

The Argus

No. 513 OCTOBER 13, 2020

Since 1954

Error! Error! What is up with the forecast?

The forecast seems to always be wrong. Unexpected rain drenches the land; mere rainwater leads to floods and unforeseeable damage. The Argus investigates South Korea's forecasting system to reveal issues, reasons, and possible solutions.



The Argus

ESTABLISHED 1954

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Editorial


So Close, and Closer Still

Even when all the boxes are ticked, the right timing is absolutely crucial. Sometimes the conditions fulfill themselves, but we are left to deal with the boxes, slowly unticking themselves to the point where success is far from view. Whenever this happens, each tick feels like one's sense of being is being undone.

"So close, yet so far" is a recurring theme in life. Those of you, who missed the outline by just one point; those of you, who missed the deadline by one second; those of you, who perhaps lost the chance to say the right thing at the right time to the right person, now turned wrong. Such circumstances are unavoidable when we live a life of attempts. Each go at something brings us closer to our goal, but brings us that much more failure. Surely, near misses are signs that we are trying. Missing the moment, however, is still devastating. Some moments are rare; some moments happen just once. Time has a grasp on us.

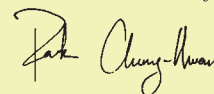
Yet, people sometimes swim against the current and make the moment right for themselves. They ignore conventions to do as their heart guides them. Whatever the future holds is a mystery, but they take that leap of faith, and try to make things work.

Why? As Bertolt Brecht once wrote in his poem, "Tercets on Love - The Lovers," there are beautiful moments in life: a simple snapshot of time where two cranes in love fly parallel to one another, not knowing when they are to part, but seemingly halted in time. No matter what the consequences are, those who make time work for them believe that this beautiful moment is worth the risk.

Essentially, by clinging onto and bringing to life what we may have missed, we are not letting the boxes tick themselves, but we are expressing the audacity to take control of our lives. After all, human beings are not as futile against time as we might think. We can set our own conditions. Everyone has their own timing, but we do not have enough time in life to let time confine life. The Argus hopes that with such authority, HUFSSans live out their colorful autumn with the power to be so close, and closer still. 

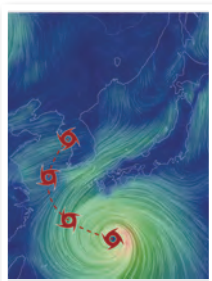
By Park Chang-hwan

Editor-in-Chief





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Cover Story

>> Korea has experienced a series of typhoons – direct blows to the Korean Peninsula. The Korean Meteorological Administration forecasted these events but was not as accurate as some may have hoped. Forecast misses, great or small, has been a recurrent problem for the KMA. In this issue, The Argus finds out what may have gone wrong and deals with possible solutions to the problem.

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HUFS Extends Online Class Period through Oct. 4



©Park Chang-hwan/The Argus

▲ Classes continue to stay dark for the first month of the semester.

HUFS announced on Sept. 1 that since the government has currently reinforced social distancing measures in the metropolitan area (Level 2.5) due to COVID-19, HUFS is also extending the online class period for all undergraduate courses until Oct. 4.

The government extended social distancing (Level 2), which was scheduled to end on Aug. 30, to Sept. 13. To prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the metropolitan area, the strengthened social distancing (Level 2.5) was maintained in the metropolitan area until Sept. 13. Accordingly, HUFS, located in the metropolitan area, extended the period of online classes from Sept. 13 to Oct. 4. In addition, HUFS announced that if the number of COVID-19 cases decreases and the government lowers social distancing policies below Level 2, HUFS plans to similarly modify how classes are delivered. HUFS also

promised to notify students two weeks in advance of any changes in the class method.

However, a HUFSan said, “Rather than extending the online class period by two weeks, I would like HUFS to quickly decide and inform students how classes will be operated for the entire second semester. I am so confused now that I do not know whether or not to go to school after two weeks.”

By Choi Yea-jin
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Global Campus Transport System Undergoes Improvement



©Park Chang-hwan/The Argus

▲ School shuttle buses changed colors along with their routes and timetables.

On Sept. 9, Global Campus’ student council, The Born, announced changes to the HUFS transport system at Global Campus. The change to the shuttle systems, effective starting this semester, was a result of consultations with the General Affairs Support Team during the summer break.

The reformation is four-fold: the shuttle system now has a new mobile app, the route was altered, more shuttles are to be in service, and the HUFS app will show regional bus timetables. With the new app, students can see the current location of the bus, file immediate complaints, find lost items, and obtain transportation-related tardy slips. The route no longer stops ordinarily at Oedae Sageori station for safety reasons, but in consideration of students who commute to school, shuttles stop at the station before 9:30 A.M. At the request of The Born, three additional school shuttle buses have been added to run at 11:30, 13:30, and 15:30, for students who wish to commute at these hours.

Regarding this change, Global Campus’ student council, The Born, said, “We tried to minimize the student discomfort through the changes. While the shuttle route change may lead to some inconvenience, the direction of the change set at transporting more people by shortening the shuttle dispatch interval.”

By Kim Ha-Kyung
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Student Cafeteria Shuts Down Once Again



▲ The Argus checks out the student cafeteria at the Humanities Building.

On Aug. 26, HUFS announced that the student cafeteria in the Humanities Building will once again be shut down temporarily in order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The suspension of operations took effect from Aug. 27 and is planned to continue until the COVID-19 situation alleviates.

The cafeteria in the Faculty Office Building I is to run as usual but only during lunch hours. “The student cafeteria in the Humanities Building is planned to be closed until the end of October,” says one staff member at the HUFS Community Center. “If the situation gets better, it may open before that date, but if it gets worse, the suspension period may be extended.”

The main concern is for students who live in the dormitories because their only other option is eating out, which adds to their expenses. “It seems like a repetition of the first semester,” says one HUFSan. “When

the student cafeteria was closed, I mostly ate out or ate a simple meal at the convenience store.”

By Kim Kyung-eun
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HUFS Selected as Operator of International Youth Leaders Support Project

HUFS International Admissions Team was designated as the operator of the “2020 International Youth Leaders Exchange Support Program” hosted by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family and the Korea Youth Work Agency. This project aims at the improvement of global competitiveness through international youth exchange programs, as well as raising foreign students’ understanding of Korean culture.

Based on the theme, “Measures to Activate K-Culture both On, Offline in the ‘Ontact’ (On+Untact) Era,” HUFS is scheduled to select 60 enrolled students by this November. The students chosen are planned to take part in team work on lectures and field trips to companies and public sectors related to K-Culture. For the best practice awardees, chances to win the minister prize from the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family and the prize from the head director of the Korea Youth Work Agency will be provided.

The recruiting session will continue until Nov. 10, as posted on the job boards on the HUFS webpage. More details are planned to be released individually to selected students.

By Song Chan-ho
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‘Marriage Red’ Stories From a Friend

Jang Soo-hyun and Park Chang-hwan
Editor of Culture Section and Editor-in-Chief



It is not a sin to fall in love! Then, is it to fall out of love? The Argus met with divorce attorney Choi Yu-na, proud graduate of HUFS' English Interpretation and Translation (currently EICC), who recently garnered much attention and love from her production of an Instagram comic called “Marriage Red.” A twist on the term, “Marriage Blues,” a type of depression that precedes marriage, the title of the comic refers to the red flags that come with, and perhaps end, marriages. She illustrates scores of divorce cases, through which she shares her perspective and experience regarding relationships. The Argus met with the attorney to share with readers the path she, as a HUFSan, took leading up to her current success, in hopes that readers gain insight into their own HUFSan path.

The Argus: Can you please introduce yourself?

Choi Yu-na (Choi): Hello. My name is Choi Yu-na. I entered HUFS as a freshman in '04 as an English Interpretation and Translation major. Currently, I work as a divorce attorney, having dealt with around 2,000 divorce cases already. By this time next year, I will have worked in this field for ten years.

The Argus: How has your major at HUFS helped you in your career?

Choi: It would be a stretch to say that English is directly related to my duties as an attorney, but it has certainly helped me along the way. My major helped with law school admissions. I was able to more easily acquire the TOEIC

score required for law school admission, and even though my English skills were not outstanding to the point where I could pursue a career in translation and interpretation, my GPA was near perfect; that certainly helped as well. Thanks to my major, I was given contract translation duties when I first started my job as an attorney.

The Argus: How did you end up dreaming about becoming a lawyer?

Choi: I was a student with many dreams. My inclination towards speaking and writing urged me to dream of becoming a reporter or a productions director. This was the reason why I double-majored in Journalism and Broadcasting (currently

Division of Media and Communication). My concerns about the future came up again when I was a senior HUFSan – I ultimately decided to choose a career path in law, which requires the same skillset required to be a journalist.

During my studies at law school, family law was the most gratifying subject. Since I was little, I was a good mediator, and divorce cases require quite a lot of mediation. Most civil and criminal cases are closer in concept to a fight where there is a clear winner and loser. On the flip side, divorce cases often involve mediation where the parties involved are led towards a settlement. That is what drew me in the most.

The Argus: What was your most difficult moment?

Choi: The first year after graduation was the most difficult; I was thrown into society, the real world, but my heart was still at college. It takes a year or two, even three sometimes, to get adjusted to the real world. Because I was thrown into a profession that required expertise, I needed to take on that much more responsibility. There was no leniency for a beginner attorney. Rather, clients took for granted, that I would be taking care of their business and living up to their faith in me. Taking on work with established business leaders, presentations in extremely professional settings, and consultations were all too burdensome.

For this reason, I had to put on a mask. At home, I could be myself, but outside, I had to think myself into believing that “I am a capable careerwoman.” This kind of living persisted for three years, during which the gap between my true self and my superficial self grew so distant that it was mentally taxing. However, I could not show my true self. Though internally, I had not grown into that “careerwoman,” yet, the real world was expecting so much from me. Besides, it was impossible to work halfheartedly when on a payroll.

Moreover, in the world of attorneys, one makes a lot of enemies. Sometimes an opposing party comes into the office and lays down on the floor in hysteria; sometimes, an opponent can commit suicide after receiving a formal complaint; and sometimes, people can try to physically hurt me. It was tough to bear all

this in my twenties. Even so, all the struggles that struck me from the beginning helped me grow.

The Argus: Such experiences created the successful attorney you are today. Can you share your method of tips for achieving success?

Choi: For me, it came down to three things.

First, I engaged with my clients on an emotional level. As a female lawyer in her twenties, this was a way to differentiate myself from other lawyers. On one hand, there are older, more established, and predominantly male lawyers out there. On the other hand, there was me, a younger attorney who needed to stand out from the crowd. Young women entering the real world may often feel this. Creating heart-to-heart connections with clients, was not because I was a nice person, but a necessity.

Second, I am a person with a lot of fears, which forces me to seek safeties. I am always multi-tasking; it is a habit for me. I am not the type to spend long hours sitting at a desk, but I try to put myself beyond the line of bare requirement. With this attitude, I was able to obtain a TOEIC score and maintain a decent GPA. The same that applied for me as a student applies for me today.

Even the comic series I am currently putting out is a result of my experience as a lawyer and the scripts I write during my five-minute breaks are a result of multi-tasking. The book I published last year was a result of this kind of attitude as well, and I have a script for a drama in the works as well. I will be an attorney well into my forties and fifties, but even so, if there is anything I want to do, I will put it into action. It is not so much a secret to success as it is a habit that I uphold. My interests reach far and wide and I want to do new things. Of course, every person has their own crutch, so my way is not the only way, but for me, this habit was the road to my success.

In line with this, I use my time as efficiently as possible. I enjoy my off-time and engage in leisure activities to the fullest. However, I do not frolic away, oblivious of the time passing.

When I meet my friends for an hour, I live that hour to the fullest. Some people ask where I find the time to write comics, but with this kind of efficiency, all it takes is five minutes



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of intense concentration to write up a script. I fill the gaps in my schedule, whether it is recess during court proceedings or after I put my baby to sleep, with these moments of focus. Life becomes abundant. If I could not multi-task, I would probably be depressed. That is, this efficiency is for my well-being, rather than a grind for success.

The Argus: We cannot go without hearing the story of your famous comic series, “Marriage Red.” Can you introduce it to us?

Choi: The short pieces of writing that I wrote during my off time at the court became the script for my comic series, which released in September 2018. A comic of about ten panels is equivalent to about ten lines of writing. I hired an illustrator to bring my comics into fruition and uploaded them on Instagram. I had no idea so many people would end up reading them. I just wanted to tell interesting stories – just fun for myself, but the support I get now overwhelms me. I am surprised myself!

It has been two years since I have started uploading the comics. My original plan was to stop at around 100 posts, but I have already surpassed 200. My plan is to reach about four to five hundred, which will be another year or two. The subject I deal with is limited, so I end up repeating similar stories. Nevertheless, I am extremely thankful for this kind of opportunity.

The Argus: Speaking of the subject of the comics, what is the meaning of “divorce” to you?

Choi: It is a farewell, pondered thousand-fold and more. It is merely another type of breakup, and I think there is nothing more to it than that. Despite this, divorce is the type of breakup that has gone through exponentially more thought and agony. When I look at the people that come to me, they are people who cannot easily pull the trigger on the decision in

spite of the physical abuse and repeated affairs. The decision to divorce someone comes after enduring through all this for a considerable time. It is a type of breakup that requires that much more sacrifice.

The Argus: Divorce, the subject of your comic series, may create skeptics of marriage. Do you have any advice for these people?

