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The Applications of On-line English Newspapers into Classroom Instruction*

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The purposes of this paper are to show that learning English via on-line English newspapers is very effective and to suggest several applications of an English newspaper on the web in English education to improve Korean speakers' English proficiency. Firstly, this paper overviews about Newspapers In Education (NIE). Secondly, a comparison between an on-line English newspaper and a traditional one is made, focusing on their advantages and characteristics. Thirdly, some ways to use various articles of a digital English newspaper in classroom instruction are explored. Lastly, the suggestions of this study are integrated into English learning instruction of an extracurricular English learning club of Business English Department. This club includes free utilization of an Internet surfing center, Internet Cafe, in a College Library. And then, a survey among the club members is conducted and its statistical results are analyzed.

I. INTRODUCTION

The pressing need for acquiring English proficiency of Korean students has necessitated the exploration of more efficient approaches to the teaching and learning of English. In this context, recent years have shown an explosion of interest in using computers for language teaching and learning. Especially with the advent of the Internet, the use of computers in language instruction has now

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become an important methodology and this has drastically changed how to learn a foreign language (Warschauer, 1995).

As far as English education in Korea is concerned, the need to reform English teaching methodology has been widely recognized in this globalization era for the purpose of improving English proficiency of Korean students. IIE (Internet In Education) and NIE (Newspapers In Education), which could be efficient alternatives to traditional English teaching and learning methodology, are recently attracting the attention of English educators. In this context, this paper relates to these two fields.

The purposes of this paper are to show that learning English via on-line English newspapers is very effective and to suggest several applications of an English newspaper on the web in English education in order to improve Korean learners' English proficiency. Firstly, this paper overviews about NIE in connection with IIE. Secondly, a comparison between an on-line English newspaper and a traditional one is described, focusing on their advantages and characteristics.

Thirdly, some ways to apply articles of a digital English newspaper into classroom instruction are explored. Lastly, the suggestions of this study are integrated into English learning instruction of an extracurricular English learning club of Business English Department. This club includes free utilization of an Internet surfing center, Internet Cafe, in a College Library. Finally, a survey among the club members is conducted and its statistical results are analyzed.

II. WHAT IS 'NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION (NIE)'?

The importance of daily newspapers as an educative medium has long been recognized. The concept of cooperative press and school educational programs is quite old. The earliest known reference to the idea occurs in an article which appeared in the *Portland Eastern Herald* in 1795 and the first Newspaper in Education program was established by *The New York Times* in 1932. During the ensuing decades, the NIE concept spread so extensively that today numerous NIE programs have been conducted through cooperative efforts of newspapers, universities, communities, and literacy centers around the globe (Olivares, 1993).

In a nutshell, NIE is a cooperative effort between schools and newspapers to promote the use of newspapers as an educational resource. Especially the

Newspaper Association of America Foundation is the major administrative organization for over 700 NIE programs in the United States. The Foundation provides resources and training programs to newspapers and educators on using newspapers in schools and helps the newspapers to develop strategic plans for promoting and marketing their NIE services.

The NAA Foundation has also compiled a list of NIE sites from around the world. It contains an abundance of timely information of general interest. Thousands of newspaper sites can be accessed at <http://onlinenewspaper.com/>, which is the index of on-line newspapers from all over the world. The electronic newspapers are not only a rich resource of current information; they can also be used to familiarize English learners with the culture of English-speaking communities. Some websites, which are easily accessible and free, include <http://www.nieworld.com>, <http://www.press.co.nz/nie>, <http://www.columbian.com/education/nie>, <http://www.nie.northcliffe.co.uk>, <http://www.nal.no/ais/english>, <http://www.bangkokpost.net/education>. Accessing these on-line English newspapers from around the world on the World Wide Web opens up numerous possibilities for language learning and teaching.

In response to the boom of NIE, from a decade ago, the integration of newspapers into the language classroom has been of concern to a large number of educators in Korea. Many daily newspapers are now operating 'NIE Features' as a resource for education. Now NIE has become a part of school's curriculum.

Some studies (Schmitt, 1999; Seedhouse, 1994) propose that on-line English newspapers can be used as an effective resource for education, especially, as a tool for the English language learning, solving the deficiencies existing in English education programs in EFL context because they provide detailed and up-to-date English materials which can be rapidly and easily accessed.

