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Guide to

The romanization of Korean

Guide pour la romanisation du coréen

Anleitung zur Latinisierung der koreanischen Schrift

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Foreword

The Documentation Standards Committee resolved in 1979 that work should begin on a standard for the conversion of written Korean into roman script. Requests for a simple transliteration table usable even by those knowing no Korean were considered. Such a table was judged not to be feasible, but what is presented here in part one of this document does offer a transliteration (i.e. character-for-character substitution) which assumes no prior knowledge of the language. In part two, it deals with phonetic romanization (i.e. rendering the sounds of Korean in roman script, not necessarily in the same number of characters); it acknowledges that the McCune-Reischauer system of 1939 commands wide acceptance.

We are indebted to the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London, for the time of Dr W E Skillend, who prepared the draft, and, for their help, to Mr Yong-Oon Tai of the Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin, and Prof Valerio Anselmo,

late of the Istituto Orientale di Napoli; as well, of course, to our cooperating organizations.

Terminology and conventions. Because this publication has been reproduced directly from an original supplied by an outside expert, some terminology and certain conventions are not identical with those used in British Standards.

0. Scope

Part one of this guide contains a system of transliteration which is reversible. It includes a description of Korean script and the variations between North and South Korea, and mention of the foreign characters occurring in Korean, particularly Chinese. Part two contains a description of the widely used McCune-Reischauer phonetic romanization and an account of the phonetics of Korean, which is necessary for the understanding of romanization.

Both parts include advice about word division and alphabetic arrangement.

Guide to

The romanization of Korean

PART ONE : KOREAN WRITING AND ITS transliteration

1. The Appearance of Written Korean

1.1 Printed Korean can look like the following:

Example 1:

단기 사천이백오십이년 바로 삼월
원에서는 수 많은 군중과 학생들이
을 한다는 선언을 하고, 태극기를 들고
다. 이 선언은 우리 민족 대표 삼십삼인
은 삼천만 온 민족의

Example 2:

檀紀 四千二百五十二年 바로 三月
園에서는 數 많은 群衆과 學生들이
을 한다는 宣言을 하고, 太極旗를 들고
다. 이 宣言은 우리 民族 代表 三十三人
은 三千萬 온 民族의

Example 3:

세금 관리는 참 딱하다는 눈치로
「그것은 잘못된 생각이십니다.
라, 나라 살림을 위해서 우선
위서 세계 각국과 같이
국민이 모두 세금을
게 하고, 관청을

Example 4:

稅務 官吏는 참 딱하다는 눈치로
「그것은 잘못된 생각이십니다.
라, 나라 살림을 위해서 于先
위서 世界 各國과 같이
國民이 모두 稅金을
게 하고, 官廳을

1.2 In examples 1 and 2, in horizontal lines, each line reads from left to right, while in examples 3 and 4, in vertical columns, the columns read from right to left. 3 and 4 represent the traditional way of writing, which is still widely used in print. 1 and 2 represent a modern way, which seems to be gaining ground. (From

the start of modern printing to the 1940s, on books, the titles, authors and publishers were usually printed in horizontal lines reading from right to left.)

1.3 Examples 1 and 3 have only Korean letters, grouped in syllables. Examples 2 and 4 have some words written with Chinese characters. The difference between Korean syllables and Chinese characters may be obvious at a glance, but the Korean have only 28 different letters, in syllables with two to five letters each, and there are restrictions which mean that only 14 of the letters can be used in any one position within the syllable. The Chinese characters are very much more varied and usually more complex. The Korean syllables will first be analysed for reading and transliteration. How to deal with Chinese characters will be explained in Section 7, below. Pronunciation and romanization are dealt with in Part Two.

2. The Korean Letters

2.1 In the modern orthography, the 28 letters consist of 14 consonant letters and 14 vowel letters. We give them here, with the most convenient mechanical transliteration between oblique strokes.

2.2 Consonants:

ㅇ not transliterated at all as an initial letter; transliterated /ng/ as a final letter (see 3.5 and 3.7, below) ㅎ /h/.
ㄱ /k/ ㅋ /kh/. ㄴ /n/ ㄷ /t/ ㅌ /th/ ㄹ /l/.
ㅅ /s/ ㅆ /j/ ㅈ /ch/. ㅊ /m/ ㅍ /p/ ㅂ /ph/.

2.3 Vowels:

(a) ㅣ /i/ ㅏ /a/ ㅑ /ai/ ㅓ /ya/ ㅕ /yai/
ㅗ /e/ ㅛ /ei/ ㅜ /ye/ ㅠ /yu/
(b) ㅡ /w/ ㅜ /o/ ㅠ /ye/ ㅡ /u/ ㅠ /vu/

5. Syllables in Korean Writing

3.1 Orthographically syllables consist of at least an initial consonant letter followed by a vowel letter.

3.2 It will be seen that the vowel letters all have one stroke which is longer than any other stroke in the letter. In group (a) of the letters in 2.5, ㅣ /i/ to ㅑ /yai/, that main stroke is vertical. In group (b), ㅡ /w/ to ㅠ /yu/, it is horizontal.

3.3 If the main stroke of the vowel letter is horizontal, the vowel letter is written below the consonant letter:

그 /kw/ 초 /cho/ 묘 /myo/ 주 /ju/ 휴 /hyu/

3.4 If the main stroke of the vowel letter is vertical, the vowel letter is written to the right of the consonant letter:

키 /khi/ 하 /ha/ 대 /tai/ 라 /lya/ 개 /kyai/ 너 /ne/ 세 /sei/ 벼 /pye/ 폐 /phyei/

3.5 If a syllable begins with a vowel sound (including [w] and [j], see Part Two, 14.3 and 14.4), the letter ㅕ is used to show that there is no initial consonant sound. In this position the letter ㅕ is not transliterated:

이 /i/ 아 /a/ 어 /e/ 야 /ya/ 여 /ye/ 으 /w/ 오 /o/ 우 /u/ 요 /yo/ 유 /yu/, etc.

3.6 Some syllables have two vowel letters, one with a horizontal main stroke followed by one with a vertical main stroke. The following are all such sequences which occur in the modern orthography:

기 /wi/ 니 /oi/ 나 /oa/ 내 /oai/ 지 /ui/ 저 /ue/ 제 /uei/

When two vowel letters occur in one syllable, the one with the horizontal main stroke is written beneath the initial consonant, and the one with the vertical main stroke is written to the right of that combination:

니 /nwi/ 최 /choi/ 과 /koa/ 태 /toai/ 쉬 /sui/ 뮌 /mue/ 회 /huei/

Again, if the syllable begins with a vowel sound, ㅕ is used to show that there is no initial consonant: 외 /wi/, etc.

