

KOREAN EXPRESSIONS FOR UZBEK "HAVE/NOT"

Eshpulatova Sabrina Farkhodovna

Uzbekistan State World Languages University

Faculty of Oriental Philology

Student of Philology and Language Teaching: Korean Language Major

882976555

sabrinafarkhadvna@gmail.com

Abstract: This article investigates the various Korean expressions used to translate the Uzbek concepts of "have" and "not have," analyzing the semantic and grammatical nuances that differentiate them. It examines the core Korean verbs for possession, **있다** (itta) and **없다** (eopda), and explores alternative constructions using auxiliary verbs, adjectival predicates, and idiomatic expressions that convey similar meanings. The study focuses on how these Korean expressions map onto the diverse range of possessive relationships expressed in Uzbek, considering factors such as alienable vs. inalienable possession, location, and abstract possession. Furthermore, it analyzes the pragmatic considerations that influence the choice of specific Korean expressions in different communicative contexts. By providing a detailed comparison of Korean and Uzbek possessive constructions, this paper aims to offer valuable insights for language learners, translators, and linguists interested in cross-linguistic semantic variation.

Keywords: Korean, Possession, "Have", "Not have", **있다** (itta), **없다** (eopda), Translation, Cross-linguistic Semantics, Alienability, Inalienability, Grammatical Analysis, Pragmatics, Language Learning, Korean Grammar

INTRODUCTION

The seemingly simple concepts of "have" and "not have," fundamental to expressing possession and existence, are often conveyed through surprisingly diverse linguistic means. Translating these notions accurately across languages requires careful consideration of semantic nuances, grammatical structures, and pragmatic contexts. This paper investigates the various Korean expressions used to translate the Uzbek concepts of "have" and "not have," analyzing the subtle differences and factors that influence their selection.

Uzbek primarily uses the verb "bor" (is, exists, have) for "have" and "yo'q" (not is, doesn't exist, not have) for "not have." While these terms seem straightforward, their semantic range extends beyond simple possession and encompasses existence, location, and availability. Similarly, Korean utilizes a variety of expressions to capture these meanings, with nuanced distinctions that require careful attention.

1. Core Korean Verbs: **있다 (itta) and **없다** (eopda)**

The most direct Korean equivalents to Uzbek "bor/yo'q" are the verbs **있다** (itta) (to be, to exist, to have) and **없다** (eopda) (not to be, not to exist, not to have). These verbs are fundamental for expressing existence and possession, but their usage is subject to specific grammatical and semantic constraints.

- **있다 (itta) and Direct Possession:** When expressing direct possession of concrete objects, "있다" is typically used with the subject marker "-이/가 (-i/ga)" attached to the possessed object and the possessor indicated through other means, such as a dative marker "-에게/한테 (-ege/hante)" or possessive marking on the possessor noun.

- Example: 책이 [subject marker] 저에게 [dative marker] 있어요 (chae-gi jeo-ege isseoyo) - I have a book (literally: A book exists to me).

- **없다 (eopda) and Lack of Possession:** Conversely, "없다" indicates the lack of possession or existence.

- Example: 돈이 [subject marker] 없어요 (don-i eopseoyo) - I don't have money (literally: Money doesn't exist).

However, this construction isn't always a direct parallel to the flexibility of "bor/yo'q." The nuance in choosing the grammatical subject is critical.

2. Alternative Constructions: Beyond Simple Existence:

While "itta" and "eopda" provide the foundation, Korean often employs alternative constructions to convey more precise meanings and to reflect idiomatic expressions:

- **-이/가 있다/없다 (-i/ga itda/eopda) with Abstract Nouns:** When expressing abstract qualities or characteristics, "있다/없다" can be used more directly with nouns, similar to "have/not have" in English:

- Example: 시간이 [subject marker] 있어요 (sigan-i isseoyo) - I have time.

- Example: 용기가 [subject marker] 없어요 (yonggi-ga eopseoyo) - I don't have courage.

- **Action Verbs with -(이) 가지고 있다 (-i) gajigo itda):** To emphasize active possession or ownership, Korean utilizes the construction "-(이) 가지고 있다," meaning "to be holding/having." This is particularly common when the possession is tangible and deliberate.

