

The Current Situation and Future
Prospect of Korean Language Education
at Korean Universities in Uzbekistan
: Focusing on the Korean Language Degree Program
at Korea International University in Fergana

Kawk, Bu-mo

Korea International University in Uzbekistan
Faculty of Korean Language
Professor

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I. Introduction

Uzbekistan, located in Central Asia, established diplomatic ties with the Republic of Korea in 1992, and then Korea and Uzbekistan have close relations in various fields such as economy, culture, education, and medical care. Moreover, despite the current global COVID-19 pandemic, Korea and Uzbekistan are steadily increasing in the fields of economy, education, and medical care, and Korean companies' investment and Korean universities' entry into Uzbekistan.¹ This situation made the people of Uzbekistan have a high interest in the Korean language and became an opportunity for learning the Korean language at Korean universities in Uzbekistan. However, it is difficult to find relevant studies on the local status of Korean language education at Korean universities that have entered Uzbekistan. Therefore, in this study, it analyzes the current issues of Korean language education at Korean universities in Uzbekistan as follows.

First, I would like to examine the current status and characteristics of local Korean language education, focusing on Korean universi-

1 Oh, K. C. & Ahn S. H. *2021 entry strategy by country: Uzbekistan*. Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency, January, 2021, Kotra Publication No. 21-060, Retrieved from <http://openknowledge.kotra.or.kr>

ties that have entered Uzbekistan. Second, I would like to review the operation status of the Korean Language Faculty and the Korean language curriculum at Korea International University in Fergana (hereinafter - KIUF), which is the only Korean university in Uzbekistan that operates the Korean language Faculty. Third, I would like to suggest and prospect the development direction of Korean language education at Korean universities that have entered Uzbekistan. Finally, I will conclude this study by proposing a plan for collaboration between Korean universities and local universities in Uzbekistan to develop Korean language education in Uzbekistan.

This study is the first paper in that it analyzes the current issues of Korean language education at Korean universities in Uzbekistan, presents new data, and suggests ways to develop Korean Universities of Korean language education in Uzbekistan. And the current status of Korean language education at Korean universities in Uzbekistan discussed in this study can be used to many universities in overseas as well as in other countries of Central Asia as the new data for researching related to Korean language education. It is therefore that this paper will be a useful resource for establishing the Korean language degree program at Korean Universities in Uzbekistan.

II. Korean Language Program at Korean Universities in Uzbekistan

1. The Reason of the establishment of an overseas branch of Korean University in Uzbekistan

The establishment of the branch of Korean University in Uzbekistan, that is due to the decrease in the students' population in Korea since 2019. In particular, the number of university applicants is getting less, leading to an unfilled situation in the admissions of Korean Universities.²

2 Korean Statistics information service, *Korean Overseas Koreans-New Northern Country*,

That is the first reason for to establishment of the branch of Korean University in Uzbekistan. And the second reason is internationalization and globalization. Internationalization has become the main strategy and dominant trend in higher education. At present, the process of internationalization in higher education has covered the nations of the world on a global scale as Korea well(Bae et al., 2017).

The internationalization of higher education has different characteristics in many countries around the world(Knight, 2004). Particularly Korean Universities have been established the branch of universities in Uzbekistan for internationalization. And the third reason is that only 10% of the students among the high school³ in Uzbekistan graduates can enter University. This is because the number of universities is not too many compared to the high enthusiasm for education in Uzbekistna. Therefore, despite the high tuition fees of Korea university compared to the low average wage of Uzbekistan workers,⁴ the number of local students who want to enter Korean universities continues to increase.

2. Korean Language Program at Korean Universities in Uzbekistan

Inha University established a branch university in Uzbekistan for the first time among Korean universities in October 2014(Wegmarshaus, 2017). In 2013, it signed a cooperation agreement with the Uzbekistan government for the development of comprehensive edu-

October 19, 2021, Retrieved from <https://kosis.kr>

3 Secondary school is called “maktab” in Uzbek and “школа” in Russian.

4 According to the State Statistics Committee in Uzbekistan(2021), in 2021 year, the average salary amounted to 2,971,100 soums(about 290 dollars), which is 16.0% higher compared to the same period of 2020. The highest monthly wages are paid in financial and insurance companies and organizations 7,111,000 soums(about 700 dollars), which is 2.4 times higher than the republican level. In contrast, health and social service employees are the ones who get the lowest wages 2,049,000 soums(about 200 dollars) or 69.0% of the level of average monthly wages. (Retrieved from <https://kun.uz>)

cation and opened as a specialized to make experts with knowledge of both hardware and software as well as a basic science in 2014. The official university name is Inha University in Tashkent (hereinafter - IUT). Because it is specialized to make experts with knowledge of both hardware and software as well as basic science, there is no program for Korean language-related degrees or liberal arts programs. The Korean language program of IUT is operated as 'Basic Korean 1' and 'Basic Korean 2' as elective subjects. The Korean language course description in IUT is the following Table 1 and 2.⁵

