

Abstract:

The aim of this thesis is to analyze Korean internet communication language (ICL). The new language variety, which is a product of online communication and differs from both writing and speech as traditionally understood.

In the first part, I illustrate the development of the internet and outset of notable web domains in South Korea. I also present the demographics of Korean netizens and data related to the internet usage.

In the second part, I depict the salient linguistic characteristics of Korean internet communication language. I define ICL as a type of new slang – written slang and I also compare this sociolect with traits of spoken and written language. Lastly, I explain various factors, whose impact led to the outbreak of this recent language form.

In the third part, I scrutinize distinctive features of Korean ICL, which diverges from standard language form in syntactic, orthographic, morphological, lexical and discursive perspectives. The examination is based mainly on written data collected from casual online situations.

In the final section, I explore the profound influence of ICL on people's everyday communication. In other words, I portray the evidence of how this contemporary slang is affecting other language varieties in offline situations.