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SELECTED EARLY WESTERN CONTRIBUTORS TO THE STUDY OF THE KOREAN LANGUAGE

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this article is to present Western scholars, five Christian missionaries and two diplomats, who contributed to the development of the study of Korean language and its rules of grammar. This examination includes a comprehensive analysis and description of works published at that time by John Ross (1877, 1882), Félix-Clair Ridel (1881), James Scott (1887, 1893), Camille Imbault-Huart (1893), Horace Grant Underwood (1890, 1914), James Scarth Gale (1894, 1903), and Annie Laurie Baird (1911), with a particular focus on their missionary or official foreign service activities, linguistic practices, grammatical content, and the language of translation from Korean into a native language. These works played an essential role in the formation of further linguistic research in Korea.

Keywords: Korean language, John Ross, Félix-Clair Ridel, James Scott, Camille Imbault-Huart, Horace Grant Underwood, James Scarth Gale, and Annie Laurie Baird

INTRODUCTION¹

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, several Western scholars, among them Christian missionaries and diplomats, played a pivotal role in advancing the study of the Korean language and its grammatical structures. This article explores the linguistic contributions of these pioneers, focusing on their seminal works, which laid foundational groundwork for Korean language research. Through an in-depth analysis of publications by John Ross, Félix-Clair Ridel, James Scott, Camille Imbault-Huart, Horace Grant Underwood, James Scarth Gale, and Annie Laurie Baird, the article presents how their unique perspectives and missionary or diplomatic roles influenced their approach to grammar and translation practices.

The article also examines to what extent these early scholars' efforts provided a basis for further linguistic studies in Korea, depicting how missionary enthusiasm or diplomatic duty intersected with a deep dedication to understanding Korean language.

1. JOHN ROSS (1842–1915)

John Ross (1842–1915) was a British missionary who is credited with establishing Protestant Christianity in Korea and was the first translator of the New Testament into Korean. Ross was born on July 6, 1842, near Balintore in northeastern Scotland. His father was a tailor, and his mother was a schoolmistress. There were three factors in his life experiences that impacted his professional activities. The first factor was the fact that he grew up in a Gaelic-speaking region, and before he went to school to learn English, his first language was Gaelic. This early exposure to multiple languages rendered him an impressive facility in learning languages. Those languages include Gaelic, English, German, French, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, written Chinese, spoken Mandarin Chinese, Manchu, and Korean.² The second factor was his consciousness of the wider world from customers who used to stop in his father's shop and talk about the world beyond his home. Additionally, Balintore was a fishing village where he could observe commercial ships. The third factor was the influence of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland, known for its enthusiasm for missions. Ross attended the theological hall of the United Presbyterian Church. He was ordained as a United Presbyterian minister in March 1872, and after marrying his wife, the Rosses sailed to China, arriving at the mission station in Chefoo (Yāntái) on the Shantung (Shāndōng) Peninsula in August 1872.³

¹ The transliteration in this text follows the McCune–Reischauer (MR) system. In exceptional cases, the spelling adopted by the Korean authors themselves has been used. Korean names appear in their traditional order, with the family name preceding the given name. This article is based on the book written by Paweł Kida (P. Kida, *Missionary Grammars and the Language of Translation in Korea (1876–1910)*, Abingdon–New York 2024).

² J.H. Grayson, "The Manchurian Connection: The Life and Work of the Rev. Dr. John Ross," *The Institute of Korean Studies*, vol. 15 (1984), p. 355.

³ J.H. Grayson, "The Legacy of John Ross," *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, vol. 23 (1999), p. 168.

After arriving in China, under the influence of Alexander Williamson (1829–1890); the head of the United Presbyterian missionary church in North China, he re-located to Yíngkǒu (Niúzhuāng), the treaty port of Manchuria, to start missionary work in Manchuria and Chosŏn (Korea). Ross lived in different locations in Manchuria, including Shěnyáng (Mukden). In 1874, Ross decided to visit the village of Korean Gate (Gāolímén) to meet Korean people and learn about the Hermit Nation. Ross mentions the gate as:

*The Corean Gate is the name given to a small village, the most advanced outpost of China towards Corea. At the extreme east end of a pretty long street, but standing out from and at right angles to it, is a small house over thirty feet long divided into three parts. The north and south portions are rooms with the ordinary kang, in which the tax collectors live. The central division is the gate, through all goods imported and exported must pass and have duty levied. The eastern side of this division is a gate of solid boards, with a particularly clumsy, large, but strong iron lock. The western side is closed in by a gate of perpendicular spars not very strong. Thus the collectors can at once close out the Corean and Chinese worlds.*⁴

On this first trip, however, Ross did not have significant contact with any Koreans due to the fact that only a few merchants arrived at the gate, and they were afraid to make any contacts with foreigners because of the persecution of the Catholic church in Korea. Nevertheless, the first trip helped him prepare for another trip in 1876 when he managed to meet Koreans. He hired a herbal medicine merchant named I Ŭngch'an, who became his teacher of the Korean language⁵.

One year after the second trip, Ross published the *Corean Primer* (hereafter CP) in 1877, which must have been a joint work with his language teacher. The full title of CP is *Corean Primer, Being Lessons in Corean on All Ordinary Subjects, Transliterated on the Principles of the Mandarin Primer by the Same Author*. CP is the first Korean language textbook intended as a teaching aid for missionaries and merchants. Ross writes:

The following lessons are intended to introduce to the Corean language those desirous to prepare for the official, mercantile, and chiefly the missionary intercourse with Corea, which cannot be of distant date. The Corean words are given in the Corean alphabet in syllables, under which is the Corean pronunciation in Roman letters, and the interpretation in English, according to the Corean idiom, viz. nom, obj., verb, negative. (...) The Corean Primer also affords numerous examples of the ancient pronunciation of Chinese, and especially of the final consonant dropped in Mandarin, though retained in the south. As it is reported that a practiced pen is engaged on, or has finished a Corean Grammar, it is unnecessary to explain the use of the numerous and delicate particles. But as the Corean language, with no cases for its nouns or persons for its verbs, has the remarkable quality of inflexion according to the rank of the person addressed, – superior, equal or inferior – it is

⁴ J. Ross, "Visit to the Corean Gate," *The Chinese Recorder and Missionary Journal*, vol. 5 (1874), p. 350.

⁵ J. Ross, (1890), "The Christian Dawn in Korea," *The Missionary Review of the World*, vol. 13 (1890), pp. 241–248; I , Ŭngch'an "Ross Moksau'i Corean Primere Tachayŏ," *Myŏngjiŏmunjip*, vol. 11 (1979), pp. 13–39; J.H. Grayson, "The Manchurian Connection...", pp. 345–360; J.H. Grayson, "The Legacy...", pp. 167–172.

deemed advisable to give the pronouns and a verb, in its various tenses, with the proper terminations affixed.⁶

CP is based on the textbook titled *Mandarin Primer*,⁷ which Ross published one year earlier. Both books have similarities, and it is most likely that I Ŭngch'an translated some parts of the *Mandarin Primer* into Korean.⁸ The structure of CP addressed personal pronouns, verbs, and the alphabet. CP includes thirty lessons preceded by an introduction with a short grammatical explanation and a description of the Korean alphabet. The grammatical explanation mainly covers personal pronouns in both singular and plural forms, for first, second, and third person, as well as verbs. Ross presents the root of the verb 'to go' with its variations according to the person addressed: superior, equal, or inferior. All lessons are of conversation type, which includes sentences in Korean, their transliteration into Roman alphabet, and word-to-word translation into English. The lessons are of practical use and cover everyday situations in which a user of the Korean language might find themselves.

