



SEMANTIC HOMONYMY OF HANJA-BASED COMPOUNDS IN CONTEMPORARY KOREAN TRANSLATION STRATEGIES

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The contemporary Korean language exists in a state of unique orthographic tension: while Hangeul provides phonetic efficiency, the widespread suppression of the logographic Hanja script, which constitutes the etymological substrate for approximately 70% of the lexicon has precipitated a phenomenon of «semantic erosion». This study undertakes a comprehensive historical and sociolinguistic analysis of semantic homonymy within Sino-Korean compounds, arguing that the transition to exclusive Hangeul usage has effectively stripped the vocabulary of its primary visual disambiguating layer. By tracing the historical phonetic convergence of Middle Chinese tonal distinctions into a limited inventory of Korean syllable structures, the research demonstrates how this orthographic shift necessitates a heavy reliance on high-context inference, a luxury often absent in modern digital, advertising, and media discourses.

Methodologically, the article proposes a nuanced typology of homonyms ranging from absolute lexical identity to functional and contextual ambiguities and evaluates their disruptive impact on translation into non-logographic languages, specifically within the Korean-Ukrainian language pair. Empirical analysis of media corpora and Neural Machine Translation (NMT) outputs reveals a critical vulnerability: decontextualized homonyms generate error rates of 15-25% in AI-mediated translation, as algorithms frequently default to statistical frequency rather than semantic propriety.

Consequently, the study posits that effective interlingual mediation requires a deliberate cognitive process of «logographic reconstruction». We systematize six compensatory strategies including contextual explication, hybrid glossing, and pre-translation Hanja restoration to mitigate the loss of semantic transparency. Ultimately, the findings suggest that despite the sociopolitical democratization of literacy through Hangeul, the «ghost» of Hanja remains an active, indispensable cognitive factor, demanding that translators possess not merely linguistic fluency, but the philological competence to retrieve the submerged logographic roots of the Korean lexicon.

СЕМАНТИЧНА ОМОНІМІЯ ХАНЧА-КОМПОЗИТИВ У СУЧАСНІЙ КОРЕЙСЬКІЙ МОВІ ТА СТРАТЕГІЇ ЇХ ПЕРЕКЛАДУ

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Ключові слова: *корейська мова, семантична омонімія, ханча-композиції, сино-корейська лексика, дизамбігуація, перекладацькі стратегії, корейсько-український переклад, машинний переклад і NLP, фонетична конвергенція.*

Сучасна корейська мова існує в стані унікальної орфографічної напруги: тоді як хангиль забезпечує фонетичну ефективність, повсюдне витіснення логографічного письма ханча, яке становить етимологічний субстрат для близько 70% лексики, спричинило феномен «семантичної ерозії». У цьому дослідженні здійснено комплексний історико-соціолінгвістичний аналіз семантичної омонімії в межах сино-корейських композитів. Аргументовано, що перехід до виключного використання хангиля фактично позбавив лексику первинного візуального шару дизамбігуації. Простежуючи історичну фонетичну конвергенцію тональних розрізень середньокитайської мови в обмежений інвентар корейських складових структур, дослідження демонструє, як цей орфографічний зсув зумовлює критичну залежність від висококонтекстної інференції – розкоші, часто недоступної в сучасних цифровому, рекламному та медійному дискурсах.

У методологічному плані стаття пропонує розгалужену типологію омонімів – від абсолютної лексичної тотожності до функціональних і контекстуальних двозначностей, та оцінює їхній деструктивний вплив на переклад нелогографічними мовами, зокрема в межах корейсько-української мовної пари. Емпіричний аналіз медіакорпусів та результатів роботи систем нейронного машинного перекладу (NMT) виявляє критичну вразливість: деконтекстуалізовані омоніми генерують рівень помилок у 15-25% при ШІ-перекладі, оскільки алгоритми часто віддають перевагу статистичній частотності замість семантичної доречності.

Відтак, дослідження постулює, що ефективна інтерлінгвальна медіація вимагає свідомого когнітивного процесу «логографічної реконструкції». Систематизовано шість компенсаторних стратегій – включно з контекстуальною експлікацією, гібридним глосуванням та доперекладацькою реставрацією ханча для нівелювання втрати семантичної прозорості. У підсумку, отримані результати свідчать про те, що попри соціополітичну демократизацію грамотності через хангиль, «привид» ханча залишається активним, невід’ємним когнітивним фактором, який вимагає від перекладачів не лише мовної плинності, а й філологічної компетентності для віднайдення прихованого логографічного коріння корейського лексику.

