The Treatment of Politeness Elements in French-Korean Bilingual Dictionaries

Hae-Yun Jung, Jun Choi
Kyungpook National University
E-mail: haeyun.jung.22@gmail.com, c-juni@hanmail.net

Abstract

Expressions of politeness in French and Korean are lexically as well as conceptually different. For example, there is no equivalent word to the French *s'il te/vous plaît* ('please') in Korean. This particular expression of politeness can be translated in many ways in Korean, which are not necessarily lexical and can also correspond to syntactic elements. At the same time, polite terms of address in French such as *Monsieur/Madame* ('Sir/Madam') have a variety of equivalents which depend on the relationship between the interlocutors and denote the various levels of politeness in Korean. Because of these discrepancies, the lexicographical description of politeness related lexical items presents many issues and shortcomings with regard to their practical use from the perspective of French learners of Korean. The objective of this paper is thus to analyze how lexical items of politeness are treated in French-Korean lexicography and what issues the relevant entries present. The equivalents and examples analyzed are extracted from the Naver dictionary portal, which gathers information from existing published bilingual dictionaries. As a result of the analysis, this study proposes a solution to the issues which the entries of such expressions present by suggesting a model for the lexicographical treatment of politeness elements.

Keywords: Bilingual dictionary, French-Korean lexicography, Politeness, Pragmatic information, Microstructural model

1   Introduction

Politeness research has yielded a number of theories, among which Brown and Levinson's Theory of Face is probably the most cited, whether as a supporting theory or one to refute. One of the major criticisms of the theory of politeness as 'facework' regards the Western bias of its treatment of politeness, despite its claim for universality (Choi 2002: 275; Leech 2005: 4-5; Brown 2011: 61; Culpeper 2011: 15). Despite divergences among opinions on theories of politeness, there is one common thread that guides the understanding of what politeness is. That thread is the notion that the fundamental function of politeness is to maintain good communicative relationships (Leech 2005: 7; Brown 2005: 1410; Sohn 1999: 407). What differs is the way this function is manifested behaviorally and linguistically.

French and Korean in particular are typologically at opposite ends, and it is not surprising that linguistic expressions of politeness are quite different in each language. Although both can express politeness through grammatical elements (e.g. sentence types, mood choice) and lexical items, one-to-one equivalent structures or words are hard to find. Another major difference is that the Korean language has a particularly rich system of honorifics which reflects the vertical polarity of linguistic politeness, as opposed to the horizontal *tu-vous* polarity in French. As contact between various cultures and languages becomes increasingly frequent, the teaching of fundamental communicative resources such as politeness expressions and markers has become likewise essential. While politeness constitutes an important part of KFL (Korean as a Foreign Language) syllabuses, the lexicographic treatment of politeness remains fairly scarce and, indeed, French-Korean/Korean-French dictionary

entries for politeness related headwords present many shortcomings which reflect the linguistic gap between the two languages. This study analyses these weaknesses as they currently exist in the Naver French-Korean dictionary online, which will be presented in Section 2. In particular, Korean equivalents of the French politeness marker *s'il-vous-plaît* (please) will be thoroughly examined in Section 4 after a brief cross-linguistic account of politeness markers (Section 3) in order to provide an alternative microstructural model (Section 5) that can help French learners of Korean use that headword in strategic communicative situations.

2   Naver dictionary

This study aims to analyze headwords denoting politeness as described in the Naver French-Korean dictionary (hereafter, NFKD). Naver is a Korean portal that provides free access to Korean and bilingual (to and from Korean and other languages) dictionary services, including a French-Korean and Korean-French dictionary. The French-Korean dictionary includes 73,000 headwords based on *Prime Dictionnaire Français-Coréen* published by Doosan Dong-a Press. As for the Korean-French dictionary, it consists of 118,000 headwords mainly based on *Nouveau Dictionnaire Coréen-Français* published by Hankuk University of Foreign Studies Press, but also supplemented by the Korean-French *Essence* published by Minjung Seorim Press. These dictionaries are the main printed Korean-French bilingual dictionaries in use. French headwords are complemented by monolingual definitions from Wiktionary.
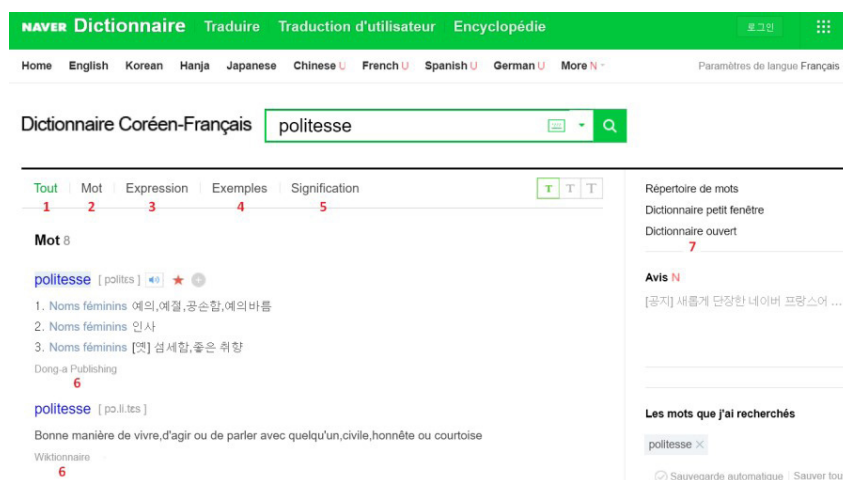

