

Special Review

Korean Studies Research
and Pedagogy in Southeast Asia:
Trends, Challenges, and Prospects
in Southeast Asia

Volume 25 Number 2

December 2022

The Review of Korean Studies

www.kci.go.kr



Editor's Note

LEE Kang Hahn

In Summer 2021, the *Review of Korean Studies* (hereafter, *RKS*) received contact from the Ateneo Korean Studies Program at the Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines. They proposed a Special issue for *RKS*, which would review the current status of Korean Studies in the Maritime Southeast Asian regions. It was a delightful surprise for us at *RKS*, as we have been considering to host another special review on Korean Studies in foreign countries, after publishing several special reviews on recent Korean Studies in Japan (2019) and China (2021). So, we happily accepted the offer and discussed the parameters of the contribution.

According to the proposal, the program recently organized the “Korean Studies in Maritime Southeast Asia Conference” with the support of Korean Studies Promotion Service (KSPS) and its Seed Grant program. Based on the results of that conference, the program suggested a tentative title “Korean Studies Research and Pedagogy in the Times of Covid: Problems and Prospects in the Context of Maritime Southeast Asia.” They also informed us that cases of Brunei, East Timor, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Singapore were slated to be reviewed, and a Commentary by a Korean-based Expert will be provided as well.

We at *RKS* were thrilled at the prospect, and made a counter suggestion that in light of recent special issues, the special review suggested by the program would benefit the readers most if it modified the theme a little to review past and recent achievements in the region’s Korean Studies and research, as well as general research trends in the region, not confined to the Covid era. The program graciously agreed, and the project went forward under the theme of “Korean Studies Research and Pedagogy in Southeast Asia: Trends, Challenges, and Prospects.”

And here we are, with five outstanding reviews and an introduction.

First, there is Dr. Kim Dong-Yeob’s wonderful introduction to this project, entitled “Introduction to the Special Review on Korean Studies

Research and Pedagogy in Southeast Asia.” In his article, he first examines the conceptualization of Korean Studies, and also presents his take on the history, scope, and development of overseas Korean Studies in general. He then discusses the development of Korean Studies in Southeast Asia, and wraps his article by providing us with an articulate introduction to all four reviews included in this special occasion.

The second article is “Sustaining Korean Studies: Challenges and Prospects in Philippine Higher Education Institutions” by Drs. Aurea C. Javier, Sarah Jane D. Lipura, Ma. Kristina Carla S. Rico, and Oliver John C. Quintana. It deals with the Korean Studies in the Philippines and programs at academic institutes.

The third article is “Does an Online Flipped Classroom Support Students’ Autonomy, Competence, and Relatedness to Maintain their Motivation?: Korean as a Foreign Language Learners in Brunei” by Dr. Eum Sangran. It focuses on the Brunei case of Korean language education, and discusses the flipped classroom method: its merits and results.

The fourth article is “Virtual Learning of L3 Korean in Singapore: Learner Attitudes and Perceived Proficiency of Bilinguals” by Dr. Park Mihi. It deals with Korean language education in Singapore, by examining multilingualism throughout the country, and how that benefits the people’s learning of the Korean language as a subsequent language (L3).

The fifth and final article is “Understanding South Korean and Southeast Asian Societal Contextual Differences through Classical Theater” by Dr. Hanafi Hussin and Rohayati Paidi. It focuses on the Malaysian case of comparative studies dealing with Korean and Southeast Asian theatrical performances. Methods and research results are provided with great pictures.

RKS once again thanks all the contributors, not only for their works included in this issue, but also for their ongoing efforts and dedication to Korean Studies and education in their respective regions. And of course, special thanks to Professor Oliver John C. Quintana, who presented us with the initial proposal, and Director Aurea C. Javier for overseeing this project till the end. We at *RKS* are more than happy to have this chance to work with the Ateneo Korean Studies Program, and hope that we could continue this kind of cooperation with other foreign universities and institutes as well. For now, please enjoy all these fascinating reviews on overseas Korean Studies, blossoming in the proud and spectacular region that is Maritime Southeast Asia.