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Editor's Note

The world throws information at us like a relentless wave. From geopolitical tensions to economic anxieties and social movements, it's easy to feel disoriented, lost in a vast ocean of news.

We understand that disorientation. We're here to be your compass in these tumultuous waters, offering context, analysis, and diverse perspectives to make sense of it all.

This new edition delves into complex global issues, explores the human cost of ongoing conflicts, and celebrates the triumphs of the human spirit. We believe knowledge is a life raft, and by understanding the challenges we face – both locally and globally – we can better equip ourselves to find solutions.

We also believe in the power of connection. By hearing different voices and perspectives, we build empathy and understanding. This connection serves as a lifeline, reminding us that we are not alone in navigating these turbulent waters.

This edition is a microcosm of the world – complex, multifaceted, and constantly evolving. But within these pages, you'll also find the tools you need to navigate it. We offer in-depth reporting, thought-provoking commentary, and a platform for diverse voices.

Ultimately, we hope to be a partner in your journey of understanding this ever-disorienting world. Dive in, explore the stories, share your thoughts, and let's navigate these currents together.

Sincerely,

Jung Yoonhyuk

U N E S C O

Empowering Global Citizenship Through Education: Collaborative Efforts with DFLHS and UNESCO

UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, is a UN agency founded in 1945. It promotes global peace and security through cooperation in education, science, culture, and communication. Known for initiatives like the World Heritage List, UNESCO aims to foster international understanding, protect cultural heritage, and support sustainable development. It engages 193 member states in addressing global challenges and advancing intercultural dialogue.

The UNESCO Associated Schools Network, founded in 1953, connects thousands of schools across the world, aiming to promote UNESCO's values through education. Through various activities and initiatives, members of the network act as laboratories of ideas for educational quality, innovation, and transformation.

As a member of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network, Daeil Foreign Language High School has made various efforts to support these goals. UNICON, an officially designated UNESCO human rights society, has collaborated with the Korean National Commission for UNESCO to promote human rights. In 2023, UNICON fundraised for Seoul National University Hospital and ran a campaign to raise environmental awareness. The school also organizes an Intramural Model United Nations, where students foster global citizenship, and runs PRESS, which consistently publishes articles regarding UNESCO.

Hangeul-ing in Here

Korean Education System for Immigrants



가나
바사
카타

How do you feel when you think of living in a place you've never experienced or even imagined before? There are more than 200 million people in this situation: the immigrants. Many find themselves living in a country they may not have chosen, becoming immigrants by necessity rather than preference.

Immigrants are people who move to another country to live permanently. They often feel uneasy living in a completely different environment with other people. One of the most significant challenges they face is language proficiency. Communicating is difficult because acquiring the country's language well enough to use it freely daily life is hard. Korean, as it is truly 'unique' language and considering the various words we use it in our daily lives, the hardship for the foreigners is unimaginable.

For example, many languages do not have final consonants. Especially in countries using the alphabet, there is no concept of final consonants at all. However, in Korean, many words undergo a complete change in meaning due to differences in final consonants, so they cannot be overlooked. Additionally, the concept of spacing would be very confusing to foreigners since spacing is a distinct feature of Korean. Given that even Koreans struggle with spacing, it's anticipated that foreigners would face even greater difficulties.

To address these significant language barriers, the Korean government has been actively promoting Korean language education for foreign immigrants since the mid-1990s. This initiative was spurred by the increasing number of Korean settlers and the recognized need for systematic support for immigrants. At first, these efforts began in conjunction with private organizations, but as the need for more structured and efficient education became apparent, the government assigned different ministries to handle different groups of learners.

The Ministry of Justice runs a social integration program to support the foreign immigrants in adapting well as members of our society. It helps people by not only exempting them from written tests and interviews and but also shortening the waiting time for nationality acquisition.

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family is in charge of education of international married women and their children. The major program works alongside the center for supporting multicultural families, providing lessons and even home-tutoring. The Ministry of Education is conducting programs for elementary, middle, and high school students. Students have chances of taking classes at prep-schools. In 2022, the ministry also provided online education in response to infectious diseases. Thus, it is evident that the programs of Korean government are still developing, considering the international situation and the results of the education programs. Due to the improvement of the Korean education policy, many people are more likely to adapt to the country, which is expected to increase the efficiency of immigrants' work. Actually, there are many immigrants who are satisfied with the Korean language education for foreign immigrants.

Recently, as the number of immigrants continues to increase, the popularity of Korean language education programs for immigrants is on the rise. Therefore, it seems essential to prepare education programs that can accommodate more foreigners. The demand for places to receive foreign language education is growing day by day. Especially in the case of immigrants living in local areas, there is often no nearby place to get education, requiring them to spend a lot of time finding a center for Korean education. That is why the first priority for the government regarding immigrants should be to expand Korean language education facilities. Minimizing language barriers faced by foreigners in Korea by enabling more of them to learn Korean is the government's objective, so facilities must be implemented. Moreover, it is beneficial to look at other countries' successful examples of language education. In Australia, English education focuses not only on learning English but also on respecting cultural diversity. Immigrants can understand the sense of differences with this education. Also, in France, the government assigns nearby French education center for foreigners, providing lunch and time for them to have conversation with others in similar situations. Immigrants can make new friends and also learn French for free. Seeing these countries' policy, Korea still has a long way to go.

The Korean education systems for immigrants would be like an energy drink for them: it will empower them to live well in Korea. By investing in these programs, Korea can ensure a smooth integration process and a more harmonious society. That is why Korea should keep an eye on language education programs and continue to develop them.

By Ahn Seunghyun

다라마
아자차
파하



Ferdinand de Saussure's Theory of Structuralist Language and its Application



Structuralist linguistics takes a position that individual human lives are influenced by linguistic, mental, and social structures as a trend that has influenced variously throughout humanity and social science. Structural linguistics, which emerged in the mid-20th century, was originated from Ferdinand de Saussure's theory of language. This article applies Saussure's structural linguistics theory, the starting point of structural linguistics, especially their relationship between Languae and Parole, to various phenomena and theories.

Saussure thought language as a system of symbol related to each other, and the meaning of this symbol was determined by the reference system of language used in a society. Language as a system, that is, Languae, is the basis of the utterance that an individual actually performs, that is, Parole.

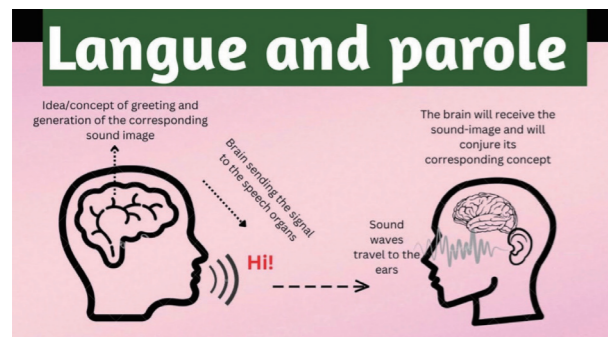
The speaker realizes the words (Languae) stored in a form of 'memory' in a spoken substance(Parole) through 'willful intellectual action'. In other words, language elements that potentially exist in the head are combined according to the needs of communication through limited rules to create an articulator that can convey the intention of one's experiences. As such, language execution as an active and creative activity is Parole. On the other hand, the language that speakers passively store through language activities,

and words as potential entities for use as need are Languae. Languae and Parole are indivisibly connected, and the content, nuances, and intentions of words can be conveyed differently depending on how one speaks the language rule, languae, through Parole. That is, communication flows in various ways depending on the form of Parole in which Languae is conveyed.

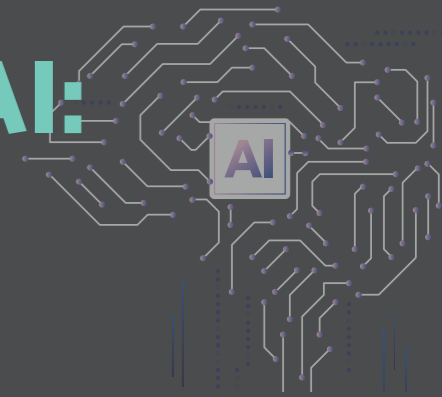
This Languae-Parole relationship can be applied to many fields. First, this relationship can be used to analyze the causes of social conflict. In international negotiations, many causes of social conflict can be considered in connection with Saussure's structural linguistics theory, such as when the meaning of words is misrepresented and negotiations fail and the interests of the two sides deteriorate, legal documents or words are misrepresented, and when legal disputes arise between different cultures, cultural conflicts arise. Saussure's theory can also be applied to pedagogy. Children learn through their parents' Parole rather than learning Languae at first when learning a language, and an effective education system can be created by applying this fact. Languae-Parole's relationship can be applied not only to speaking, but also to other academic fields. Aristotle's attempt to find the principle of emotion in poetry and the Russian formalists' attempt to find litt  rarit  (literary value) in the analysis of literary works was to identify Languae in literature. Nevertheless, each literary work has its own originality, so it is not possible to fully understand the work with the Languae of literature alone, but when one discovers the Parole of originality in the writer or work, one can fully know the message of the work.

As such, the problem can be solved by applying the relationship between Languae and Parole in Saussure's structural linguistics to various fields, which is expected to be applied to more academic fields in the future.

By Hong Seoyoon



English Studies in AI: Bridging the Gap Between Language and Technology



In the ever-evolving landscape of Artificial Intelligence, the intersection of language and technology has become increasingly crucial. English studies in AI, a field of linguistics and computational science, has garnered significant attention for its potential to revolutionize various sectors, from education to customer service. As advancements in natural language processing continue to push boundaries, the integration of English studies with AI promises for enhancing communication, understanding, and problem-solving in diverse contexts.



A recent study published in the Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research focuses on the progress and challenges within this burgeoning field. Led by Dr. Emily Chen, a leading researcher in computational linguistics, the study delves into the intricate relationship between English language studies and AI applications. Dr. Chen emphasizes the need for interdisciplinary collaboration, stating, "To truly harness the power of AI in understanding and generating human language, we must bridge the gap between linguistics and computer science." One of the key areas of focus in English studies within AI is natural language understanding. NLU systems enable machines to comprehend and interpret human language, paving the way for advanced virtual assistants, sentiment analysis tools, and language translation services. By utilizing techniques such as machine learning and deep learning, researchers are making progress in enhancing the accuracy and contextual understanding of NLU systems.

Moreover, English studies in AI are driving innovation in language generation tasks. Generative models, such as OpenAI's GPT series, have demonstrated remarkable proficiency in producing human-like text across a spectrum of topics. These models rely on vast amounts of text data, including literature,

articles, and conversational exchanges, to generate coherent and contextually relevant responses. As Dr. Chen notes, "Language generation models have the potential to revolutionize content creation, automated writing, and even storytelling." However, the road to achieving seamless integration of English studies and AI is not without its hurdles. One significant challenge lies in the nuances of human language, including ambiguity, context dependence, and cultural references. While AI models excel at processing large volumes of text data, capturing the subtleties of language remains a challenging task. Researchers are actively exploring techniques such as contextual embeddings, semantic parsing, and knowledge graphs to enhance the depth of understanding in AI systems.

Furthermore, ethical considerations surrounding bias and fairness in AI-driven language applications have been brought up. Biases embedded within training data can perpetuate discriminatory outcomes, exacerbating existing social inequalities. Dr. Chen emphasizes the importance of ethical AI development, stating, "We must remain vigilant in identifying and mitigating biases in language models to ensure equitable and inclusive outcomes."

Looking ahead, the convergence of English studies and AI is on the cusp of reshaping how we interact with technology and each other. From personalized language tutoring systems to intelligent virtual agents, the potential applications are vast and transformative. As researchers continue to address the complexities of human language, the journey towards a symbiotic relationship between language and AI accelerates, promising a future where communication knows no bounds.

By Yijoo Kim

Problems Caused by Conveniences of Majority

Unmanned Machine, Kiosk



Kiosk

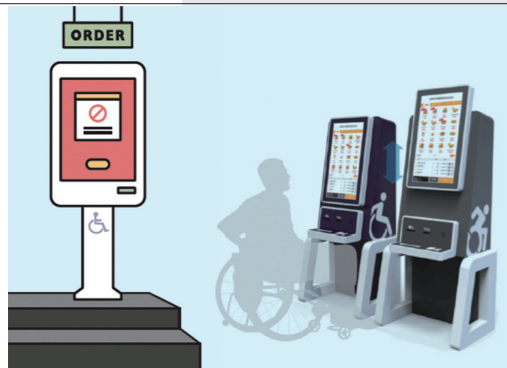
What can we see in a restaurant, café or store these days? There would be many kinds of people such as busy workers who want to settle into their meal quickly, people who enjoy their leisure with a cup of coffee and people who are busy in a kitchen or serving in a hall. It's not that different from before but there is something different; there is no person getting an order at the counter. It is because there is a new machine called kiosk with new technology. We can order the products through several touches on the screen instead of speaking out loud. And this was a perfect situation in COVID-19.