3.7 Some syllables have a final consonant letter. This is always written beneath the combination of initial consonant and vowel(s). When ㅕ is used in this final position, it is transliterated /ng/:

셈 /seim/ 답 /tap/ 싯 /siph/ 곧 /kot/ 엣 /ekh/ 웃 /us/ 종 /joh/ 불 /puth/ 멧 /myech/ 늦 /nwj/ 흰 /hwin/ 월 /uel/ 횡 /hoing/ 콧 /khoak/

3.8 Some double consonant letters are used as both initials and finals, though they occur most frequently in vernacular words (see Part Two, 12.1), which will only be encountered infrequently. Examples:

때 /ttai/ 쓸 /sswl/ 쪼 /jjjo/ 뺨 /ppyam/ 꺾 /kkueng/ 겹 /keiss/ 뭉 /mukk/ 왔 /oass/

3.9 Combinations of two different letters occur as final consonants in a syllable in vernacular words. Each letter in such a double final is transliterated. The following are examples of all the combinations of two different consonants which occur in the modern orthography:

몫 /moks/ 많 /manh/ 앓 /anj/ 훌 /hwlk/ 젊 /jelm/ 뉘 /nelp/ 톨 /tols/ 훌 /hulth/ 읍 /wlph/ 실 /silh/ 엇 /eps/

Double consonants consisting of two different letters do not occur as initial consonants in the modern orthography.

4. Separating the Syllables

4.1 Since the purpose of a mechanical transliteration is to represent the Korean script exactly, it is essential in transliteration to separate the syllables from each other. This should be done with a hyphen, and spaces left between syllables which are separated by a space in Korean:

김동욱 권영철 김태준
춘향전사본선집
일 남원고사 외
명지대학 국어국문학과
국학자료간행위원회

/kim-tong-uk kuen-yeng-chel kim-thai-jun/
/chun-hyang-jen-sa-pon-sen-jip/
/il nam-uen-ko-sa oi/
/myeng-ji-tai-hak kuk-e-kuk-mun-hak-koa/
/kuk-hak-ja-lyo-kan-haing-ui-uen-hoi/

In this example, the first line contains the names of three compilers of a book, the second the title, the third the volume number and volume title, and the fourth and fifth lines the publisher (a committee of a department of a university). Punctuation and word separation are discussed below, Section 9.

4.2 Single consonants can be used as complete syllables as the equivalent of

"a, b, c" to enumerate a list of items. The Korean alphabetical order for the consonants is:

ㄱ /k/ ㄴ /n/ ㄷ /t/ ㄹ /l/ ㅁ /m/
 ㅂ /p/ ㅅ /s/ ㅇ /ng/ ㅈ /j/ ㅊ /ch/
 ㅋ /kh/ ㅌ /th/ ㅍ /ph/ ㅎ /h/

It is also possible to quote single letters, e.g.: ㄱ 받침 'the /k/ final'.

Koreans usually read single letters with the names for the letters (see Part Two, 18.14), though in lists they can also be read in an old-fashioned way: /ka/, /na/, /ta/, etc. Transliterators should simply transliterate the letters used: /k-pat-chim/, etc.

5. North and South Korean Orthographies

5.1 The above rules apply to the present standard orthographies of both the Republic of Korea (South Korea) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). Those orthographies differ slightly, and the differences may have to be reconciled.

5.2 In most cases in which transliteration will be used, the differences are caused by the re-introduction since the 1950s into the North Korean orthography of initial ㄱ /l/ and ㄴ /n/ which had dropped from the standard spoken and written language before the country was divided in 1945. It is therefore not possible to transform the current South Korean spelling into the current North Korean spelling without a considerable knowledge of Korean etymology. The North Korean spellings of Korean words (see also 5.4, below) can, however, be transformed into the South Korean or the pre-1950s spellings by following a few rules:

(1) If any group of syllables (i.e. "word", not any syllable within a "word") begins with ㄱ /l/:

(a) If the following letter is ㅣ /i/ or any letter transcribed with /y/ (ㅑ /ya/, ㅓ /ye/, ㅕ /yo/, ㅠ /yu/, etc.), do not transliterate the initial ㄱ /l/. The South Korean spelling will have an initial ㅇ for the absence of initial consonant:

North: 리기령 /li-ki-lyeng/
 South: 이기령 /i-ki-lyeng/
 North: 련포리 /lyen-pho-li/
 South: 연포리 /yen-pho-li/

(b) If any other vowel letter follows ㄱ /l/, i.e. ㅏ /a/, ㅑ /ai/, ㅓ /e/, ㅕ /ei/, ㅗ /o/, ㅛ /u/, ㅜ /w/ or any other combination of vowel letters beginning with ㅏ /o/, ㅛ /u/ or ㅜ /w/, change the initial ㄱ /l/ of North Korean to ㄴ /n/ for the South Korean spelling:

North: 라진 /la-jin/ 전라 /jen-la/
 South: 나진 /na-jin/ BUT 전라 /jen-la/

(2) If any group of syllables (not any syllable within a group) begins with /ny/ (냐 /nya/, 녀 /nye/, 뇨 /nyo/, 뉴 /nyu/, etc.), do not transliterate the initial ㄴ /n/. The South Korean spelling will have initial ㅇ for the absence of initial consonant:

North: 녕산포 /nyeng-san-pho/
 South: 영산포 /yeng-san-pho/
BUT North: 창녕 /chang-nyeng/
 South: 창녕 /chang-nyeng/

Etymological initial /ny-/ in North Korea seems to be very rare. Theoretically rule (2) would also apply if any North Korean spelling began with 니 /ni/, but no actual examples have been found. A hypothetical example would be:

North: 니문니 /ni-mun-ni/
 South: 이문니 /i-mun-ni/

5.3 There are other differences between the languages of North and South. Other spelling differences will not usually affect transliterators, since they are in only a very small number of forms of vernacular words (e.g. as in Part Two, 14.7). However, some words are completely different in the two languages, the most obvious being the general word for 'Korea', 한국 /han-kuk/ in South Korea, but 조선 /jo-sen/ in North Korea. Some North Korean words will not be found in standard Korean-English dictionaries, which all reflect the language of South Korea, e.g. 감녕이 /kang-naing-i/ for 'maize', South Korean 옥수수 /ok-su-su/. Such cases are rare, but it is difficult to get explanations of new words which come up in North Korean texts.

5.4 It should be noted that the rules in 5.2, above, apply only to Korean words. To use those rules, the transliterator must be able to identify as foreign any foreign words occurring in a North Korean text. E.g. 라디오 /la-ti-o/ 'radio' is not to be transformed to 나디오 /na-ti-o/ for South Korean, and 니켈 /ni-khel/ 'nickel' not to 이켈 /i-khel/.

6. Features Found in Special Texts

6.1 Some categories of texts in Korean contain features not described above, and some specialist texts will contain features not described below, but recognizable by specialist transliterators.

6.2 South Korean elementary school books often underline proper names. (There used also to be a practice of "side-lining" in texts written in vertical columns.) The same practice seems to be rather more widespread in North Korea. Korean has no other way of distinguishing proper names from common nouns. Capitalisation should only be used to mark proper names in transliteration if the transliterator is capable of distinguishing all proper names in any given text.

