

Current Language Policy of Korea and Its Challenges

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In Korea, most people are monolingual Korean speakers. In the early 20th century, under the Japan's colonial rule, Korean lost its primary language position. However, Korean again became the Korea's official language after liberalization from Japan's colonialism. Now, both North and South Korea recognize only Korean as an official language and only *Hangeul*, Korean alphabet, as an official alphabet. Nonetheless, as one of the policy tasks, it is important to understand linguistic differences caused by division of Korea and to prepare for linguistic unification. Since the 1990s, Korean language education for foreigners has emerged as an important policy issue.

This presentation reviews Korea's language policies for the last 70 years after the liberalization, depending on the changes in linguistic environment and seeks out future challenges and directions of language policies.