

**DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHING METHODOLOGY  
FOR KOREAN CULTURE  
BASED ON CLASSICAL TEXTS**

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**Аннотация.** В данной статье рассматривается культура Кореи в образовательном аспекте. Предоставляется информация о целях и задачах преподавания корейской культуры. Приводятся примеры познания культуры через корейский фольклор. Статья предлагает теоретические основы для дальнейшей разработки методики преподавания культуры Кореи.

**Ключевые слова:** Корея, культура, язык, фольклор, преподавание, изучение, методика.

**초록.** 본 논문에서는 한국의 교육적 측면에서의 한국 문화에 대해 논의합니다. 한국 문화 교육의 목표와 과제에 대한 정보를 제공합니다. 한국의 민속문화를 통해 문화를 이해하는 예시를 제시합니다. 이 논문은 한국 문화 교육 방법론의 발전을 위한 이론적 기반을 제공합니다.

**어휘:** 한국, 문화, 언어, 민속문화, 교육, 학습, 방법론.

**Abstract.** This article discusses Korean culture in the educational aspect. Information is provided on the goals and objectives of teaching Korean culture. Examples of understanding culture through Korean folklore are given. The article offers theoretical foundations for further development of the methodology of teaching Korean culture.

**Key words:** Korea, culture, language, folklore, teaching, study, methodology.

### **Regarding the Issue of Korean Culture**

The Culture of Korea is considered one of the oldest world cultures, spanning over a history of more than 5000 years. Korea is a country with a rich and diverse culture, ancient traditions, and customs. Key aspects of Korean culture include the Korean language, cuisine, traditional dance, music, cinema industry, fashion, painting, and holidays. The cultural tradition of Korea has long been divided and interacted with other cultures. Its heritage includes principles of behavior that help understand the identity of the Korean people<sup>1</sup>.

Korea, having overcome countless challenges throughout its long historical journey, has created a brilliant civilization and today is rapidly moving forward in challenging circumstances. Undoubtedly, at the core of this lies the potential of Korean culture<sup>2</sup>. To understand modern Korean culture, it is important to recognize the specificity of traditional beliefs that have shaped its characteristics in the 21st century. At various stages of history, various religious, philosophical, and moral teachings from East Asia have influenced the formation of Korea's cultural identity, which we see today. The syncretic combination of Buddhist and animistic elements in the national culture remains a significant component of Korean worldview, coexisting with Confucian moral values, which continue to be reflected in the art and literature of the country<sup>3</sup>.

Korean culture is characterized by fatalism, where accepting the inevitability of events is common. Even in the modern world, Koreans adhere to the principles of Feng Shui in their construction and life organization. Korean culture is focused on the past, which is reflected in the high regard for personal status, respect for history, traditions, and family ties. It is characterized by a high degree of

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<sup>1</sup>Alikberova A.R., Ko Yeon Chol, Takhtarova S.S. Content of Educational Materials on Korean Culture for Korean Studies Students at Universities in Russia. No. 1, 2018. – P. 13-18.

<sup>2</sup>Lee Byung. Cultural Panorama of Korea. Central Academy of Korean Studies Publishing House. – Gyeonggi-do, 2013.

<sup>3</sup>Dudinova A.A. Dynamics of Traditional Imagery in Korean Culture (Based on Classical and Modern Poetry). Moscow State Linguistic University. – Moscow: 2021.

contextualization, which is evident in the use of indirect speech acts that may not always directly convey meaning but are consistently interpreted unambiguously. For example, some forms of greeting are not aimed at obtaining information about one's well-being but express respect. In the collectivist culture of Korea, achievements are associated with group activities. The characteristics of economic activity among Koreans have contributed to the formation of the principle of collectivism and the prioritization of the collective over the individual, which is evident in their approach to work, patience, and perseverance<sup>4</sup>.

The study of language and the culture of the people who speak it are inseparable. Without knowledge of the cultural fundamentals, learners will not be able to fully interact with the society speaking that language, integrate into the community, or understand the mechanisms of communication. The study of language should facilitate immersion in the culture.

### **Teaching Korean Culture**

When learning any foreign language, including Korean, learners encounter a conflict of cultures. Their own culture and the culture of another country are separated from the learner's native language. Therefore, for effective learning of a foreign language, it is necessary to provide education on the culture of the country whose language is being studied.

Studying Korean culture is necessary to understand its true nature and national spirit, as well as to realize the diversity of cultural traditions, which helps find alternatives for harmonious coexistence among people. These efforts also contribute to the search for the wisdom inherent in Korean culture.

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<sup>4</sup>Den Anna. Taking into Account the Specifics of the Korean Language and Culture in the Process of Teaching Korean Language. No. 2, 2018. – P. 26-27.

Interest in culture in Korea developed historically, with the people playing a central role. Under the influence of local beliefs and religions from other countries, interest in culture intensified<sup>5</sup>.

Cultural studies as a science emerged in Korea in 1973 when laboratory schools for in-depth education in arts, humanities, and social sciences were established at 10 universities in the country. This led to the emergence of the subject «Cultural Studies».

