

*A comparison of Social and Linguistic Features
in the Korean communities in Bangkok and Buenos Aires
by Yun Sil JEON*

ABSTRACT

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I consider that we have to understand a nation studying its people, because a nation is only as rich and strong as its people. The Korean community in Bangkok form part of two nations: Korea and Thailand. This study tries to help the understanding of this community, very important not only because it is an active part of Bangkok city life, but because there is not serious studies about it. Also, it can be an instrument to Koreans in general to improve the knowledge about the migration phenomenon, so important for the country. Particularly, it can be useful to the Koreans living in Bangkok to improve and redesign their linguistic abilities related to the social features.

My Ph.D. thesis dealt in the Society and Language in the Korean community in Buenos Aires, following Ethnolinguistics methodology (wider Sociolinguistics). I continue this field of investigation to observe and compare the same phenomenon in the Korean community in Bangkok, i.e. social aspects related to the linguistics points.

We can divide this study in two basic branches: the first one is related with the migration history of the community, its culture and society, more social aspects of the migration.

Secondly, I analyze its linguistics aspects: if there are bilingualism and code switching in their linguistic uses and what happen with their attitude toward their language use.

Finally, I compare the results fought with what is going on in the Korean community in Argentina. Since the characteristic of Korean community in Bangkok is different than the one in Argentina, I adapt the way of researching. I take adolescents and adults as subject, because I want to analyze their attitude toward language use and their capability to describe their own linguistic behavior. It will be very significant to make the conclusion after the comparison of the two Korean communities.