Table 1. The course of Basic Korean 1 in IUT

Course title	Course type	Description
Basic Korean1	General elective	This is an introductory first course in learning the Korean language. Starting from Korean alphabets (Vowels and Consonants) this course introduces modern Korean with emphasis on 5 skills (pronunciation, spelling, grammar, readings, and conversation). Grade is Pass (P)/No pass (NP).

Table 2. The course of Basic Korean 2 in IUT

Course title	Course type	Description
Basic Korean2	General elective	This is an introductory second course in learning the modern Korean language. More practical and various situations in living in Korea are introduced. More advanced knowledge of spelling, grammar, readings, and conversation will be covered with various forms of Korean. Korean culture, tradition, and history will be introduced for a better understanding of the Korean language. Grade is Pass (P)/No pass (NP).

In addition, Inha University in South Korea offers 10 active and talented students of IUT the opportunity to study for free at Inha Uni-

5 The data was helped by Professor Djalalov M.M. who is a Rector of Inha University in Tashkent.

versity's Summer School program in South Korea. Each year, the best developments are selected on a competitive basis. It can be an original and practical product or project aimed at the development of IUT. The students of the best projects receive a summer school program permit, where students do internships in courses such as "Korean Language", "East Asian Politics and International Relations", "Korea and Its Culture", and "Korea's Economy and Business".

Yeoju University signed an agreement to establish a Korean industrial university with the Uzbekistan Ministry of higher Education in 2017. And then in 2018, it was established in Tashkent under the name of Yeoju Technical Institute in Tashkent (hereinafter-YTIT). Currently, the School of Engineering, School of Business and Finance, School of Education, and School of Arts are being operated for the Bachelor degree program. And also, M.Sc. Artificial Intelligence, M.Sc. Data Science and Master of Business Administration (MBA) are being operated for the Master's degree program. Korean language education for the Bachelor's degree program is affiliated with the School of Education as the name of the Korean Philology Department. The department was established as a regular organization this year to produce "Korean Studies Regional Experts", who are excellent in Korean and Korean literature. And the purpose of this degree program is that is these days a Korean Wave attracts people all over the world, and the Korean language and literature are the best tool and windows to open the spiritual world of Korean cultures and grasp the core of them. The YTIT Korean philology department will do their best to produce Korean studies experts who cover Korean culture, tradition, society, politics, and economy. Korean studies professionals who are trained in the department will be valuable human resources for the various interchanges and cooperation between Uzbekistan and Korea. It is possible to work as an interpreter at Korean companies and embassies in Uzbekistan or continue to study Korean studies, working as Korean teachers and professors. Korean Philology department course description of curriculum for four years in YTIT is the following Table 3.

Table 3. The Subjects of the Korean language degree program of YTIT

The course for 1st Year	History of Uzbekistan & Developing strategy, Philosophy, Understanding Culture, Russian Language 1,2, Korean Language 1,2, English 1,2, Computer 1,2, World History and Geography, Psychology, Korean writing, Korean pronunciation
The course for 2nd Year	Understanding Language, Introduction to Korean Linguistics, Understanding Korean culture, Seminar in Spoken Korean Text, Discourse and Vocabulary, Discourse and Grammar, Introduction to Korean Studies, Discourse and Conversation 1, Discourse and Composition 1, Understanding to Korean history, Introduction to Korean Language Education, Chinese Writing, Korean Fiction and Movie
The course for 3rd Year	Seminar in Written Korean Text, Reading Korean Film, Theories in Korean Pronunciation Education, Discourse and Conversation 2, Discourse and Composition 2, Understanding Modern Korean Literature, Discourse and Conversation 3, Theories in Korean Vocabulary Education, Foreign Language Acquisition, Korean Teaching Methodologies, Theories in Korean Express Education, Advanced Korean Grammar
The course for 4th Year	Teaching Methodologies Using Multimedia, Theories in Korean Languages Assessment, Theories in Korean Understanding Education, Understanding to Korean Politics & Economics, Selected Readings in Korean Culture and Society, Graduation Thesis, Practicum in Korean Languages Teaching

