

Teaching Korean with AI Voices, Songs, and Images: A pedagogical approach to multimodal Korean language instruction

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Why We Must Actively Use AI in Korean Language Teaching

We are no longer entering the AI era. We are already teaching in it.

In Korean language classrooms:

- Students already use LLMs for grammar explanations and writing.
- AI tools generate speech, music, and images instantly.
- Multimodal content is becoming the norm in digital learning environments.

The question is no longer:

“Should we allow AI in our classrooms?”

The real question is:

“How can we integrate AI tools intentionally and pedagogically?”

Why We Must Actively Use AI in Korean Language Teaching

Korean language teaching can be significantly enhanced through:

- **LLM-based material design** (grammar, vocabulary, writing feedback)
- **Text-to-Speech tools** for pronunciation and listening
- **Generative music tools (e.g., Suno AI)** for grammar and cultural instruction
- **AI image tools** for contextual and cultural visualization

Text-to-Speech (TTS) for Korean Pronunciation & Listening

- **Korean meaning depends heavily on:**
 - Prosody and sentence-final intonation
 - Emotional nuance
 - Pragmatic tone
- **Learners often struggle with:**
 - Natural rhythm
 - Subtle intonation differences
 - Listening to varied voice types

How TTS Supports Korean Learning

Using tools such as **ElevenLabs, Clova Dubbing, or Supertone:**

- Generate multiple voices (male/female, young/older)
- Model dialogue-based interaction
- Slow down or emphasize specific phrases
- Provide repeated listening practice
- Create shadowing and dictation materials instantly

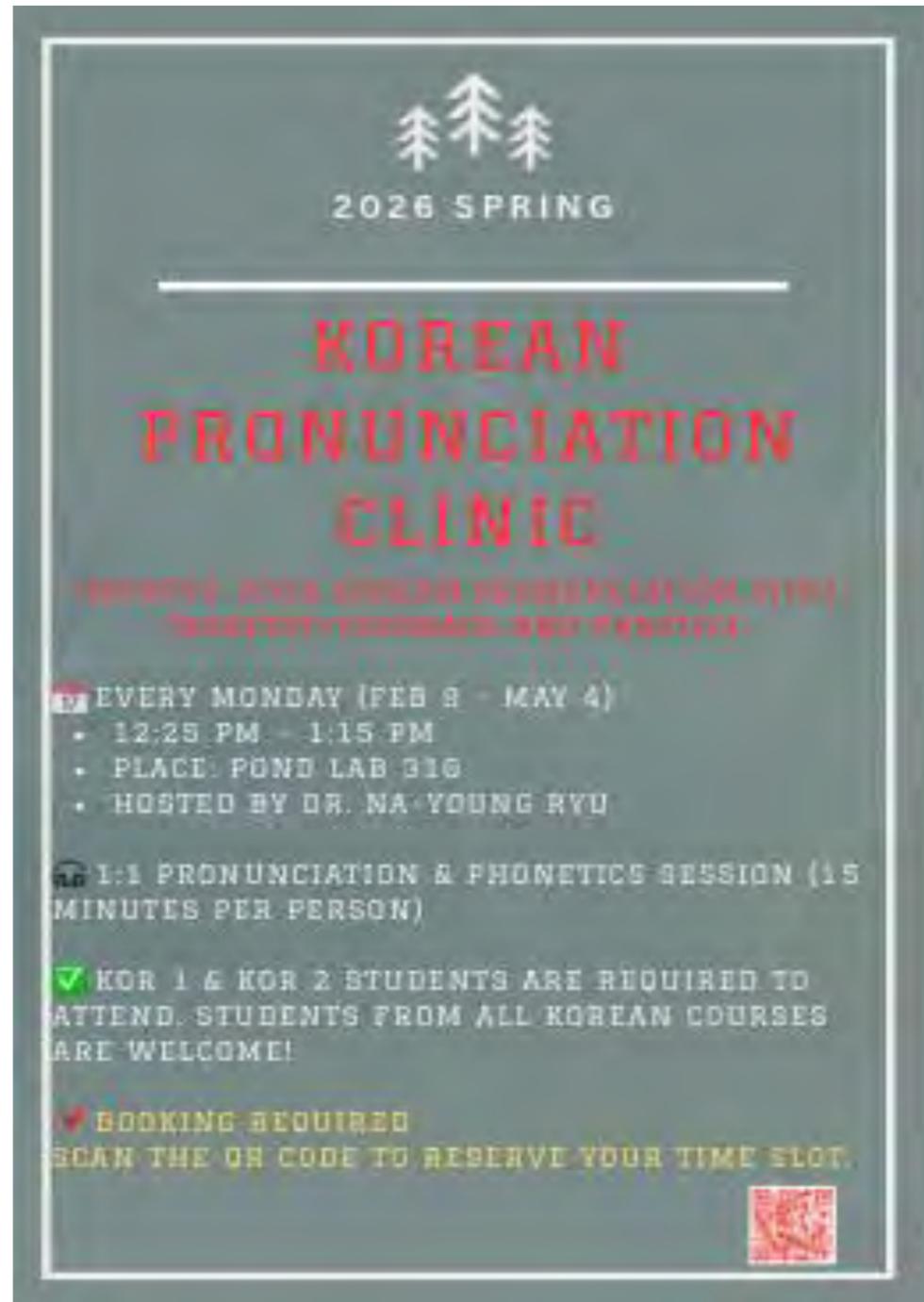
Pedagogical Applications

- Pronunciation drills with controlled intonation
- Listening quizzes with different voice identities
- Sociolinguistic comparison (formal vs. casual tone)
- Role-play materials using distinct synthetic speakers

