Chronological study on the assimilation of Chinese-character words in Korea

The object of this study is to investigate and discuss the long tradition of cultural and linguistic changes of Chinese-character words in Korea. Korean lexis broadly falls into three categories: First, Proper-Korean words; second, Chinese-character words, and third, Western-loan words. Strictly speaking, Chinese-character words should also be categorized as loan words. However, since they have the characteristic of being read using the unique Korean pronunciation system, they are recognized as assimilated Korean words. Nevertheless, in view of the fact that they still utilize Chinese characters, they are termed Chinese-character words as separate from either Korean-proper words of Western-loan words brought in from the Western world.

The history of Chinese-character words is, in fact, at the very center of the history of the whole Korean lexical stock. According to recent statistics from studies of Korean dictionaries, Chinese-character words constitute more than 60% of the Korean lexis....
Assimilation of borrowings • Completely assimilated borrowings • Partially assimilated borrowings • Unassimilated borrowings (barbarisms)

Completely assimilated borrowed words • follow all morphological, phonetical and orthographic standards of the English language E.g. cheese (the word of the first layer of Latin borrowings), husband (Scand.), face (Fr.), animal (the Latin word borrowed during the revival of learning). Partially assimilated borrowed words • borrowings not completely assimilated phonetically. E.g. the accent on the final syllable: machine, cartoon, police; sounds that are not standard for the English language: 

• borrowings not assimilated grammatically. E.g.: crisis—crises, phenomenon—phenomena. With the introduction of Chinese writing and the acculturation of Chinese civilisation in Japan thousands and thousands of Chinese words became current in Japanese. The phonetic characteristics of these new loan-words render them easily distinguishable from the old ones.

After the introduction of Buddhism from Korea in the middle of the sixth century a number of Sanskrit words were introduced via Chinese and Sino-Korean, e.g. dhyâna, ‘meditation’, Ch. ch’ an-na, S.-K. sônna, S.-J. zenna; bhikṣu, ‘monk’, Ch. pi-ch’iu, S.-K. pigu, S.-J. bihu. This lengthening is the result of ‘total assimilation’ of ku, chi, tsu or (sometimes) ki preceding a voiceless consonant.[30]. Recapitulating we can say that J. syllables may consist of: simple vowels (double vowels are regarded as two syllables). Korean words from Chinese, but Chinese characters learning very difficult, can not effectively circulated in the society, many people’s demands cannot let managers know, therefore, I feel sad, so I created 28 words, so that everyone can learn to facilitate daily life consonant. For example, in Korea, the characters used for the word “study” shares differences with those commonly used in China. 공부하다/gongboo hada or “to study” uses the characters “

/xuexi is used. To illustrate, the similarities in Korean and Japanese character pairings, we need simply look at the common word “subway” in both languages.