Choi: Marriage entails it all; the positives and the negatives. “My comics entail only the negative aspects, so I urge readers not to focus on just that. There are plenty of upsides, too!” is a statement that I would never tell the readers. There is not really a dichotomy between a good marriage and a bad marriage; that is the foundational thing about marriage. A person going into a marriage must be prepared for reality. Even when there are no affairs or physical abuse, it takes a lot of suffering to adjust one’s life to the life of another person – no matter how fitting a match they seem to be. Disappointment in marriage can lead to suffering as well. However, without marrying, it is difficult to get to know another person on a deeper, more intimate level. When you are prepared to see the worst of another person, marriage may be alright. When you think marriage is always going to be a bed of roses, marriage is probably not the best choice. For what it is worth, marriage is not essential or mandatory; it is all up to the individual.

The Argus: Do you have any future plans or goals?

Choi: My profession lets me have a deeper understanding of marriage and divorce. I would like to share this with the world through writing. If not comics, the approach will be through other mediums. I still lack experience, and I need to study more. However, I do not want to live under the constant pressure of an ultimate goal. For now, a goal that utilizes my current profession is the objective; I want to share with the world, experiences that I have come to gain. Though I cannot



▲ Attorney Choi depicts her experience at court.

© Instagram @cocoyunabyeonhosa

share specific cases, I want to shed light on relationships through dramatization, that might help people with their own.

The Argus: You say that you want to share what you have come to realize. Is there any particular realization you want to share?

Choi: Marriages do not end at the fault of a certain person – or anyone for that matter. People believe that there are no reasons for a marriage to have problems, unless there is something out of the ordinary like cheating or abuse. However, cases like these are rare. Most marriages end due to personality differences. Furthermore, these differences always root from the same thing: misunderstandings. That is, a person is viewing their spouse from only their perspective – applying only their values – and ending up with conclusions that brew misunderstanding.

What I want to develop through this profession is a method to overcome misunderstanding others and give people the ability to know why on various degrees a partner would act in a certain way. Is it their background? Their upbringing? Am I missing anything? There are a number of questions that can be asked when one takes a step back. At the end of the day, people do not need to be overly hurt by another person's comment or criticize that person too much, whatever the kind of relationship it may be.

The Argus: Finally, do you have anything to say to the readers of The Argus?

Choi: I miss HUFS. All four years were so much fun, and I miss every single bench on the campus grounds. I reminisce of the time when my friends and I would sit on those benches and talk about our dreams – it feels just like yesterday. I visit the




▲ Attorney Choi talks about divorce on television show "You Quiz on the Block."

campus from time to time, but time sure does fly. I graduated when I was 25 years old, and though it feels like three, it has been 11 years already.

Before all else, I would like to tell HUFSSans to put a little effort into their English studies. Some people utilize the English they learned during their college years for the rest of their lives. If not, English is a merit in any career. They say that people speak English well these days, but the truly skilled are few. Your college years are the perfect time to master English, or any language for that matter.

And lastly, I would like for HUFSSans to truly get to know what they like and want to do. What kind of work will not tire you out? At my age there are people who quit comfortable jobs at reputable companies, all for the reason that they feel miserable there. Think about what you were like as a kid. Aptitude does not really change. It sticks with a person. Know what kind of person you are and find something that is compatible. From there on, it is possible to stick with it for at least a long while.

All players within a game have a different story to tell. Within a marriage, each side will have their own perspective, depending on their beliefs. Divorce Attorney Choi Yu-na's story about her career and development perhaps sheds light on what possible paths we have ahead of us as HUFSSans. Perhaps there is no given answer to success. Or perhaps, there is a general structure to success worth emulating. Choi shows us that anyone who is true to themselves, who does not back down from their inner voice, gets to tell a story of their own. The Argus hopes that readers themselves find that they are the main characters of their own stories and wishes that they one day tell it like their own. 

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▲ Illustration of Attorney Choi in her own comic.

Controversy Over 'Light & Matter'



By Kim Ha-kyung and Park Chang-hwan

*Staff Reporter of Theory & Critique Section
and Editor-in-Chief*

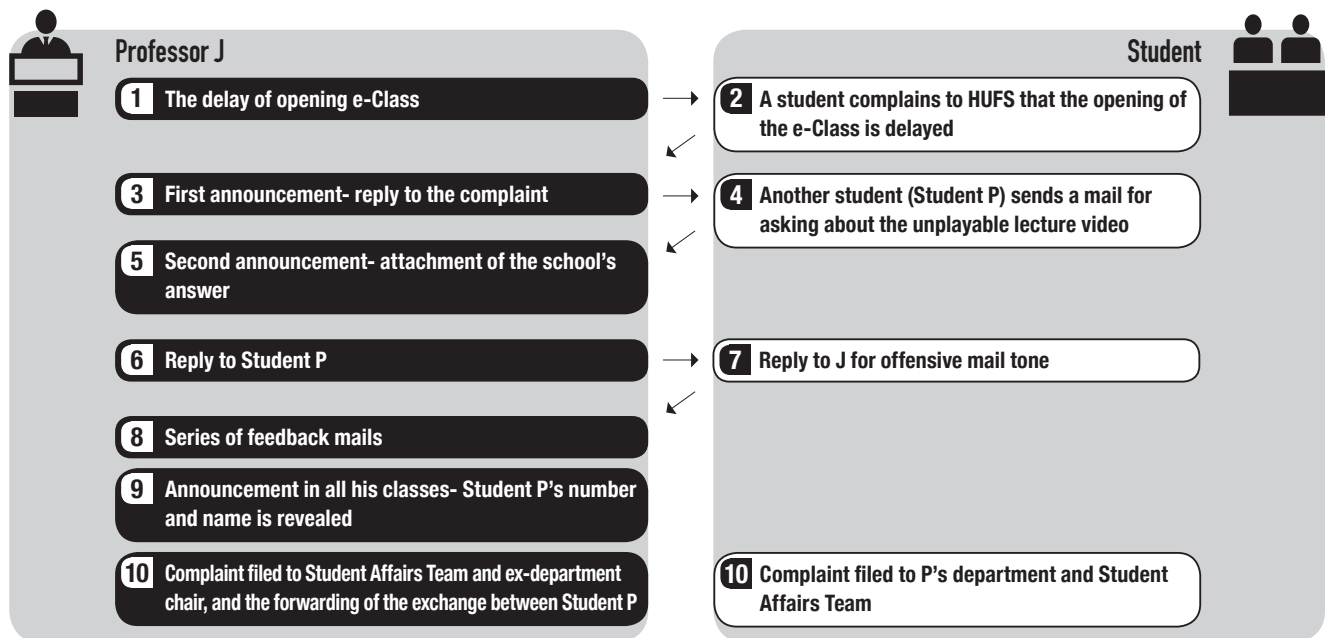
During the course registration amendment period, a rumor spread among the students. Professor J of the Department of Minerva College, who is teaching *The Universe & Man* and *Light & Matter* posted an announcement calling out a specific student. A student involved made a post on the online community, *Everytime*, to publicize the incident. Opinions on the issue varied. For this, The Argus investigated every position to find out exactly what happened and why.

Development of the situation

It recently came to light that two odd online announcements were posted for the lectures called *The Universe & Man* and *Light & Matter*, both taught by Professor J, a visiting professor from S university. The professor explained in an e-Class announcement to his students that a student (Student P) sent him a mail, telling him that his online lecture was unplayable. J wrote that an explanation for this problem could be found on HUFS notification boards. Along with the notice, the professor had sent a mail to Student P, telling P to simply check the announcement. P, not having received the actual answer to his question, sent a strongly worded reply to the professor. Receiving the reply, Professor J reacted by revealing the

content of the e-mail to all course-takers, disclosing enough information for third parties to discern the student's personal information.

In response to Professor J's actions, Student P revealed his personal details in the comment section of J's e-Class announcement and called for other students to publicize J's actions. Professor J sent an e-mail to P, clarifying his frustrations with HUFS administration and requested that P drop his course. In addition, J sent an e-mail to the Student Affairs Team and the head of P's department, requesting disciplinary measures against P. In the process, the professor wrote that HUFS "seems to have given up educating with its poor system." Student P publicized this exchange on *Everytime* and filed a formal complaint to his department.



Current situation

On Sept. 14, P's department student council released a statement.

On Sept. 18, P's department student council president, the dean of Academic Affairs, the head of the Office of Student Affairs and Human Resource Development, the head of the Academic Support Center and Registrar, and the head of the Student Affairs Team came together to discuss cases regarding *The Universe & Man* course.

The General Student Council requested that Professor J release a public apology and HUFS reexamine Professor J's reemployment for the next semester. Moreover, they requested that, for the current semester, Professor J's elective course be put under supervision by

the Academic Support Center and Registrar.

As for the content of the ongoing discussions, the parties involved both were emotionally charged in their exchanges. Because the current situation was publicized on *Everytime*, there is no justification for a public apology. In addition, HUFS cannot coerce Professor J into releasing such an apology.

However, as an alternative to what was requested, the university will express its regret for the disclosure of Student P's personal details; and the course *The Universe & Man* is to progress under special guidance. Furthermore, it was noted that the dean of Academic Affairs will not be lenient with professors who cause controversy; and penalties will be given when assigning classes for the ensuing semester. What is more, Professor J personally called HUFS to rescind his request for disciplinary measures against Student P.

Interview with the parties involved

Interview with Student P's department student council

The student council thinks it unfortunate that such a situation has happened. The release of personal details, personal asking a student to drop a course, and an e-mail containing threats has clearly threatened a course-taker's right to education. We believe that this case roots from the lack of understanding and communication between the professors and students during the current pandemic crisis.

As an organization that represents the students, we are trying our utmost to get a public apology for the student concerned. Moreover, we plan to obtain confirmation from the HUF S administration and the offices concerned that such situations will not repeat in the future. In this regard, we have set procedures that will bring forth appropriate measures.



▲ Statement
of the P's
department
student
council

Interview with Student P

I would like to first admit to the criticism I was emotional in my response to the professor's actions. However, I do believe that the professor's initial responses were inappropriate, and I felt that his temperamental and insincere response was a problem. It was the best I could do in a situation where students, including myself, were not respected.

Nevertheless, for those interested in the issue, I would like HUF Ss to focus on the essence of this case. The professor did not live up to his duty. Students have a right to ask a question and get an answer because they pay tuition for the education they receive. The course is scheduled at 1:30 P.M. on Fridays. To establish an e-Class a mere thirty minutes before that, and then release a one-way announcement telling the students that a lecture will be up on Saturday at ten in the morning is wrong.

Also, Professor J inflicted mental distress through his

numerous announcements. Even if a student makes a mistake, an announcement that puts an individual student under such scrutiny is a wrongful action. I have heard that other students have similar experiences regarding Professor J. I hope HUF Ss sympathize and share their anger with me over this.

Lastly, Professor J released enough information to piece together the personal details of a student. Unilaterally publicizing a private dispute is unacceptable and the professor needs to clarify his position over this matter.

Interview with an official of the Student Affairs Team

*This interview was held on Sept. 15.

First, no concrete thing can be said. There are no similar precedents, so it is even more difficult to say anything. Up to this point, there were none regarding a personal dispute between a professor and a student. Moreover, in my time at HUF S, there was no clash between a student and a professor that came under the spotlight in this manner. For this reason, it is difficult to predict what exactly will happen. However, at this point, the complaints file can be deemed rather subjective in nature. It is my opinion that not all of the student's requests will be accepted. In previous cases, there was a personal agreement between the student and professor which led to closure, or there was disciplinary action against the professor.

This case will proceed as follows: the filing of the complaint, discussion over the complaint by the persons in charge including the dean of Student Affairs, and any possible measures. Currently, the Student Affairs Team and, in representation of Student P, P's department student council, has held face-to-face discussions. There is nothing confirmed as of now, and we do not have the opinions of all parties involved, so we cannot give you a solid answer.

***The Argus sent an e-mail to Professor J, but did not receive a reply.**

There are many opinions regarding the incident. Some say the student overreacted, while others say the professor's temperamental reaction was the problem. The situation would have not occurred had both sides tried to be more understanding. That is, there is more weight in how the problem came to be rather than how the incident played out. In fact, during the discussions between the student council and the dean of Student Affairs, it was said that deciphering and taking into account each statement in the exchange between the professor and student is an exhausting process. There are no clear criteria.

Student P's department student council focused on the process. A problem was posed over how Student P was advised to drop the class; a problem was also posed over how Student P's personal detail could be pieced together from the e-Class notices. Through this incident, The Argus hopes that students realize that they have a right to the education for which they pay tuition and express their discomforts should any arise. The Argus further hopes that roads to more communication will be paved between students and professors during this still-unbelievable COVID-19 reality. 📧

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▲ Professor Frazer goes live during Mukbang.

By Kim Kyung-eun and Song Chan-ho
Staff Reporters of Social Section

Due to the unexpected pandemic this year, students, professors, and staff members alike have faced many difficulties throughout the semester. Students and professors had to cope with an online learning environment and barely had the chance to meet in person.

One professor at HUFS, Frazer Johnston-Theasby, decided to make the best of the situation and use YouTube as a platform to communicate with his students while also uploading videos of his daily life. Behind his video content, The Argus meets Professor Frazer to find out more about his story.

The Argus: Please introduce yourself.

Frazer Johnston-Theasby (Frazer): Hello my name is Frazer, and I am from England. I teach Academic English and RC communication at Global Campus, and I run a YouTube channel called “ujamfraser.”

The Argus: What made you come to South Korea?

Frazer: I came to South Korea for the challenge of meeting new people and experiencing a different culture. While traveling around the world on a working holiday visa, I saw an advertisement for work in Korea. Not knowing much about Hangul or Korean culture, I just went for it, without any plans.

The Argus: How did you get to start a YouTube channel?

