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A MORPHOLOGICAL STUDY OF KONGLISH

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Konglish is a linguistic phenomenon that has received a great deal of attention from a number of different language experts. There are ongoing debates in connection to what constitutes Konglish, what language category it fits into, and to what degree it can be considered an emerging independent phenomenon. While some sociolinguists consider Konglish to be a Koreanized version of English, i.e. a Korean adaptation of the English language as a result of language contact, others opine that it is a developing hybrid language variety. Through the use of corpus data, this study demonstrates that both of these assessments are correct to varying degrees. While many of the lexical items borrowed from English into Korean are found in the Korean lexicon simply as direct borrowings containing phonological adaptations, native Korean speakers have developed a new form of language variety which combines the two languages to produce neologisms. This presentation analyzes the morphosyntactic processes by which these lexicalizations are produced. This study briefly discusses how English lexical items are borrowed and incorporated into the Korean language, thus demonstrating that Koreanized English is a valid analysis of the language; it then delves deeply into the particular morphosyntactic mechanisms by which Korean speakers fuse English and Korean words to create a new pseudolect, Konglish.