

Korean's genetic affinity is questionable although it shares many morphological and syntactic characteristics with Altaic languages (like Japanese). It is spoken by about 60 million people in North and South Korea, 1.7 million in northeast China, 700,000 in Japan, 600,000 in North America, and 400,000 in the former USSR. The literary standard is the dialect spoken in Seoul. The speaker in this recording is a male from south Korea.

Korean Consonant Phonemes:

Stops:	p	t	c	k
	p ^h	t ^h	c ^h	k ^h
	p'	t'	c'	k'
Fricatives:		s		
		s'		
Nasals:	m	n		ŋ
Liquids:		l		
Glides:			j	w

['] in this case does not indicate an ejective, but instead a greater degree of glottal tension.

Korean exhibits a great deal of assimilation; the voiceless stops, affricates, and sibilants all become a plain homorganic stops in word final position, stops preceding nasals assimilate to that nasal, and voiceless segments become voiced intervocalically. /l/ has two allophones, [l] and [r].

Korean Vowel Phonemes:

Vowels Encountered:

i		u
ɪ		
e	ə	o
ɛ		
	a	

+ allophones [y, œ, ɔ, ʌ] and a palatalized and labialized series
(from Compendium of World Langs)

i	y	ǔ(?)	u
e	ø	ə	o
æ		a	

(from International Encyclopedia of Linguistics)

Front		Back	
-r	+r	+r	-r
i		u	wu
ey	oy (ø)	e	o

ay		a	
wi			
wey	yey	we ye	yu
way	yay	waya	yo

(from Marin...)

I. Spontaneous Speech

II. Word Lists

Plosives

1. 'foot'
2. 'arm'
3. 'fast'
4. 'rain'
5. 'blood'
6. 'with a screech'
7. 'fire'
8. 'grass'
9. 'horn'
10. 'pressure'
11. 'father'
12. 'hoof'
13. 'mouth'
14. 'moon'
15. 'mask'
16. 'daughter'
17. 'virtue'
18. 'chin'
19. 'rice cake'
20. 'province'
21. 'earth'
22. 'again'
23. 'bamboo'
24. 'crack'
25. 'dirt'
26. 'dog'
27. 'digs out'
28. 'sesame'
29. 'flag'
30. 'rudder'
31. 'mealtime'
32. 'anger'
33. 'nose'
34. 'shape'

35.	'nephew'
36.	'jug'
37.	'soup'
38.	'jade'
39.	'throat'
40.	'sleeps'
41.	'is cold'
42.	'weaves'
43.	'foreleg'
44.	'arrowhead'
45.	'indigo plant'
46.	'gets defeated'
47.	'hits'
48.	'steams'
49.	'snacks'
50.	'wages'
51.	'bud'
52.	'flesh'
53.	'evening paper'
54.	'right away'
55.	'break'
56.	'safety'
57.	'assistant'

Recitation of Minimal Pairs

Vowels

1.	'end'
2.	'language'
3.	'new house'
4.	'bird house'
5.	'downtown'
6.	'distance'
7.	'rice bag'
8.	'island'
9.	'grey'
10.	'company, firm'
11.	'sound'
12.	'small profit'
13.	'oyster'
14.	'cave'
15.	'glass'
16.	'be profitable'
17.	'postponement'
18.	'performance'
19.	'currency'
20.	'desire'
21.	'thread'

22. 'time'
 23. 'truth'
 24. 'mountain'
 25. 'acid'
 26. 'private plan'

Back Vowels:

1. 'hut'
 2. 'conspiracy'
 3. 'one's husband'
 4. 'neighborhood'
 5. 'used'
 6. 'evidence'
 7. 'smoke'
 8. 'performance'
 9. 'tem'
 10. 'English'
 11. 'filth'
 12. 'fishes'
 13. 'borrow'
 14. 'put out'
 15. 'come'
 16. 'recite'
 17. 'fishermen'
 18. 'outside'
 19. 'prelude' 'The prelude of a novel is important'
 20. 'beef' 'American people like beef'
 21. 'get burnt' 'I got burnt'
 22. 'become' 'I become a businessman'
 23. 'drinking' 'Drinking is not good for you'
 24. 'thumb' 'The thumb is the biggest finger'
 25. 'put' 'I put an apple on the table'
 26. 'be late' 'I am late for school'
 27. 'omit' 'Everyday I skip breakfast'
 28. 'yearn for' 'Everyday I want a beautiful dream'
 29. 'excitement' 'The excitement is not good for health'
 30. 'military police' 'The M.P. arrested a criminal.'

References:

- Bright, William (ed.) 1992. International Encyclopedia of Linguistics. New York: Oxford University Press. 2:282
 Campbell, George L. 1991. Compendium of the World's Languages. New York: Routledge Press.