The upgraded version of CP was published by John Ross in 1882, referred to as *Korean Speech* (hereafter KS), the full title of which was *Korean Speech with Grammar and Vocabulary. New Edition*. Ross states:

The first edition of this book was issued to prepare for intercourse with Korea, which I then believed imminent. It was, however, printed under such circumstances as rendered mistakes inevitable. I regret these were so numerous; though they were mostly of such a nature as no careful student could fail to detect. This edition is issued under difficulties as to printing, but errors are reduced to a minimum. The essentials of grammar form the Introduction & the vocabulary at the end makes an improvement for ready reference. (...) On comparing the two books it will be discovered that a remarkable proportion of Chinese words have been incorporated with the Korean language, supplying deficiencies, displacing some words and used with others, their native synonymies, as Latin, and Saxon in English.

The achievement of Ross was noticed by Griffis (1889), who praised Ross for his contribution to the subject of 'Corea' and how his publication of CP helped to clear up doubtful points in the language. KS also includes thirty lessons preceded by a preface, index, and grammar explanations. The first four lessons are numbered with Arabic numerals, while the others are numbered with Roman numerals. The lessons are also of the conversation type, similar to CP. However, there are some differences between the two books.

Both textbooks consist of two parts: an introduction and teaching material. The first part clarifies aspects of the Korean language and its rules, while the second part provides lessons with titles. Both textbooks seem to have similar content, although we

⁶ J. Ross, *Corean Primer: Being Lessons in Corean on All Ordinary Subjects, Transliterated on the Principles of the 'Mandarin Primer'*, Shanghai 1877, pp. 3–4.

⁷ J. Ross, *Mandarin Primer: Being Easy Lessons for Beginners, Transliterated According to the European Mode of Using Roman Letters*, Shanghai 1876.

⁸ Kim Joo-phil, Hong Sungji, "Han'gugŏ Kyojae Corean Primer (1877) ŭi T'uksŏnggwa T'eksŭt'ŭ Hyŏngsŏng Paegyŏng," *Ŏnŏhak*, vol. 78 (2017), pp. 99–129.

notice that CP has more lessons regarding everyday activities and environments. Besides this, KS has an errata appendix and an English-Korean vocabulary list arranged in alphabetical order at the end of the book. All lessons in KS can be classified into four categories.⁹ The first one considers lessons about the life of Koreans. The second one is about communication with Koreans as a foreigner. The third one is about the physical environment and the senses. The last one regards religious life with missionary work, to include theological topics. This last part is present in both CP and KS.

Word spacing and the arrangement of sentences used both in CP and KS merits note. At that time word spacing was not used in Korean texts. Ross, however, for comfort of use, includes spaces between words. Evidence of that is that the two last lessons in KS do not include word spacing to show the real text in Korean.¹⁰ Ross can be praised for being the first to use word spacing in Korean texts. CP presents the first sentence in Korean, then the transliteration of each word in the sentence, and finally a one-to-one English translation of the word. On the other hand, KS first presents a full English sentence, then the Korean sentence, after that the transliteration of each word in the Korean sentence, and finally a one-to-one English translation of the word. For a better understanding, see the following example.

2. FÉLIX-CLAIR RIDEL (1830–1884)

Félix-Clair Ridel was born in July 1830, either the 7th or 10th, in the parish of Saint-Martin in Chantenay-sur-Loire. He pursued studies at the ecclesiastical college of Couëts (1843–1847) and then at the major seminary of Nantes, followed by Saint-Sulpice in Paris, where he was ordained as a priest on December 19, 1857. In July 1860, Ridel set out for Korea and arrived on March 31, 1861. He began studying the Korean language at the village of [Pan-tja-ri] and later settled down at [Tsin-pat] in Ch'ungch'öng Province near Kongju. In 1864, he began evangelizing in the provinces of Kyöngsang and Chölla. However, during the persecution of missionaries in 1866, he sought refuge in Chánghi County in China. In September and October of the same year, he accompanied the French squadron commanded by Admiral Pierre-Gustave Roze as an interpreter.

On April 27, 1869, Ridel was appointed Bishop of the Philippines and Vicar Apostolic of Korea. He was formally appointed as Bishop in Rome on June 5, 1870, and then returned to China, settling in Manchuria at [Tcha-keou], which was the closest residence to the Korean border. He made several attempts to enter Korea and finally succeeded in September 1877. However, his efforts led to his arrest in Seoul on January 28, 1878, and he spent four months in prison until June 5. Following the intervention

⁹ Kang Yi-yon, "Ch'oech'oüi Han'gugö Yön'gu – Han-Pul, Pul-Han Sajöndül'gwa Han'gugö Munböpsö," *P'ürang'sühak'yön'gu*, vol. 31 (2005), p. 58.

¹⁰ Ko Yejin, *19 segi Söyaginüi Han'gugö Kyojae Yön'gu*, PhD Diss., Busan National University, 2013, p. 44.

of the French minister in Beijing, he was released and returned to China. With the assistance of his missionaries, Ridel composed a grammar and a dictionary of the Korean language, which were printed in Yokohama in 1880 and 1881. Ridel states:

*Cet ouvrage, fruit d'une observation lente et minutieuse, d'une application d'autant plus attentive qu'il devait être le premier à voir le jour sous le titre de Grammaire coren  enne, tel est le guide offert   nos lecteurs, et qui dirigera leurs pas, dans le domaine de la linguistique, sur un terrain nouveau (This work, the fruit of a slow and meticulous observation, of an application all the more attentive as it was to be the first to see the light of day under the title of Korean Grammar, such is the guide offered to our readers, and which will direct their steps, in the field of linguistics, on a new ground).*¹¹

During one of his travels to Japan in 1882, he suffered paralysis in Nagasaki and subsequently returned to France. He passed away in Vannes on June 20, 1884, and was buried in the city cemetery (Institut de recherche France-Asie, n.d.). Ridel's most notable work is his *Korean Grammar* originally published in French in 1881. The full title is *Grammaire Cor  enne pr  c  d  e D'une Introduction sur le caract  re de la langue cor    enne, sa comparaison avec le chinois, etc. suivie D'un Appendice sur la division du temps, les poids et mesures, la boussole, la g  n  alogie avec Un Cours D'Exercices Gradu  s pour faciliter l'  tude pratique de la langue* [Korean Grammar preceded by an Introduction on the character of the Korean language, its comparison with Chinese, etc. followed by an Appendix on the division of time, weights and measures, compass, genealogy with a Course of Graduated Exercises to facilitate the practical study of the language] (hereafter GC).

Ridel's GC consists of a preface, introduction, part one, which includes parts of speech such as article, noun, adjective, pronoun, verb, adverb, preposition, conjunction, interjection, and exclamation. Part two describes the syntax of the Korean language, followed by an appendix and a course of exercises. This structure of the book is assumed to reflect French grammar at that time and the Latin grammar structure. In the preface, Ridel explains the structure of the book and the effort it took for him to write a comprehensive grammar for the Korean language. Not only did he present the rules of the language, but he also attached exercises for students to practice and apply the theory.

