

## **Disagreement as a Resource for Affiliation in Korean Talk-in-Interaction**

This study investigates how South Korean speakers employ expressions of disagreement to accomplish affiliation, analyzing their use across both conflictual and non-conflictual contexts in naturally occurring Korean conversation. Utilizing the methodological framework of Conversation Analysis (CA), the study examines approximately 12 hours of spontaneous interactions among native South Korean speakers. From this dataset, 40 instances of disagreement were identified and analyzed.

Prior CA research on disagreement has primarily focused on conflictual sequences. For instance, Pomerantz (1984) characterizes disagreement as a dispreferred action, typically associated with resistance, opposition, or rejection. In such contexts, particularly in English and Japanese conversations, disagreements are frequently delayed, mitigated, or preceded by devices such as initial agreements, pauses, or repetition, in order to manage the dispreferred nature of the action (Mori, 1999; Pomerantz, 1984; Schegloff, 2007).

Extending this line of work, the present study examines how disagreement can be interactionally mobilized as a preferred action in Korean conversation. Specifically, it shows that Korean speakers may affiliatively deploy disagreement in non-confrontational sequences, for instance, when responding to self-deprecating remarks, compliments, or co-participants' offers to take on a greater share of responsibility. In these contexts, disagreement is not oriented to as oppositional, but rather as a practice for accomplishing social solidarity. This study also reveals differences in immediacy between disagreement in conflictual and non-conflictual settings. In conflictual interactions, disagreement is frequently delayed and mitigated whereas in the non-conflictual settings such as responding to self-deprecating remarks, compliments, or co-participants' offers to take on a greater share of responsibility, disagreement tends to be immediate and direct.

These findings suggest that the act of disagreement is a socially flexible resource that can simultaneously enact resistance and preserve social solidarity. Using the framework of CA, this study underscores the importance of examining not only what disagreement accomplishes, but also how it is differently manifested depending on context and social goals.

Moreover, by foregrounding affiliative uses of disagreement in a specific cultural context, this study contributes to a more nuanced understanding of disagreement as a culturally variable and socially adaptive interactional resource. In particular, it highlights how in Korean conversation, disagreement, such as rejecting compliments about oneself, can function as a preferred action in certain contexts, in contrast to typical responses in English conversation. This cultural perspective enriches our understanding of disagreement as a context-sensitive and socially constructive practice.