6.3 Linguistic texts and dictionaries often mark long vowels (which are not normally distinctive) by adding a colon (:) after the syllable with the long vowel, as in 산:소 'oxygen'. In general, such markings of long vowels may be ignored in transliteration: /san-so/, but if the vowel length is the point of the text, the vowel letter should be doubled (see Part Two, 14.6): /saan-so/.

6.4 Pre-modern texts have a number of different spelling conventions from the present standard, including the use of four letters which are no longer used, and two modified letters. The only letter which was used into the 20th century but is not now used was the vowel letter ㅏ, called in Korean 'the underneath /a/', because it counted as a vowel letter of group (b), 2.3, above, as in ㅏ for 마 /ma/. Roughly this is now represented by ㅏ/a/ in word stems and by ㅓ/w/ in suffixes, and the digraph ㅏ (as in ㅏ for ㅏ /kai/) also occurred. Of the abc letters which are not otherwise used in this transliteration, /r/ might be the least difficult to use to transliterate ㄹ: ㄹ음 /mr-rm/, ㄹ히 /hri/. The other three letters have not been used regularly since about 1600. ㄹ was probably the spelling of a glottal stop and may be transliterated with /q/. ㅏ probably spelt a sound like the "s" in "leisure", which could be represented by /z/. ㅏ was originally used for the /ng/ sound, the present ㅏ being first devised to write the absence of consonant both

initially and finally. The letter ㅏ can therefore normally be transliterated /ng/, but, in the unlikely event of any transliteration being required of a text which distinguishes the two letters, /g/ could be used alone for ㅏ.

The obsolete modified letters were ㅏ and ㅑ, both probably bilabial fricative sounds (see Part Two, 15.1 and 15.3). /v/ for ㅏ and /b/ for ㅑ seem to be adequate as transliterations. Some modern texts have used a form like ㅏ: ㅑ to represent both "f" and "v" sounds of foreign languages, while others use ㅑ for "f". /v/ can be used to transliterate ㅑ and /f/ for ㅑ: 예오린 /vi-o-lin/ for 'violin' and ㅑ림 /fil-lim/ for 'film'. Double consonants which occur in old texts but not modern texts, and obsolete vowel digraphs present no problem of transliteration: ㅑㅑ /skos/, ㅑㅑ /namk/, ㅑㅑ /chyoi/, etc. Syllable divisions were also often different in old texts: ㅑㅑ /an-ri/ for ㅑㅑ/a-nai/ 'wife'.

6.5 One feature of the texts of the 1930s, sometimes found from the late 1920s and into the early 1940s, is the use of the letter ㅏ/s/ as a whole syllable. This was a device used at the time to indicate what we might call here "incidental doubling of consonants" (see Part Two, 18.18/19). Such an ㅏ/s/ can be simply transliterated as /s/: ㅑㅑㅑㅑ /a-lai-s-mok/. For a time in the 1950s an apostrophe was used for the same purpose in North Korea, e.g. ㅑ'ㅑ. It seems simplest in such cases to keep the apostrophe in transliteration: /cho-'pul/.

7. Chinese Characters in Korean Writing

7.1 Some Korean words can be written with Chinese characters, and often are in South Korea, as in examples 2 and 4 in 1.1, above. North Korea no longer uses Chinese characters as a matter of course.

7.2 Chinese characters essentially indicate the meanings of words or parts of words. It is often possible to guess the Korean pronunciation and the spelling from some part of the character, but there is no regular correspondence between the form of Chinese characters and their Korean spelling and pronunciation. To transliterate Chinese characters in Korean texts, one has to transliterate the Korean spelling which could have been used instead

of the characters. To find that spelling one needs to be able to use a dictionary which lists characters in an order other than that of the Korean spelling and which gives the Korean spelling. There are many comprehensive dictionaries of Chinese characters with explanations in Korean, but we can recommend as being particularly useful for non-Koreans: Hyogmyon Kwon: Basic Chinese-Korean Character Dictionary (Wiesbaden: Otto Harrosowitz, 1978), and, since that contains only about 2,500 characters: 김민수, 홍웅선: 국어사전 (語文閣) (in McCune-Reischauer romanization, see Part Two: Kim Minsu, Hong Ungsŏn: Kugŏ sajŏn ['Korean dictionary'], Seoul: Ōmun'gak, 1968 and reprints). Although the latter is a Korean-Korean dictionary, it gives single word English translations for most entry words and lists some 6,500 Chinese characters, with their Korean spellings, in an appendix. It is beyond the scope of this paper to give instruction in how to find Chinese characters in such dictionaries, but one useful introduction is: Bruce K. Grant: A Guide to Korean Characters (Seoul and Elizabeth, N.J.: Hollym International Corp., 1979).

7.3 When the Korean spellings of the Chinese characters have been found, there will be no further problem of transliteration in most cases, since most characters have only one spelling in Korean. However, there are some exceptions, as follow.

7.4 Those Chinese characters which have an initial ㄱ /l/ in their Korean spellings must be treated in exactly the same way as the North Korean spellings with initial ㄱ /l/, as set out in 5.2. Many dictionaries of Chinese characters give the alternative spelling with 〇 (no initial consonant) or with ㄴ /n/ as well as the basic spelling with ㄱ /l/. Examples:

龍 룡 (용) /lyong (yong)/ 'dragon'
 里 리 (이) /li (i)/ 'village'
 羅 라 (나) /la (na)/ 'net'

Examples of proper names with such characters are:

龍山 (룡산) /lyong-san/ = 용산
 transliterate /yong-san/

BUT 九龍 구룡 /ku-lyong/
 transliterate /ku-lyong/

利川里 (리천리) /li-chen-li/ = 이천리
 transliterate /i-chen-li/;

羅津 (라진) /la-jin/ = 나진
 transliterate /na-jin/;

BUT 新羅 신라 /sin-la/
 transliterate /sin-la/.

7.5 Similarly the rules given for transforming North Korean spellings with initial /ni-/ and /ny-/ into South Korean should be followed if the Korean spelling of any character gives those letters as the initial in the first of any group of characters ("word") transliterated (see again 5.2, above). Examples:

寧越 (녕월) /nyeng-uel/ = 영월
 transliterate /yeng-uel/;

泥淨 (니녕) /ni-nyeng/ = 이녕
 transliterate /i-nyeng/.

7.6 Apart from such regular cases, a very small number of characters are given more than one Korean spelling (usually representing two Chinese words of different sounds). When alternative spellings are given, a dictionary, gazetteer, etc., will give the correct spelling for the word or name in question. Examples:

樂 락 /lak/ and 악 /ak/;
 俱樂部 구락부 /ku-lak-pu/ 'club'
 音樂 음악 /wm-ak/ 'music'

金 금 /kwm/ and 김 /kim/;
 金川 금천 /kwm-chen/ (place name)
 金泉 김천 /kim-chen/ (place name)

If the reading in any particular case cannot be confirmed, then recourse would have to be made to a double entry with cross-references. It may be noted that 金: 금 /kwm/ or 김 /kim/, and 次: 침 /chim/ or 심 /sim/ as surnames are always 김 /kim/ and 심 /sim/ respectively.