Especially, domestic digital English newspapers such as *The Korea Times* at <http://www.koreatimes.co.kr> and *The Korea Herald* at <http://www.koreaherald.co.kr> offer daily online content services that give Korean learners of English an effective resource for English learning. They provide free access to the knowledge of current affairs as well as social, political and economic issues in Korea and around the globe, which is why an on-line newspaper is an effective tool for learning practical English. The two electronic newspapers on the web are quite similar in contents, accordingly *Digital Korea Herald* at <http://www.koreaherald.co.kr> is chosen and discussed as a resource in this paper.

1. Advantages of On-line English Newspapers over Traditional Ones

Traditional English newspapers could be clearly one of the ways to obtain up-to-date and detailed information on current issues in English, but there are several problems involved in its access. One of the major problems of traditional newspapers is that the physical space involved in accumulating collections of back copies of newspapers is huge and keeping them in order is quite burdensome. Another problem relates to a financial matter. Compared to an on-line English newspaper, a conventional print daily has to be purchased, which may be an obstacle for those who can not afford it. Digitalized English newspapers on the web are virtually free and can be accessed at any moment. The price and accessibility of traditional newspapers seem to give them a disadvantage over English newspapers on the web.

In short, an electronic English newspaper on the web is a comprehensive, cheap and extensive archive of English learning materials. It carries out rapid searches for relevant learning materials without the trouble of browsing through collections of a conventional written media. Moreover, the time spent searching for requested material takes a few seconds. The English learners can use them for free, if the school or institutions pay for the Internet connection, which is usually the case.

Other advantages of on-line English newspapers include the possibility to retrieve older issues quickly and without additional expenses, the possibility to change to another English newspaper if the chosen one is inappropriate for some reasons, the possibility to bookmark or subscribe to the site free of charge, and the possibility to print it out and use it as normal paper or save it to disk, open it in a word processing program and edit according to English learners' purposes. If an English learner wants to locate articles about 'World Cup 2002', he or she simply types in the phrase as a search word, and it will instantly show a list of the headlines of all the articles in which the word 'World Cup 2002' occurs. Then, the English learner scrolls through the list of headlines and selects those which seem to be appropriate for individual purposes and print them out onto paper.

It is obvious that if an English instructor wants his or her students to be interested in a topic, it needs to be recent and appealing to them. To satisfy the learners' needs and to provide subjects of some interest, digital English newspapers could be used to their profit. This means that learning English via on-line English newspapers plays an important role in solving the problem of enhancing English learning skills in a low-cost and efficient manner for Korean speakers of English.

It is briefly explained that English newspapers on the web are more effective in learning English than traditional ones in the following manner:

TABLE 1
Advantages of On-line Newspapers over Off-line Ones

English Newspapers on the Web	Traditional Print English Newspapers
hypertext, multimedia	linear presentation
highly motivating	low motivating
self-paced, self-accessed, autonomous study	receptive learning
high learner control	high instructor control
unlimited, update information	limited resources
editable for individual purpose	just photocopy
4 skills in English	mainly text-reading skill

Probably, the weakest side of on-line English newspapers is the fact that numerous English learners find it difficult and uncomfortable to read on a small computer screen because of tiny letters, flicker, and gradual scroll, causing their eyes to be blurred and tired. Furthermore, it may be difficult and inconvenient for English learners to concentrate on reading the text on a screen when they have such distractions as graphics, animated banner ads, or links to some other catching sites. Finally, there is always a possibility that English learners may simply move from one site to another without the instructor's proper supervision.

2. Organization of On-line English Newspapers

The possession of enough knowledge of the conventions of an electronic English newspaper is a must for the utilization of an on-line English newspaper in English learning. English learners must be first introduced to the basic features of an on-line English newspaper, and its organization, style and important concepts such as headline, byline, classified ads, etc. This is crucial mainly because of some differences in the organization of English and Korean newspapers which may be misleading for English learners. The *Digital Korea Herald* consists of the following parts:

Today's Headlines / News Highlights (news stories, feature stories) / Hot Issues Announcements / Health / Sports section / E-mail club / Reunion Plaza / Community Bulletin Board / Classified Ads / Expat Guide (Q & A, Soapbox, Yellow pages) / Ann Landers / Horoscope / Dictionary / Weather Reports / Search Archives / Stock Market Report / Exchange Rates for Foreign Currency / English Update (Editorial, Thought for Today, Today in History, Living English - Common Errors, Write-On, Real Talk, Test Preparation - TOEIC, TOEFL, Screen Script) / Weekender (People, Cover, Features, Hot Spots, Pokers, Music, Movie, Video, Weekly Poll, Media Spotlight) / Korea Now (Politics & Policy, Business & Finance, Society & Arts) / Forum (Open Forum, Forum by Topic, Submit Short Stories, Question & Advice, Language Exchange Corner) / Comic Section

