

## Final Report for Summer 2010 Faculty Development Grant

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I received Summer 2010 Research Grant for my project entitled **Mapping Multiculturalism Discourses: Content Analysis of South Korean Multiculturalism Discourses**. The specific goals of the project included: (1) updating the data set of newspaper articles (1990 – 2008) to 2009; (2) analyzing data on the actors and frames involved; and (3) drafting a paper that examines how the meaning of multiculturalism is constructed and contested in the Korean context.

In the course of updating the data, I was intrigued by the way how “multicultural” and “multiethnic” are used as if describing inseparable characteristics in Korea. Thus, instead of focusing exclusively on multiculturalism discourse, I decided to expand my analysis to include discourse regarding multiethnicity as well. For the revised project, I have: 1) collected newspaper articles containing the word “multiethnic” (1990 – 2008), 2) coded the newly collected data using the coding scheme that I used for the already existing data on multiculturalism, 3) conducted primary analysis comparing two sets of data, and 4) drafted a paper entitled **Korea: Multi-ethnic or Multi-cultural?**.

I identified three different understandings of multiculturalism/multiethnicity vis-à-vis Korean society. The first understanding limits multiculturalism/multiethnicity to the Western (and a few Asian) countries. This understanding implies that Korea is not a multiethnic country. The second understanding, which is the most prevalent one since 2006, is that Korea is becoming a multicultural/multiethnic country as a result of globalization. Finally, there are a few of columnists who argue that Korea has always been a multiethnic country. The main argument of my paper is that Korea may be becoming a multi-ethnic society (that is more multi-ethnic than South Korea has ever been), but not a multi-cultural society. Korean multiculturalism discourse is not “multicultural” because it intends to eradicate, rather than celebrate, the cultural differences brought by increasing ethnic diversity in Korea.

I will be presenting this paper at the workshop on Multiethnic/Multicultural Korea hosted by the Center for Korean Studies at University of California–Berkeley (Oct. 29, 2011). After the workshop, I will revise and submit the manuscript for the inclusion in an edited book entitled Multiethnic/Multicultural Korea (Editors: John Lie and Herry Em). In addition, I plan to conduct a more in-depth analysis of collected data and write another paper examining whether the meaning of multicultural or multiethnic Korea varies significantly by different types of authors.