

# Reading the Hangeul Letters(Eongan) Exchanged between Royal Family Members During the Joseon Dynasty

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# I. Digraphia in Joseon Dynasty

# Digraphia in Joseon Dynasty

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- Diglossia

“A language structure in which two or more variants coexist in a single language society with different statuses”

- In the context of **writing**, Korea demonstrates a form of Diglossia, particularly **Digraphia**.

upper class: 한문 (Han-mun, Chinese Character)

lower class: 언문/한글 (Eonmun/Hangeul, Korean Character)

# Creation of Hangeul

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- Hangeul
  - The Great King Sejong created 'Hunminjeongeum' (=Hangeul) in 1443.
  - As a result, a new means was created to **comprehensively** transcribe the Korean language.
  - Hangeul: 'Hunminjeongeum', 'Eonmun'

# Creation of Hangeul

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- Joseon came to have two writing scripts.
  - 1) Chinese Character
  - 2) Hangeul

# Status of Hangeul

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- Status of Hangeul was not high during the Joseon period
  - Hangeul documents did not have legal validity
- King Kojong's '공문식'(KongMunSik, 1894)

“법률·칙령은 모두 국문(國文)을 기본으로 하고

(=laws and regulations should be based on Hangeul )

한문(漢文)으로 번역을 붙이거나 혹은 국한문(國漢文)을 혼용한다”

(=Translate into Chinese characters or mix Hangeul and Chinese characters.)

# Status of Hangeul

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- Therefore, Korea has not been able to achieve a method of using only Hangeul.  
‘순국문체 (‘SunKukMunChe)’, ‘순한글체(SunHangeulChe)’  
pure + Korean Sentence /Hangeul + Style
- There were various ways to write sentences in the early 20th century, as follows.





# Status of Hangeul

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- During the Joseon Dynasty, the status of Hangeul was not high.

- Chinese character - ideogram

Hangeul - phonetic alphabet

=> the common people of Joseon learned and used Hangeul

- Hangeul was a useful means of communication for both those who knew Chinese characters and those who did not.

## 2. Where Hangul was Used



# What was Hangeul used for?

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- Currently remaining Korean literature

Religious books (Buddhist books, Confucian books, Taoist books, Catholic books, etc.), medical books, foreign language study books (Chinese study books, Mongolian language study book, Japanese study book, Manchu language study book), military books, agricultural books, educational books, literature, **Hangeul letters**

-> Hangeul was used to translate books written in Classical Chinese and for the creation of literary works, and was also used in private areas such as letters.



僧승祇謁는 그 지엄스數승이라호는  
 마리라劫劫은時生節점이라호는  
 디호<sup>뽕</sup> 隆<sup>뽕</sup> 이<sup>왕</sup> 도<sup>뽕</sup> 의<sup>뽕</sup> 야<sup>뽕</sup> 야<sup>뽕</sup> 사<sup>뽕</sup>  
 隆<sup>뽕</sup> 삼<sup>뽕</sup> 인<sup>뽕</sup> 호<sup>뽕</sup> 뽕<sup>뽕</sup> 提<sup>뽕</sup> 평<sup>뽕</sup> 隆<sup>뽕</sup> 삼<sup>뽕</sup> 埵<sup>뽕</sup> 堂<sup>뽕</sup> 一<sup>뽕</sup> 라<sup>뽕</sup> 호<sup>뽕</sup> 마  
 를<sup>뽕</sup> 조<sup>뽕</sup> 러<sup>뽕</sup> 니<sup>뽕</sup> 르<sup>뽕</sup> 니<sup>뽕</sup> 호<sup>뽕</sup> 뽕<sup>뽕</sup> 提<sup>뽕</sup> 평<sup>뽕</sup> 는<sup>뽕</sup> 부<sup>뽕</sup> 터<sup>뽕</sup> 도<sup>뽕</sup> 평<sup>뽕</sup>  
 理<sup>뽕</sup> 링<sup>뽕</sup> 오<sup>뽕</sup> 隆<sup>뽕</sup> 삼<sup>뽕</sup> 埵<sup>뽕</sup> 堂<sup>뽕</sup> 는<sup>뽕</sup> 衆<sup>뽕</sup> 중<sup>뽕</sup> 생<sup>뽕</sup> 싱<sup>뽕</sup> 을<sup>뽕</sup> 일<sup>뽕</sup> 을<sup>뽕</sup>  
 卍<sup>뽕</sup> 니<sup>뽕</sup> 부<sup>뽕</sup> 터<sup>뽕</sup> 도<sup>뽕</sup> 평<sup>뽕</sup> 理<sup>뽕</sup> 링<sup>뽕</sup> 로<sup>뽕</sup> 衆<sup>뽕</sup> 중<sup>뽕</sup> 생<sup>뽕</sup> 싱<sup>뽕</sup> 濟<sup>뽕</sup> 정<sup>뽕</sup>  
 渡<sup>뽕</sup> 평<sup>뽕</sup> 호<sup>뽕</sup> 시<sup>뽕</sup> 는<sup>뽕</sup> 카<sup>뽕</sup> 르<sup>뽕</sup> 물<sup>뽕</sup> 호<sup>뽕</sup> 뽕<sup>뽕</sup>  
 隆<sup>뽕</sup> 삼<sup>뽕</sup> 이<sup>뽕</sup> 시<sup>뽕</sup> 다<sup>뽕</sup> 호<sup>뽕</sup> 는<sup>뽕</sup> 니<sup>뽕</sup> 라<sup>뽕</sup> 나<sup>뽕</sup> 라<sup>뽕</sup> 호<sup>뽕</sup> 아<sup>뽕</sup> 수<sup>뽕</sup>  
 맛<sup>뽕</sup> 디<sup>뽕</sup> 시<sup>뽕</sup> 고<sup>뽕</sup> 도<sup>뽕</sup> 理<sup>뽕</sup> 링<sup>뽕</sup> 비<sup>뽕</sup> 호<sup>뽕</sup> 라<sup>뽕</sup> 나<sup>뽕</sup> 아<sup>뽕</sup> 가<sup>뽕</sup> 사<sup>뽕</sup>  
 瞿<sup>뽕</sup>曇<sup>뽕</sup> 婆<sup>뽕</sup> 羅<sup>뽕</sup> 門<sup>뽕</sup> 을<sup>뽕</sup> 맛<sup>뽕</sup> 나<sup>뽕</sup> 사<sup>뽕</sup> 공<sup>뽕</sup>

<<월인석보>>(1459)  
 (Wolinseokbo)



<<삼강행실도>>(1481)

(Samganghaengsildo)

- stories about devoted sons, loyalist, virtuous women

一 日 離 了 王 京 是 這 月 初  
 我 幾 時 離 了 王 京 是 這 月 初  
 你 往 北 京 去 那 裏 去 你  
 大 哥 你 從 那 裏 來 今 那 裏 去  
 大 哥 你 從 那 裏 來 今 那 裏 去

최세진의 <<번역노걸대>>(1517)  
 (Beonyeok Nogeoldae written by Choi Se-jin)

大哥，你從那裏來  
 큰 형님 네 어드러로서부터 온다

我從高麗王京來  
 내 高麗 王京으로서부터 오라

如今那裏去?  
 이제 어드러 가는다

# What was Hangeul used for?

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- Jeong Dong-yu (1744-1808)'s 『주영편 (Juyeongpyeon)』
- The Portuguese words recorded in Hangeul

- |                                    |                                |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • 天(“sky”)      실우      céu        | 地(“earth”)      세라      terra  |
| • 男(“man”)      오물네      homen     | 女(“woman”)      몰열      mulher |
| • 山(“Mountain”)      몬세      monte | 風(“wind”)      민쑤      vento   |
| • 日(“sun”)      솔      sol         |                                |



# What was Hangeul used for?

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- |       |     |          |    |      |           |
|-------|-----|----------|----|------|-----------|
| • 1   | 운안  | uma      | 3  | 드레시  | três      |
| • 4   | 과들우 | quatro   | 5  | 싱쿠   | cinco     |
| • 6   | 서이시 | seis     | 7  | 세셰   | sete      |
| • 8   | 오츄  | oito     | 9  | 노베   | nove      |
| • 40  | 퀄인싸 | quarenta | 50 | 싱고인싸 | cinquenta |
| • 60  | 시세싸 | sessenta | 70 | 신세싸  | setenta   |
| • 80  | 오천싸 | oitenta  | 90 | 로변싸  | noventa   |
| • 100 | 운신싸 | um cento |    |      |           |

# What is 'Eongan'(언간/ 諺簡)?

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- ‘**Eon**mun(언문/ 諺文) **Gan**chal’(간찰/ 簡札) = EonGan (언간)



Hangeul



Letter

- Eongan (언간): a letter written in Hangeul

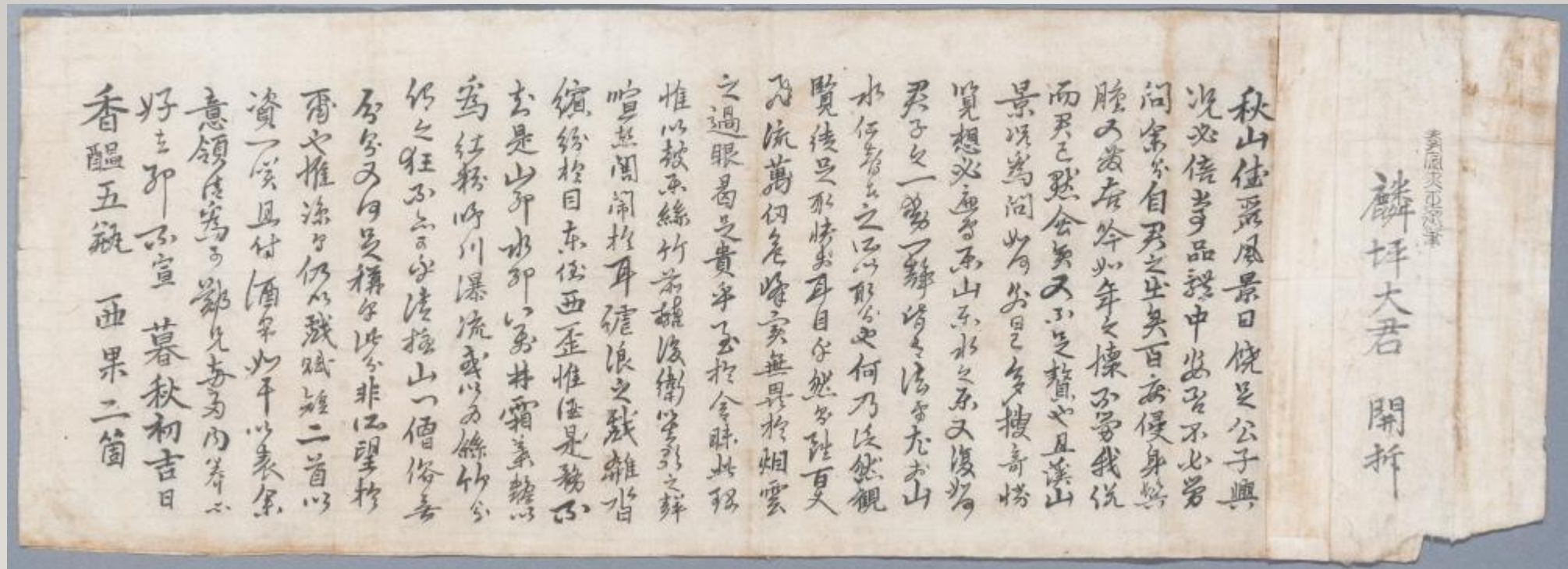
# Who mainly used this Eongan?

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- the noble class exchanged letters written in classical Chinese.(Han-mun Gan-chal)
  - Eongan was used by **everyone**  
(royal family, nobles, commoners, and the lower class)
- one significant feature of Hangeul letters:  
either the sender or the recipient was a woman.

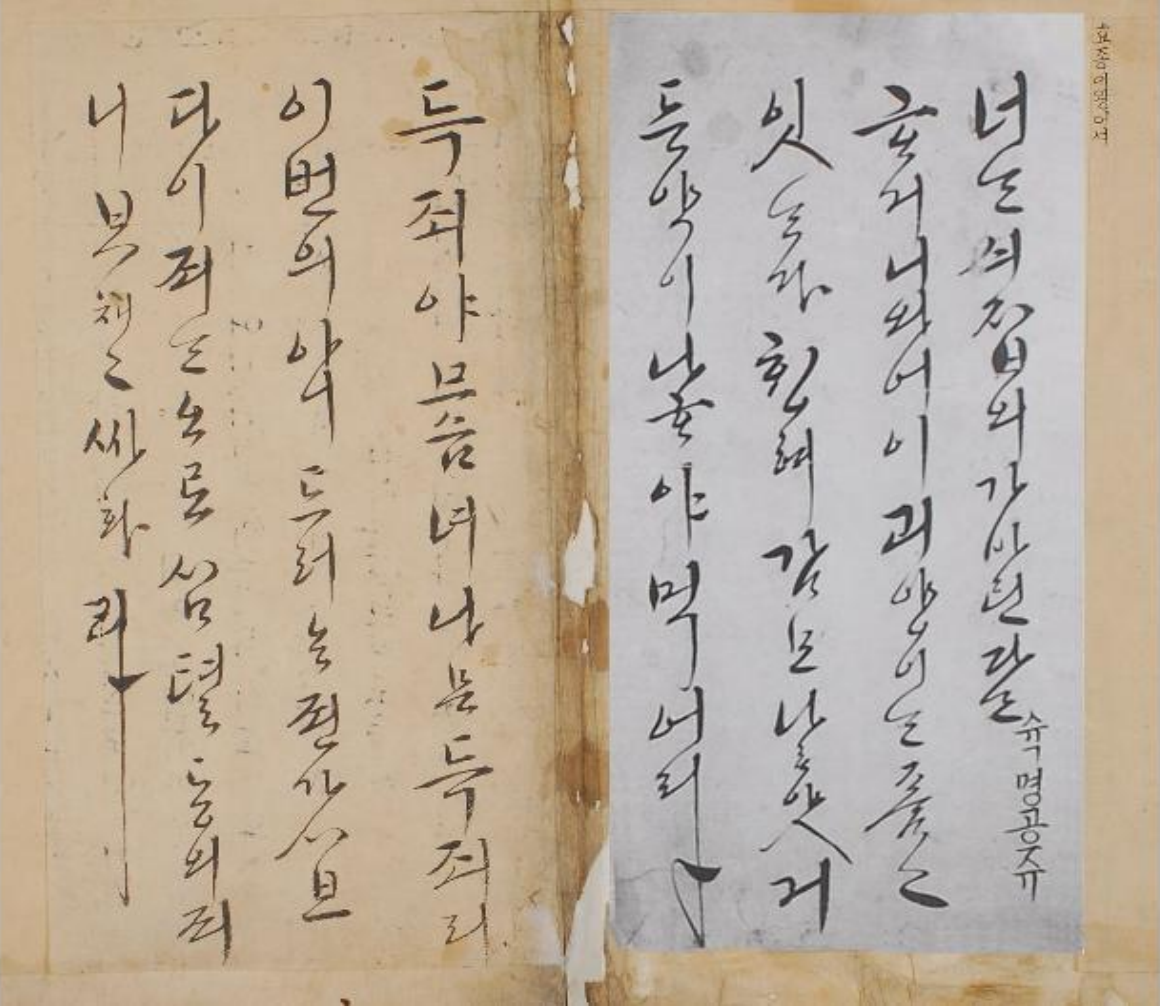
# Who mainly used this Eongan?

