The Pragmatic Scope of Indefinite Adverbs in Korean*

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Ahn, Jeong Khn. (2016). The Pragmatic Scope of Indefinite Adverbs in Korean. *The Linguistic Association of Korea Journal, 24*(4), 61-79. This study examines pragmatic scope of some indefinite adverbs in Korean such as *myechil cen* ('a few days ago'), *choykun* ('lately'), *yakkan* ('a little'), *cokum* ('a little'), *manhi* ('greatly'), and *emcheng* ('excessively'). In order to examine age and gender differences in their pragmatic scope, 254 subjects were participated in this study. They were given a questionnaire to fill out pragmatic scope of the six indefinite adverbs in Korean. Using SPSS 12.0 the study analyzed their responses and found out that their average pragmatic scope of *myechil cen* is 4.3 days ago, *choykun* 7.1 days ago, *yakkan* 4.0 cm, *cokum* 5.6%, *manhi* 16.2%, and *emcheng* 25.5%. Paired-samples T test indicated that difference in pragmatic scope was statistically significant between *myechil cen* and *choykun* ($t= -6.453$, $p<0.001$), between *yakkan* and *cokum* ($t= -4.295$, $p<0.001$), and between *manhi* and *emcheng* ($t= -4.295$, $p<0.001$) as well. Gender difference was not found in their pragmatic scope of the indefinites, whereas age difference was found statistically significant in *choykun* ($F= 4.102$, $p= .044$), *yakkan* ($F= 8.961$, $p= .003$), *cokum* ($F= 4.707$, $p= .031$), and *manhi* ($F= 4.586$, $p= .033$) when age was divided into the two groups (under 20 vs. over 20 years of age). The findings in the study indicate that indefinites are measured pragmatically and that they are used in a certain range of scope in reality.

Key Words: pragmatic scope, indefinites, indefinite adverbs, age and gender difference in the use of indefinites

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1. Introduction

The term 'indefinite' refers to not specific, so that indefinite adverbs in grammar are adverbs of quantity, time, degree, etc. that are not stated or mentioned specifically in sentence or discourse. This intrinsic vagueness of indefinite adverbs and other parts of grammar including indefinite pronouns and indefinite quantifiers often brings some misunderstanding in interpreting them. For example, the following sentences such as "Each man is digging a hole." and "A baker is decorating every cake." (Oh, 2014) are ambiguous.

In recent years much attention has been paid to indefinite quantifiers, in particular universal quantifiers, *all* and *both*, and distributive quantifiers, *every* and *each*, to study the vagueness or the ambiguity of the sentence in which these quantifiers are used (Ioup, 1975; Tunstall, 1988; Yun, 1996; Lee, 2001; Yun, 2004; Rakhlin, 2007; Ionin, 2010; Oh, 2014; Park, 2012). Some studies (Kim, 2004; Marsden, 2004; Rakhlin, 2007; Kang, 2010; Lee, 2012; Park, 2012; Joh, 2014; Oh, 2014; Yoo, 2014) examine the difference in the interpretation and learning of these quantifiers between Korean learners of English and native speakers of English.

Since these quantifiers act like adjectives modifying nouns or noun phrases followed by in sentence, they are very similar to numeral quantifiers. In this regard some studies (Miyagawa, 2006; Shin, 2009; Lee, 2013) investigate numeral quantifiers in Korean, too. Some other studies (Kang, 2001; Rakhlin, 2007; Park, 2007; Kim & Lee, 2010; Lee, 2013; Shin, 2014; Lim, 2015) also look at quantifier floating in Korean and other languages since universal quantifiers appear not only in NP modifying positions but in other parts of the sentence as do numeral quantifiers.

As indicated, most of the indefinite quantifiers studies have focused on universal, distributive, and numeral quantifiers, thus leaving existential quantifiers such as *some, any, few,* and *little* somewhat neglected. This is due to the fact that these indefinite quantifiers do not make more trouble in interpreting and learning them than other indefinite quantifiers. By the way, some indefinite quantifiers might raise an ambiguity problem, too, such as the following sentence: "Someone gets mugged in New York every ten minutes."[1)]

1) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantifier_(linguistics) (2016. 10. 16.)