III. APPLICATIONS OF ON-LINE ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS

The use of *Digital Korea Herald* could be strongly recommended as a resource for the effective supplement to the ordinary English instruction. Among the benefits of using the digital English newspaper, the following aspects can be mentioned: 1) It improves learners' four skills in English which are listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. 2) Various learning materials help the learners to expand their English vocabulary, forcing them to infer unknown words from the context. 3) It builds on oral presentation skill. 4) It enriches English learners' cultural awareness of English-speaking communities. In this respect, some suggestions for integrating a digital English newspaper, *Digital Korea Herald*, into classroom instruction are presented here in greater detail.

1. Using 'Today's Headlines'

Today's Headlines are a main point of the news story worldwide. Once English learners have located the headlines which are of interest and relevance to them, they can use them as a basis for current English learning materials.

1) Characteristics of Headline

Once English learners are familiarized with the characteristics of the headlines,

they can easily infer a complete sentence based on some news stories and rewrite their own headlines. They can refer to the following tips for headlines (Kitao, 1996).

usually “and” omitted and replaced with a comma / a “be” verb omitted / a pronoun omitted / an definite or indefinite article omitted / a simple present tense verb is used to refer to a past event / an occasional “-ing” form of the verb / usually “to” and a verb / a past participle used for the passive voice / abbreviations for names of countries or regions / an abbreviation with an apostrophe / an abbreviation with a period / the name of a capital city used to refer to the government of that country / one- or two-sentence summaries of the article / using more noun phrases / omitting relative clauses / avoiding using “of” forms and prepositional phrases

2) Listening Proficiency Improvement

Digital Korea Herald provides English learners with an opportunity to listen to everyday's headline stories by just a click on a hearing button. The Internet can be very useful in improving English listening skill if the English learners know what to do and where to go. All they need is a sound card and speakers, which are now usually standard equipment with a new computer, and the proper software listening program, which is a free download.

3) Reading Proficiency Improvement

Reading activity via a digital English newspaper undoubtedly builds on learners' English reading skills, helping them to expand their English vocabulary. This can be used as a resource for varied and realistic reading supplement to the ordinary English reading course. However, reading the English headline stories is hard for most beginning and low-intermediate learners. This is because their reading pace and comprehensibility of the text as well as their grammar and vocabulary level do not fit the materials. In order to remedy this situation, the recommended sections for lower-level English learners include some easy reading materials such as *Weekender (People, Cover, Features, Hot Spots, Pokers, Music, Movie, Video, Weekly Poll, Media Spotlight), Hot Issues Announcements, Health, and Sports Section*.

4) Writing Proficiency Improvement

News stories could be used to improve learners' English writing skill. The learners might be organized into several groups, and each group would get some topics in the headlines to find information about. The learners might be asked to read about the assigned topic, make notes and later write their own viewpoint about the topic with their own words. When assigning such an activity, the instructor needs to choose the topics which are current and dynamic enough to appear several times in the digital English newspaper. For instance, the recent main topic is 'World Cup 2002' which provides much to write about.

5) Speaking Proficiency Improvement

English learners can improve their speaking skill in English with headline stories. The learners can be assigned into several groups of 5 or so, and each group would get some topics in the headlines. The learners might have opportunities to read and get to know the news story through a Korean newspaper or other media beforehand, and then get access to the digital English newspaper. It is crucial to make sure that all learners in the group have to exchange their views on a topic, work together to reach a conclusion and finally a representative of the group reports to the class. This will develop their English speaking skill by creating and delivering the presentation to the class. The actual oral presentation of their reports also helps to build on their oral presentation skill, and confidence in speaking English in front of a group. Furthermore, the activity allows the learners to express their own opinions and ideas on current issues in the news stories. With the most advanced English learners, this kind of English learning activity could provide opportunities to compare different points of view on the same topic. For instance, the issue of 'World Cup 2002' leads to pros and cons through a lively class discussion which could trigger healthy debate culture.

2. Using 'English Update'

Digital Korea Herald provides English learners with instructive and diverse learning materials called *English Update*. Its contents include the following parts:

Editorial / Int'l News / Herald Community (Study Group, Herald Forum, Ask John, Debate, Humor Board) / Herald Cafe (Movie Script, Popsong English, A Poem For Breakfast, Jumble, Puzzle, Humor in English, Comics) / Living English (Business English, Common Errors, Write-On, Real Talk, Current Terminology, On the Road to Better English) / Test Preparation (TOEIC, TOEFL) / Ann Landers (Annie's Mailbox)

1) Using 'Editorial' or 'International News Story'

The current 'Editorial' or 'International News Story' are translated and uploaded by some professional interpreters from the Translation Center of *Digital Korea Herald*. The learners can get the translation services and confirm that their own translation is correct.