- a classical Chinese letter written by King Hyojong to his younger brother



# Who mainly used this Eongan?

- Eongan written by King Hyojong to his daughter.



# How Eongan was discovered

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- How was this Eongan discovered?
  - by being placed in a coffin with the body
  - collect Eongan of their ancestors and compile them into a book

# How Eongan was discovered



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Hangul letter discovered in 2011 while moving the grave of Na Shin-geol's wife.

(image source: Cultural Heritage Administration)

### 3. Nobility Hangeul Letters (Sadaebuga Eongan, 사대부가 언간)



# Eongan of the noble family (사대부가 언간)

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- the representative of Eongan: the noble family and the royal family's Eongan
- **Eongan of the noble family (=Sadaebuga Eongan)**
  - the late 15<sup>th</sup> ~ 20<sup>th</sup> century
  - approximately 2,000 surviving examples

## Eongan of the noble family :

① the excavated from the tomb of the Shinchang Maeng-ssi

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① the excavated from the tomb of the Shinchang Maeng-ssi / Na Shin-geol Eongan(1490)

(신창 맹씨 묘 출토 언간 / 나신걸 언간)

- written in 1490 by Na Shin-geol(1461 ~ 1524) to his wife
- 2 letters
- the oldest currently existing Hangul letter

Handwritten Korean text in vertical columns, likely a historical document or manuscript. The text is densely packed and written in a cursive style. The columns are arranged from right to left, with approximately 15-20 columns visible. The ink is dark, and the paper shows signs of age and wear.

Eongan of the noble family :

② the excavated from the tomb of the Suncheon Kim-ssi

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② the excavated from the tomb of the Suncheon Kim-ssi(16<sup>th</sup> century)

(순천 김씨 묘 출토 언간)

- exchanged between Chae Moo-i(1537 ~ 1594 )' s second wife, Suncheon Kim-ssi,(?~1580년대) and her family
- 189 letters

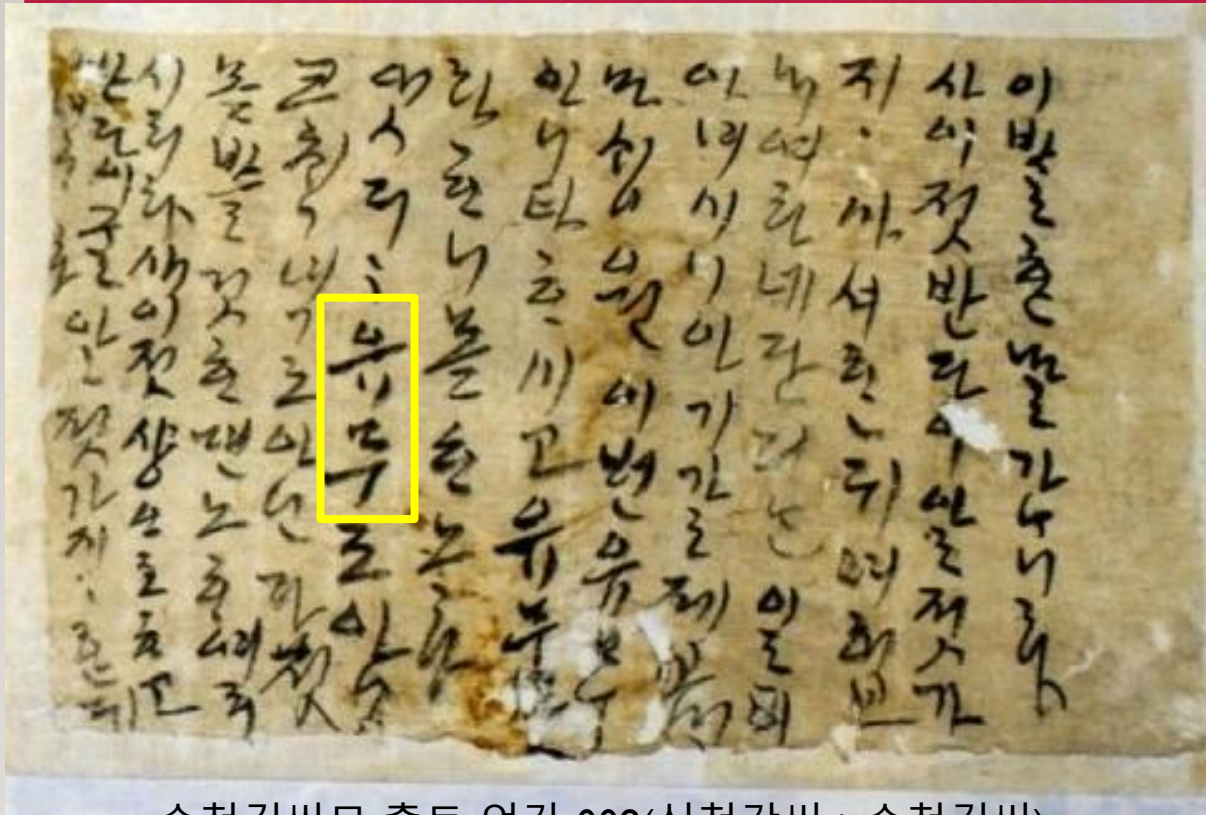
Eongan of the noble family :

② the excavated from the tomb of the Suncheon Kim-ssi



# Eongan of the noble family :

## ② the excavated from the tomb of the Suncheon Kim-ssi



순천김씨묘 출토 언간 008(신천강씨->순천김씨)

이빨 혼 말 가느니라  
사이젯 반다이 알젯 가  
지" 사셔 혼디 녀허 보  
내여라 네 단디는 일티  
아녀시니 야기 갈 제 보내  
마 싱원 이번 유무  
아니타 흐시고 유무 말  
라 하니 못흐노라  
엇디" 유무도 아니  
코 칙녁도 아닌다 젓  
몬 빨 것 흐면 노하여 흐  
시리라 새이젯 상으로 흐고  
반다이 굴알젯 가지" 혼디  
녀하라

조항범(1998:67)의 판독문

## Eongan of the noble family :

### ② the excavated from the tomb of the Suncheon Kim-ssi

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- 너희는 나날 사랑는가 너겨도 이싱애 얼굴만 인노라 (...)

겨지비란 거시 오래 사롬만 사오나온 이리 업세라 (29번 편지, 신천강씨-)순천김씨)

(= Even if you consider me alive, I am merely physically present in this world.

Women living long is a very tragic event.)

- 그 처비라 어든 거슨 스랑을 아니하고 그거시 망녕되고 어린 녀이니오 이는 간사코 괴 만코  
즈시괴 마리나 종의 마리나 죄 할오 오로 그 녀니게 드리와다 자내 거슬 맞디고 스랑하니  
이룰 어니를 두어사 하릴고 식베라 (31번 편지, 신천강씨-)순천김씨)

(= That woman(a second wife of husband) is thoughtless and foolish, cunning and dishonest. She criticizes both her own children and the servants. The husband sticks to her, entrusting her with his possessions and loving her, so I wonder what to do about it.)

## Eongan of the noble family :

### ③ the excavated from the tomb of Lee Eung-tae

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#### ③ the excavated from the tomb of Lee Eung-tae's grave (1586)

- The letter from Lee Eung-tae(1556~1586) 's wife to her husband, who passed away first
- 1 letter
- 'also called 'Won-i Mom's Letter'



## Eongan of the noble family :

### ③ the excavated from the tomb of Lee Eung-tae

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[판독문]

자내 상해 날드려 닐오디 돌히 머리 세도록 사다가 흙씩 죽자 하시더니  
엇디하야 나를 두고 자내 몬져 가시는 (...)

[현대역]

당신이 늘 나에게 말하기를, “둘이 머리가 하얗게 세도록 살다가 함께 죽자”라고 하시더니  
어찌하여 나를 두고 당신 먼저 가시는가.

(=You always said to me, Let's live together until our hair turns gray and then we die together.

Why do you go ahead and leave me behind?)

## Eongan of the noble family :

### ③ the excavated from the tomb of Lee Eung-tae

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[판독문]

미양 자내드려 내 널오디 혼디 누어서 이보소 님도 우리 ㄱ티 서르 에엿싸 너겨 스랑흐리  
님도 우리 ㄱ튼가 흐야 자내드려 니르더니 엇디 그런 이를 싱각디 아녀 나를 버리고 몬져 가시논고 (...)

[현대역]

늘 당신과 함께 누워서 말하기를, "남도 우리같이 서로 어여빠 여기며 사랑하겠는가. 남도 우리 같을까."  
라고 당신에게 말했는데, 어찌 그런 일을 생각지 않고 나를 버리고 먼저 가시는가.

(=Always lying down with you, I said, "Will others respect and love each other like we do? Are others similar to us?" How could you leave me first without even thinking about such things?)

Eongan of the noble family :

③ the excavated from the tomb of Lee Eung-tae

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[판독문]

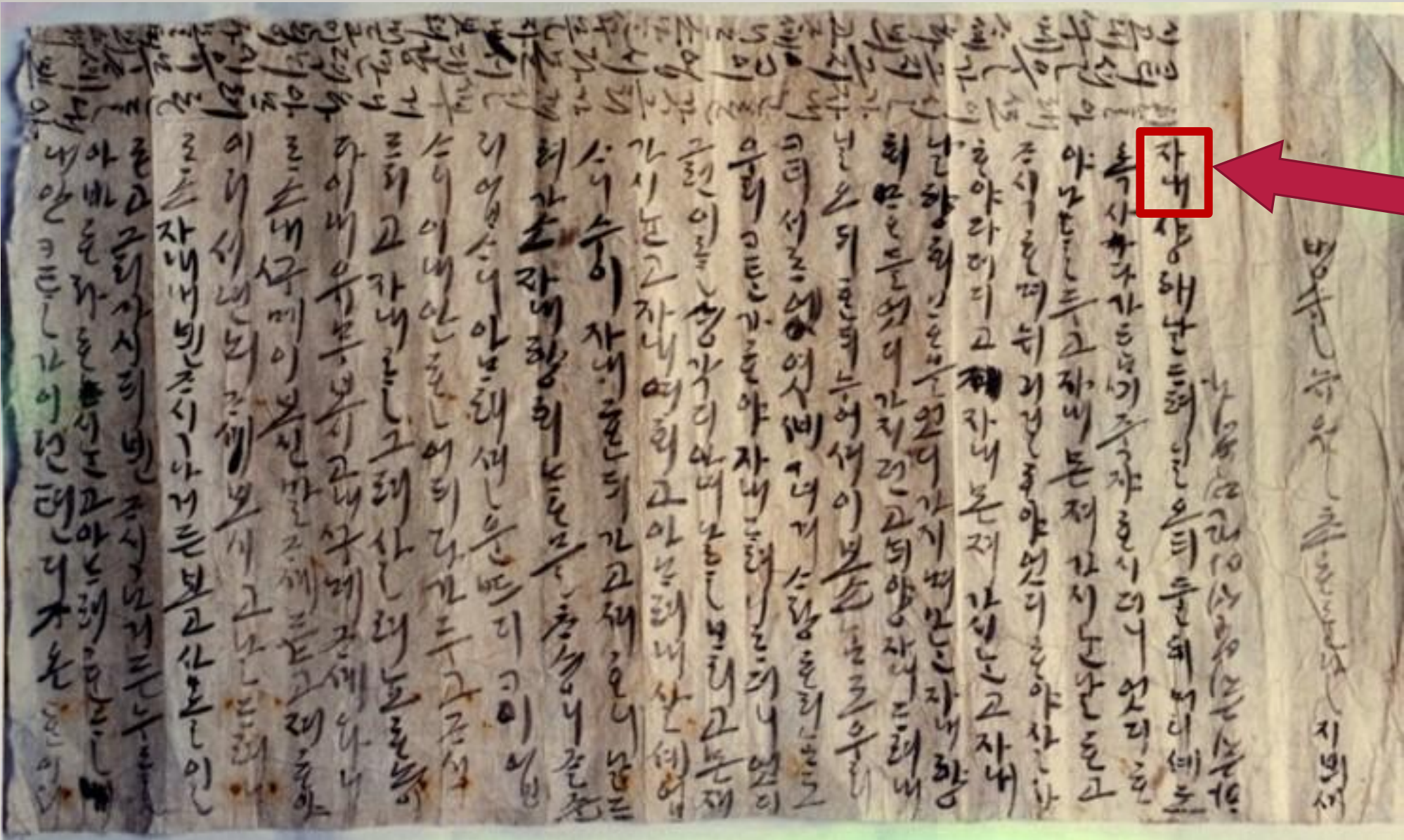
유무 보시고 내 꾸메 즈세 와 니르소 (...) 빈 즈식 나거든 누를 아바 흐라 흐시논고

[현대역]

편지를 보시면 내 꿈에 와서 자세하게 말해주오. 뱃속에 있는 아이가 태어나면 누구를 아버지라 부르라고 하겠는가.

(=If you look at the letter, please come into my dreams and tell me in detail.

When the baby in my womb is born, who should he call father?)



‘자내’(Ja-nae)  
used as a term  
for a wife to call  
her husband.

## Eongan of the noble family :

### ④ Hyeonpung Kwak-ssi Eongan

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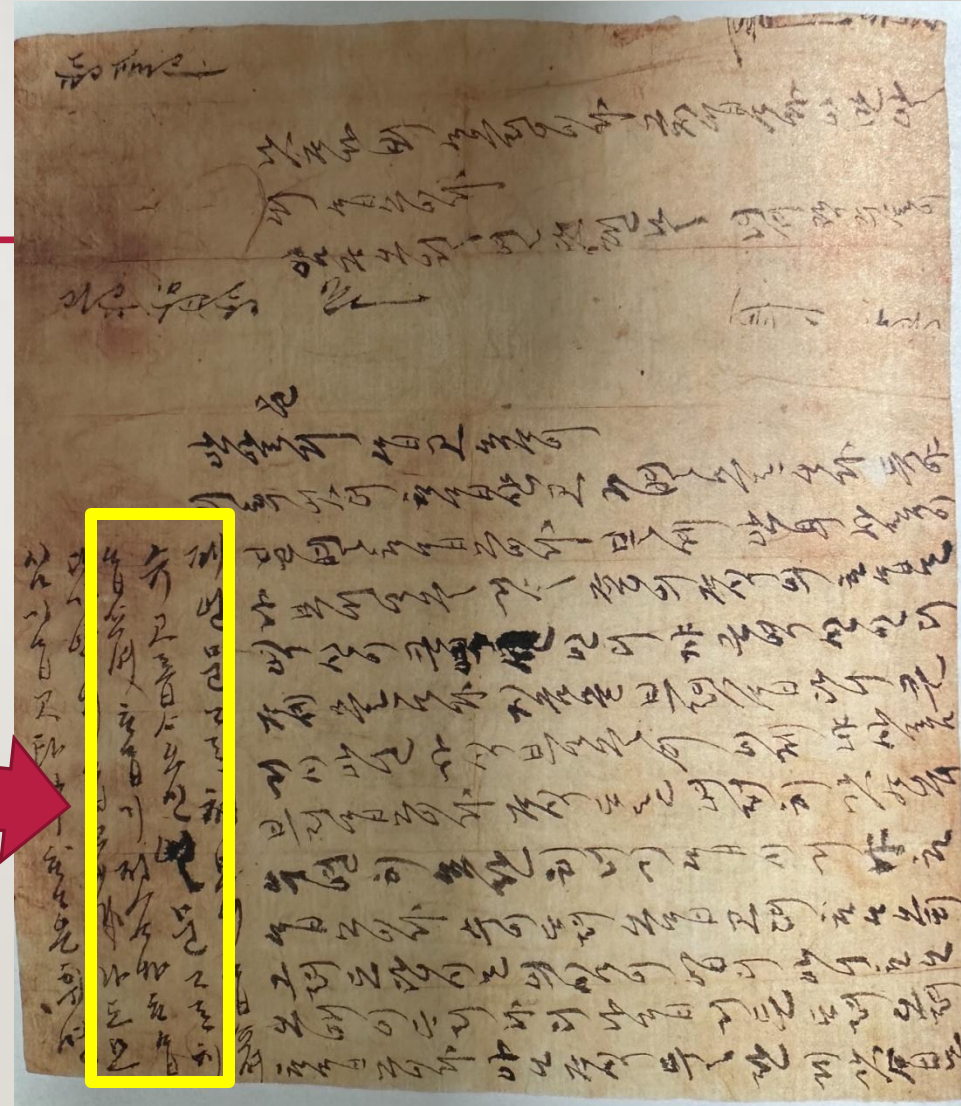
#### ④ Hyeonpung Kwak-ssi Eongan(17<sup>th</sup> century)

- letters that Kwak Ju(1569 ~ 1617) exchanged with his family
- about 180 letters
- the most numerous letters were sent by Kwak Ju to his wife, Lady Ha[1580-1652 (estimated)].