The "Kiosk" is a word derived from Turkish and in English it is a word referring to a snack stand or a small store that sells newspapers and drinks. In an information and communication society, it is referred to an unmanned terminal that public can get the services or do business easily. If this kind of machine is in a restaurant or cafe, employers can use this 'unmanned' machine effectively.

First, employers can use their time and cost effectively through decreasing time for getting an order and personnel expense. Second, they can use it for tasks other than ordering as well like advertising new products in its screen. Third, they can cross the language barrier through its setting. An example being that the customers can change the language at their disposal. Lastly, they can also reduce mistakes in orders because kiosks are machines. Machines can treat lots of orders without any mistakes more exactly than people.

As mentioned above, although kiosks were made to change the lives of the public to be more convenient and decrease the degree of infection, but there are some elements we should also consider.

Is it convenient for children, the disabled, and the elderly without any guidance? According to 'A Survey on the Use of Kiosks' by Korea Consumer Agency in 2022, assessed 20 kiosks installed in theaters, restaurants, and parking lots. All the 20 kiosks fell short of 'The Kiosk KS Standard' made by the Korean government. 17 out of 20 could not be used by the disabled who ride wheelchairs because they exceeded the wheelchair maximum height of 122cm. And it didn't consider the children less than 122cm tall. 12 out of 20 did not have any guidance for the elderly and 14 out of 20 had the letters smaller than 12mm that was suggested by 'KS Standard'. Also, it is almost impossible for the blind to use kiosks. So, they could be isolated from the digital society.



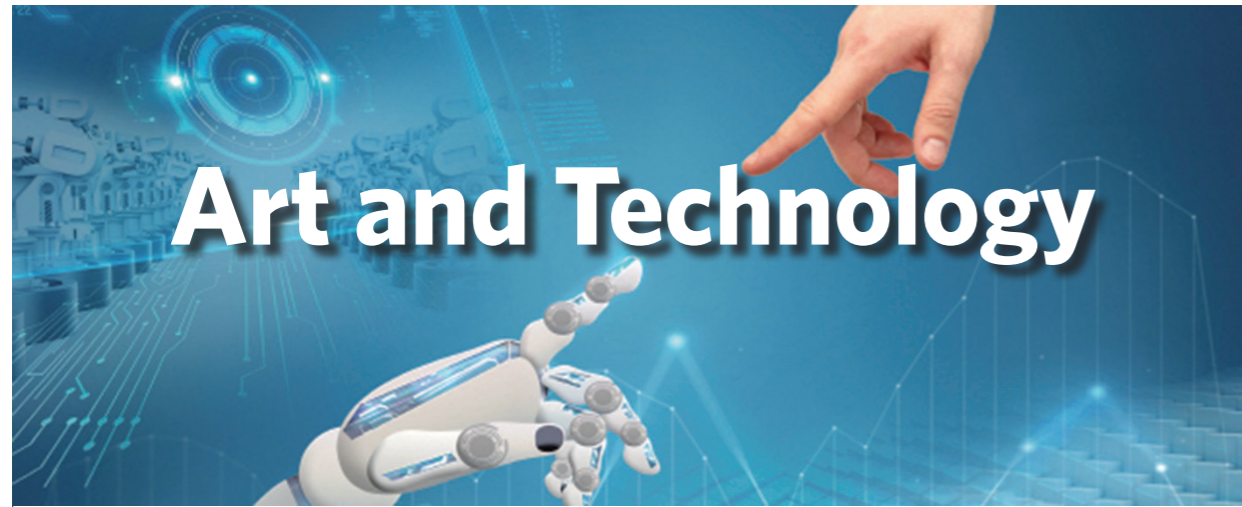
How about the employees who receive orders at the counter? For the employers, they have the benefit of reducing the personnel expense but for the employees, they lose their job. There are 400,000 salespersons less than 10 years ago because of the unconnected and online sales. It is easy for the employers to replace the employees who treat simple tasks like taking orders, serving at small places. Because the simpler the work is, the better the new machine works. It means that machines can handle simple tasks faster and more accurately than humans, such as repetition of something. But as previously stated, it can cause other problems like unemployment.

So how can we deal with this problem? This issue should be addressed in terms of technology and society. In the view of the technology, other systems can be added for improvement. Just as we add universal designs for the socially disadvantaged everywhere, like braille blocks and voice support services, we can add these systems into kiosks. First, we can add the height adjustment devices to kiosks and make them move more flexibly. Customers who ride wheelchairs or children can control the height of kiosks themselves so they can order the products conveniently. Second, we can put the voice support service into kiosks. They exist everywhere in public, such as in front of crosswalks or at the bus and subway station. So, introducing voice support services into kiosks is necessary for the blind. Lastly, adding call buttons with the braille next to the machine would be useful. With the machines, problems are bound to arise. It's the best way to call people as soon as possible to solve problems or handle with emergencies.

In the view of the society, public should make the improvement for awareness. The public needs to wait until the disadvantaged finish the order and not urge them to order quickly. For the elderly who are unfamiliar with the new technology, we can make education programs for them to adjust to the new society conveniently. It can be useful, not only for using kiosks, but also using other new devices. It is the most important to create the considerate social atmosphere. If we create a community where we can help each other, we can make a better life for everyone.

The newer technology we get, the more factors we should consider sensitively. Because no one knows what results the new technology will bring, dealing with it carefully is essential. Although it was made for the conveniences of majority, it doesn't mean that we would not consider the conveniences of minority.

By Jeon Eunjae



Art and Technology

AI vs Human

As attention has been focused on artificial intelligence, there have been both expectations and worries about the characteristics of artificial intelligence or robots which exceed human capabilities. So, the field of 'art' is considered to be a uniquely human field where robots can't invade. Creativity usually comes from human's ability. However, nowadays, AI technology is implanting 'art'. How should we perceive such art and technology?

The "Space Opera Theater" that won the grand prize at the Colorado State Fair Art Competition in the United States last month is under fire. The *winning* artwork, submitted by game designer Jason M. Allen, was not drawn by his hands. The real artist was revealed to be AI, and the controversy *came to the forefront*. Actually, it is hard to define what is art. Many people think art can be born only by human hands. Eventually some people said we should make strict division between Art and Science and prevent Science from invading Art field. Science (technology) was only identified as tool of industry development.

Art and Science

Originally, art and science were one thing. 'Techne' which is ancient Greek language meant notion of Art & Technology. For example, greek artists connected the beauty of nature and the symmetry of geometry. Especially integrated world of art and science and technology has been built since the Renaissance. Leonardo da Vinci can be

mentioned as a representative figure. Showing an organic relationship between science and technology, he was a scientist, artist, engineer, and anatomist. One of his masterpieces, 'The Vitruvian Man', was born from a fusion of not only art but also mathematics, science, and philosophy. Many scientists said action like art is necessary for experiments. However, there were lots of ethical problems at the

line of art and science. Experimental movements can sometimes make big disasters like atomic bomb.



Development of technology brings new art technology. Kinetic Art, the beginning of the science and art genre, moved to video art since the 1970s, and a series of processes that developed into digital art were carried out within the magnetic field of technology development. In recent years, the importance of non-verbal thinking has also emerged in the engineering field, and the design has become an essential element of technology. As a result, as mutual exchanges and non-verbal

thinking between various fields became important, art and technology faced a different era.

New fusion

It's important to understand and acknowledge art and technology both. Unless, It is easy to become a relationship in which art is eroded by technology or the opposite. Art and Technology are the different things but it can fuse.

By Park Donghwa

CHANGES IN OUR LIVES DUE TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

With the rapid growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI), there have been some noticeable changes in our daily lives. AI is technology that simulates human intelligence. AI, which perfectly imitates human knowledge, can be used as a great tool. So, what kind of influence does AI have on us? Let's look into it with four different perspectives.

First, AI is commonly used as a tool for education. Did you know that many teachers make exam questions with the help of AI technology? They type in some keywords to the AI generator and it comes up with a genius question for students to solve in a few seconds. Students use AI to test their own knowledge, since it provides them with all kinds of various questions they have never encountered. When asked to create a certain type of question, AI provides a flawless output, including a precise solution as well. Not only that, AI can also thoroughly analyze your work progress and make new questions based on your weaknesses. This would have been unimaginable in the past, when AI was nonexistent.

Also, AI seems to be inching closer to surpassing the seemingly insurmountable peak of human creativity. With just a few clicks and commands, AI composes songs, simply sketches out a masterpiece, and even writes a whole novel. All we humans have to do is type out some details that must be included in the piece of art. How simple is that? Due to this astonishing development of AI's creating skills, a new occupation, called an AI artist, has come around. What AI artists do is fairly simple—utilize AI to create art. Because AI artists don't technically 'create' art themselves, it is a controversial job at the moment. And as for future genera-

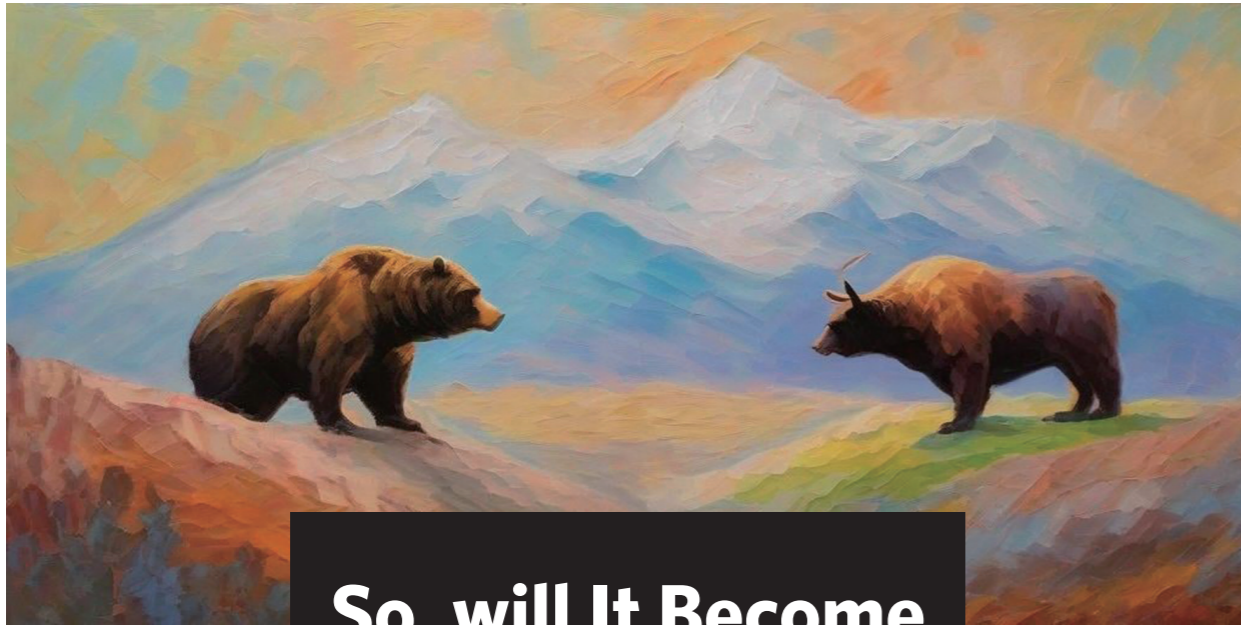
tions, this type of AI technology can lead to lack of creativity in humans, which is highly concerning.

Additionally, AI generally provides usefulness to our daily lives. Nowadays, it's harder to find people who don't use smartphones than those that do. Smartphones contain lots of personal information, but they are strongly protected by AI technology, such as face recognition. Also, when we need to go somewhere in a hurry, we usually check the navigation to see what the shortest route is. These are also work done by AI.

Last but not least, AI has changed our lives by influencing the law. Numerous nations aim to establish regulations to safeguard ethical concerns and issues pertaining to privacy and copyright arising from the advent of artificial intelligence. For instance, Australia emphasizes ethical principles in the development and implementation of AI. Hence, Australia has enacted legislation to guarantee that AI technologies are developed ethically. Korea has yet to adopt specific regulations, unfortunately. It would be ideal if they were created sooner or later.

As you can see just by taking a glance around you, AI is deeply enmeshed in our everyday lives. Things that were considered to be impossible in the past are now possible, thanks to AI. Though AI is an extremely important and casual part of our lives now, it must be used with care. We must make sure to put it to good use, and not to use it in the wrong way.

By Chang Seoyul



So, will It Become a Bear or a Bull?

What's behind the weak Korean won, and what we can anticipate.

The fourth-largest economy in Asia is making its way out of the slow growth zone. South Korea's first-quarter gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 1.3%, well above expectations, has been met with positive reactions from abroad. Most analysts have raised their forecasts for South Korea's economic growth this year from the low 1 percent range to the 2 percent range.

Barclays raised its forecast to 2.7% from 1.9%, while Goldman Sachs raised its forecast to 2.5% from 2.2%. But this good news has been disrupted by the recent weakening of the Korean won.