The subpages of 'Editorial' or 'International News Story' are generally composed of three sections. The first section displays the translations of individual paragraphs. The second section shows the entire articles, and the third section is a text-only page designed for the learners who would print the articles for word processing. The teaching methodology for 'Editorial' or 'International News Story' includes the following.

(1) Vocabulary Exercise

After an English instructor has the text of an article on-screen printed out, key words can be underlined and then an exercise is given to the students. For example, the instructor makes the learners infer the meanings of key words, gives definitions to match with the key words, deletes some of the words for the learners to fill in the blanks, highlights some words in the text and makes the learners deduce their meanings from the context or choose the best equivalent from the ones given.

(2) Text-Altering Exercise

The text of an article can be easily converted into a gapped passage by deleting words and typing dots in their place. The English instructor gaps the passage and provides all the missing words jumbled up at the end of the word-processed article. Or he or she puts all verbs into the infinitive, removes all linking words or removes all capitals and punctuation and creates a guided writing exercise by making correct sentences.

(3) Comprehension Test

The text of an article provides the English learners with a comprehension test in the form of comprehension questions such as true or false questions, multiple choice questions or alternative summaries. The instructor deletes the key sentence from each paragraph and asks the learners to put them back into the correct places in the text. Another comprehension test such as a written comprehension test can include questions such as 'What are the main problems of the recent presidential election?', 'How do you think the US election 2000 will affect the inter-Korean relations?', 'What is the editor's opinion of the US election 2000?', and 'What is your opinion of the US election 2000?'

(4) Ordering Articles

The instructor separates the article into several paragraphs and has the learners reconstruct the article by putting the paragraphs in the correct order. Or the instructor mixes up two separate articles with titles and has the learners separate and reconstruct them both. Or the instructor mixes up a pile of articles and a pile of headlines and has the learners match the headlines to the correct articles.

2) Using 'Herald Community Cafe'

Herald Community Cafe invites the learners to organize a study group, arranges readers' forum to share their thoughts on one of discussion boards, creates a cyber-community where people from around the globe with an interest in Korea can meet and exchange ideas and support lively debate and diverse opinions. And the learners can join the E-mail Club to receive free news, events and information updates.

Especially in *Open Forum* and *Forum by Topic*, the English learners feel free to express their opinions on any topics to talk about. For instance, in *Forum by Topic* the learners choose and discuss one of the following discussion topics such as 'Dalai Lama's visit refused for this year', 'A Republican White House and North Korea', 'Government restrictions on prominent N.K. defector', and 'Movement to boost foreign laborers' rights', etc.

In addition, Korean or American columnists provide the English learners with tips about learning the English language. They answer to the learners' questions or post comments about learning English, helping budding learners to walk the road to proficiency.

Digital Korea Herald provides the learners with another opportunity to learn English through *Movie Script*, *Pop Song English*, *A Poem For Breakfast*, *Jumble*, *Puzzle*, *Humor in English*, and *Comics in Herald Café*. In 'Movie Script', a part of the script of a current movie is translated and is included with a short synopsis of the movie. For 'Pop Song English', a pop columnist selects a popular English song for translation and adds an introduction to the artist and song. For 'Humor in English', unlike the column of the same title of *English Update*, the contents are from a book titled 'Fabulous, Absolutely Fabulous'.

3) Using 'Advanced English'

The 'Advanced' section of *English Update* consists of 'Ann Landers(Annie's Mailbox)', 'On the Road to Better English', 'Business English', and 'Current Events Vocabulary Bank'. Among other things, 'Ann Landers' is the most popular column in *Digital Korea Herald* and is included in *English Update* along with the translation. 'On the Road to Better English', a column written by Professor David E. Shaffer, offers a more sophisticated and higher-level form of English educational material. 'Business English' and 'Current Events Vocabulary Bank' are also provided. 'Business English' is a compilation of terms and vocabulary, useful phrases, and dialogues which are used in business settings. 'Current Events Vocabulary Bank' provides explanations, example sentences, and translations of terms which are part of the current events in the news. 'Real Talk', 'Common Errors', and 'Tea Time English' make up this section, too. 'Real Talk' is provided by EBS from its own contents. 'Common Errors' pick out errors that people commonly make when learning English. The 'Test Preparation' section allows the learners to take shortened TOEFL and TOEIC tests and get their results.