In November 2018, by the Republic of Uzbekistan Presidential Decree on the establishment of Ajou University, it was agreed to open the Department of Architecture, Civil Systems Engineering, and Department of Electronics and Computer Engineering. And on February 1, 2021, the university officially opened by the name of Ajou University in Tashkent (hereinafter – AUT). The first-year quota of each department is 140, and the total number of one-year students is 420. 420 new students for the 2021-22 university year were selected, and the first and second-year students of 840 are currently enrolled.⁶

As a branch of Ajou University in Korea, Korean language courses are compulsory. Therefore, first-year students must complete the compulsory Korean language course of liberal arts. From the second

6 The data was helped by Professor Park Sang-woo who is the head of Korean language section in Ajou University in Tashkent.

year onwards, it is decided as a liberal art elective, and it is reflected in the curriculum of the other department in AUT so that 2 years out of 4 years of university curriculum must be taken a Korean language course.

AUT has a structure with a Korean language section within the Faculty of Liberal Arts. At present, the textbook of Korea University is used as the main textbook. In addition, Korean 1, 2 (1st year), Korean 3, 4 (2nd year - will be learned in 3rd or 4th year depending on the three department's curriculum of AUT) are in progress. The current situation of Korean teachers in AUT is the following Table 4.

Table 4. Korean Teachers in AUT

The number of teachers	Korean language teaching experience
10	There are seven Korean teachers and three local teachers, and they are divided into seven full-time teachers and three part-time instructors depending on the number of times or personal circumstances. Three of the Korean teachers have a wide range of Korean teaching experience who have dispatched teachers through the Korea international cooperation agency (KOICA) and have been teaching Korean language in Uzbekistan for many years, and the other three have experience teaching at weekend Korean language schools or YTIT. Among the locals, lecturers from the Korean Education Center, lecturers from the Dongbang University of Uzbekistan, and Bachelor of Arts in Korean Language and Literature from Chonnam National University in Korea is teaching. Five teachers are currently studying in graduate programs of Ajou University.

At the suggestion of the Rector of AUT, they have created a Korean-related Korean culture and are conducting various program operations.

For plans of Korean language education of AUT, AUT plans to operate programs that can teach students about Korean history and culture on their own or expand them in connection with King Sejong Institute(hereinafter - KSI) of the Ministry of culture or the Korean Education Center of the Ministry of education in Tashkent. However, Prof. PARK, Sang-Woo who is the head of the Korean language pro-

gram of AUT said that since AUT's majors are centered on engineering university, it is difficult to open a Korean language department in reality. Also, because it is related to the Korean diploma, there are various matters approved by the Ministry of Education's policy about the law of establishment of overseas branch of Korean universities.⁷

III. Korean Language Program for degree students at Korea International University in Uzbekistan

As mentioned above, Korean universities that have entered Uzbekistan have established branch universities with the approval of the Korean Ministry of Education. However, Korea International University in Fergana is a university that has been officially approved by the Ministry of Higher Education of Uzbekistan and accredited as a four-year university. An overseas corporation of KIUF was officially established in 2019 and KIUF opened in September 2019. At present, 2,000 students are studying in 11 faculties. And 46 Korean professors from Korea are teaching in 11 faculties. KIUF is the only university in Uzbekistan where such a large number of Korean professors teach. In this chapter, the current status of Korean Studies education and the details of the Korean Studies program in Korean language faculty at KIUF were analyzed focusing on Korean Studies courses for the degree students at KIUF, the teachers in charge of Korean Studies, and the courses for Korean Studies.

1. The Current Korean language degree program at KIUF

The current status of the Korean language degree program at KIUF, which has the most Korean professors are teaching in Uzbeki-

7 Korea Ministry of Government Legislation, Establishment of overseas branch universities Act, 7. No. 2014-52. Retrieved from <https://www.law.go.kr>

stan, is the Korean language degree program and 11 faculties' elective Korean language program being in charge of sixteen native Korean teachers and six local teachers. There are currently 84 undergraduate students. The following tables show the course of the Korean Studies program and the current status of teachers in charge of the Korean Studies program for the degree students.