## Eongan of the noble family : ④ Hyeonpung Kwak-ssi Eongan

- A letter from Kwak Ju to his mother-in-law
- children from noble families learned Hangeul from an early age.

**언문 가르치옵쇼셔**  
(=Teach your children  
Hangeul, please.)



## Eongan of the noble family : ④ Hyeonpung Kwak-ssi Eongan

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- A letter from Kwak Ju to his wife

“대임이는 걷는가. 니러셔기는 즈조 흐는가. 일시도 닛디 못하여 눈어 암암하여 흐노.

철네는 쾌히 성하며 복네는 나를 싱각는가. 더근듯도 닛디 못하여 흐노.

쟈근아기 언문 쾌히 비화 내게 유무 수이 흐라 흐소”

(= Does Dae-im(person's name) walk? Does she often stand up? I can't forget them even for a moment, so my eyes are filled with tears. How is Cheolnye(person's name)? Is Boknye(person's name) thinking of me? I can't forget my children even for a moment.

Tell the little baby to learn Hangeul quickly and write a letter to me quickly.)

## Eongan of the noble family : ④ Hyeonpung Kwak-ssi Eongan

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- A letter from Kwak Ju to his wife

“이 드리 다 그므려 가되 지금 괴쳐기 업스니 아니 드를 그르 헤똥던가. (...)

나는 당시 편히 이쇼디 자내로 하여 일시도 막음 노흔 때 업스니 므슴 원쉬런고 하노.

아마도 편히 겨시다가 아희 시작하여든 즉시즉시 사름 보내소. 기다리고 잇노.”

(=The month is almost over and there has been no sign of it so far, so I guess I miscounted the month.

I am at peace now, but I have never relaxed because of you, so what kind of enemy are you?

Please rest comfortably and send someone immediately when labor begins. I'm waiting.)



## Eongan of the noble family : ④ Hyeonpung Kwak-ssi Eongan

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- A letter from Kwak Ju to his wife

“비록 셋를 또 낳아도 싱심도 모름애 서운이 너기디 마소.

자내 몸이 편할선정 아득큰 관겨티 아니혀여 흐뇌”

(=Even if you give birth to another daughter, don't feel disappointed at all.

As long as you're comfortable with your body, it doesn't matter whether you're having a boy or a girl)

## Eongan of the noble family : ④ Hyeonpung Kwak-ssi Eongan

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- A letter from Kwak Ju to his wife

“대인이는 혼 가지로 더즐 넘고는가”

(=Does Dae-im drink milk well?)

“대임이는 어제 **싱일에 므서슬 몬더 잡던고**. 괴별 몰라 더욱 닛디 몬혀여 흐뇌.”

(=What did Dae-im **grab first at her birthday table** yesterday? I can't forget you even more because I didn't know the news.)

## Eongan of the noble family : ④ Hyeonpung Kwak-ssi Eongan

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‘Doljabi’ (돌잡이)

## 4. Royal Hangeul Letters (Wangsil Eongan, 왕실 언간)

# Eongan of the royal family members

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- the Eongan of royal family members (왕실 언간, 궁중 언간)
  - letter made by a royal person, such as a king, queen, prince, or princess, as the sender
  - about 400 letters
  - late 16<sup>th</sup> century ~ 20<sup>th</sup> century
  - full list: 박부자 외(2014: 74), 『한글이 걸어온 길』, 국립한글박물관.

# Eongan of the royal family members

萬曆三十一年癸卯復月十九日巳時  
 글월보고도든거스그방이어둡고  
 날도陰하니日光도라디거드내親  
 히보고저세기별호마대강用藥함이  
 리이셔도醫官醫女를드려待令하  
 려흐노라분별말라즈연아니도히하  
 라

선조

글월보고도히이시니깃거글월  
 심취양식축보내엇더니본다  
 안엇슴고양안 면즈등이수대로보내  
 조아우 안조아우안만 노라  
 안조아우안만 조아우안만  
 조아우안만 조아우안만

효종-숙명공주

글월은보은공을히이시니기스거글며보은뜻은반기  
 노라나안디여타살은이외공공서변은글기엇라하심  
 서글은라너제적너글월은보은뜻은공의우며주너글  
 모를공의에머글거글은보내여글다손지르본리우  
 려글은공의라히이엇디는공의보은뜻은공의가서  
 여글은공의보은뜻은공의보은뜻은공의보은뜻은  
 글월은보은공을히이시니기스거글며보은뜻은반기

인선왕후

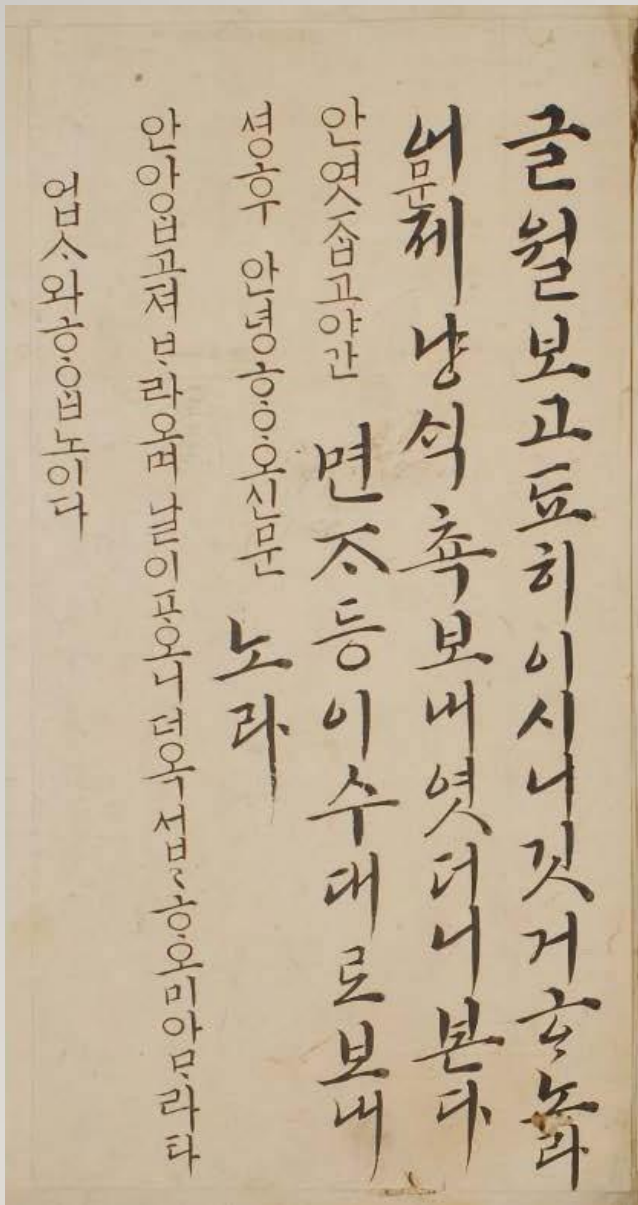
글월은보은공을히이시니기스거글며보은뜻은반기  
 노라나안디여타살은이외공공서변은글기엇라하심  
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 모를공의에머글거글은보내여글다손지르본리우  
 려글은공의라히이엇디는공의보은뜻은공의가서  
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 글월은보은공을히이시니기스거글며보은뜻은반기

명성왕후

# Eongan of the royal family members

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- What is the reason for the small number of royal family's Hangeul letter?
  - a **taboo** related to Eongan
    - 1) the handwriting of the king or queen should not be left in the civilian society.
      - > return to the palace / wash in water
    - 2) it was not allowed for letters from the civilian society to remain in the palace.
      - > write the response on the margins of the received letter



- Letters exchanged between Princess Sookmyeong (Hyojong's third daughter) and Hyojong (1619-1659, 17th king of Joseon)

[Question]

- How many fonts are in this letter?
- Why did multiple people write one letter?
- Which is the princess's handwriting, and which is the king's handwriting?

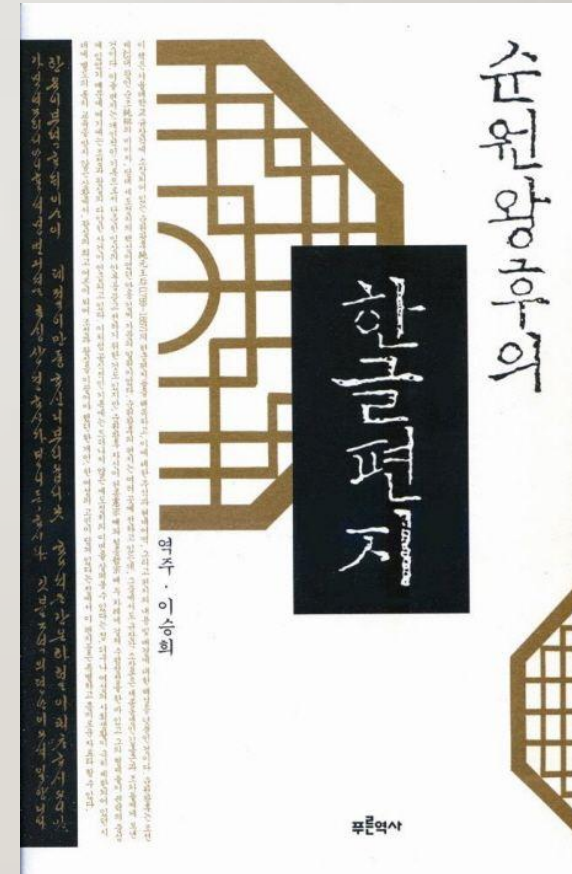
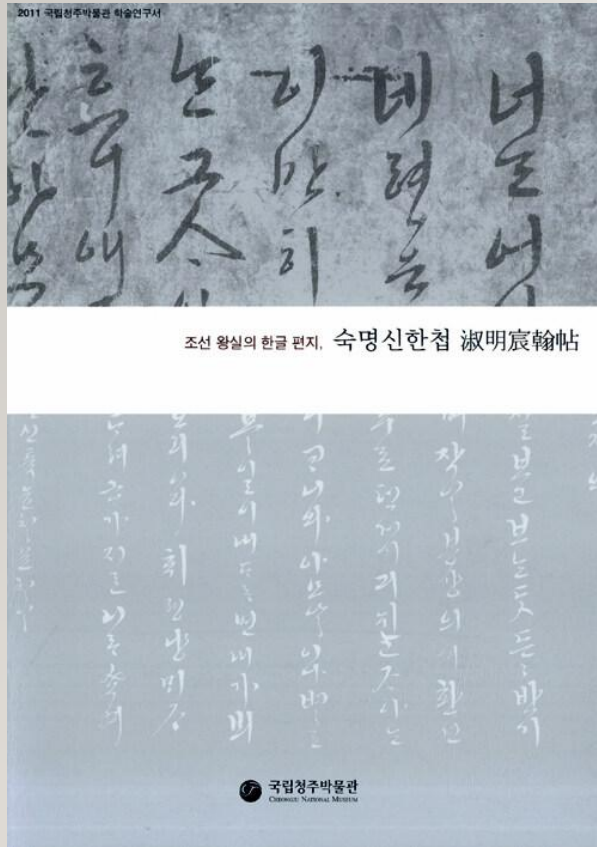


# Eongan of the royal family members

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- 17<sup>th</sup> century
  - 『Sookmyeong Sinhancheop』: letters received by princess Sukmyeong(1640~1699)
  - 『Sukhwi Sinhancheop』: letters received by princess Sukhwi(1642~1696)
- 18<sup>th</sup> century
  - Jeongjo Eongan
    - a letter that King Jeongjo (1752~1800) sent to his maternal aunt
- 18<sup>th</sup>~19<sup>th</sup> century
  - Queen Sunwon Eongan
    - a letter sent by Queen Sunwon(1789~1857) to her family

# Eongan of the royal family members



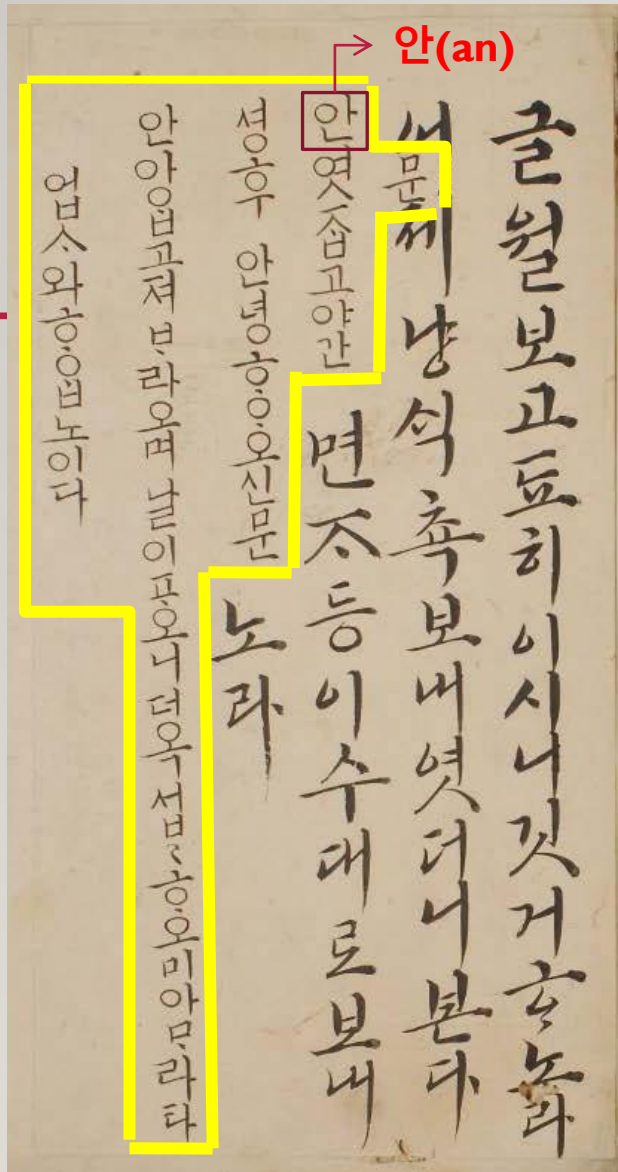


## Eongan of the royal family members

① 『Sookmyung Sinhanchheop』

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- a collection of letters received by Princess Sukmyeong
- 67 letters