Figure 1: Interface of Naver Korean-French/French-Korean dictionary.

The entry is divided into five tabs. The first gives an overview of all sections (no. 1 in the figure above). The second tab (*Mot*) shows the equivalents for the searched headword and various expressions containing the headword (no. 2). The source is indicated under each subentry, as seen in no. 6. The third tab (*Expression*) gathers a number of idiomatic expressions and proverbs (no. 3). The fourth tab (*Exemples*) lists all examples containing the headword (no. 4). These examples are from both *Prime Dictionnaire Français-Coréen* and *Nouveau Dictionnaire Coréen-Français*. The last tab is called 'Signification' (no. 5) but in fact shows the *Nouveau Dictionnaire Coréen-Français* translations and Wiktionary's descriptions of the equivalents given by *Prime Dictionnaire Français-Coréen*.

As a web dictionary, the contents provided by Naver have been expanded beyond what paper dictionaries could offer. Indeed, now it also includes a French open dictionary (no. 7) that is composed of new types of headwords, such as neologisms, buzzwords, and acronyms, updated with the participation of

students of the Korean Language Center at the University of Lyon 3. In addition, it also contains information from Wikipedia and the RMN (Réunion des musées nationaux) on about 170,000 headwords related to place names, people's names, works of art, titles and so on. With the digitalization of the Korean-French and French-Korean dictionaries, important improvements took place as they keep being updated. Today the Naver dictionary portal for the Korean-French language pair comprises a total of 1,754,850 headwords[1]. However, there are still a number of microstructural issues, in particular shortcomings related to pragmatic information which need to be addressed, including politeness markers.

3   Cross-linguistic Perspectives on politeness markers

Politeness, as mentioned in the introduction, can be behavioral and/or verbal. In the latter case, French politeness can be marked lexically, by using for example the polite pronoun *vous* (you), the polite form of address *Monsieur/Madame* (Sir/Madam), and/or the interjection *s'il-vous-plaît*, as well as syntactically, with the use of the conditional mode, for instance. For the purpose of this study, we will focus on lexical items and provide a detailed lexicographic analysis of the headword study *s'il-vous-plaît* in the following section.

If we compare French with Spanish, Italian, or English, we can find that these languages possess similar markers of politeness to French. Thus, the Spanish *usted* and the Italian *lei* are equivalent in usage to the French *vous*. *S'il-vous-plaît* can be translated into *please*, *per favore*, *por favor* in English, Italian, and Spanish respectively, and their uses are rather similar, too. *Monsieur* and *Madame* also find their equivalents in all three languages, namely *señor/señora* in Spanish, *signore/signora* in Italian, and *sir/madam* in English. Those are examples of equivalents that do not pose major lexicographic issues. Nonetheless, this can be explained by a certain typological and cultural closeness between French and English, and all the more so between French and Italian or Spanish. When considering two languages that are radically different from a typological and cultural point of view, just as French and Korean are, it seems rather obvious that the lexicographic treatment of cultural items such as politeness markers is not without problems.

Before addressing these, it is necessary to expose here the basics of the Korean honorific system. This includes two categories: the speech styles or hearer honorifics (Brown 2011: 23), which reflect the position of the speaker in relation to the hearer, and the referent honorifics, which show respect to the person the speaker is talking about. There are six speech styles in total, and each style has its own sets of verb endings, as seen in the table below.