Most of the indefinite quantifiers, whether they are universal, distributive, numeral, or existential, have been studied in NPs (noun phrases) as pronouns, determiners, or adjectives, modifying noun or NP in sentence. However indefinites do appear in other positions, too, as indefinite adverbs are frequently used in ADPs (adverb phrases) such as the sentence: "Snow fell a little." In particular, they are used quite often when they refer to time ('lately', 'recently', and 'finally'), frequency ('later', 'sometimes', and 'often'), quantity ('a few', 'a little', and 'much'), degree ('greatly', 'highly', and 'somewhat'), etc. Recently, some studies (Hong, 2004; Kim, 2009; Kang, 2010; Lee, 2012; Mo, 2012) began to look at the indefinite adverbs mainly of having negative meaning in Korean such as *acik* ('yet') and *kyeu* ('barely') and indicated some semantic difference in the use of them.

As the term 'indefinite' implies, indefinite adverbs of frequency, for instance, tell us the somewhat vague scope of the frequency something occurs. When asked, we would say something happens 100% if it occurs always, 90% usually, 80% normally, 70% frequently, 50% sometimes, 30% occasionally, 10% seldom, 5% rarely, and 0% never.[2] Of course, these pragmatic scope would vary in different language groups and result in misunderstanding between them. Artur Parreira & Lorga (2016) even asked participants in their study to attribute a numerical value to the two adverbs ('very' and 'frequently') on a scale of 0% to 100%. That is, they were asked to indicate the numerical value of adverbs on the scale such as "How much is very much when you love red roses very much?". As Parreira & Lorga (2016) did, there need a variety of studies which examine pragmatic scope of indefinites, in particular the indefinites of adverbs, to overcome their vagueness in reference and avoid misunderstanding in communication. In reality, we use indefinite adverbs quite often without knowing their exact meaning, that is their pragmatic scope which would be agreed on in a speech community. Thus it will be of great help for us to figure out the pragmatic scope of the indefinite adverbs in any language in order to avoid misunderstanding and overcome not specific reference in discourse.

In this regard, the present study is to examine the pragmatic scope of indefinite adverbs in Korean such as *myechil cen* ('a few days ago'), *choykun* ('lately'), *yakkan* ('a little'), *cokum* ('a little'), *manhi* ('greatly'), and *emcheng*

2) http://www.grammarcl/Basic/Adverbs_Frequency.htm (2016. 10. 17.)

('excessively') which are used very often in reality. As evident, *myechil cen* and *choykun* are the indefinite adverbs of time, *yakkan* and *cokum* adverbs of quantity, and *manhi* and *emcheng* adverbs of degree. Unlike Parreira & Lorga's (2016), the present study asked participants to attribute a numerical value to each adverb in the Questionnaire whatever they think it would be, not on a scale.

2. Data gathering

To examine the pragmatic scope of the indefinite adverbs in Korean, 254 subjects were participated in the Questionnaire in the study. Of 254 subjects, 137 (53.9%) are male and 117 (46.1%) female. Their age ranges from 10 to 64. They are all native Koreans living in Korea. They were given the Questionnaire to fill out the pragmatic scope of the six indefinite adverbs in Korean in the blank. The Questionnaire was written in Korean in which the six indefinite adverbs such as *myechil cen, choykun, yakkan, cokum, manhi,* and *emcheng* were underlined, as shown in the following Questionnaire. The participants filled out the blanks in the Questionnaire in numbers.

The Questionnaire

Please indicate the followings.
You are male ( ) female ( )
Your age ( )

Please indicate the pragmatic scope of the following six indefinite adverbs in Korean.

Sentence 1:
myechil cen-ey kutul-un ttena-ss-ta.
a few day ago-PTCL they-SBJ leave-PAST-DEC
'They left a few days ago.'
Q: How many days are myechil cen?
A: ( ) days ago.