In the introduction, which spans eighteen pages, Ridel compares Chinese to Korean and states that while these languages are completely different, the primacy of Chinese is seen in written materials and its usage among the upper class and the royal court. He draws attention to the difference between the written and spoken language in the Korean Peninsula. The language of literature, science, administration, diplomatic communication, and the royal court is predominantly Classical Chinese, or Literary Sinitic (hereafter LS). Ridel mentions that there are two types of languages on the Korean Peninsula: the written language and the spoken language. Official documents, including annals of the King, administrative, diplomatic, and scientific documents, are all written in LS. While there are proclamations to the people in both Chinese and

¹¹ F.C. Ridel, *Grammaire Cor  enne*, Yokohama 1881, p. vi.

Korean, all education is based on LS documents. Therefore, the national language (Korean) is neglected and despised, according to Ridel.¹²

He further notes that all Korean books have disappeared into oblivion, leaving little material in Korean to study, except for a few books such as *Paeksumun* (*Livre classique des mille caractères*, or One Thousand Characters Text), *Sohakõnhæ* (Lesser Learning), and *Tongmongsõnsûp* (*Premiers éléments à l'usage des enfants*, or First Elements for Children). The *Paeksumun* had been compiled by Chu Hüngsa and is also known as the Ch'õnjagyõng.¹³ Ridel provides some examples of Chinese characters with corresponding Korean readings and meanings along with a French translation, which was originally provided by French orientalist Stanislas Julien (1797?–1873). The second book, *Sohakõnhæ*, is a children's book published in 1587, and Ridel gives some extracts from this book to show the mixed script for topics and basic educational subjects, which includes both Chinese and Korean vernacular script for children. The *Tongmongsõnsûp* is a children's book for the study of Chinese characters published in 1759 (first version in 1543) compiled by Pak Semu and Min Chein. This book teaches Confucian five human relations and some parts of Korean-Chinese history. Ridel explains that the book is written in Chinese characters only, but some endings in Chinese are added by Koreans to nouns, pronouns, adjectives, and verbs to help with declension and conjugation. He also provides a translation of those Chinese characters word for word into the Korean alphabet to show the text in Korean only. In another part of the introduction, Ridel presents Korean vowels and consonants along with spelling rules. A substantial part of Ridel's grammar is devoted to the description of parts of speech. Ridel states that Korean, like French, has ten parts of speech: article, noun, adjective, pronoun, verb, participle, adverb, preposition, conjunction, and interjection. Almost 160 pages cover the explanation of all parts of speech.

Ridel explains how definite and indefinite articles in French can be obtained in Korean. As for the noun, he presents the declension of the noun, remarks about the formation of the cases, application of cases, distinction of grammatical genders, composed nouns, nouns derived from verbs, and honorific nouns. Concerning adjectives, one can find the conjugation of verbal adjectives, the comparative degree of them, and different types such as demonstrative adjectives and quantity adjectives. An interesting part is that numerals are included in the adjective category, and Ridel calls them numeral adjectives.

Regarding pronouns, he presents different types of pronouns and their declension. Seventy-six pages cover the category of the verb. Ridel starts with preliminary observations about verbs, then the formation of voice, conjugation of verbs, honorific verbs, negative verbs, and auxiliary verbs. Since the Korean verb is different from the French verb, Ridel meticulously presents examples and equivalents in Korean to French.

A short part presents the types of adverbs in Korean. Ridel points out that the chapter about prepositions should be called postpositions since words that play the role of

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Cf. *ibid.*, pp. vii–viii.

prepositions are placed after nouns in the Korean language. He provides a list of the most common French prepositions with their Korean equivalents. In the opposite way, Korean conjunctions are provided with their French equivalents. As for exclamations, a list of the most common exclamations in Korean is provided with the French translation. At the end of the part of speech section, Ridel once again provides a summary of the rules of Korean conjugation to remind the students of the complexity and difficulty in dealing with Korean verbs.

The part about syntax is short and consists of thirty pages. Ridel names the principal rules of Korean syntax, including governance, where the word that governs is placed after the governed word. Therefore, postpositions in Korean govern nouns. Adjectives and relative participles always precede the noun to which they are attached. The adverb precedes the verb in a Korean sentence, and the noun precedes the verb by which it is governed. Ridel adds some information about Korean sentence structure: subject, object, predicate. The subject can be preceded by words that modify it, and the direct and indirect object can also be preceded by words that modify them. The predicate stands at the end of the sentence and can be modified by an adverb. Within the syntax part, Ridel draws attention to punctuation in the Korean text. He claims that there are no special signs of punctuation within the text; however, this role is taken by special endings attached to the verb. He mentions punctuation marks such as the comma, semicolon, colon, question mark, exclamation mark, and parenthesis. For exemplification of the text and punctuation, Ridel presents a fable of 'The Fox and the Crow' translated into Korean. Although Korean texts are originally written from top to bottom and right to left, he provides the prepared text written from top to bottom but from left to right. The text is written in Korean, and the pronunciation of each syllable is on the right side of the Korean syllable. Under the text, there is a French translation of each Korean sentence. The text consists of twelve sentences, with the last sentence serving as the moral of this fable. An interesting aspect is that the French translation is followed by grammatical analysis of the Korean text, where each word and grammatical construction are precisely explained for the reader. The appendix involves explanations of Korean days, weeks, months, years, lunar calendar, four seasons of the year, weights and measures, compass, a table of Korean genealogical terminology, and a table of family tree formation.

The last part of Ridel's grammar book includes student exercises and reading texts. The exercises are various and cover sixty pages. They include practical terminologies and phrases; exercises with the use of grammatical cases; simple sentence practice; sentences praising the virtue of filial piety [haou] (*xiào*); dialog between superior and inferior (with the superior asking the inferior and the inferior asking the superior); conversation between equals; and conversation between people who meet for the first time. Additionally, there are short stories numbered one to sixteen. Exercises from seventeen to thirty-three are written in a Korean style, where long stories are written from top to bottom, right to left in Korean without pronunciation. After each Korean text, a French translation is attached. These bilingual readings are meant for students whose tasks gradually increase in difficulty.