## Letter from Princess Sookmyung to King Hyojong (1652~1659)

[판본명]

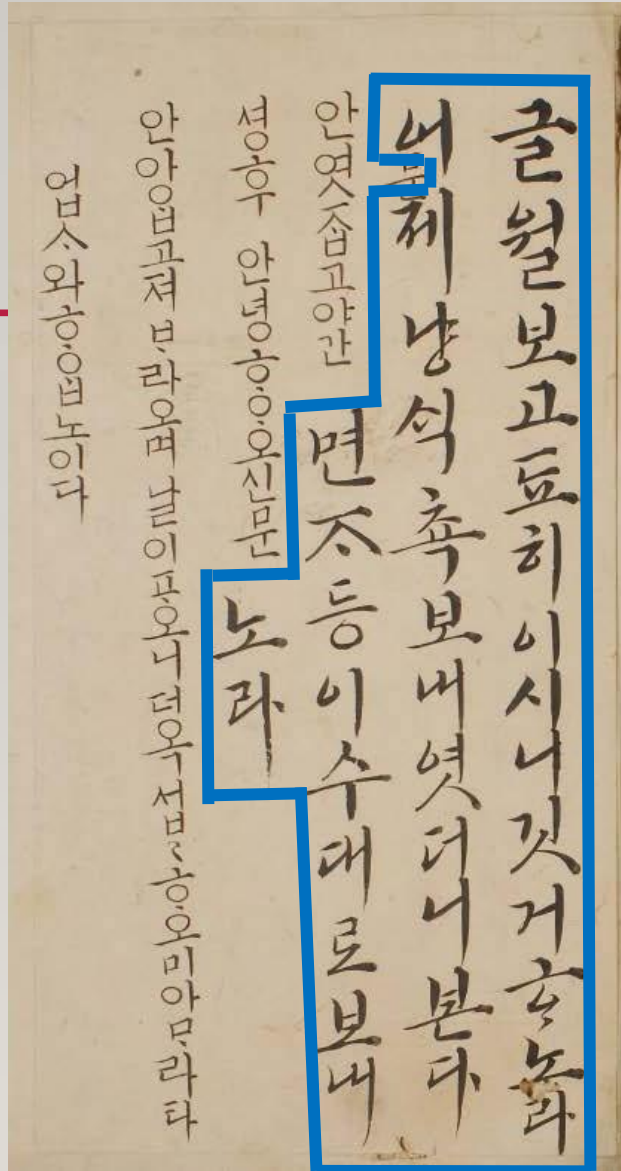
[현대역]

(아버지의) 문안 여쭙고,  
밤사이 (아버지께서는) 안녕하신지 알고자  
바라오며, (뵙지 못한 채) 날이 거듭 지나니  
더욱 섭섭함이 무어라고 할 말 없어 하옵니다.

(=Asking about Father's well-being, I hope to  
know if you're well during the night. As days pass  
by without seeing you, I feel even more sad, and  
I have no words to express it.)

문안 여쭙고야간  
안녕하오신문  
안아고쳐오신문  
와아노이다  
날이  
오니  
더욱  
섭  
아  
미  
라  
타

# Hyojong's Reply to Princess Sookmyeong (1652~1659)



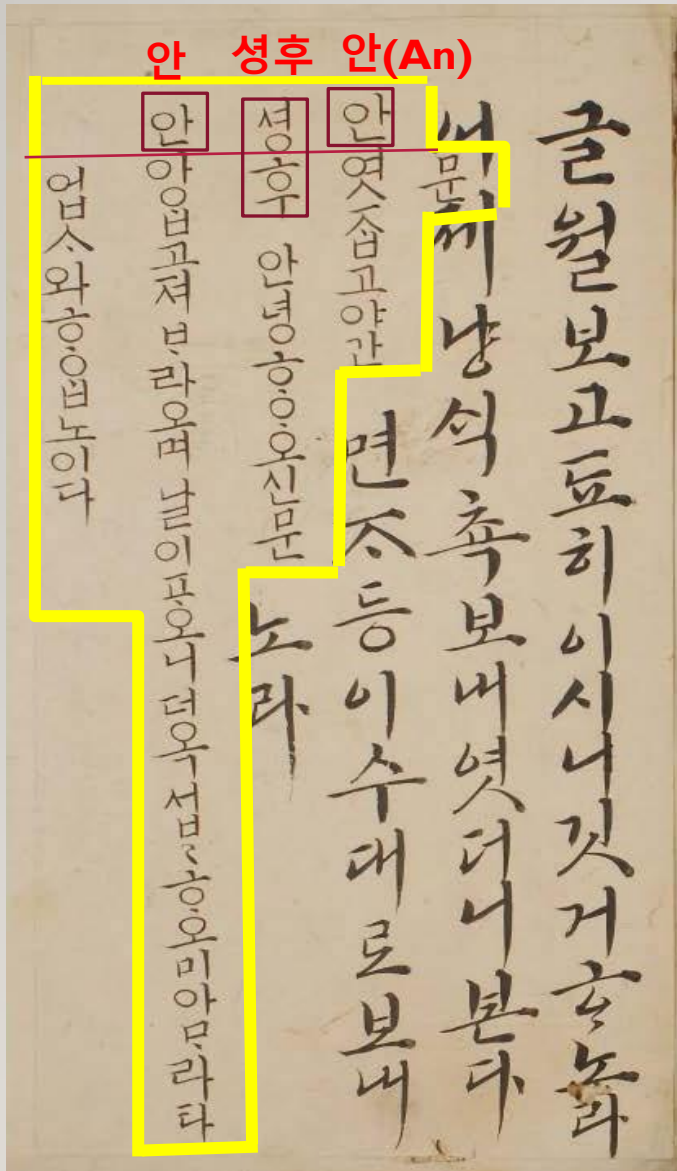
[판네편지]

글월 보고도히 이시니 깃거하노라  
 어제 냥소 축보내엿더니 본다  
 면자등이 수대로 보내  
 노라

[현대역]

편지 보고 잘 있으니 기뻐한다.  
 어제 두 색촉을 보내었는데 보았느냐?  
 면자등을 이 수대로 보낸다.

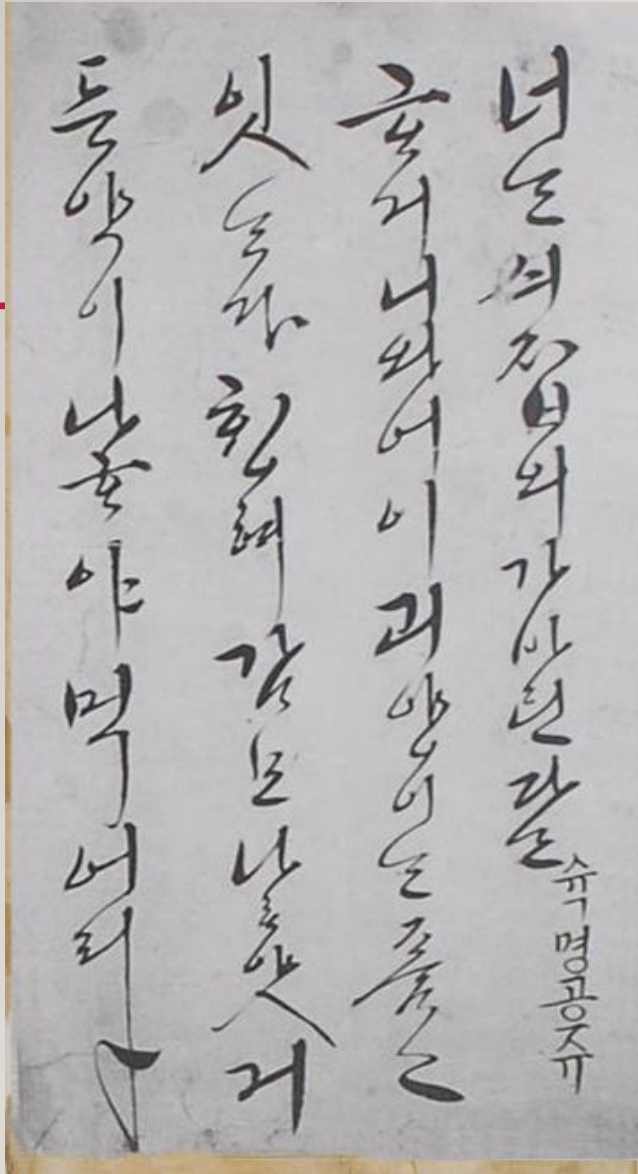
(=I am glad to see your letter and that you are doing well. Did you receive the two colored tips I sent yesterday? I send lantern made of silk according to this number.)



## Letter from Princess Sookmyung to King Hyojong (1652~1659)

which part has letters that are higher than other lines?

- An(‘안’, 安) : comfort
- Seong-hu (성후, 聖候) : comfort of the king



## Letter from Hyojong to Princess Sookmyeong (1652~1659)

[판독문]

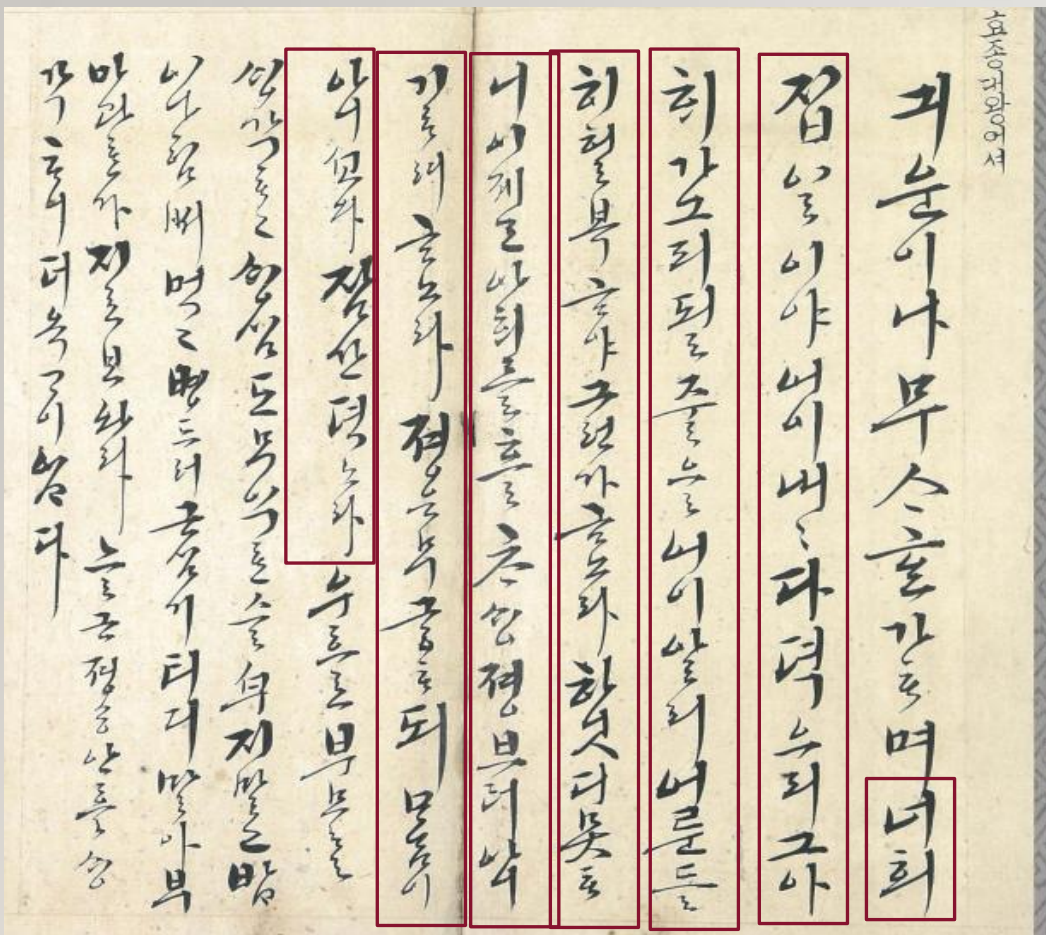
너가 시집의가 바틴다  
 아 거니와 어이 괴양이 품고  
 잇다 엔혀 감모나 야얏거  
 든약이나 야 먹어라

[현대역]

너는 시집을 가서 (어른께 정성을) 바친다고는 하지만, 어찌 고양이는 품고 있느냐? 행여 감기나 걸렸거든 약이나 해 먹어라.

(=You said that you would be devoted to your in-laws after getting married? but how come you are keeping a cat? If you catch a cold, take some medicine.)

# Letter from Hyojong to couple of Princess Sookmyeong (1654~1658)



[판독문]

너희 집 일이야 어이 내내 다 덕으리  
 그 아히가 그리 될 줄을 어이 알리  
 어른들이 험복해야 그런가 흐노라 하 닛디 못흐니  
 이제는 아히들을 치싱 정 브터 아니 기르려 흐노라  
 정은 무궁흐되 므음이 아니소와 잠간 덕노라

[현대역]

How can I possibly write about everything happening at your home?  
 How could anyone have foreseen that the child would depart from  
 this world like that?

It seems the adults are unfortunate. I can't forget it.

Now, I intend not to raise children with affection in this world.

Although overflowing with affection, I am momentarily writing this  
 letter with a heavy heart.



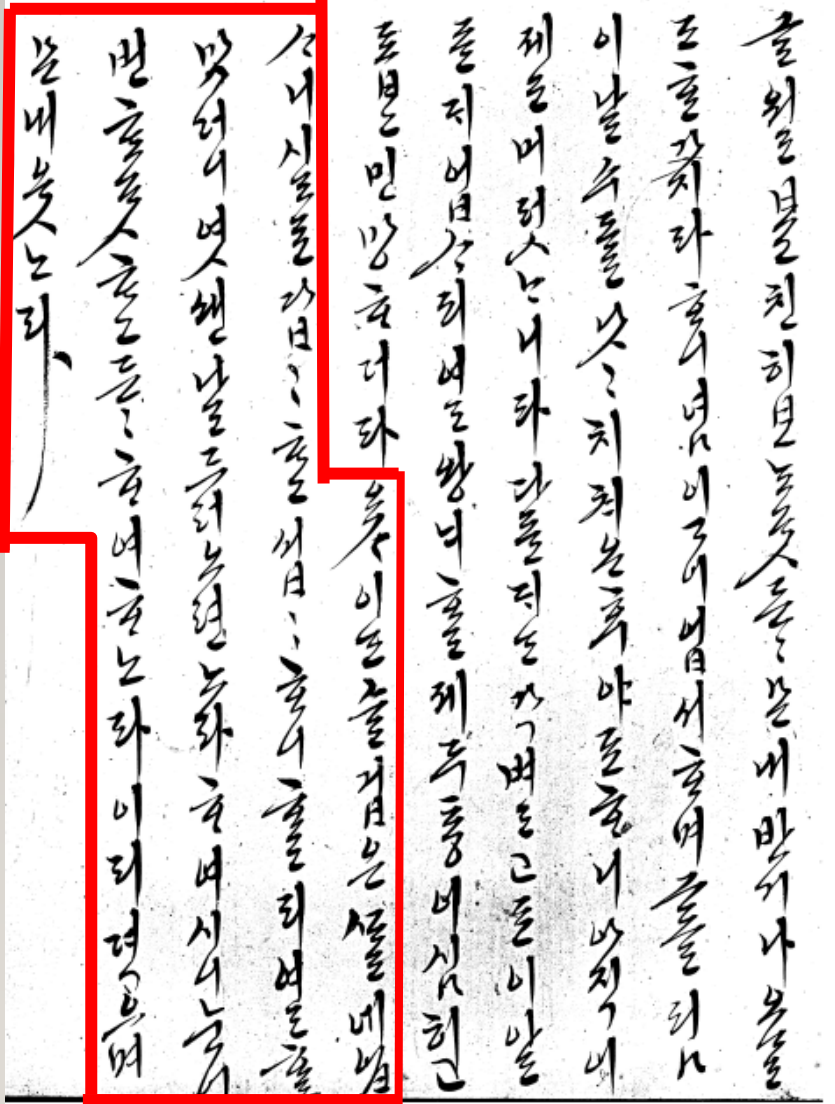


## Eongan of the royal family ② 『Sukhwi Sinhancheop』

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- letters received by Princess Sukhwi
- 35 letters

# Letter From Queen Inseon to Princess Sookhwi(1653~1674)



## [판독문]

요사이는 슬겁은 쓸네 업  
스니 실로 답답하고 섭섭하니 흘리 열흘  
맛더니 옛쌔날 드러오련노라 하여시니 눈이  
번흔 듯하고 든든하여 흐노라 이리 덕으며  
몬내 웃노라

## [현대역]

요사이는 살가운 딸네가 없어서 실로 답답하고 섭섭하니 하루가 열흘  
같다. 옛쌔날에 들어오겠다고 하였으니 눈이 밝아지는 듯하고 든든  
하다. 이리 적으며 못내 웃노라.

