Background

- Little to no research on gay discourse in Korean context
- Korean culture heavily influenced by Confucianism, perceive gayness as contradicting social order (Kim and Hahn, 2006)
- Korean gay speech incorporates lots of English and unique phrases
- Korean is a pro-drop ‘discourse-oriented’ language (Kwon and Stuart, 2013)

Question

- How is gayness indexed in Korean?
- What role do locative phrases play in the indexing of gayness?

Methods

- Analyzed 12 videos of two Korean gay streamers: 남규 (Namgyu) and 김똘똘 (Kim Ddolddol)
- Tokens were created when the speakers were referring to something as ‘gay’ or ‘straight’; 93 tokens in total
- These tokens were then analyzed by speaker, intended listener, and referent and compared with each other

Results

- The locative phrase ijjeok ‘this way’ is used to signal in-group membership in addition to gayness
- Used only when the speaker, (presumed) listener and referent are all gay or presumed gay
  - ex: ijjeok sulbeongae-eseo 0pyo pihaneun bop this.way speed.dating- LOC 0.point avoid-PRES method ‘How to avoid failing at this way speed dating’
- In a mixed audience, defacto English word gei, is used
- Ijjeok can’t be used as a personal pronoun or to directly describe yourself in 1st person
- Asymmetrical distribution, can’t use keujjeok ‘that way’ for straight

Discussion

- This study barely scratching the surface of Korean gay speech features
- Level of adversity faced by LGBTQ+ community in Korea is reflected in this directional discourse of sexuality as direction (Gal and Irvine, 2001)
- Much larger corpus needed

References

- Namgyu
- Kim Ddolddol