Understanding Korean Sound Changes

- Resyllabification / Liaison
- Nasalization
- Tensification
- Liquid Assimilation
- Palatalization
- ㅎ weaking & Aspiration
- Three-way contrast in stops (Plain vs. Aspirated vs. Tense)
- Sibilants (ㅅ vs. ㅆ)

- 책을 밖에 놓았어요.
- 값이 비싸서 못 샀어요.
- 국물 맛이 정말 좋아요.
- 할 일이 많아서 전화를 못 했어요.
- 신라 역사에 대해 배워요.
- 박물관 입구에서 안내문을 봐요.
- 달, 탈, 딸을 읽어 보세요.
- 쌀을 씻어서 맛있는 식사를 해요.
- 입학 선물을 받고 기분이 좋았어요.
- 친구와 같이 해돋이를 봐요.



2026 SPRING

KOREAN PRONUNCIATION CLINIC

EVERY MONDAY (FEB 9 - MAY 4)

- 12:25 PM - 1:15 PM
- PLACE: POND LAB 310
- HOSTED BY DR. NA-YOUNG RYU

1:1 PRONUNCIATION & PHONETICS SESSION (15 MINUTES PER PERSON)

KOR 1 & KOR 2 STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND. STUDENTS FROM ALL KOREAN COURSES ARE WELCOME!

BOOKING REQUIRED
SCAN THE QR CODE TO RESERVE YOUR TIME SLOT.

Male voice recording using ElevenLabs



Female voice recording using ElevenLabs



ElevenLabs (elevenlabs.io) can generate text-to-speech audio into a lip-synced avatar video by matching mouth movements to the generated voice.



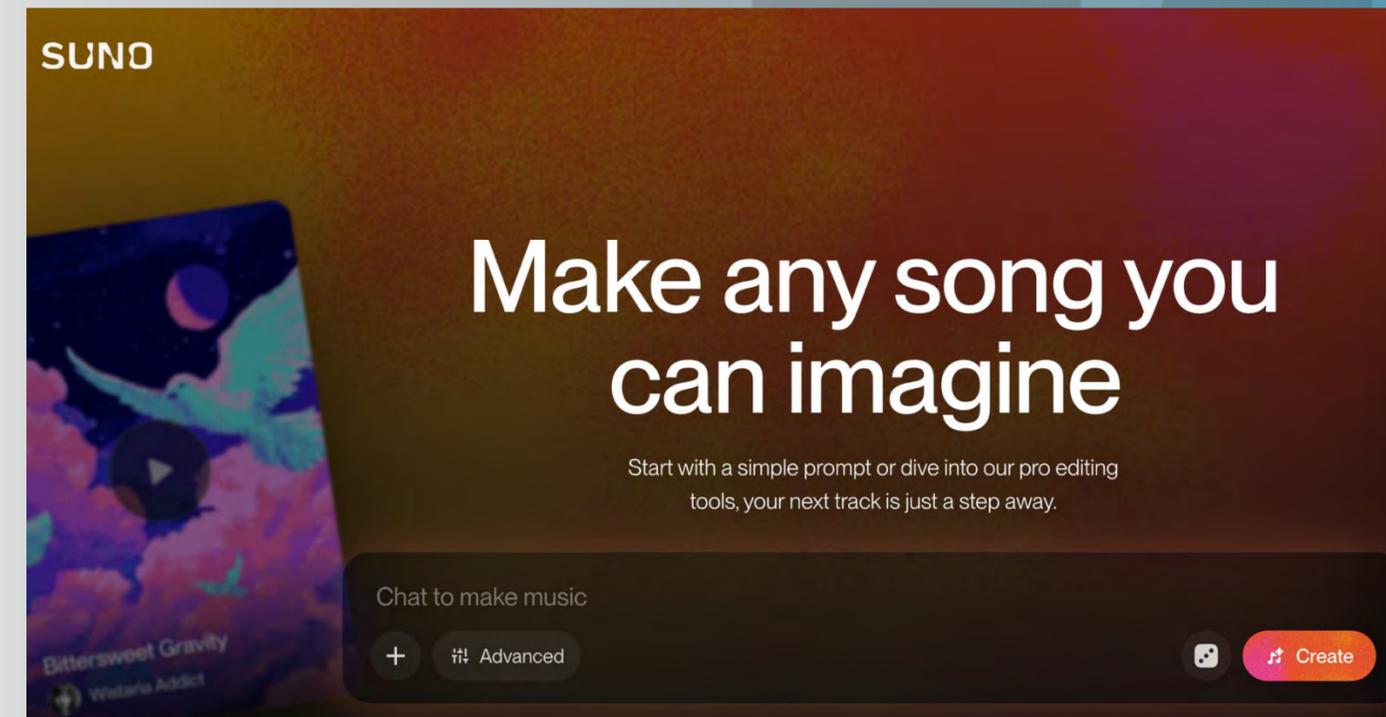
Creating Korean Teaching Songs with Suno AI

Why Use Music in Korean Instruction?