Table 1. Hearer honorifics and their forms according to sentence mood (adapted from Brown and Yeon 2016: 95)

	Declarative	Interrogative	Imperative	Exhortative
Formal style	*-(su)pnita*[2]	*-(su)pnikka*	*-(u)sipsio*	*-(u)sipsita*
Polite style	*-a/eyo*			
Semiformal style	*-o/so*		*-o*	*-psita*
Familiar style	*-ney*	*-na/-nunka*	*-key*	*-sey*
Intimate style	*-a/e*			
Plain style	*-ta*	*-(nu)nya*	*-(e)la*	*-ca*

The speaker must choose the appropriate style according to whom he speaks. Formal and polite styles can be combined together and are mostly used to address adults, whether strangers or acquaintances,

---

1   This information can be found on the Naver Dictionary homepage by clicking on the language of interest.

2   All transcriptions of Korean follow the Yale Romanization.

as well as elders, including relatives and friends' relatives, and superiors in social and professional situations. Semiformal and familiar styles are seldom used, and intimate and plain styles, which are not honorific, can only be used towards children and very close friends. The polite style remains nonetheless the basic one for most interactions. Such an elaborate hierarchical system contrasts sharply with French politeness, wherein the opposition between *tu* and *vous* reflects the degree of intimacy between the speaker and the interlocutor, that is, a horizontal polarity.

The referent honorifics occur not only grammatically (i.e., in verb ending choices) but also lexically (i.e. word choices). To show respect to the person who is the subject of the sentence (whether the addressee or a third party) the particle *-si-* needs to be added between the verb stem and the verb ending. Nonetheless, in some cases there are alternative forms to some verbs, as shown in the examples below.

(1) *issta* (to stay, non-honorific): *kyeysita* (to stay, honorific)
(2) *cata* (to sleep, non-honorific): *cwumwusita* (to sleep, honorific)
(3) *mekta* (to eat, non-honorific): *capswusita* (to eat, honorific)

A number of nouns and some case particles also have honorific equivalents.

(4) *nai* (age, non-honorific): *yensey* (age, honorific)
(5) *salam* (person, non-honorific): *pwun* (person, honorific)
(6) *-ka/i*, (nominative case particle, non-honorific): *-kkeyse* (nominative case particle, honorific)

None of the honorific forms for the examples 1 to 5 are given as equivalents to the French headwords *rester* (to stay), *dormir* (to sleep), *manger* (to eat), *âge* (age), and *personne* (person). This is quite surprising considering the fact that honorification occupies a significant place in the Korean language.

Besides, Korean forms of address also constitute a complex network of terms showing the acknowledgement of the interlocutor's social and relational status by and with the speaker. While in France only the titles *Monsieur/Madame* have remained, it is common in Korea to use a professional title to which the deferential suffix *–nim* is attached to address someone, especially if that profession is considered honorable by Korean society[3]. This shows how stratified Korean society is, and, by consequence, how socially codified the Korean language is.

4   A case study: s'il-vous-plaît

As seen in the example below, NFKD provides three equivalents (with a paraphrase in brackets for the last equivalent) to the interjection *s'il-vous-plaît*.

(7) S'il-vous-plaît: *mianhaciman* [sorry but], *ese* [eagerly], *puti* [I beg you] (*puthakipnita* [it is a request])[4]

As example 7 shows, the equivalents are not synonyms and correspond to very different situations. Nonetheless, they are given without further information as to how, when, and to whom they should be used. The user has to cross-check him/herself with the examples. However, in the case of *s'il-vous-plaît*, there are 200 examples from both *Prime Dictionnaire Français-Coréen* and *Nouveau Dictionnaire Coréen-Français* (Table 2), which are distributed as 20 examples per page in no particular order.

---

3   The issue of address terms in French-Korean dictionaries was presented by Nam K. and Jung H-Y. at the Asialex Conference in June 2015.

4   See Appendix 1 for the original presentation. Personal translations into English in Examples are provided in square brackets.

Table 2: Distribution of examples by dictionary sources.

Sources	Number of examples
Prime Dictionnaire Français-Coréen	51
Nouveau Dictionnaire Coréen-Français	149

Since it is reasonable to assume that most dictionary users will not go through the 200 examples, it is essential to look into the validity of the equivalents before analyzing the them. The following examples show how the main Korean dictionary, namely the *Unabridged Dictionary of Standard Korean*, describes the usages of these equivalents.

(8) *mian-hata* 2. (in the forms '*mian-haciman*', '*mian-haoman*') Used to request one's consent in a humble way. ¶ *mian-haciman, kil com pikhye cwu-sipsio* [sorry but could you let me pass please?]