7.7 Even more rarely there are completely irregular readings. Among place names, there are 陝川 합천 /hap-chen/, 白川 배천 /pai-chen/, and 智異山 지리산 /ji-li-san/. Dictionaries give only 陝협 /hyep/, 白백 /paik/ and 異이 /i/. There is no way in which such readings can be determined from the characters alone, and it can only be suggested that if an irregular reading is confirmed, a reference to it should be given from what would be the regular reading, e.g.: 협천 /hyep-chen/, see 합천 /hap-chen/.

8. Non-Korean Words and Numerals

8.1 Koreans pronounce Chinese and Japanese proper names when written with Chinese characters according to the Korean spelling of the characters, and this Korean pronunciation is usually followed in the transcription of such names occurring in a Korean text, as in: **大學講解** 대학언해 /tai-hak-en-hai/, not /ta-hsŭeh-en-hai/ 'A Vernacular Explanation of "The Great Learning"'.
 However, if a proper name written in Chinese characters can be identified as Chinese or Japanese, there may be circumstances in which it will be preferable to transliterate it as such, or at least to give a cross-reference:

韓國銀行 大阪支店 한국은행 대판지점
 /han-kuk-wn-haing tai-phan-ji-jem/
or /han-kuk-wn-haing ōsaka-ji-jem/
 'Bank of Korea, Osaka Branch'

8.2 Non-Korean names and words also appear in Korean texts in other scripts than Korean and Chinese. Most commonly these will be in the abc alphabet and can be simply reproduced in transliteration:

Palatalization **에 대하여**
 /Palatalization-ei-tai-ha-ye/
 'On Palatalization'

Foreign words in other scripts can be transliterated in accordance with the practice for the script used.

8.3 Both Arabic and Roman numerals are used in Korean texts. Koreans pronounce these as the Korean word for the number indicated, usually as if the numbers were written with Chinese characters. The natural course to follow in transliteration would be simply to reproduce the numerals: 1977년 2월 20일 /1977-nyen 2-uel 20-il/ not /il-chen-ku-paik-chil-sip-chil-nyen.../ To produce an indexable word for /1977/, a transliteration could be given to each digit as if it were a Chinese character: /il-ku-chil-chil/. The ten digits would be: 1 일/il/, 2 이/i/, 3 삼/sam/, 4 사/sa/, 5 오/o/, 6 육/yuk/, 7 칠/chil/, 8 팔/phal/, 9 구/ku/, 0 공/kong/.

9. Punctuation

9.1 Traditionally Korean used no spacing between words, and punctuation marks were only rarely used. Spacing is still very

irregular, and the "word" is not at all well defined (see Part Two, Section 20). By and large, the more elementary the text the more spaces are used, and the more sophisticated the text the fewer spaces are used. Of particular concern to most transliterators will be the treatment of persons' and place names. For instance, in 4.1, above, **김동욱** /kim-tong-uk/ is a surname **김** /kim/ and a personal name **동욱** /tong-uk/. In some texts there will be a space left between the two, but this is not normal practice. We recommend that transliterators do not break any runs of syllables in Korean into words unless they are trained enough to do this without error for all the items in any given text.

9.2 Even if comparatively simple-looking rules were drawn up for particular fields, the application of the rules could call for more knowledge of Korean than can be given here. To take the simplest example, one could rule that surnames and personal names should be treated as separate words. Most full names consist of three syllables and in almost all of them the first is the surname and the last two a personal name. However, in about 4 in every 1,000 names the first two will be the surname and only the last one the personal name. Any transliterator who divides names into surname and personal name must therefore know the two-syllable surnames (see Part Two, 21.9). In addition, any rules for order in indexing names would have to permit the certain retrieval of such names as /na mun-ki/, /nam kyeng-hwi/ and /nam-kung jun/. We strongly advise against any system of indexing which depends on word division and recommend a letter-by-letter order: /nam-kung jun/, /nam kyeng-hwi/, /na mun-ki/.

9.3 Punctuation marks in modern Korean texts are mostly derived from non-Korean sources, mainly English usage. When the writing is in vertical columns, the very loosely used traditional phrase markers of a small circle or a side-comma are still used. Otherwise usage is not consistent, but, by and large, the punctuation marks will be used as in English and be simply reproduced in transliteration.

The most frequent exception is the use of pointed brackets or sharp right-
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angles: <.....> or 「.....」 for quotations. In transliteration these can probably most conveniently be written as quotation marks.

As in English, a full stop can be used to mark an abbreviation, but this is very much the exception. Abbreviations are so widely used in Korean that it seems unwise to try to mark them, and more practical to treat an abbreviation as forming an acronym: **전북** /jen-puk/, not, for instance, /jen.puk/ for **전라북도** /jen-la-puk-to/ 'Chŏlla North Province'.

The half-raised full stop is also used like the hyphen in English, especially in such abbreviations as **한·미** /han-mi/ 'Korean-American'. No purpose would seem to be served by trying to represent this in any way: /han.mi/, /han:mi/, etc.

10. Retransliterating and Checking

10.1 Any text transliterated from Korean as above may be retransliterated into Korean by following these rules:

The retransliteration is to be done syllable by syllable. If there is more than one syllable in an apparent word, the syllables will be separated by hyphens.

Analyse each syllable into these parts:

- (1) initial consonant (if any): /ch-/ /h-/ /j-/ /jj-/ /k-/ /kh-/ /kk-/ /l-/ /m-/ /n-/ /p-/ /ph-/ /pp-/ /s-/ /ss-/ /t-/ /th-/ /tt-/
- (2) vowel: /a/ /ai/ /e/ /ei/ /i/ /o/ /oa/ /oai/ /oi/ /u/ /ue/ /uei/ /ui/ /w/ /wi/ /ya/ /yai/ /ye/ /yei/ /yo/ /yu/
- (3) final consonant (if any), as in (1), above, plus: /ng/ and the sequences of consonants: /-ks/ /-lh/ /-lk/ /-lm/ /-lp/ /-lph/ /-ls/ /-lth/ /-nh/ /-nj/ /-ps/

If the syllable begins with a vowel, as in (2), above, first write initial **ㅇ**.

Transliterate the letters into syllables of Korean as shown in 3.3/9, above.