(1) Using 'Ann Landers(Annie's Mailbox)'

A source of Ann Landers, which can be found at <http://www.creators.com/lifestyle/landers/> is an impressive site offering information about recently deceased Ann Landers. The site includes *Write to Dear Ann Landers*, *The Column*, *Dear Ann Landers Archive*, *Special Topics*, *About Ann Landers*, *A Conversation With Ann*, *Ann Facts*, and *Ann Landers Books*.

① Adequacy for English Learning Materials

Late Ann Landers, the most widely syndicated columnist in the world, has an estimated readership of 90 million, and appears in more than 1,200 newspapers in

the world. In a career spanning nearly half a century, Ann Landers has counseled millions of people with her comforting words, wise advice, and answers to some of life's most sensitive, personal, and compelling questions. Through her consulting columns, Ann Landers continually reaffirms her commitment to the welfare of the individual seeking help and advice. Her column has become a popular arena for the free and frank exchange of ideas, opinions and factual information on virtually every topic medical, ethical, personal or sexual. With her series of booklets, including "Sex and the Teenager" and "The Lowdown on Dope", Ann Landers has challenged the public and private taboos surrounding the epidemic problems of AIDS, teenage pregnancy, cocaine and alcoholism, laying bare the myths and hypocrisies and creating a forum for the candid discussion of topics which might otherwise never meet public discussion. Since Ann Landers deals with these letters from English native speakers, studying with them provides non-English natives with opportunities to acquire American ways of thought, lifestyles and their authentic English expressions.

② Educational Effect

In the last 20 years, the subjects that have appeared in the Ann Landers column have ranged from living wills (the right to die), animal rights, AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, Alzheimer's disease, chronic depression, spousal abuse, child abuse, sexual harassment, prostate cancer and organ donation, to greater awareness of the need for minority bone marrow donors, etc. Studying English with those letters provides non-English natives with opportunities to get indirect experience of American lifestyles and American ways of thought. Moreover, it helps the learners to acquire spoken or colloquial English since there is an abundance of words and expressions in the Ann Landers columns that can be used in everyday conversation in the USA.

③ Teaching Method

First, the English learners listen to audio narration of Ann Landers column, improving their listening skill. Second, they read the letter and understand it to improve their reading skill. Third, to improve their writing skill, English learners write an answer for themselves and then compare with Ann Landers' answer. This can be their good start to write a friendly letter to a family or a significant other or can be a basis of e-mail or chat exchange in English. Last, to promote their speaking skill, English learners summarize the letter and present to other students what the letter is about by discussing a question and its answer.

3. Using 'Classified Advertisements'

The English learners look at *Digital Korea Herald's* Advertisement 'Classified Ads' including *Employment, Travel, Business Center, For Rent, Real Estate, Packing & Transit, Restaurant, Clinic, Massage, Tax Leniency, Nail Salon, and Automobiles*, and learn a variety of expressions in 'Classified Ads', which will be a basic vocabulary used in everyday lives. They are shown in the following:

Employment (full and part time, wanted, send resume), Travel (air ticket, package tour), Business Center (fully furnished, fitness center, conference), For Rent(residence area, adjacent to, luxurious, parking lot), Real Estate (leasing, brand-new, best location, flexibly & reasonably priced), Packing & Transit (overseas moving, sea & air freight, transportation, estimation, please do not hesitate to contact me), Restaurant (cuisine, buffet), Clinic (surgery, cosmetic dermatology, appointment, emergency)

The English learners can also make a speech on advertisement by acting-out, analyzing messages found in advertising and practicing persuasive advertising techniques to influence consumers' choices.

4. Using 'Miscellaneous'

The *Digital Korea Herald* supplies 'Miscellaneous' including *Notice, Subscribe, Contact Us, About Us, Sitemap, Dictionary and Weather*.

1) Using 'Weather Report'

The English learners look at a weather report and learn new words and expressions related to the weather. The use of the weather page is one of the ways to learn geography and math in English. First, the English learners are introduced to the weather page to read the high and low temperatures in the columns. And then they look up the cities in Korea in the gazetteer of on-line atlas. This activity could be used to locate the cities in Korea. Second, the learners read Fahrenheit or Celsius temperature, and the percentage of rainfall. After the learners locate the cities and states and how to read the percentage of rainfall, they are assigned to a weather forecaster. The learner forecasts the weather in person, wearing a weatherman's shoes. All of these activities could be very motivating to the learners

who normally do not have an interest in English to accept this challenge of finding the cities in the atlas and forecasting. In a concrete way, the question such as 'what is the weather going to be in Korea today?' is asked to the learners and they refer to the map to find their answers.