(=These days, without my beloved daughter, I feel truly frustrated and  
saddened, so each day feels like 10 days. You said you would come in  
on the sixth day, and my eyes seemed to brighten. While writing this, I  
find myself unable to help but smile.)

## Letter From Queen Inseon to Princess Sookhwi (1653~1662)

[판독문]

글월 보고 무스히 이시니 깃거흐며 보는 듯 든든 반기노라  
스연도 보고 웃으며 시모에게 더러 사랑을 바티거든 우  
리를 더욱 싱각할가 시브냐 부마는 드러와시니 든든  
흐다

[현대역]

편지를 보고 무사히 있으니 기쁘며, 보는 것처럼 든든하고 반  
갑다. 사연도 보고 웃으며, 시모에게 저렇게 사랑을 바치니  
우리를 더욱 생각할까 싶다. 부마도 들어와있으니 든든하다.  
(=It seems like your mother-in-law receives all your love. Do  
you even think about us?)

출월을 보든 무스히 이시니 깃거흐며 보는 듯 든든 반기노라  
스연도 보고 웃으며 시모에게 더러 사랑을 바티거든 우  
리를 더욱 싱각할가 시브냐 부마는 드러와시니 든든  
흐다

# Letter From Nephew to Princess Sookhwi (1685)

[판독문]

(...) 녀며 7이업스와 ㅎ오며 (...)

우리 민망하야 ㅎ는 정을 싱각ㅎ업셔 식음을 7로 자업시들 천만 7라읍는이다

[현대역]

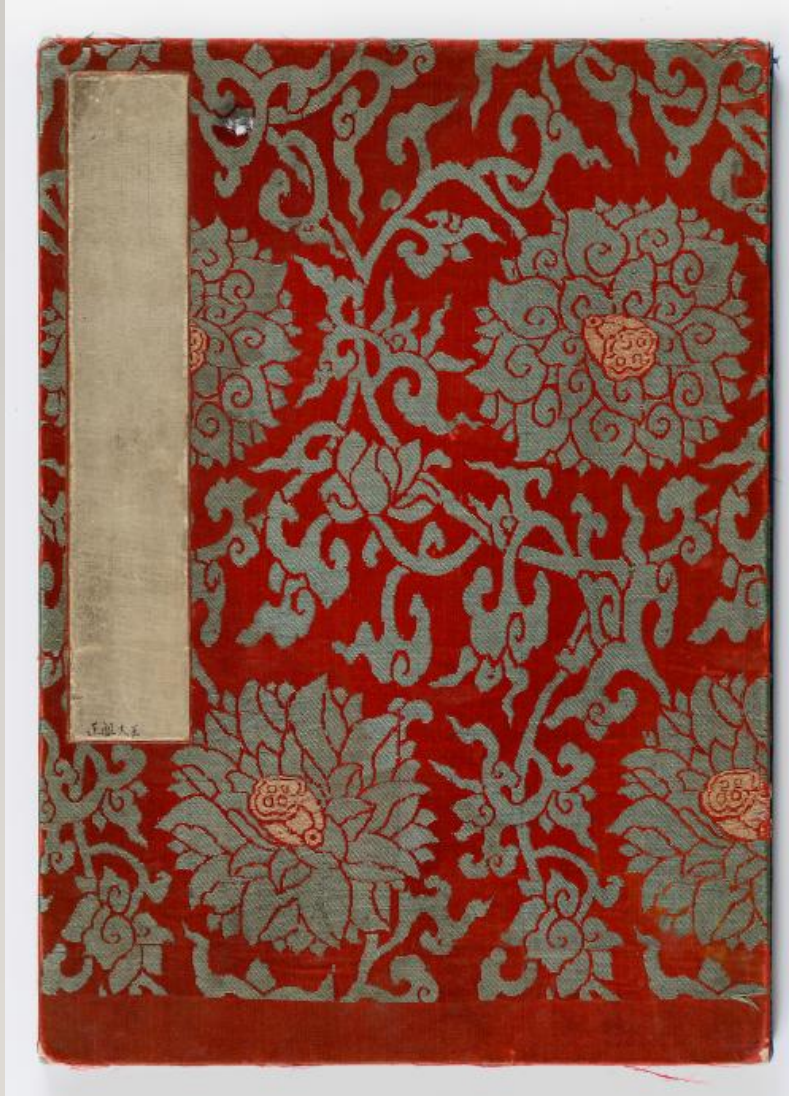
(우리가 고모를 생각하는) 걱정이 끝이 없으며(...)

우리가 걱정하는 정을 생각하시어, 먹고 마시는 일을 자주 하시기를 매우 바라옵나이다.

(=Our worries about you are endless (...))

We hope dearly that you will consider our sincere concern for you and make sure to eat and drink regularly.)

녀의 양병환은 7츨미 불약지 ㅎ를 7는디  
 못ㅎ와 천만의 외 7상신나오니 경통참  
 절ㅎ오미 아라타 업스 온동넷날 ㅎ의 7노  
 7일 7을 싱각ㅎ오니 참토ㅎ온 7업이 7우  
 각 7ㅎ오이다 아 7마 7게 오셔 7러 들 7  
 전ㅎ업시 7곳 7이런 7참 7을 만나 7셔  
 7일 7의 통 7음으로 다 7업신 7패 7업신  
 7려 7이 7우 7습시라 7녀 7이 업스와 7오  
 7적 7비로 7마 7우 7업시나 7티 7우리 7  
 7양 7야 7업 7정 7을 싱각ㅎ이 7업셔 7음 7  
 7로 7자 7업시 7를 7천만 7라 7업는이다



## Eongan of the royal family

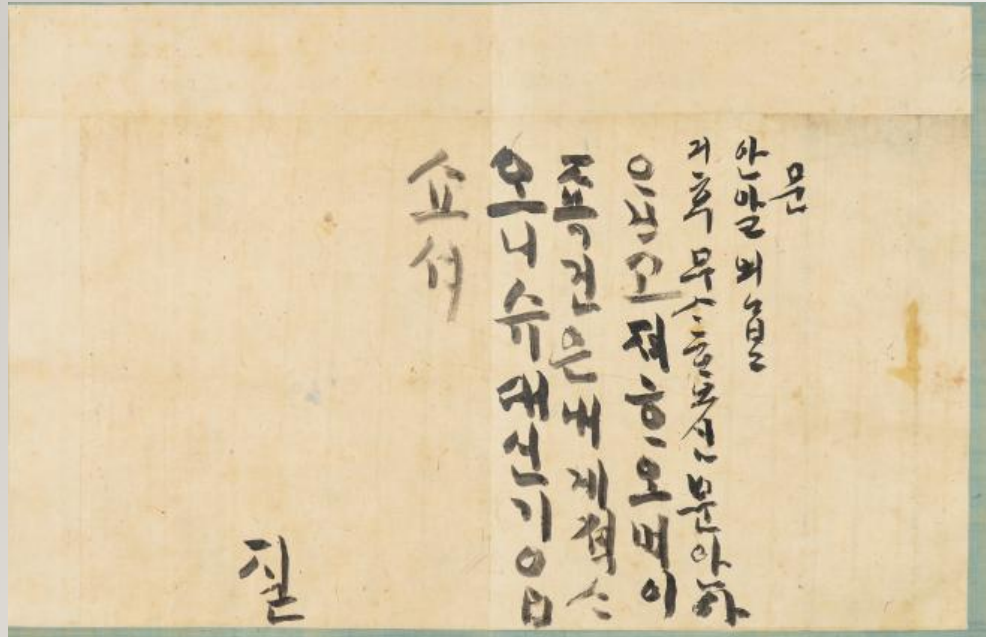
### ③ King Jeongjo's Eongan

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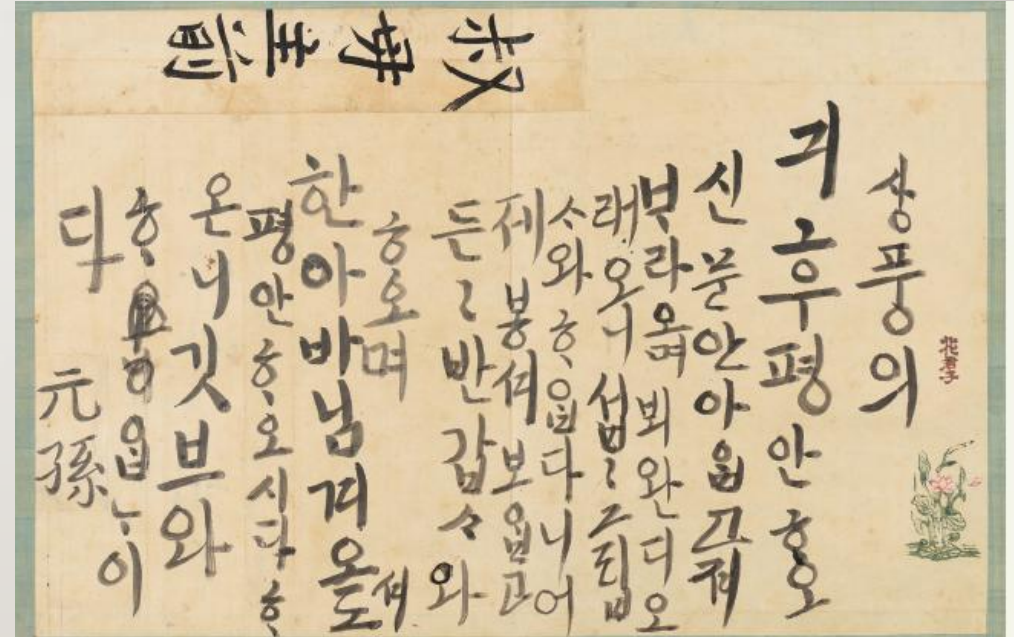
- a letter written by King Jeongjo (1752-1800), the 22nd king of Joseon.
- 14 letters
- Published in 『정조어필한글편지첩』
- A book compiled from letters that King Jeongjo sent to his eldest aunt, Lady Yeoheung Min-ssi (1729-1777).

