Korean Booster

Podcast Chingu

Ep 04. 전라도 사투리, 궁금해?

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Hey, everyone! It's your teacher Garam from **Korean Booster Chingu**, back again because I've got so much to talk about today. Hey, did you guys know that I'm from Jeolla Province? I was born and raised in Gwangju, a city in Jeolla Province, where people tend to speak with a pretty strong regional accent. So today, I want to tell you a little about my dialect and show you how I sound when I speak it. Actually, I mean, let you hear it!

First, one of the characteristics of the Jeolla dialect is that its intonation is generally softer than other regional dialects and has a rather melodic, rhythmic quality. Because the pitch naturally rises and falls when people speak, emotions tend to come across more vividly. For example, in standard Korean, someone from Seoul might ask, "Have you eaten?" or "Did you have a meal?" But in my region of Jeolla, we might say, "Have you eaten or what?" Did you hear that? "Have you eaten or what?" It almost sounds like singing, doesn't it? So, compared to other regional dialects, the Jeolla dialect tends to sound a little softer, a little slower, and almost like someone is singing.

Now, let me introduce some unique words that are used exclusively or very frequently in the Jeolla region. For example, you might have heard this one quite often in Korean dramas or movies: **거시기 (geosigi)**. We use this word when we're trying to say something but can't remember the exact word. It basically fills in the blank when a word slips our mind.

For example: "What's that person's name again? You know, that... the daughter of the lady who runs the supermarket over there. What was her name again?" We use it like that all the time. It's seriously a multipurpose word! Whenever you can't remember someone's name or the word you're looking for, just use it!

The next word is **시방 (sibang)**. Careful! It's not "ssibal" (a Korean swear word). It's "sibang"! **시방** means "right now." For example, the sentence "What are you doing right now?" can be expressed in the Jeolla dialect as: "너 시방 지금 뭣허냐?" It sounds like you're picking a fight, doesn't it? But you're not! "너 시방 지금 뭣허냐?" simply means "What are you doing right now?" It definitely has that almost sing-song quality, but at the same time, it can sound a little confrontational, too!

The next expressions are actually exclamations I use all the time: **아따 (atta)** and **오메 (ome)**. I especially use **아따** when I'm feeling frustrated or annoyed. For example, instead of saying, "Oh, this is taking forever!", we would say something like, "Good grief! This is taking ages!" Another one is **오메**, which is an exclamation we use when we're really surprised or startled. For example, instead of saying, "Oh my gosh! You scared me!", people in Jeolla might say, "Oh my gosh! You startled me!" "OMG! OMG!" We also use expressions like **징하게, 징하다, 허벌라다, and 허벌라게** all the time. These are used to emphasize something, just like "very," "extremely," or "incredibly." For example, instead of saying, "Wow, she's really pretty!", we might say, "She's ridiculously pretty!" or "She's unbelievably pretty!" And when something tastes delicious, we might say, "This is insanely delicious!" or "This is unbelievably good!"

Now, have you noticed that I keep ending my sentences with something that sounds like "ing"? That's because in the Jeolla dialect, we often add endings like **~잉** and **~제** to our sentences. They give our speech a distinctive local flavor. For example, earlier I said, "허벌라게 맛있다잉!" meaning "It's unbelievably delicious!" You have to stretch out that ending a little when you say it. "맛있다잉!" "밥 먹었어잉?" (Have you eaten?) That's how it sounds! Another ending we use a lot is **~제**. We often add it at the end of a sentence when we're feeling particularly sure of what we're saying. For example, instead of simply saying, "That's right," we say something like, "Of course, that's right!" We also frequently add **~당께** or **~란께** at the end of sentences. We use these when we want to emphasize what we're saying or get someone to confirm something. For example, instead of saying, "I told you that happened, didn't I?" we might say, "I'm telling you, that's exactly what happened!" And instead of saying, "I'm telling you it's true!", we'd say something like, "I'm telling you, it's true!" We also often use endings like **~쇼** and **~시오**, which are used to give instructions or suggestions in a relatively gentle and friendly way. For example, instead of saying, "Please come this way" or "Come over here," we might say: "아따~ 이리 오쇼!" Sounds like I'm picking a fight, doesn't it? But no! We're actually being very friendly! "Come on over here!" And instead of saying, "Please try some of this," we'd say: "Try some of this!" "Go on, give it a taste!" So, the Jeolla dialect isn't just about using completely different words. We also have lots of distinctive expressions that we regularly attach to the ends of sentences.

Now, if you're interested in the Jeolla dialect, I'd like to recommend a few Korean dramas and movies. First, there's a drama called **Youth of May**. When you think of Gwangju, there's also a painful chapter in its history: the May 18 Democratic Uprising. It was a tragic historical event in which many people, especially young students, lost their lives while protesting to fight for and protect democracy. There are several dramas based on this historical event, and Youth of

May is one of them. I'd definitely recommend watching it, but make sure you have some tissues ready because you might shed quite a few tears!

Next is another famous drama: **Reply 1994**. It's part of the Reply series, which includes Reply 1997, Reply 1994, and Reply 1988. You can hear the Jeolla dialect in almost all of these dramas. However, Reply 1994 is particularly good if you want to hear more of the Jeolla dialect. That's because the story follows university students from different parts of Korea who move to Seoul and live together in a boarding house. There are students who came from Gwangju, others from the Gyeongsang region, and so on. They live together, argue, fall in love, and experience all kinds of things. So, you can hear not only the Jeolla dialect but also various other regional dialects, including the Gyeongsang dialect. I definitely recommend watching it!

Next, I'd like to recommend two movies. The first one is **A Taxi Driver**. Just like Youth of May, this movie is also set during the May 18 Democratic Uprising. And it's based on a true story. It's about a Seoul taxi driver who takes a German journalist to Gwangju and what happens as they try to escape. It's a really great movie, so make sure you watch it! The actors' performances are absolutely incredible.

And finally, here's a really funny movie: **Meet the In-Laws**. It's an older movie, but I really recommend it because, in the past, people from Jeolla and Gyeongsang didn't get along very well. Why? Because, politically speaking, Jeolla was associated with progressive politics, while Gyeongsang was considered more conservative. As a result, although things are different nowadays, there was a time when men and women from these two regions couldn't easily marry each other because their families would oppose the relationship. No, seriously! This really happened! That's exactly what this movie is about. It's a story about a man from Jeolla and a woman from Gyeongsang who fall in love. But then comes the big problem: they want to get married! So, what does he do? He has to lie! The man hides the fact that he's from Jeolla and pretends to be from Gyeongsang so that they can get married. It's such a hilarious movie! I'd tell you more, but I don't want to spoil it, so you'll have to watch it yourselves.

Even today, relations between people from Jeolla and Gyeongsang aren't always described as particularly friendly, partly because of political differences. However, nowadays, there's no problem with people from these two regions getting married.

So, since I've been talking about dialects in today's podcast, I think I'll wrap things up with a little Jeolla dialect! "아따! Thanks so much for listening to my podcast, y'all!" I worked incredibly hard on preparing the script and the Study Pack, so make sure you visit my website and check them out! And don't forget to download them, okay? Go ahead and download them! Wow, look at the time! I guess I'd better get going now.

See you again next time!

Bye!

Ppyong!