Frazer: When the COVID-19 situation got worse, I was worried that learning online would deprive students of the opportunity to practice and improve their English skills. By uploading class content through YouTube, students could approach me anonymously, lessening their burden and stress of making mistakes. YouTube was the most comfortable method of communication because students can watch my classes at their own time and learn in a comfortable environment.

The Argus: How do you evaluate yourself on your online interaction with students?

Frazer: I generally use a lot of technology in the classroom like Kahoot, a game-based learning platform, for mini tests, and Google docs for questionnaires, but it was my first time using YouTube. I also used Zoom during the first semester, so that freshmen students could

Spotlight at HUFS

have the opportunity to meet and talk to new people. I had some feedback that it was difficult, but I hope they had fun during the process. Using Youtube and Zoom for online classes helped me to communicate with students more easily.

The Argus: What do you think is the most essential factor for communication?

Frazer: Being able to express yourself and your ideas and attentively listening to understand each other is most important. Some people find it difficult to express themselves well in English, so body language or other interpersonal skills can be used for assistance. Such active effort is important for improving your communication skills. Also, students may feel a bit of a disconnect because professors seem like people with higher authority. I do not want students to feel that barrier. One person may have more knowledge than another, and vice versa, but we are all just the same humans.

The Argus: Do you have a personal method of communication?

Frazer: My personal goal is to be friendly to everybody, and getting to know my students is really helpful. From memorizing every student's name to coming early to class, I try to engage with my students to know who they are and what interests they have. When somebody seems to be struggling in class or looking down, I try to talk to them. I also give a lot of group work during class, so getting to know my students and engaging with them helps me to form groups with students who may work well together.

The Argus: On the online community "Everytime", a student shared an incident of you giving her a "Chicken Leg" snack, are you aware of this post by any chance?

Frazer: Yes, I remember the situation. One day, a student from English Zone told me there was a story about me on Everytime. It was during one of my Intensive Language Immersion Program (ILIP) classes, and we were talking about Korean holidays. One of my students mentioned that her grandfather favors her younger brother, and whenever they order fried chicken, he always gives the best part, chicken legs, to him. Obviously, I cannot give her fried chicken for a 9am class, so



▲ Professor Frazer creates a Vlog of his trip to Yeosu.

I got her a "Chicken Leg" snack just to make her feel better. Small things in life can improve your day. I want my students to know that they can talk to me about anything.


The Argus: Could you tell us more about your YouTube channel and what kind of content you want to create in the future?

Frazer: At the beginning of first semester, one student mentioned that my video sounded like an "ASMR." I usually only watch fitness videos, so I did not know about "Mukbang" or ASMR before. She gave me tips like showing the food in front of the camera before eating. Students have recommended me to make more of such videos because my voice is "soft." I will definitely make more Mukbang videos because I love food and can eat a lot in one sitting. I will also be making more travel VLOGs because I enjoy traveling, and have probably visited about 55 countries.

The Argus: Do you have any other comments for The Argus?

Frazer: I want to say thank you to my students and others for taking interest in my channel, even though I am still new to YouTube. I just uploaded class materials at first, but students started a "campaign" to subscribe to my channel. Recently, they even created a fan name called "Frabies," meaning "Frazer's babies." I have had a good time in South Korea so far, and really enjoy teaching at HUFS. I also want to say thank you to The Argus for taking the time to interview such an ordinary person like me.



From the "Chicken Leg" story to his personal YouTube channel, Professor Frazer has gained the attention of even students who have never taken his class before. After meeting him in person, The Argus could now tell the reason behind his popularity and positive reputation amongst students. 

▶ The Argus meets Professor Frazer for a brief interview.

 ujamfrazer /  ujamfrazer

Ramen a Hallyu Hit: the Past and Present of K-Ramen

By Song Chan-ho

Staff Reporter of Social Section

Ramen noodles: it is easy to cook, affordable, and tastes good. These characteristics make ramen noodles the Korean comfort food that many people can simply enjoy without a burden.

Nevertheless, the origin of Korean ramen noodles (K-Ramen) was not very cheerful. Before South Korea's economic development, many Korean people were suffering from severe poverty and famine. To help them, a businessman imported an instant food recipe from Japan, and it was ramen.

The coming Oct. 16 is World Food Day, and the next day, Oct. 17, marks International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The two international days have deep relevance, just as their near dates.

In the early history of contemporary South Korea, K-Ramen was the food that satisfied the impoverished Korean people's hunger. However, in line with the bright Korean economic development history, K-Ramen has now grown to be a world-famous food. Marking the two international days embellishing the middle of the October calendar, The Argus explores the history of K-Ramen, in the context of Korea's economic development, focusing on the eradication of poverty.



world's poorest country and beginning of K-Ramen

In the early 1960s, people in South Korea were experiencing extreme agony. Shortly after independence from the Japanese empire in 1945, Korea had to face the Korean War, and millions of people died. The number of people who lost their family, home, and property were countless.

At the time, the Korean GNI per capita was 104 dollars a year according to the Bank of Korea, meaning few countries were worse off than South Korea. As such, most people could not fill their stomachs, and some went to the market to purchase broth for 5 Won, made of food waste disposed of by the U.S. Army in Korea. Park Jong-sook, a food researcher, explained that the broth from waste was valuable food because it included some rare ingredients such as meat or sausages that were barely seen in Korea at the time.

To address such severe poverty, Jeon Jung-yun, the founder of Samyang Food, decided to import some inexpensive food that can be widely distributed. Inspired by Japanese Ramen noodles, he visited Japan to acquire the manufacturing technology of ramen. After sincere solicitation, he succeeded in receiving technical assistance from Japanese Myojo Food. Soon, he produced the ramen noodles following Myojo's recipe, and it was the first K-Ramen, "SAMYANG Ramen."

The first price of Samyang Ramen was 10 Won. Samyang Food clarified that this was a cheap offer and the company even bore a deficit, but in fact, this was not much cheaper than other ordinary meals. Additionally, the recipe from the Japanese company targeted Japanese people. Thus, it failed to become popular in Korea. Park Jung-hee, the 5th to 9th President of South Korea, who was interested in the self-sufficiency of food, also tried Samyang Ramen at the

Blue House. He reportedly said, "Korean people like spicy and salty flavors, so I want it to include more red pepper powder."

According to the Investigation on Processed Food from Food Information Statistic System, due to the Korean rice-centered dietary culture, ramen noodles, which was made of wheat, was viewed as unfamiliar. Moreover, people even misunderstood ramen as some fabric, thread, or plastic.



▲ This is the original Samyang Ramen launched in 1963.



Rice price stabilization movement and the popularization of K-Ramen

Despite Korean rice-centered diet, people could not eat rice sufficiently. Because of poverty and lack of fertile ground, it was impossible to provide people with enough rice, which led to the excessively high price of rice.

Professor Yoo Doe-il, Assistant Professor from the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development at Seoul National University explained, "The U.S. provided S. Korea with farm surpluses such as wheat and corn for free through Public Law 480. Even so, Korea had to go through 'barley hump,' the farm hardship, meaning the food shortage was still unsolved."

In turn, President Park's regime propelled the "Movement for eating boiled barley and wheat flour food." This movement forced people not to consume rice to control the demand and price. Professor Kong Je-wook from the Department of Culture and Content at Sangji University explained this movement as a state-mobilization system in which the government intervened in the citizen's dietary life by coercive devices.

However, this movement is evaluated as successful in terms of stabilizing the price of rice and replacing expensive rice food with wheat food made of cheap flour supported by America. Professor Park Myung-ho from the Division of Economics at HUFS said, "The movement was necessary for S. Korea, where rice was not self-sufficient, and it may have positively affected the sale of K-Ramen."

The research in 2016, "The World's Trend of Ramen and Korean Ramen Industry" by Lee Jeong-keun, the director at Planning and Administration Team of Nongshim Food, explained, "Serving the movement as a momentum, the K-Ramen industry entered into a growth period."

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA), alongside its sales increase thanks to the government-led movement, Samyang founded a food research institute in the 1970s to develop ramen soup that better suits the taste of Koreans.

Professor Park noted, "S. Korea was a rice-poor country. However, along with the governmental grain price system, the success of the "Green Revolution," which greatly improved grain production by actively introducing new technologies to agriculture, helped Korea achieve self-sufficiency in rice in the '70s." The self-sufficiency controlled demands for rice, and stable provision of flour-based food, which used to be unfamiliar for Koreans including ramen noodles, largely contributed to the eradication of famine in the early phase of industrialized S. Korea.



Golden age of Korean economy and K-Ramen market

During Park Jung-hee's presidency, Korean people experienced unprecedented rates of high growth, called the "miracle of the Han River." Accordingly, the lifestyle of Koreans in the late 1970s became noticeably stable.

Professor Lee Chul-hwan from College of Business and Economics at Dankook University said: "The governmental economic development planning from 1962, and the military regime's 'economy centered' policy led to extraordinary economic growth, which was higher than 10 percent-growth every year from the late 60s to the 70s. In synergy with the spirit of Koreans to live a better life, S. Korea could achieve the miracle of the Han River."

"Even so, with the assassination of President Park and the following President Chun Doo-hwan's military regime's confusion, the second oil shock occurred in the late 70s. Due to these events, Korea recorded minus economic growth (-1.7%) for the first time since the rapid growth," he added.

However, he explained, "Although the military regimes' reputation is still very controversial, it is true that they were 'strong leaderships' that drove Korea's amazing economic growth. While Park walked the utmost one-sided way for economic development, Chun did the best to stabilize prices and to minimize the side effects from Park's rapidly growing era. In addition to such economic efforts, Three Lows: low interest rate, low oil price, low dollar, and huge national events such as the Seoul Olympic in 1988 occurred. Combined with the domestic economy's stabilization, these called in the economic boom again."

As the economy grew and the food situation got remarkably better, ramen noodles became apparently inexpensive food. "In the 1980s, Samyang Ramen was a popular food among common people because of its cheap price. In the early 80s, Samyang Ramen was 90 to 100 won each, when ordinary meals were 500 to 700 won," Professor Yoo said.

This period, Samyang Food accounted for about 80 percent of the market share alone. Soon, multiple food companies entered the K-Ramen market. Yet, these companies failed to take up Samyang's turf.

Lotte Food, however, was different. Director Lee from Nongshim analyzed, "At this time, Lotte successfully penetrated the market by arousing the emotions of Koreans missing rural areas and hometown due to the high-speed economic growth. Lotte launched "Nongshim Ramen" in 1975 with the famous advertisement "You first, brother, No, you first", and after its big hit, it joined the ranks of the strong, changing its name into "Nongshim (farmer's heart)" in 1978.

Director Lee explained, "In the late 1980s, with the golden age of the Korean economy, so too came the golden age of the K-ramen market." He said the ramen market became huge as the press at the time analyzed "the market is already saturated." As such, to secure competitiveness, ramen companies came to seek growth through quality and diversity.

Nongshim started the cup noodles business that Samyang had failed in 1972, and came up with "Sabalmyun," which means "bowl noodles" in 1981. It also launched "Nuguri" and "Yukgaejang bowl noodles"; which later became especially popular among foreign watchers of Seoul Olympic in 1982, "Ansungtangmyun" in 1983, "Jjapagetti" in 1984, and in 1986, "Shin Ramyun," the best seller among all K-ramens up to the present, 2020 was released to the market.

Besides Nongshim's products, the ramens which are greatly beloved to this day were launched in the 1980s: "Paldo Bibim myun," "Doshirak" from "Paldo" (former KOREA YAKULT), and "Jin Ramen" from "Ottogi." With this lineup, diversified K-ramens awaited the choices of well-off Korean consumers.

In the statistics of March 1985, Nongshim became the No.1 player in the ramen industry, beating Samyang with a 40.4 percent market share. Samyang Food, the former market leader, fell down to second place with a 39.6 percent share, while "Paldo" took up 13.5 percent of the industry. However, with the launch of "Shin Ramyun" the best-selling K-Ramen ever, and its steady seller lineup including "Sarigomtang" released in 1988, Nongshim succeeded in taking up a 50.6 percent market share in 1988.



▲ This graph shows the rapid economic growth of S.Korea during the Miracle of the Han River period.



Biggest Crisis crisis for Korean economy and fall of the first K-Ramen

Socialism came to collapse beginning with the Dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. The evolution of transportation and telecommunication largely contributed to international trade, and these brought about the flow of globalism. S. Korea swam with the global tide; the administration of Kim Young-sam, the 14th President of South Korea, declared globalization. S. Korea reached 10,000\$ GDP per capita in 1995, and joined the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 1996.

However, Professor Lee Chul-hwan explained, “The Kim administration was too obsessed with the \$10,000 project for external publicity. To reach the goal, it decreased exchange rates, so the value of won increased. In turn, this provoked a slump in export, which led to a lack of dollars. Accordingly, facing 1997’s Asian Financial Crisis which began in South-East Asia, S. Korea got to undergo huge humiliation: the bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Eventually, South Korea recorded the worst economic growth ever since 1980.”

A number of conglomerates, as well as small businesses, went bankrupt, and many workers were fired due to financial problems. Including a number of social issues caused by the crisis, such as high rates of suicide and lay-offs, S. Korea suffered from unprecedented economic hardship.

It is hard to compare to the economic crisis, but there was a huge impact in the ramen market; the “beef tallow scandal.” The press reported that “Samyang” used beef tallow animal at for industrial use such as making candles or to fry noodles, and this led to serious damage to the whole K-Ramen market. Furthermore, “Samyang” obtained an authoritative warning by the government, prohibiting the company from producing ramen for one year.

Although “Samyang” was acquitted by the Supreme Court

after seven years, it could not recover its damaged brand value. To make matters worse, with the IMF crisis in 1997, the original ramen company “Samyang Foods” had to encounter severe financial difficulties.