# Eongan of the royal family

## ③ King Jeongjo's Eongan



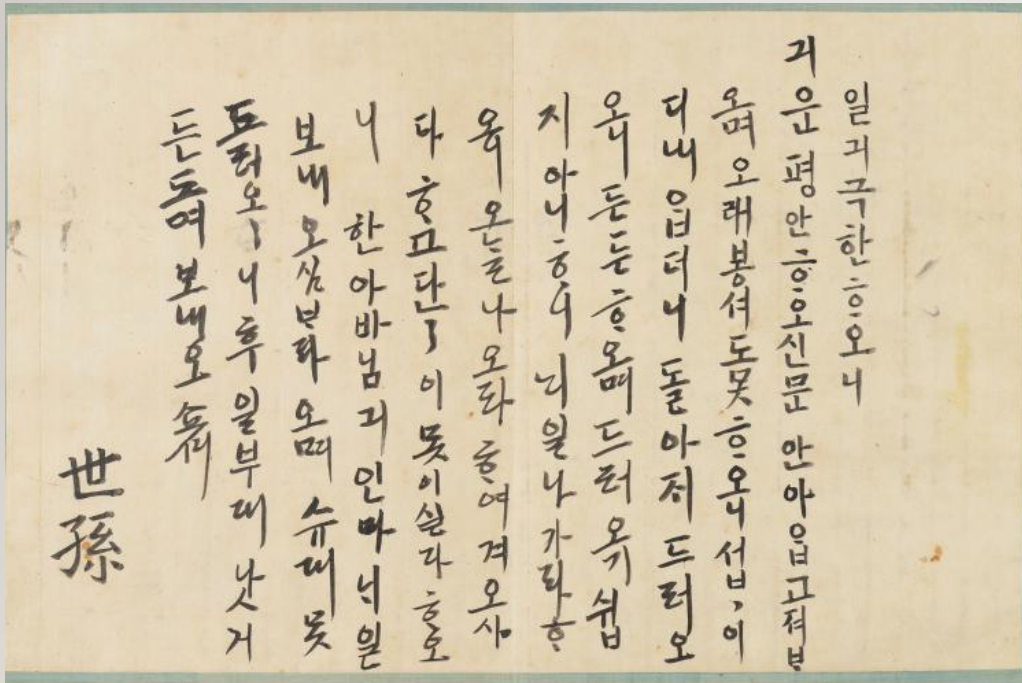
Before 8 years old



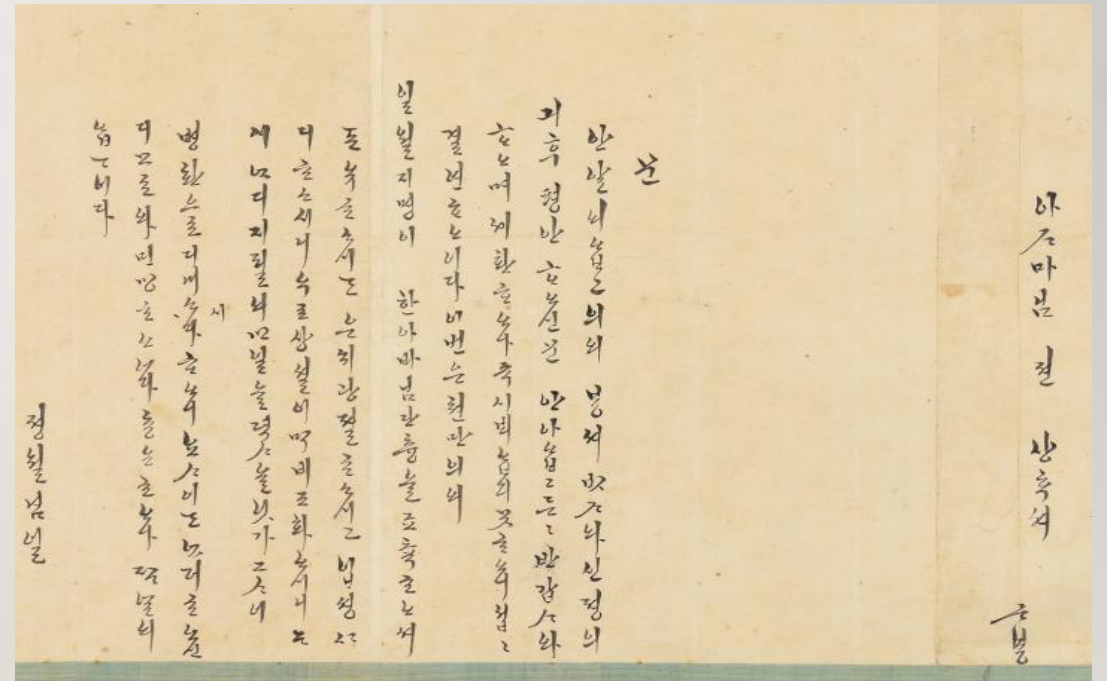
Before 8 years old

# Eongan of the royal family

## ③ King Jeongjo's Eongan



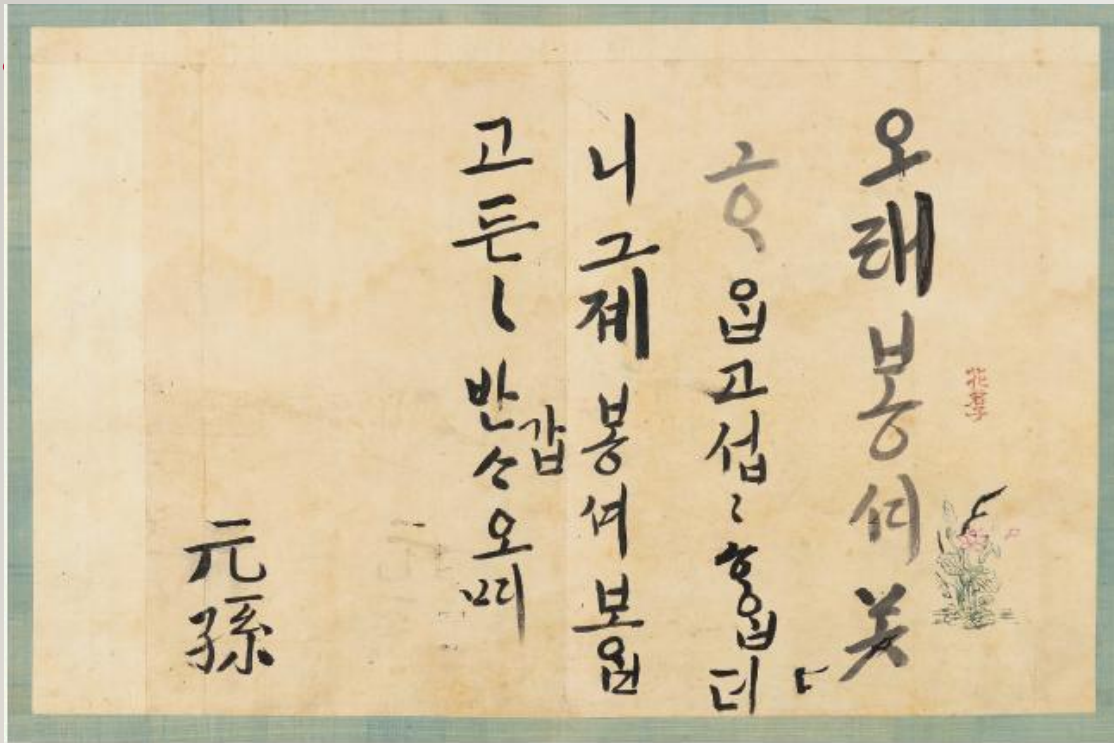
9-10 years old



21 years old

# Eongan of the royal family

## ③ King Jeongjo's Eongan



Before 8 years old

오래 봉서 못

하옵고 섭섭하옵디

니 그제 봉서 보오니

고든 반갑사오며

元孫

[번역]

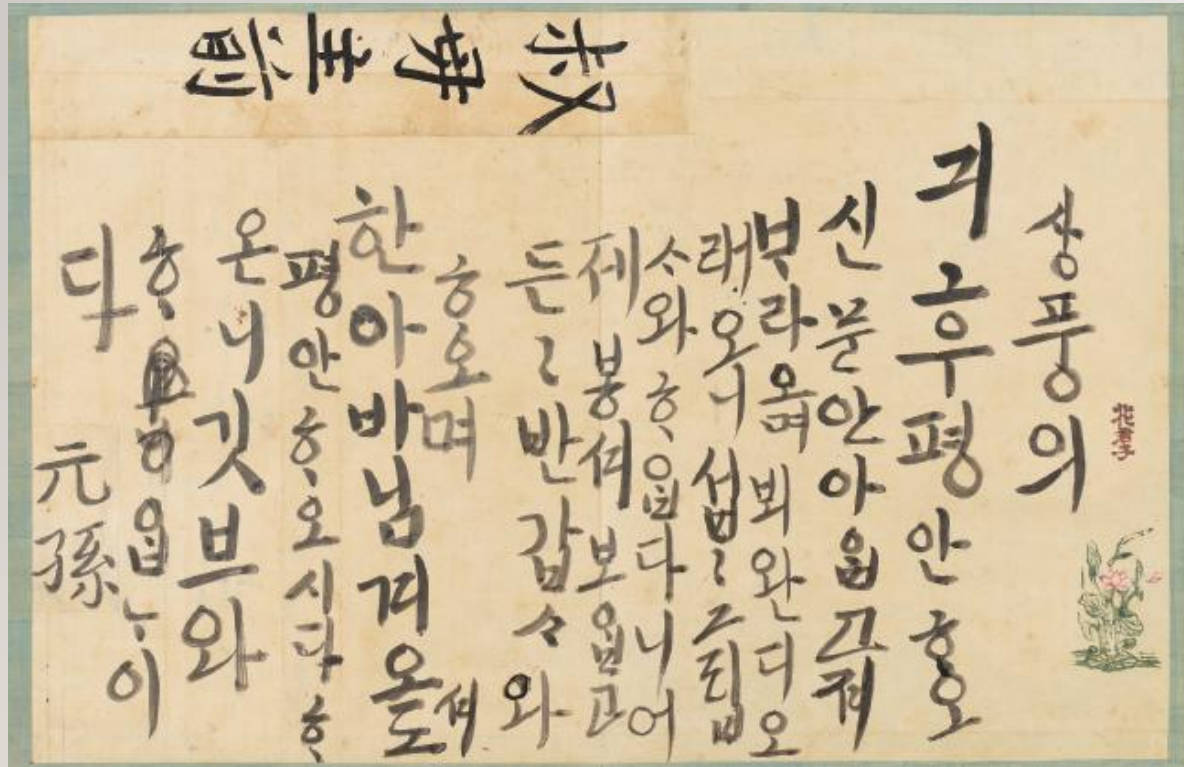
오래 편지를 못하여 섭섭했는데 그제께 편지를 보니 든든하고 반갑사오며 원손

(=I was sad that I couldn't write to you for a long time, but seeing your letter the day before yesterday made me feel happy)



# Eongan of the royal family

## ③ King Jeongjo's Eongan



Before 8 years old

상공의  
 귀후평안하오  
 신문안아고져  
 라오며 퇴안디오  
 래오니섭 "그립  
 와아다니어  
 제봉셔보고  
 든 " 반갑와  
 아오며  
 한아버님겨오셔도  
 평안하오시다아  
 온니깃브와  
 아이  
 다 元孫

# Eongan of the royal family

## ③ King Jeongjo's Eongan

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[현대어]

숙모님 앞

서릿바람에 기후 평안하신지 문안을 알고자 합니다.

뵈는 지가 오래되어 섭섭하고 그리웠는데,

어제 편지를 보니 든든하고 반갑습니다.

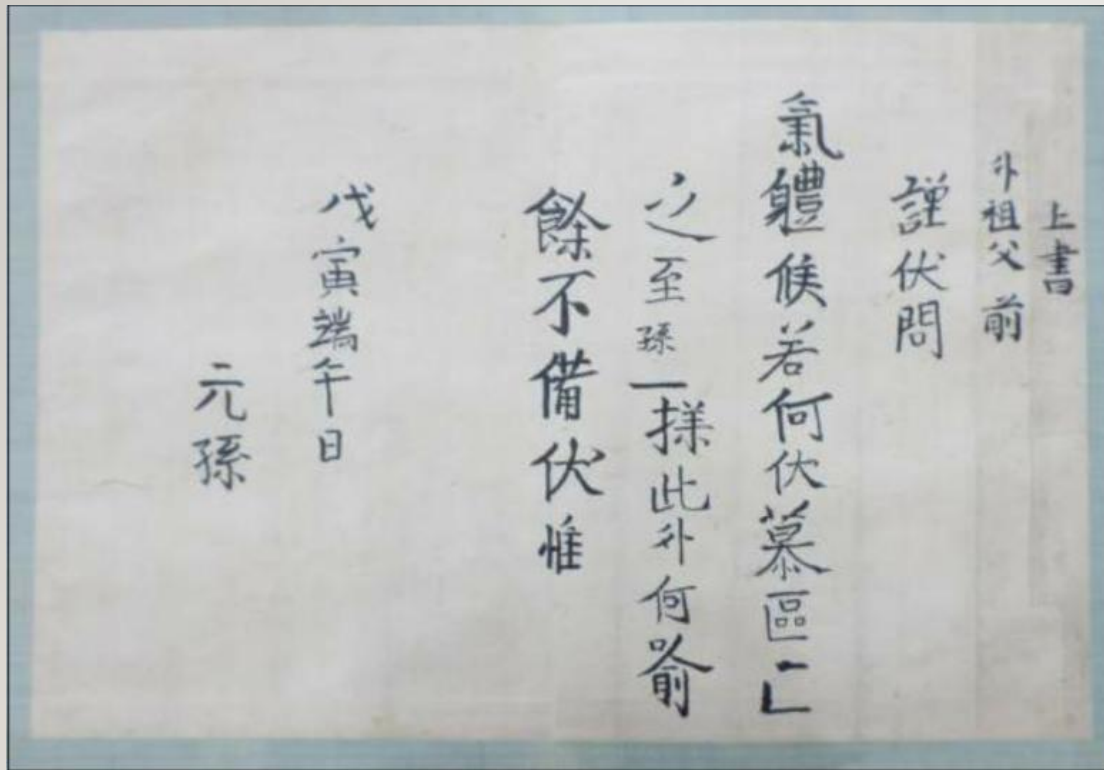
할아버님께서도 평안하시다고 하니 기쁩니다.

-원손

(= To Aunt, I would like to know if you are safe in the frosty weather. It's been a long time since we last met, and I've missed you dearly. Now that I've received your letter, I feel comforted and happy. Grandfather is also in good health, which brings me joy.)"

# Eongan of the royal family

## ③ King Jeongjo's Eongan



7-years-old

- a letter written by Jeongjo to his grandfather
- Written in Chinese Character (=Hanmun Ganchal)

# Eongan of the royal family

## ③ King Jeongjo's Eongan

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- Hangeul Letter: It is very likely that one of the sender and receiver will be a woman.
- It can be seen that royal women were making good use of Hangeul.

## 5. Honorifics used in Hangeul Letters

# The Honorific Expression used in Eongan

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- Honorific Expression

an attitude of respect toward the subject, object, and other elements appearing in a sentence, including hearer

- Subject, Object, Hearer honorifics in Korean

# The Honorific Expression used in Eongan

---

## 1) subject honorifics

친구가 왔다. (=A friend came.)

chingu-ka o-ass-ta

friend-NOM come-PAST-DECL

어머니께서 오셨습니다. (=Mom came)

Eomeoni-kkeseo o-si-ess-ta

mother-HON come-HON-PAST-DECL

\* **NOM:** nominative marker    **PAST:** past tense marker    **DECL:** declarative marker  
**HON:** honorifics

# The Honorific Expression used in Eongan

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## 2) object honorifics

책을 친구에게 주었다

(= I gave the book to a friend)

chaek-eul chingu-**eke** ju-ess-ta

book-OBJ friend-ADV give-PAST-DECL

책을 어머니께 드리었다

(= I gave the book to my mom)

chaek-eul eomeoni-**kke teuri**-ess-ta

book-OBJ mother-**HON** give(**HON**)-PAST-DECL

\* **OBJ: objective** marker    **ADV: adverbial** marker



# The Honorific Expression used in Eongan

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## 3) hearer honorifics

밥을 먹었어.

(=I ate some food)

pap-eul meok-ess-e

rice-OBJ eat-PAST-DECL

밥을 먹었어요.

(=I ate some food)

pap-eul meok-ess-e-**yo**

rice-OBJ eat-PAST-**HON**

# honorifics in writing

---

- honorifics in writing
- non-linguistic honorifics
  - 1) changing lines (줄 바꾸기 / 移行法, 이행법)
  - 2) leaving spaces (칸 비우기 / 공격법, 이격법, 간자법 등)
  - 3) change lines while raising letters higher than other lines  
(줄을 바꾸고, 다른 행보다 글자를 올려서 표현함, =擡頭法, 대두법)

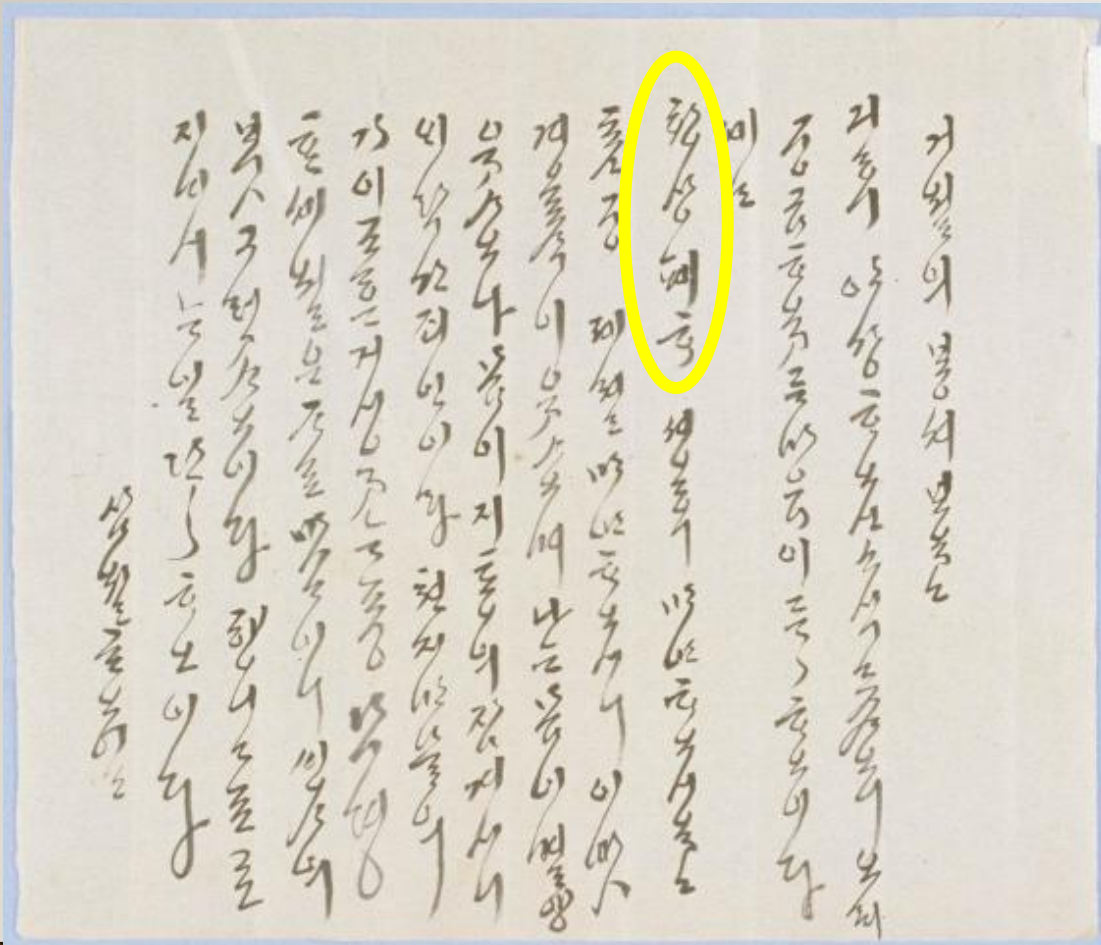
# honorifics in writing: 1) changing lines

거슬 하느님 구교와 비수름 하더라 구교  
와 신교와 희랍교가 대체는 낫흔거시 세  
관되셔 다 낫흔  
하느님을 밋고 낫흔  
예슈크리씨도를 세계에 구주요 십자가에  
서 예슈가 도라가신거슨 세계 죄인을 위  
하야 도라가신거시라 누구던지 현당을 가  
라면 예슈의 무르치신것만 본 바들뿐이  
아니라  
하느님께 기도하기를 예슈의 일홈을 빌  
어가 지고 하면 비는일이 성취 될거슬 밋  
교야 비는 거슬네라 조곰 신교와 구교가

‘하느님’, ‘예슈 크리씨도’를 높이기 위해  
이 어휘가 시작되기 전의 줄을 비워두었음.