As the FRB, the main governing body of the central banking system of the US, holds its *neutral stance*, benchmark rates remained at 5.5%, creating a 2% gap between South Korea's benchmark rate of 3.5%. With South Korea still being considered an 'emerging market' by Morgan Stanley Capital International, foreign currencies have escaped the

market to head to the US, where a higher return is guaranteed with lower risk. The recent hawkish or 'aggressive' movements made by Jerome Powell, current chairman of FRB, over the past few years have caused a significant gap between the rates, contributing to the weakening of the Korean won. Geopolitics has also influenced the weakening, as tensions in the Middle East rise and oil prices begin to surge.

It would have been so much better if this was it, but it's not. "Global risk aversion, and recent changes in policies have also contributed to the 'Chaotic era' of Asian currencies," Bank of America commented. The prohibition of 'short-selling' would be the case for South Korea. As illegal short-selling continues, President Yoon has banned short-selling since November 5, 2023, and this caused a huge backfire. Not only did this ban decrease the amount of money being invested, it also showed foreign investors the door.

These are what caused the 1400 KRW / 1 USD problem. Now that we know what caused them, maybe it's time for us to know what's going to happen next. But before we get to hear anything, it would be best to first state that the weak Korean won is going to last for a few months, or years. "The fundamental outlook is tilted toward a prolonged period of U.S. dollar strength," investment bank Goldman Sachs said in an investor note on May 22, noting the interest rate differential with major developed economies following the Fed's "prolonged period of high interest rates."

As aforementioned, South Korea is a global exporter and key player in tech supply chains. But its exports depend heavily on raw material imports, which are becoming increasingly expensive as the won weakens. The heavy reliance on raw-material imports will do great damage to major export industries, including semiconductors and IT. It gets worse. Not only are raw-material prices a problem with domestic prices, but price competition between Japanese products is also disadvantaged. With the yen being 'super low', Japan is doing quite a lot through exports. But if raw-material prices continue to rise, South Korea will lose its competitiveness.

But it's not all bad; the cheaper won has led to a surge in tourist arrivals. In March, the number of arrivals reached 1.49 million, the highest number since October 2019, before COVID-19. This may partially explain the increase in private consumption and service exports in the first quarter, where arrivals surged by 460,154 in a month, the largest on record.

And maybe now's about time to return to the original topic. So, what's going to happen? Experts predict that the won-dollar exchange rate will stabilize toward the second half of the year, given the declining inflationary trend in the U.S. and the possibility of a rate cut, the willingness of Korea's foreign exchange authorities to stabilize the market, and the improving domestic economy. "The won-dollar exchange rate has risen this year due to high interest rates in the U.S. and the strong preference for the dollar due to the Middle East conflict, but it is expected to decline in the second half of the year as U.S. interest rates stabilize," said Yang Seo-young, a senior researcher at the KDB Future Strategy Institute.



"In the second half of the year, we expect the exchange rate to fall to the low-to-mid 1,300 won range as market interest rates decline due to reduced inflationary pressure in the U.S.," Yang said. "The country's trade surplus has been running for 11 consecutive months, which will improve domestic dollar supply and demand, and act as a downward trend. However, risks remain. A weak recovery in exports from major economies and the potential for geopolitical conflicts to escalate could lead to a renewed preference for the dollar."

By Yun Seokjin



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The Future of the Human Race with Marxism

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3

An Overview of Technological Advancements and its Socioeconomic Consequences with Historical Materialism

6

Karl Marx once said, “Revolutions are the locomotives of history.” While Marx confined the definition of ‘revolutions’ to radical societal changes, it can be said that the meaning of the word ‘revolution’ can be expanded to incorporate technological innovations. From this viewpoint, we are living in the age of the greatest revolution mankind has ever seen; the 4th industrial revolution. But what laid the groundwork for this massive technological explosion to occur? What kind of sociological and cultural factors created this explosion of cutting-edge technologies? In order to figure out the precise reason behind this and to predict how the course of technological development will play out in the future, I suggest following the footsteps of Marx and his theory of historical materialism.

While mainstream academics consider Marxist philosophy as outdated and antiquated, it still has some meaningful and useful features within it. One of his greatest accomplishments, historical materialism, suits the aforementioned description. Historical materialism is a method for interpretation of history that utilises the material aspects of a society, *modes of production* (the specific way goods are produced in a certain historical age) and *superstructures* (the ideological and cultural factors that reinforce the system and keep it from falling apart). By using this

theory, Marx divided the course of human history into several eras, with the barriers between them being revolutions, more precisely the transition of the modes of production (which also brings the transition of superstructures). In this sense, we can analyse how human history has progressed to this point and also predict how the future will play out.

Marx claimed that human history can be divided into five distinct eras: Primitive, Ancient, Feudal, Capitalist, and Communist. The era that needs to be looked at is the capitalist era, for it is the era that human society is in right now. This era’s mode of production is the capitalist model, characterised by commodity production, the production of goods mainly for commerce and trade rather than use itself. This characteristic defines the capitalist era. Production for selling meant that those who resorted to pre-capitalist modes of production (producing goods for use) were quickly impoverished of their own means of production, as capitalist commodities were superior in every way compared to the pre-capitalist goods, making them flee to the cities for work. With this abundant source of cheap labour and new technologies that made mass production more efficient, the age of capitalism dawned upon the world. The capitalist system was immensely different from previous systems, for it had a ‘self-perpetuating cycle of exploitation.’ The cycle

starts with the worker earning a wage. After the worker earns a certain amount of income, they will spend the wage on other products in order to keep oneself alive. These purchases will give the producer, who is the wage giver, profit, which will further perpetuate the cycle. With this, the producers will use the earned profits to develop better ways of producing commerce goods, which the workers will buy, making the cycle repeat. This cycle managed to keep the capitalist economy afloat.

However, Marx predicted that this cycle, which upholds the capitalist system, could not last forever. While this cycle may be sustainable in the short run, in the long run, this cycle will eventually exhaust itself when all of the workers are deprived of economic value. Due to this, many capitalist countries aimed at expanding their market to a bigger population and acquiring additional resources in order to acquire more means of production and consumers. While many countries kept establishing colonies in order to satisfy the capitalist system, this method had one critical flaw. As the world is finite, it meant that the market could not expand forever. If the threshold of market expansion was reached, then the capitalist system will try to exploit the labourers even more, making the proletariat organise themselves against such tyranny. Marx thought that this organisation of workers could lead to a revolution after a long class struggle, creating a communist society where the workers themselves owned the means of production.

This prediction, while correct in some parts, was mostly incorrect. It was true that the capitalist system exploited their workers even more as the system progressed, but in order to

prevent such revolutions from occurring, they developed their own self-defence mechanism which became known as welfare. By redistributing a small amount of bourgeois wealth to the proletariat so that they could actually live a bearable life and wouldn’t dare think about a revolution, the capitalist system could remain stable. This is seen often in modern society, where all parties, including socialist ones, have castrated the proletariat of the ability to resist against the status quo by giving them various welfare benefits. So, assuming that the central point of historical materialism is still correct, what could make the transition to another era? We can assume that technology would be the one to lead it. As aforementioned, Marx theorised that the capitalist system will collapse when the net profit for corporations reaches 0. From an orthodox marxist viewpoint, this point can only be realised by the surpassing of the critical point where the proletariat cannot be exploited further and net profit cannot be improved. However, in a world vastly different from the world when Marx developed his ideas, it is natural for us to find an alternative.

Currently, it is predicted that there will come a time where the capability of technological instruments exceeds that of humans, termed the singularity. One of the main components of this movement is artificial intelligence, also known as generative technology. In our era, information equates to value. As machines and tools necessary for economic activity become more complex and expectations for the intellectual capability of a person gets higher, information itself has practically become the means of production. Since generative technologies produce information at an unforeseen rate, they are the new means of production, making valuable information out of previous knowledge. These technologies can be seen being used by almost everyone around the world in the form of open-source software such as ChatGPT, Dall-E, and Midjourney. If this trend of technological sharing continues until the singularity, we can say that the means of production will be shared by everyone, which will make every single person able to use the means of production without ownership. This is similar to an ideal communist system. However, if access to generative technologies is limited to a limited number of people, society will maintain the current capitalist system, with technologies being used as tools to hold the system together and oppress the proletariat.

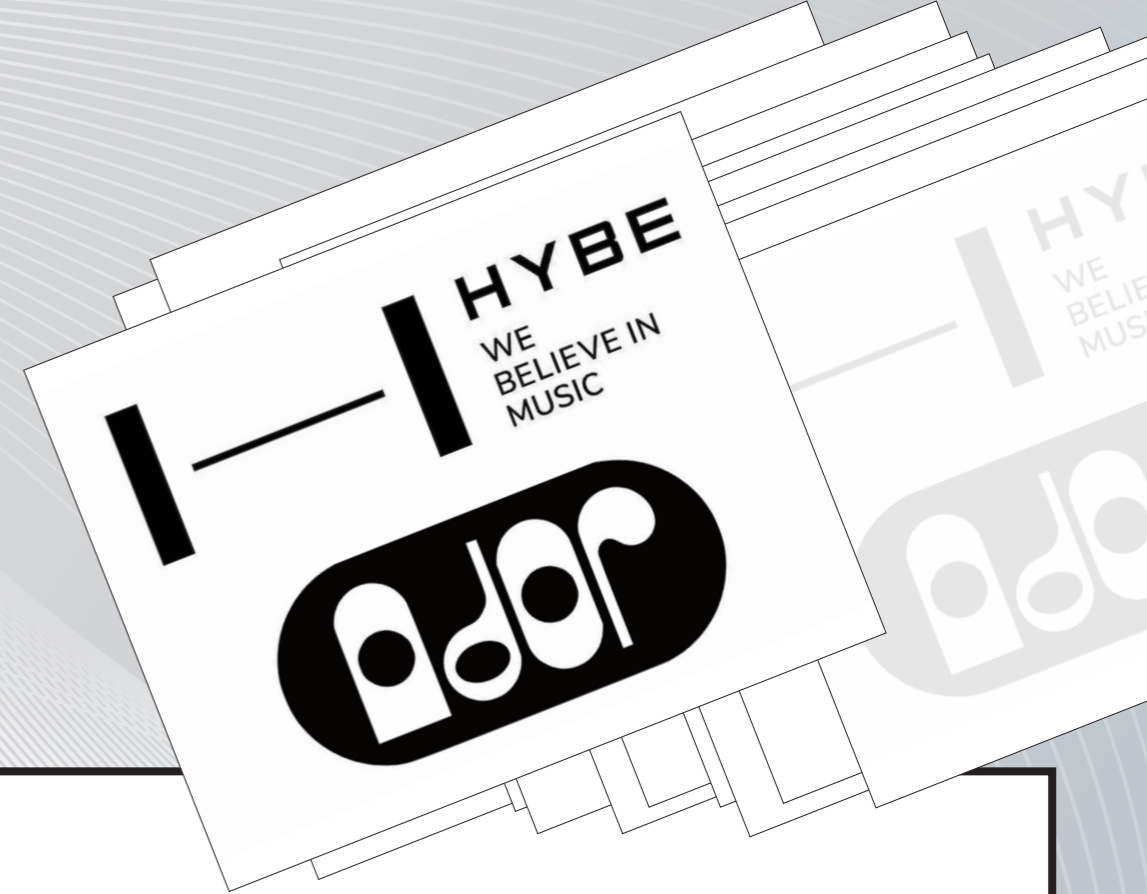
While the concept of singularity is still up for debate, it still stands that there will be a pivotal point in the development of technology that would completely change the paradigm of society. By using historical materialism to predict such changes, we can claim that the question should be when it comes, whether.

By Kim Junseo



HYBE's Civil War, but What about Management?

Focusing on the Management Aspect of the HYBE Feud



The civil war between HYBE (a management company of K-Pop artists including BTS) and Hee Jin Min (the creative director and CEO of Ador, home to NewJeans, one of the subsidiaries of HYBE) was triggered on April 22. HYBE announced that it launched an audit on Ador's management officials, including Min for breaking a breach of trust and plotting illegally to get control of Ador. HYBE argued that Min and other Ador head executives contacted outsiders and disclosed confidential information of HYBE, and it is planning to assemble a stakeholder meeting for Min's resignation. Min uploaded an official statement and defended herself, claiming that HYBE illegally copied NewJeans while creating their new girl group, ILLIT. Min claimed that HYBE lacked support for NewJeans, and denied HYBE's suspicion of her illegal attempt to change management. Min assumed that the audit initiation is because of her questioning the similarities between NewJeans and ILLIT, accusing HYBE of unfairly targeting her. Min's informal press conference was sensational and shed light on the issue. The public and legal feud between HYBE and Ador top executives is ongoing, but the viewer's focus shifted from management discord to K-Pop artists issues, even though the former is the core.

One interesting point of HYBE's company management system is the multi-label arrangement. Many suggest that this system was the key to HYBE's expansion, since it could specify labels according to each artist and fully support them via each label. Zico, a producer and CEO of KOZ (HYBE's subsidiary, housing BOYNEXTDOOR), said the multi-label system allows producers to fully concentrate on artists while the company managing is dealt by HYBE. Furthermore, the parent company can spread their investment in balance, which lowers their burden of risk. However, this HYBE-Ador crisis brought conflicts between labels and the overall flaw of the multi-label system to the surface. Experts of management stated that the multi-label system actually creates unnecessary competition within labels, and the conflict with the parent company hinders the competitiveness of the label. Though there are problems in this system, producers are willing to participate in a multi-label system because they need the initial investment from large corporations like HYBE. Ador was also initially founded with 80% of HYBE's capital, with Min and other Ador executives owning 20% of the stock.