Even so, due to the popularization of ramen, diverse product developments from different ramen companies, and successful overseas expansion, Director Lee analyzed, “In spite of the economic recession, the Korean ramen market even grew.” He added, “Facing the IMF economic crisis, ramen settled down deep into the life of ordinary Korean people.”

In “Five Views on RAMYEON,” a study by Oh Se-young, a professor from the Department of Food & Nutrition at Kyunghee University, she defined this period as “boom for the ramen market.” She explained that because of the recession, people came to find ramen, and this was connected to prosperity of the K-Ramen industry. This can be understood that its traits such as simplicity and inexpensiveness became a big support for the people having a hard time.

K-Ramen reached 1 trillion won (1 billion dollars) sales in the domestic market. Overseas, “Nongshim” had already built its factory in China, and “Samyang” and “Paldo” soon followed suit. “Paldo,” especially, established a business place in Russia when its 86’s “Doshirak” became so popular among Russians. After full-scale investment, “Paldo” takes up 60 percent of the Russian cup noodles market share in 2020 with the sole item, “Doshirak.”



Overcoming Crisis, crisis, Korea as IT-advanced country and premiumization of K-Ramen

In spite of the unparalleled national hardship, S. Korea successfully overcame it. Professor Lee explained, “In accordance with the unity of the people that experienced the miracle of the Han River, the government efforts to overcome the financial difficulty were accompanied. It felt a limit from the existing industry, thus it declared to lead the ‘digitization’ and ‘information-oriented society.’ Through support from the administration, the IT industry could secure stable demand for technical devices. Alongside the dynamism of the people, the Korean IT industry was able to experience rapid growth.”

Professor Park Myung-ho said, “An IT-advanced country could not be achieved overnight. The government founded Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute (ETRI) in the early 1980s and the private sectors also prepared well. But, it is true that the ‘super-highway information network’ which was established after the IMF economic crisis considerably contributed to the Korean IT

©AFP



▲ Korean workers are requiring proper measures for the economic crisis in 1997.

sector.”

With the enhancement of the industrial base, the K-Ramen industry sought qualitative improvement. Facing the 2000s, the standard of living of Korean people progressed, and this called in the “era of well-being” people got to look for high-end products and healthy food.

In order to respond to the needs, K-Ramen companies tried some differentiation strategies; such as diversification of ingredients. For instance, “Nongshim” launched “Mupama” in 2001, which featured rich-flavored broth with various mixes such as radish, green onion, and garlic, and “Chaesik-juie Sun,” vegetarian ramen in 2004. Also, some rice noodles were reproduced, which were launched in the 1990s but did not go well. These attempts contributed to K-ramen’s improvement of quality and expansion of categories.

Director Lee added, “During the global financial crisis from 2007 to 2008, “Nongshim” took a leap for more differentiation with existing ramens. “Nongshim” founded Noksan Factory in Busan, and this became a major step for it to grow as a global well-being food company.”



Korea as developed country, leads global culture with K-Ramen

Although the modern history of Korea started with the North-South division, wreckage of the war, and extreme poverty, now in 2020, South Korea has achieved unprecedented development around the world. Korea joined the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD. Kim Jae-soo, the former minister of MAFRA said, “Korea became a donor from donee.” It is said that Korea is the first precedent around the world that an aid-recipient country became a major aid donor.

Professor Lee said, “South Korea achieved \$30,000 per capita GNI as seventh among the countries whose population surpasses 50 million. This means with quantitative standards, Korea is an obvious developed country. However, there are still problems to solve such as various social conflicts and the low happiness index. Nevertheless, Korea went into orbit in terms of cultural factors. Although it used to be a culturally



▲ A famous YouTuber eats “Fire Noodles.”

undeveloped country, now it is leading the global culture with the K-culture wave (han-ryu) or BTS.”

“Ottogi”’s “Jin Ramen” is contending with “Nongshim”’s best seller, “Shin Ramyun.” “Samyang” made an amazing comeback with “Fire Noodles,” which is world-famous food, and at the same time, a global iconic content item among YouTubers. Furthermore, not only are the existing steady sellers doing well, but also new premium items such as “Shin Ramyun Black” or “Carbonara Fire Noodles” are thriving in the global market. K-Ramen has now become an iconic item that represents Korea.

Professor Yoo analyzed that this is an extension of the consumer’s trend from the early 2000s. “Ramen used to be a pronoun for ‘quick food’ under the aim: economic development, to fill people’s stomachs. However, now that the economy has been stabilized, it might have faced a limit with the same paradigm. The social interest also changed from quantity to quality, price to health and functionality.”

“Jjapagetti + Nuguri” (Jjapaguri) that got popular through the movie, Parasite, and the challenge videos for “Fire Noodles” among foreign YouTubers, Streamers of Internet websites such as Twitch. Due to the contemporary characteristic that transcends the barrier of space and super-connectivity based on the Internet service, K-Ramen’s popularity is expected to proceed on and on. Every industry faces opportunities and challenges. Nevertheless, the COVID-19 pandemic situation can rather be a chance for the ramen industry,” Professor Yoo said.

K-Ramen is equipping software such as specific needs or diverse contents with its existing simplicity, and if localization strategy is added on this, it may be able to secure a bigger market.

Director Lee said, “Ramen’s demand is growing as the number of one-person households are rising. In fact, K-Ramen’s sales are increasing every year, and this can lead to the K-Culture stream of food, ‘Food Hallyu.’ There are endless possibilities that K-Ramen is opening the future of Korean flavor, as a ‘K-Food missionary.’” The Argus hopes that K-ramen keeps thriving in the global market as a symbol of Korea. 🍜

To Rain or Not to Rain, That Is the Question

By Choi Yea-jin

Staff Reporter of Theory & Critique Section

Have you ever heard about “weather wanderer?” It means people who trust Korean weather information provided by foreign countries instead of the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA). Due to the recent errors of the KMA, the number of Korean weather wanderers, who do not trust the KMA, are increasing.

The KMA predicted a heat wave for this summer, not a rainy season; but on the contrary, there was an all-time long rainy season. Many people blamed the KMA for the massive damage, including urban inundations and loss of lives. In addition, several media sources reported that the KMA made a mistake in predicting the path of typhoon Bavi, but the U.S. and Europe correctly predicted the path. While Korean distrust of the KMA is increasing, rather than unconditional criticism and neglect, we need to know exactly why the KMA has made so many errors in weather forecasting. Despite the constant errors, Korea’s weather forecasting system, which is still in a period of transition, is essential in our lives and a problem we must solve. The Argus looked at the problems, causes and solutions for the Korean weather forecasting system based on the three elements of weather forecasting.

Problem

Reducing climate accuracy

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▲ Banpo Hangang Park in Seoul flooded due to the rainy season on Aug.6.

Korea is originally a country with narrow land and complex terrain, so it is difficult to forecast the weather accurately. On average, the probability of the weather forecast being right is about 85 percent. Therefore, more than 40 days are incorrectly forecasted in a year (365 days). The problem is that even 85 percent of the hits are hard to get because of Korea's climate conditions. In fact, according to the Board of Audit and Inspection in Korea, in 3,228 (62 percent) of 5,193 cases of predicted rain by the KMA for five years (2012-2016) it actually rained; and in 1965 cases (38 percent) it did not rain. In addition, in cases where the KMA predicted that it would not rain, in 1,808 cases there was rain. The average hit rate of precipitation is only 46 percent.

A recent example of the KMA's weather inaccuracy is the rainy season of this summer that lasted 54 days. The KMA forecasted rain of 50 to 100mm in Gwangju, Korea from Aug. 7 to 8. In fact, however, there was a lot of flooding damage in Gwangju during Aug. 7-8th, with a heavy rain of 516mm. If the accuracy of the weather forecast by the KMA decreases, the damage caused by the failure to prepare for heat waves, heavy rain, and heavy snow is significant. According to the central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters and the Ministry of Interior and Safety, the rainy season actually left 50 people dead or missing, and caused more than 6,000 people to become homeless.

Lack of Numerical Weather Prediction Model

According to the Board of Audit and Inspection in Korea's 2019 audit results report (the actual status of the project to develop numerical forecast models), the Numerical Weather Prediction Model covers about 40 percent of the tasks for accurate weather forecasts. This is an important part compared to other factors such as quality of weather observation data (32 percent) and capacity of forecasters (28 percent). Korea used a model developed in Japan before 2010, and used from 2010 UM (U.K. model) modified to suit the Korean weather situation.

In the meantime, from 2011 to 2019, about 70 people and a budget of about 80 billion won were invested to develop a Korean Integrated Model (KIM).

The use of foreign models is based on the disadvantages of spending on user fees, not reflecting the weather characteristics of our country, and the inconvenience of updating them. All parts of the model were made with Korea's own technology, which was significant and expected to improve the accuracy of the forecast. The model went through trial operation from spring of 2019 and was introduced in the forecast from 2020.

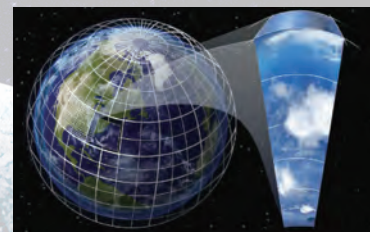
However, after the introduction of KIM, the accuracy of the forecast of precipitation has decreased. It is being used in parallel with UM to supplement KIM, which was in its early days, and the accuracy of rainfall forecast was 67 percent from April to July 13 this year, down from last year.

Inadequate utilization of meteorological equipment

Weather prediction requires weather satellites that collect data and supercomputers that simulate based on this data. But these pieces of weather equipment have some problems. Before

the 2000s, Korea received data every 30 minutes from the Japanese weather satellite Multi-Functional Transport Satellite (MTSAT). This caused a series of errors in weather forecasts in Korea if Japan's weather forecasts were not accurate. Then, in the 2000s, it began using the Communication, Ocean&Meteorological Satellite (COMS) otherwise known as the Chollian satellite. COMS launched in 2010 and had better analytical capabilities than Japan's satellite. However, the 2017 Board of Audit and Inspection in Korea pointed out that the KMA failed to utilize COMS. This is because it launched COMS but failed to develop software to analyze the satellite data.

Also, before the 1990s, the KMA did not have supercomputers. The KMA predicted the weather with a



▲ Numerical Weather Prediction Model.



▲ COMS (communication, Ocean& Meteorological Satellite) which is called Chollian satellite of Rep of Korea.

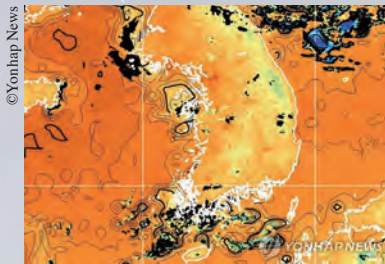
©Climate Change in Colorado

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mainframe computer, which was mostly used by banks and conglomerates. Supercomputers were also introduced in Korea in the 1990s, but in 2010 they did not perform well. So two new supercomputers were introduced in 2011 and used until 2016. At the end of 2015, the KMA brought in supercomputer No. 4 for 55 billion won (about US \$47 million). Despite the tens of billion won needed for purchase, maintenance and processing costs, the KMA has introduced a new supercomputer which costs about 40 billion won (about US \$34 million). every five years, since 2000 for weather accuracy. Despite this huge investment in meteorological equipment, problems arise due to poor utilization of these technological resources.

Cause

Geographical characteristics and abnormal climate of Korea



▲ The Korean Peninsula is getting hotter due to abnormal climate.

The Korean Peninsula is located in the mid-latitude region, where the energy imbalance is large due to the temperature difference between cold air in the polar regions and hot air in the equator. Moreover, since it is on the border between the continent and the ocean, it is more volatile due to the influence of both sides. In addition, it is more difficult to predict the weather on the Korean Peninsula because the Korean Peninsula is bordered on three sides by the sea; and there are many mountain ranges. From the beginning, Korea has limitations in improving the accuracy of weather forecasts.

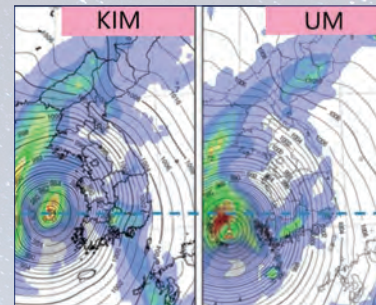
South Korea's extreme climate change is adding complexity to this. According to the "Korea Climate Change Evaluation Report 2020" published by the Ministry of Environment and the Korea Meteorological Administration in July, the average surface temperature of Korea rose 1.8 degrees Celsius from 1912 to 2017. This

is more than double the world's average increase (0.85 degrees). According to the report, if the current greenhouse gas emission

trend continues, the temperature of the Korean Peninsula in the late 21st century will be 2.9 to 4.7 degrees higher than the current level. The reason Korea's climate change is especially severe is because the mid-latitude is often abnormal due to global warming. As greenhouse gas emissions have increased, Arctic temperatures have risen, and the jet stream has weakened, making it easier for cold air in the north to descend to the mid-latitude. This phenomenon is the cause of severe downpours and the longer-than-expected rainy season this summer. Due to the high temperature of the North Pole and high atmospheric pressure, cold air stayed around Korea for a long time, which caused the rainy season to be longer because warm and humid air did not move to northward. The more extreme this climate phenomenon becomes, the more difficult it is to predict the flow of the atmosphere, resulting in weather errors.