(9) *ese* 2. Used to welcome or invite someone in a cheerful way. ¶ *ese o-key* [welcome]/*ese o-sipsio* [please welcome]/*ese tu-sipsio* [please welcome]

(10) *puti*. Used to express one's heartfelt feelings when requesting something or asking a favor from someone, with the meanings of 'hopefully', 'at any cost', or 'by all means'. ¶ *emenim, puti mom-cosim-ha-sipsio* [mother, please take care of your health]/*ipon moim-ey puti chamsek-haye cusiki pala-pnita* [By all means, please attend this meeting]

The first equivalent *mian-haciman* is indeed a form of politeness, just as *s'il-vous-plaît* is, and both can serve to initiate a request, especially one that might impose on the interlocutor. However, while the meaning of the two words overlaps in this case, the former has a more restricted use and the latter encompasses other functions that *mian-haciman* does not. In that sense, this equivalent should be granted a usage information gloss, all the more so because it is illustrated in the examples provided by NFKD by only one instance. The second equivalent *ese* literally means 'quickly, promptly', but once combined with a verb meaning 'come in', such as *o-ta* (to come) and *tul-ta* (to go in), the phrase assumes the meaning of 'welcome'. By no means does *ese* alone mean 'please' nor the verb alone 'welcome'; *ese* is thus not an equivalent of *s'il-vous-plaît*. In fact, only one instance of *ese* figures among the 200 examples, and it is precisely the combination *ese* + verb meaning 'come in': *ese tule-o-seyyo* (please, come in). Finally, *puti*, which expresses the speaker's feelings of hope and/or the urgency of a request, corresponds to the use of *s'il-vous-plaît* when it means '*je vous en supplie* (I beg you)'. Again, only one example of *puti*'s use is shown among the 200 examples.

It seems then rather surprising that the equivalents provided by NFKD are shown in context only once each, considering that there are 200 examples. Nonetheless, as Szende (1999: 200) pointed out, if one of the most basic roles of examples is to show the word in a sentence, thereby serving as "*proofs*" and "*models*"[5], another function of examples is to complement equivalents. Therefore, it is now necessary to analyze the examples and examine to what extent they fulfill these roles. In order to achieve this, we classified the examples according to the situation wherein *s'il-vous-plaît* is used across the two dictionary sources. For this classification, we excluded the examples of *s'il-te-plaît* as they should appear under the headword '*s'il-te-plaît*'. As a result, there are 46 examples from *Prime Dictionnaire Français-Coréen* and 112 examples from *Nouveau Dictionnaire Coréen-Français* to be analyzed. The statistical results are shown in the following table.

---

5   In italic in the text.

Table 3: Number of examples according to the uses of s'il-vous-plaît and dictionary sources.

	s'il-vous-plaît in context	Prime Dictionnaire Français-Coréen	Nouveau Dictionnaire Coréen-Français	Total
1	used to attract the attention of someone or a group	-	11	11
2	used on sign boards	-	1	1
3	used over the telephone (professional or private calls)	1	3	4
4	used when ordering something at a restaurant/coffeeshop	18	11	29
5	used when buying something at a counter	1	3	4
6	request (services or private domain): imperative mood or nominal sentence	4	61	65
7	mitigated request (services or private domain): interrogative or declarative forms	3	19	22
8	used to ask permission	-	2	2
9	used ironically (not to convey politeness)	2	-	2
10	unclear or ambiguous example	2	1	3
11	translation does not correspond to the example	7	-	7
12	example does not correspond to *s'il-vous-plaît* but illustrates uses of verb *plaire* (please)	8	-	8
Total		46	112	158

It has to be noted that requests have been divided into two categories – simple and mitigated requests, on the basis of the sentence type in French, since the scope of this study is limited to the perspective of French learners of Korean and takes the position of French speakers who aim to produce in Korean. In this case, mitigated requests correspond to indirect orders, the order being mitigated by the interrogative or declarative forms, verbs such as *pouvoir* (can), *vouloir* (want), *aimer* (would like), and/or the use of the conditional mood as seen in the examples below selected from NFKD.

