

# This way kids: Locative Use in Korean Gay Discourse

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## Question

- How is gayness indexed in Korean?
- What role do locative phrases play in the indexing of gayness?

## Background

- Little to no research on gay discourse in Korean context
- Korean culture heavily influenced by Confucianism, perceive gayness as contradicting social order (Kim and Hahn, 2006)
- Korean gay speech incorporates lots of English and unique phrases
- Korean is a pro-drop 'discourse-oriented' language (Kwon and Stuart, 2013)

## Methods

- Analyzed 12 videos of two Korean gay streamers: 남규(Namgyu) and 김뽕뽕 (Kim Ddolddol)
- Tokens were created when the speakers were referring to something as 'gay' or 'straight'; 93 tokens in total
- These tokens were then analyzed by speaker, intended listener, and referent and compared with each other



Namgyu



Kim Ddolddol

## References



## Results

- The locative phrase *ijjeok* 'this way' is used to signal in-group membership in addition to gayness
- Used only when the speaker, (presumed) listener and referent are **all** gay or presumed gay
  - ex: *ijjeok sulbeongae-eseo 0pyo pihaneun bop*  
this.way speed.dating- LOC 0.point avoid-PRES method  
'How to avoid failing at *this way* speed dating'
- In a mixed audience, defacto English word *gei*, is used
- *ijjeok* can't be used as a personal pronoun or to directly describe yourself in 1st person
- Asymmetrical distribution, can't use *keujjeok* 'that way' for straight

## Discussion

- This study barely scratching the surface of Korean gay speech features
- Level of adversity faced by LGBTQ+ community in Korea is reflected in this directional discourse of sexuality as direction (Gal and Irvine, 2001)
- Much larger corpus needed