Learn Korean Ep. 43: Possessive Marker

You've probably seen and used the Possessive Marker before many times, but let's go over it in a bit more detail.

"의"

The Possessive Marker acts kind of like an "apostrophe s" in English (**'s**), in that it shows that someone or something **belongs** to someone or something else.

Although it's written "의," whenever it's used as the Possessive Marker, it's pronounced "에." However, if you really want to, or if you forget, you can still pronounce it "의," it's just less common.

Let's look at some examples:

저의 자동차
"my car"

김 선생님의 직업
"Mr. Kim's job"
"직업" means "job" or "occupation."

"저의" ("my" – polite) can also be, and is more often, shortened to "제."

"나의" ("my" – for casual situations when speaking to people you know who are the same age as you or younger), can also be shortened to "내."

"너의," ("your" – for casual situations when speaking to people you know who are the same age as you or younger), be shortened to "네." However, because "네" sounds so similar to "내," more often you'll hear "네" *pronounced* as "니" instead. In writing, it will still be written "네."

GO! Billy Korean

The Possessive Marker can also be used to connect two nouns, even though it might not directly mean that one necessarily **owns** the other one. In this way, it can translate to "**of**."

사랑의 힘
"the power of love"

But if this seems a bit confusing, feel free to just translate it as an "**apostrophe s**" like before, and you'll still get a translation that at least makes sense.

사랑의 힘
"love**'s** power"

Here are some more examples:

동생의 숙제를 도와줬어요.
"I helped my younger sibling do their homework."

할머니의 가방을 들어 드렸어요.
"I carried the old lady's bag."
"들어 드리다" means "to carry (for someone)."

Advanced Note

You might sometimes see combination words in Korean – words built from two words smashed together into one. In these, you'll often find a lone "ㅅ" directly between them. There are tons of words like this, but here are just a couple of examples:

"윗방" = "위" and "방"
"아랫방" = "아래" and "방"

Whenever you see a "ㅅ" between two words, such as in the two cases above, know that the "ㅅ" is actually a **contraction** of "의."

"윗방" → "위의 방"

GO! Billy Korean

"아랫방" ➔ "아래의 방"

The "ㅅ" is there because originally there was a "의" separating the two nouns. You'll see words like these quite often in Korean.

Conclusion

If you have any questions, feel free to send me a message through my web site or on YouTube. Good luck in your studies!

그럼, 다음에 또 봐!