(11) *Pourriez-vous parler plus fort s'il-vous-plaît?* [could you please speak louder?] à interrogative form + *pouvoir* + conditional mood. (source: *Nouveau Dictionnaire Coréen-Français*)

(12) Pouvez-vous me couper le quatre quarts s'il-vous-plaît? [Can you please cut the pound cake for me?] à interrogative form + pouvoir (source: Prime Dictionnaire Français-Coréen)

(13) *Voulez-vous me dire où se trouve la poste, s'il-vous-plaît?* [Could you (literally, do you want to) please tell me where the post office is?] à interrogative form + *vouloir* (source: *Nouveau Dictionnaire Coréen-Français*)

(14) *J'aimerais une photocopie de ce document, s'il-vous-plaît.* [I would like a photocopy of this document, please] à declarative form + *aimer* + conditional mood (source: *Nouveau Dictionnaire Coréen-Français*)

The second step of the analysis was to examine the Korean translations and find out how *s'il-vous-plaît* was rendered. In this step, categories 9 to 12 are excluded since they are not relevant or useful to the study of polite expressions, and category 1 is treated separately. The table below gives an overview of various Korean politeness markers used to translate *s'il-vous-plaît* in the context of making request, and the number of examples found in *Prime Dictionnaire Français-Coréen* and *Nouveau Dictionnaire Coréen-Français*.

Table 4: Korean equivalents to s'il-vous-plaît according to its uses and dictionary sources.

	s'il-vous-plaît in context	Korean expression of politeness to render s'il-vous-plaît	Prime Dictionnaire Français-Coréen	Nouveau Dictionnaire Coréen-Français
2	used on sign boards	verb stem+-*si*-+verb ending	-	1
3	used over the telephone (professional or private calls)	(*puthak-hapnita*)	1	-
		com + verb stem+-*a/e cwu*-+-*si*-+verb ending	-	2
		(*camsimanyo*)	-	1
4	used when ordering something at a restaurant/ coffeeshop	verb stem *cwu* (give)+verb ending	-	1
		verb stem *cwu* (give)+-*si*-+verb ending	15	8
		verb stem+*a/e cwu*-+-*si*-+verb ending	-	1
		(*puthak-hapnita/hayyo*)	2	1
		no particular marker	1	-
5	used when buying something at a counter	verb stem *cwu* (give)+-*si*-+verb ending: *cwuseyyo*	-	3
		no particular marker	1	-
6	request (services or private domain): imperative mood or nominal sentence	(*camsimanyo*) (*ese oseyyo*)	-	2
		com	-	1
		puti	-	1
		(*puthaktulipnita/puthakhayyo*)	-	2
		verb stem+-*si*-+verb ending	-	13
		ceypal + verb stem+-*si*-+verb ending	1	-
		com + verb stem+-*si*-+verb ending	-	5
		verb stem+*a/e po*-+-*si*-+verb ending	-	1
		verb stem+*a/e cwu*-+verb ending	-	7
		verb stem+*a/e cwu*-+-*si*-+verb ending	1	11
		com + verb stem+*a/e cwu*-+verb ending	-	2
		com + verb stem+*a/e cwu*-+-*si*-+verb ending	1	3
		ceypal + verb stem+*a/e cwu*-+verb ending	-	3
		ceypal + verb stem+*a/e cwu*-+-*si*-+verb ending	-	2
		ceypal + *com* + verb stem+*a/e cwu*-+verb ending	-	2
		no particular marker	1	6
7	mitigated request (services or private domain): interrogative or declarative mood	*mianhaciman*	1	-
		verb stem+-*si*-+verb ending	-	2
		com + verb stem+-*si*-+verb ending	-	1
		verb stem+*a/e cwu*-+verb ending	-	1
		verb stem+*a/e cwu*-+-*si*-+verb ending	1	2
		com + verb stem+*a/e cwu*-+-*si*-+verb ending	-	2
		verb stem+*a/e cwu*-+-*si*-+-*keyss*-+verb ending	-	4
		com + verb stem+*a/e cwu*-+-*si*-+-*llayyo*	-	3
		verb stem+*a/e cwu*-+-*si*-+-*l swu iss*-+-*si* -+verb ending	1	-
		com	-	2
		(*puthakhayyo*)	-	1
		no particular marker	-	1
8	used to ask permission	verb stem+*a/e cwu*-+-*si*-+-*l swu iss*-+verb ending	-	1
		verb stem+*a/eto toy(be)-lkkayo*	-	1
Total			27	100

The words in brackets correspond to formulaic expressions that contain the notion of *s'il-vous-plaît* without having a separate element that would translate literally to *s'il-vous-plaît*: *puthak-hapni-ta/-hayyo* means 'could you please do me this favor'; *camsimanyo* means 'one moment please'; and *ese tuleoseyyo* means, as mentioned earlier, 'please welcome'. The 'no particular marker' category encompasses two phenomena. First, politeness is rendered only by the verb endings chosen, that is, the use of deferential speech style (-*(su)pnita; -(su)pnikka; -(u)sipsio*), with no other marker that would render the specific French marker *s'il-vous-plaît*, as seen in example 15 below. Second, the Korean translation is a literal one, thereby ignoring the pragmatic dimension of the French sentence and omitting any marker to render *s'il-vous-plaît*, as illustrated in example 16.

