Internal possession in Korean and the genitive

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Presentation’s plan:

1. Korean language, a quick introduction
2. Genitive marking
3. Internal possessor construction
4. Contexts that permits zero marking in IPCs
5. Concluding remarks
1. Korean language, a quick introduction

About Korean:

- Official language of North and South Korea
- Has its own alphabetic system (한글 hangeul or hangul)
- No official romanization system
## Table of romanization systems

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Typological and functional specificities:

- Isolate language
- Agglutinative language
- Its canonical word order is Subject Object Verb (SOV)

1) Subject  Object  Verb

저는  사과를  먹었어요.

*chŏ-nŭn  sagwa-rŭl  mŏg-ŭss-ŏyo*

1SG.HBL-TOP  apple-ACC  eat-PST-POL

‘(As for me) I ate an apple’
2. Genitive marking

A-Type

2) a. 여성 잡지
    *yŏsŏng*-∅   chapchi
    woman   magazine
    ‘Woman’s magazine’

b. 국제 결혼
    *kukche*-∅   kyŏrhon
    international wedding
    ‘An international wedding’
B-Type

3) a. 문제의해결
   munje-ŭi haegyŏl
   problem-GEN solution
   ‘The solution to the problem’

   => BA-type (with genitive)

b. 문제해결
   munje-∅ haegyŏl
   problem-∅ solution
   ‘The solution to the problem’

   => BC-type (without genitive)
C-Type

4)  a. 평화의 종소리
   *p’yŏnghwa-ui chongsori
   peace-GEN bell sound
   ‘The chime of peace’

b. *평화 종소리
   *p’yŏnghwa-∅ chongsori
   peace-∅ bell sound
There are some other constructions where the genitive mark is compulsory:

5) 나의 가방이야 = 내 가방이야 ≠ ??나 가방이야
   na-ŭi kabang-i-ya   nae kabang-i-ya   na-∅ kabang-i-ya
   1SG-GEN bag-be-INF   my bag-be-INF   1SG-Ø bag-be-INF
   ‘My bag’            ‘My bag’            ‘I am a bag’
   (na is topicalized if ∅)
3. Internal Possessor construction

3.1. Possessive expression

- The possessor bears the genitive mark

6) a. 선생님의 차가 빨간색이에요
   teacher-GEN car-NOM red-be-POL
   ‘The teacher’s car is red’

b. 선생님 차가 빨간색이에요
   teacher-Ø car-NOM red-be-POL
   ‘The teacher’s car is red’
3.2. Noun types involved in B-Type IPCs

Han (2012): 5 types of relations expressed by B-Type constructions.

i. **Argument relation**

7) a. 문제의 해결
   *munje-ŭi haegyŏl*
   problem-GEN solution
   ‘The solution to the problem’

b. 문제 해결
   *munje-∅ haegyŏl*
   problem-∅ solution
   ‘The solution to the problem’
II. Quantitative relation

8) a. 두 권의 책 BUT *두 권 책  
   tu kwŏn-ŭi ch’aek  
   two CL-GEN book  
   ‘Two books’

   b. 책 두 권 BUT *책의 두 권  
   ch’aek tu kwŏn  
   book two CL  
   ‘Two books’

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III. Partitive relation

9) a. 책상의 다리
   ch’aeksang-ŭi tari
desk-GEN leg
   ‘The leg of a/the table’

b. 책상 다리
   ch’aeksang-Ø tari
desk-Ø leg
IV. Possessive relation

► Inalienable possession

10) a. 어머니의 손
   ōmŏni-ŭi son
   mother-GEN hand
   ‘The hand of a/my mother’

b. 어머니 손
   ōmŏni-∅ son
   mother-∅ hand
   ‘The hand of a/my mother’
Alienable possession

11) a. 소년의 가방
sonyŏn-ŭi kabang
boy-GEN bag
‘The boy’s bag’

b. 소년 가방
sonyŏn-Ø kabang
boy-Ø bag
‘The boy’s bag’/’A boy’s bag’
v. Kinship

12) a. 주인의 아들
   chuin-ŭi adŭl
   owner-GEN son
   ‘The owner’s son’

b. 주인 아들
   chuin-Ø adŭl
   owner-Ø son
   ‘The owner’s son’
4. Contexts that permit zero marking

4.1. Nominal relations

▶ Lee Hee-Seung (1998): genitive marking is optional in constructions that express possession

**Possessive**

13) a. 이 아이들의 구두를 맞춰 주세요.
   
   `i ai-tŭl-ŭi kudu-rŭl match’u-ŏ chu-se-yo`
   
   DEM child-PL-GEN shoe-ACC adjust-LI give-HON-POL
   
   ‘Make the shoes of these children match (their feet)’.

b. 이 아이들 구두를 맞춰 주세요.
   