2) Using 'Astrology(Horoscope)'

The English learners choose zodiac signs (Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius, Pisces), interpret today's fortune, compare the personality according to zodiac sign to their own personality and then write what they will act today according to their fortune. If the learners need any more advice, they can check out Eugenia's Web sites at <http://www.astroadvice.com>, www.eugenialast.com, or www.astromate.com.

3) Using 'Community Bulletin Board'

This part can be one of the ways to improve the English learners' writing skill by posting their free ads such as *Announcement*, *Pen pals*, *Items for Sale*, *Sports*, *Travel*, *Recreation*, *Accommodation*, *Wanted*, *Korean Classes*, and others. Many English learners know that they need to improve their English writing ability but just don't have the motivation to pick up a pen and paper to begin. In that case, if connected to the *Digital Korea Herald*, there is a host of interesting and very useful ways to improve writing skills. Many learners find e-mail pals (keypals) from across the nation and talk about all kinds of things.

4) Using 'the Dictionary'

A digital English-Korean and Korean-English dictionary is easily accessible and the English learners are able to consult it anytime. This dictionary contains 340,000 words including easy-to-understand definitions and information. Many new words related to current information and affairs are researched and included in the dictionary with about 2,000 detailed illustrations and colorful pictures. It contains various and vivid example sentences which appear in most famous dictionaries of America and England, books of literature, magazines, the Bible, etc. American and British pronunciation differences as well as plentiful idioms are also shown in the dictionary.

5) Using 'Readers' Best Brands of 2000 survey'

Digital Korea Herald conducts a survey of what brands its readers favor most for every year. It also conducts a lottery with its readers' replies. Thirty lucky entrants win prizes. The readers' favorite brands include: mobile phone, TV set, beer, mineral water, and perfume, etc. These English names for various items are helpful for low-level English learners to acquire a basic vocabulary used in everyday lives.

In addition to the applications of *Digital Korea Herald* provided above, the English learners can use the following section: 'Comic Strips' in which they choose a comic strip, leave a blank to the last line of the comic strip, fill the blank, and present their filled line. In 'TV Program', they look for one favorite program and confirm the English program title. In 'Stock Market Report' they can learn English terminology of various products and manufacturers.

IV. SURVEY RESEARCH

There is much uncertainty as to how to fully utilize an on-line newspaper and how effective this course will be. So in a regular English course teachers are usually reluctant to implement uncertain teaching methodology with unknown results into classroom instruction and some English learners also remain reluctant to try an innovative technological approach to English learning. However, there has been an increase in the availability of advanced educational technologies such as computer labs and the Internet due to a considerable amount of investment in schools over the years. The possibilities of using an on-line English newspaper via the Internet are bright as a part of extracurricular English learning activity in a computer lab with Internet access.

This study reports on the results of learning English via a digital English newspaper that was carried out in English learning instruction in an extracurricular English learning club of Business English Department. The club includes free use of an Internet surfing center, Internet Cafe, in a College Library. And then, a survey among the club members was conducted and its statistical results were analyzed. Furthermore, as the learners had recently learned English via the traditional English newspaper, the instructor was able to sense learners' different reactions to the

digital English newspaper. This division of courses provides a contrast of the English learners' interests in traditional or digital English newspapers.

Very little research has been done on the applications of an on-line English newspaper in classroom instruction. Following the English courses via an on-line English newspaper, a questionnaire was administered to 20 learners to ascertain the success of a digital English newspaper instruction and which aspects of learning English are most appreciated. The level of the learners to which English learning via an on-line English newspaper may be directed is intended to be intermediate and above, since budding learners' reading pace and comprehensibility of the text as well as their grammar and vocabulary level do not meet the threshold of many Internet materials.

1. Questionnaire, Results & Discussion

The questionnaire consists of ten 5-point Likert Scale questions, three multiple choice questions and two open-ended questions. The responses of 5-point Likert Scale are divided into 5 levels (5. strongly agree, 4. fairly agree, 3. slightly agree, 2. somewhat disagree, 1. strongly disagree) and then rearranged into 3 scales (positive, neutral, and negative). The questionnaire is administered on the last day of the class. The questionnaire, results and discussion are shown as follows.

