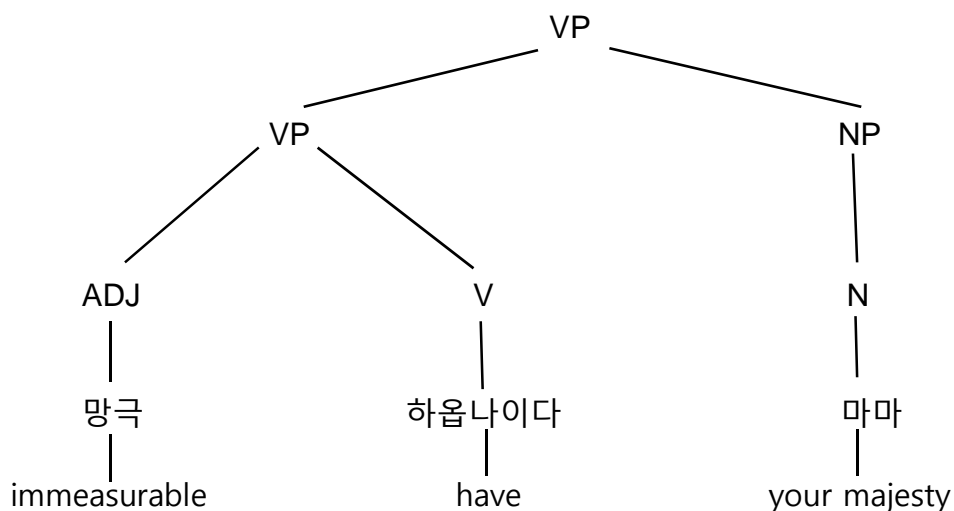


Graph 3: Syntactical analysis of Spanish phrase. (Princess Hour, 2006)

This syntactic structure allows to analyze the phrase morpheme by morpheme. First of all, it is imperative to indicate that the level of formality employed by Queen Dowager is high, but not very high as the one used with the king of Korea (in this case her husband). She was asking for his son; which is why her level of formality was not the highest register in Korean. The use of a possessive adjective ‘su’ in Spanish denotes the highest level of formality as it is used to address someone older or of a high rank, but this is not the case. In some way, the translator decided to compensate the formality given by the infix ‘께서’ and replace it with a possessive adjective, which is very common in Spanish to express respect. A similar case happened in the VP as the translator used another possessive adjective to compensate, in some way, the formality given in the source language.

To give another illustration, the following phrase has been selected from a scene of the series chosen. In this phrase, *망극 하옵나이다, 마마*. (manggeuk haopnaida, mama), the minister is also using the high level of formality, but this one is called *Hasoseo-che* which is higher than *Hasipsio-che*. In substance, this is the superlative level of formality that exists in Korean because this has a very high formality, but higher politeness as it is the register that the minister uses to address the queen. In the case of the particle, which is the honorific particle ‘-나이다’; it is added at the end of the word as a suffix to make the superlative level of formality in the Korean language. Nowadays, this level of formality is no longer used in daily life, but it can be still found in Korean historical drama or series, Bible, etc. as it is archaic.

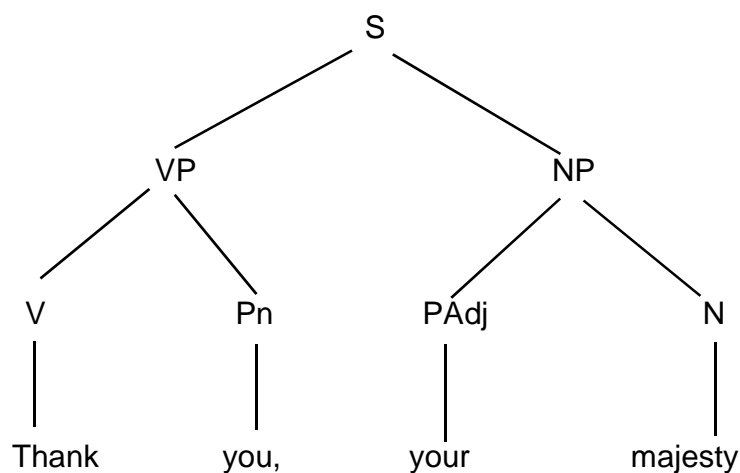
Let’s consider the following syntactical analysis to show another level of formality found in Korean language.