After the democratization of Korea in 1987, the government and regional authorities actively supported culture and the development of research in cultural studies. Leading universities in the country began to develop cultural disciplines such as anthropology, art, video, and others. In 2000, the emergence of the «Hallyu» («Korean Wave») stimulated the industrialization of culture.

The Korean language and Korean literature are closely intertwined with culture. Based on the content of classical literary works, one can learn the Korean language and immerse oneself in the cultural characteristics of Koreans, discovering the origins and reasons behind many traditions accepted in Korean society. Im Jae Hae<sup>6</sup> said: «Folklore is the fundamental living culture of the Korean people. Folklore is the culture of speech, the culture of life, the culture of place. Folklore is the foundation that constitutes the basis of national life and makes Koreans Koreans. Understanding the movement of human life lies in finding wisdom in the lives of Koreans and moving in the right direction».

### **Teaching Korean culture Through Folklore**

The basis for this article was the decision to take the content of Korean folklore, specifically «How White Became the Color of Life in Korea» and «The

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<sup>5</sup>Alikberova A.R., Ko Yeon Chol, Takhtarova S.S. Content of Educational Materials on Korean Culture for Korean Studies Students at Universities in Russia. No. 1, 2018. – P. 13-18.

<sup>6</sup>Drach G.V. Culturology. Textbook. - Moscow: Phoenix, 1998. P. 576.

Legend of Dangun». To understand the consciousness of Korean society, it is necessary to delve into its origins, namely folklore<sup>7</sup>.

The white color is the national color of South Korea and carries various meanings for the Korean people. For instance, on the background of the national flag of the Republic of Korea, Taegukgi (태극기 – Flag of the Great Beginning), white is the primary color. It symbolizes purity, clarity, calmness, peace and enlightenment<sup>8</sup>. In the understanding of Koreans, the white color does not disrupt nature and, being the primal color, assimilates perfectly within it. Based on its supreme beauty, white signifies purity, grandeur, and nobility of the nation, embodying holiness. It serves as an indicator of life<sup>9</sup>. It used to be believed that Koreans have had a longstanding preference for white clothing, hence they were often referred to as the «nation in white clothing» in ancient times<sup>10</sup>.

The Korean folk tale «How White Became the Color of Life in Korea»<sup>11</sup> reflects the fatalistic nature of Korean culture and the people's acceptance of the interconnectedness of life and death. The tale recounts a story from ancient times when a kind king fell seriously ill and turned as white as milk. The wise elders decided to treat the king with milk, breaking the main law prohibiting milk in the country. However, the treatment did not succeed, and the king passed away. The people wore white mourning clothes, and a new king came to rule the country, yet the people continued to wear mourning clothes. «They wore them for three years, and when they took them off, another king also died. Again, they put on mourning clothes. They took them off, and the third king died. And so, the white color became the color of life – while kings were dying, many people were born... That's why Koreans still dress in all white to this day».

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<sup>7</sup>Anikina A.A. Korean Folklore and Its Connection with the Folklore of Other Countries. Vol. 3, No. 1, 2022. - P. 25-30.

<sup>8</sup><https://russian.korea.net/NewsFocus/HonoraryReporters/view?articleId=188582>

<sup>9</sup>Mushaev V.N., Mukabenova Zh.A. Color in the Culture of the Korean People. Vol. 2, No. 2, 2021. - P. 89-93.

<sup>10</sup>Lee Oryun. In Three Realms on Three Winds. <https://koryo-saram.site/pochemu-u-korejtsev-belaya-odezhda/>

<sup>11</sup><http://skazkoved.ru/index.php?fid=1&sid=88&tid=3539>

«The legend of Dangun»<sup>12</sup> tells the story of how a tiger and a bear appealed to Hwanung to fulfill their cherished dream - to transform them into humans. The condition for the tiger and the bear was to lock themselves in a cave for 100 days and eat nothing but greenery and garlic. The tiger could not withstand the test and left the cave to eat its usual meat. However, the bear passed the trial and transformed into a beautiful woman. The woman became lonely, and she turned to Hwanung again with a request. Hwanung felt sorry for her, and he himself took her as his wife. Soon, they gave birth to the future founder of the Korean state – Dangun.

The tale reflects the resilience and obedience of the Korean people. In order to achieve their goals, Koreans undergo all life trials with great dignity and submission to authorities and laws. There is also a reference to the Korean national cuisine. The basis of all national dishes to this day consists of seasonings made from greens and garlic, which contain many vitamins and are beneficial for health.

### **Conclusion**

Thus, the material of classical texts, namely Korean folklore, plays a significant role in mastering and understanding Korean culture. This, in turn, contributes to a deeper level of learning the Korean language. The examples provided with Korean folk tales serve as a basis for developing a methodology for teaching Korean culture based on classical texts. It is important to mention that familiarizing students with Korean folklore in its original language, that is, in Korean, will not only facilitate a deeper immersion into Korean culture but also enhance their proficiency in the Korean language.

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<sup>12</sup> <http://skazkoved.ru/index.php?fid=1&sid=88&tid=3542>

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