Poor numerical forecast model in Korea

While many developed countries have their own weather forecast models, Korea did not have a local weather forecast until recently. So, the KMA used the Japanese model from 2002 to 2010 and the British



▲ The route of the 13th typhoon 'Ringling' predicted by Korea Integrated Model (KIM) and UK Model (UM).

model from 2010 to 2019. But there are many problems in terms of geography. Unlike Korea, which has a lot of climate change, the British climate is almost the same as the West Coast oceanic climate. In addition, the west is important in weather conditions as air moves from west to east because of the rotation of the earth. But west of England is the sea and west of Korea is a continent. In addition, it failed to accurately reflect Korea's topography and weather characteristics as it was a foreign technology, and there were also fatal disadvantages of not being able to upgrade the forecast model as required.

Regarding the reduced accuracy of weather forecasting after the introduction of KIM, a KMA official said, "The KIM has not reduced the accuracy of weather forecasting. It's not a weather model problem; it's a forecasters' decision. In addition, KIM was introduced earlier this year, so it is too early to judge performance. At least a



▲ KIAPS that developed KIM Korea Integrated Model (KIM).

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▲ Supercomputers No.4 that KMA brought in 2015.

year of trial and error is needed.” Also, the KIAPS (Korea Institute of Atmospheric Prediction Systems) project group that developed KIM has been disbanded, and the KMA is managing the KIM currently. This has caused problems with the update technology. KIM is an independent and creative technology that Korean experts of KIAPS have worked on for nine years. Under these circumstances, KIAPS official said that performance improvement could be slow if other experts, not KIM’s developers, are in charge of the development and research of KIM. Due to the complex characteristics of numerical forecast models, it is not easy for non-developers to know and handle the system better than developers.

Rapid development of meteorological equipment and lack of experts in equipment utilization

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▲ Weather forecasters are conducting video conferences.

First of all, a large national budget is needed to operate supercomputers, which are weather equipment. To install a very large supercomputer, new buildings needs

to be built, and maintenance costs are expensive. Also, supercomputers have improved their performance by a thousand times over the last ten years due to their rapid development. Even if a country spends a lot of money to buy a supercomputer, it will lose a lot of money in a few years because its value will be very low.

However, the fundamental cause of the weather forecast inaccuracy is that weather equipment is developing so fast and experts are not using the equipment properly. For example, it is forecasters who complete weather forecasts by interpreting weather data calculated by supercomputers. Park E-hyeong, a spokesman of KMA, said, “There are times when errors in weather forecast data and actual conditions occur. It is the role of forecasters to reduce and compensate for these errors. We have a heavy responsibility for weather forecasts South Korea’s forecasters make weather forecasts first by determining whether inaccuracies

could cause human casualties or not.”

KMA forecasters, who play such an important role, work in poor conditions. Day and night shift work causes fatigue. There is also considerable stress over whether the forecast will be accurate. Even if the forecast is slightly wrong, there are many complaints. In fact, according to a survey submitted by KMA, 57 percent of all KMA employees said they did not want to take forecasting tasks, which is a key responsibility of the organization. KMA employees answered that forecasting tasks cause physical and mental stress. Shrivelled by criticism, forecasters tend to make conservative predictions (safe rather than accurate ones), and then the public is likely to take them as wrong forecasts again. In addition, forecasters must have expertise accumulated over a long period, but it is difficult to attain this experience due to a cyclical work system that changes positions and regions every two years.

Solution

Data exchange and AI development with neighboring countries

The difficulty of weather forecasting due to Korea’s geographical characteristics can be supplemented by actively accumulating Korean climate data. In order to increase



▲ A research team led by Professor Ham.

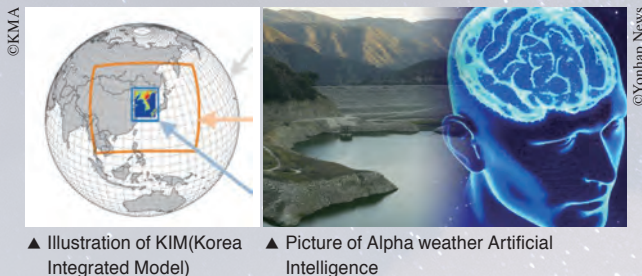
the forecast hit rate, weather observation facilities should be installed at more than 300 locations, with accurate data accumulated for at least 10 years. Currently, however, there are more than 50 years of accumulated weather data in only 14 locations across the country. Korea needs to collect more detailed data because of the slow accumulation of data among advanced countries. To achieve this goal, cooperation in weather data with neighboring countries is also a way. Currently, South Korea, China and Japan are exchanging and studying data such as fine dust and earthquakes under a project called the Joint Research Cooperative Program (JRCP). As such, we need diverse international cooperation to exchange weather data with neighboring countries and study to increase accuracy.

Also, a bigger factor that undermines weather accuracy is climate change. As climate change is getting worse, weather data from the past are limited in predicting

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abnormal weather conditions that could change rapidly in the future. To solve this problem, we need to build an AI system that can predict the future. For example, a research team led by Professor Ham Yoo-geun of the Department of Oceanography at Chonnam National University has developed a technology that can predict El Nino up to 18 months in advance by using AI. El Nino is an abnormal climate phenomenon in the eastern and central parts of the Pacific Ocean that causes heat waves and floods, with seawater temperatures rising more than 0.5 degrees above an average year. The AI, developed by Professor Ham's research team, helps prepare for various weather disasters caused by El Nino by diagnosing in advance the occurrence and strength of El Nino. In addition to El Nino, we need to introduce AI technology that can predict future climate changes so that we can accurately predict abnormal weather conditions to prepare for related damage.

Update of Korean Numerical Forecasting Models



KIM which has been test-run since April this year, has no significant difference in performance compared to UM and overseas numerical models. But this is only when it was first introduced. Data needs to be updated periodically to improve the performance of numerical forecast models.

The KMA will also set up a separate research team to deal with the KIM, including experts from the business group that developed the KIM, to upgrade it in the future. Just as the KMA updated its physical processes

and epidemiological models to the KIM in June, it will have to make continuous updates. According to the Korea Meteorological Administration, the KIM will be supplemented by various tests and upgrades in the future and will reach the current UM level within two years. "The KIM has been going through four seasons in Korea for a year and is in the process of collecting Korean-tailored data. We are updating it to improve performance," a KMA official said.


Developing human resources and technology that can utilize weather equipment

The nation's artificial satellite Chollian 1 ended its weather observation mission as of April this year. It is necessary to develop satellites for weather observation to replace it. However, it is more urgent to establish a system that can make good use of current equipment than to develop weather equipment that requires a long-term investment. First of all, the KMA announced in December that it would introduce a professional civil service system to give preferential treatment to professional forecasters, thereby eliminating circular placement problems and increasing the accuracy of forecasts. As a result, about 10 professional government officials who are exclusively in charge of forecasting work are currently working as forecasters.

In addition, the agency is developing an AI weather forecast assistant called "Alpha-weather" to assist forecasters. The KMA plans to complete the development of "Alpha-weather" by next year, and to create an advanced version, which can provide region-specific weather forecasts by 2024. Ultimately, the KMA's goal is to develop an 'Alpha-weather' that can provide customized weather information for each individual citizen by 2027. The completion of such "Alpha-weather" technology is expected to improve the working conditions of forecasters and increase the accuracy of forecasts.



Because the KMA is losing the trust of the public, Park E-hyung, a spokesman of the KMA, said, "The KMA's main goal is to prevent casualties caused by weather disasters. Therefore, the KMA makes a forecast as soon as it finds any possibility of human casualties. We hope you observe the weather agency's warnings carefully. We can bear the criticism that your clothes are wet from the rain because of KMA errors. However, the KMA cannot guile and feels a huge responsibility if the agency's incorrect forecast causes human casualties."

As the KMA said, weather forecasts are directly related to the safety of the people. Therefore, the KMA should work hard to pinpoint and resolve the problems and causes that cause forecast errors, and we hope that the Korean people will listen carefully to the voice of the Korean Meteorological Administration. The Argus hopes that in the near future, Koreans will see their own weather service with a loving eye. 

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▲ Flag of Koryo-Saram(Koryo-people).

Kimchi? чимчхи[Jimchi]! Is It Korean?

By Choi Yea-jin

Staff reporter of Theory & Critique Section

©KBS



©Tongil Ilbo



2



©United Methodist Church

4



©Koryo-saram Aid&Sharing Movement

1	2
3	4

- 1 Koryo-Saram engaged in anti-Japanese righteous army movement in Russia.
- 2 Koryo-Saram in Maritime Territory of Russia.
- 3 Koryo-Saram forcibly moved to Central Asia in 1937.
- 4 Koryo-saram are migrating.

What do you want to eat? I want to eat чимчхи[jimchi]! Kimchi?
It sounds like Korean, but which language is it? It is the “Koryo-Saram” which is a kind of Korean dialect used by the Koryo-Saram (Koryo-people).

Koryo-Saram refers to Koreans who have moved to Russia and Central Asia and other former Soviet Union countries. The Korean people began moving to Russia in 1863 due to the anti-Japanese movement and for agricultural reasons, and around 170,000 people ending up migrating. During the Soviet era, they were forced to move to Central Asia because of Stalin’s segregation and discrimination policies. But in the new land, they pioneered the wilderness and became the richest minority in the Soviet Union. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, most people are still living in the area. They pride themselves on being Korean and try to inherit the culture, but as they go to the 3rd and 4th generation Koryo-Saram, the language and culture are forgotten. Their language is ‘Koryo-mar’, which is a mixture of Russian and Korean dialects. The Argus looked the ‘Koryo-mar’, so that readers can have an interesting understanding of it which are in danger of extinction.



©Korea Times

▲ Migration route of Koryo-Saram to Central Asia.



©Koreilbo

▲ Koryo-Saram are forced to migrate.

History of Koryo-Saram's migration

In 1863, Koreans (Koryo-Saram) began to move to Russia. Some of them were immigrants for agricultural purposes, and some of them wanted to avoid Japanese surveillance and to carry on the Korean independence movement.

In 1937, they were forced to move to Central Asia because of Stalin's harsh segregation and discrimination policies. At that time, the number of Koryo-Saram was 175,000, of which 11,000 died during forced migration. However, the Koryo-Saram have pioneered the wilderness of Central Asia, becoming the richest ethnic minority in the Soviet Union.

In 1992, when the Soviet Union collapsed and separated into 11 independent states, an exclusive nationalist movement spread in the Central Asian country inhabited by Koryo-Saram. As a result, Koryo-Saram were dismissed and deported, putting them in a difficult economic situation. Thus, the number of them moving back to the Maritime Territory of Russia increased.

In 2005, about 200,000 Koryo-Saram lived in Uzbekistan. In addition, Koryo-Saram live in Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, and Turkmenistan.

Koryo-mar usage

The number of Koryo-mar users is significantly small compared to about 400,000 Koryo-Saram. The reason for this is that Koryo-mar skills generally vary depending on the period of migration to Central Asia. Also, the reason is that as generations pass by, they learn and use local languages rather than Koryo-mar. According to Kwak Chung-gu, emeritus professor of Sogang University, in "The Data and Research of Koryo-mar in Central Asia(2007)" Koryo-Saram aged 70 or older in Central Asia use the Koryo-mar in their daily lives with Koryo-Saram of the same age. Koreans aged 50-60 can understand and speak the beginner-level of Koryo-mar, but they routinely spoke Russian. On the other hand, teenagers did not speak Koryo-mar at all.



History and Change of Koryo-mar

Until 1937, just before World War II, the language used by Koryo-Saram in Russia's Far East was the dialect of North Hamgyong Province on the Korean Peninsula.

After the forced migration, Banner of Lenin (now the Koryo Ilbo), a newspaper of the Koryo-Saram, and Koryo Theater (Korea Theater), which performed in Koryo-mar, were reconstructed in Central Asia to take the lead in the use and dissemination of the Korean language. But these were ineffective for the second generation of Koryo-Saram because they were socializing. They were able to learn the basic grammar of Koryo-mar at school and learn colloquialisms through conversations with their grandparents or parents at home. However, there were only a few of these people, and most of the Koryo-Saram speak Russian mainly from the Soviet era.

Before the Soviet era, the Koryo-Saram used the words Koryo-Saram and Koryo-mar. However, during the Soviet era, it was called Joseon-Saram and the people, Joseon-mar, which means North Korea. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, they reused the term "Koryo" to distinguish themselves from Korean compatriots in other regions and to include the

meaning of the Korean. Finally, the terms Koryo-Saram and Koryo-mar were revived.

Koryo-mar, which has continued for three generations since the forced migration, has been preserved mainly in spoken language and has undergone changes due to the influence of the Russian language. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, contact with Central Asia and Korea has become more frequent. Thus, Koryo-mar has assimilated into the modern Korean language. As time went by, fewer generations could speak Koryo-mar, but due to the influence of the Korean Wave, there were more opportunities to learn modern standard Korean. In response, Dr. Phil Kim, emeritus professor of Kazakh National University, said, “After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Koryo-mar was rapidly influenced by the modern Korean language due to frequent visits by Koreans living in Korea, the Americas and Europe. With Korean as a major in universities in Central Asia, most Koryo-Saram aged 40 or younger who can understand now generally follow modern Korean grammar because they never learned Koryo-mar well.”



Features of Koryo-mar

(1) Borrowing from the Russian language

Koryo-mar has a large number of Russian cognates, as Koryo-Saram often borrowed Russian words rather than making new words in Korean. The most important reason for this was that the influence of the mainstream language Russian was predominant in the Soviet Union countries where the Koryo-Saram lived.

The first principle of borrowing is to create a new Koryo-mar word. According to Dr. Phil Kim, an example of this is the word “bulsulgi.” When Koreans first saw the train in Maritime Territory of Russia, they did not use the word “poyezd,” which means train in Russian. They thought a train was a cart spouting fire. This meaning was reconstructed into the Koryo-mar and the word “bulsulgi” was born. It is a combination of “bul” which means fire of the train and “sulgi” which means a cart.