3. JAMES SCOTT (1850–1920)

James Scott was the son of an Aberdeenshire farmer. He joined the British Consular Service in China in 1872 when he was 21 years old. On April 26, 1884, he arrived at Chemulp'o (contemporary Inch'ŏn), and from June 6, 1884, until June 7, 1885, he was appointed as British Provisional Vice Consul in Chemulp'o. Subsequently, he held several acting vice consul positions from November 1886 to September 1892.¹⁴ With short breaks, Scott spent much time at the consulate in Chemulp'o from 1884 to 1892, during which he compiled books about the Korean language. His works, *A Corean Manual or Phrase Book with Introductory Grammar* (1887, 1893) and *English-Corean Dictionary* (1891), are valuable resources for understanding the spoken language of that period.¹⁵

The structure of the book *A Corean Manual or Phrase Book with Introductory Grammar* (hereafter CM) is divided into part one, which outlines the essentials of Korean grammar, and part two, which contains examples of practical language usage, including colloquial phrases along with some exercises. In CM, Scott focused on the practical use of Korean based on his own experience, as he states:

*In the present volume I have endeavoured, from my own experience, to meet the want now felt, since the opening of the country to foreign intercourse, of a graduated introduction to Corean colloquial. As the book passes through the press, I am conscious of many omissions and much that I would fain have altered. But I trust that it may after all prove serviceable to the student, and prepare the way for a more full and complete course.*¹⁶

Although Scott is aware of many mistakes he might have made during the preparation of his book, it was still a useful resource for British people on the Korean Peninsula. The first part includes seventy-six pages. At the very beginning, Scott presents vowels, consonants, and diphthongs, providing their pronunciation with simple Korean words. He then moves on to the category of nouns, presenting the four types of declension that Korean nouns go through. For each case, he provides examples in Korean, the Korean pronunciation, and the English translation. A short explanation about the formation and use of plurals is also included.

As for adjectives, Scott presents different forms arranged according to tense: present, past, future, interrogative form, participle forms, and substantive (nominal form of adjective). He names the various forms of adjectives as 'conjugation', in which adjectives behave the same as verbs. Additionally, Scott adds comparative forms of adjectives. Numerals are included in the adjective category, and Scott presents both Chinese and native numerals. He also includes seasons and days of the month as part of numerals.

Pronouns are divided according to their function, and their declension is provided as well. A large part of the book is devoted to verb categories. Scott starts by presenting

¹⁴ H.N. Allen, *A Chronological Index: Some of the Chief Events in the Foreign Intercourse of Korea, from the Beginning of the Christian Era to the Twentieth Century*, Seoul 1901.

¹⁵ K. Pratt, R. Rutt. *Korea: A Historical and Cultural Dictionary*, Routledge 2013, p. 406.

¹⁶ J. Scott, *A Corean Manual Or Phrase Book: With Introductory Grammar*, Statistical Department of the Inspectorate General of Customs, 1887, p. v.

types of conjugation, then describes auxiliaries, verbal nouns, participle nouns, adverbs derived from verbs, negation, gerundive forms, and causative passive and intransitive forms of the verb. As for adverbs, he only presents different types of them with English translations. Postpositions and conjunctions are treated the same way.¹⁷

The second part of the book, the exercises, includes fifty-eight exercises spread over 131 pages, making it longer than the grammatical part. Scott starts with simple sentences, providing their pronunciation, word-to-word translation, and the corresponding English sentence. The exercises are not arranged thematically but according to the level of difficulty. He begins with simple sentences, questions, or answers, and then progresses to more grammatically complex sentences. Unlike Ridel's grammar, there are no reading texts included in Scott's book. The second edition of *A Corean Manual or Phrase Book with Introductory Grammar* (hereafter CMSE) includes a more detailed table of contents. Scott openly admitted that Korean grammar and verb inflection are challenging aspects of the language. He states:

*The Corean language presents so many difficulties both of grammatical construction and of verb inflection that the task of the student who attempts to acquire a mastery of its colloquial is well nigh hopeless (...) the new matter added to the present edition is explanatory of the grammar and especially of the verb conjugation, and will, it is hoped smooth the course of future students, and perhaps prepare the way to a more and graduated textbook. In the present volume I have striven to embody the results of my own tentative efforts in the study of the language; it is in short, the fruits of my own experience and a slender contribution to the small total of our knowledge of Corean speech.*¹⁸

In the introduction part, Scott explains that the Korean alphabet contains twenty-eight letters, which are categorized by Korean scholars as initials, medials, and finals. He presents eight letters that were used as both initials and finals, nine letters used as initials only, and eleven letters used as medials or vowels. However, he adds that three initials have disappeared and were replaced by the letter 'ng', which, as an initial, lost its sound and became a *spiritus lenis*. Scott uses the Latin term *spiritus asper* for the 'h' consonant. Scott advances the notion that thirty-one Chinese characters from *The Phonetics of Hung Wu* (*Hóngwǔzhèngyùn*) are an important link in the history of the invention of the Korean alphabet.¹⁹ He provides a table of Hung Wu phonetics with their corresponding Korean letters and also presents a table with Sanskrit letters that have undergone changes; the present Korean alphabet letters are based on modification of Sanskrit letters. Concluding the introductory part, Scott highlights four turning points that mark the history of civilization and literature in Korea: the introduction of Chinese writing in 1122 BCE, the propagation of Buddhism from China in the fourth century CE, the revival of letters in the Silla Kingdom (57 BCE–935 CE), and the invention of the Korean alphabet in CE 1447.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ J. Scott "Preface," in J. Scott, *A Corean Manual Or Phrase Book: With Introductory Grammar* (Second Edition), English Church Mission Press 1893.

¹⁹ T. Watters, *Essays on the Chinese language*, Shanghai 1889, p. 79, ATLA Historical Monographs Collection. Series 1 (13th Century to 1893).

After introducing the alphabet, Scott presents lists of consonants, vowels, and diphthongs. Each consonant is described in terms of its sound, and examples are given in Korean along with transliterations. The same approach is followed for vowels and diphthongs. The introduction part, with twenty-one pages, and the alphabet part, with another twenty-one pages, demonstrate that Scott has expanded the explanation compared to CM.

Another 142 pages of the CMSE focus on the various parts of speech in the Korean language. Scott starts with the category of nouns, where he explains the system of declension in Korean, methods of denoting number, gender, and plurality. After the grammatical explanation, Scott provides exercises, each consisting of eight sentences in Korean, along with transliteration, word-to-word translation, and the corresponding English sentence. As for pronouns, he presents different types of pronouns with their declensions. It is worth noting that Scott proposes pronominal substitute titles used to directly address Koreans instead of employing personal pronouns.

Within the category of numerals, Scott adds a list of Chinese-origin and native numerals, including cardinal and ordinal numerals, as well as abbreviated forms of numerals commonly used in speech. Numerals are supplemented with methods for reckoning time, the seasons of the year, and the Korean calendar.

Regarding adjectives, Scott presents two types of them: those that undergo conjugation and those that do not. Conjugation of adjectives is presented according to present tense, past tense, future tense, interrogative forms, participle form, and substantive form. Methods of comparison for adjectives are also provided.

The category of verbs occupies more than eighty pages of the grammar, making it the largest part of the book. Scott expresses the opinion that Korean verb features are complex. He provides four types of conjugation with different verbs, with the last type of conjunction conjugation including several subtypes. This section is followed by auxiliary verbs, negation, and causative and passive verbs. As for adverbs, postpositions, and conjunctions, Scott enumerates them and gives their English translations. *Oratio obliqua* closes the part of speech section of the grammar.²⁰

Nearly another eighty pages are devoted to additional exercises, which include forty of them, each containing sixteen sentences. In CMSE, additional exercises are arranged thematically. For example, exercises one to thirteen cover general conversation, while exercises fourteen to forty cover specific topics requiring more specialized vocabulary. Comparing both books, we can notice that in CM, numerals are considered a subcategory of adjectives, whereas in CMSE, numerals are treated as a separate part of speech. Additionally, CM enumerates five pronoun types – personal, demonstrative, reflexive, indefinite, and interrogative – whereas CMSE adds possessive and relative pronouns to the list. Moreover, CMSE includes characterizations of indirect speech and double imperative, which are not addressed in CM. Another noteworthy difference is that in CM, all exercises are placed at the end after the grammatical explanations. On the other hand, in CMSE, each grammatical explanation is followed by exercises, and,

²⁰ J. Scott, *A Corean Manual Or Phrase Book: With Introductory Grammar* (Second Edition)...

additionally, at the end of the book there are further exercises. Similar to Ross's KS, CMSE presents a sentence in Korean, followed by transliteration, word-to-word translation, and, finally, the English sentence.