Graph 4: Syntactical analysis of Korean phrase. (Princess Hour, 2006)

Graph 4 shows the syntactical structure of the phrase above. It is a very short phrase; still it is the highest level of formality that can be found in the Korean language. This same phrase also shows the syntactic differences found between Korean, English, and Spanish. The Korean verb is *하옵* (to have) but as it was said, in a high formality the suffix *나이다* must be used; it has not meaning, but it needs to be there to express the level of formality.

Communicative translation in English: 'Thank you, your majesty'. In this example the difference among these two languages and how the gaps in translation cannot be filled nor compensated is very noticeable. The essence of the source language wanted to transmit the honor of being chosen by the queen to fulfill an assignment; however, the translation into English was poor in regard to the cultural essence of Korean.

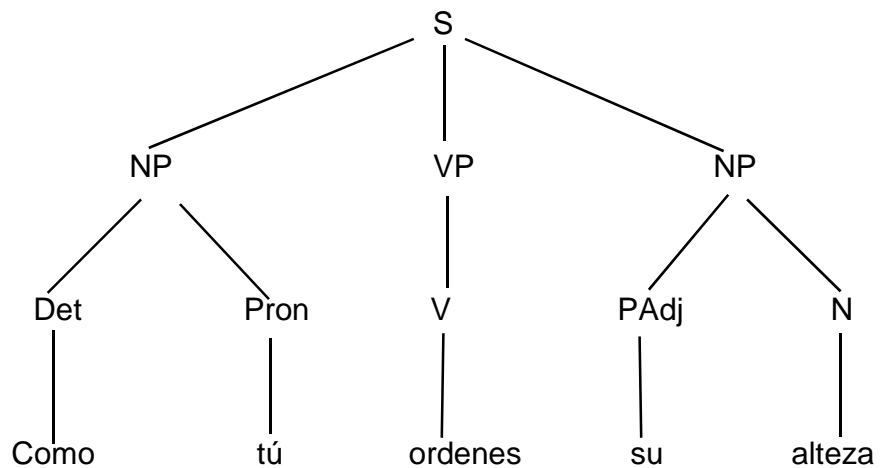


Graph 5: Syntactical analysis of English phrase. (Princess Hour, 2006)

In some way, the translator wanted to transmit the formality found in the Korean language, but the main problem is that English does not offer many options in order to do so. As a way to compensate, the translator used the

possessive adjective 'your' plus the title 'majesty' to show the respect toward the range of the addressee. However, the translated version of the rest of the phrase just mentioned 'thank you' instead of expressing the whole meaning of the sentence (to be honored for being chosen by the queen to fulfill an important assignment). Another important aspect to consider is the dubbing frame time, as this is a short sentence the translator has to manage somehow to fit the sentence in the timing of the scene. Sadly, that represented a huge loss in translation as the main idea of the source language is completely missing in the English version of the series.

On the other hand, Spanish does offer more ways to transmit formality and honorifics, but it does not fully reach the level expressed in Korean. The dubbed Spanish version was translated as: 'Como tú ordenes su alteza'. The translator's decisions here are very interesting to analyze as the highest level of formality in Spanish was not used to reproduce the same level of honorific into Spanish.

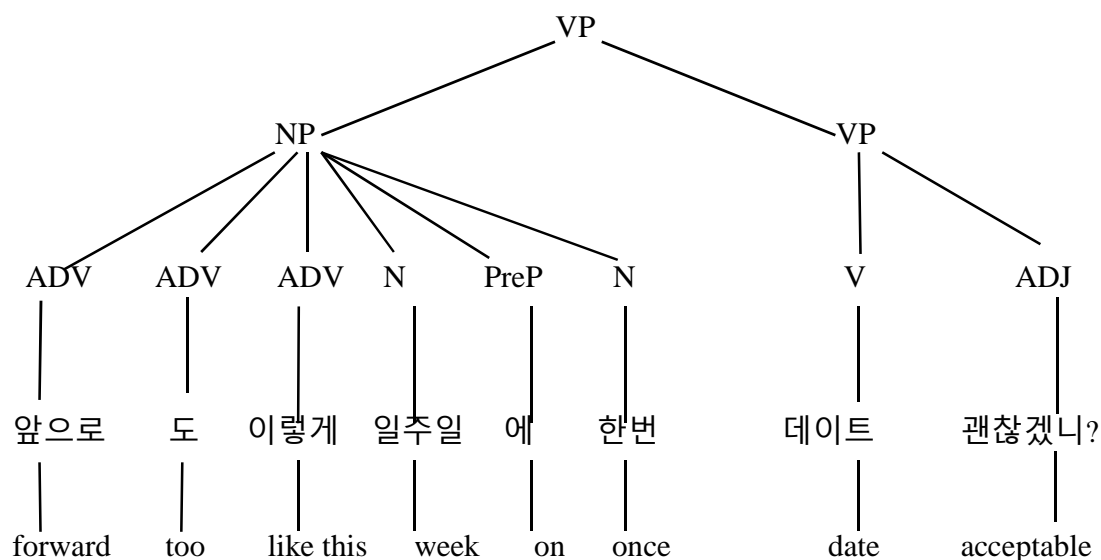


Graph 6: Syntactical analysis of Spanish phrase. (Princess Hour, 2006)