Sentence 2:
choykun-ey khun sakken-i thecye-ss-ta.
lately-PTCL big accident-SBJ occur-PAST-DEC
'A big accident occurred lately.'
Q: How many days are choykun?
A: ( ) days ago.

Sentence 3:
nun-i yakkan ssaye-ss-ta.
snow-SBJ a little pile up-PAST-DEC
'Snow piled up a little.'
Q: How little is yakkan?
A: ( ) cm

Sentence 4:
mulka-ka cokum olla-ss-ta.
price-SBJ a little go up-PAST-DEC
'Price went up a little.'
Q: How little is cokum?
A: ( ) %

Sentence 5:
mulka-ka manhi olla-ss-ta.
price-SBJ greatly go up-PAST-DEC
'Price went up greatly.'
Q: How much is manhi?
A: ( ) %

Sentence 6:
mulka-ka emcheng olla-ss-ta.
price-SBJ excessively go up-PAST-DEC
'Price went up excessively.'
Q: How much is emcheng?
A: ( )%

3. Results

The numbers the 254 subjects had given in the blanks in the Questionnaire were coded as they were in SPSS 12.0. Decimals were rounded out to the next whole number.

3.1. The participants' pragmatic scope of the six indefinite adverbs

Using SPSS 12.0, the study analyzed the coded data and found out that the participants' average pragmatic scope of the six indefinite adverbs in Korean is as follows, shown in Table 1.

Table 1. The average pragmatic scope of the six indefinite adverbs in Korean

	N	Min	Max	Average	SD
myechil cen ('a few days ago')	254	1.00	17.00	4.30	2.67
choykun ('lately')	254	1.00	30.00	7.06	6.95
yakkan ('a little')	254	1.00	20.00	3.96	3.45
cokum ('a little')	254	1.00	30.00	5.59	5.40
manhi ('greatly')	254	1.00	110.00	16.15	15.71
emcheng ('excessively')	254	2.00	150.00	25.47	25.27

As indicated in Table 1, their average pragmatic scope of *myechil cen* ('a few days ago') in Korean is 4.3 days ago, which means that Koreans implicitly use *myechil cen* to refer to 4 or 5 days ago. In contrast, they use *choykun* ('lately') to refer to approximately 7 days ago as shown in Table 1. Their average pragmatic scope of *choykun* is 7.1 days ago. Although we use these two similar indefinites of time in Korean quite often in reality and think they mean almost the same, the study clearly indicates that they are quite different from each other, *choykun* having wider pragmatic scope than *myechil cen*. In order to see the difference between these two indefinites in detail, paired-samples T test was done and the result is as follows:

Table 2. Paired-samples (*myechil cen - choykun*) correlation coefficient and T test

	N	Average	SD	R	p-value
myechil cen	254	4.30	2.67	.234	.000
choykun	254	7.06	6.95		

	Difference					t	df	p-value (two sided)
	Mean	SD	SE Mean	95% Cl for difference				
myechil cen - choykun	-2.77	6.84	.429	-3.612	-1.923	-6.453	253	.000

As shown in Table 2, ch'oegŭn is almost three days far remote past than *myechil cen* (mean difference = -2.8 days) and the difference between these two time indefinites in Korean is statistically very significant (t= - 6.453, p< .001). It indicates that these two time indefinites could not be used to mean nearly the same, but each having its unique pragmatic time scope in Korean.

Koreans use the indefinite adverbs of degree, *yakkan* ('a little') and *cokum* ('a little'), interchangeably, suggesting that the two indefinites are almost the same. Although they are used interchangeably, they may indicate quite a different degree when they are used in a different context. In other words, their pragmatic scope of degree may differ when they modify different objects. In order to see the difference between *yakkan* and *cokum* when they are used in a different context, these two indefinites of degree were also examined in the study.