4. CAMILLE IMBAULT-HUART (1857–1897)

Camille Imbault-Huart was born in Paris on June 3, 1857, and died in Hong Kong on November 29, 1897. He was a French diplomat, linguist, and Orientalist. He studied at the School of Oriental Languages from 1874 to 1877. Subsequently, he joined the Foreign Ministry in 1878 and was sent to Shanghai and Beijing as an interpreter. In 1884, he was appointed vice-consul in [Hankeou], and in 1887 in Beijing. Later, he became the French consul in Canton.²¹

In 1889, he traveled to Korea and published a work entitled *Manuel de la langue Coréenne parlée à l'usage des Français* (Manual of the Korean Spoken Language for the French) (hereafter MLC). Imbault-Huart held the opinion that the Korean language was limited in comparison to the Chinese language, and that Korean civilization was not as developed as Chinese civilization. He states:

Les mots dont se compose la langue parlée dans la péninsule coréenne proviennent de deux sources différentes; l'une nationale et relativement pauvre, qui révèle le degré peu élevé de civilisation auquel les Coréens ont pu parvenir d'eux-mêmes; l'autre, étrangère et riche, créée par l'antique nation chinoise (...) Le coréen pur n'existe plus, pour ainsi dire, à l'état de langue parlée. Il est de bon ton aujourd'hui, dans toute la péninsule, de parler le sinico-coréen, c'est-à-dire de parler le chinois coréanisé, et de servir de termes chinois transformés à la coréenne de préférence aux termes coréens purs (The words of which the language spoken in the Korean Peninsula is composed from two different sources; one national and relatively poor, which reveals the low degree of civilization to which the Koreans were able to reach by themselves; the other, foreign and rich, created by the ancient Chinese nation. (...) Pure Korean no longer exists, so to speak, in the state of a spoken language. It is fashionable today, throughout the peninsula, to speak Sino-Korean, that is to say to speak Koreanized Chinese, and to use Chinese terms transformed in the Korean style in preference to pure Korean terms)²².

The MLC has a layout and table of contents that bear a striking resemblance to Imbault-Huart's book titled *Manuel de la langue chinoise parlée, à l'usage des Français*, which was published in Beijing in 1885. Both books share similar grammatical content and layout, covering parts of speech and syntax. In the MLC prolegomena, Imbault-Huart notes that much of the Korean vocabulary is derived from the Chinese language. He points out that Korean has twenty-five letters, comprising fourteen consonants and eleven vowels. Among the consonants, ten are simple, and four are aspirated. Additionally, he provides eleven diphthongs and one triphthong.

²¹ G. Devéria, *Camille Imbault-Huart*, Paris 1898, p. 147–148.

²² C. Imbault-Huart, *Manuel de la langue Coréenne parlée à l'usage des Français*, Paris 1889, pp. 1–2.

Imbault-Huart observes that Korean words are composed of syllables varying in syllable count, ranging from one to eight.

Imbault-Huart categorizes parts of speech into nouns, adjectives, numerals, pronouns, verbs, adverbs, postpositions, and conjunctions. For each part of speech, he focuses on basic information, such as the gender and number of nouns, the role of case in Korean, types of adjectives, and the comparative degree. Numerals are referred to as numeral adjectives and are included in the category of adjectives. Pronouns are also briefly enumerated. In the section about verbs, Imbault-Huart provides a short description that covers basic information, such as tense and participle forms. However, the examples in the text only consist of single words; he does not provide full sentences like Ross, Ridel, and Scott do in their books.

The book can be regarded as a concise compendium of grammatical information. The syntax part involves explanations of the position of each part of speech in a sentence and its interaction with other parts of speech. The practical dialogues section consists of eighty sentences. However, unlike previous grammars, the layout presents a French sentence followed by its Korean counterpart and transliteration. No word-for-word translation is provided. A simple vocabulary list contains the most commonly used words in conversations, covering various thematic vocabulary. The vocabulary list also includes examples of postpositions, adverbs, and conjunctions with their French translations. At the end of the book, Imbault-Huart includes twelve Korean proverbs based on Chinese characters.²³

5. HORACE GRANT UNDERWOOD (1859–1916)

Horace Grant Underwood was born in London on July 19, 1859. In 1872, he emigrated with his family to the United States. He graduated from New York University and New Brunswick Theological Seminary. Appointed by the Presbyterian Board of Missions to Korea, he arrived in Seoul in 1885. In 1889, he married Lillias Stirling Horton, a medical missionary who also served as a physician to the Korean Queen Min.

Underwood's main impact in Korea is centered around various Christian educational institutions. He opened a Christian orphanage in Seoul in 1886, founded the Saemunan Presbyterian Church in 1887, established the Korean Tract Society in 1888, and published the first Korean hymnal in 1896. Additionally, Underwood played a key role in organizing the Seoul branch of the YMCA and founded the Chosen Christian College in 1917, which is now known as Yonsei University in Seoul. He passed away on the 12th of October 1916 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. In 1999, his body was relocated to the Seoul Yanghwajin Foreign Missionary Cemetery.²⁴

Underwood authored two books about the Korean language: *An Introduction to the Korean Spoken Language* (hereafter IKSL) in 1890, and *An Introduction to the Korean*

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ G.T. Kurian, M.A. Lamport, *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*, Lanham 2016, p. 2352.

Spoken Language in 1914 as a second edition (hereafter IKSLSE). The IKSLSE was expanded with the assistance of his son, Horace Horton Underwood. Underwood explains that his book is unique as it is written from two standpoints: one from a Korean language perspective and the other from an English language perspective, which sets it apart from those written before him.

Underwood concludes:

*This complete division of a work on a language into two parts, each of which approaches it from a different standpoint, has, it is believed, never been attempted in one book before, and yet it is felt that such a division will materially aid the student in obtaining an accurate and well systematized knowledge of neat distinctions, and idioms, and enable him more speedily to speak a pure and not an Anglicized Korean. It is true that at times, the one naturally overlaps the other, but it is equally certain, that each has its own especial place, which the other can in no way fill, and a true conception of any language can best be obtained by viewing them separately.*²⁵

Underwood's inspiration to write IKSL came from Imbrie's (1880) *Handbook of English-Japanese Etymology*. This book suited his individual needs, and he decided to adopt it for the study of Korean. Underwood's Korean language teacher, Song Soun Yong, translated sentences from Imbrie's book into Korean. Comparing the structure of IKSL and *Handbook of English-Japanese Etymology*, both books share a similar layout. Imbrie's (1880) book consists of ten chapters, each representing a part of speech, such as the syllabary, the verb, the noun, the pronoun, pronominal adjective, the adjective, the adverb, the numeral, the preposition, and the conjunction.