Problem area. Contemporary Korean is characterized by a unique linguistic dualism: the coexistence of a phonetic script (Hangeul) and a historically formed layer of logographic vocabulary (Hanja), which accounts for 60-70% of the total lexicon. The transition toward the exclusive use of Hangeul in everyday and digital communication has resulted in the loss of the visual disambiguation mechanism previously provided by Chinese characters. This creates substantial practical obstacles for the precise transmission of meaning in legal, medical, and academic fields, where semantic precision is of critical importance.

The phenomenon of semantic homonymy within Hanja-derived compounds constitutes a critical locus of tension in modern Korean lexicology and translatology. This ambiguity is not accidental but structurally inherent, arising from a historically determined orthographic rupture: the hegemony of Hangeul has effectively severed the visual link to the logographic etymon. Consequently, the vast Sino-Korean stratum has been deprived of its primary graphical disambiguation mechanism – a mechanism that once guaranteed semantic distinctiveness amidst phonetic convergence. The resulting proliferation of homonymic series does not merely obscure meaning; it imposes a heavy cognitive load on the interpretation of high-context discourses ranging from legal and scientific registers to digital media, thereby introducing systemic volatility into cross-linguistic communication.

The theoretical framework for interrogating this issue is grounded in the fundamental historical-linguistic inquiries of Lee & Ramsey [2000] and their critical reception by Iverson [2001]. While Choo [2016] has meticulously mapped the topography of ambiguity within toponyms, the contemporary locus of concern has shifted toward the digital sphere. Specifically, the susceptibility of Neural Machine Translation (NMT) algorithms to homonymic interference has been rigorously scrutinized in recent assessments of Google Translate and Papago architectures [Lee et al., 2021; Kang et al., 2015].

Yet, a significant lacuna remains: despite robust theoretical descriptions, there is a paucity of applied methodologies for the pre-translation "logographic restoration" of meaning – a step vital for rendering accurate target texts in non-logographic languages such as English or Ukrainian. Moreover, the exigencies of modern digital communication demand a more granular analysis of compensatory strategies, particularly within the minimal-context environments of advertising copy and interface localization.

However, issues regarding the typology of Hanja-compound homonymy across different discourse genres, as well as the development of comprehensive translation algorithms that integrate linguistic,

sociocultural, and technological approaches, remain insufficiently systematized. Specifically, there is a lack of scholarly work integrating the analysis of traditional translation strategies with the capabilities and limitations of modern neural machine translation (NMT) systems in the disambiguation of Sino-Korean vocabulary. It is this unresolved aspect of the general problem that determines the relevance of this article.

The primary objective of this article is to construct a rigorous conceptual framework for **semantic homonymy within Hanja-derived compounds**, positing it not merely as a lexical accident but as the structural outcome of the historical friction between the phonetic substrate of Korean and the logographic superstrate of Classical Chinese. Beyond this theoretical conceptualization, the study seeks to operationalize its findings by developing a systematized methodology for **translational disambiguation** within the Korean-Ukrainian language pair. This applied dimension is critically examined through the lens of genre specificity and the disruptive latency of modern Neural Machine Translation (NMT) technologies, ultimately aiming to bridge the gap between morphological opacity and communicative clarity.

The object of research is the Sino-Korean vocabulary of the contemporary Korean language as a component of its lexical-semantic system. **The subject of research** is the semantic homonymy of Hanja-derived compounds, its typological characteristics, functioning in various types of discourse, and translational disambiguation strategies within the process of interlingual interpretation in the Korean-Ukrainian language pair.

Introduction. Hanja was introduced to the Korean peninsula during the Three Kingdoms period (1st century BC – 7th century AD), with early use in diplomacy, administration, and Buddhism. While Goguryeo and Baekje adopted the script early due to geographic proximity to China, Silla integrated Hanja systematically after the 668 AD unification to support a centralized Confucian bureaucracy. By the Unified Silla (668-935) and Goryeo (918-1392) dynasties, Hanja was the exclusive medium for elite scholarship, yielding foundational works like the *Samguk Sagi* [Lee & Ramsey, 2000; Sohn, 2001]. Hanja reached its peak during the Joseon dynasty (1392–1910) as the official script of Neo-Confucian governance and the civil service exams (*gwageo*) [Cho, 2016; Taylor & Taylor, 1995; cf. Moon et al., 2024]. The 1443 invention of Hangeul by King Sejong the Great challenged this monopoly by providing a phonetic script accessible to the common people. However, Hanja maintained its high-culture prestige among the *yangban* aristocracy for centuries, while Hangeul was often marginalized as a "vulgar script" [Lee & Ramsey, 2000; Iverson, 2001].