10.2 The individual letters are written as follows:

ㄱ /k/: ㄱ	ㅋ /kh/: ㅋ
ㄴ /n/: ㄴ	ㄷ /t/: ㄷ
	ㅌ /th/: ㅌ
	ㄹ /l/: ㄹ
ㄷ /s/: ㅅ	ㅈ /j/: ㅈ
	ㅊ /ch/: ㅊ
ㅁ /m/: ㅁ	ㅂ /p/: ㅂ
	ㅍ /ph/: ㅍ
ㅇ /ng/: ㅇ	ㅎ /h/: ㅎ

ㅣ /i/: ㅏ	ㅑ /a/: ㅑ	ㅓ /ai/: ㅓ	ㅕ
ㅗ /ya/: ㅗ	ㅛ /yai/: ㅛ	ㅜ	ㅠ
ㅓ /e/: ㅓ	ㅕ /ei/: ㅕ	ㅗ	ㅛ
ㅑ /ye/: ㅑ	ㅓ /yei/: ㅓ	ㅗ	ㅛ
ㅡ /w/: ㅡ	ㅓ /o/: ㅓ	ㅕ	ㅠ
ㅗ	ㅛ	ㅜ	ㅠ
ㅓ	ㅕ	ㅗ	ㅠ

10.3 There are stylish variations of most individual letters and for "balancing" the syllables, but the aim should be to make the main stroke of the vowel letter (see 3.2/4, above) the longest in the syllable, though the final vertical stroke of ㅓ /u/, ㅕ /yu/ and ㅑ /k/ is often stylishly longer at the end of a syllable. In handwriting syllables may be stretched to accommodate various combinations: **대** /ttai/, **백** /ppuk/.

Syllables containing a vowel letter with a vertical main stroke and a double final consonant will be square: **박** /pakk/. If there is a single final consonant, the syllable is balanced centrally on the final consonant if the main stroke of the vowel letter is horizontal: **꿈** /kkum/, and to the right if the main stroke of the vowel letter is vertical: **강** /kang/. If there is no final consonant, the syllable sits squarely on a final horizontal stroke: **모** /mo/, balances centrally on the final stroke of ㅓ /u/: **루** /lu/, and balances to the right on the final stroke of any other vowel letter: **사** /sa/, **휴** /hyu/.

There is some overlapping of letters: ㅑ /k/ and ㅋ /kh/ overlapping the short vertical strokes of ㅓ /o/ and ㅕ /yo/: **코** /kho/, **교** /kyo/; ㄴ /n/ overlapping the short vertical strokes of ㅓ /u/ and ㅕ /yu/: **순** /sun/, **윤** /yun/ and the long vertical strokes of other vowel letters: **견** /ken/; ㅓ /u/ overlapping the short horizontal strokes of ㅓ /e/ and ㅕ /ei/: **겨** /ue/, **제** /uei/; the short horizontal or vertical strokes of vowel letters overlapping consonant letters which have a hole on their right or bottom: **터** /te/, **초** /cho/.

In print each syllable occupies a square of equal space. In typing, unless the typewriter prints whole syllables, on the model of Japanese typewriters, which seems to be the system in North Korea, the letters can be difficult to disentangle, and the type is uneven and unbalanced. **한글** /han-kwl/ **세인** /se-in/ **꿈** /kkum/ **제** /uei/.

10.4 The transliteration given here fulfils three basic conditions:

(a) that it can be used from or into Korean with no more knowledge of the Korean language than is given here;

(b) that it uses no diacritical marks other than the hyphen between syllables;

and (c) that it minimises the possible mistakes and the misinterpretations if mistakes are made.

Within these conditions the letters used here have been chosen to match the system of the Korean letters and to prompt a vocalisation in English speakers which is the nearest to the Korean pronunciation. The transliteration may be practised by using the examples in Part Two, 13.5, 16.3, 17.6, 17.9, 17.12, 17.16, 17.17, 17.18, 18.20 and 19.5.

10.5 There is little can be done about mistakes of the type of hitting the wrong key on a typewriter, but experience shows that most mistakes made in most transliterations are due to the transliterator knowing how Korean is pronounced or having knowledge of other transcriptions.

If only proper names have been transliterated, most syllables should contain no more than 5 letters, and a few 6 (very rarely 7) if they begin with /ch/, /kh/, /ph/ or /th/, have one of the possible sequences of two or more vowels, and end in /ng/. If the transliteration is not restricted to proper names, syllables of 6 or 7 letters are more frequent, but they must have only 2 initial consonants, only 3 vowels, and no more than 3 final consonants, all as allowed in this system. Any syllable of six or seven letters should be checked.

When a syllable of any proper name is retransliterated, it should have only one initial consonant (rarely ㄱ/ss/) and only one final consonant, if any, of the six in Table VIII, page 26.

10.6 Since Korean has six basic vowel letters and English only five, and "y" is needed for the vowel letters ㅑ /ya/, etc., it has been unavoidable to use /w/ for ㅓ. Since the sound [w] is used in speech in ㅓ /oa/ [wa], ㅕ /oai/ [wæ], ㅖ /ue/ [wə], ㅞ /uei/ [we] and ㅟ /ui/ [wi] (see Part Two, 14.3/4), /w/ may be used mistakenly

in these sequences by those who know how to pronounce Korean. Of the possible mistakes, only /wi/ could represent different letters in this transliteration: /wi/ is ㅟ, not ㅟ, which is /ui/.

Since ㅟ /ei/ is pronounced [e] (see Part Two, 14.1), /e/ may be mistakenly used in transliteration: /se/ (= ㅓㅔ) instead of /sei/ for ㅓㅔ. The letter ㅟ /ei/ is rather infrequent in proper names.

ㅐ is very commonly used by romanizers for ㅐ /ai/. /ae/ cannot be used in this transliteration within a syllable and the sequence of /a/ and /e/ in successive syllables is rather rare in the sorts of texts which are usually transliterated, and perhaps in Korean as a whole.

ㅓ could be a mistake for ㅓ /j/, especially at the beginning of a word. ㅓ /j/ occurs about twice as often as ㅓ /ch/ at the beginnings of proper names, and much more frequently in Korean as a whole. If any list of words or names in transliteration contains nearly as many /ch/s as /j/s, or more, the accuracy of the transliteration should be checked.

If ㅓ is used except in /ng/, it will almost certainly be a mistake for ㅓ /k/, and ㅓ, ㅓ and ㅓ for ㅓ /p/, ㅓ /t/ and ㅓ /l/ respectively (except as in 6.4, above).

The letter ㅓ /kh/ is very infrequent, and hardly occurs at all in proper names. ㅓ /th/ is also fairly infrequent, and ㅓ /ph/ is far less frequent than ㅓ /p/. The mistake of transliterating these letters without the /h/: /k/ for ㅓ /kh/, /t/ for ㅓ /th/ and /p/ for ㅓ /ph/, is most likely to be made when they are syllable finals, which is infrequent, and never occurs in proper names.

If hyphens are omitted and vowels appear both before and after /kh/, /th/ or /ph/: /th/ should be taken as representing ㅓ /th/: /sathang/ 사탕 /sa-thang/; /kh/ will virtually always be ㅓ /k/ + ㅓ /h/ in proper names: /choi-ikhyen/ 최익현 /choi-ik-hyen/; and /ph/ is slightly more likely to be ㅓ /ph/, as in /mapho/ 마포 /ma-pho/, than ㅓ /p/ + ㅓ /h/, as in /jiphyen/ 집현 /jip-hyen/, but both are always possible.