(15) *Pourriez-vous m'indiquer les toilettes, s'il vous plaît madame?* [Madam, could you please tell me where the toilets are, please?]
       à hwacangsil-i   eti-i-pnikka? (source: Nouveau Dictionnaire Coréen-Français)
       toilets-nominative   where-copula-deferential interrogative verb ending
(16) *Je reprendrai une part de tarte tatin, s'il-vous-plaît.* [I will have another slice of tarte tatin, please]
       à talutu tatayng-ul   te   mek-ul ke-yeyyo. (source: Prime Dictionnaire Français- Coréen)
       tarte tatin-accusative   more   eat-future tense marker-polite verb ending

Although Table 4 seems to show too many different ways to translate *s'il-vous-plaît* to rationalize the equivalents, we can nonetheless observe some recurrent patterns.

- The quasi systematic use of the honorific particle -*si*-. Out of the 127 examples retained, 84 cases (66.1%) contain the pre-final verb ending -*si*- as politeness marker.
- The frequent use of the lexical bundle - *a/e cwu*-, wherein the verb *cwu*- does not have the literal meaning of 'give' but functions as an auxiliary, and which can be combined with the pre-final verb ending -*si*- (50 cases, 39.4%).
- The use of the adverb *com* (literally, a little) as a politeness marker, which can also be combined with the above (24 occurrences, 18.9%). This politeness marker appears to be less strong than the other two mentioned above, as it appears alone (that is, without the use of the pre-final verb ending -*si*- and/or the lexical bundle - *a/e cwu*-) in only one case. Nonetheless, it has a function of mitigating a request, defined in the *Unabridged Dictionary of Standard Korean* as follows: "used to sound less imperative when asking for a favor or seeking one's consent". Besides, *com* appears in the examples much more frequently than *puti* which is given as an equivalent.

There are, in addition, eight occurrences of the adverb *ceypal*, which is found to be combined with any or all of the above. In fact, *ceypal* means 'hopefully' (*Unabridged Dictionary of Standard Korean*) and does not mean 'please' *per se*. Rather, it functions as an intensifier when used in making requests. In that sense, *ceypal* could be translated by *s'il-vous- plaît* while the opposite is not necessarily true. *Ceypal* is very similar in meaning and usage to *puti*, with a difference of register, *ceybal* being less formal than *puti*. Finally, when *s'il-vous-plaît* is used as an interjection to attract the attention of someone (category 1 in Table 3) as in *'S'il-vous-plait Monsieur/Madame/Mademoiselle!'*, it can be translated by many forms and phrases in Korean, most of which contain an adverb of place such as *yeki* (here) or *ceki* (there) and/or the verb *po*- (see) and can be combined with the patterns mentioned above.

5   Suggestions for improving the lexicographic treatment of polite expressions in NFKD

As seen in the previous sections, NFKD has many shortcomings in entries related to politeness markers and expressions. These can be categorized as follows:

- Equivalents are incomplete due to the asymmetry in politeness-related markedness. Indeed, Korean has honorific equivalents to a number of common words which are polite *per se*. These honorific equivalents are in most cases not provided in the corresponding French headword. For example, when asking someone politely over the phone if he or she is in the office, it would be inappropriate to use the verb *issta* (to stay, to be, non-honorific); instead, *kyeysita* (to stay, to be, honorific) should be used. But as mentioned in Section 3, the honorific form is provided neither for the headword *rester* (to stay) nor the headword *être* (to be).

- Equivalents are inaccurate due to the lack of pragmatic information. For instance, *ese*, as seen in the previous section, can only render the notion of the French politeness marker *s'il-vous-plaît* when used with a semantically restricted set of verbs. Hence, this type of translation should be presented in the examples section or as phraseology, but not as an equivalent (i.e., in the equivalents section).

- Equivalents are inconsistent with the examples provided in the entry. Each of the three equivalents given for *s'il-vous-plaît* appears only once or twice out of the 200 examples. While one function of examples is to show other translation choices, there should be some coherence among all the parts of the entry. Conversely, some translation possibilities presented in the examples should be given as equivalents with appropriate explanation.