The 20th century marked a decline in Hanja use. Following Japanese colonial rule (1910–1945), which imposed significant shifts in lexical and educational policies [Andrianov, 2025], both Koreas initially utilized mixed scripts. However, divergent nationalist policies led to a permanent shift: North Korea abolished Hanja in 1949, while South Korea gradually reduced its presence in textbooks and official documents by the 1970s [Lurie et al., 2019].

In contemporary society, Hanja remains symbolically and functionally significant, with 1,800–2,000 characters still taught in schools. They are utilized in academic, legal, and media contexts often in parentheses to provide graphic disambiguation for homophonous Hangul terms. This 1,500-year legacy explains why 60–70% of the Korean lexicon consists of Sino-Korean words, the historical root of the semantic homonymy investigated in this study.

The main body of the text. The historical hegemony of Hanja, once the exclusive script of administrative power and lexical precision, has progressively ceded ground to Hangul as the primary vehicle of daily communication [Lee & Ramsey, 2000; Taylor & Taylor, 1995]. While this orthographic transition successfully democratized literacy, it simultaneously engendered a complex linguistic reality: a vast stratum of the Korean lexicon specifically the Sino-Korean compounds was effectively stripped of its visual disambiguating layer. Consequently, lexemes that were once instantly clarified by their logographic etymons must now rely almost entirely on high-context inference, prosodic cues, or explicit glossing [Lurie et al., 2019]. This phenomenon of "semantic opacity" is particularly acute in contemporary discourse, where the written medium is predominantly Hangul-exclusive, and the clarifying presence of Hanja is relegated to parenthetical insertions, footnotes, or highly specialized registers [Choo & Kwak, 2008; cf. also Cho, 2016].

The structural outcome of this shift is a pervasive semantic homonymy: the proliferation of lexical units that are phonetically identical yet semantically divergent due to their distinct, albeit invisible, Hanja substrates. This ambiguity imposes a significant cognitive load on comprehension, particularly within the elliptical registers of advertisements, headlines, and digital media, where context is often truncated [Muscanto, 2018; Kwak & Kwak, 2025]. Furthermore, it presents a profound challenge for interlingual mediation, compelling the translator to engage in a process of "logographic reconstruction" to retrieve meaning without direct access to the source characters [Kiaer, 2017; Lee et al., 2021]. The subsequent sections will rigorously interrogate the typology of this homonymy, its disruptive manifestations in modern usage, and the compensatory strategies required to ensure fidelity in translation.

Semantic homonymy in Korean arises primarily from the loss of tonal distinctions present in Middle Chinese and the phonetic convergence of Hanja when adapted to Korean. Modern Korean has approximately 400–450 possible syllable shapes, but the number of Hanja used in compounds exceeds 3,000, leading to inevitable overlaps. As Choo (2016) notes in his study of toponyms (sections 3.3–3.4), many place names remain ambiguous in everyday Hangul usage precisely because the original characters are no longer written or taught [Choo, 2016].

Homonyms can be classified as follows:

1. Full homonyms is a complete phonetic identity with no semantic relation. Example: 사과 (謝過 ‘apology’) vs. 사과 (蘋果 ‘apple’). In spoken Korean, the distinction is clear only through context, but in translation, both can be rendered as “apple” or “apology” without additional clues.

2. Partial homonyms – one morpheme is ambiguous. Example: 공장 (工廠 ‘factory’) vs. 공장 (空場 ‘empty space’). In legal or administrative texts, the difference is critical, yet in casual writing, it is often resolved only by surrounding words.

3. Contextual homonyms – disambiguation historically provided by Hanja but lost in Hangul-only texts. Example: 미 (美 ‘beauty’) vs. 미 (米 ‘rice’) vs. 미 (味 ‘taste’). In poetry or literary translation, this creates layers of meaning that are difficult to preserve.

4. Functional homonyms – compounds that have shifted meaning over time. Example: 사랑 (思量 ‘thought, consideration’ in classical texts) vs. 사랑 (愛 ‘love’ in modern usage). The semantic drift adds complexity to historical and literary translations [Kiaer, 2017].