As indicated in Table 1, the participants' average pragmatic scope of *yakkan* ('a little') is 4.0, which means that they think 4.0cm is *yakkan* when "The snow piled up a little." However 5.6% is *cokum* ('a little') when "Price went up a little," which indicates the difference in degree when indefinite adverb *a little* modifies different objects (i.e., snow vs. price). Paired-samples T test in Table 3 below clearly shows the difference between the two indefinite adverbs in Korean statistically.

Table 3. Paired-samples (*yakkan - cokum*) correlation coefficient and T test

	N	Average	SD	R	p-value
yakkan	254	3.96	3.45	.126	.045
cokum	254	5.59	5.40		

	Difference					t	df	p-value (two sided)
	Mean	SD	SE Mean	95% Cl for difference				
yakkan - cokum	-1.63	6.03	.379	-2.372	-.880	-4.295	253	.000

As shown in Table 3, the mean difference between the two indefinite adverbs, *yakkan* and *cokum*, is −1.6, which is statistically very significant (t= -4.295, p< .001). It indicates that the two indefinites of degree in Korean show quite different pragmatic scope when they are used in a different context, although it is believed they are used alternatively in practice.

As anticipated, the pragmatic scope difference in the indefinite adverbs of degree between *cokum* and *manhi* is great even when their use are controlled, which means they are used in the same context as shown in 4 & 5 in the Questionnaire. The great difference between them is clearly shown in the mean difference, -10.56, which is statistically very significant (t= -13.710, p< .001) as shown in the following Table 4.

Table 4. Paired-samples (*cokum - manhi*) correlation coefficient and T test

	N	Average	SD	R	p-value
cokum	254	5.59	5.40	.737	.000
manhi	254	16.15	15.71		

	Difference					t	df	p-value (two sided)
	Mean	SD	SE Mean	95% Cl for difference				
cokum - manhi	-10.56	12.28	.770	-12.080	-9.046	-13.710	253	.000

The pragmatic scope difference in the indefinite adverbs of degree between *manhi* and *emcheng* is also found great in the study even when they are used in the same context as shown in 5 & 6 in the Questionnaire. The mean difference between them is -9.31, which is statistically very significant (t= -6.941, p< .001) as shown in the following Table 5.

Table 5. Paired-samples (*manhi - emcheng*) correlation coefficient and T test

	N	Average	SD	R	p-value
manhi	254	16.15	15.71	.539	.000
emcheng	254	25.47	25.27		

	Difference					t	df	p-value (two sided)
	Mean	SD	SE Mean	95% Cl for difference				
manhi - emcheng	-9.31	21.39	1.342	-11.958	-6.672	-6.941	253	.000

The pragmatic scope difference between *manhi* and *emcheng* has been assumed since *emcheng* is regarded as far greater than *manhi* in degree when they are used even in the same context, which is proved to be the case in the study as indicated in Table 5 above.

4.2. Gender difference

Of 254 participants in the study, 137 (53.9%) are male and 117 (46.1%) female. Gender difference in the pragmatic scope of the six indefinite adverbs in Korean was not found in the study as shown in the following Table 6.

Table 6. The average pragmatic scope of the six indefinite adverbs by gender

Descriptive Statistics

		N	Average	SD	Min	Max
myechil cen	Male	137	4.39	2.97	1.00	17.00
	Female	117	4.19	2.28	1.00	15.00
	Total	254	4.30	2.67	1.00	17.00
choykun	Male	137	7.30	7.20	1.00	30.00
	Female	117	6.79	6.66	1.00	30.00
	Total	254	7.06	6.95	1.00	30.00
yakkan	Male	137	4.17	3.83	1.00	20.00
	Female	117	3.73	2.96	1.00	15.00
	Total	254	3.96	3.45	1.00	20.00

cokum	Male	137	6.01	5.81	1.00	30.00
	Female	117	5.09	4.86	1.00	30.00
	Total	254	5.59	5.40	1.00	30.00
manhi	Male	137	16.73	17.15	1.00	110.00
	Female	117	15.48	13.87	2.00	75.00
	Total	254	16.15	15.71	1.00	110.00
emcheng	Male	137	27.80	2.50	2.00	150.00
	Female	117	22.74	19.44	3.00	120.00
	Total	254	25.47	25.27	2.00	150.00