IKSL consists of two parts: The first grammatical part is written from the Korean standpoint and contains twelve chapters that, like in Imbrie's book, represent various parts of speech. The second part presents English sentences and their equivalents in Korean, making it more practical than previous grammatical sections by other authors. Underwood emphasizes that this approach had not been attempted in any other books. His IKSL also drew knowledge from French missionaries who had written about Korean grammar. In 1914, Underwood published a revised version of IKSL with the assistance of his son, Horace Horton Underwood. This revised edition did not differ in layout and content, except for the addition of three appendices: Appendix A covers Korean phonetics, Appendix B peculiar forms, and Appendix C, which contains a short text in the Korean language with original writing from top to bottom, right to left.²⁶

IKSLSE's structure is similar to IKSL. Part one, chapter one, of Underwood's IKSLSE presents general remarks about the Korean language and Korean language education. Underwood points out that very few books are written in the native language, and it is challenging to find native teachers with a good knowledge of grammar. As a result, students may encounter difficulties in learning the language. However, he offers advice to find a Korean who is a Chinese (meaning LS) scholar and practice pronunciation with them while asking for the meaning of words, as many Korean words

²⁵ H.G. Underwood, *An Introduction to the Korean Spoken Language*, Shanghai 1890.

²⁶ Ibid.

are derived from Chinese. Chapter three to chapter ten address parts of speech, such as nouns, pronouns, numerals, postpositions, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and conjunctions. However, in chapters eleven and twelve, some topics related to syntax are introduced. This is a substantial difference from French authors' published books where syntax is explicitly mentioned. Underwood extends thanks to Sang Kyu Pack, the first Korean student at Brown University, for assisting him with the second edition.

In chapter one, Underwood highlights that philosophical books, official correspondence, and valuable works are written in LS, whereas trashy love stories and fairy tales are written in Korean vernacular script. He laments that some people mistakenly believe there are two languages on the Korean Peninsula: Chinese and Korean. He explains that the middle class, 'coolies', and merchants speak simple Korean with native words, making it easy for foreigners to understand. However, officials and scholars still use the same Korean language, but with words derived from Chinese, making it difficult for many to understand them in conversation. Underwood expresses the view that LS serves as a Latin for the Korean language, and, therefore, everyone should study 'Sinico-Korean' terms. Finally, he explains that native grammarians propose only three parts of speech: nouns, verbs, and particles. However, the divisions Underwood made, including nouns, pronouns, numerals, postpositions, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, and interjections, were done for the sake of convenience. Chapter two of IKSLSE covers the Korean pronunciation of eleven vowels and fourteen consonants. Among the consonants, Underwood explains that nine are simple, while five are aspirated. Furthermore, five of the simple consonants can combine to form double consonants. Underwood takes great care in providing Korean examples and thoroughly explains each pronunciation, making comparisons to the English language to aid in understanding.²⁷

From chapter three to chapter ten of IKSLSE, spanning more than 170 pages, Underwood delves into the peculiarities of each part of speech, presenting the differences and difficulties one might encounter while studying Korean. As in previous grammar books, the chapter about verbs is the longest, comprising one hundred pages. Additionally, Underwood dedicates a separate chapter to honorifics, as he believes that chapter eleven is essential in Korean language education. Terms used to address individuals of higher status or between individuals of different statuses are substantial and complex in the Korean language, making it crucial to study honorifics for effective communication.

In the twelfth and final chapter, Underwood addresses the structure of the sentence. Although he does not use the term 'syntax' like Ridel does, his explanations of the positions of each part of speech in the sentence, governance, modification, etc., essentially provide a simple explanation of Korean syntax. Underwood emphasizes that the first part, which contains grammatical explanations from a Korean standpoint, should be studied in conjunction with the second part, which presents English to Korean translations. He highlights that by doing so, students can effectively learn how to use the Korean spoken language and gain practical communication skills.

²⁷ H.G. Underwood, *An Introduction to the Korean Spoken Language*, 2nd ed., Shanghai 1914.

In part one of Underwood's book, consisting of around two hundred pages, he provides grammatical explanations from a Korean standpoint. Part two, also around two hundred pages, presents English sentences and their equivalents in Korean along with comments. In part two, a significant portion of attention is devoted to the category of verbs. Underwood presents sentences with the verbs 'to be' and 'to have'. He then proceeds to cover English auxiliary verbs, including 'be, do, have, shall, will, should, would, can, could, may, might, let, make, get, must, ought, think, suppose, intend, want, wish, hope, need, seem, and look'. These verbs are presented in auxiliary constructions and their counterparts in Korean. Underwood points out that there is no true infinitive in Korean as there is in English. The construction 'to do sth' in English may be expressed in Korean through different forms. Additionally, Underwood states that passive constructions are not widely used in Korean, and in some parts of the Peninsula, their use may be considered inelegant. The final part of the category of verbs is devoted to conditional sentences. Underwood considers three classes of conditionals: simple conditionals, suppositions contrary to the fact, and improbable suppositions.

Regarding the category of nouns in English to be rendered into Korean, Underwood states that there is little to explain. However, he does point out that in a few cases, abstract nouns in English may be transposed in the sentence as verbs when translated into Korean. In chapter three, Underwood defines English articles. He explains that there is no direct equivalent in Korean for the definite article 'the', though sometimes a postposition might have a similar effect. The indefinite article 'a' or 'an' can be expressed in Korean by using the numeral 'one' before the noun.²⁸

Moving on to English pronouns in chapter four, Underwood provides examples of personal, relative, and interrogative pronouns along with their Korean equivalents. He notes that omitting personal pronouns in Korean when speaking is a common practice. Instead of using personal pronouns, Koreans often refer to others using other words like 'elder brother' or 'aged father'.

Chapter five deals with pronominal adjectives, and Underwood includes examples such as 'all, any, both, each, either, few, many, much, neither, one, several, some, such, same, that, and this'. He provides their Korean equivalents with comments. For instance, he points out that pronominal adjectives like 'either, neither, and both' do not have direct counterparts in Korean and are rendered using several words. Moreover, 'much and many' are not distinguished in Korean. While chapter five covers the explanation of pronominal adjectives in almost fifty-three pages, chapter six about adjectives offers a few examples of simple adjectives and adjectives used predicatively. Underwood also describes the comparative and superlative degrees of adjectives.

In chapter seven, Underwood covers different types of adverbs along with their Korean equivalents. He presents adverbs of place such as 'here, there, and where' and adverbs of time like always, whenever, generally, usually, often, frequently, sometimes, seldom, never, ever, again, when, while, as, then, now, already, formerly, used to, hitherto,

²⁸ H.G. Underwood, *An Introduction...*

recently, of late, ago, just now, till, until, by and by, soon, directly, at once, before, after, since, long time, long, some time, a little while, finally, and at last. He also includes adverbs of cause, manner, and degree such as 'why, how, so, like, as, very, only, too, even, almost, and about'.

In chapter eight, Underwood presents numerals, but he does not provide specific examples of English numerals in sentences with Korean translations. He states that nothing more needs to be said about numerals, as everything was explained in part one. The only thing to remember is that they can be used substantively or adjectively. When translating English sentences with numerals into Korean, one should be mindful of the constant use of specific classifiers.