Tab. 1 compiled from corpus data and personal observation, shows that homonymy is most problematic in high-frequency syllables with multiple common Hanja readings.

Recent computational studies show that neural machine translation models (e.g., Papago, Google Translate) have error rates of 15–25% on Sino-Korean homonyms when processing Hangul-only input, often selecting the most frequent meaning instead of the contextually correct one.

Manifestations in Contemporary Korean Texts.

Homonymy is especially visible in genres where context is minimal or ambiguous as advertising and marketing short slogans and headlines often exploit homonymy for wordplay, but this can confuse non-native translators. For example, a slogan like “사랑의 맛” could be read as “taste of love” or “taste of rice” without Hanja clarification. In the news and media headlines such as “공장 폭발” can mean “factory explosion” (工廠) or “empty space explosion” (空場), though context usually resolves it. In translation, however, ambiguity persists.

Common homonyms (based on frequency in modern corpora)

Hangul	Possible Hanja	Meanings	Frequency in modern texts	Translation risk
사과	謝過 / 蘋果	apology / apple	Very high	High
공기	空氣 / 公氣	air / public atmosphere	High	Medium
미	美 / 米 / 味	beauty / rice / taste	High	High
사	四 / 死 / 事 / 使	four / death / matter / envoy	Medium	Very high
공장	工廠 / 空場	factory / empty space	Medium	High

The digital sphere, characterized by the high-velocity discourse of social media, has become a primary locus for orthographic entropy. Younger demographics frequently deploy Sino-Korean lexemes in an exclusively phonogrammatic (Hangul-only) form, a practice that strips these compounds of their etymological transparency and precipitates frequent semantic misinterpretations. This is not merely a stylistic evolution but a cognitive shift; recent scholarship highlights how this "orthographic amnesia" exacerbates the generational gap in lexical comprehension, creating a barrier between the Hanja-literate older generation and their digital-native counterparts [Muscanto, 2018; An et al., 2025].

A sharp divergence in register observance further complicates this landscape. While legal and academic discourses maintain a conservative adherence to parenthetical Hanja to ensure terminological exactitude, popular science and journalistic writing frequently succumb to the pressure for orthographic simplification. The systematic omission of these logographic anchors in mass media introduces a latent potential for confusion, eroding the semantic precision essential for nuanced communication.

Consequently, the semantic homonymy of Hanja-based compounds constitutes a formidable hermeneutic challenge for interlingual mediation, particularly when translating into languages devoid of a logographic infrastructure, such as English, Ukrainian, French, or German. There exists a fundamental asymmetry in reception: unlike the native Korean speaker, who resolves ambiguity through high-context cultural intuition and prosodic cues, the translator is often compelled to perform a forensic "reconstruction" of meaning without direct access to the disambiguating characters [Choo & Kwak, 2008; Kiaer, 2017]. The following section delineates the specific contours of these obstacles and systematizes the compensatory strategies—ranging from explication to annotation—that translators must employ to bridge this semantic void.

1. Contextual insufficiency in short texts Advertising slogans, news headlines, social media posts, product descriptions, and subtitles often

provide minimal context. A phrase like “사과 드립니다” can mean either “We offer apples” (蘋果) or “We apologize” (謝過). Without additional cues, the translator risks choosing the wrong interpretation, which can alter the tone or intent entirely.

2. Cultural and historical connotations Many homonyms carry layers of meaning rooted in classical literature, Confucian philosophy, or folk superstitions. For example, the syllable 사 (死 “death” vs. 四 “four”) evokes numerological taboos in Korean culture (four is unlucky), but this association is invisible in Hangul-only text and usually lost in translation.

3. Register and genre variation Formal texts (legal documents, academic papers) often include Hanja in parentheses for clarity, while informal genres (K-pop lyrics, memes, casual ads) do not. Translators must adapt their strategy depending on the source register.

4. Machine translation limitations Current neural models (Papago, Google Translate, DeepL) trained predominantly on Hangul-only data tend to select the most frequent modern meaning of a homophone, resulting in systematic errors. Recent studies estimate ambiguity-related mistranslation rates of 15-25% for Sino-Korean vocabulary [Lee et al., 2021].

