
Only approximately 1% of Jeju citizens now speak Jeju language fluently.

Jeju is a critically endangered language spoken on the islands of Jeju Province, South Korea, and in a diasporic enclave in Osaka, Japan.

Language or dialect?

Jeju and Korean are mutually unintelligible, meaning speakers of Korean cannot understand the Jeju language and monolingual speakers of Jeju cannot understand Korean. Recent research shows comprehension of Jeju by Korean speakers at 5-12%, and only 20-25% of the vocabulary of Korean and Jeju overlaps.

How is Jeju different from Korean?

Jeju's vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation are distinct from Korean, and Jeju retains an older vowel, the arae a 'ㅏ', now lost in Korean.

Jeju 오람찌
 ora-mcce

Korean 오고있다
 o-ko iss-da

'Someone is coming.'

If you are interested in Jeju language documentation and revitalization, please contact the researchers below.



Moira Saltzman, Korea Fulbright moirasaltzman@gmail.com
Sung-U Kim, SOAS London sung-u_kim@soas.ac.uk



Jeju language

background and everyday words

Jeju phrases

- Note on pronunciation: ‘ㄴ’ is pronounced like the ‘a’ in “aw”.

Hello 펜안하파

Goodbye! (to somebody leaving)

흔저 갑서양/야/예!

Goodbye! (to somebody staying)

잘 이십서양/야/예!

Take care (to somebody leaving)

맹심행 갑서!

Yes. 예./양./야.

No, it's not true/You're wrong.

아니우다.

Calling to someone: 삼춘!

I am learning Jeju language.

제주돔말 배웁수다!

What? 무시거마씨/무시거마씀?

Do you know... 알암수파?

Thank you very much!

잘도 고맙수다!

Thanks for the meal! 잘 먹쿠다!

Nice to meet you! 반갑수다!

Excuse me. 죄송하우다게.

Long time no see!

잘도 오래만간이우다게!

Market phrases

How much is this?

이거 (금지) 얼마파?

What is this? 무시거파?

Where is/are the ___? ... 어디파?

Do you have ___?... 이수파?

Please give me... 삼춘... 하김 줍서!

Sir/Ma'am, It's a bit expensive.

삼춘, 하김 빛나우다.

Can i have a discount?

이거 하썰 내려줍서.

This looks delicious!

맛 잘도 좋암직 하우다!

Make lots of money!

하영 폽서양/야/예!

Vocabulary

Local seafood names and dishes

horse mackerel 각재기

mackerel 고돌이

anchovies 멜

tiny sea snail 보말

seaweed 매역

Sargassum 몌

Sargassum soup 몌국/몌국

Vegetables and grains

vegetables 송키

cabbage 녹물

radish 늬삐, 무수

spring onions 꽤마농

garlic 마농, 콤테사니/테사니

leafy salad 부루

beans

므드레, 듬비, 풋, 아짐베기

potato 지실/지슬

sweet potato 감즈/감저

unsteamed rice 쌀

white rice 곤쌀

barley 보리쌀

millet 좁쌀

sesame 껌

Meat

pork 돛래기

beef 쉼래기

chicken 득래기

egg 득세기

fish 바당래기