This brings us to another noteworthy point of the feud. How can Min rob HYBE of Ador when she has only 18% of Ador's total stock? HYBE pointed out that Min and Ador's executives contacted outside sources who are favorable to Ador. If HYBE sells more than 30% of Ador's stock to outside sources and they sell the stocks back to Min, she becomes the largest

shareholder of Ador. Min's stock is a putback option, which means she can sell her stock back at a price that is designated, mostly at a higher price than the actual market price. To be more specific, a putback option is a type of a stock option, which is often used to reassure the stock buyer (in this case, Min) since the stock price doesn't fluctuate and is stable, no matter what happens to the company. HYBE asserted that Min was placing a stepping stone for the management shift using her stock's putback option. HYBE argued that Min asked HYBE to raise her putback option reward at the end of last year, which was used to supply enough capital for Ador to take management control from HYBE.

Min rebutted this by bringing the concept of prohibition of competitive business. Claiming that she can't get out of HYBE and start another business in the entertainment producing field due to this settlement, she voiced that she was unfairly contracted, describing herself as HYBE's slave. Surprisingly, this prohibition is a very common practice, as HYBE rebutted. Prohibition of competitive business is a ubiquitous article, prohibiting one from working for someone else's sake in the same field to protect the original employer from unfair competition. If the employee learns much from one company and then moves to its rival company, it will be problematic. To protect companies from this happening, the prohibition of competitive business exists. HYBE explained that the purpose of the article was to protect itself from unwanted situations happening, not to put a chain to Min. The distance between HYBE and Min is hardly getting any closer, heralding further legal disputes.

To conclude, the strife is still going on with the legal action being initiated. Causing issues, the connection between HYBE and a cult arose, which is a shock to society. Nonetheless, the main focus should be on the management disagreement, not on artists or their past careers. Since the case is being continued, keeping an eye on the news, especially on management, is crucial.

By Choi Seoyoung

Time is Money: Decoding In Time's Time-As-Money Economy

The movie *In Time* is a movie that brought the Benjamin Franklin adage, “Time is money” to life. In the movie, money disappears in the distant future and people live by using time embedded in their bodies as currency. Four minutes for a cup of coffee, 59 years for a Rolls-Royce. Time becomes a reward for labor and a unit for measuring consuming activities. The setting of the movie is that when one runs out of time, they instantly die of a heart attack. On the surface, money seems to be replaced by time, but there is a gap between the movie and reality in terms of its essential function and macroeconomy.



Disregarding the fictional situation, what makes the movie *In Time* different from the real world? What is missing? First, we need to learn about the characteristics of money. Money has three main functions, the first of which is a medium of exchange. Consumers can obtain goods they want through a payment method called money. The second is a function of measuring value. The value of a product is expressed in units of money, which is also a criterion for judging economic activities. Up to this point, time in the movie can completely replace real world currency. This is because characters can pay their own time (as a medium of exchange) to acquire valued goods (as a value measure). However, in the movie, time has no value storage function, which is the third characteristic of money. This means that they can't store “time” like money; we can save money for later. Eventually, individuals are forced to consume time because time keeps running. Therefore, those who do not have enough time are forced to live a tight life, living from day to day. This could mean that “Inflation = Death”. But what if there was a time bank?

There is an interesting scene at the beginning of the movie. The main character's mother dies running on the street because she couldn't pay the suddenly increased bus fare (with her time) to head home. Inflation is inevitable in an economic situation where limited goods are consumed. This is because prices are set according to the principle of supply and demand. Prices naturally rise when demand exceeds supply. Basically, inflation means a decline in the value of money. It means that when prices rise, the value of money falls accordingly. Therefore, people will try to earn more money since it fell in value. The same is true of the movie! Suppose that the bus fares rise from three to four minutes overnight. People will demand an hourly wage increase or take out an hourly loan to cover expensive bus fares. However, increased liquidity in the market could stimulate the prices of other goods, causing another inflation.

What would have happened if there had been a central bank that controls time? The story of the movie would have been quite different.

Fearing inflation, the central bank would decide to lower the benchmark time (time that serves as a standard where others are measured or judged: in the movie, 60 seconds per minute) to 30 seconds. This means that the value of time per minute has doubled compared to the previous value. This greatly reduces people's consumption. Rather than borrowing time, they will try to live within their means. If the central bank initiated a preemptive policy to tighten time, the consumption activities of the characters in the movie would have changed. Then, would there have been the tragedy of the mother of the main character dying on the street?

By Joung Hyodahm

Harmony along the Mekong River



The headstream of the Mekong River starts from North-western China. This entire river is 4,350 kilometers long and passes through six different nations before reaching the South China Sea. It also serves as a border between Thailand and Laos. More than 60 million people, who live along the banks of the Mekong River in the lower Mekong nations, imperatively rely on the river for their livelihood. Moreover, as the second most biodiverse fish habitat in the world, it provides 25% of the world's freshwater fisheries. It also creates fertile land for the production of rice. However, the upper one-third of the Mekong River is in China's hands, meaning that all countries of the lower channel depend on China's will not to misappropriate the water against them. Despite that, China has already built 11 powerful dams, holding back more than 12 trillion gallons of water, and severely disrupting the water flow downstream. This may ruin one of the world's greatest inland fisheries, destroying the Mekong Delta's biodiversity. This also holds back the preservation of human rights because it is hard to determine who has the right to control the flow of the water. It is clear that these dams cause geopolitical tensions in the area. A similar issue occurred in Chile and Bolivia, where the Bolivian government declared that the river belonged exclusively to its sovereignty. In this case, however, they came to a peaceful agreement that the river belongs to both of those nations. On the other hand, in the Mekong River situation, there are six nations involved—one obvious nation with the most power. Therefore, to reconcile the relations in the Southeast Asian region, the values of communitarianism should be the focus.



Communitarianism is a philosophical and sociopolitical viewpoint highlighting the meaning of a community. It emphasizes social duty, shared objectives, and the pursuit of the common good. Communitarianism aims to create a sense of belonging, trust, and consensus among the individual members. On top of that, it tries to maintain stability and harmony of the group through balancing freedom and restriction. In communitarian-

ism, it is most important to understand the values and objectives of a group and put them into action, respecting the traditions of the community. Furthermore, emphasis on the role of the community suggests that it should be justified to punish the individuals who undermine the values and traditions of the community. On the other hand, one could also argue that as identity has been formed with assistance from the community, individual assets should be regarded as common assets for the common good. This implies that sharing resources is key to a harmonious society. Considering both arguments, one can agree that disciplinary actions should be taken to create a prosperous society under communitarianism. Therefore, when communitarian philosophies are applied to the Mekong River situation, individuals should be considered as nations and communities as a group of nations.

Having communitarian ethics in mind, it can be recognized that China is the one impeding the values of a community. Using the common assets to its benefit, China refuses to share the resources with other nations. In theory, China should be punished for its selfish actions and no nation should be able to control the waterway. However, this empirically does not work, which is why the five other nations should unite, creating a sort of balance of power between China and the five other nations. Only when the power is in balance can the six nations reach an agreement on the Mekong River situation, following communitarian values.

To sum up, the Mekong region is encountering challenges related to the power dams in China, which negatively affect the region's biodiversity, people, and climate. Some statements are being voiced, but their actions must go beyond mere words.

By Ko Junheon

A Storm Brewing Over Taiwan

Conflict between China and the US Concerning Taiwan

On May 1, 2024, China started assessing its new aircraft carrier, the 003 Fujian. Taiwan and the U.S. are considering this action as a threatening sign that China can strike Taiwan anytime, which is accelerating the conflict between China and the US. This once again calls attention to the deep discord between these two giant countries.

Before learning about the conflict, we first need to know what makes China want to merge Taiwan into China. This is mainly because of the 'One China' principle, which is the position held by China that there is only one sovereign state under the name China (as Taiwan's official name is Republic of China, aka ROC, and China's official name is People's Republic of China, aka PRC), with the PRC serving as the sole legitimate government of both 'Chinese countries.' This principle began from the exile of the defeated Chinese nationalists, also called Kuomintang, to Taiwan. Since then, the Chinese communist government began threatening that they will use force if Taiwan ever formally declares independence, and declared that there is only one Chinese government. Other countries, including the U.S. and South Korea, implicitly agree to this by

not placing an embassy on the island. However, through the visit of Nancy Pelosi, leader of the House Democratic Caucus, and protecting Taiwan from China's military provocations, the U.S. is trying to stop China from merging Taiwan through force. This has caused the current conflict that is raging on between the two colossi.

One big reason these two countries are in conflict is over who will have hegemony over semiconductors. In the 20th century, petroleum was what determined the growth of a country's economy. Now, in the 21st century, and especially in the present, semiconductors have taken the place of petroleum. Semiconductors are used not only in electronic devices, but also in every part of life, such as manufacturing, military, A.I., and so on. Therefore, if the supply of semiconductors is blocked, the world's economy will collapse at once. Taiwan is the largest supplier of these product, especially in non-memory semiconductors. TSMC, the biggest supplier of non-memory semiconductors, is a Taiwanese company. It has a 61.2% share of the global supply of those semiconductors, which means that, as the historian Niall Ferguson said, 'The one who gets Taiwan will also have the world.' As such, Taiwan is a great role

in determining the electronic sector of the world's economy. For the US, Taiwan is needed to form a US led semiconductor supply chain reorganization, which is crucial to keep the rapidly growing Chinese economy in check. Also, even though the US has the original technology to design and lay out a semiconductor, TSMC and other Taiwanese companies are the ones who actually have the manufacturing technology. In the same way, China, which relies 35% on Taiwan for its semiconductor import, needs Taiwan to attain technological independence amid US sanctions on popular semiconductor businesses. China also wants to secure the technology to design and manufacture semiconductors, which is why China needs TSMC. Also, the US, which has a 90% share of China's AI chips, is regulating export of their high-performance chips, which sustains China's development of new high-tech products. This is another reason China is trying to possess TSMC as its own. To sum up, once one of these two behemoths gets a hold of TSMC and Taiwan's supply of semiconductors, they will immediately have the power to control the whole world's economy. This is one reason the US and China are trying to bring Taiwan to their own side.

Another reason these two countries are in conflict is because of an economic reason. Taiwan is in the southwest side of China, and the southwest part is where China ventures into the Pacific Ocean. This means, once Taiwan is affirmed as an independent country, it will block the South China Sea, which China utilizes to venture out to the Pacific. This will greatly damage its economy. We can see this happening in the middle east, especially at the Strait of Hormuz. Because of the Israel-Palestinian conflict going on in the Middle East, ships carrying oil are not able to pass the Strait of Hormuz, which leads those ships to carry their oil by using the route that passes the Cape of Good Hope, in Southern Africa. This led to oil prices jumping 3%, leading to great damage to the whole world's economy. Even though this strait is a war area, some ships are still passing the Strait of Hormuz. However, if Iran decides to block the strait, not letting any ships pass it, the world's oil price will soar again. This situation will also happen to China if Taiwan becomes an autonomous country. Taiwan will block up the whole fairway, making it unable for China to export its products. This is especially critical for China, who is racing with the US to become the top economic country of the world. Therefore, China

is desperate right now to merge with Taiwan before that happens.

These are the two biggest reasons China and the US are in conflict over Taiwan. Then, what should South Korea, which is maintaining a delicate relationship between these two countries, do to survive? Holding the hand of the US might help South Korea to survive for now, but as China takes up 19.5% of South Korea's total exports, it is risky, even impossible, to end the relationship with China. However, this does not mean that holding hands with China will be a good decision. The US is one of the strongest allies of South Korea. Once South Korea stands on China's side, the US will immediately turn on us as an enemy and this will threaten our national security. The one and only way to succeed in surviving is walking a tightrope between these two countries. We should maintain our military reliance with the US, as the countries surrounding us, because as soon as we begin assisting China's control over the US, we will be threatened by a military alliance formed by the US, Japan, Australia, and even India. It is impossible to survive the threatening of these countries. However, if we move to the US side, we should brace ourselves for a massive economic impact, as China will cut trade with us. Also, there is no guarantee that we will be safe because countries help each other only when it is beneficial for them. The impact of dealing with China is much greater than the benefits of helping South Korea, as China is one of the two greatest powers of the world. Another big reason is because of North Korea, which is a nuclear weapons state. South Korea has implicit supremacy in conventional forces, but also cannot overlook the destructive power of nuclear weapons. To protect itself from North Korea's nuclear attack, South Korea needs the US's military force, such as nuclear deterrence through nuclear umbrellas, etc. This is why Korea cannot just form an alliance with China because of economic reasons. However, economic factors are also related to the South Korean society, which is why we cannot just give up our relationship with China. Therefore, between the two giants, South Korea should engage in diplomacy that takes practical advantages while walking a tightrope in the realm of ambiguity and boundaries, without favoring any side.