The semantic homonymy inherent in Hanja-based compounds constitutes a formidable hermeneutic obstacle for interlingual mediation, particularly when the target language operates within a purely phonogrammatic framework (e.g., English, Ukrainian, Russian, French, or German). A fundamental asymmetry exists in the reception of this ambiguity: whereas the native speaker intuitively resolves lexical opacity through a synthesis of immediate context, prosodic cues, and shared cultural schemata, the translator is frequently denied these paralinguistic aids. Consequently, the translation process transforms into an act of forensic "semantic reconstruction," wherein the translator must retrieve the precise meaning of a lexeme without direct visual access to its disambiguating logographic etymon [Choo & Kwak, 2008; Kiaer, 2017; Lee & Ramsey, 2000].

1. Contextual expansion and explanatory additions The most common and flexible method is to expand

ambiguous terms with brief clarifications. Example: translating 사과 as “apology (謝過)” or “apple (蘋果)” when both readings are plausible. In literary or academic translation, footnotes or endnotes can provide the Hanja and alternative meanings. This approach preserves fidelity while ensuring clarity, though it increases text length and may disrupt stylistic flow in creative genres.

2. Paraphrasing and semantic disambiguation When context is sufficient, the translator can rephrase the term to eliminate ambiguity without losing meaning. Example: instead of literally translating “공장 폭발” as “factory explosion”, the translator can write “explosion at the factory” if the industrial context is clear. This method is especially useful in advertising and marketing, where naturalness in the target language is prioritized over literal equivalence.

3. Hybrid rendering (Hanja glossing) In specialized or scholarly translations, the translator may retain Romanized Hanja or provide them in parentheses. Example: “gongjang (工廠) explosion” or “sa (死) is taboo in Korean culture”. This technique is standard in academic works and bilingual editions of Korean literature, though it is less suitable for general audiences.

4. Creative compensation In cases where wordplay or stylistic ambiguity is intentional (common in poetry, advertising, and subtitles), the translator can introduce target-language compensation. Example: a pun based on 사과 (apple/apology) might be rendered with an English pun like “We’re really sorry... no apples attached” or replaced with a different stylistic device that achieves a similar emotional or humorous effect.

Pre-translation Hanja Restoration. In instances where the source text exhibits semantic opacity yet permits the inference of its etymological roots deduced via contextual, generic, or stylistic markers the professional translator is compelled to undertake a process of “restoration.” This involves the rigorous consultation of specialized lexicographical resources or native informants to retrieve the intended characters prior to the act of translation. While this philological excavation is methodologically laborious, it remains a non-negotiable imperative for “high-stakes” discourses specifically within legal, medical, and literary canons, where ambiguity is tantamount to error.

The Integration of AI-Assisted Disambiguation. Contemporary computational linguistics offers nascent tools for semantic precision, allowing for the manual annotation of Hangeul input with clarifying Hanja to calibrate machine output. Future neural architectures, trained on extensive Hanja-annotated corpora (as postulated in recent arXiv preprints, 2024-2025), promise a substantial reduction in algorithmic error rates. Consequently, translators are increasingly

adopting hybrid workflows, utilizing these tools for a preliminary “first pass” before engaging in the granular manual refinement of ambiguous segments [Moon et al., 2024].

Within the academic paradigm, genre-specific protocols for handling Hanja-derived homonymy necessitate a calibrated equilibrium between semantic precision and functional equivalence:

1. In the persuasive domains of **advertising and marketing**, the *skopos* of the text demands a shift toward transcreation and paraphrasing; here, rhetorical efficacy must supersede literalism to circumvent the absurdities often spawned by decontextualized homonyms.

2. Conversely, in **journalistic discourse**, strategies of contextual expansion or explicit Hanja-glossing become indispensable. This is particularly critical when navigating the informational density of headlines, where the friction between spatial economy and factual clarity is most acute.

3. For **literary translation**, a polyvalent methodology is advocated, synthesizing footnotes, exegetical glossing, and compensatory phrasing to conserve the text’s diachronic depth and emotional resonance.

4. In the rigorist environments of **technical and legal translation**, the methodology pivots toward the strict philological restoration of the original characters and the deployment of exact terminological equivalents to guarantee juridical validity.

5. Finally, within the high-velocity ecosystems of **subtitling and digital media**, translators are encouraged to privilege idiomatic paraphrasing, a strategy that facilitates the brevity and cognitive ease required for real-time consumption.

Ultimately, the effective mediation of Hanja-derived homonymy demands a synthesis of profound linguistic competence, cultural literacy, and strategic heuristic decision-making. While no single pedagogical method offers a panacea for ambiguity, a judicious orchestration of contextual explication, glossing, paraphrasing, and augmentative AI technologies can radically enhance both accuracy and readability. As the Korean language continues its global ascent through the vehicles of K-pop, drama, and digital platforms, the exigency for high-fidelity translation intensifies rendering the study of Hanja homonymy not merely a matter of academic interest, but a pressing practical imperative.