In chapter nine, Underwood enumerates English prepositions, including 'at, in, on, to, from, out of, off, by, through, with, without, of, for, across, over, beyond, among, around, before, behind, between, during, except, besides, instead of, above, under, below, and according to', among others. For each preposition, he provides the Korean equivalent.

Chapter ten deals with English conjunctions. Underwood points out that English conjunctions can be expressed differently in Korean, using participial forms of adjectives and verbs, particles, nouns, and verbal moods²⁹.

In IKSLSE, three appendixes are included, with the first one, Appendix A, devoted to Korean phonetics. Underwood introduces the basic terminology related to phonetics, including terms such as phonetics, ground sound, consonant, vowel, syllable, recoil, glide, analysis of sounds, intonation, and articulation. He presents a diagram that illustrates the positions of the lips, tongue, and other vocal organs. Based on this diagram, he analyzes English consonants and provides a phonetic table for English, followed by a phonetic table for Korean. In addition to explaining Korean phonetics, Appendix A also includes an English-Korean phonetics explanation specifically for Korean students learning English. This section includes all English letters and their pronunciation explained in Korean, along with examples.

Appendix B, titled 'Peculiar Forms', covers some verb forms that Underwood considers to be obsolete. He also presents final endings used in Korean poetry, which differ slightly from common usage. He notes that Korean poetry exhibits rhyme and rhythm, which he terms 'oriental antiphonies'.

Underwood pays attention to 'book forms', which are forms resembling punctuation marks and capitalization. This is particularly important because Korean text does not use punctuation points to mark breaks in the text. Lack of punctuation can often cause difficulty for students of Korean when reading texts. Appendix C contains a short Korean text written from top to bottom and left to right. This text is provided for reading practice for students of Korean.

²⁹ Ibid.

6. JAMES SCARTH GALE (1863–1937)

James Scarth Gale was born on February 19, 1863, in Alma, Ontario, Canada. He attended Alma, then went to Elora High School. In 1882, he entered St. Catharine's Collegiate Institute, and after that, he was admitted to the University of Toronto in 1884. He specialized in languages and literature, including English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, and Latin. In 1888, he graduated with a BA degree. It's worth noting that his educational background was not in theology, although his religious background was Presbyterian. In 1871, a small group of students initiated the University of Toronto Young Men's Christian Association (UT-YMCA). In 1873, the UT-YMCA was formally approved by the University College Council. This association showed a strong interest in foreign missions, and this enthusiasm for foreign missions was further accelerated by the formation of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions (SVM-FM) in 1886. In 1888, the UT-YMCA appointed Gale as the first missionary to Korea. However, the mission board of UT-YMCA discussed the matter that Gale was neither theologically trained nor ordained as an evangelist. Despite this concern, the UT-YMCA appointed him on the condition that he would not establish an independent mission but rather cooperate with other evangelical denominations.

Gale left Toronto by train to Vancouver on October 25, 1888, and then sailed on November 13 to Korea. He arrived in Busan on December 12, 1888. After that, he went to Chemulpo (now Incheon) on December 15, 1888, and was welcomed there by Horace Grant Underwood. He settled down in a village called [Songchon], where he met Lee Chang-jik, who became his lifelong companion and helper. Gale translated the Bible into Korean and promoted Korean literature and history in his works. Gale left Korea on June 22, 1927, and stayed in Canada for a few months. After that, he went to England and died on January 31, 1937, at the age of 74³⁰.

In 1894, he published his book *Korean Grammatical Forms* (hereafter KGF), which includes extensive verbal endings and connectives in Korean from different parts of the country. He employed natives from the North, Seoul, and Kyöngsang Province. He provides a list of 164 grammatical forms and 1,098 sentences where those forms are used. Gale states:

*Standard enmoun [önmun] literature is confined to the translation of the Chinese classics, and consequently does not include all the expressions in the spoken language. The only way left therefore to arrive at any fixed conclusion regarding these, is to collect all possible varieties from different parts of the country and compare them. (...) The sentences at the close have been chosen to illustrate these verbal forms and to introduce students to Korean custom and superstition, something necessary, it seems to me for a correct understanding of the people.*³¹

³⁰ Yoo Young-sik, *The Impact of Canadian Missionaries in Korea: A Historical Survey of Early Canadian Mission Work 1888–1898*, PhD Diss., University of Toronto, 1996.

³¹ J.S. Gale, *Korean Grammatical Forms*, Cambridge 1894.

In KGF, Gale presents a total of 164 forms, organized into three columns. The first column is called ‘enmoun’, meaning vernacular script. The second column is titled ‘spoken’, including oral forms, and in some cases, the written form ‘enmoun’ may have multiple spoken counterparts. The third column contains examples, consisting of sentences written in Korean and their translation in English. However, it does not provide transliteration of Korean or word-to-word translation. The third column is subdivided with small title-headings, such as ‘present indicative’ and ‘past indicative’.

For more than ninety-two pages, Gale presents the grammatical forms, and the following 156 pages include 1,098 sentences grouped thematically. These sentences cover a variety of topics from everyday life to academic disciplines. Sentences from one to three hundred have numbers corresponding to each grammatical form used in a sentence. This numbering system provides students with information about the grammatical form presented in the first part of the book, enabling them to easily find and study the selected material. However, from sentence three hundred onward, no numbers are attached to grammatical forms.³²

In Gale’s second publishing of *Korean Grammatical Forms Revised Edition* (hereafter KGFRE) in 1916, he explicitly states in the preface that he employs colloquial language rather than presenting a complete grammar. Each grammatical form is accompanied by a short definition and illustrative sentences. Gale explains:

*Each ending or connective is dealt with by a short definition and then by illustrative sentences that bear directly on the question. Great care has been taken to make sure that these sentences speak true Korean, uninfluenced by foreign thought or construction; and that they be of as wide an application as possible.*³³

In addition to his own expertise, Gale acknowledges that he obtained knowledge from books such as *Grammaire Coréenne*³⁴ and *Dictionnaire Coreen-Francais*³⁵ for the compilation of his 1916 work. The KGFRE consists of 240 grammatical forms, one hundred Korean sentences designed for beginners, two hundred Korean proverbs, 550 miscellaneous sentences, and 321 colloquial ‘moon-ja’ sentences. The latter are actually four-Chinese character idioms used by Koreans. Furthermore, KGFRE features a different table of contents unlike the first edition.

Both KGF and KGFRE have similar content, with a few differences. First, Gale differentiates between ㄹ 다 and (ㄹ) 다 in brackets. The former is used to create adjectives, whereas the latter is used to create verbs. He explains in detail the usage of both with examples. Second, in KGF, there is a division between the present indicative form and the independent present indicative form. The present indicative form is used when speaking about what is immediately seen or known to everyone, while the independent present indicative form is used in speaking of (1) things without any reference to being seen, as what is general or universal, (2) the future as if it were the present, and

³² Ibid.

³³ J. Scott, “Preface,” in J.S. Gale, *Korean Grammatical Forms*, Seoul 1916.

³⁴ F.C. Ridel, *Grammaire Coréenne*...

³⁵ *Dictionnaire Coreen-Francais*, Paris 1880.