사진: 독립신문 1897년 1월 26일 논설.  
출처: 옥성득 교수의 한국 기독교 역사 블로그 중  
‘1897년 독립신문의 종교론과 하나님론’(2024.2.6)

# honorifics in writing: I) changing lines



<판독문>

예는

**황상 폐하** 성후 만안하옵시옵고

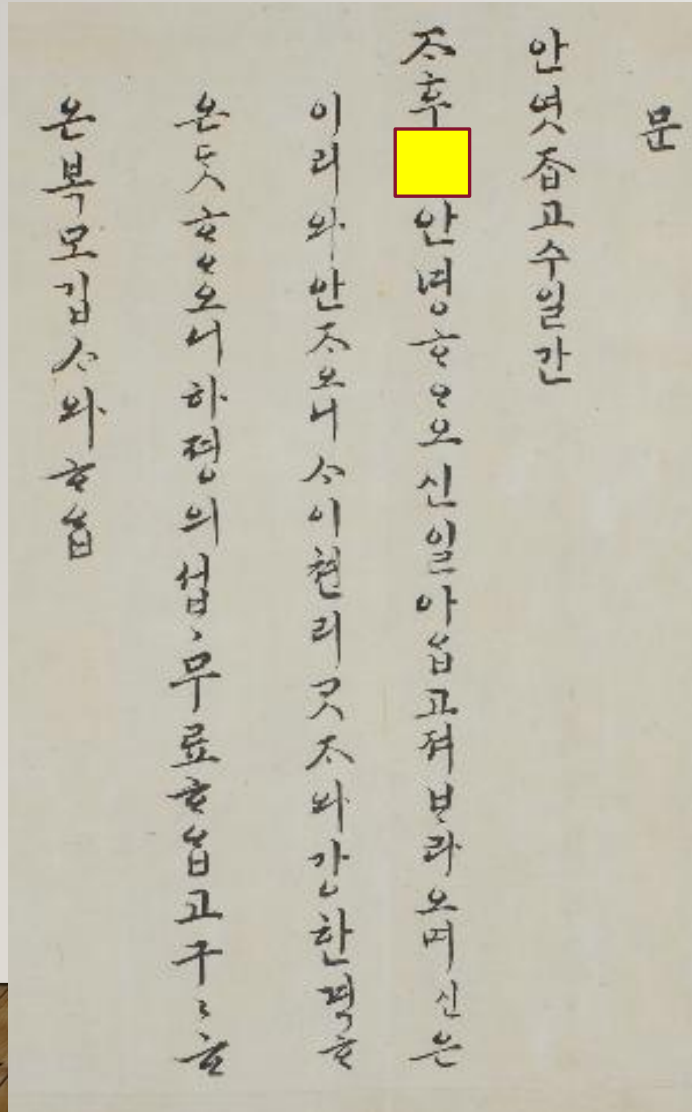
<현대역>

여기는

황제 편안하옵시고

사진: 순명효황후가 김상덕에게 보낸 편지

## honorifics in writing : 2) leaving a space



<판독문>

문

안 녀즈좁고 수일간

즈후 □안녕하오신 일 아옵고져 바라오며

<현대역>

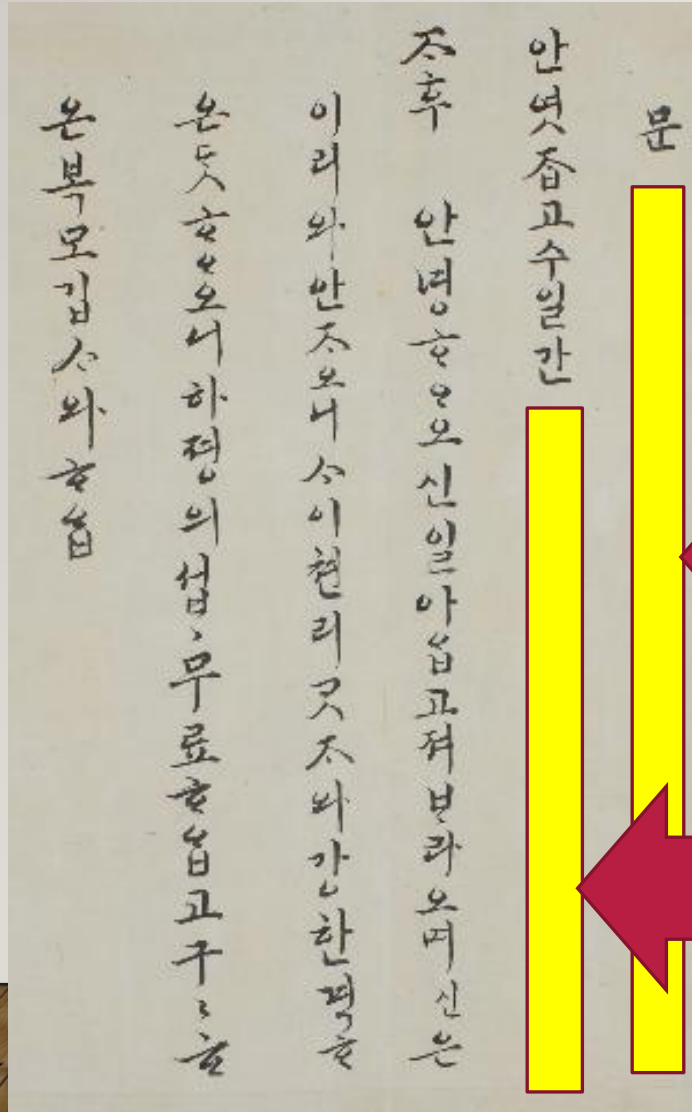
(할머니가) 편안하신지 여쭙고 수일간 할머니의 기후가  
안녕하신 일을 알고자 바라오며

(=I'm asking if my grandmother is comfortable, and I want to know  
if she is comfortable during this time.)

-> he is asking if his grandmother is comfortable,  
a space is left before "안녕."

[image] a letter from King Hyunjong to his grandmother

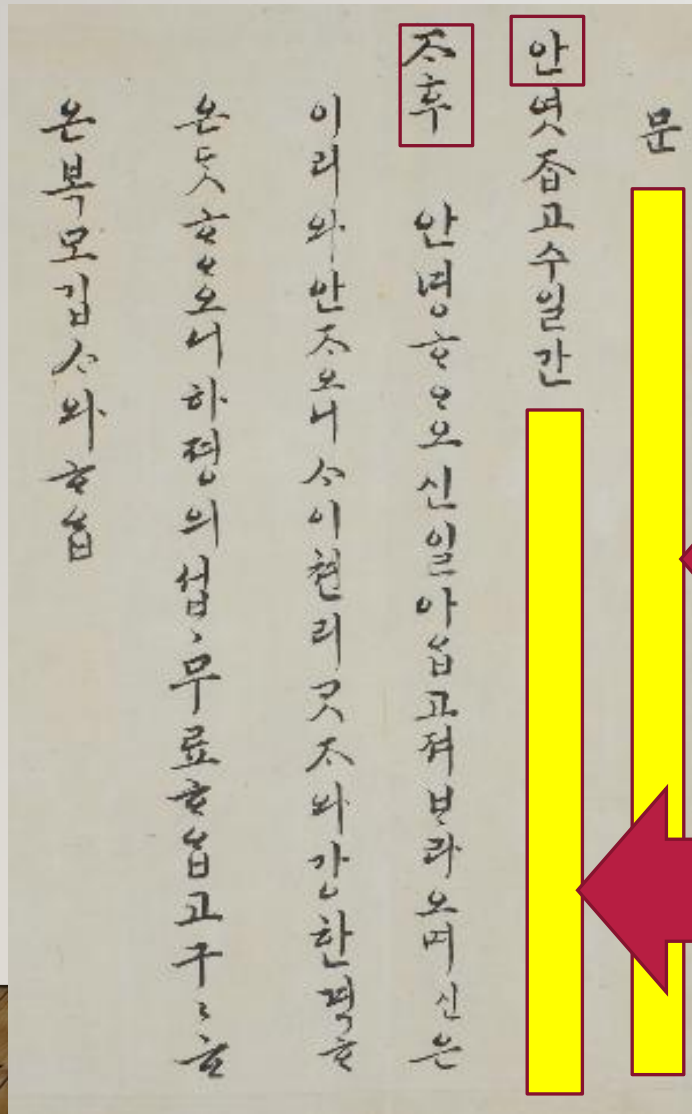
## honorifics in writing : 2) leaving a space



[Question]

- Why is the arrow part empty?
- What word is it empty in front of

## honorifics in writing : 2) leaving a space

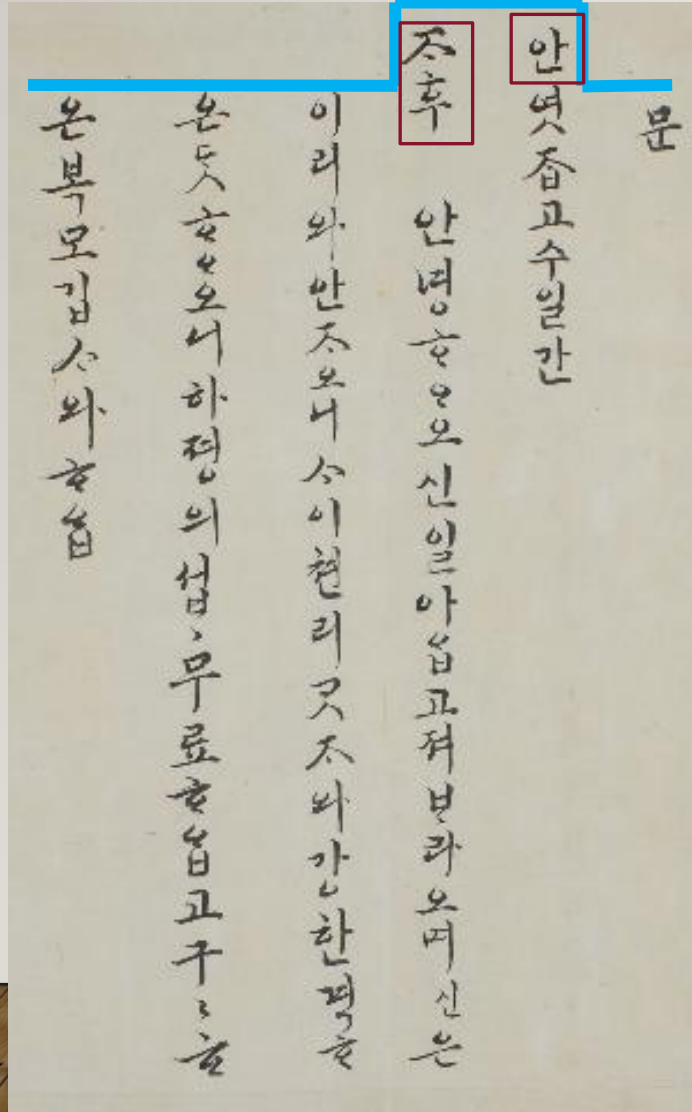


In this letter, honorific expressions are also expressed by line-changing.

- ① 'an' (안, 安): grandmother's comfort
- ② 'jaju' (자후, 慈候): grandmother's condition

=> related to the grandmother

# honorifics in writing : 3) writing characters higher than the standard baseline + changing lines



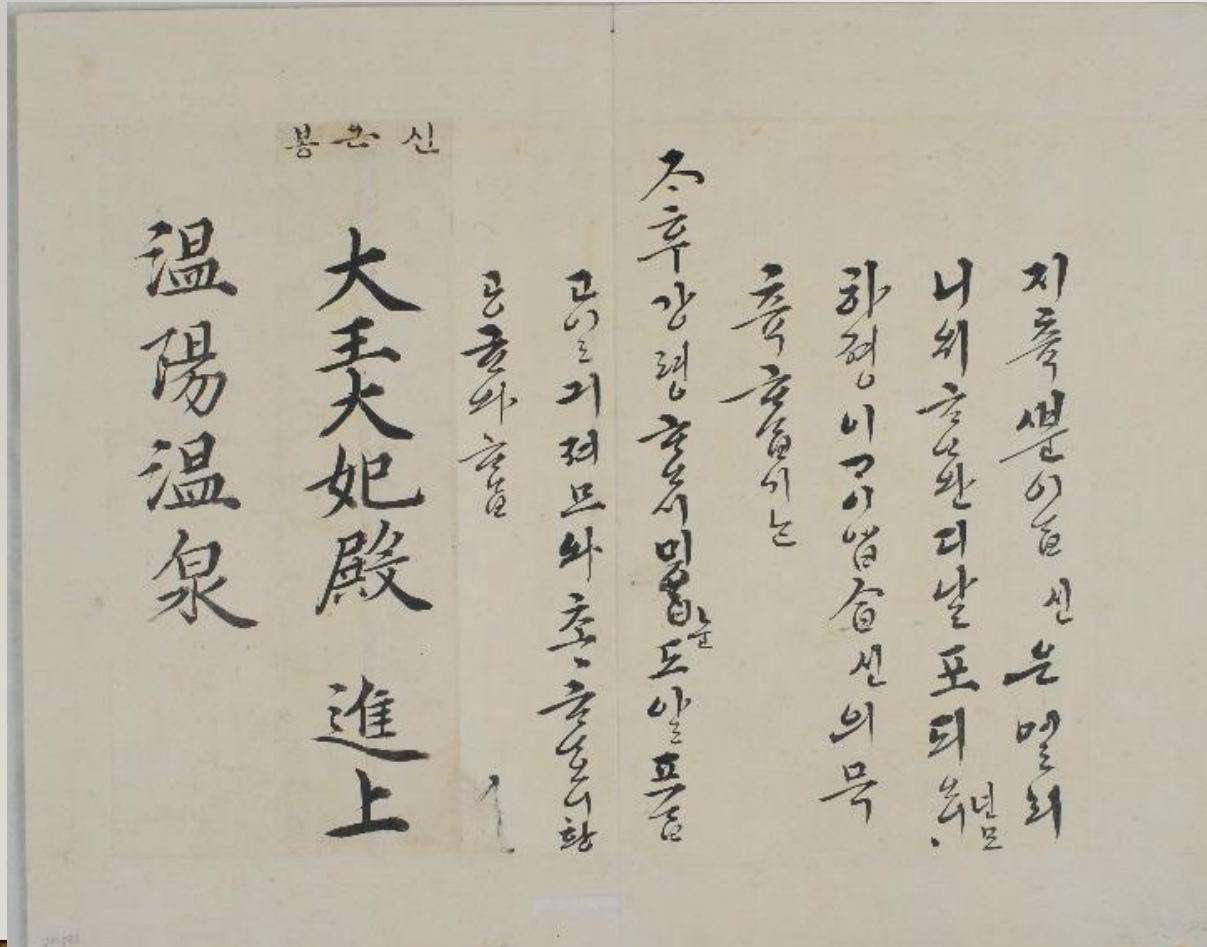
## [Question]

- Do they all start at the same place?
- Where did they raise the characters?
- Why did they raise the characters?

