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Essay Writing 2

<Women Confined by Men>

There is some unsightliness in the subway. First, it is a man with his legs wide apart on the subway. In a poll of 19,957 netizens by conducted in June by SKY<sup>1</sup>, Some 41.5% of the people surveyed say that they hate a man with his legs wide apart. It takes a first-ranking in bad manner in the subway gloriously and is also public enemy.

Koreans call such a man *Jjeokbulnam* in Korean. It is a newly coined word and the simpler form for the Korean phrase that means such men. When such a man sits beside me, I have to sit making my legs narrower inconveniently. In this case, anybody would want to make pucker up his foot with a huge tongs.

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<sup>1</sup> The Korean cellular company

Second, it is a man who spread a newspaper widely. It may touch a part of someone's body and makes him or her jittery.

The earth is warming, and we should reduce driving a car, so the number of people who use public transportation has increased. But there is a line between seats in the subway, so a person can occupy only one seat. But many men act like the man with legs apart caring nothing, especially a man of my parents' age even if we have a right to sit conveniently.

Recently, KCM, who is a Korean singer, was blamed because he was on the air with his legs quite wide apart. He openly apologized to viewers, but later, he set his legs spread out with others again. A P.D. and editor of the program didn't filter out the scene. The netizen, who watched the scene, asked the Broad Ethics Commission to

discipline him and shift the director.

But the game is not over. The behavior of the netizen caused an unexpected wave of another netizen, who is man. Especially I never forget the claim that it is a matter of individual judgement whether setting his legs wide apart is ugly to look at or not ugly to do. That is, a difference of sight.

There is an advertisement for a cell phone produced by SKY. The advertisement emphasized that the cell phone is well-mannered by using a big tongs. The tongs make legs of wide-legged man narrower. After many men saw the advertisement, they became very angry. They said that many women didn't understand a man psychologically and such an advertisement was sex-discrimination. But, during researching information, I was surprised that No every men agree with man whose legs apart. That is, there are some

men who don't agree with a man with legs apart. The netizen "italy91" talk about it.

He said that most men sits with legs apart because Confucian ideas. In former days, setting one's legs apart meant masculine, so many men set their legs apart in order to show off their masculine and then, they were called a suitable for a commander in chief. On the other hand, women have to draw in their legs, and in that case, they were praised their womanliness. If a woman sits with her legs apart, she would be called "unwomanly" and be scolded because it is ugly to look at.

Here, when we see a man with legs apart, can you tell him to make legs narrower boldly? No. In ancient time, an authority and status of men had superiority over women, and women were disregarded prevalently. A difference of

position between men and women caused a patriarchy<sup>2</sup>. Because of the feminist movement for education, job, and suffrage, sex-discrimination was abolished. But, for a long time, the idea that men are superior to women was prevalent, so the Ministry of Gender Equality is still conducting a campaign for a sexual equality.

For example, At the International Women's Day this year, the Korea Sexual Violence Relief Center activists distributed handbills to passenger holding up pickets in a subway. They announced a public enemy divided into 4 types; *Jjeokbulnam*, *Pyeolchilnam*, *Chujeobnam*, *Molsangnam*. First, as I mentioned, the *Pyeolchilnam* is a person who causes another person sitting next to one inconvenience by spreading a newspaper widely. Second, *Chujeobnam* is a person who gives others sexual unpleasant feeling by a physical contact. Lastly, *Molsangnam* is a person who

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<sup>2</sup> a system in which men have all or most of the power and importance in a society or group

supports a disgraceful conductor and blames a victim.

Then, after we saw that kinds of people, you may do nothing but just see him, aren't you? Why couldn't we say to such a man? Who could do readily? Of course, the the Korea Sexual Violence Relief Center activists prepared guidelines for a man's conduct. Men were advised to put their hands on their knees modestly, draw in their legs, and pay attention. Women were also advised to find their own energy, yell out, report to the police, and share for their sexual violence experience, etc. But I think it is ineffective. If I were placed in that situation, I couldn't do anything and couldn't know what to do. May be I would not remember the advices from the Korea Sexual Violence Relief Center activists. We have lived with an unconscious thought that men are superior to women.

We can find an unconscious sexual discrimination in a

language. First, Ms. Jung took two articles as examples in the book written by her: *Women Confined by Men*.

A fairy of court is a divorced woman?

Russian beautiful tennis player Anna Kournikova was betrayed that she had married and divorced by her ex-boyfriend..... She, who had no won in the tournament, took the 8<sup>th</sup> international ranking at one time, but after that time, she failed to realized the anticipated result. (The Han-Kook Daily News, March, 4<sup>th</sup>, 2003)

The soccer player Hari is a tough guy involved with many women.

Several days ago, he also divorced second wife, so his love life is very colorful.....

But no everyone hates him because they know that he does not mind eating spicy

Korean foods and spares no effort to learn a difficult Korean language.

(Goodday Sports News, March, 10<sup>th</sup>, 2003)

Ms. Jung said that an experience called a divorce functions to man and woman differently because a woman with the past is dirty, on the other hand, a man with the past is brilliant. That is, experience of woman is disgrace and

in the man case, it is his pride and joy. Such an experience is a taboo word to woman. It is not only Korean case. A couple of years ago, in America, a judge Kimba Wood could not be a Minister of Justice. One of the reasons is that the media made a public disclosure that she had worked as waitress for 5 days in Playboy Club.

Second, Ms. Jung said that man represented woman. Look at the sentence: Everyone has his own business. Everyone means plural men and women, but a "his" is used as a pronoun. Here, we can't lay the blame on speaker because the speaker didn't choose the pronoun, but a grammar prescribes that this pronoun is correct. There are some examples:

1. Englishman's house is his castle.
2. Wie kann man seine Schwangerschaft feststellen?  
(How does a man check whether he gets pregnant or not?)

Above sentence is Germanic. The "man" in this



sentence has to mean woman who can be pregnant, but "seine" (his) is used as a pronoun. Although a word means both sexes, if we use a male pronoun, a male sense would be strong compared with female relatively.

I researched and wrote down about sexism in every life; subway and language. If some men see my essay, he may complain that it is discrimination for men, instead. As I took some examples, an accumulated history of language is just grammar. In these days, a grammar has been arranged and changed for a long time. The speed of the change is low, so we can't notice the change of a grammar. In the same manner, women would be free in the future. Complying with the book, *Sex-role and Woman*, a writer Ms. Im says that the younger they are, the more women is interested in their role and psychological characteristics. I prospect sex-role will develop in the direction of equality.

References

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2. Jeong Hae-jyoun (2003) Sexism. Humanist: Kim Hack-won