The letters ㅓ, ㅓ, ㅓ, ㅓ, ㅓ, ㅓ and ㅓ are not used in this transliteration for the modern standard orthography, but see 6.4, above, for uses of ㅓ, ㅓ, ㅓ, ㅓ, ㅓ, ㅓ and ㅓ.

PART TWO : THE PRONUNCIATION AND ROMANIZATION OF KOREAN11. The Nature of McCune-Reischauer

11.1 McCune-Reischauer romanization (which we shall call MR) is used as the de facto standard romanization for Korean by government departments and agencies, national and university libraries and academics in the U.S.A., Australia, Britain, Canada, Denmark, West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland at least. It is therefore necessary for anyone who deals to any extent with romanized Korean to be at least aware of it and understand it. Since MR aims to indicate the sounds of Korean speech, it is necessary at least to understand those sounds in order to use MR. We presume that anyone who deals with Korean beyond mechanical transliteration, as given in Part One, will in any case wish to pronounce the language reasonably well.

11.2 Since Korean spelling aims to transcribe the vowel sounds of speech consistently, MR transcribes the vowel letters of the Korean alphabet when there is any discrepancy with the vowel sounds. On the other hand, the Korean orthography uses its consonant letters to give as far as possible a consistent spelling to every word or part of a word, however it is pronounced, while MR transcribes the consonant sounds. Thus Korean, as represented broadly by MR, is from the start more or less the opposite of what English speakers might expect: its vowels are constant, but its consonants change frequently.

11.3 Rules can be drawn up for the pronunciation of the consonant letters in various sequences of sounds, but those rules are by no means simple for non-Koreans, and many cases have to be dealt with even individually. Furthermore, it is apparent that it is often a lack of understanding about the nature of speech sounds in general which makes MR difficult to apply. Thus, in attempting to show how Korean is pronounced and romanized in MR, Part Two often has to go into considerable detail of speech sounds. Each section below which deals with details is preceded by a note to that effect. A simpler picture of MR can be gained by reading only Sections 12, 13, 16 and 17. (16.2 and 17.14 may also be omitted.)

12. Sino-Korean and Vernacular Words

12.1 MR is used mostly to deal with Korean proper names, and they are almost all Sino-Korean. "Sino-Korean" words are called in Korean 'Chinese character words', that is they are words built on Chinese characters, and indeed most of them are also used in Chinese and Japanese, with the pronunciations of those two languages. Sino-Korean words form the majority of words as listed in Korean dictionaries, where they can be readily identified by the Chinese characters given in brackets after the Korean spelling. Words which are neither Sino-Korean nor of foreign (i.e. other than Chinese) origin are called by Koreans 'pure Korean'. We find it more useful to use the term "vernacular". Chinese characters are not given for vernacular words in Korean dictionaries.

12.2 Sino-Korean is not simply a matter of etymology. It has its own grammar, for instance, which we touch upon in 20.10/15, below, but immediately relevant here is the fact that it has a sound system which is slightly different from vernacular Korean, and very much simpler than Korean as a whole. Most strikingly, Korean spelling as a whole has 18 initial and 27 final (single and double) consonant letters in syllables, while Sino-Korean has only 15 initial and 6 final consonant letters. Since the most common problem in pronouncing and romanizing Korean is the sequences of consonants (when one consonant ends one syllable and another consonant begins the next), Sino-Korean clearly presents only a fraction of the problem of Korean as a whole. Since the principles of pronunciation and romanization can be established by looking at Sino-Korean only, and since most romanizers will be concerned primarily with proper names, we think it a sensible practical approach to start with Sino-Korean and to give examples primarily of place names. Persons' names are dealt with in Section 21, below. However, we shall not have anything to add here to what was said in Part One, Section 7, about dealing with the characters themselves, but will take the Korean spellings of Sino-Korean words and names.

12.3 Furthermore, when we come to deal with vernacular words, we shall deal separately with nouns (Section 18) and verbs (Section 19). The spellings of the two involve slightly different rules on some points, and, while the verbs are very much more complicated, most of the basic principles can be established by looking first at the nouns. Again, the romanization of verb forms is a matter which arises less often for most romanizers.

12.4 In Part Two we shall generally give examples as follows:

the Korean spelling (South Korean orthography);

the transliteration as given in Part One, between oblique strokes;

the pronunciation, in square brackets, based on the spelling recommended by the International Phonetics Association (IPA);

the MR romanization, capitalised, without underlining, if it is a proper name, underlined if it is a common word, in which case a translation (for purposes of identification only) will be given, as necessary, in single quotation marks.

The order may occasionally vary, or not all versions may be given in each case, but it is hoped that the conventions used will make the example plain in each case.

12.5 We shall seldom refer to North Korean in Part Two, since we do not have much more information on it than was given in Part One, Section 5. In particular, we do not know the actual pronunciations used in North Korea, though we believe that the differences between North and South are not great. Nevertheless, we stress that "Korean" means here essentially the language of South Korea.

13. The Vowels of Korean Speech and Writing

13.1 The vowels in Korean alphabetical order are:

ㅏ	ㅑ	ㅓ	ㅕ
/a/	/ai/	/ya/	/yai/
[a]	[æ]	[ja]	[jæ]
<u>a</u>	<u>ae</u>	<u>ya</u>	<u>yae</u>
ㅗ	ㅛ	ㅜ	ㅠ
/e/	/ei/	/ye/	/yei/
[ə]	[e]	[jə]	[je]
<u>o</u>	<u>e</u>	<u>yŏ</u>	<u>ye</u>

ㅓ	ㅑ	ㅓ	ㅕ	ㅗ
/o/	/oa/	/oai/	/oi/	/yo/
[o]	[wa]	[wæ]	[ø]*	[jo]
<u>o</u>	<u>wa</u>	<u>wae</u>	<u>oe</u>	<u>yo</u>
ㅗ	ㅛ	ㅜ	ㅠ	ㅠ
/u/	/ue/	/uei/	/ui/	/yu/
[u]	[wə]	[we]	[wi]	[ju]
<u>u</u>	<u>wŏ</u>	<u>we</u>	<u>wi</u>	<u>yu</u>
ㅗ	ㅛ	ㅜ		
/w/	/wi/	/i/		
[w]	[wi]*	[i]		
<u>u</u>	<u>ui</u>	<u>i</u>		

*For the actual pronunciations of [ø] and [wi], see 14.2, below.

13.2 The letter **o** is used before the vowel letters when a syllable has no initial consonant sound, and **o** is not transcribed when it is so used (see Part One, 3.5-6). Apostrophes are generally used to separate an **a** or **o** from a following **e**: **a'e**, **o'e**. MR suggested a diaeresis: **aë**, **oë**, but very few romanizers have followed this. Those sequences are rare in continuous texts and hardly ever occur in proper names. On the sequence **ui**, see 14.2, below.