The graph shows a different level of formality from the one expressed in the source language. First of all, the translator decided to use the second person of the singular 'tú' instead of using the formality level of 'usted' which is normally used when addressing someone with a higher social status. As a result, the

conjugation of the verb had to agree with the informality proposed by the use of 'tú'; notwithstanding the fact that it was the queen who was being addressed. This is something that cannot happen in the Korean language, since addressing with that register to the queen is regarded as disrespectful and offensive. Second, it can be said that the compensation in the second NP increases the formality in the phrase. The translator used the possessive adjective 'su' to show respect to the Highness of Korea; however, it does not transmit the same importance of the usage of that language toward the royal family and the queen. This is a clear example to illustrate that neither Spanish nor English can transmit the essence and high complexity of the Korean language, resulting out of the several levels of formality.

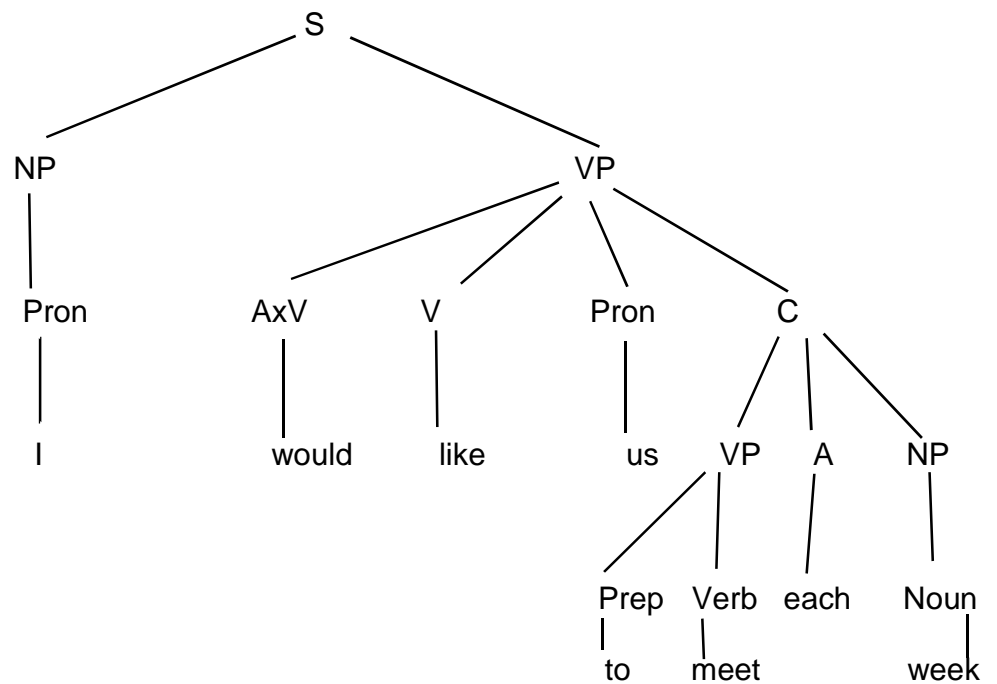
Lastly, the phrase *앞으로도 이렇게 일주일에 한번 데이트 괜찮겠나?* (apeurodo yireokae iljuire hanbeon deiteu goenchangaetni?) is used by the Emperor (the King) talking to the Princess. In this case, he uses *Haera-che* which has a high level of formality, but low politeness since the addressee's social status is lower than his. Despite the fact that it has a colloquial style, it does not sound too polite neither too rude. Thus, it can be said that the speech style used in this phrase is familiar or intimate.



Graph 7: Syntactical analysis of Korean phrase. (Princess Hour, 2006)

Graph 7 shows the syntactical structure of the phrase above. This one is more complex since it is much longer than the previous ones, but this speech level has been used by a king addressing a princess in a manner that the relationship between them is really close, since they are family. That is why the level of formality is low, but not impolite. In other languages, the register would not matter in this situation; however, there is the complexity in Korean language as the speaker should be very careful at the moment of choosing the level of formality to be employed in each situation.