Music enhances:

- Memory retention
- Rhythm acquisition
- Intonation internalization
- Emotional engagement

Songs help learners *internalize patterns*, not just memorize rules.



Methodology: Creating Songs for Korean Classes

1. Select a pedagogical focus

- Greetings (안녕하세요, 잘 지내요?)
- Grammar (-고 싶어요, 에 vs. 에서, -만약에)
- Numbers (Native vs. Sino-Korean)
- Cultural themes (설날, 명절, 편의점 문화)

2. Write structured, repetitive lyrics

- Controlled vocabulary
- Clear grammar targets
- Built-in pronunciation emphasis

3. Generate the song using Suno AI

- Choose the musical style: K-pop, Indie pop, Hip-hop, Acoustic, R&B, Jazz-inspired, Lo-fi study vibe
- Adjust tempo for proficiency level

4. Use in class for:

- Call-and-response activities, Shadowing practice, Grammar chunk repetition, Cultural discussion prompts

Sample1: Korean Greetings



Song 6

Korean Greetings

안녕 / 안녕하세요

Sample2: 예 vs. 에서

예 vs. 에서:

Don't Mix Them Up!

Song 2



AI Image Tools: Midjourney & Nano Banana

Why Images Matter in Korean Language Teaching

- Language learning is contextual.
- Images help learners interpret:
- Social relationships (선배-후배, 친구, 회사 상사)
- Cultural spaces (편의점, 전통시장, 명절 집안 분위기)
- Emotional tone
- Pragmatic meaning
- Visual context reduces cognitive overload and supports comprehension.

AI Image Tools: Midjourney & Nano Banana

	Midjourney	Nano Banana
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Generates four image variations from a single prompt• High-quality, cinematic visuals• Story-based scene creation• Ideal for instructional videos	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Easy to modify and revise generated images• Accessible and intuitive interface• Fast iteration for classroom needs
Limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Korean text rendering is unreliable or distorted• Requires careful prompt design• Less flexible for minor post-generation edits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Less cinematic detail compared to Midjourney• Limited stylistic depth

Midjourney

Prompt: "Create an image showing two people meeting for the first time in a Korean café. One person is younger, and the other is older. The situation should suggest a polite, slightly formal conversation. No text in the image."



Nano banana

Prompt: "Create an image showing two people meeting for the first time in a Korean café. One person is younger, and the other is older. The situation should suggest a polite, slightly formal conversation. No text in the image."



Nano banana

Prompt: "Keep the same image, but replace the elderly man with an elderly woman."



Midjourney

Prompt: “A realistic photo of a young Korean woman in her mid-20s meeting an elderly Korean grandmother for the first time in a cozy Korean café. The young woman is sitting upright with a polite posture, hands gently placed on the table, smiling respectfully. The grandmother is wearing elegant, modest clothing and looking at her warmly but formally. Subtle tension and politeness in their expressions, as if having a slightly formal first conversation. Warm natural daylight coming through large café windows, shallow depth of field, cinematic photography, 85mm lens, soft bokeh background, highly detailed skin texture, natural color grading, professional DSLR photography --ar 16:9”



Nano banana

Prompt: “A realistic photo of a young Korean woman in her mid-20s meeting an elderly Korean grandmother for the first time in a cozy Korean café. The young woman is sitting upright with a polite posture, hands gently placed on the table, smiling respectfully. The grandmother is wearing elegant, modest clothing and looking at her warmly but formally. Subtle tension and politeness in their expressions, as if having a slightly formal first conversation. Warm natural daylight coming through large café windows, shallow depth of field, cinematic photography, 85mm lens, soft bokeh background, highly detailed skin texture, natural color grading, professional DSLR photography --ar 16:9”



Reframing Korean Language Teaching in the AI Era

AI in Korean language education is not a trend—it is a teaching transformation.

AI technologies—large language models, text-to-speech systems, generative music platforms, and image-generation tools—expand the range of input modalities available to learners.

They enable instructors to design learning environments that are:

- **Multimodal**
- **Contextually rich**
- **Adaptable to proficiency levels**
- **Responsive to diverse learner needs**

When implemented with clear pedagogical intent, AI tools support a shift from single-mode instruction to structured multimodal learning—enhancing engagement while preserving academic rigor.