=> the use of line changes, empty spaces, and raised characters.



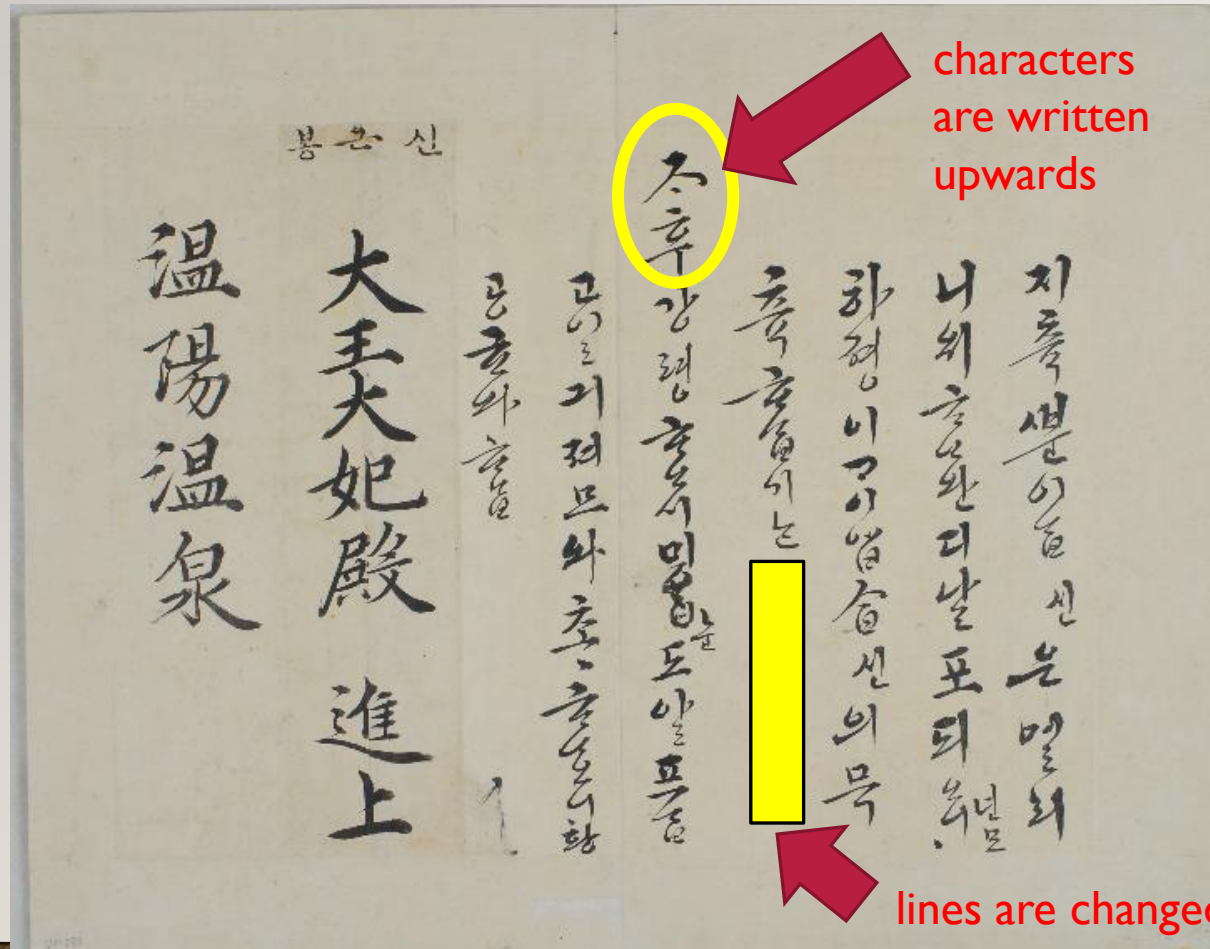
honorifics in writing : 3) writing characters higher than the standard baseline + changing lin



Let's find the part where the line has been changed and the part where the character has been raised.

[image] a letter from King Hyunjong to his grandmother

honorifics in writing : 3) writing characters higher than the standard baseline + changing line



<판독문>

조후 강령하시미옵

\* jahu(조후, 慈候)

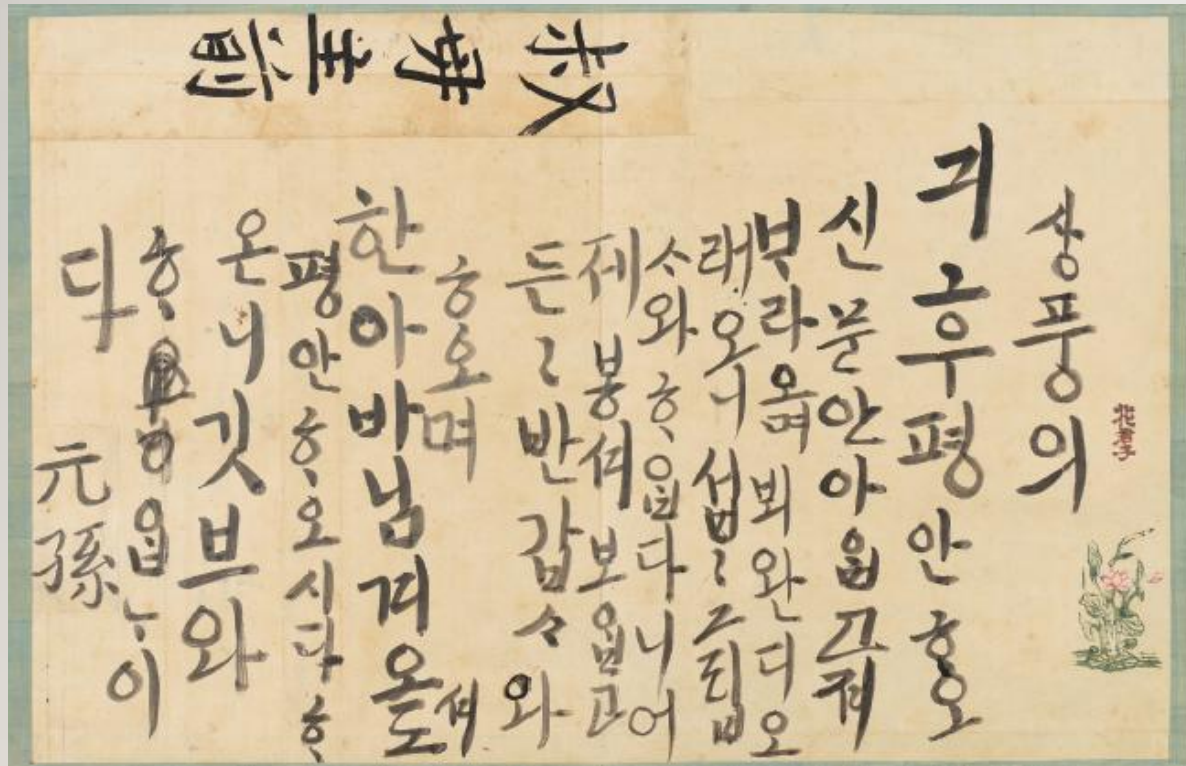
Grandmother's health

<현대역>

(What I hope for) is for my grandmother to be healthy.

[image] a letter from King Hyunjong to his grandmother

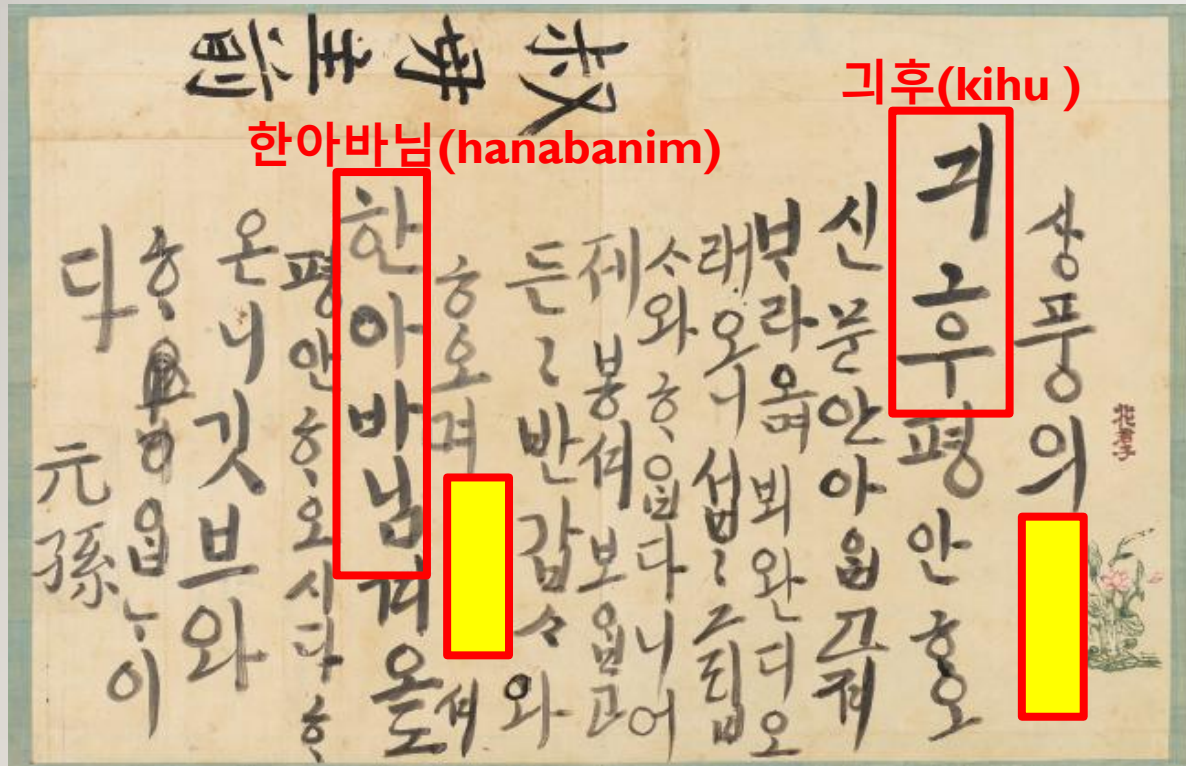
# honorifics in writing



Let's find the part where the line has been changed and the part where the character has been raised.

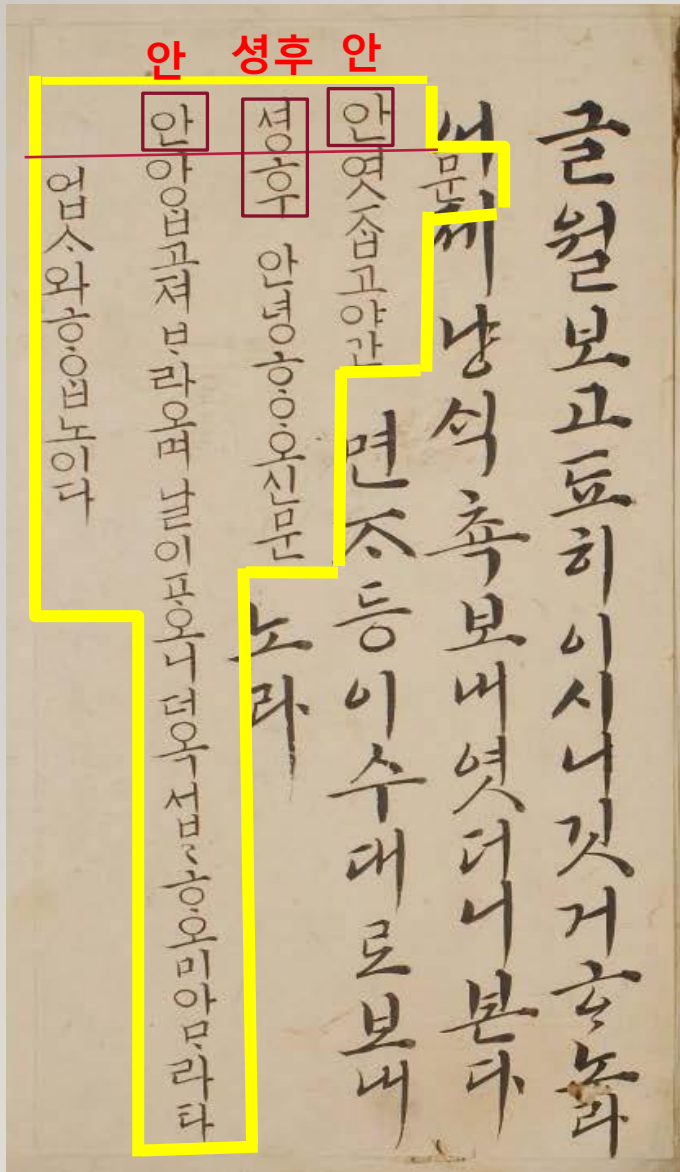
a letter from Jeongjo to his aunt written before age 8

# honorifics in writing



- \* 기후 (kihu )  
condition of body and mind
- 한아바님 (hanabanim)  
Grandfather

a letter from Jeongjo to his aunt written before age 8



# honorifics in writing

which part has letters that are higher than other lines?

- An(‘안’, 安) : comfort
- Seong-hu (성후, 聖候) : comfort of the king

Letter from Princess Sookmyung to King Hyojong(1652~1659)

# [EXERCISE]

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- Let's write a letter to your mother/father/grandmother/grandfather, using the formality of honorifics.

y H  
o o  
u w  
t a  
o r  
d e  
a  
y  
?

y  
o H  
u o  
t w  
o a  
d r  
a e  
y  
?

t H  
o o  
d w  
a a  
y r  
? e  
  
y  
o  
u

## 6. Conclusion

- 
- I hope that through this lecture, you will become interested in the history of your country and the stories left behind by your ancestors.
  - Thank you for listening!



# REFERENCE

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- If you want to know the patterns of use of Hangeul and its background

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(Eongan: Hangeul Letters in Joseon Dynasty)

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- 국립청주박물관 편집부(2011), 『조선 왕실의 한글 편지, 숙명신한첩』, 국립청주박물관.
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조항범(1998), 『순천김씨묘 출토간찰』, 태학사.

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