

제출양식(Proposal)

Image Of Korea In Turkey And Suggestions To Help Understanding Korea Properly

Introduction

As a senior Korean language and literature student, I will mention how the image of Korea is in Turkey and I will offer my suggestions to help understanding Korea in this essay.

Despite the fact that Korea and Turkey are two countries geographically far from each other, they have a close relationship in terms of history, culture and politics. The relationship that started to begin when Turkish troops sent reinforcements to Korea during their hard times in Korean War, started to expand day by day and became a brother country relationship between Turkey and Korea. Korean wave (Hallyu) is one of the most important factors which led Korea to become a powerful country and it has a big role in the increase of the awareness of Korea in Turkey. Korean wave started to spread after the broadcast of the Korean drama “Dae Jang Geum (대장금)” in the year of 2005 on TRT1 which is Turkey’s national television station. After that day, various Korean dramas started to be broadcasted consecutively and this created a huge fan base.

Korean dramas and movies have a big role on the development of the Korea image in Turkey. The cultural similarities between Turkey and Korea provided Turkish people to have interest in Korean dramas. According to the researches I did, the biggest reason why Turkish people watch Korean dramas and have interest in them is the similarity between the Korean family life and the Turkish family life. The attitude of Korean people to the elders as in Turkey also increased the sympathy for Korean dramas. That is why the copyrights of the scenarios of some Korean dramas and movies Turkish people enjoy watching were taken and reshooted again with Turkish actors and actresses. Catching so much attention, these dramas show that Korean culture is not different from Turkish culture. While daily life dramas helped understanding Korean family life, historical dramas helped understanding Korean history. Korean cuisine shown on dramas caught a big attention and the interest for the Korean restaurants has increased. Nowadays, there are lots of people in Turkey ordering Korean food from Korea to cook in their houses.

The fandom that has started with TV dramas spreaded to internet in a couple of years after the first broadcast of the Korean drama and lots of websites have been built for Korea. Various sharings has been made on this websites especially about K-pop, K-drama, Korea’s culture, history and language. The awareness of Korea started to spread all over the country through the internet. These websites of fans are active for almost 10 years and they do their best to

present the right information and active sharings to the fans of Korea in Turkey.

Being one of the profits of Korean wave, the interest for Korea has risen and the number of Korean language learners increased. Korean language seems like a difficult language at the beginning because of its spesific alphabet but it is one of the languages that Turkish people can learn easily. The reason of this is that Korean and Turkish languages are in the same language family (Ural-Altai Language Family). Thanks to this fact Korean became popular in Turkey and many people started to learn Korean. In the beginning, there were only two universities in which Korean language education was given but nowadays private courses for Korean language have been opened and Korean language education has started to be given to a lot of people. People who don't have opportunity to take these courses learn it on the internet. That is why online Korean language education has a great importance. Blogs and websites some people built for teaching Korean present information for speaking and writing in Korean. It may seem like people have a big source to learn Korean. However, the biggest shortage about understanding Korean is not being able to find sufficient sources. Learners have many difficulties on learning Korean because of the fact that most of the sources are in English while it's not their native language. If they are learning it in class, it is important to catch their attention. Slides, videos and instructive cards can be used in classes in order to teach Korean on an effective and fun way. Learners will be able to have fun while learning Korean and they can always pay attention to lessons.

Suggestions

1) Improvement On The Textbooks In Native Language

There has been always some struggles to find the textbooks in native language to learn Korean in most of the places in the world. Most of the textbooks are written in English. The most effective way to learn a different language is to learn it in native language. That is why Korean government can contact the Korean Embassies in different countries and publish textbooks in native languages. In this way, a credible source will be offered to people from overseas who want to learn Korean. These textbooks that are going to be published will be on three levels (beginner, intermediate, advanced) and in native languages of each country. Grammar, vocabulary and various practices will be included in the context of these textbooks. They will be provided at Korean Embassies or on the internet with a stated fee and published by Korean Embassy. By doing this, the same Korean textbooks will be presented to the world.

2) Cultural Sharing On Internet

It is a fact that Korean Government offers great opportunities to foreign students and give them chances to study in Korea. A great deal of students get chance to study in Korea as an exchange student or with different scholarship programs. However there are also a lot of

people who cannot afford or cannot get allowance from their parents to go to Korea. A website only for education can be built for these people. There will be Korean students on this website in order to help people who connect from overseas and want to learn about Korea and Korean language. All of the people who enter this website will have to sign in with their ages, their schools and their majors if they exist. In this way, the purpose of entering this website will be clear. For instance, when I sign in this website as a Korean language student from Turkey, I will improve my language skills by talking to Korean students and we will be having cultural sharings with each others. It will help to increase the awareness between two countries and various information sharings can be done this way.

3)Work, Travel and Share

There are a lot of people around the world who want to go to Korea and live there for a while. If this program, which makes it possible to travel and earn money at the same time, starts in Korea officially, the interest for Korea will increase even more and many people will make their dreams come true with this opportunity. This program can be held by Korea Tourism Organizations and Korean Cultural Centers. People who want to apply for this program will be able to apply to these foundations. Each year there will be a certain quota and the places to stay and work in Korea will be adjusted for the people who pays fee that stated by Korean Government to join this program. These people who get chance to join will work in a place there and earn their own money for their own expenses. Also they will be able to experience Korean life style. Advanced part-time job sector and studio apartments to stay alone in Korea will be an advantage in this regard.

4) Korea Street

Would you like to feel Korea in a street that you walk in your country? A “Korea Street” can be built on a street where we can find only Korean products, Korean food and learn about Korean culture in order to feel like we are actually in Korea. There can be shops where Korean products are being sold, a restaurant where Korean foods are being made, and a karaoke room which has a significant place in Korean culture. The most important thing is there can be a Korean traditional house(한옥) in order to go and experience the Korean traditional lifestyle in person. All of the buildings on this street can be built in Korean architecture style and Korean workers can be hired mostly in order to make a big Korean impress on people. A Korea Street that is built on this way can attract not only people that have interest in Korea, but also people who don't know much about Korea. The interest for Korea is going to increase and Korea is going to be understood properly.

Conclusion

It is so important for a country to spread its own natural and historic beauties, culture and

language to all around the world. Countries can reach to a powerful position on this way and Korean people have been very successful on presenting themselves to the rest of the world. Nowadays the name of Korea is on the daily products we use, on the phone we talk, in the history books we learn and also on the bridge we go across everyday. However Korean people are never satisfied with the things they did for representing their culture and they always do their best to develop and make a name. In my opinion, these efforts will always make Korea get interest. As a Korean language student I would like to contribute with my suggestions. If one of these suggestions can be carried out, I believe that Korea will be understood more properly. The people who don't know much about Korea will be interested and the delusions will be able to get fixed.

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