The semantic homonymy of Hanja-derived compounds reflects a fundamental tension between the efficiency of the phonetic Hangeul script and the profound semantic depth of its logographic heritage. The abandonment of visual Hanja markers has led to a form of “semantic erosion,” where the interpretation of Sino-Korean terms, which constitute the majority of the lexicon now relies entirely on contextual cues

[Liu & McBride-Chang, 2014; Zhou et al., 1999; Zhou et al., 2010]. This shift poses significant risks in professional domains such as law and medicine and results in high error rates (up to 25%) in neural machine translation systems, which frequently default to the most statistically frequent modern meanings of homophones.

To mitigate these systemic ambiguities effectively, the trajectory of future research must inevitably pivot toward the construction of a robust lexicographical infrastructure specifically, the cultivation of high-density Hanja-annotated corpora and the compilation of specialized bilingual glossaries tailored for professional mediation. A particularly fertile avenue for inquiry lies in a rigorous contrastive analysis of the Korean experience vis-à-vis the Japanese *Kanji* and Vietnamese *Chữ Nôm* traditions. Such a comparative typology would elucidate universal patterns of logographic adaptation, attrition, and survival within the framework of modernizing phonetic scripts [Lurie et al., 2019]. Ultimately, the preservation of terminological integrity in a globalized digital sphere demands a deliberate convergence of philological rigor and technological innovation, ensuring that the semantic depth of the Korean language is not eroded by the very mechanisms designed to disseminate it.

Conclusions and Prospects for Further Research. The findings of this study demonstrate that semantic homonymy in Hanja-derived compounds is a systemic phenomenon of the contemporary Korean language, fundamentally rooted in the historical displacement of logographic script and the phonetic convergence of a vast inventory of Chinese characters within the constrained syllabic structure of the Korean phonological system. This linguistic evolution has moved the burden of meaning-making from visual graphic distinction to contextual interpretation. The taxonomy delineated herein classifying homonymy into absolute, partial, contextual, and functional categories offers a robust heuristic for mapping the mechanisms of ambiguity and their specific discursive manifestations across disparate genres.

Moreover, this inquiry illuminates a profound sociolinguistic rupture: the precipitous decline in Hanja literacy among younger cohorts is catalyzing a gradual "erosion of semantic transparency" within the Korean public sphere. This trend is not merely a pedagogical concern but a communicative crisis, underscoring the exigency for specialized translation methodologies that can bridge the widening gap between etymological root and phonetic surface.

It has been established that effective interlingual mediation demands a syncretic approach, fusing rigorous linguistic analysis with sociocultural exegesis and technological scaffolding. A cardinal finding of this study posits that the translation of Sino-Korean compounds into phonogrammatic target

languages such as English or Ukrainian mandates a preliminary phase of "logographic reconstruction." This hermeneutic step is indispensable for mitigating the stochastic errors characteristic of contemporary Neural Machine Translation (NMT) architectures, which frequently flounder when navigating high-density homonymic series without human intervention.

Methodologically, the study confirms that strategy selection must be genre-dependent: while Hanja-glossing and explication are most effective for maintaining precision in academic and literary texts, paraphrasing and creative compensation prove optimal for the fluid requirements of media discourse. In contrast, legal and technical translation must prioritize the pre-translation reconstruction of original characters to ensure absolute terminological accuracy.

Prospects for further research are multifaceted. From a technological perspective, there is an urgent need to expand corpus databases of contemporary Korean texts using systematic Hanja-tagging, which would facilitate the development of sophisticated automated disambiguation tools for computer-aided translation (CAT) systems. Practically, the creation of specialized bilingual glossaries that map contextual Hanja meanings across different professional domains remains a priority. Finally, the trajectory of this research logically extends toward a comparative diachronic analysis of the broader Sinosphere, specifically juxtaposing the Korean linguistic situation with the Japanese (*Kanji*) and Vietnamese (*Chữ Nôm*) traditions. This trans-regional perspective offers a fertile ground for isolating universal mechanisms of logographic adaptation and semantic preservation amidst the hegemony of modern phonogrammatic scripts. By mapping these shared historical pathways, scholars can better understand how "phantom" semantic layers continue to exert influence even after the formal transition to vernacular writing systems is complete.

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