1) 5-point Likert Scale Questions

In the first question 'I enjoyed learning English via the digital English newspaper,' the respondents' answers hover around 70 percent positively and 20 percent neutrally. This shows that most English learners find it more interesting and enjoyable to learn English via a digital English newspaper rather than to learn it through a traditional English textbook.

In the second question 'I am satisfied with learning English via the digital English newspaper,' 55 percent and 30 percent of the respondents replied positively and neutrally, respectively. This shows that most English learners find it pleasing and satisfactory to learn English via a digital English newspaper. This will lead to a wide use of an electronic English newspaper in classroom instruction.

In the third question 'I had an interest in English after learning English via the digital English newspaper,' 50 percent and 30 percent of the respondents answered positively and neutrally, respectively. This shows that most English learners find

it motivating and interesting to learn English via a digital English newspaper. If motivation is important in learning English, learning English digitally will play such a role.

TABLE 2
Questions and their Statistical Results (N = 20)

No	Questions	Yes(n)	Neutral(n)	No(n)
1	I enjoyed learning English via the digital English newspaper.	70% (14)	20% (4)	10% (2)
2	I am satisfied with learning English via the digital English newspaper.	55% (11)	30% (6)	15% (3)
3	I had an interest in English after learning English via the digital English newspaper.	50% (10)	30% (6)	20% (4)
4	I had a confidence in English after learning English via the digital English newspaper.	35% (7)	30% (6)	35% (7)
5	I began to participate in an English class actively after learning via the digital English newspaper.	50% (10)	25% (5)	25% (5)
6	I'd like to encourage other students to study English via the digital English newspaper.	60% (12)	30% (6)	10% (2)
7	Learning via the digital English newspaper is more effective than an traditional English textbook instruction.	65% (13)	20% (4)	15% (3)
8	I want to continue learning English via the digital English newspaper.	70% (14)	20% (4)	10% (2)
9	I will take a regular course of learning English via the digital English newspaper if available.	75% (15)	20% (4)	5% (1)
10	I improved my English proficiency by learning English via the digital English newspaper.	25% (5)	45% (9)	30% (6)

In fourth question 'I had a confidence in English after learning English via the digital English newspaper.' interestingly, 35 percent, 30 percent and 35 percent of the respondents answered positively, neutrally and negatively, respectively. This shows that the number of respondents who answered negatively is greater than that of other questions. This result indicates how difficult it is to gain confidence in

English after learning it within a short period of time and demands a long-term utilization of a digital English newspaper.

In the fifth question 'I began to participate in an English class actively after learning via the digital English newspaper,' nearly 80 percent of the respondents answered positively or neutrally. This shows that most English learners find it interesting to learn English via a digital English newspaper and come to take part in English instruction actively.

In the sixth question 'I'd like to encourage other students to study English via the digital English newspaper,' 90 percent of the students responded positively or neutrally. This indicates that most English learners have positive attitudes towards learning English via the digital English newspaper and find it recommendable to learn English via a digital English newspaper.

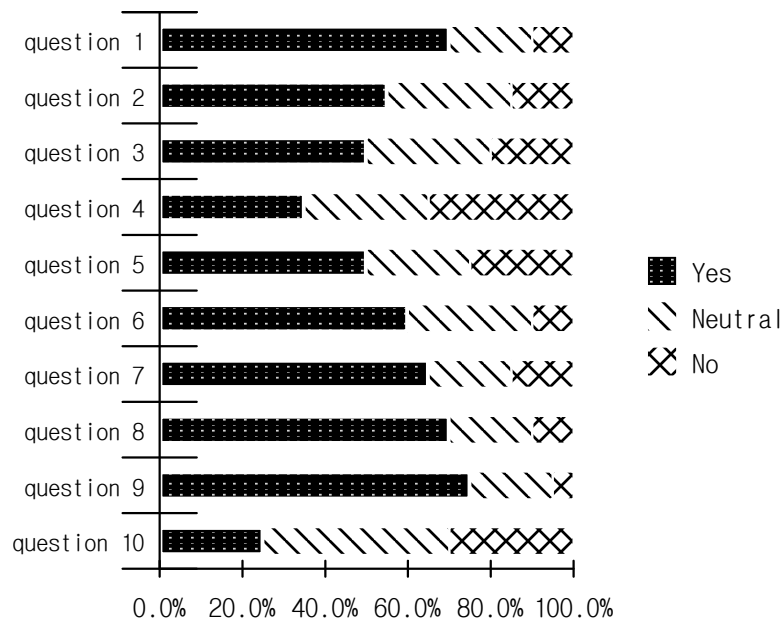
In the seventh question 'Learning via the digital English newspaper is more effective than an traditional English textbook instruction,' 65 percent and 20 percent of the students responded positively and neutrally, respectively. This represents that learning English via the on-line newspaper is efficient to promote language proficiency of Korean learners of English. Accordingly, it can be summarized that the English learners have to be encouraged for the wider use of online English newspapers.