Table 5. Korean language degree program of KIUF

Official name	Degree programs	Program objective
O'zbekiston - Koreya xalqaro Universiteti Farg'ona	Korean Language of Bachelor's degree program	Educating students of human resources of Korean Studies Professionals through Korean Language, Korean Linguistic, Literature, Theories of Korean language teaching, and History Education

Table 6. Korean language degree program students and native Korean teachers

Number of students	Teachers ⁸	Position	Degree and teaching responsible subject
1 st Grade: 36 2 nd Grade: 21 3 rd Grade: 27	Do*	Chair of the Korean language faculty	Ph.D./ Introduction to Korean studies Intensive Korean conversation
	KA*	Professor (Vice-Rector)	Ph.D./ Korean linguistics Korean speaking for beginner
	Ki*	Professor	Ph.D./ Korean sentences and conversation Korean grammar education theory
	Na*	Professor	Ph.D./ Korean reading
	Go*	Professor	Candidate of Ph.D. course/ Korean speaking for Intermediate TOPIK seminar
	Ge*	Professor	Ph.D./ Korean pragmatics

8 For privacy reasons, it have not been indicated teachers' full name.

Ki**	Professor	M.A./ Korean contemporary literature
Ge*	Professor	M.A./ Korean history Korean modern society
Ba*	Administrative staff and in charge of KSI , with Sunmoon University	M.A./ Test of proficiency in Korean (hereinafter - TOPIK)

In addition, three Korean professors and eight local professors of Korean language faculty are in charge of liberal arts Korean language courses in 11 other faculties of KIUF.⁹

2. The Curriculum of the Korean language degree program at KIUF

In the faculty of Korean language of KIUF operate Korean studies as the name of 'Koreya filologiyasi'.¹⁰

The curriculum of the Korean language degree program in various subjects, including Korean language, literature, history, and culture, is currently being reorganized into Korean Studies. In the undergraduate program of the elective Korean language, lecture presentations, reports, and thesis writing are conducted in the Korean language and are operated as a curriculum that emphasizes Korean communication skills, reading, and writing. The compulsory subjects of the bachelor's degree program are in-depth Korean language knowledge as the academic field of Korean language and linguistics to be an Korean teachers and professors. Emphasis is placed on building the necessary background knowledge for understanding the Korean language

9 All Korean language courses for Liberal arts are operated every semester for 3 credits in all majors

10 It means basically Korean language and linguistics but with a focus on Language.

teaching theory and Korean culture, including Korean history and pre-modern Korean thought. The required subjects for Bachelor's Korean Studies degree programs are as follows.

Table 7. The Compulsory subjects of Korean language degree program

The course for 1st Year	Korean Reading for beginners1, 2, Korean Sentence and Conversation1, 2, Korean History1, 2, Korean Reading and Writing1, 2, Korean Speaking for beginners1, 2, Office Automation
The course for 2nd Year	Korean Reading for Intermediate1, 2, Modern Korean Society, Korean Traditional Culture, Korean Linguistic, Theories of Korean Grammar, Korean Reading and Writing for Intermediate1, 2, Korean Speaking for Intermediate1, 2, Uzbek History, TOPIK Seminar1, 2
The course for 3rd Year	Korean Literature1, 2, Korean language discussion, The theory of Korean language teaching, Theories of Korean language curriculum, Theories of Korean Grammar, Business Korean language, Contrastive Linguistics, Theories of Korean Textbooks, Korean Writing for Advance level1, 2 Korean Speaking for Advance level1, 2, TOPIK Seminar3, 4
The course for 4th Year	Theories of Teaching Korean Semantics, Theories of Teaching Korean Culture, Theories of Teaching Korean Grammar, Theories of Korean Expression Education, Korean Class Observation and Simulation Class, Theories of Korean language Understanding, Theories of Korean lexicology, Introduction to Korean Interpretation

KIUF Bachelor's Program of The Korean language faculty operates a total of 140 credits' courses including Korean language, literature, and Korean language teaching theory, TOPIK, and general Korean studies. The 3+1 dual degree program of KIUF is different from other Korean language degree programs at Korean universities in Uzbekistan. KIUF operates a 3+1 dual degree program in the Department of Global Korean Studies at Sunmoon University, The Republic of Korea. Therefore, from the 4th year onwards, students must complete 21 credits of courses in the Department of Global Korean Studies at Sunmoon University for two semesters. The courses for the 4th year of Korean language faculty that must be completed include Korean language teaching practice, Korean semantics, Theories of Korean curriculum, Theories of Korean expression education, Korean language lexicology, Theories of Korean understanding education,

and Theories of Korean culture education.

IV. Future Prospects of Korean Language Education at Korean Universities in Uzbekistan

The Uzbekistan government's policy support for higher education is important for the development of Korean language programs at Korean universities in Uzbekistan, but it is important to cultivate local teachers who can teach Korean Studies to make an environment where they can operate the Korean Studies program in Uzbekistan. And, to prepare a Korean language curriculum that appropriates the local education system of Korean Universities in Uzbekistan, it is necessary to understand the actual situation and status of Korean language education in each Korean University and to build a curriculum considering the local situation of higher education system. This study analyzes the presence of Korean language education at Korean universities and suggests the following directions for the development of Korean language programs at Korean Universities in Uzbekistan for the future.