The second principle of borrowing is to pronounce Russian words in a Koryo-mar accent.

Example word

- Match - pichiki - спички [spichiki]
- Newspaper - Gajeta - газета [Gajeta]
- Necktie - Galstuk - галстук [Galstuk]
- Shop - Magajin - магазин [Magajin]
- Desk - Stol - стол [stol]
- Market - Bazaar - базар [Bazar]

(2) Similarities with the North Korean language



▲ Map of Hamgyeong-do (red) and Vladivostok (green)

During the Soviet era, Koryo-Saram tended to follow the North Korean notation. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, both the North Korean language and the standard Korean language were used. In particular, Koryo-mar was heavily influenced by the dialect of the North Korean province of Hamgyeong. During the Joseon Dynasty, many people from Hamgyeong-do moved to Russia. Dr. Phil Kim said, “In the early days, they had written with the orthography rules of Koryo-mar made by scholars who were Koryo-Saram. However, North Korea was founded in 1945 with the support of the Soviet Union during World War II, and exchanges between the Soviet Union and North Korea became active. This led to Koryo-mar grammar following North Korean grammar, especially the Hamgyeong-do dialect.

For example, in the Hamgyeongdo dialect, the consonant “ㄱ[k] + vowel ‘ㅣ[i]’” is written as “ki” but pronounced as “ji[ji].” Due to these influences, the Koryo-mar is the same. Kimchi, the standard Korean word Kimchi, is Jimchi in Koryo-mar, and Kiruem(oil) is Jiruem.

In addition, sentence endings of Koryo-mar are the same as in the Hamgyeongdo dialect, not modern Korean, according to Dr. Kim.

In the Hamgyeongdo dialect and Koryo-mar, the interrogative sentence closing ending is “-m du,” and the honorific declarative sentence closing ending is “-kkuma.”

Preservation and Development of Koryo-mar

It was not easy to preserve Koryo-mar, which usually comes down in colloquial style, in other regions. However, in the 150-year history of Koryo-Saram's migration, they have made various efforts to protect Koryo-mar. Dr. Kim introduced three institutions that contributed to the conservation and development of Koryo-mar.

The first one is the Far-East Korean Pedagogic Institute, founded in 1931 in Vladivostok, Russia. It is the world's first four-year university founded by the Korean people and has trained people who can teach the Koryo-mar in elementary and secondary schools. The school was moved to Kazakhstan's Kzlorda in 1937 because of deportation and is now Kzlorda National University. Inheriting the Far-East Korean Pedagogic Institute, Kzlorda National University still offers a Korean/English major.

The second is Banner of Lenin newspaper, which was founded in Kzlorda, Kazakhstan, in 1938. Banner of Lenin was the only Korean-language newspaper in the Soviet Union. It gained sympathy from many Koryo-Saram because it realistically represented their life. The key point is that Banner of Lenin led in the spread of Korean ethnic identity and language because only the Korean version was published during the Soviet era. In particular, it enabled the development of the literary style of the Koryo-mar. The fourth page, which is the literature section, featured literary works by Koryo-Saram every month. It presented a variety of works, including poems, essays, and short stories, and it was the only platform for the literary works of Koryo-Saram. Later, with the collapse of the former Soviet Union, the name was changed to the Koryo-ilbo in May 1991. In addition, both Korean and Russian versions are being published to reflect the decrease in the number of Koryo-Saram who can speak Koryo-mar.

Third, Koryo Theater was established in 1932 in Vladivostok, Russia. After the deportation in 1937, it was re-established as a local theater in Kzlorda, Russia and later developed to a Korean state theater of music and drama in Kazakhstan. It contributed to the colloquial style of Koryo-mar through performances and folk songs played by Koryo-mar. These days, Koryo Theater is still a center of Korean culture. In addition, it is actively engaged in overseas tours and is striving to spread the culture of Koryo-Saram and Korea.

The transition process of Koryo-mar reflected the social and cultural historical factors experienced by Koryo-Saram in Central Asia and Russia. Traces of Korean colloquialisms remain in Koryo-mar from the late 19th to the early 20th century. Also apparent is the impact of the rapid Russianization of the Koryo-mar. Dr. Kim said, "The generation that could speak Koryo-mar has already passed away. In addition, the subsequent generation did not learn Koryo-mar because it was no longer used in daily life. Therefore, it seems too late to preserve Koryo-mar. However, scholars from the Americas, Europe, and Korea are collecting data and studying the characteristics of Koryo-mar. The existence of Koryo-mar in the former Soviet Union is a historical phenomenon or product. The Argus would like to say that academic research is necessary to preserve Koryo-mar, but the continued interest of HUFsans who study various languages is a prerequisite, too. 📖

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▲ Far-East Korean Pedagogic Institute on July. 30, 1928.



▲ The Korean newspaper 'Lenin Banner' published in Kazakhstan.



▲ Poster of performance 'Arirang' in Koryo theater.



▲ Koryo theater in 1938.

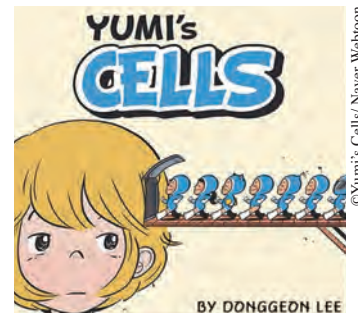
What Is Inside of Yumi?



©Yumi's Cells/ Naver Webtoon

By Jang Soo-hyun
Editor of Culture Section

What if another part of me lived inside of myself? In Naver Webtoon “Yumi’s Cells,” there are countless numbers of brain cells inside the main character Yumi that have come to life and control her thoughts. The creative setting and relatable actions have attracted the Korean audience and now the webtoon is currently being translated into different languages. However, “Yumi’s Cells” does not stop there; it has more to tell its readers. The Argus takes another step forward from simple analysis to discovering and delivering the message Yumi and her cells wish to deliver to the audience.



©Yumi's Cells/ Naver Webtoon

BY DONGGEON LEE

▲ Yumi's cells are inside of Yumi's brain.



©Yumi's Cells/ Naver Webtoon

▲ Yumi's cells are tiring the millstone to activate Yumi's brain.

Before Reading

Written by author Lee Dong-geon, “Yumi’s Cells” has recently achieved three billion cumulative clicks and has maintained the top rank on Naver Webtoon Saturday for quite a long time.

The story of “Yumi’s Cells” takes place in two different settings. One is in Yumi’s external world and the other is within Yumi’s internal world. Yumi describes herself as an average girl in her 30s working at an average office. She enjoys reading romance novels and loves eating. She met her boyfriend Ku Woong through an introduction. However, after he breaks up with her, she begins dating her coworker Yoo Babi.

Yumi’s cells live within Yumi’s brain. The cells work together to turn the millstone and activate Yumi’s working mind and control her rationality and release emotions. The cells living inside of Yumi are the reason behind her actions and thoughts.

#1 Maybe human psychology is not as complicated as it sounds!

Imaging what is inside the brain of another person may sound impossible. However, readers are proven wrong after a short insight into “Yumi’s Cells.”

Looking into Yumi’s cells, first Hunger Cell is responsible for Yumi’s appetite. Unlike the other cells, Hunger Cell is enormous, a reflection of Yumi’s endless love for food. When Yumi feels hungry in her external world, inside the internal world Hunger Cell goes on a rampage demanding food. Due to its unparticular size, it can ignore the words of other cells depending on its mood.

There is always one cell that has superior abilities compared to the others, known as the prime cell. Everyone has one, and in Yumi’s case it is her Love Cell. Prime cell’s abilities allow it to control external Yumi and other cells.

There are more cells living inside of Yumi. Emotional Cell tends to be active at night and sleeps in the morning. Hysterious is responsible for Yumi’s anger. There are also Rational Cell, Naughty Cell, Anxiety Cell, Spot the Difference Cell, and the list goes on and on. Although there is conflict inside Yumi’s brain, this synergy allows Yumi to think and controls Yumi’s actions.



▲ Each cell has their own characteristics and style.

Although the webtoon circulates around Yumi, the webtoon also introduces the inside of the brains of Yumi’s external acquaintances. Every character also has working cells within them. Each character is differentiated by their own unique prime cell and weighs each cell’s importance differently creating their own unique personality. However, the goals each designated cell wants to achieve are identical; individual cells have their own simple but exact role.

Jung Jung-bin, a student majoring in Industrial Design at Chung-Ang University, shares, “Since the story is delivered from the viewpoint of the cells, the readers are able to see Yumi’s external world from a third-person viewpoint,” she began, “Readers can know that every single individual is different in their own way, but at the same time, everyone is normal and has a human touch.” Eventually, a combination of cells creates a new synergy designing a different individual. When faced with a tiresome relationship be reminded that within the mind of another person, adorable cells are living and thinking. Each individual is actually a new combination created by the same cells oriented variously by simple motivations.



▲ When Yumi is thinking, the cells are turning the millstone.

#2 The main character of my story is myself

There is a part in the story where Yumi is having a hard time due to her breakup with Ku Woong, whom she had expected to end up marrying. All along, Yumi thought Woong to be her destiny. Woong was a special person to Yumi, and she believed that he was the main male character of her life. However, the cell living inside of Yumi tells her, “Sorry, but Woong is not the main male character.” Yumi asks, “Then who is?” The cell then replies, “There is no main male character. This story only has one main character.” The boyfriend that Yumi expected to be her destiny and half of her whole was only a supporting cast in the story of Yumi’s life. This idea continues to hold validity throughout the story.

After her breakup with Woong, Yumi begins a new relationship with her coworker Yoo Babi. During their relationship, Babi quits his office job to begin a restaurant; however, he begins to grow feelings for the young part-timer. After learning Babi’s new feelings, Yumi breaks up with him. Knowing that a boyfriend is only a passing fancy, she realized she had to put herself first. The main character of her story was no one but herself, and she had to make herself a priority. Yumi knew what made her happy and was able to act upon it. As the webtoon developed, readers were able to see Yumi maturing year by year.

Ellen Choi, a student studying Economics at Sogang University, said, “In ‘Yumi’s Cells’ whenever Yumi is faced with a difficult situation, it is clear that Yumi sets her own rules to put herself first and solves her problems. As a result, compared to the beginning in recent episodes, overall Yumi became more independent and more mature.” The development and Yumi’s maturing seems apparent, and at the same time it sends a message to the readers to become more self-reliant and self-loving, a recurring reminder that “the main character of my story is myself.”



©Yumi's Cells/ Naver Webtoon

▲ Yumi is corrected by her own cell after thinking Ku Woong was her star, male character.

#3 Relax; it takes time

Through rough and tough times, through all the laughter and tears, in the end, it was all for love. Yumi’s prime cell has been Love Cell; however, after all the difficult relationships, breakups, and hardships, Yumi has changed. After her breakup with Babi, Yumi decides not to devote her energy to love. As a result, her prime cell, Love Cell, is changed to Writer Cell.

Yumi has always longed to become a writer. To achieve this dream, Yumi leaves her office job to devote her full energy to writing. Nevertheless, this idea does not progress as smoothly as planned. Yumi continuously fails.

One day, an editor that conducted a contest calls Yumi into his office. The editor was immersed in Yumi’s writing but unfortunately could not award her for her story lacked completion. The editor guides Yumi to help her publish her book, and from there on out Yumi continues her career as a web writer, writing and uploading weekly, and communicating with her fans through the comments. Although Yumi has a hard time going through a series of failures in writing contests, thanks to the process she was rewarded with happiness, further development in writing, and a supporting editor.

Jung Jung-bin says, “Yumi’s writing abilities may have improved along the way, but Yumi’s failure and past experiences helped her grow and develop into a stronger person. Yumi changed, and she was able to publish her next accomplishment.” Jung-bin adds, “An opportunity emerges at the most unexpected place at an unexpected time. It is the irony of fate.” Yumi has several failures, but she makes her debut as a writer with help on an unexpected route.

As the story progresses, readers can notice Yumi’s development. In the end, Yumi’s happiness is achieved as time passes on. It is true that Yumi has her ups and downs through trials and errors and sometimes regrets leaving her office job, especially when she is rejected in a writing contest. But after a storm comes the calm. Yumi is able to succeed in what she loves the most.

Time does not wait; nor does it go backwards. Focusing on what is ahead and planning for the better is dependent on how one is deciding to write the next chapter of the story.

Sometimes feelings are complex and too great to express. Within our body, our cells endlessly experience emotions, and each one voices out its opinions, trying to encompass more space. Human emotions cannot be narrowed down into a couple of words, which is well reflected in “Yumi’s Cells.” The webtoon provides so much laughter and love to its audience, moreover, bringing sympathy that tingles readers’ hearts. The Argus reminds readers to try their utmost with what they are given to take this opportunity to look back and reflect upon themselves. 📖

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©Park Chang-hwan/The Argus

Walking into Yumi's Brain, 'Yumi's Cells' Special Exhibition

By Jang Soo-hyun
Editor of Culture Section

If another part of me were living inside of me, wouldn't you want to meet it? "Yumi's Cells" that we met through Culture Focus is coming to life to meet the readers. Previously seen sharing the love and delivering sympathy to the readers, the cells are returning to the audience to enjoy and create new memories through "Yumi's Cells" special exhibition. The Argus visits the special exhibition to meet the cells that have come to life.