- Equivalents are inaccurate because of the tendency to provide equivalents that are on the same level as the headword. That is to say, the equivalents provided for the lexical item *s'il-vous-plaît* are likewise single lexical units. However, we have seen in the previous section that it was most likely rendered not only by syntactical elements, but also by the combination of syntactical and lexical elements, and by the speech level. While French politeness can also be rendered by grammatical patterns and phrases that colligate with the exclamation *s'il-vous-plaît*, such as *pouvoir* (can) in conditional mood and interrogative sentences, it is hardly conceivable to sound polite without using *s'il-vous-plaît*, no matter the sentence structure. In Korean, it is not a single word but the pattern itself that means *s'il-vous-plaît*, and this is precisely what should be reflected in the equivalents section.

Besides these weaknesses, additional issues can be raised. In the case of *s'il-vous-plaît* in particular, there are other patterns which are common expressions of politeness and can be used in requests to render the notion of *s'il-vous-plaît*. Nonetheless, they do not appear in the examples provided by NFKD. These patterns, which can combine with those identified in the previous section, fall under the category of mitigated requests (indirect requests) and can be divided in two groups: 1) *-myeon* (if) + *-keyss-* (future tense marker) patterns (Jeon 2004: 73) as seen in 17, and 2) volitive verb patterns (Choi 2002: 286) as seen in 18.

(17) (verb stem or verb stem+*a/e cwu+si*)-*myen coh-keyss-supnita* (it would be great if…), *kamsaha/komap-keyss-supnita* (I would be grateful if…)

(18) (verb stem or verb stem+*a/e cwu+si*)-*ki palapnita* (I/we would like you to…)[6]

Furthermore, many of the shortcomings addressed here could be linked to one crucial issue, which is the target user of French-Korean and Korean-French dictionaries. Until the last century, most were addressed to a French-learning Korean public (Choi 2016: 194). Despite some efforts to encompass both Korean and French users, the results remain somewhat unequal. Indeed, pragmatic information is provided for only two examples out of 200, and in the Korean language only. However, bilingual French-Korean lexicography needs to evolve to reflect today's socio-relational realities, such as the growing number of university partnerships between France and Korea and the increasing number of French learners of Korean[7]. As mentioned earlier, the NFKD microstructural content is mainly based

---

6   Choi (2002) notes, however, that this pattern is mostly used on formal occasions.

7   See the government-run French diplomacy website: https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/south-korea/france-and-south-korea/

on two printed dictionaries. While the macrostructure keeps being updated and supplemented, the microstructure remains almost unchanged from the printed version.

Now, if we are to update the equivalents section of the headword *s'il-vous-plaît* for instance, what challenges do we face and what caution do we need to take? Considering the number of combinational choices in Korean, the primary focus should be on the division of these various, unlike the single list currently provided by NFKD. Furthermore, providing appropriate amounts of equivalents and grammatical information is an important factor in the readability and thereby in the effectiveness of the dictionary entry. Finally, it is necessary to review and perhaps rethink existing "supplementary meaning-elucidating strategies" (Adamska-Sałaiak 2016: 156), such as glosses in brackets, usage label, and explanatory notes. On the basis of these considerations and the patterns and usage analyzed above, we propose the following microstructural model for the headword *s'il-vous-plaît*.

Table 5: Proposed microstructural model for the headword s'il-vous-plaît.

Microstructural labels	Equivalents
I. *Général* (general)	
1. (*requête directe*) (direct request)	~ (좀) V-아/어 주세요[주십시오]. ~ (com) V-a/e cwuseyyo[cwusipsio] ~ (좀) V-세요[십시오]. ~ (com) V-seyyo[sipsio]
2. (*requête indirecte/atténuée*) (indirect/ mitigated request)	~ (좀) V-아/어 주시면 좋[감사하/고맙]겠습니다. ~ (com) V-a/e cwusimyen coh[kamsaha/komap] keysssupnita ~ (좀)부탁드립니다[합니다/입니다/해요] ~ (com) pwutaktulipnita[hapnita/ipnita/hayyo] ~ (좀) V-아/어 주실래요? ~ (com) V-a/e cwusillayyo?
II. *Situations particulières* (particular situations)	
1. (*demander la permission de faire quelque chose*) (asking permission)	~ (좀) V-아/어도 될까요[괜찮을까요]? ~ (com) V- a/eto toylkkayo[koaynchanhulkkayo]?
2. (*passer la commande au restaurant[café]; acheter quelque chose au comptoir*) (ordering at a restaurant [coffeeshop]; buying something at a counter)	~을/를* 주세요 ~ul/lul* cwuseyyo * accusative marker
3. (*interpeller quelqu'un pour attirer son attention*) (calling out someone to attract their attention)	여[저]기요 ye[ce]kiyo 여기 좀 보세요 yeki com poseyyo
4. (*expressions figées*) (phrases)	
un instant s'il-vous-plaît (one moment please)	잠시만요 camsimanyo
entrez s'il-vous-plaît (please come in)	어서 (들어) 오세요 ese (tule) oseyyo