By Yoon Jiyong



Netanyahu and Khamenei, what made them to bring on Phony War



On Oct 7 2023, Hamas launched a surprise attack on Southern Israel, leading to 1,139 Israelis and foreigners dead and 252 taken captive to the Gaza strip. The hostages were to be bargained for the stated goal of Israel releasing Palestinian prisoners. However, due to the overwhelming force of the Israeli army, Hamas had to retreat to the Gaza strip, leading Hamas to operate guerrilla tactics.

Burrows were not only used to give surprise attacks but also to hide ammunition and hostages, however these were too complicated for Israel to put troops in. Schools and hospitals were used as ammunition dumps and civilians were placed on the roof of air defense forts. This made the actions of the Israeli army become war crimes, which caused Israel to be condemned, making it hard for its allies to fully support Israel. Bearing the risk of being denounced, Netanyahu, prime minister of Israel, continued his military campaigns in the Gaza strip. Civilian deaths were labeled as guerrilla tactics of Hamas continued, leading to the full support of Israel from its allies unlikely. To make matters worse, approval ratings of Netanyahu plundered, being criticized for being unable to foresee the impending surprise attack of Hamas.

Even the US, the most amicable nation to Israel, forced Israel to cease fire on civilians by using roof knocking, foretelling civilians to clear an impending bombardment point. Netanyahu needs certain political events to reverse public opinion against him. Currently, people deem Netanyahu not as a war hero but as a failure to foresee surprise attacks. Most claim elections should be done right after the war to topple

Netanyahu and his government. Traditionally, stronger enemies initially force people to unite under one order, and Netanyahu might have intended to do this to raise support by disguising Iran as their actual enemy.

Iran is deemed as one of the leading powers in the Islamic World; and Iran was receiving tacit demands from fellow Arabic nations to interfere in the Israeli-Hamas war. Though having to unite with Sunni Arabs, Iran found Israel as a bigger threat, leading to breaking the intentions of the US of making Saudi-Arabia reconcile with Israel. As Israel fired missiles at the Iran embassy in Syria, Iran had enough justification to bombard Israel. 99% of Iranian Missiles were intercepted, and even the US warned Israel of the impending bombardment of Israel, which were enacted at the exact date. This benefited both national leaders, as Netanyahu gained endorsement and Khamenei proved Iran as having hegemony in Islamic world.

The most remarkable point of this incident is the underlying context of *قداص مدعو تاىلمع*, the operation 'Promise of Truth.' It is the cause and progress of this incident and the stance of each nation which has important political and diplomatic implications.

Before this, during the Israeli-Hamas War, Hamas operated guerrilla tactics and used 'civilian cards' using them as human shields to enhance negative aspects of the Israeli attack on Hamas, eventually making Israel become more condemned. This event gave Iran a reasonable excuse to contin-

ue to keep Israel in check externally and use Iranian proxies internally to create an aspect of proxy warfare that indirectly offends Israel.

Iran, having great hegemony in the Islamic (especially Shia) world, is often reluctant to commit practical but unethical acts as it receives constant checks and attention from global society. This made Iran fund some proxies, making them carry out their demands.

For example, Hamas, the Palestinian terrorist group that effectively controls Gaza, can be included in one of those: the Re'im music festival massacre in Israel can be one of the examples. The response varies greatly depending on international organizations, but most countries strongly criticize Iran for its seemingly-secret but blatant behavior.

Regardless of this, so far, proxies have faithfully and successfully served as Iran's dogs, contributing to achieving Iran's political objectives in the Middle East. However, the operation *قداص مدعو تاىلمع* reversed conventional situations by 180 degrees: It triggered a direct clash between Iran and Israel.

Of course, through this event, both Netanyahu and Khamenei achieved their political goals.

For Israel, (more accurately, for Netanyahu) there was a great need to change their image of incompetency in predicting the Hamas attack. It led to evoking an Iranian attack and raising approval ratings, even for civilian casualties. Iran, which was fully aware of Israel's political situation, proceeded with the passive attack but only enough to re-confirm Iran's hegemony once again, with a strong nuance that they did not want to expand the war.

Many experts say that Iran informed the US of its plan to attack Israel through Oman before the attack, also giving Is-

rael time to prepare for the attack and, instead of focusing on civilian casualties. It fired only drones and ballistic missiles into the night sky to purposefully create the symbolic scene, propaganda, to maximize the effect. Few civilian casualties and high intercept rates support their analysis, preventing Israel from further revenge and intimidating the international community of the fear of the fifth Middle East War, clearly re-informing Iran of its political position.

The views on Netanyahu's actions are very divergent in the international community, each following their own interests.

China, wanting to expand its influence on the Arab world, criticizes excessive slaughter beyond the goal of protecting Israel's own citizens – which can be seen as a unilateral genocide against Palestinian civilians. Furthermore, the war in Israel and the fact that Chinese ships to Israel are under attack in the wake of this war can cause great economic loss to China.

Through the Iraq War, the United States has gained exclusive hegemony over the Islamic World, especially in the waters. These successive political achievements of the US have posed a great threat to China.

For example, The Heritage Foundation and the Indo-Pacific Defense Forum have announced that the cost of shipping containers from Genoa, Italy to Shanghai, was about \$3,000 each as of December, but it has roughly doubled to about \$7,000 in January due to the Houthi rebels' act of force on the Suez Canal.

The US reacts very negatively to the expansion of this war and is trying to pressure Netanyahu politically to end the war. The main reason is that the US exhaustively follows the 'oil and its logic.' The U.S has a great reservoir of shale gas which is believed to currently be far too weak and unstable but obviously could be a 'game changer' in the near future. It is still difficult to commercialize because of technical and cost problems, which means that the US has no choice but to heavily rely on oil production from the Middle East.

The Islamic world can be divided into two big sectors, Sunni and Shia. They did all stem from worshipping Mohammed, but differ in the way to interpret the Koran, the scripture of Islam. Currently, Syria, Iraq, and Iran are under Shia influence and Egypt, Saudi-Arab and U.A.E is under Sunni. Both sectors do not



Greece vs The UK

'The Parthenon Conflict'

"Legal Acquisition" VS. "Theft"

At 11 a.m. on November 28, 2023 in London, if all had gone as planned, the summit meeting between British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis would have been held. However, the schedule wasn't implemented. The UK suddenly canceled the meeting the evening before. It was a huge disaster and diplomatic disgrace.

The starting point of the conflict was the 'Parthenon sculpture', which both countries owned half of. The sculpture having been hung on the Parthenon, built in the 5th century BC on the Acropolis of Athens. It's a 'controversial relic' that Greece has been demanding the return of since it was moved to England in the early 19th century. Sunak's reason for canceling the meeting was that 'Prime Minister Mitsotakis promised not to mention the Parthenon sculpture, but he acted as if he'd mention it,' and Prime Minister Mitsotakis also responded by saying, "I got annoyed because Sunak suddenly called off the meeting."

The 160-meter-long frieze located at the top of the Parthenon Temple, a representative building of ancient Greece, is where the Parthenon sculpture had been located. The sculptures created by Phidias, the greatest sculptor of his time, depict various characters and episodes from Greek mythology.



The story of how half of the sculptures that decorated the temple are currently placed in the British Museum in London is well-known to people. In the early 19th century, Thomas Bruce, a diplomat dispatched as a British special ambassador to Greece under the Ottoman Empire at that time, removed it and sold it to the British government. Obviously, opinions on both sides are clearly divided on whether this process was legal.

The UK's argument is on the side of 'legitimate acquisition'. The explanation posted on the British Museum website is as follows. "Elgin removed about half of the sculptures remaining from the collapsed ruins and buildings (the Parthenon) with the permission of the Ottoman authorities starting in 1801. He had a passion for ancient Greek art. However, Elgin went bankrupt while transporting the sculptures to Britain. In 1816, the

British Parliament decided to acquire the sculpture. Since 1817, the sculpture has been on display for free at the British Museum.

Greece believes that Britain committed 'theft' or 'an act equivalent to theft'. This was on the grounds that documents that could substantiate Elgin's claim that 'permission to remove the Parthenon sculptures was obtained from the Ottoman Empire' have disappeared or are open to debate. Attorney Amindole said, "There's little evidence to suggest that the necessary permission was obtained for dismantling and transporting the Parthenon sculptures," and added, "Even if it doesn't admit 'illegality,' Britain must acknowledge that the relics were acquired through a 'highly suspicious process.'"

The debate has continued for more than 40 years, dating back to 1983 when Greece first officially requested the return of the Parthenon pieces. This means that Greece's approach of examining the legality of the acquisition process wasn't very effective. UNESCO's 'Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illegal Export, Import, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property' (enacted in 1970), which is mainly used in discussions on the return of relics, isn't of much help as it doesn't apply retroactively.

By Chang Jaehoon

the case of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu has been serving as the Prime Minister of Israel since 2009.

He has taken a hard stance on resolving conflicts with Palestine. However, it appears that public distrust in Netanyahu's leadership has grown, especially following the recent conflict with Hamas and Iran. Israel conducted missile strikes on Iran's consulate in Syria, prompting Iran to retaliate with missile attacks. Israel claimed to have intercepted about 99% of the missiles, effectively defending against them. However, such events seem to be fit, almost like a staged drama, with each incident fitting neatly into place. Many experts suspect Netanyahu, much like in the *총풍사건*, evoked these events to boost his approval ratings. According to recent polls, only 15% of Israeli citizens support Prime Minister Netanyahu. This signifies a significant decline in his approval ratings.

In fact, it is essential for people to learn from situations like these rather than simply trying to walk over whether it is bad or good without understanding the full picture. People often easily criticize politicians like Netanyahu, who deliberately sparked great conflict to maintain their current power. It seems that people 'think' they sympathize with the pain of the people and have a sound political attitude when they encounter daily political issues. But it is only when it comes to such a partial story. These days, it is not even surprising that we are only sparing our meaningless and superficial compassion for these partial stories and after that, just returning to our daily routine, as if nothing has happened. In essence, the attitudes of such individuals are paradoxical. How can they express sympathy and empathy and yet forget within just an hour? It is likely because they believe it has no relevance to their own lives and thus perceive it as having no impact. We should understand such issues not just by viewing the surface, but also by viewing with the endeavor to realize underlying causes and related contexts such as history and culture. I hope that this issue will be the benchmark through which people have 'real' sound political attitude, breaking away from the impotence and indifference.

By Kim Seonho,
Kim Seoyeon,
Lee Chanyoung



each other's legitimacy, leading to 1400 years of wars and conflict throughout numerous empires. However, those two cannot totally be separated as both have the same holy ground, Mecca.

Until recently, Saudi-Arabia and Iran were on opposing sides as leading powers of Sunni and Shia. Saudi-Arabia was intimate with Nato, Iran with China and Russia. However, a bigger threat made both those powers cooperate, Israel with aid of the US. Its formidable power has beaten the whole Arab world more than 4 times, triggering more and more civilian deaths. Due to the Russo-Ukrainian war, the relationship between Saudi-Arabia and the US has deteriorated concerning oil production. Moreover, Israel almost blew up relations with Saudi-Arabia by striking the Gaza district even though recognizing the risk of Arabic civilian casualties. Both Iran and Saudi-Arabia condemned Israel for the casualties, forming yet provisional but integrated opinion. Hamas can be said to have accomplished its main objective of ruining the relationship between Israel and Saudi-Arabia, leading to continuous war between both worlds.

The current situation between Israel and Iran is similar with *총풍사건* in 1997 Korea. A case in which an associate of the candidate from the conservative party, Hannara Party, Lee Hoi Chang, was prosecuted for inducing a missile attack in North Korea to boost the candidate's approval ratings just before the 1997 presidential election in South Korea. Lee Hoi-chang's popularity was declining and to boost his ratings, his party, the Hannara Party, made a controversial tactic. They contracted North Korean agents to open fire at South Korea, making voters endorse the conservatives. What's crucial here is the manipulation of national security for the sake of political gain, sacrificing the safety of the people for their own electoral interests. The act of defendants requesting military action against North Korea did not achieve the intended purpose of creating tension along the armistice, but just planning and attempting to execute the crime itself posed a serious threat to national security and constituted a significant violation of electoral laws. The court sentenced the three defendants to imprisonment ranging from 3 to 5 years and suspended their qualifications for 2 to 3 years for violations of the National Security Act related to assembly and communication. Comparing this to



The Psychology of Cults

Unravelling the Complexities of Manipulation and Control

Cults and their members have long captivated public imagination, as well as the attention of researchers and mental health professionals. The allure of these groups often stems from the perplexing nature of their influence over followers and their ability to manipulate and control seemingly ordinary individuals. This phenomenon extends beyond the realm of religious and spiritual organisations, as many of these dynamics can also be observed in the workplace under the guidance of charismatic leaders and followers. Understanding the psychological factors that drive cult membership, the traits of cult leaders, and their impact on followers and employees is essential to promote awareness and support those affected by these manipulative environments.

