

Abstract

The aim of this dissertation is to describe the morphological specifics of the dialect of the South Korean island of Jeju. In 2010, the Jeju language was enlisted on the UNESCO list of critically endangered languages. This initiative led to the creation of many projects to support, protect and revitalize the Jeju dialect. Although the Jeju language is classified as a regional dialect in terms of Korean language policy, due to its incomprehensibility with the standard variety, the authorities of the Jeju Special Self-Governing province promote the designation „jejuo“, the Jeju language.

The introductory theoretical part of the dissertation introduces the reader to the issues of Korean language policy, the status of standard Korean and the regional dialects of the Korean language. In this context, the position of the Cheju dialect is described from the point of view of language policy and from a sociolinguistic point of view. Attention is paid to the ongoing standardization of the Jeju language, as it is closely related to the current state and the development of this language. The next part presents the Jeju language, its phonological and morphological specifics, vocabulary, which is significantly marked by language contact with the languages of the surrounding great powers.

The practical part of the thesis is divided into a morphological description of noun and verbal expressions in Jeju language. The aim is to point out the differences and commonalities compared to standard Korean. As the Jeju language is considered the most archaic variety of Korean, elements of Middle-Korean are also part of the analysis. The chapter devoted to nominal expressions is focused on the system of declension in the Jeju language, therefore it deals with case particles. The chapter that is focused on verbal expressions describes the conjugation of Jeju verbs. This part of the study is focused on verbal suffixes, which include temporal, honorific, transformational and emphatic suffixes. The aim is to point out the specifics of the morphology of the Jeju language, offer a comparison with the standard variety and assess to what extent it is a variety of the Korean language and whether the inclusion of the Jeju language among the dialects of Korean language is relevant.

Keywords: Korean language, standard Korean, Cheju language, dialect of Jeju island, morphology, Middle Korean, noun and verbal expressions, language policy