In the eighth question 'I want to continue learning English via the digital English newspaper,' 90 percent of the respondents answered positively or neutrally. This reveals that the English learners seem to have realized the potentials and values of electronic English newspapers and want to keep using them in their language learning.

In the ninth question 'I will take a regular course of learning English via the digital English newspaper if available,' more than 95 percent of the respondents answered positively or neutrally. This shows that the success of this course should result in the development of a regular English learning course via an digital English newspaper.

In the tenth question 'I improved my English proficiency by learning English via the digital English newspaper,' interestingly, 25 percent, 45 percent and 30 percent of the respondents answered positively, neutrally and negatively, respectively. This shows that how difficult it is to acquire English proficiency after learning English within a short period of time and demands a long-term utilization of a digital English newspaper.

FIGURE 1
Statistical Distribution (N=20)



2) Open-ended Questions

Question 11. What did you like about learning English via the digital English newspaper? (advantages)

- to learn current English words and expressions
- to get up-to-date English materials
- to overcome anxiety from learning English
- to enlarge English vocabulary
- to know what is happening around the world as well as across a nation.

Question 12. What did you dislike about learning English via the digital English newspaper? (disadvantages)

- to have a difficulty in concentration when learning English via the digital English newspaper

- to feel a little tedious about repetitive English newspaper learning
- not to catch up with the class because I am poor at English

3) Multiple Choice Questions

Question 13 What is most improved in your English skills? Mark 1~4 according to the amount of improvement

- 1) reading (60% - 12) 2) writing (10% - 2)
3) speaking (5% - 1) 4) listening (25% - 5)

The result shows that the respondents answered their English skills were improved in the following order; reading, listening, writing and speaking skills. More than half of the surveyed students replied that their reading skill in English was improved. This suggests that the program of learning English via the on-line newspaper should lead to an equal development of students' four skills in English.

Question 14 Would you now prefer a traditional English newspaper or an on-line English newspaper?

- 1) Traditional (15% - 3) 2) On-line (85% - 17)

Most respondents prefer an on-line English newspaper to a traditional English newspaper. Only about 15 percent of the surveyed students favor a traditional English newspaper.

The survey results on the whole do show that the English learners were motivated to learn English by the methodology of English learning via an on-line English newspaper. This consequently has improved the learners' listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in English. This indicates that learning English via a digital newspaper is effective and useful to promote language proficiency of Korean English learners. In view of these research studies, it can be summarized that the English learners have to be encouraged for the wider and ceaseless use of online English newspapers. This will result into development of a regular English learning course via an digital English newspaper. This study obviously has its own limitations. The sampling was limited to the extracurricular informal English learning club with a relatively small number of samples. Similar follow-up studies with larger samples should be conducted to find out whether they will show a similar pattern.

V. CONCLUSION

An access to English on-line newspapers on the Internet presents Korean learners of English with a number of effective English-learning possibilities. This paper outlined the advantages of on-line English newspapers and characterized some benefits encountered while using them, proposing some suggestions of applications for using on-line English newspapers with the greatest profit for Korean learners of English. Also, it is this paper's intention to try to show how English teachers could supplement existing English textbooks with on-line ones.

This study confirmed that an on-line English newspaper such as *Digital Korea Herald* could be used as an effective resource for education, especially, as a tool for language learning. Because it provides detailed and up-to-date English materials which can be rapidly and easily accessed solving the deficiencies existing in English education programs in Korea. This study will be a crucial step in implementing digital newspapers into a classroom instruction. This study also confirmed that English learners have positive attitudes towards learning English via the digital English newspaper. The majority of English instructors and learners seem to have realized the potentials and values of electronic newspapers and become interested in using them in the language classroom.

The paper concludes that English learning activities via the on-line newspaper is useful to promote language proficiency because it can put learners in abundant, authentic English input context and also in interactional, collaborative, context-based, and learner-centered learning setting through the Internet. Moreover, the results of the survey indicate that the success of this course will result in the development of a regular English learning course via a digital English newspaper.

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