13.3 The following examples consisting of vowel sounds only are all listed as words in dictionaries, but most are rather abstruse, and they are given here simply as examples for transcription:

우아	우이	와우	요어	위위	의의
/w-a/	/uei/	/oa-u/	/yo-ye/	/ue-ue/	/wi-oi/
[wa]	[we]	[wau]	[jojə]	[wəwə]	[wø]
<u>ua</u>	<u>we</u>	<u>wau</u>	<u>yoyŏ</u>	<u>wŏwŏ</u>	<u>uiŏe</u>
우의	이어	우이	유어	왜어	유어
/u-wi/	/i-e/	/u-i/	/yu-e/	/oai-e/	/yu-yei/
[ui]	[iə]	[ui]	[juə]	[wæə]	[juje]
<u>ui</u>	<u>iŏ</u>	<u>ui</u>	<u>yuŏ</u>	<u>wæŏ</u>	<u>yuye</u>
아이	애	여우	오유	어의	외야
/a-i/	/yai/	/ye-u/	/o-yu/	/e-wi/	/oi-ya/
[ai]	[jæ]	[jəu]	[oju]	[əi]	[øja]
<u>ai</u>	<u>yae</u>	<u>yŏu</u>	<u>oyu</u>	<u>ŏui</u>	<u>oeya</u>

14. The Vowels in Detail

For a simpler outline of the speech sounds and MR, go directly to Section 16.

14.1 The precise values of the vowels are:

ㅏ /a/ [a]

Like the North of England "a", "flat". The "Oxford accent" short "a" is heard by Koreans as like ㅑ /ai/ [æ], **ae**, below.

ㅏ /ei/ [e] e

Very similar to the "e" in English "end", but with the lips not so wide open. Some English speakers use a vowel here, with the lips too wide open, which can be heard by Koreans as ㅑ /ai/ [æ] ae, below.

ㅣ /i/ [i] i

Like the "ee" sound in English "see", or the "y" sound in "yes" prolonged into a full vowel. The short English "i", as in "bit" sounds wrong to a Korean, and can even be mistaken for ㅓ /w/ [ɯ] u, below.

ㅓ /o/ [o] o

The vowel in British English "port" (without any "r" sound) is close enough to this Korean vowel for recognition as such, but the Korean vowel is more often short than long. In the short English "o", as in "pot", the mouth is too wide open, and that vowel can be heard by Koreans as ㅓ /e/ [ə] ə, below.

ㅜ /u/ [u] u

Like the "oo" sound in "too", or the "w" sound in "win" prolonged into a full vowel. The short English "u" in "put" (not "but") is recognizable as this Korean vowel.

The above five vowels are often described non-technically as being "as in Italian". This is a useful concept for English speakers, because it reminds them always to pronounce each vowel in the same way (see further, 14.5, below), and not to make diphthongs, as with the vowels in English "eight", "feel" or "no". For [i] the lips are spread fairly widely and for [u] they are rounded fairly tightly. For [e] the lips should be kept spread more widely than for the nearest English vowel and should not be opened too widely. For [o] the lips should be unrounded a little from the position for [u], but not opened too widely. For [a] the lips are neither rounded nor spread, and the mouth may be as widely opened as is comfortable.

ㅑ /ai/ [æ] ae

This is strictly [ɛ] in the IPA transcription, but that is not far from [æ], which is more convenient for typing. [æ] differs from [e] in that the mouth is wider open and the lips not spread at all. It is very close to the "e" which is often used in a single "Yes!", and exactly the

same as the start of "air" (which, however, is a diphthong). Although, as said above, the very short "Oxford accent" "a", as in "cat" or "thank", is heard by Koreans as [æ] when English speakers use it for the Korean [a], it is not suitable in general for the Korean [æ].

ㅓ /w/ [ɯ] u

This differs from [u] only in that the lips are spread as much as for [i]. To achieve this sound, first say [u] with the lips rounded, and then, while still trying to say [u], spread the lips only as for [i]. Although this might seem difficult, too much should not be made of it, since [ɯ] is basically "the vowel that is not really there" in many words. One should try to go as quickly as possible from the consonant before the [ɯ] to the consonant after it. Koreans hear this vowel at the end of many English words which end in consonants, because English speakers generally release final consonants, while Koreans do not. English "soot" sounds to a Korean like 수트 /su-thw/ [suthw] sut'tu, while Korean 수 /suth/ [sut] sut 'thickness (of hair)', in which the final [t] is not released (see 15.9, below), sounds to English people as if it has no final consonant at all.

ㅓ /e/ [ə] ə

Is nearest in quality to the English unstressed "er" in "perceive" or "hopper", but it is difficult for English speakers to maintain this quality while stressing the vowel. The vowel in "putt" is also very close. If difficulty is experienced in getting a Korean to accept one's pronunciation of this vowel, the best exercise is to say the vowel in "pert" and then to unround the lips, open the mouth and let everything sag and relax. Some phoneticians distinguish two vowels as being written with this one letter, and, since it is a central vowel, somewhere between "part", "putt", "pot" and "pert", no amount of muscular effort will produce it. One has to experiment with various sounds until one hits it.

14.2 Korean has two more vowel letters:

ㅕ /oi/ oe is said to be [ø], like the "oe" in German "Goethe" or the "eu" in French "feu", and this pronunciation is suggested by us whenever the Korean spelling has ㅕ. Documents Document Sharing Hub

/oi/. However, most speakers of standard Korean use [wæ], some [we], in most words which are spelt with this letter. [ø] is never actually wrong for foreigners to use, and indeed it may be thought to be rather superior to use it, but if the sound is found to be too difficult, a sound like the English word "way", without the final "y", i.e. not a diphthong, will suffice. (The Korean [w] is dealt with below, 14.3.)

ㅟ/wi/ ui clearly no longer corresponds regularly (assuming that it ever did) to any one vowel sound, and non-Koreans are best advised to regard spellings with this letter as being as non-representational as English spellings like "knight". However, the fact that the letter is used does tend to produce pedantic or reading-style pronunciations, especially when Koreans are teaching foreigners to pronounce Korean, which are extremely difficult sequences of something like the vowel [u] and the vowel [i] in one syllable. In case these are heard, we would explain them as tending to be either [ui] or [ui̯]. The first is a semi-vowel like [w], but with the lips spread, followed by a vowel [i], and the second is a diphthong with a vowel [u] gliding into a very weak [i]. Neither the semi-vowel [ui̯] nor any other diphthong occur otherwise in Korean.

One common use of the syllable ui is to spell Chinese characters which are pronounced [u] as the first syllable of a word, but [i] if not the first syllable. An example of this is 의주 /wi-ju/ [uiju] Ŭiju and 신 의주 /sin-wi-ju/ [siniju] Sinŭiju ('New Ŭiju').

The syllable ui is also used in one or two vernacular words, such as 거의 /ke-wi/ [kæi] kæui 'almost', probably to represent the glide [ui̯] which can hardly be avoided between the two vowels [æ] and [i], and to spell the suffix to nouns 의 /wi/ ui 'of'. This last is pronounced, in speech at anything approaching normal tempo, [e], exactly the same as the suffix 에 /ei/ [e] e 'in'. Well into the 20th century these two suffixes were both spelt either 의 /wi/ or 에 /ei/ indiscriminately. It is often advisable to follow one's Korean teacher in saying [ui] for 'of', but outside the classroom one may relax comfortably into [e].