(3) when teaching or telling another something they do not know. Third, when referring to things seen and then spoken of, or actions that happened in the past, Gale uses the term 'indirect form' or 'outside form', which corresponds in modern Korean grammar to the retrospective ending *tō*. Fourth, in KGFRE, he presents a separate description of grammatical cases in Korean, while in KGF, the grammatical cases are described together with nouns. Finally, the sentences in KGF are grouped thematically, whereas in KGFRE, they are divided into sections for proverbs, miscellaneous sentences, and colloquial expressions.³⁶

7. ANNIE LAURIE BAIRD (1864–1916)

Annie Laurie Adams Baird was born on September 15, 1864, in Decatur County, Indiana. She attended primary school in Decatur County, then pursued education at Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio, as well as Hanover College (where she was the first woman in her class), and Washburn College. At a later time, she took special courses in language and literature through a correspondence school. She served as the state secretary of the YWCA (Young Woman Christian Association) in Topeka, Kansas. On November 18, 1890, she married William Martyn Baird, a missionary to Korea. Together, they sailed from San Francisco to Korea on December 18, 1890, arriving in Busan on January 29, 1891. They subsequently stayed in Seoul, Daegu, and Pyongyang.³⁷

Annie Laurie Adams Baird passed away on June 9, 1916, in Pyongyang, where she had spent her last eighteen years of missionary work.³⁸ Her work *Fifty Helps for the Beginner in the Use of the Korean Language* (hereafter FHKL), first published in 1896, is described by her as an easy-to-understand book for complete beginners of the Korean language. She states:

*This little booklet is not intended for the eye of those who have made considerable progress in the study and use of Korean, but is designed simply to help the beginner to a speedy use of certain common idioms. All that it contains, with the exception, perhaps, of the vocabulary of religious terms, and the prayer and gospel sentences, may be found much more fully and carefully expressed in other works, but not, as we believe, in form as accessible to beginners.*³⁹

It was six years after she came to Korea that Annie Laurie Adams Baird published FHKL. The first edition was published in Seoul and was reprinted six times, with the last reprinting in 1926. Here, we use the fourth edition, published in Japan in 1911. The structure and content from the first to sixth editions are almost the same. The first edition includes sixty-four pages, the fourth edition has one hundred pages, and the sixth edition has one hundred and fourteen pages. Until the third edition, she presented forty-two verb constructions, and in the fourth edition, she added an additional

³⁶ J.S. Gale, *Korean Grammatical Forms*, Seoul 1916, pp. 128–129.

³⁷ W.M. Baird, *Biography of Annie Laurie Adams Baird*, 1928.

³⁸ D. Shavit, *The United States in Asia: A Historical Dictionary*, Westport 1990, p. 24

³⁹ A.L.A. Baird, *Fifty Helps for the Beginner in the Use of the Korean Language*, Yokohama 1911, p. 3.

eight verb constructions. Therefore, as indicated in the title, there are fifty verb entries with explanations.⁴⁰

In the introduction part, Baird⁴¹ specifies that her booklet is not intended for those who have made considerable progress in the use of the Korean language, but rather for beginners who want to quickly learn certain common phrases. She provides a detailed explanation of the eleven Korean vowels, accompanied by both Korean and English examples. She mentions that there is only one true diphthong in Korean, which is *eui* (үй). The other diphthongs, she refers to as vowels compounded with 'Y', of which there are five, and vowels compounded with 'W', of which she presents six. Regarding the consonant system, Baird proposes eight simple consonants, five aspirated consonants, and four reduplicated consonants.

After the introduction of pronunciation, Baird presents several basic sentences in Korean that will help the student communicate with native speakers when learning the Korean language.

Baird introduces various parts of speech such as nouns, pronouns, active verbs, adjectival verbs, adverbs, and postpositions. Within the noun section, she focuses only on noun declension and cases. As for pronouns, she provides only a few of them that are necessary for communication. Like other Korean grammar books, she devotes much space to the category of verbs. She describes the conjugation in Korean and then provides a list of the most used verbs, which are arranged in antonymic pairings.

Within adjectival verbs, Baird also provides a list of the most common adjectives in Korean in the same way as she did for verbs. She takes a similar approach when describing adverbs and postpositions. Another term she introduces is what she calls 'language building', based on simple words. Baird proposes simple Korean constructions with explanations where she introduces the difficulties of Korean grammar. This is similar to Gale's Korean grammatical forms. It includes final endings, prefinal endings, and connecting endings. There are fifty grammatical constructions she explains with additional supportive examples. Based on that, fifty basic grammatical constructions with explanations provided and analyzed by Baird show the reader how the Korean language works.

The study book contains eighty-seven religious terms and thirty-five useful short prayer sentences. Advice is given to students at the end in the section titled *A Few Things to Be Avoided*. Baird urges students to practice high and low forms in everyday life whenever possible, and she warns against talking to a Korean teacher in English. For better understanding of grammar, she suggests visiting older missionaries to seek help and explanations. She also encourages students of Korean to learn as many Chinese characters as possible, as they will find them useful when learning new vocabulary. Additionally, she proposes reading church papers regularly in Korean to understand what people are thinking and doing.⁴²

⁴⁰ Lee Sook, "Ch'ogi sŏn'gyosaüi han'gugŏ kyosa 07: Han'gugŏ Kyosuböbül Hwangnip'an Aeni Peödü," *Kidokkyosasang*, vol. 726, (2019), pp. 198–210.

⁴¹ A.L.A. Baird, *Fifty Helps...*, p. 3.

⁴² Ibid.

In the very last part of FHKL, Baird gives general sociolinguistic observations about Korean people and foreigners' behavior when meeting them. First, Korean people are very sensitive to etiquette, and foreigners should pay attention to minute details. For example, when meeting a Korean teacher, one should salute him properly while facing him, not in a hurry or half-turning away. The same behavior should be used when receiving salutations from others. When talking to Koreans or meeting them, foreigners should pay special attention to aged persons, rising when they enter or depart, and addressing them in the proper language.

Baird gives advice to foreign women, stating that while they enjoy their freedom when going outside, in Korea, in public, they should avoid appearing with a man. When going with a male teacher of the language, an older man is preferred over a younger one. It is possible to appear with a male, but only in the case when he is a servant. Baird also advises avoiding directness when expressing annoyance, as Koreans are afraid of 'losing face' before others. Therefore, when one wants to express irritation, it is advisable to use the medium of a third party rather than addressing it directly. She states that Koreans do not understand foreign directness, and the system of hints and go-betweens is more familiar to them. Baird generalizes that patience, forbearance, and courteous bearing are distinguishing features of Korean people.⁴³

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the contributions of these early Western experts in Korean language were instrumental in shaping the initial framework for Korean linguistic studies. Their pioneering works not only introduced the Korean language to a Western audience but also established foundational grammatical analysis that would influence subsequent research and education in Korea. By examining language through the lenses of translation, grammar, and cultural exchange, they opened pathways for a richer understanding of Korean linguistics.

These scholars' legacies extend beyond mere academic contributions; their efforts emphasize the profound impact of intercultural engagement and scholarship on preserving and studying Korean language heritage. Their dedication, often driven by religious or diplomatic missions, helped bridge cultural divides and laid the groundwork for a global appreciation and understanding of Korean language and culture.

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