- Example: 저는 그 책을 [object marker] 가지고 있어요 (jeoneun geu chaegeul gajigo isseoyo) - I have that book (implying I possess it actively).

- **Adjectival Predicates: Descriptive Possession:** In certain contexts, possession can be expressed using adjectival predicates that describe a state of being. This is often used for inherent qualities or conditions.

- Example: 저는 아파요 (jeoneun apayo) - I am sick (conveying I have an illness).

- **-에 있다/없다 (-e itda/eopda) for Location/Availability:** Similar to Uzbek's use of "bor/yo'q" to indicate location, Korean uses "에 있다/없다" to express whether something is present in a specific place.

- Example: 식당이 여기에 있어요 (sikdang-i yeogie isseoyo) - There is a restaurant here. (A restaurant exists here).

- Example: 제 책이 가방에 없어요 (je chae-gi gabang-e eopseoyo) - My book is not in the bag.

- Idiomatic Expressions: Korean abounds with idiomatic expressions that indirectly convey possession or lack thereof. Translating these requires careful attention to their specific meanings.

- Example: 돈이 궁해요 (don-i gunghaeyo) - I am short on money (literally, money is tight). This is a very common idiom for lacking funds.

2. Alienable vs. Inalienable Possession:

The distinction between alienable (easily transferable) and inalienable (inherent or difficult to separate) possession influences the choice of Korean expressions.

- Alienable Possession: For easily transferable objects, constructions with "있다" or "가지고 있다" are common.

- Inalienable Possession: For body parts, family members, or inherent qualities, Korean often favors possessive pronouns and direct subject-object relationships, or adjectival predicates as previously mentioned. For example, "나는 손이 있어요 (naneun soni isseoyo)" (I have hands) is grammatically correct but less natural than "내 손이 있어요 (nae soni isseoyo)" (My hands exist) or the more common "손이 있어요 (soni isseoyo)" (I have hands - the 'my' is implied)

3. Pragmatic Considerations:

The choice of Korean expression is also influenced by pragmatic factors:

- Emphasis: Using "가지고 있다" emphasizes the active possession or control over the object.
- Formality: Certain constructions, such as using honorific verb endings, increase the level of politeness. The register selected influences which construction should be applied.
- Context: The surrounding conversation and the speaker's intentions play a crucial role in determining the most appropriate expression. Is the speaker simply stating a fact, making a request, or expressing an emotion?
- Emotional Coloring: Depending on the register (or level of politeness) selected, using certain verb endings, can also influence the emotion conveyed. In an intimate relationship, conjugating differently for emphasis and intonation may highlight closeness between the speakers.

4. Translation Challenges:

Translating Uzbek "bor/yo'q" into Korean requires careful consideration of all these factors. A direct, word-for-word translation can often be grammatically incorrect or semantically inaccurate. A translator must analyze the context, identify the type of possession being expressed, and choose the Korean expression that best captures the intended meaning and pragmatic force. The concepts of "have" and "not have," while seemingly simple, are realized through a diverse range of expressions in Korean. While the core verbs "있다" and "없다" provide the foundation, alternative constructions involving auxiliary verbs, adjectival predicates, and idiomatic phrases offer greater precision and nuance. Understanding the distinction between alienable and inalienable possession, as well as the influence of pragmatic factors such as emphasis, formality, and context, is crucial for accurate translation and effective communication between Uzbek and Korean. This analysis highlights the importance of moving beyond simple word-for-word

translation and considering the broader semantic and grammatical landscape to capture the full range of meaning expressed in each language. Future research could focus on corpus-based studies analyzing the frequency and distribution of these various expressions in different communicative contexts to further refine our understanding of Korean possessive constructions.

CONCLUSION

Translating Uzbek's "bor/yo'q" into Korean necessitates a nuanced understanding beyond the surface level equivalents of itta and eopda. The choice hinges on the specific type of possession – alienable, inalienable, locative, or abstract – and the intended pragmatic effect. Constructions using gajigo itda, adjectival predicates, and idiomatic expressions further expand the expressive range. Accurate translation demands careful consideration of context, formality, and desired emphasis. Ultimately, mastering the Korean expression of "have/not have" requires a deep appreciation for the interplay between grammar, semantics, and pragmatics, showcasing the complexities inherent in cross-linguistic communication.

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