Understanding why individuals join cults or follow spiritual teachers requires examining the interplay of psychological and situational factors that contribute to their susceptibility. There are various aspects that may influence an individual's decision to become part of a cult or follow a spiritual teacher. Several of those factors are labelled as vulnerability fac-

tors, such as life transitions, unmet psychological needs, and social isolation. Those factors are related to vulnerability and instability in a person's life, leading them to be more susceptible to cults that provide a clear direction and a sense of belonging that they lack.

The role of persuasion and indoctrination are important social and psychological skills the cult leaders use when approaching people with obvious vulnerability factors. There are three most used skills in pseudo-religion and cults, which are love-bombing, information control, and thought reform. Love-bombing, as the name itself suggests, is showering their recruits with affection, attention and praise. Usually, those emotional boosters and supports are things that the recruit has been craving in their lives but could not achieve due to social circle issues. Another of these techniques is information control. Information control is often used in the middle stage of making their recruits fall deeper into the cult's beliefs. Cults control the flow of information, isolating members from external sources and fostering a self-reinforcing belief system. This technique makes recruits unable to connect emotionally and socially with people outside the cult's circle, making them more isolated from normal society. And when feeling abandoned from the outside world, recruits would turn to their only source of emotional support, the cult. By using these tactics, cult leaders exploit the emotional and mental vulnerabilities the potential recruits show and use them to manipulate them into being faithful cultists.

People who grow up in cults often face many psychological hardships. One of such hardships is cognitive dissonance. Cults often promote beliefs that contradict mainstream society or scientific evidence. This can create cognitive dissonance, a state of psychological discomfort caused by holding conflicting beliefs. Members may experience confusion, self-doubt, and internal conflict as they try to reconcile their beliefs with reality. They will also be faced with anxiety and mental instability. Cult involvement can contribute to the development of anxiety disorders, mood disorders, and substance abuse disorders. The high levels of stress, fear, and uncertainty experienced in cults can have long-lasting effects on mental health.

It is important to note that the psychological impact of cults can vary depending on the individual and the specific cult. However, the potential for harm and negative consequences is a common thread among many cults. Recovery from cult involvement often requires professional support, including therapy and counselling, to address the complex psychological effects. Continued attention and support are the most important keys to solving the problem of cults and their damage on society.

By Cho Minji



It is a widespread fact that South Korea has an unprecedented low fertility rate. Of course, it is not only the case in Korea. The current fertility rate trend in most countries is decreasing. However, what emerges as a unique problem is that Korea has a “destructive” figure. In 2023, it broke its own record for the world’s lowest fertility rate, from 0.78 in 2022 to 0.72 in 2023. In fact, Korea is the only country where the fertility rate is below one among the OECD. It is not only the fertility rate in Korea that seems to be extreme. Korea has the highest rate of suicides among the OECD for decades. Also, the rate of happiness has also been the lowest among OECD, except for Colombia, where a civil war is ongoing, and Türkiye, where an economic crisis is present. Why does South Korea have these exceptional social issues?

There may be many reasons for these social issues. Especially in regards to low state fertility rate, aging society, lack of welfare budget, decrease in economic growth, and burden on private education and more can be thought of as causes. However, to identify a more fundamental cause, let’s delve into Korea’s history. Emerging from the devastation of the Korean War, the country embarked on a journey of modernization driven by Western society involving economic growth and technological innovation. South Korea’s rapid industrialization and economic development since the 1960s have not only elevated South Korea to the rank of a major global economy but also made people work harder. It is because at that time, no matter what or how, as long as people worked hard, buildings were built, roads were built, food changed, houses changed, lifestyles changed, and the world changed. People refer to that era as “anything can

become true as effort never betrays.”

However, in the process, people began to believe more in “materials” one could see in front of them instead of invisible “effort,” and material wealth became the criterion of deciding whether one succeeded or not. In other words, this rapid development played a pivotal role in shaping Korea’s materialistic ethos, known as materialism. Materialism is a tendency to consider material possessions and physical comfort as more im-

ports through the pursuit of happiness, and satisfaction of life is experienced only through it. Finally, whether an individual has succeeded or not is judged by their possession of material. It means that what kind of material one owns and how much one owns becomes the criterion for success. Yes, it does have some good points: It gives you a powerful, long-lasting, and specific motive. However, there are more serious disadvantages with the pursuit of materialism. The more one pursues materialism,

based on these criteria, negative feelings such as feelings of incompetence, depression, and low happiness will be triggered by upward comparison.

Let’s go back to these social issues. In the case of low fertility rate, people prefer living their own lives (often being happy with materials) to being responsible for their offspring (giving up their instant materials and relying on invisible responsibility and endeavors). In the case of high suicide rate, the rate is

helpless and disappointed. It can also be attributed to the increased use of social media, where social comparison is more prevalent.

What people lack and therefore need is trust in each other. In 2022, the World Values Survey (WVS) asked people in each country to choose five qualifications to teach offspring. In Korea, tolerance, religion, obedience, and altruism were lower than average of other countries. And altruism (4%) was

while loathing and ridiculing religious ideals such as respect, consideration, love, and sacrifice. Whereas western society paved the road of balancing materialism with religion for hundreds of years through trials and errors. As Claudia Goldin, the professor of Harvard University who was awarded the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences, referred, “The faster economic change and social change is, the more we’re going to be in conflict with traditions. There’s hardly any country that has gone through faster economic change than Korea did in the latter part of the 20th century. America went through the same change over a much longer period of time and that means that each generation gets used to what the new generation has brought to bear and changes that are due to various technological changes.” Mark Manson, a US writer, also said, “Korea seems to have kept the worst part of Confucianism, the shame and judgment, but also discarding the best part, the closeness with family and community. Meanwhile, they have adopted the worst aspects of capitalism, materialism and the striving for money, while ignoring the best parts of it, the capacity for self-expression and individualism.”

Materialism is so deeply embedded in society that other social issues may be related to it. To overcome these challenges, people should seek happiness through intrinsic values rather than relying on external validation. Using what Erich Fromm, a social psychologist and philosopher, wrote, “If I am what I ‘have’ and if what I ‘have’ is lost, who then am I?” We should therefore amplify the being mode, not the having mode, in our life.

By Kim Sina

Why Does Korea Have So Many Social Issues?

About Materialism in Korea

portant than spiritual values. As Marsha L. Richins and Scott Dawson, representatives for studying the concept of materialism, suggested, there are three crucial components in materialism. First, possession and acquisition of material becomes the center of life. That is, it gives meaning to acquisition itself, and possession of material becomes the purpose of life. Second, happiness is gained through possession and acquisition of material. The acquisition or its process

one’s vitality lowers and depression increases. Also, nowadays, as exposure to OTT platforms (technology that delivers streamed content via internet-connected devices) and social media increases, materialism also expands to the comparison of appearance. It is similar to materialism in terms of believing appearance to be the social means of determining success and well-being. The more one pursues materialism, the more one pursues lookism. Through social comparison

increasing among teens to thirties. This may be caused by a psychological matter. It is inferred that extreme competition, or the culture of marking one as a ‘straggler’ if he or she does not perform well, is one factor causing them to feel depressed. This eventually leads them to consider suicide. As previously stated, in case of low happiness rate, upward and downward comparison in material wealth and appearance with others triggers negative affect, making one feel

significantly lower than others (average 28%), whereas Korea’s neighbor country, Japan recorded 33% and China recorded 29% in altruism. Of course, Western society had also pursued materialism, often extremely, yet their transformation to materialism took time and therefore had time to adjust. Hence, their “conscientious Maginot line” remained based on a belief in Jesus. However, Korea sped along the road to modernization in only decades, worshiping materials



North Korea's Infringement of Human Rights

While the world is paying attention to North Korea's poor human rights conditions, various human rights-related organizations, including the United Nations and Freedom House, a human rights organization, have been criticizing North Korea's human rights violations. In particular, Julie Turner, the U.S. State Department's special envoy for North Korean human rights, noted that efforts inside and outside North Korea are important considering the oppression of North Koreans and the vulnerability of the human rights environment. North Korea has taken an enterprising attitude such as the Anti-Bashing Act due to constant criticism from international organizations and various human rights movements but has continued to commit terrible human rights abuses again since the collapse of the U.S.-North Korea summit in Hanoi. Due to North Korea's behavior, the international community's response is also diversifying.



investigations are still ongoing showing human rights violations in North Korea.

In response to North Korea's inhumane human rights violations, such as purge politics, restrictions on suffrage, and public executions, various human rights organizations have expressed their positions and are accusing the world of poor human rights conditions. The U.N. Human Rights Council concluded receiving reports from stakeholders, including civil society organizations, on the 8th of last month. Amnesty International pointed out in its recently released report that the North Korean government has not implemented most of the 132 recommendations it accepted during the third UPR. In particular, it pointed out that the situation is getting worse in the field of "freedom of opinion and expression," which has recently been a growing concern in the international community.

"North Korea continues to strengthen restrictions by continuing to monitor the flow of communication and information and subject to punishment, despite accepting nine recommendations on freedom of opinion and expression," they said. To add, Korea Future, a UK-based non-governmental organization, should also ban the arrest of individuals based on the exercise of the right to leave and stop detaining North Koreans who have been forcibly repatriated.

In addition to the report, various civic groups related to human rights in North Korea are actively cooperating and not reluctant to campaign for human rights. Moreover, the move to file a complaint with the International Criminal Court (ICC) against the perpetrators of human rights abuses while leaving the possibility that the North Korean system could change is a concrete solution just in case. Through this movement in the world, it is by no means a dream to see the improvement of North Korea's fragile human rights environment.

By Park Seoyeon

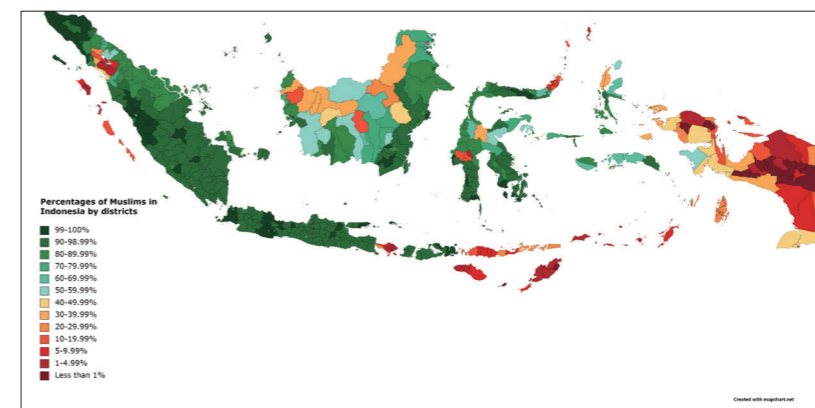
Recently, there have been several cases of human rights violations by state power in North Korea. In normal countries, the death penalty is imposed on stealing or viewing and disseminating external videos that are not classified as illegal activities, and young minors are punished with hard labor for 15 to 20 years simply for watching South Korean videos. In addition, while there have been a series of cases where inmates die due to the poor environment of detention facilities, public executions, which have been dormant for a while since Kim Jong-un took power, are also on the rise again. Moreover, according to the announcement by Freedom House, which surveys freedom indices of countries around the world every year, North Korea is classified as a country that completely suppresses freedom in the world by scoring three out of 100 points in 2024. Since 1972, when Freedom House's investigation began, North Korea has the lowest grade in the Political Rights and Civil Liberties categories every year. Along with North Korea, Syria, South Sudan, and Turkmenistan are the only countries that have appeared as semi-liberal countries that violate the basic rights of their people. In addition to these figures from Freedom House,

Misunderstandings and Prejudice against Muslims

Indonesia's perfect example of a peaceful Islamic society

Islam is known to be the second most followed religion in the world with its followers living all around the world. Like the majority of you would think, when asked the general image one has of Islamic society, what comes to mind are mostly extremely negative. Patriarchy households, polygamy and such, are some of the negative salience that comes to mind. From the violation of women's human rights to extreme activities of Islamic extremist forces, it seems like there is far to go in order to settle the numerous problems related to Islam. However, Indonesia, although being the largest Islam inhabited country, isn't the typical violent, blindly believing country as one might think. How does Indonesia differ from other major Muslim countries?

Although the majority Indonesians believe in Islam, they are also able to believe Catholic, Christian, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Hinduism. Also, there are not so many followers that blindly believe in Islam. There are no reported incidents related to extremist Islamic activities, and hate crimes related to western societies seems to be low.



This is because the spread of Islam was fairly different from the Middle East. The general Islam we think about is the image made by the Middle Eastern extremist forces that think that because of the Western-Christian forces, the Islam society was separated into many sects and by causing unification wars based on Islamic fundamentalism; The new renaissance of Islam would start again. That is why infamous organizations such as the IS arose. However, Indonesia's Islam is very different from the Middle East starting from the way it was spread. There are many hypotheses as to how Islam first set foot on to Indonesia's soil, but the most convincing is that merchants and missionaries slowly expended Islam through peaceful methods. Even today, Indonesia's Islam is slowly increasing the number of followers in its land. Also, as it is not a necessity to follow Islam in Indonesia the following rate of 84% is very extreme. This is very contrasted to most Middle Eastern countries as believing in Islam is a must and most rules and social norms are based on the Quran. There was an attempt to engraft the belief of Islam with the law in Indonesia, banning the

selling of beverages in convenient stores. However, this was shortly brought to an end by the strong backlash of its citizens.