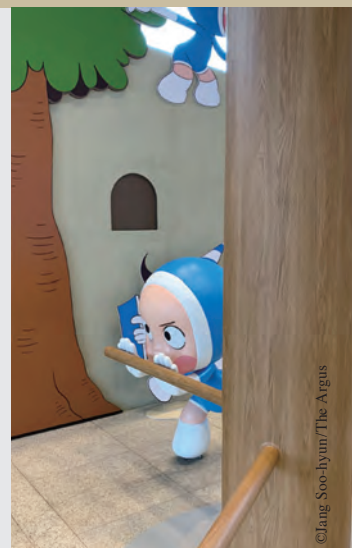


©Jang Soo-hyun/The Argus

Getting off from Line 3 of Gyeongbokgung Station and walking 200 meters, Groundseesaw Seochon will be welcoming their visitors to "Yumi's Cell" special exhibition. Groundseesaw consists of four floors, and the special exhibition is full of wonders that will grasp visitors' attention. Continuing until March 14 of next year, there is more than enough time to slowly visit the exhibition. The weekday price is set at 9,000 won (US\$ 7.5), and on the weekend it will be 12,000 won (US \$10).

As the special exhibition prioritizes visitors who make reservations, it is recommended to purchase tickets in advance. This reservation is for the purpose of limiting the number of people inside the exhibition to prevent the spread of COVID-19. With 20-minute intervals, each time slot is limited to 50 people. In addition, visitors must do a temperature check and write down personal information. Hand sanitizers are placed throughout the exhibition for visitors. An anonymous male visitor in his 20s shared, "As I knew they were limiting people through the reservation system, I felt less worried about COVID-19," he shared. He added, "Also, there were not that many people."

Yumi could not easily open her heart, but the adorable was her weak spot. Even though she could not open her heart for a person, she could do so, for example, for a cute cat. Visitors after entering would climb up a half circular staircase and would meet the gatekeeper saying, "the adorable can enter without knowing the password."



©Jang Soo-hyun/The Argus

▲ Yumi's gatekeeper likes adorable things.

▲ A cell is turning the millstone.



▲ A part of the exhibition is reserved for Yumi.

2D to 3D, breaking free from the screen

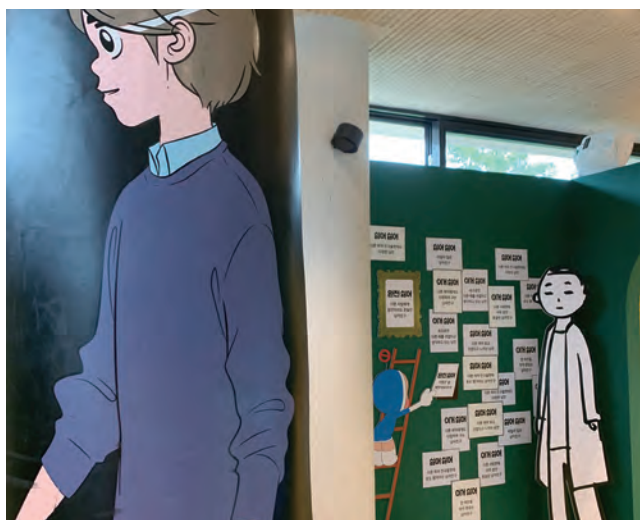
Yumi and her cells, limited to a small frozen phone screen, have broken out and come into real life. The cells have speech bubbles above their head, reviving the actions that focus on their own unique characteristics. By standing next to it, the visitor seems as if they are a part of a comic scene.

Before entering the exhibition, every character was shortly introduced along with their relationship to one another. Spoiler alert for those who have not finished reading the webtoon!

First, the visitor enters Yumi's brain which is filled with Yumi's Cells. After each cell is introduced, the exhibition continues to focus on Yumi. There is a short explanation of Yumi along with her characteristics, hobbies, and interests, and a list of likes. On one side of the wall, a list of Yumi's words is organized into an encyclopedia. Reading all the words only Yumi and the readers know, the memories of each episode come back to life. In that area, Yumi comes into life.

Afterwards, important characters from the webtoon are focused one by one in their own designated room. All the men that have passed in Yumi's life, Ku Woong, Yoo Babi, and Soonrok respectively have their own focused area.

Each character and his relationship with Yumi are organized



▲ A part of the exhibition is saved for Yoo Babi.



▲ Ku Woong and Yumi's first date can be reenacted at the exhibition.

into short highlights from the comic; for example, heart fluttering moments in the beginning of her relationship with Ku Woong to the event that eventually ended the relationship. These important moments are narrowed down into a few comic strips that revive the visitor's memory. There is also a photo spot to take pictures of the most important and captivating moments. Yumi and Ku Woong had their first date at a frog park. Yumi wanted a discount for the entrance ticket, leading to Woong and Yumi to take a photo in front of a frog cardboard cutout wearing a frog hat and uploading it on Instagram. A similar background can be found at the exhibition with a few sets of frog headbands that are ready to be worn. This is a description of the room that is focused on Woong and his relationship with Yumi. The characters that have affected Yumi all come to life one by one in the exhibition. Each character is well described in the limited space, and within that



▲ Yumi's room is filled with Yumi's memories with Sunlok.



©Jang Soo-hyun/The Argus



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▲ A wall is filled with countless numbers of Yumi's cells, and voters rank their favorite cell.

small space, each character comes to life, breathing.

An anonymous male in his 20s shared, “The comic ‘Yumi’s Cells’ has been ongoing for more than 500 episodes. As it is difficult to re-read the whole series, I was able to capture a contracted version of 500 episodes at the exhibition.” The special exhibition describes the characters in chronological order, focusing on the important parts in the story, and the visitors are able to capture the webtoon in a short period of time.

Other than that, there are moments in the special exhibition that vividly draw out the characters from the webtoon. As the reporter walked into a section of Yumi’s room, projectors from several different angles shot towards the three-dimensional room and floor of what is designed to be Yumi’s room. The wall ahead shows Yumi walking with her boyfriend, Soonrok in the winter in which they met. The projection changes as time pass and season of attire changes as well. Through the projection, Yumi’s 2D moments from the webtoon seems to be



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▲ Judge Cell, currently claiming Yumi's innocence, was a huge fan of Yumi.



©Jang Soo-hyun/The Argus

▲ Yumi's prime cell is Love Cell. Visitors are able to find their own prime cell.

walking as if in real life.

The distinctiveness of the special exhibition is that Yumi and her cells that were frozen inside a small phone screen jumps out into reality as three-dimensional figures. As the cells are as large as the visitors, it is as if the visitors is living among the characters and cells.

The comic in real life, vivid interaction area

For better and clear memories, the special exhibition created several interactive activities. As mentioned above, the exhibition explains Yumi’s cells early on in the exhibition. On one side of the wall, each cell is trapped inside a cube. With 6 rows and 10 columns, there are a total of 60 cubs that fill one side of the wall. On one side of the cube there is a photo of the cell, and when the cube is pushed a description is contained on the other side. Simply informative and entertaining at the same time, the visitor pushes each cube one by one. The wall left is covered with a screen, and in front of it is a podium. Visitors are to vote for their top three favorite cells among the 60 they have just seen. After voting, the accumulative results are shown, and visitors are able to know which cell is the most popular among the readers.

How well do you know Yumi? Inside Yumi’s brain there is one cell that has cheered and supported Yumi to its fullest. This cell took the Yumi Examination and passed, later to become the Judge Cell. If one wants to boost their love for “Yumi’s Cells,” the Yumi Examination is the chance. The small details that have passed through the comic are in the examination detailed that even the most meticulous readers will have to tilt their heads to solve it. Thankfully, the friendly examination has noted down the episode number of the comic for the readers that wish to look up the answers. For the indolent, the answers are on the back page of Yumi Examination. For curious readers, solving Yumi’s examination will be quite fun.

The next interactive activity is “finding my prime cell.”

By answering 10 short personal questions about oneself, the exhibition tells the visitor what their personal prime cell is. An anonymous male in his 20s shared, “Finding my prime cell was the most memorable hands-on activity. It was relatable, and I was thinking about whether this cell was actually living inside of me. I am thankful as exhibition planners would guess my prime cell.” He shared his overall impression. He added, “Also, I was able to freely participate in these hands-on activities because of the hand sanitizers that were excessively placed throughout.” Through interactive activities curators communicate with their readers and create special and long-lasting memories through customized activities for each of the visitors.

A sneak peek into what is behind the scenes

The reason behind “Yumi’s Cells” able to maintain top ranks on Saturday can be said to be thanks to author Lee Dong-geun’s creativity and unique cheekiness. Some fans of “Yumi’s Cells” are not only interested in what is on the surface of the webtoon but also what is behind it. In this special exhibition, author Lee Dong-geun shares his ideas and experiences of writing the webtoon.

Webtoon author Lee exhibited his first sketches he sent to Naver Webtoon in 2015. Visitors were able to see the round face of Yumi in Episode 1 and reminiscence on the days before the drawings changed from the original style. In addition, the blue Yumi’s cells that are colored were



▲ Writer Lee Dong-geun talks about where the millstone metaphor has originated from.



▲ A part of the exhibition is reserved for writer Lee Dong-geun.




▲ Writer Lee Dong-geun reveals one of his first sketches.

previously tested in green and purple. There are other evidence of what the author had imagined and tested through the diverse colors and drawings from the author.

Lee has opened up about the origins of his creative ideas. Yumi’s cells turn the millstone when Yumi’s head is trying to work. Lee shared that the idea of the millstone came from his wife’s feedback when she told him, “Do not turn a millstone that is not rolling.” From this advice came the imagery of the cells working together turning the millstone.

Also, readers were able to learn about the process of completion. For example, Babi’s hairstyle is derived from the K-pop idol G-Dragon of Big Bang. Lee shared that he did not originally bring Babi into the Webtoon to make him into a boyfriend, but only to create tension in the story. However, due to his popularity Babi developed into an important character. Shin Soon-rok was created after receiving the idea from Korean actor Park Bo-geum and Kang Ha-neul.

Lastly, the personal characteristics of Lee were listed. Not only were the facts about the author on paper shown such his name, major, blood type, and star sign but there was more such as his hobbies, interests, priorities, favorite movie, music, book, and drama. These detailed characteristics about the author show a touch of humanity, and readers are able to learn more about the author.

Author Lee Dong-geun began publishing “Yumi’s Cells” in April 2015 and has continued for five years. During those years, the webtoon has cultivated a wide following. For the readers that have at least once laughed and cried by reading “Yumi’s Cells,” The Argus highly recommends a visit to the “Yumi’s Cells” special exhibition. Illustrations, videos, large sized masterpieces, music, and much more have come to life to vividly bring “Yumi’s Cells” into reality. The three-dimensional cells have not only made readers feel nostalgic, reminiscing about the early episodes, but have also made visitors think “What if I were part of the comic?” Yumi’s story could be my own. 

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Lunatic Grinding Master: Legendary Moonlight Sculptor

By Na Geum-chaе
Argusian

His Majesty, by the Grace of God, Emperor of Arpen Empire, Head of the Northern Continent, Defender of the World, Legendary Moonlight Sculptor. These are all titles and honors given to “Weed,” the main character of the Korean Literary Role Playing Game (LitRPG) novel, “Legendary Moonlight Sculptor.” The novel illustrates the story of 20-year-old man, Lee Hyun, who plays the VR-MMORPG, “Royal Road.” Due to the unusual setting and likable characters, “Legendary Moonlight Sculptor” gained huge popularity and was even developed into a mobile MMORPG of the same name in October 2019.

About 3.5 million people ordered the mobile game “Legendary Moonlight Sculptor” before its release, breaking the Kakao Games’ record for the most pre-bookings. It also went on to win the grand prize in the Korean Game Awards 2019. However, the game has suffered a series of ups and downs in recent times, and failed to meet original expectations. Marking the first anniversary of the launch of the mobile game “Legendary Moonlight Sculptor,” The Argus takes a closer look at what the novel and the mobile game “Legendary Moonlight Sculptor” have in common, and which elements of the novel has been adapted into the game.





The legend of the Korean LitRPG: Legendary Moonlight Sculptor

Lee Hyun, a 20-year-old high school dropout, is a talented gamer with an enormous debt, mostly inherited from his deceased parents. His only pleasure in life is maintaining his No.1 ranking character in a once popular game called, “Continent of Magic.” In an effort to raise money, he places his “Continent of Magic” account, “Weed,” up for auction. It causes an uproar in the niche gaming community due to the account’s fame as the game’s strongest character, and Lee Hyun earns 3.08 billion won (US\$2.6 million) from it. This lump sum of money, however, is collected by loan sharks because of Lee’s inherited debt, leaving him with around 80 million won (US\$67,000). With his ailing grandmother and younger sister in mind, Lee Hyun joins the VR-MMORPG “Royal Road” to do what he does best: level up a character in game, and sell it to earn more money.

He begins his play on “Royal Road” under the same in-game name as his old character, “Weed.” As his main purpose of playing the game is to make a lot of money as quickly as possible, he plays the game based on strategic calculations. However, Lee, who wanted to grow Weed as the world’s strongest as a warrior character, gets a totally unexpected job called the legendary moonlight sculptor by a strange twist of faith. Players in the novel regard artistic professions such as tailor and painter as the most useless; Lee is bewildered and despondent. Accepting that he cannot change a job that has already been assigned to him, he begins his adventure on “Royal Road” with an indomitable will to make the most out of the legendary moonlight sculptor’s abilities.

With an aptitude for “grinding” at a different level than others, Weed becomes a master in almost all fields, from combat to cooking, sewing, mining, equipment production, and his main occupation, sculpting. Moreover, he liberates the northern part of the in-game continent, which was occupied by vampires, and becomes the Lord of Morata, a small town in northern region of “Royal Road.” Thanks to Weed’s excellent ability and good fortune, his territory develops rapidly, and it is labeled the “Arpen Kingdom.” Furthermore, his interesting adventures, which solves near impossible quests one by one, is broadcasted in the novel’s real world, and creates a great sensation. In the end, Lee Hyun becomes a huge celebrity and makes a big fortune.