히 /hwi/ hui, always pronounced [hi], is used in a few vernacular words, such as 히다 /hwi-ta/ [hida] huida 'to be white', and to spell many Chinese characters which begin [hi]-. In modern standard Korean there is no difference in pronunciation between 히 /hwi/ hui and 히 /hi/ hi (on the pronunciation of [hi], see 16.2, below), but 히 /hwi/ hui corresponds to a different initial consonant of Chinese, and in the vernacular words it probably also had a different initial consonant originally, as the modern dialect forms show.

There are one or two other spellings with ㅟ /wi/ ui after other consonants in vernacular words, such as 무늬 /mu-nwi/ [muni] munui 'design' and 잔피 /jan-twi/ [candi] chandi 'turf', perhaps used originally to avoid the effect of a vowel [i] on the preceding consonant (see 18.16 and 19.8, below). Most spellings with ㅟ /wi/ after consonants other than ㅎ /h/ are in contracted verb forms, such as 쓰다 /sswi-ta/ [s'ida] ssuida for 쓰이다 /ssw-i-ta/ [s'mida] 'to be used'. Because sequences of separate vowels [u] and [i] probably occur only in such passive/causative verb forms, MR did not consider it necessary to distinguish the sequence from ㅟ /wi/ as a single vowel letter. 쓰이다 /ssw-i-ta/ and 쓰다 /sswi-ta/ are therefore both romanized ssuida. To use MR's original diaeresis on i would be unsightly: ssui, but there is no reason why one should not separate the two vowels with an apostrophe if necessary in any particular case: ssui.

14.3 Korean has two semi-vowels: [j], like the "y" in "yes"; and [w], like the "w" in "win". There is no difficulty for English speakers in producing a [j] or [w] which is recognizable to a Korean. The difficulty is rather in hearing them.

[j] cannot be heard at all, and is probably not even pronounced, after [c], [j], [c'] and [ch], and it is by no means always pronounced after [s] and [s']. (For these consonant sounds see 15.1/3, below.) For instance, what is spelt 부처 /pu-chye/ 'send' is pronounced [puchə], exactly the same as 부처 /pu-che/ 'Buddha'. In Sino-Korean words, syllables pronounced [ke], [re], [phe] and [he] are spelt 계 /krei/, 려 /lyei/, 페 /phyei/ and 헤 /hyei/.

[w] is also often difficult to hear after consonants, particularly, but not only, after the bilabial (see 15.1, below) consonants [p], [b] and [m].

MR romanizes [j] y and [w] w whenever they are indicated in the Korean spelling, whether they are pronounced or not.

14.4 Korean spells the sound [j] by adding a short stroke to a vowel letter: ㅑ /ya/ [ja] yae, ㅓ /yai/ [jæ] yae, ㅕ /ye/ [jə] yŏ, ㅖ /yei/ [je] ye, ㅗ /yo/ [jo] yŏ, ㅛ /yu/ [ju] yu. [w] is spelt with either ㅜ /o/ or ㅟ /u/ combined with another vowel letter, according to which vowel follows: [wa] ㅘ /oa/ wa and [wæ] ㅙ /oai/ wae, but [wə] ㅚ /ue/ wŏ, [we] ㅜ이 /uei/ we and [wi] ㅟ /ui/ wi. (Compare [oa] and [uə] contracted to [wa] and [wə], 14.7 below.)

[w] occurs only followed by one of the five vowels just given, and [j] does not occur with [m] or [i]. However, it can be helpful for English speakers to think of [i] as "yi" (see 18.16 and 19.8, below), and MR recommended spelling the surname 이 /i/ [i] "Yi", since "I" would have been liable to mispronunciation. Some romanizers follow the same practice with the name 이 /im/ [im] Im also, romanizing it "Yim". ㅓ /yai/ [jæ] yae occurs only in contractions or modifications of vowel sequences in some colloquial pronunciations and the letter ㅓ /yai/ will therefore hardly figure again in this work.

As has just been shown, Korean writes y and w with vowel letters, and, although there may be some reason in pure phonetics to regard these semi-vowels as consonants, in practical terms within Korean they are to be regarded as vowels. In particular, when we write below, in describing the consonants, of a consonant being "followed by a vowel", this must be taken as including y or w with a vowel.

14.5 English speakers must take particular care not to alter the quality of vowels when pronouncing Korean, that is not to change the actual vowel with stress, as we do in English with words like "photograph" and "photography". In general the variations of stress and pitch (or "tune") which are normal in English are used in Korean only to express rather strong emotions, as of surprise, anger or cajoling. Variation

of pitch is generally slight and stress is not only generally light, but also almost invariably on the first syllable. The English habit of saying "Pusan" or "Inchon" sounds very foreign to a Korean.

14.6 Nevertheless, variations in vowels do occur. Vowel length can vary, but long vowels are rare except in stressed syllables, i.e. mainly first syllables, of words and for special effect. Some dictionaries mark some vowels as intrinsically long, as in Part One, 6.3. When a long vowel is examined in the phonetics laboratory, it can be seen to have two "peaks", i.e. to be indistinguishable from a sequence of two identical vowels: 경성 [kjæ:ŋsəŋ] or [kjæəŋsəŋ] but long vowels are by no means consistently maintained even if they are said to be intrinsic, and they are not recognized in either Korean spelling or MR: 경성 Kyōngsŏng.

14.7 Although each vowel as pronounced is in a separate syllable, contractions and elisions do take place in sequences of vowels, and, if they affect the spelling, they also affect romanization. This phenomenon is, however, largely restricted to verb forms, and the spelling of Sino-Korean words never seems to be affected.

Contractions of the sequences [aa] to [a] and [əə] to [ə] are routine in verb forms: what is theoretically * 나아가다 */na-a-ka-ta/ 'to go out' is always in fact 나가다 /na-ka-ta/ [nagada] nagada, and 'standing', theoretically * 서어서 */se-e-se/, is always in fact 서서 /se-se/ [səsə] sŏsŏ. 어 /e/ [ə] ŏ in verb forms is also regularly elided after ㅓ /ai/ [æ] ae: 내어 /nai-e/ [næə] naeŏ or 내 /nai/ [næ] nae 'putting out'.

Other common contractions are those which give one feature of Korean spelling, described in 14.4, above: [oa] contracting to [wa] and [uə] to [wə]. Thus 보아 /po-a/ [poa] poa 'look' is regularly contracted in speech to [pwa], which may be written correctly 봐 /poa/ pwa, and 주어 /ju-e/ [cuə] chuŏ 'give' is regularly contracted to 줘 /jue/ [cwə] chwŏ.

In the same verb form, [iə] tends to be contracted to [jə], as in 기다리어 /ki-ta-li-e/ [kidariə] kidariŏ or 기다려 /ki-ta-lye/ [kidarijə] kidariŏ, 'wait'. (There