By looking into Indonesia, you can see that the stereotype you had about Islam is very wrong. Because of the too immersed minors, the majority of peaceful quite followers are the ones to receive all the pain. For example, after the shocking incident on Nov. 11, hate crimes against Muslims have increased. In a Huffington Post Article, the famous American Muslim writer Shawna Ayoub Ainslie shared her experience. "I was afraid to go outside. If I stayed inside, I couldn't frighten anyone, I couldn't break any law no matter how tenuous the situation was, and therefore couldn't be thrown in Gitmo." This statement shows how dangerous the situation was for Muslims after the 9/11 attack since the whole of America was immersed in finding Usama bin Laden. Also, after the outbreak of the Islam-Hamas war, and the previous Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban, the people's perspective of Islam has slowly turned for the worst. For example, shortly after the outbreak, Wadea Al-Fayoume, a six-year old Palestinian-American boy was fatally stabbed in a nearby park. It is said that he was targeted as he was a Muslim. The ongoing Middle Eastern conflict involving Hamas and the Israelis provoked his incident even more. As you can see in cases like this, when an extreme Islamic organization causes a vicious crime it is the weak and vulnerable that receives all the pain and criticism.

By Lee Seungyeon

Mixture of Cultures

and their Conflicts

Globalization is the process of increased interconnectedness and interdependence among countries, fueled by advancements in technology, transportation and communication. While traces of globalization can be found throughout history in trade and cultural interactions, its pace accelerated significantly in the latter half of the 20th century with the rise of technologies such as the internet. This facilitated swift communication and expanded access to information worldwide, stimulating not only mental connections between cultures but also physical ones. In other words, globalization has fueled the movement of goods, ideas, and people themselves, giving rise to the co-existence of diverse cultural practices within a single space, often referred to as a “multicultural society.”

The term “multicultural society” might sound very foreign, something far away that is not likely to affect us in any way, at least throughout the next century or so. However, the current situation is quite different from common belief. In fact, South Korea has been going through a rapid process of multicultural socialization as well. As of 2024, the overall count of foreigners residing in the country has surpassed 2.51 million, thus taking up about 4.9% of the total population of South Korea. Considering that the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) classifies a country as a “multicultural/multiracial country” when the population of those who have a migrant background exceeds 5% of the total population, technically South Korea can already be described as a nation with a multicultural identity. Thus, it is crucial for us to grasp the full meaning of being multicultural and what it will bring and make necessary preparations.

A multicultural society offers exposure to different traditions, expanding perspectives and the reduction of bias. The combination of various cultural elements can also allow vibrant artistic aspects such as cuisines to appear, enriching the fabric of society. Moreover, multiculturalism serves as a magnet for talent and investment, supporting economic growth and global competitiveness, leading to national revivals. However, multiculturalism may also present hurdles like language barriers, cultural misinterpretations, and social tensions, leading to disparities in power which can worsen social inequalities. To manage the pros and cons of multiculturalism properly, therefore, it is important to take active steps to ensure fairness among people. In this article I will introduce the two biggest difficulties a multicultural society might encounter and discuss ways for how countries can resolve such conflicts at present.

Discriminations

One of the most hard-to-battle challenges in a multicultural society is probably discrimination against those with different backgrounds. They arise from cultural or ethnic differences, leading to stereotypes, unequal treatment and much more, which can significantly impact an individual’s opportunities or sense of belonging within a society. These prejudices vary, from physical barriers to mental attacks, and cause many difficulties in day to day life. For example, subtle forms of discrimination such as racial slurs can create hostile environments for those from minority groups, contributing to negative feelings of distress and not fitting in. And because of stereotypes, which are generalized thoughts that influence one’s views on others, the multicultural citizens might not be allowed access to vital elements such as healthcare, employment, etc. Addressing this problem requires a multifaceted approach that involves both systemic changes and individual interventions. Enforcing anti-discrimination policies to guarantee that all citizens, regardless of their backgrounds, are ensured equal access to opportunities can be one way to prevent such forms of discrimination. Other methods might include establishing educational systems in schools to put a stop to misunderstandings between different cultural groups and providing support services.

Language Barriers

Communication is the most important factor in having meaningful interactions and forming relationships and speaking in the same language takes up a large part of said connections. Therefore, the inability to speak freely in the society’s dominant language might hinder collaborations and lead to difficulties in navigating vital systems such as healthcare. However, language education in multicultural families is not proceeding smoothly. As the results of certain surveys show, many children from diverse backgrounds are facing delays in language acquisition due to factors such as limited exposure to specific languages, confusion between multiple languages, and a shortage of resources tailored for bilingual individuals. To solve these linguistic problems and to allow multicultural families to form smooth interdependent relationships with others, countries can focus on implementing multilingual education programs that support students in developing proficiency in both their native language and the dominant language of mainstream institutions. Establishing language resources and providing translation services in various settings including healthcare facilities might also be effective ways to dissolve such barriers.

In conclusion, fostering understanding and acceptance in multicultural societies requires directly confronting issues like discrimination and language barriers. By enforcing related laws, establishing mechanisms for inclusivity and celebrating diversity, we can create a more harmonious and equitable community for all. There is no denying that the journey towards this cohesive future will be difficult and is in desperate need of collective efforts such as cooperation between governments and individuals that will be equally hard to achieve. However, it is necessary for us to move in line with the changes in the world which is, in this case, globalization. We must learn new ways and accept them to finally reach the goals of a diverse community with many traditions existing together peacefully, once and for all.

By Cho Yewon



Blending **Crime** and **Comedy**: Is It Possible?

Crime and comedy seem to be polar opposite. Most crimes create victims, while comedy makes audiences laugh. These days, due to the popularity of crime-comedy series such as *The Story of the Day* when the tail was bitten or *Only Murders in the Building*, the crime genre for the sake of entertainment has risen in prestige. People may be inquisitive to raise their awareness about felonies, and crime series can be one of the ways to solve their curiosity. The key to criminal entertainment is how to reconstruct crimes that have already occurred. It could take the form of an audio drama, such as delivering a story to a friend, through the mouth of detectives who have solved a case in person, taking a quiz, or talking about forensic and scientific investigations. However, is it right to take the lives of ordinary, vulnerable people, and turn them into entertainment for a potentially limitless audience? Maybe, the answer will be no.

Crime-comedy films and series are considered entertainment, and in the current environment, they have all the hallmarks of a prestige event with sharp graphics and dramatic music signals, not to mention the twists that continue to afflict the victims, but we should remember that they deal with real crimes, and have victims and survivors. They can reopen old wounds of victims more than funny storytelling. One of the family members of a murder victim covered in Netflix's *I Am a Killer* told *Time* magazine in 2020, "When we continue to give numbers to these shows, they keep making them. And real people living real lives keep getting re-traumatized every time. If you think about the crime as a thing that hap-



pened to a person, then you stop being able to have fun with it."

Crime scenes may be reconstructed realistically through the study and intervention of scene patterns and the examination of physical evidence to make these series. And through storytelling, viewers become victims, victims' acquaintances, police, detectives, and even bystanders. The problem is that the crimes committed by the perpetrators become the main plot, and the victims' suffering and seriousness of the crime turns into a subplot. It does not reflect the severity of the crime. For instance, the recent Netflix film *Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile* which explores the mind of serial killer Ted Bundy has been criticized because of the tone of the film and the romanticization of Bundy's character. Washington Post in 2019 mentioned that "By primarily focusing on Bundy's trick instead of his crime, it fails to properly reckon with the brutal crimes he committed."

Additionally, producers often sideline ethics to sensationalize the coverage of terrible crimes. Ideally, a "true" story documentary would be less sensational

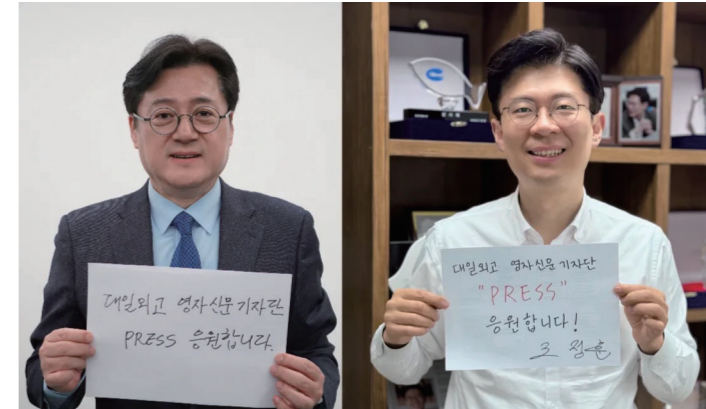
and more resonant than an adjusted work on the same issue. But as the genre expands rapidly, so many of today's popular crime-comedy series miss true stories because of their commerciality. Producers deal with crime, which is competitively more sensational and violent material to dramatically construct these events.

The sensationalization of the program for the entertainment must be abandoned and filmmakers have to ensure the victim's safety. Otherwise, its inherent flaws overshadow any possible benefits. Furthermore, we, as viewers, must be conscious of what we consume and never accept subjective interpretations as indisputable fact. Our society must constantly consider whether it is reasonable to prevent and prepare for crimes by seeing and listening to horrible crimes transmitted from mouth to mouth and spreading them again through these films. We find sympathy in their situation, but because it's their tragedy and not ours, we feel relief, and that's where the dramas comes from.

By Oh Hansol

Decision 2024: How Korea Faces Democracy's Biggest Festival

South Korea has a parliamentary election every four years, and this year, the election is set on April 10th, 2024. While political tensions have risen higher than ever, we've had the opportunity to ask two of the candidates who are current lawmakers that are running in the election



from the two major political parties, the People Power Party which is the current ruling party, and the Democratic Party which is the current major opposition. From the People Power Party, we interviewed Mr. Cho Jung-hun, who is running for the Mapo A district in Seoul. Mr. Cho is a proportional representative who has been in a third party named 'Transition Korea' for the past few years, and has recently joined the ruling party since 2023. From the Democratic Party, we interviewed Mr. Hong Ihk-pyo, who is running for the Seocho B district also in Seoul. Mr. Hong has served 3 terms as lawmaker for the Jung-Seongdong A district, and is currently the floor leader of the Democratic Party.

Q: Please introduce yourselves for the readers!

A:

(Cho) Hello, I am Cho Jung-hun, Member of the Nation-

al Assembly for the People Power Party. It's an honor to introduce myself through the Daeil PRESS. I yearn to let down my privileges as a lawmaker and engage in legislative activities with the goal of filling the people's lives with warmth.

(Hong) This is Hong Ihk-pyo, current lawmaker and floor leader of the Democratic Party. I'm also currently running for the position of National Assembly Member that represents Seocho B of Seoul. It's a pleasure to meet the students of Daeil Foreign Language High School through the Daeil PRESS.

Q: Both of you have decided to run in a place where your parties weren't traditionally welcomed. What is the reason for that?

(Cho) A lawmaker of one region must be able to represent that region. I believe I am the politician who is most similar to the Mapo district. Mapo, located in the center of Seoul, has a significant role in commerce and trade. Mapo is also the place that connects Yongsan and Yeouido, where the Presidential Office and National Assembly are each located. Using my experience from the World Bank and as a politician regardless of faction and ideology, I am con-

fidant that I can represent the significance of Mapo. Plus, Mapo has gone through many changes during renewal of the past decade, but its politics hasn't changed for four decades. What is old needs to change, and many people have requested me for new politics here. That is why I am to lead change in this district.

Hong) The Democratic Party has gone through many hard times after the loss of the Presidential and Provincial elections of 2022. As a 3 time lawmaker, I also wasn't free from the responsibility of our party's loss. I thought I had to step up and do something to overcome this risk. Seocho B is a place where one party has dominated for the past few years. That means the voters are also tired of a one-party rule and there is an urgent need to enlarge our Party's support in these regions for change. Plus, Seocho has many opinion leaders that form the public opinions of our society. The change starting from Seocho could lead to the change of this nation. Those thoughts made me run here.

Q: Why should your party win in this election instead of your opponent's?

A:

Cho) It is for the people's lives. The theme of this election is change, especially in generations. The ones who have once protested for democracy have now become the privileged class that lead the conflicts in the Assembly. As a Member, I feel ashamed that we've shown only negative moments, not caring more about the people. The National Assembly must be a place for discussion and deliberation, and we must lead change so that we could match the public eye. That is why we need a ruling party with a majority, which can make a working Assembly.

Hong) This election is crucial in many ways; it's not about which party wins, but about our economy and democracy, the crisis surrounding our nation and protecting our values. Losing this election could lead to a big mistake in history. The lives of the people are very hard, but the government doesn't care about the people. This election is a chance to point out the mistakes made by the current government. The Democratic Party will be able to keep in check of the government and propose ways to save our economy, when we win.

Q: What is one thing your party is better at than your opponent's?