In the 'Equivalents' column, *V* stands for 'verb' and round brackets signal optional items (i.e., may or may not be used), while square brackets indicate the various paradigms to choose from. As politeness markers such as *s'il-vous-plaît* have a crucial role in interpersonal discourse, the rationale of this model is the use of situation-based labels.

6   Conclusion

This study has addressed the issue of equivalents in regard to expressions of politeness, focusing on the French headword *s'il-vous-plaît* in the French-Korean online dictionary provided by Naver. The equivalents were found inaccurate, misleading, or incomplete, as no pragmatic information is provided for this discourse resource. An analysis of the 200 examples linked to this headword has allowed us to find and refine equivalents by identifying patterns, categorize them according to usage, and finally reorganize them into a new microstructural model based on situation labels so as to overcome the ineffectiveness of its current state. This study has also touched on an underlying issue, which is the unbalanced target users of French-Korean and Korean-French dictionaries. This work is only preliminary to a more thorough and systematic rethink of French-Korean and Korean-French lexicography, and still presents some limitations in scope. Nevertheless, we hope to extend the task so as to improve and redefine French-Korean/Korean-French lexicography in terms of pragmatics and effective communication.

References

Adamska-Sałaiak, A. (2016) Explaining meaning in bilingual dictionaries. In P. Durkin (ed) *The Oxford Handbook of Lexicography*, Chapter 9, pp. 144-162. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Brown, L. (2011) *Korean Honorifics and Politeness in Second Language Learning*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company.

Brown, L. And Yeon, J. (2016) *Speed up Your Korean. Strategies to Avoid Common Errors.* Abingdon: Routledge.

Brown, P. (2005) Linguistic Politeness. In U. Ammon, N. Dittmar, K. J. Mattheier and P. Trudgill (Eds.) *Sociolinguistics: An International Handbook of the Science of Language and Society*, pp. 1410-1416. Berlin/ New York: W. de Gruyter

Culpeper, J. (2011) Politeness and impoliteness. In K. Aijmer, G. Andersen (eds.) *Sociopragmatics*, Volume 5 of Handbooks of Pragmatics edited by Wolfram Bublitz, Andreas H. Jucker and Klaus P. Schneider. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter, pp. 391-436.

Choi, H. K. (2002) A Study of Politeness in Korean Requests. In *oykukeloseuy hankukekyoyuk*, 27(1), pp. 271-299.

Choi, J. (2016) Aperçu Historique du Dictionnaire Bilingue en Corée: Le Cas des Dictionnaires Français-Coréen et Coréen-Français. In *International Journal of Lexicography*, 29(2), pp. 184-199

Jeon, H-Y. (2004) Hankuke kongsonphyohyenuy uymi (On the meaning of Polite Expressions in Korean). In *hankuke uymihak*, 15, pp. 71-91.

Jung, H-Y. (2015) Forms of Address in French-Korean and Korean-French Dictionaries from the Perspective of a French Learner of Korean. In *Proceedings of Asialex 2015, Words, Dictionaries and Corpora: Innovation in reference science, 25-27 June 2015.* The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong-Kong.

Leech, G. (2005) Politeness: Is There an East-West Divide? In *Journal of Foreign Languages*, 6, pp. 3-31.

Naver French-Korean/Korean-French Dictionary online. Accessible at https://dict.naver.com/frkodict/french/#/main.

Sohn, H. (1999) *The Korean Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Szende, T. (1999) Problems of exemplification in bilingual dictionaries. In *Lexicographica. International Annual for Lexicography, de Gruyter,* 15, pp. 198-228.

Unabridged Dictionary of Standard Korean online. Accessible at http://stdweb2.korean.go.kr/search/View.jsp.

Appendix 1. Screenshot of the entry for *s'il-vous-plaît* in Naver French-Korean Dictionary