

## **The frequency effects and regularization in Korean noun variations**

In many Western dialects of Korean, /t<sup>h</sup>/-final nouns are optionally realized with final [c<sup>h</sup>]. The availability of the innovative [c<sup>h</sup>]-final variant differs depending on the suffix, showing the following hierarchy: Nominative (i) > Accusative (il) > Directive (ilo) > Locative (e) (based on NAKL 2004). J. Jun (2007) observes that the distribution of novel [c<sup>h</sup>] variants mirrors the frequency distribution of /c<sup>h</sup>/ final nouns in the lexicon as a whole. In other words, the innovative [c<sup>h</sup>] variants are more likely to be found in the context where [c<sup>h</sup>] is already abundant.

On the other hand, individual speakers' wellformedness ratings (Y. Kang 2003, 2005) and dialectal data (H. Kang 1992, 1993) reveal that some speakers reanalyze the innovative [c<sup>h</sup>] variants as phonologically conditioned and in dialects where reliable phonological generalization is not available [c<sup>h</sup>] distribution is analyzed as morphologically conditioned.

These findings show that the frequency effects can create a complex pattern of variation and that faced with such a complex pattern of variation, individual learners/speakers seem to seek a simpler generalization (phonological and/or morphological).