A:

Cho) Our party has the skills that meet the public eye. I am also a member of our party's human resources recruitment committee, which has the motto "responsibility for the weak, integration for the livelihood, and orderly change". Our party can catch the essentials of change, establish order and can embrace the weak with skills that have sincerity.

Hong) Our party has plenty of experience, having made three Presidents. Through competent abilities, we are confident that we can solve the problems of our society. The presidents of our party have led Korea to be a ICT powerhouse, lead peace in the Korean peninsula and overcome many crises throughout history. It is clear that the Democratic Party is the only solution, through these data.

Q: To Mr. Cho, you have been in a third party called 'Transition Korea' During most of your term, but why have you decided to join the ruling party? To Mr. Hong, you are currently the floor leader of your party, are there any difficulties that follow?

A:

Cho) In a society divided into two, I'm afraid there isn't much space for a third force. There is no actual space for a third party to thrive, and politics require awareness of reality. Me and my colleagues from Transition Korea saw space for change in the People Power Party. Please consider our decision a choice for change the people desire. Though Transition Korea may no longer exist, its spirit lives on, and I'm determined to prove that through this election!

Hong) The floor leader represents the lawmakers of a party, similar to a class president. It's important to communicate with other lawmakers to fluently run the Assembly. Plus, there is always an opponent; the ruling party's floor leader. Depending on the agenda, we may solve it easily or go through harsh conflicts. Whenever you see us in the media, please consider paying attention to the agenda rather than just thinking of us fighting on and on.

Q: Is there a bill you wish to pass, or a bill you've passed that you remember the most?

A:

Cho) I hope to pass a bill that regulates the number of bills lawmakers can propose. In this term alone, almost ten thousand bills have been proposed, but less than three thousand bills have passed in substance. Proposing a bill must be very sincere, as it produces people that either earn or lose



privileges. I wish to stop bills from being overrun, and to make bills that can actually help the people.

Hong) I'm especially fond of the alternative holiday bill I proposed in 2015, which was passed in 2021. Through this, alternative holidays were confirmed, and I was pleased when many were happy to have a break in their lives. This was the first attempt to actually guarantee the people's right to rest. Ensuring enough rest improves the quality of life and helps revitalize the economy as well. I hope it can be helpful for students like you to take a break during your studies.

Q: If you are re-elected, is there a parliamentary committee you desire to join?

A:

Cho) I want to join the Strategy and Finance Committee. In the World Bank, I've experienced the real economy, and I wish to use my experience to save the economy. Our economy is facing lots of risks like household debt, lack of tax revenue and social insurance that requires urgent restructuring of the national finance. This is also a problem closely related to students that will one day lead the society. I wish to help pass successful reform plans for labor and pension in this committee.

Hong) I've experienced diverse committees that helped me strengthen professionalism on many issues. In the next term, I wish to join the Culture, Sports and Tourism Committee. Resources like K-POP is a potential resource that will be the growth engine for the future. I hope to help refurbish relevant support systems and contribute to the development of the cultural industry.

Q: Please make a final word of determination.

A:

Cho) I'm running in a fight that I can, and will win. And that victory must be a better life for the people. I hope that your lives will also change after this election!

Hong) I'm willing to pour all everything I have during this new challenge, and I'll do my best to envision the future of our country and to be elected. It's not easy being a politician, but all of us have the same goal of making a better society for the people. Taking interest in the people around you can lead you to take your first step as a politician. One day, if one of you becomes a politician I hope to greet you with pleasure. Until then, I'll also do my best in my position.

Through this interview, we were able to listen to each politician's thoughts and pledges facing this election. As a result, the Democratic Party had a landslide victory, taking 171 seats out of 300. Meanwhile, the People Power Party only took 108 seats, making this election the worst defeat for a ruling party since the Provisional election of 2006. And as for the two interviewees, Mr. Cho was re-elected by a bare 0.6%, and Mr. Hong failed to be re-elected, but managed to raise the votes for his party, as he pledged. No matter what happens, lawmakers of the National Assembly are able to stay there because the people voted for them, so they must follow the people's thoughts. The new term of the lawmakers must be filled with sincere discussions, instead of useless conflicts that tire the people.

By Lee Joon Seok

Does Freedom of Speech Mean Freedom From Controversy?

The right to free speech is a widely known basic human right, but exactly to what extent? In the results of a 2015 survey conducted by Global Attitudes Survey, 71% of those who live in the Western hemisphere believe in the tolerance of free speech. However, as the world shifts to a new era of integration of technology, the right to free speech has been exercised more than ever, especially on social-media networks. Although this has resulted in some positive change in the world, it has also resulted in numerous heated controversies. The consequences for those involved are also often extreme, often resulting in the destruction of reputations, property, and entire livelihoods. These controversies lead to the question: When is freedom of speech taken too far?

One such controversy, often the target for analysis of Media witch-hunting is the case of child-star Britney Spears. 'Media witch-hunting,' can be defined as the campaign directed against a person or group of people for having a negative reputation, often orchestrated by the media. Britney Spears's controversy is a case where one person is deliberately stalked by paparazzi and then slandered in tabloid magazines for profit. Throughout her teen years, Spears was constantly bombarded by the paparazzi to her breaking point, which ultimately led to her public breakdown in her adult years. Even before this point, she was constantly portrayed negatively in the press, as seen in tabloid titles such as: "Britney, Out of Control!" or "Britney is Sick and Dangerous!" However, her reputation took a dip for the worst after her public breakdown, with incidents such as paparazzi trespassing on the Spears property just for the chance to catch a bad glimpse of her. As stated by Spears herself, "The paparazzi watched it all happen. I can't describe the humiliation I felt. I was out being chased, like always, by these men waiting for me to do something they could photograph." This case is a direct result of Media witch-hunting. Legally, the paparazzi that constantly terrorized Spears and even the media that tarnished her reputation were in the legal bounds of freedom of press, however it would forever have an impact on Spears's life.

Another controversy that caused mass fear and disorientation was during Covid-19. For many, Covid-19 was an especially trying time, which would also lead to it dominating the media for months on end. While this new publicity led to the awareness and collective effort of people to prevent the virus, it also led to a skyrocket in the amount of false news circulated throughout social-media. Through misinformation on social-media, many people, believing that 5G was the cause of the virus, took to destroying 5G Wi-Fi towers in an act of 'justice.' Others deliberately used the virus to blame minority groups, such as immigrants or those of marginalization races, which was promptly amplified by the media or by the use of social-media networks. In hindsight, these rumors sound absolutely ridiculous. Some may even doubt the validity of the fact they were able to sway people in the first place. However, the collective stress and mass hysteria during this period made the media especially desperate to cling onto any logic that could provide an explanation. No matter how nonsensical it actually was. The rumors are all diverse in their own aspects, but all have a common denominator. They are all examples of people spreading misinformation within the legal bounds of freedom of speech. It is also noted that the fake news mentioned before



also carried with them real consequences, such as millions in property damage or the increase in racial hate crimes towards the Asian-American community. This only proves further that although they may fall within legal guidelines, misuse of freedom of speech fully has the power to cause harm to groups.

Both examples showcase ways that the seemingly universally agreed-upon right of freedom of speech can be misused to create controversy in the media. Although the subjectiveness of freedom of speech makes it difficult to make rules for, as a society, there must be a standard for when freedom of speech is taken too far; the standard for which is mostly agreed as when it causes others harm. Thanks to social-media, information can now be spread faster than ever, which could lead to controversies, but also can be utilized as a tool for spreading the truth. On an individual level, it is important to strive for what is true and what is helpful, for a better future where the media can be our friend, rather than our foe.

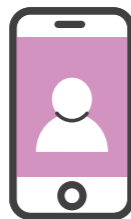
By Hyein Baek



Cashing in on influence; do they deserve it?

20220 조민지

Influencers are like swans floating gracefully on the water; beautiful on the outside, but hard-working under the water to keep afloat. Therefore, influencers deserve to make a lot of money. Influencers sacrifice their personal life, work very hard and constantly live on the edge.



First, influencers give up on their personal life and privacy to be a successful influencer. Influencers earn money by gaining popularity and being famous, meaning the more attention they get, the more money they can earn. Therefore, influencers would do whatever the public and their fans want, including revealing their personal life to the media. Beauty influencers, for example, often reveal their favourite cosmetic shops, frequently visited salad restaurants and so on. This, of course, leads to more views and likes because people like to feel connected to influencers by knowing their private lives. However, it can also lead to several extreme fans stalking influencers and spying on their preferred shops. Those stalkers could also take pictures of the influencers if they meet in public and share those personal photos on social media. Every piece of privacy and personal life influencers have will be shown to the public both willingly and unwillingly. Either way, it is true that influencers have little to no private life. Therefore, influencers deserve to make a lot of money because the price they pay to do so is their privacy.

Second, influencers work as hard as any other worker. Office workers and businessmen are symbols of hard-working people in the society. They earn money by working approximately 8 hours a day. Their work hours include paperwork, numerous meetings, and conferences with their superiors. These are the factors that make office workers and businesspeople hard-working individuals. There is not that much of a difference when we compare influencers to these office workers. Influencers also work about 8 to 9 hours a day editing photos and YouTube vide-

os. They too, spend long hours contacting advertisement companies and video platform companies, sometimes even attending conferences held by marketing companies who often work together with influencers in commercials. There's little to no difference when comparing the workload of influencers and other workers. So, influencers deserve to make a lot of money because their workload is as heavy as any other employee.

Third, influencers constantly live on the edge while working as an influencer. There was a really handsome teacher on YouTube, who became famous after one of his videos became viral. He was given a choice between continuing his life as an academy teacher and giving up his job and becoming a full-time influencer. Becoming a content-creating influencer would help him earn way more money than his current job, but the teacher hesitated. The reason was that being an influencer is a high-risk job that can collapse at any moment. The cancel culture on the Internet and the instability of the income are two of the many aspects that make an influencer a very risky job. Like this story, influencers are always in danger of being cancelled by the public and failing to make money because they didn't manage to get into a commercial contract with companies. Although influencers earn a lot of money, they are living a risky lifestyle compared to other workers like teachers and businessmen. The amount of money they make is deserved, because the work they do is extremely unstable and fragile. Therefore, influencers should be allowed to make a lot of money since living as an influencer is like walking on a tightrope.

In conclusion, influencers throw away their personal life, have very demanding work pressures compared to office workers and constantly toe the line when working. Therefore, I believe that influencers are workers deserving of earning a lot of money.



What is a movie you can watch on repeat?

10820 장서울

La La Land is the 3Bs: beautiful, brilliant, and breathtaking. If I could watch only one movie for the rest of my life, I would choose the movie La La Land. The reason for this is because La La Land has an interesting plot and ending, beautiful cinematography, and an amazing soundtrack.

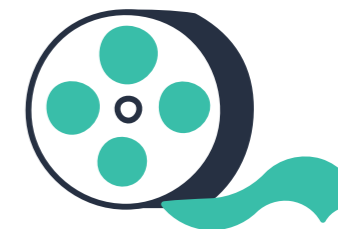
First of all, the plot of La La Land is very entertaining. La La Land is about two lovers, Mia and Sebastian. Mia wants to become an actress, and is very passionate about her dream; Sebastian has a dream as well—opening his own Jazz bar. They meet each other coincidentally, but steadily and surely fall in love. The two love birds spend the most wonderful time together, but life doesn't always go as planned. While pursuing their own dreams, they eventually drift apart; and although they still love each other, they decide to part ways. A few years later, Mia becomes a famous actress, and Sebastian opens his own jazz bar, both achieving their own dreams. They coincidentally meet each other just like when they first met, but only share loving glances and part ways once more. La La Land shows the start of a relationship and the natural farewell of lovers, as well as the characters' mental growth. This storyline is why I love the movie La La Land so much.

Another reason why I love La La Land is because of its cinematography. The director captured every little detail of the movie flawlessly. In a scene where the two main characters pour their heart out to each other, their facial expressions can be seen vividly. It's as if we can understand what's going on even without listening to the conversation. Also, a great use of color can be seen throughout the whole movie. For example, as we watch the movie, we can see the color of Mia's clothes slowly start losing their vibrance. This indicates that Mia and Sebastian are drifting apart from each other, and that Mia is maturing. I think

this genius use of color gives more depth to the plot and makes the movie even more enjoyable.

Last but not least, the soundtrack of La La Land is what absolutely captured my heart. Music and sound effects do a lot to create the overall atmosphere of a movie, and the same goes for La La Land. Every single song in the soundtrack is beautifully composed. There are many different genres such as jazz, pop, and classical in the soundtrack, but the songs all share one purpose. They describe what can't fully be explained in words with melodies. This makes the people watching La La Land dive ever so deep into the story. It also helps the watchers to actually feel the movie. Without the soundtrack, La La Land would be lacking the most essential item in the movie. The soundtrack is what completes La La Land.

In conclusion, La La Land's storyline is highly entertaining, it's amazingly pleasing to the eye, and its soundtrack is a masterpiece. This is why La La Land is my all-time favorite movie. If you are ever indecisive about which film to watch, you can undoubtedly do so now. The movie that gives you the feeling of walking down along a beach under the sunset, because you discover something new and beautiful no matter how many times you do it—La La Land.





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