First, a deeper understanding of the internal situation of Korean language education in Uzbekistan, which can help in the development of Korean Studies and the direction of future development, is needed. For instance, in Kazakhstan, the Association of Korean Studies Professors in Central Asia was established in 2017 to hold regular meetings on how to develop Korean Studies in Central Asia. Even in Uzbekistan, which has many Korean Universities of Korean language programs among the country of Central Asia, it is necessary to hold regular meetings to find ways to develop Korean Studies centered on Korean language education experts and researchers. Ultimately, it is imperative to create an organization that would lead Korean language education in Uzbekistan.

Second, it is necessary to continuously monitor Korean language

programs that create synergy between local Uzbekistan universities and Korean universities. For the development of Korean language degree programs at Korean Universities in Uzbekistan, development of research activities through the publication of collections of articles on Korean language, conferences, and strengthening the professional aspect of Korean studies through the introduction of online lectures, the development, and publication of Korean language educational and methodological manuals on comparative and contrastive linguistics. In addition, Intensification of cooperation through the creation of a database of Korean language education, the issuance of newsletters on a Korean language program, etc. And eventually, the creation of a center of Korean language and culture and a communication network, which will contribute to the development of Korean language education between Korean Universities and local Universities in Uzbekistan.

Third, it is necessary to raise the standard of Korean language education in Uzbekistan. In particular, some of the teachers or researchers in Korean Studies-related projects supported by the National supporting may be professors who major in Asian Studies who do not speak Korean at all. Korean language teachers and researchers should also be required to have the Korean language ability by the state test center in Uzbekistan. This will help us to study Korean Studies at least as a comparative and contrastive study of Asian Studies.

Fourth, to cultivate Korean language education, local experts and professors, at Korean Universities in Uzbekistan, the National project supporting should be supported according to the situation of development and dissemination of Korean studies. The local teachers and researchers should be the main in overseas Korean language education. The universities that operate the degree program of Korean language program will be developed continuously with support and cooperation that.

V. Conclusion

This study analyzed the current status of Korean language education at Korean universities in Uzbekistan, examined Korean language degree programs at each university, and suggested ways to develop Korean language education. In particular, the current Korean language degree programs were divided into students, teachers, courses, and other situations, focusing on Korean language courses and Korean language education for the degree students at the IUT, the YTIT, the AUT, and the KIUF in Uzbekistan were analyzed. And also, it was examined how the Korean language program is organized in the Korean language Faculty and department and operated in Korean universities, and where Korean language programs are affiliated. The main Korean language education in Uzbekistan are local professors, scholars, and students from Uzbekistan who continue their studies in the Korean language degree program. Korean language education at Korean Universities in Uzbekistan is the way to cultivate the human resources that connect the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Korea, and it takes more time and effort than in the past.

Finally, this study is expected to be a useful resource for Korean universities in Uzbekistan that want to solidify their Korean language courses in Uzbekistan and open a new Korean language degree program.

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ABSTRACT

The Current Situation and Future Prospect of Korean Language Education at Korean Universities in Uzbekistan

: Focusing on the Korean Language Degree Program
at Korea International University in Fergana

Kawk, Bu-mo

The objective of this study is to review how Korean universities in Uzbekistan operate the Korean language courses and Korean language education programs for degree students concretely. There are two detailed points in the study. One is the process of establishment and current status of the Korean language degree program at the Department of Korean language or the Faculty of Korean language at Korean universities in Uzbekistan. Another is the curriculum of the Korean language courses and the Korean language degree program.

The Inha University in Tashkent and the University of Ajou in Tashkent only offer Korean language courses for beginners. Yeosu Technical Institute in Tashkent is a developing university of Korean language education that operates the Korean language of bachelor's degree in individual academic divisions. And Korea International University in Fergana, the only operating faculty of the Korean language in Uzbekistan, is in the process of reorganizing the Korean language degree program into Korean studies. This study is meaningful in that it analyzes the current issues of Korean language education at Korean Universities in Uzbekistan, presents new data, and suggests ways to develop the Korean Universities of Korean language education. And the current status of Korean language education in Uzbekistan discussed in this study can be common to many Korean universities in Uzbekistan as well as in Central Asia. It is therefore

that this paper will be a useful resource for establishing the Korean language degree program at Korean Universities in Central Asia.

KEYWORDS Korean Language, Korean Studies, Degree Program, Korean Universities, Korean Language Education, Central Asia