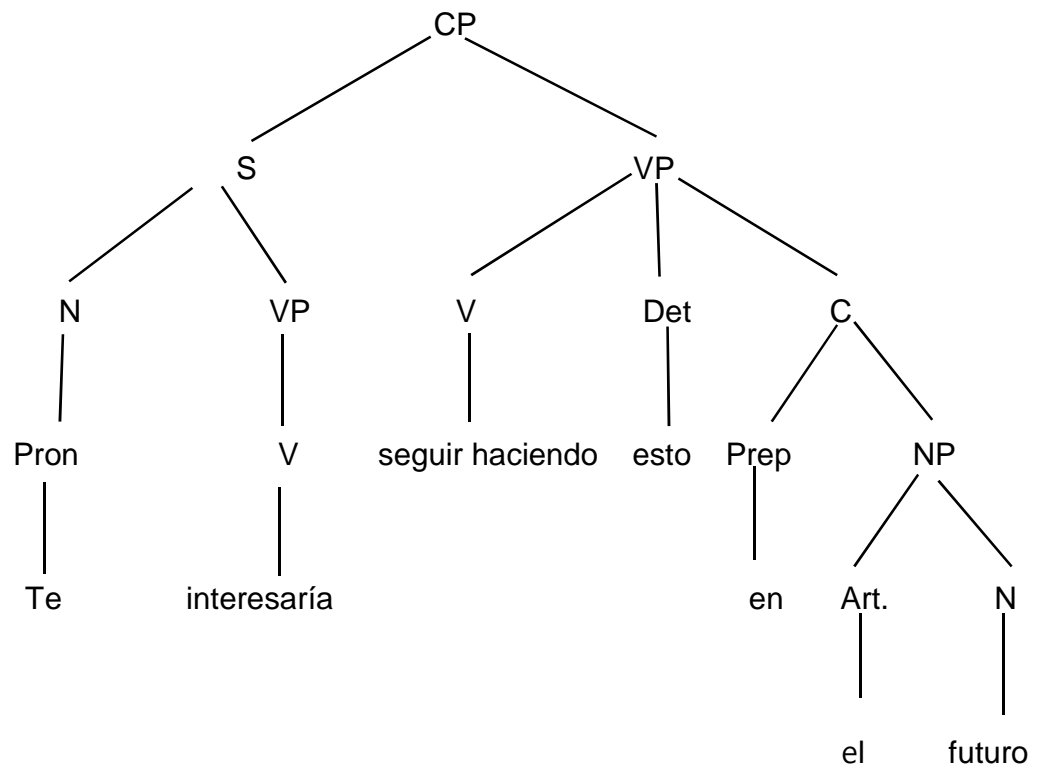
Communicative translation chosen: 'I would like us to meet each week. Is that all right with you?'. Is that a more accurate translation? Now it can be said that English translation came closer to what Korean honorific expressed. The phrase in reference is high in formality but low in politeness as it was spoken among members of the royal family.



Graph 8: Syntactical analysis of English phrase. (Princess Hour, 2006)

As the register used by the King is lower, it could be transferred into English giving an idea of the same honorific level that was used; however, there was also a gap as the low politeness of ‘ㄴ’ could not be transmitted. The translator used the formal request to address toward the princess, but in English it does sound both formal or polite, the difference of the register in low politeness is not found as that way of addressing someone does not exist in the English language. Once again, English fails in the process of rendering all cultural aspects in the Korean language.

The Spanish version of the phrase recovers the low politeness of the utterance, but it does not show the formality coming for the King. The dubbed version translated the phrase as ‘¿Te interesaría seguir haciendo esto en el futuro?’. Here comes a complicated decision for the translator as in Spanish it is very challenging to be formal and at the same time showing less politeness so the decision is, either being formal, or losing politeness features.



Graph 9: Syntactical analysis of the Spanish phrase. (Princess Hour, 2006)

The translator decided to be less polite rather than being formal as the formality in Spanish is normally used when addressing someone with a higher rank of someone older. In this particular case, the King was addressing the young princess, so it would have been odd if he addressed her with respect. The decision of the translator was correct, as it was the correct way of addressing in Spanish; however, the loss exists as the formality was omitted in the target language.

5. Product

Despite the many gaps found in this research, a proposal can be established to overcome some losses and transmit or replicate feelings and images from the source language (Korean Language) into the desired target languages (English and Spanish).

