INIMATE ENCOUNTERS: READING AND TRANSLATING
MODERN KOREAN LITERATURE
KORLIT 230/330
Autumn 2013 M&W 9:30-10:45

Dr. Dafna Zur
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Office hours: M & W 11:00-12:00 or by appointment
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Course Description:

Whether for pleasure or as a means of advancing our academic tasks, reading is something we do a lot of, all the time—and usually very quickly. “Intimate encounters” is designed to slow us down in order to draw our attention to the nuances embedded in the language of literature—and help us improve our reading skills in Korean. And nothing "slows you down" and compels you to consider the craft of writing than taking on the role of translator. The readers/translator must develop sensitivity to the explicit and implicit subtleties of the original, and at the same time must be able to bring those nuances alive into English.

The works we will read together are designed to help us understand Korean literature both historically and thematically. We will read the primary texts closely; at the same time, we will also read, when appropriate, secondary sources that will enrich our understanding of the larger historical and theoretical issues.

Class structure:

One original story will be assigned for four classes; we will make whatever progress we can in the class, and the portions not read will be the responsibility of the students. The stories range from the 1950s-1990s and are representative pieces by major authors. Each story will be accompanied by a set of detailed grammar notes and vocabulary and in most cases by an existing English translation (note that the translation is to supplement your reading of the original Korean, rather than serve as a starting point for your reading). Secondary readings will be assigned to help frame the discussions. In class we will pay close attention to grammar patterns and vocabulary encountered in the reading; matters of literary style; the cultural and historical context of the stories; issues in translation; and theoretical themes that emerge in the texts.

Learning goals: In this class, students will
✓ Read a few classic pieces of short fiction in the Korean original.
✓ Become familiar with household authors, as well as the major trends in
  Korean literature in the twentieth century
✓ Develop reading strategies that will help unpack dense and complex
  grammar patterns in literary Korean, and be able to apply those strategies to
  other readings
✓ Improve creative writing techniques that will get you thinking like a writer
✓ Translate an original, previously un-translated piece of fiction of prose or
  poetry. Translations may be eligible for publication in the journal Azalea
  (Harvard UP) or Acta Koreana (Keimyung University UP). Students will
  ideally work in pairs, and the product of their work will be workshopped in
  the last two weeks and submitted as the final project.

Students are encouraged to bring their laptops. Please avoid using email, facebook,
and other social media—the laptop is there to support you, not present you with
more distractions.

Class materials:

1. All materials—texts, grammar notes and vocabulary lists—are available at
   http://www.korean.arts.ubc.ca/main.htm. The texts for class are under the “online
textbook” tab of the course KOREAN 410.
2. Korean-English and Korean-Korean dictionaries are all available online (see
   naver dictionary or the 국립국어원 online source:
3. Articles use for class will be circulated separately or offered on reserve in the
   library.
4. Students registered for KORLIT330 will have slightly increased reading loads.

Evaluation and Grading:

∫ Attendance and participation (10%)
∫ Presentation (20%): Students will be in charge of introducing our authors.
  Presentation should be no longer than 15 minutes. Each student will be assigned
  one author (presentations will take place once every two weeks.) Presentations
  should focus on the author’s bio very briefly, and focus most of the presentation on
  the author’s style and historical background against which the writer was acting.
  Note that students taking the class for 4 credits will be expected to submit their
  presentation in written form, and make it roughly 8-10 pages in length.
∫ Exam 1 (20%): take home in week 4, this will consist of sections from the reading
  that will require translation and response to short answer questions;
∫ Exam 2 (20%): take home in week 9, same format as Exam 1;
∫ Translation (30%): due on last day of class, should be worked on throughout the
  term.
Course Schedule

Story: 황순원, "소나기" (1959)

Week 1  Introduction to Translation Theory 1 (9.23, 25)
Readings (for Sep 25)
Benjamin, W. “The Task of the Translator”

Week 2  Introduction to Translation [cont] (9.30, 10.2):
Readings (for Oct 2)
Griffin, H. “Voice: The Sound of a Story”
Weinberger, “Anonymous Sources”

Story: 김동인, “감자” (1925)

Week 3  Korean Realism and colonial aesthetics 1 (10.7, 9)
Readings (for Oct 9)
Lombardi: “Description: To Picture in Words”
Hanscom, Chris. “Introduction” In: The Real Modern: Literary
Modernism and the Crisis of Representation in Colonial Korea.
(on reserve)

Week 4  Korean Realism and colonial aesthetics 2 (10.14, 16)
Readings (for Oct 16)
Contemporary Manifestation” (in positions, available online)
KORLIT 330:
Kim, Yun Sik and Yoon, Sun Yang. “KAPF Literature in Modern

Story: 황석영, “삼포가는길” (1973)

Week 5  Literature and the city 1 (10.21, 23)
Readings (for Oct 23)
“Making a Scene: Fiction’s Fundamental Unit” (online)
http://www.writingclasses.com/Products/PubsDetail_Excerpt.php/ExcerptID/176
Week 6

Literature and the city 2 (10.28)

Readings (for Oct 28)


KORLIT 330:


No class on the 30th – instructor out of town

Story: 오정희, “첫눈 오던 날” (1993)

Week 7

The Abject in Literature 1 (11.4, 11.6)

Readings (for 11.6)

Kristeva, “Approaching Abjection” selections
TBA (readings associated with the writers’ visit on the 12th)

Story: 최인호, “타인의 방” (1971)

Week 8

(11.11, 11.13)

Readings

Selections from Seoul: The Making of a Metropolis.

Week 9

Translation workshop (11.18, 11.20)

Week 10

Translation workshop (12.2, 4)

➤Hand in final translation on Dec 10