

The Accent of Surnames in Kyengsang Korean: A Study in Analogy

Michael Kenstowicz

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The canonical Korean name consists of a monosyllabic surname followed by a disyllabic given name: Kim, Yuna. The surname is normally never used alone and must be combined with a given name or title. As a result, underlying contrasts among high, low, and rising accents are partially neutralized in this phrasal context. This presentation reports and analyzes the tonal contours that arise when Kyengsang speakers are tasked with inflecting the surname by itself (Kim, Yuna -> Kim, Kim-i, Kim-il, etc.)—a type of wug-test. The results suggest that speakers take recourse to the most reliable rules underlying the lexical distribution of the accents and that these rules are relativized to a specific region of the lexicon.

💽 Florida Gym 260 🕟 4:05-5pm

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