The translation analysis in this project was based on a linguistic approach; however, for a successful proposal that contributes to bridge essential formality gaps that emerge when dealing with a complex source language such as Korean, it is necessary to use other translation approaches that go beyond the linguistic level in order to convey, as faithfully as possible, the source language sociocultural and ideological meanings. This analysis, apart from elucidating characteristic constructions at the linguistic level, will employ knowledge and notions of extra-linguistic features that help transmit the complex features of the source language.

Using the same example of the Korean TV series, the phrases will be examined again, and a more accurate rendering will be proposed taking into consideration all the Korean extra-linguistic features mentioned in this research. An analysis of the discourse and the audience is very important to provide an accurate and efficient communicative translation.

Korean - English	
Current Translation	Suggested Translation
'How is the king feeling?'	'Is your majesty feeling alright?'
'Thank you, your majesty'	'Your grace is immeasurable, your majesty'
'I would like us to meet each week. Is that all right with you?'	'I would like us to see each other once a week, like today. Is that all right with you?'

Chart 4: Comparison of Korean and English formality.

Korean – Spanish	
Current Translation	Suggested Translation
'¿Su majestad se encuentra bien?'	'¿Está su alteza mejorando su salud?'
'Como tú ordenes su alteza'	'Sería un honor para mí, su alteza'
'¿Te interesaría seguir haciendo esto en el futuro?'	'Me gustaría volver a reunirnos como hoy, ¿te parece bien?'

Chart 5: Comparison of Korean and English formality.

The first phrase: '황상께서는 평안하십니까?' (hwangsangkkeseoneun pyeonganhasipnikka?), is a phrase that contains high level of formality and also high level of politeness. The context of the phrase is something spoken by Queen Dowager asking for the health of the reigning king, that is the reason for the highest level of formality.

A proposal translation for that phrase is: 'Is your majesty feeling alright?'. Even though all the terms are not fully covered in this translation, the most

important one such as formality and politeness were translated. The noun phrase 'feeling alright' demonstrate the politeness from Queen Dowager and the phrase 'your majesty' reflects the formality of her speech.

In Spanish, formality is more evident, therefore, it is easily identifiable, and its replication tends to happen more smoothly as well. The translation made is closer to the high formality and politeness; however, the phrase 'se encuentra bien' does not fully comply with the high formality expressed. A proposed rendering may be '¿Está su alteza mejorando su salud?'. The reason for this rendering is that the source phrase indicates 'well-being', but 'se encuentra bien' does not denote its full meaning nor the high politeness employed by Queen Dowager.

The second phrase: *망극 하옵나이다, 마마.* (manggeuk haopnaida, mama), is a phrase that contains a very high level of formality and high politeness. The context of the phrase is spoken by the minister or subject/servant to express how he feels about the queen's benignity. Generally, this phrase is used concerning some words of praise, gift or promotion by a king or queen. In addition, it is also used as an apology towards the king or queen. In an essential manner, the subject is expressing gratitude for being generous and not having punished or scourged him for if he did wrong something. Hence, it has a superlative level of formality.

The phrase can be found reiteratively in Korean historical dramas. Oftentimes, it is translated in the English subtitles as just 'Thank you' or 'Thank you, your majesty'. On that account, the proposed translation for that phrase is: 'Your grace is immeasurable, your majesty'. As the source text belongs to the superlative level of formality in the Korean language, which finds no equivalent in English, it cannot be translated exactly the same. Nevertheless, the translation proposed above has a very formal level and it is polite in English. 'Your grace is immeasurable' displays politeness from the addressee and 'your majesty' shows the formality of his speech.

The Spanish rendering is more accurate when expressing the honorific used in this conversation, though the intended message is not fully transmitted. In this case, the suggestion is 'Sería un honor para mí, su alteza'. This proposed

translation is more faithful to the intention of the speaker as it is a way of showing gratitude toward the opportunity given by the queen of Korea.

The last phrase: *앞으로도 이렇게 일주일에 한번 데이트 괜찮겠냐?* (apeurodo yireokae iljuire hanbeon deiteu goenchangaetni?), is a phrase that contains a high level of formality, but low politeness. The context of the phrase is spoken by the King talking to the Princess. In the source text, he expresses that he would like to 데이트 (date) with her once a week. It may sound aberrant if a King wants to date not with a queen, but a Princess. However, in Korea, the word ‘데이트 (deiteu)’ is not only used under the implication of a romantic relationship, but it can also be used for a father with his son/daughter, or a mother with her son/daughter, or any other person with anyone that is close to him/her to express the close relationship they have, not as a romantic appointment. Also, as the Princess’ social status is lower than the King’s, considering her background, the politeness is low, but it is still formal.

