

Unveiling the 19th Century's Multilingual Dictionaries Published by Western Missionaries in Korea through the Construction of an Integrated Knowledgebase

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Building bilingual dictionaries was one of Western missionaries' major works when they settled down in foreign countries, especially when natives' language was unknown to them. Most of those dictionaries remain precious language resources which can provide current researchers with rich linguistic and cultural characteristics of the period when they were developed. The *Korean-French Dictionary* (published in 1880 at Yokohama, Japan) and the *Korean-English Dictionary* (published in 1897 at Yokohama, Japan) were born from this tradition, and they are estimated as the first multilingual and bilingual dictionaries for the Korean language in the modern sense, which contain a large number of entry words (27,000 to 34,000), Chinese etymology, definition or description, morphological information, various semantic relations, pragmatic or encyclopedic information, etc.

In spite of their importance for Korean lexicology and lexicography, current Korean researchers can hardly use them as primary documents, because of following difficulties. (1) A single modern scholar does not possess enough knowledge of all used languages (19th's Korean, French, and Chinese): most Korean linguists in 21st century cannot understand French which delivers definition and description; French linguists are not at all familiar with the 19th's Korean words and orthodox Chinese characters. (2) Numerous heteronyms of the 19th's Korean, of which orthographic rules were not yet founded, prevent thorough search or comparison of words. (3) The microstructure of those dictionaries embarrasses us with complicated sorting criteria, which make searching extremely time-consuming job, not to mention their paper-based medium. (4) Frequently missing or crashed types need background knowledge to be correctly understood.

In order to overcome their inaccessibility, we propose to construct an enhanced knowledgebase, which offers sustainable research environment to the present and succeeding scholars, (1) by the media transition from paper to digitalized dictionary, (2) by well-designed knowledgebase that can store extended information and that will improve searching efficiency, (3) by enriching them with supplementary information such as lexical links to modern Korean dictionaries (published in 1990), and (4) by providing Korean translation of French definition and description.

The first versions were developed and posted on <http://corpus.fr.pusan.ac.kr/dicSearch/>.