One-way ANOVA

		Sum of Squares	df	mean Square	F	Sig.
myechil cen	Between groups	2.495	1	2.495	.348	.556
	Within groups	1804.360	252	7.160		
	Total	1806.854	253			
choykun	Between groups	16.604	1	16.604	.343	.559
	Within groups	12192.388	252	48.382		
	Total	12208.992	253			
yakkan	Between groups	12.295	1	12.295	1.031	.311
	Within groups	3004.387	252	11.922		
	Total	3016.681	253			
cokum	Between groups	53.481	1	53.481	1.839	.176
	Within groups	7327.937	252	29.079		
	Total	7381.417	253			
manhi	Between groups	98.808	1	98.808	.400	.528
	Within groups	62312.204	252	247.271		
	Total	62411.012				
emcheng	Between groups	1620.783	1	1620.783	2.553	.111
	Within groups	160000.465	252	634.922		
	Total	161621.248	253			

As indicated in Table 6, gender difference in the pragmatic scope of all the six indefinites was not found. Gender difference was not statistically significant in *myechil cen* (F= .348, p= .556), *choykun* (F= .343, p= .559), *yakkan* (F= 1.031, p= .311), *cokum* (F= 1.839, p= .176), *manhi* (F= .400, p= .528), and *emcheng* (F= 2.553, p= .111) since the observed p-value in each indefinite was not less than the significant level of p< .05. It means that there is no significant gender difference in the pragmatic scope of the six indefinites of adverbs although the average scope of male is greater than that of female in each indefinite adverb, as shown in the following; 4.39 vs. 4.19 in *myechil cen*, 7.30 vs. 6.79 in *choykun*, 4.17 vs. 3.73 in *yakkan*, 6.01 vs. 5.09 in *cokum*, 16.73 vs. 15.48 in *manhi*, and 27.80 vs. 22.74 in *emcheng*.

4.3. Age group difference

In order to see age difference in the pragmatic scope of the six indefinite adverbs, the participants' age was divided into the following five age groups in the study: 1) 10 – 19, 2) 20 – 29, 3) 30 – 39, 4) 40 – 49, and 5) over 50 years of age, which is regarded as the classic. In this classic age group division age group difference in the six indefinites was only found in *yakkan* (F= 2.671, p= .033), as shown in Table 7. In particular, age group difference in *yakkan* was found statistically significant only between age group 1 and age group 5 (p= .05) by Tukey HSD.

Table 7. The average pragmatic scope of the six indefinite adverbs by age group (1. 10–19, 2. 20–29, 3. 30–39, 4. 40–49, 5. over 50)

One-way ANOVA

		Sum of Squares	df	mean Square	F	Sig.
myechil cen	Between groups	29.114	4	7.278	1.019	.398
	Within groups	1777.741	249	7.140		
	Total	1806.854	253			
choykun	Between groups	340.682	4	85.171	1.787	.132
	Within groups	11868.310	249	47.664		
	Total	12208.992	253			

yakkan	Between groups	124.102	4	31.025	2.671	.033
	Within groups	2892.579	249	11.617		
	Total	3016.681	253			
cokum	Between groups	258.857	4	64.714	2.262	.063
	Within groups	7122.560	249	28.605		
	Total	7381.417	253			
manhi	Between groups	2179.152	4	544.788	2.252	.064
	Within groups	50231.860	249	241.895		
	Total	62411.012	253			
emcheng	Between groups	3866.770	4	966.692	1.526	.195
	Within groups	157754.479	249	633.552		
	Total	161621.248	253			

Since the classic age group division had not shown age group difference much in the indefinites, other than *yakkan*, as shown in Table 7, there needed other age grouping in the study. When age was divided into the following two groups in which age group 1 was under 25 and age group 2 over 25 years of age, age group difference was found in three indefinites as shown in Table 8.