   `i ai-tŭl-Ŏ kudu-rŭl match’u-ŏ chu-se-yo`
   
   DEM child-PL-Ø shoe-ACC adjust-LI give-HON-POL
   
   ‘Make the shoes of these children match (their feet)’.
Partitive

14) a. 안쪽문의 손잡이는 구멍이 세 개 있습니다.

antchongmun-ŭi sonjabi-nūn kumŏng-i se kae iss-sŭmnida
inside door-GEN handle-TOP hole-NOM three CL exist-TS.HON
‘The inside door’s handle has three holes’.

b. 안쪽문 손잡이는 구멍이 세 개 있습니다.

antchongmun-Ø sonjabi-nūn kumŏng-i se kae iss-sŭmnida
inside door-Ø handle-TOP hole-NOM three CL exist-TS.HON
‘The inside door’s handle has three holes’.
Kinship

15) a. 회사 오너의 딸인 조 부사장…
    hoesa onŏ-ŭi ttal-i-n cho pusachang…
    company owner-GEN daughter-be-AS Cho vice-president
    ‘Vice-president Cho, who is the company owner’s daughter, …’

b. 회사 오너 딸인 조 부사장…
    hoesa onŏ-Ø ttal-i-n cho pusachang…
    company owner-Ø daughter-be-AS Cho vice-president
    ‘Vice-president Cho, company owner’s daughter, …’
Semantic constraints on some possessive contructions:

16) a. 여자의 개
   yŏja-ui kae
   woman-GEN dog
   ‘The woman’s dog’.

   b. * 여자 개
      yŏja-∅ kae
      woman-∅ dog

   c. 옆집 여자 개
      yŏpchip yŏja-∅ kae
      next-door woman-∅ dog
      ‘Next-door woman’s dog’
4.2. Specificity

Han (2012:52) shows that the N1 in Aa-Type constructions can take the genitive if N1 is specific.

17) a. 여성을의 잡지.

\[
\text{여성-의 잡지}.
\]

\[
\text{yŏsŏng-ŭi chapchi}
\]

woman-GEN magazine

‘The magazine of the woman’

b. [내가 어제 만난 여성의 잡지].

\[
[\text{내가 어제 만난 여성이의 잡지}].
\]

\[
[\text{nae-ka ὰje manna-n yŏsŏng-ŭi chapchi}]
\]

1SG-NOM yesterday meet-AS woman-GEN magazine

‘The magazine of the woman I met yesterday’

c. * [내가 어제 만난 여성 잡지].

\[
*[\text{내가 어제 만난 여성 잡지}].
\]

\[
*[\text{nae-ka ὰje manna-n yŏsŏng chapchi}]
\]

1SG-NOM yesterday meet-AS woman-GEN magazine

‘The magazine of the woman I met yesterday’
This also works for B-Type genitives

18) a. 아이의 볼
   ai-ui pol
   child-GEN cheek
   ‘The child’s cheek’

b. 아이 볼
   ai-∅ pol
   child-∅ cheek
   ‘A child’s cheek’
장난을하다를 버린 어린 아이처럼 정수의 볼이 발갛게 상기되어 가는 것을, 영선은 슬쩍 훔쳐보았다.

‘영선 saw Cheongsu’s cheek turning red like a child caught playing a prank’
장난을 하다 들켜 버린 어린 아이처럼 정수 볼이 발갛게 상기되어 가는 것을, 영선은
슬쩍 훔쳐보았다.
‘Yŏngsŏn saw Cheongsu’s cheek turning red as if he was a child caught playing a prank’
4.3. Scope and segmentation

20) a. 그 아이의 장난감
[[kǔ ai]-ŭi changnan’gam]
DEM child-GEN toy
‘This child’s toy.’ (= the toy of this child)

b. *그 아이의 장난감
[kǔ [ai-ŭi changnan’gam]]
DEM child-GEN toy
21) a. 그 아이 장난감
[[kŭ ai]-∅ changnan’gam]
DEM child-∅ toy
‘This child’s toy.’
= the toy of this child

b. 그 아이 장난감
[kŭ [ai-∅ changnan’gam]]
DEM child-∅ toy
‘This child’s toy.’
= this toy for children
The demonstrative’s scope covers the whole genitive phrase

22) 그 아버지의 가방

[kŭ [abŏji-ŭi kabang]]

DEM father-GEN bag

‘The bag of this father’
5. Concluding remarks

- The zero marking depends on (i) the nominal relation and on (ii) the phrasal context of the genitive phrase.
- The genitive may also function as a ‘scope blocker’ (restricts the scope of the demonstrative or other determinant that comes before the genitival phrase to the N1).
- There is still much to be discovered not only about IPCs, but about Korean genitive constructions that belong to other relations than possession (argument relation, quantitative relation, characterization etc.).
- The other types of suffixation (compulsory and prohibited) must also be studied in a more detailed way to help understand the constraints put on the genitive marker.
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<td>First person singular, humble form</td>
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<td>ACC</td>
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