

## Abstract

Chinese characters using in classical Chinese (hanmun) have long history of using in Korea. After an invention of the Korean alphabet - hangŭl begun the first attempts to using hangŭl beside hanmun. Attempts have gained strength during the centuries and in 19. century the thoughts about exclusive using of hangŭl have begun showing up. The prohibition of using characters in both parts of Korea was accepted in the middle of 20. century. The North has stopped using characters completely but teaching of characters at schools is still alive. In South Korea was later accepted that for the temporary time the characters will be using beside hangŭl.

The idea that Korean language needs to be purified of various foreign elements fully show after the end of Japanese colonial administration in 1945. Various linguistics and government societies were concerned with this issue. In the North purification got stronger mainly in 60s of 20. century, in the South in 70s. Nature of language purification in the North is different from nature of language purification in the South and this led into deeper differences in vocabulary of the both states.

Key words: Chinese characters, hanmun, purification, language policy, purification movement