Table 8. The average pragmatic scope of the six indefinite adverbs by age group (1. under 25, 2. over 25)

One-way ANOVA

		Sum of Squares	df	mean Square	F	Sig.
myechil cen	Between groups	4.456	1	4.456	.623	.431
	Within groups	1802.398	252	7.152		
	Total	1806.854	253			
choykun	Between groups	.144	1	.144	.003	.957
	Within groups	12208.848	252	48.448		
	Total	12208.992	253			
yakkan	Between groups	54.235	1	54.235	4.614	.033
	Within groups	2962.446	252	11.756		
	Total	3016.681	253			

cokum	Between groups	144.537	1	144.537	5.033	.026
	Within groups	7236.880	252	28.718		
	Total	7381.417	253			
manhi	Between groups	1235.110	1	1235.110	5.088	.025
	Within groups	61175.902	252	242.762		
	Total	62411.012	253			
emcheng	Between groups	243.351	1	243.351	.380	.538
	Within groups	161377.897	252	640.388		
	Total	161621.248	253			

In this age grouping, age group difference was found significant in *yakkan* (F= 4.514, p= .033), *cokum* (F= 5.033, p= .026), and *manhi* (F= 5.088, p= .025) as shown in Table 8.

Further, when age was divided into the following two groups in which age group 1 was under 20 and age group 2 over 20 years of age, age group difference was found in four indefinites as shown in Table 9.

Table 9. The average pragmatic scope of the six indefinite adverbs by age group (1. under 20, 2. over 20)

Descriptive Statistics

	age group	N	Average	SD	Min	Max
myechil cen	under 20	31	3.61	1.69	1.00	8.00
	over 20	223	4.39	2.77	1.00	17.00
	Total	254	4.30	2.67	1.00	17.00
choykun	under 20	31	4.71	5.27	1.00	30.00
	over 20	223	7.39	7.10	1.00	30.00
	Total	254	7.06	6.95	1.00	30.00
yakkan	under 20	31	5.68	5.10	1.00	18.00
	over 20	223	3.73	3.10	1.00	20.00
	Total	254	3.96	3.45	1.00	20.00
cokum	under 20	31	7.55	5.43	1.00	20.00
	over 20	223	5.32	5.35	1.00	30.00
	Total	254	5.59	5.40	1.00	30.00

manhi	under 20	31	21.77	18.17	2.00	75.00
	over 20	223	15.37	15.21	1.00	110.00
	Total	254	16.15	15.71	1.00	110.00
emcheng	under 20	31	29.77	21.74	5.00	90.00
	over 20	223	24.87	25.71	2.00	150.00
	Total	254	25.47	25.27	2.00	150.00

One-way ANOVA

		Sum of Squares	df	mean Square	F	Sig.
myechil cen	Between groups	16.441	1	16.441	2.314	.129
	Within groups	1790.413	252	7.105		
	Total	1806.854	253			
choykun	Between groups	195.547	1	195.547	4.102	.044
	Within groups	12013.445	252	47.672		
	Total	12208.992	253			
yakkan	Between groups	103.593	1	103.593	8.961	.003
	Within groups	2913.088	252	11.560		
	Total	3016.681	253			
cokum	Between groups	135.345	1	135.345	4.707	.031
	Within groups	7246.072	252	28.754		
	Total	7381.417	253			
manhi	Between groups	1115.485	1	1115.485	4.586	.033
	Within groups	61295.527	252	243.236		
	Total	62411.012	253			
emcheng	Between groups	654.600	1	654.600	1.025	.312
	Within groups	160966.648	252	638.757		
	Total	161621.248	253			

In this age grouping, age group difference was found significant in *choykun* (F= 4.102, p= .044), *yakkan* (F= 8.961, p= .003), *cokum* (F= 4.707, p= .031), and *manhi* (F= 4.586, p= .033) as shown in Table 9.