The top three features in common



A new attempt to challenge the common norm

The novel and game share common ground in that both have taken on epochal challenges against conventional wisdom. Traditionally, LitRPG novels use stereotyped world views, one-dimensional stories and characters whereby practicality and probability become easier to ignore. However, the novel “Legendary Moonlight Sculptor” breaks away from the oft-repeated storyline and tries something new where the main character, who is a sculptor, ventures into the unknown with various professional skills, such as the Moonlight Sculpting Blade skill or the Sculptural Life Bestowal skill. Not only is it a very novel attempt in itself, its composition played a major role in diversifying the settings of LitRPG novels.

The game “Legendary Moonlight Sculptor” is different from existing games in that it uses a new programming language called “Elixir”—a first for the Korean mobile game industry. Game servers designed with Elixir has a self-correcting coding structure and is free of the chronic bugs shared among servers programmed by the existing, C++ language. However, it is still the sole game in its field based on Elixir. Because of this, it becomes difficult to respond quickly to unexpected problems that occur during the game’s runtime. Nevertheless, the technical significance of “Legendary Moonlight Sculptor” is one to be highly appreciated.



A high degree of freedom and unique contents

The unforeseeable degree of freedom and the distinctive content of “Legendary Moonlight Sculptor” are common elements of the novel and game. As for “Royal Road,” the background of the novel, players choose one from a total of 49 species, which include humans, and obtain jobs ranging

from combat to art specialization. In addition, there is no such concept as ideal development routes or perfect professions in “Royal Road.” Under the absolute truth that “every action returns any outcome,” players build their characters according solely to their tastes. In particular, hidden classes and quests given to users who meet certain conditions are special elements of “Royal Road,” which makes the game more adventurous.

The mobile game “Legendary Moonlight Sculptor” is based on open-world gameplay, illustrating the vast continent of the original work. Besides this, it sets up a system where the “unemployed” or characters without job types, are able to set their careers as sculptors, enhancing the adaptation’s connectivity with the novel. Furthermore, a variety of daily life content such as blacksmithing and fishing provides countless objectives, not just limited to hunting. Most of all, cooking and consumption of the cooked items, which boosts characters’ abilities for a certain period of time, increases the interest and immersion level of players. Meanwhile, hidden quests are also embedded in the game, creating nostalgia for the original.



The endless “grind” to be the best

One glaringly obvious factor that is highlighted both in the novel and the game is “grinding.” Grinding, which refers to doing repetitive tasks within a game to unlock a particular game item or to attain the experience needed to progress smoothly through the game, can be found in Weed’s actions. In the novel, he repeatedly hits scarecrows day and night for four weeks straight to raise his stats, and kills the same set of monsters over and over to gain experience points and gold. He even makes plans for his next hunt when his in-game character’s health points are regenerating, and his colleagues are astonished at his obsession with grinding. In other words, Weed is voluntarily following the endless cycle of simple labor to get the capital needed to develop his abilities and to become stronger than other players.



©Kakao Games Corp.

This kind of grinding is also well-reflected in the real-life game. From the very beginning, the game offers the “Scarecrow Grinding Quest,” which is based off of Weed’s grinding in the novel. For the players who have the patience to kill the scarecrow 10,000 times—an objective that has absolutely no benefits—the game gives the title, “Diligent.” In addition, as the storyline of the game is mainly composed of constant hunting after accepting quests, players are forced to grind on. Moreover, there is even an auto-hunting mode that encourages efficient, hands-free grinding. In sum, the very concept of grinding, adapted accordingly to the two different platforms, becomes a strong point of attraction for mobile game players who have already read the novel.



The top three non-parallel features



The presence of legendary moonlight sculptor

The novel and the game differ in how each embodies the legendary moonlight sculptor. In the novel, Weed gets a job as a “Legendary Moonlight Sculptor” through a hidden quest. Afterwards, he increases his sculpting proficiency through steady carving work, and learns advanced sculpting skills, such as Elemental Sculpting and Sculptural Shapeshifting. In addition, Weed continues to grow by utilizing a special capability of his job—the fastest growth rate of the hand dexterity out of all the professions and an all-rounder that can raise production and art skills to the master level—and becomes a master in various artistic fields including sculpting. In the end, Weed accedes the throne of Arpen Empire, and unifies the continent by conquering the Haven Empire, which is the most powerful rival country. In other words, a job believed to be abject and humble has the last laugh.

On the other hand, the game excluded the legendary moonlight sculptor as a job option due to concerns about the existence of an overpowered class. The legendary moonlight sculptor has high potential, and the novel includes far more descriptions than any other job. Introducing it to the game as is would cause an imbalance between the in-game jobs. Thus, the game used the term “Legendary Moonlight Sculptor” as a title given to sculptors, and added “Sculptor” as a job option. The sculptor in the game is designed to use not only close combat skills, but also a variety of long-distance magic skills; it adapts the original novel by having skills similar, albeit weak, to that of the novel’s legendary moonlight sculptor, such as the Disaster Sculpting and Summon Sculpture skill.



How “sculptures” are materialized and utilized

Sculpting, which is one of the key elements of “Legendary Moonlight Sculptor” is also embodied in different ways in the novel and the game. In the novel, sculptures can be owned by individuals or displayed in public places, and excellent sculptures give buffs to those who have appreciated them. For example, the statue of the goddess Freya, which is carved by Weed, accelerates the recovery of vitality for everyone who sees it. Weed also uses his works as a medium of his skills. Specifically, he ventures together with his sculptures after giving life to them, and exterminates his enemies by using the Disaster Sculpting skill, which actually causes natural disasters by using the sculptures with carvings of disasters.

In the mobile game, however, sculptures can only be displayed in the creators’ houses, and their buffs are also limited to creators. As the buffs that are obtained by displaying the sculpture is of great help to the players’ adventure and growth, carving and exhibiting the sculpture is almost a must for all players. It is greatly different from the novel where the sculptures do not have much meaning to the professions excepting the sculptor. Meanwhile, because of the excellent

effects of sculptures, a number of players are flocking to the hunting ground of “Evite,” a field boss which drops an item that increases the production chances of masterpiece sculptures, which further the advancement of any character in the game.




The coexistence of the real and virtual world

The novel and the game also differ in whether the real world and the virtual world appear together. In the novel, the two characters—Lee Hyun who lives in the real world and Weed, Lee Hyun’s character in the “Royal Road” game—are portrayed in turns. For example, Lee Hyun, who had only shown interest in playing games, develops his social skills through playing the “Royal Road,” and ends up living a more self-reliant and cooperative life. Though the novel’s main background is a virtual world, the novel also reflects the way gamers play MMORPG games in the other world. This creative narrative absorbs readers into the story, offering familiarity and appealing to the readers who have played MMORPG games.

On the other hand, the mobile game is developed with only the viewpoint where players play “Royal Road.” In the mobile game, players meet with Weed and characters in the original work while following the storyline. As the flow of the game’s story is almost the same as that of the novel, players can automatically experience events from the novel and explore various regions from the “Royal Road.” As a result, players who have read the novel can feel more immersed playing the game, and users who have not read the novel are able to naturally understand the original work through the game. In sum, although the game only portrays the virtual world unlike its original

work, it increases popular appeal by lowering the entry barriers for newbies.

The novel “Legendary Moonlight Sculptor” has sold over 850,000 copies during its 13-year run—an unusually successful record for the Korean LitRPG novel. The readers’ journey with the novel’s main character Weed is realized into a MMORPG, and the readers, now as players, are fascinated by the world of the mobile game “Legendary Moonlight Sculptor.” However, a number of bugs identified after the launch, service access delays, and operational problems accelerated customer churn, and sales declined. The biggest rising star of the Korean MMORPG genre in 2019 turned into a nuisance in just over a year.

However, the promising thing is that there is much more of the novels left to be reflected into the game. The contents of the game are an adaptation of only the first and second of the 58 volumes of the novel series. It continues to be updated, and these constant updates draw in players who have read the novels with familiarity. In the novel’s storyline, Weed gets a completely unexpected job, but after strenuous effort, becomes a living history of “Royal Road.” Likewise, The Argus hopes that “Legendary Moonlight Sculpture” grows out of its current slump to become the go-to example of novel-based games. 

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The top three unique features

The ideal game, “Royal Road”

“Royal Road,” the background of the “Legendary Moonlight Sculptor,” would be a game that anyone wants to play. The absolute rule of “Royal Road”—that I can do anything whatever I want—is so attractive. I can experience the game indirectly through Lee Hyun’s journey and get vicarious satisfaction.

- Na Myeong-chae, Dept. of the Art Education

The pioneer of the LitRPG novel

“Legendary Moonlight Sculptor” is valuable in that it brought substance to the LitRPG genre. It also increased diversity by introducing creative settings. Moreover, I think that various elements of MMORPG, which are reflected in the novel and its absorbing narrative contributed greatly to the popularity of the novel.

- Jo Sang-hyeon, Dept. of Police Administration

An emphatic portrait of the main character

The main character Lee Hyun was not an overwhelming character in the beginning, but grows gradually through his own efforts and firm will. His dedication to his family and his everyday lives make me get a feel for humanity. These empathic settings let me cheer for his adventure in “Royal Road.”

- Eom Jun-hyeon, Dept. of Korean Education

Tercets on Love – The Lovers

by Bertolt Brecht

*See how those cranes fly arcing through the sky!
The clouds they have for company on their way
Were there already when they had to fly*

*From one life to another far away.
Together at the selfsame height and pace
It seems an almost casual display.*

*That crane and cloud just chance to share the space
Of the wide skies through which they pass so briefly
So neither one may linger in this place*

*And all they see is one another slightly
Rocking on the wind in loose accord
Who now in flight lie side by side so lightly*

*The wind may carry them off into the void.
If they remain themselves, and hold on tight
They can be touched by nothing untoward*

*It doesn't matter if they're driven out
Threatened by gunshots or by stormy weather.
Indifferent to the sun and moon's pale light*

*They journey on, besotted with each other.
What are you fleeing from?
–The world.*

*–Where to?
–Wherever.*

*You ask how long now have they been together?
Not long.*

*–And when they'll part?
–Oh, soon enough.*

So love appears secure to those who love.

Translated by Thomas Kuhn



What Are Friends for?

By Jeon Nu-ri

Editorial Consultant

One of the main concerns people of all ages have is getting along with others, i.e., making friends. I have struggled with relationships over a period of time, and now I guess I have found my solution, not to be stressed out over other humans. Of course, I have not lived very long, but I expect my stories will give a little bit of insight to those in their early 20s.

First, I stopped being obsessed with friends. There was this friend whom I liked very much. I wanted to know everything about her, and I hoped to be her “best friend,” as being just a very close friend was not enough. Thus, I did my best for her and paid all my attention to her. However, she was still closer with other friends, not me. It made me sad, angry, and jealous. I kept thinking, ‘Why does she like them more than me? Why doesn’t she tell me everything? Why doesn’t she hang out with me more?’ I should have known that friends are not some kind of personal possession. We cannot “own” friends, and we cannot control their minds and feelings even if we try really hard.

Second, I threw away the “good girl syndrome” deep inside me. I wanted everyone to like me and consider me as their good friend. I felt a weird sense of obligation – ‘I should make a lot of friends!’ Accordingly, I did not refuse any requests, not even the demanding ones, because rejection would only make me look like a bad friend. Besides, I was afraid that my friendships would fall apart because of me saying no. Then I realized that being a yes-man does not amount to being a good friend. If you are meant to be friends with someone, then he or she will stay with you even if you say “No!” on some occasions, and vice versa.

Third, I tried to be more open-minded. I tend to enjoy observing people from a distance and judge their personality and behavior. In my head, I formed an image of people whom I barely knew and used that to decide whether I should get close to them or not. I was risking the possibility of making good friends. I obviously knew that it was wrong to judge someone’s characteristics by a swift impression. It was a kind of protection for myself because I used to hear people say, “College friends are fake,” so I kept some distance, trying not to get too close. However, I got to meet such great friends on campus. I become friends with a person I never imagined getting close to, and as we get along and have discovered hidden attractive aspects in each other.

I have a bad habit of putting things off as long as I can, including writing back. Sometimes unread message notifications suffocate me. Nevertheless, I should keep myself alert and be more active in staying in touch since friendship takes efforts. In this COVID-19 era where physical distancing is encouraged, keeping in touch via messenger is important for a lasting friendship, more than ever before.

Oprah Winfrey once said, “Every one of us gets through the tough times because somebody is there, standing in the gap to close it for us.” – This “somebody” could be your friend. Do not get so stressed out agonizing over relationships. Just be yourself, and friends will come along at the right time. 📧

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#audacity: intrepid boldness

Kim Kyung-eun

Mistakes we commit through audacity are easily corrected with more audacity.

- Paulo Coelho

Kim Ha-kyung

Every great advance in science has issued from a new audacity of imagination

- John Dewey

I believe it is still valid if "in science" is excluded.

Song Chan-ho

Audacity helps. When you are awkward at something or just do not know about something, take your audacity out. People might be convinced even if you messed something up, as long as you have it. P.S. Do not use it too much.

Choi Yea-jin

Audacity and confidence are different.

Jang Soo-hyun

Everyone needs to learn how to take a step forward; even if it hurts to take the bandage off.

Na Geum-chaе

With audacity one can undertake anything, but not do everything

- Napoleon Bonaparte

Park Chang-hwan

I promise to be unswaying in the march to my goal.



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