The proposed translation for that phrase is: ‘I would like us to see each other once a week, like today. Is that all right with you?’. The translation provided in the series is also good, but to place emphasis on the intimacy of the word ‘데이트 (deiteu)’ provided on the source text, the suggestion is to use ‘to see each other’ in English. In addition, although ‘I would like ... to...’ and ‘Is that all right with you?’ are formal expressions in English, the whole phrase does not sound heavily formal because of the use of the expression “to see each other”.

‘Me gustaría volver a reunirnos como hoy, ¿te parece bien?’ is a sentence that transmits both, the high formality and the low politeness. The low politeness is reflected in the word choice and the common words employed in order to address the princess.

6. Conclusion

It was found that Korean, Spanish, and English have formal and informal levels of formality. However, Korean has some sub-categories within formal and informal register whose usage will vary depending on the person and the rank of that person. This variation can be reflected in the word choice and also in the suffixes or infixes applied in the word or phrase. Spanish does have less formality features than Korean, consequently, some crosslinguistic gaps in said levels that cannot be fulfilled exist. English is the poorest in formality; therefore, the most common way to express formality is through titles.

In Korea, formality is influenced by the culture surrounding speakers. This formality affects the morphology and the syntax of the Korean language and the application changes depending on the addressee (age, rank, and relationship). Honorifics is another aspect of Korean for showing respect towards other people; the particles and affixes in words chosen to address a professor are not the same as the ones used with a grandparent. Spanish also shows formality with the word choice and by the usage of the second person plural. 'Usted' is mainly used in Spanish to show respect and formality depending on the person and the rank. The English language expresses formality only with the right use of titles such as Sir, Miss, Mr., and the like. There are also some phrases with auxiliary verbs that provide certain level of formality when they are used properly.

This project has shown that Korean levels of formality are complex in terms of compensation strategies as many ways to show respect to people depending on their rank exist. There are some features in this language that cannot be fully transferred into other languages since many of them are related to sociocultural aspects inherent in South Korea. Spanish offers some options aimed to transmit and to compensate part of the formality features, but there are insurmountable gaps in the translation process which imply inevitable losses in the target text. English, on the other hand, is very poor in formality and this feature makes the translation and compensation processes a challenging task that requires research

and careful scrutiny. Nevertheless, many losses occur anyway in the rendering process into English as those sociocultural qualities just inexistent.

7. Recommendations

Before making a translation from Korean language into English or into Spanish it is imperative to identify all the levels of formality and all the honorific features found in the Korean language and to carry out intertextual comparative analysis with the target language and target culture so as to find possible ways to render cultural and social nuances with some degree of accuracy, seeking equivalents that do the least harm to the target language.

Translators are suggested to approach to the Korean culture embedded in the social interactions so they can fully understand the system of honorifics and offer proper choices when addressing individuals. Appropriate address helps avoid the unpleasant feeling caused poor understanding of sociocultural behavior and etiquette, in this case, of the Korean system.

It is important to attempt accurate rendering of most or all the cultural features when the source text is in Korean since losses caused by omission of the levels of formality will result in the normalization of a socioculturally rich language which implies poor understanding of the eastern system of human communication and interaction.

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Nosotros, **Guamancela Campoverde Bryan Peter**, con C.C: # **0927223065** y **Shin Nara**, con C.C: # **0931754444** autores del trabajo de titulación: **Translation gaps in the rendering of Korean levels of formality into English and Spanish** previo a la obtención del título de **Licenciado en Lengua Inglesa** en la Universidad Católica de Santiago de Guayaquil.

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RESUMEN/ABSTRACT:	<p>This study identifies the various levels of formality in the Korean, Spanish, and English language in order to develop a contrastive analysis of these formality features in each of the three languages based on regular symmetrical and asymmetrical oral discourse employed by native Korean speakers from different social status, and age range of a popular Korean TV series. This cross-linguistic analysis was carried out through a product-oriented research, comparing and contrasting these languages in terms of formality and seeking possible ways to render all the levels of formality and honorifics found in the Korean language. This project is aimed at illustrating the losses that emerge in the translation process, which are caused by the sociocultural and linguistic differences inherent in each language with a view to proposing strategies that can be taken into consideration at the moment of translating Korean levels of formality into English and Spanish.</p>		
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