What these three different age grouping in the study indicates is that age group difference in the pragmatic scope of the indefinites becomes clearer when age was divided into the two age groups than the classic five age groups and when age was divided into the two groups of under 20 and over 20 than the two groups of under 25 and over 25 years of age shown in Tables 8 and 9. In other words, there is a tendency for younger participants to regard *myechil cen* (m= 3.61) and *choykun* (m= 4.71) as not far away from the present than older ones (m= 4.39 in *myechil cen* and m= 7.39 in *choykun*) and to see *yakkan* (m= 5.68), *cokum* (m= 7.55), *manhi* (m= 21.77), and *emcheng* (m= 29.77) as having greater pragmatic scope than older ones (m= 3.73 in *yakkan*, m= 5.32 in *cokum*, m= 15.37 in *manhi*, and m= 24.87 in *emcheng*).

4. Conclusion

The study examined the pragmatic scope of the six indefinite adverbs in Korean and found out some important findings. Although the indefinite adverbs have all been used indefinitely as the term implies, the study indicated that there is a certain range of scope that may be agreed on when we use them in reality. For instance, we think of *choykun* as approximately 7 days ago from the present although it is termed indefinite in grammar. Similarly we regard *myechil cen* as 4 or 5 days ago from the present which is quite different from the pragmatic scope of *choykun*. The pragmatic scope difference between the two has not been studied before the present study.

The study also found out that the indefinite adverbs of degree, *yakkan* and *cokum*, could have quite different pragmatic scope when they were used in different contexts. That is, the pragmatic scope of these two similar or nearly identical adverbs might differ when they modify a different kind of NPs such as the N snow and the N price in the study. The pragmatic scope difference between the two was found statistically significant in the study. In addition, the same indefinite adverbs would have different pragmatic scope whether they are used in an affirmative sentence or a negative one. For instance, the indefinite adverb *greatly* would have different pragmatic scope whether it is used in "The price of daily goods has jumped *greatly*." or in "The price of daily goods hasn't

jumped *greatly*." Even though the difference in the use of indefinite adverbs between affirmative and negative sentences comes out as obvious, it would still not be sure whether the difference is due to our cognitive difference in the use of affirmative vs. negative sentences.

As anticipated, the difference in the pragmatic scope between *cokum*, *manhi*, and *emcheng* was found great in the study even when they were used in the same context. The difference in the pragmatic scope between *cokum* and *manhi* was clear, shown in their mean difference, −10.56, which is very significant at the level of .001. Surprisingly the difference in the pragmatic scope between *manhi* and *emcheng* was also found great in the study although these two indefinite adverbs of quantity are assumed to be used in a similar way. Their mean difference is −9.31, which is very significant at the level of .001. Like the difference in the pragmatic scope between *myechil cen* and *choykun*, the difference between *manhi* and *emcheng* indicates that we actually use these indefinite adverbs of time, degree, and quantity in Korean in quite different ways in reality although they are believed to mean almost the same in grammar.

Gender difference was not found in the pragmatic scope of the six indefinite adverbs in the study, although there is a clear tendency for male to report higher pragmatic scope than female in all of the six indefinites. The tendency, however, did not lead to the overall gender differences in the pragmatic scope statistically at any significant level.

Age group differences in the pragmatic scope of the six indefinite adverbs were found significant in some indefinite adverbs in the study such as *choykun*, *yakkan*, *cokum*, and *manhi* when age was divided into the two groups of under 20 and over 20 years of age. In these indefinite adverbs it is evident that the former age group reported greater pragmatic scope of the indefinites than the latter. There was also a tendency for age group difference to appear more clearly when age was divided into the two groups than the classic five groups.

Above all, the study is the first attempt to examine the pragmatic scope of the indefinite adverbs in Korean and thus it broadens the area of indefinite studies, indicating that indefinites could be measured pragmatically and there is a certain range of pragmatic scope of the indefinites we all have in mind and agree with in the real use of them.

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