



Tübingen Korean Studies Lecture Series

Summer Semester 2025, Wednesdays 18:00 c.t., Wilhelmstraße 133, R. 30

"About some of the characteristics of Korean that Korean learners should know"

Huntae Kim
University of Latvia

May 14th, 2025

Kim Huntae is a Visiting Professor at the University of Latvia, where he has been teaching and conducting research in Korean Studies since 2019, supported by the Korea Foundation. Prior to this, he held several academic positions at Babeş-Bolyai University in Romania, including Expert and Cooperation Researcher under the Seed Grant program funded by the Academy of Korean Studies, as well as Visiting Professor through both the Korea Foundation and the Academy.



Korean is currently spoken as a native language by more than 80 million people. In recent years, the Korean Wave (Hallyu), which began in earnest in the 2010s, has gradually raised the international profile of the Korean language, with more people studying and using it as a second or third language in many countries around the world. The role of Korean is becoming more diverse, not only in terms of increasing interest in Korean culture, but also in terms of professional needs and personal life. In particular, I believe that in the future, many students will be interested in teaching Korean as well as translating or interpreting Korean abroad. Korean has a wide variety of features compared to Western languages, so it is very important for students studying Korean to systematically learn various Korean features. In this lecture, I would like to introduce the features of Korean language roughly into general features, phonological features, lexical features, and grammatical features. In particular, among the lexical features, I would like to present the various meanings and functions of Korean vocabulary, focusing on onomatopoeia, mimic words, colour words, and taste words.