

Generation 1.5 Korean New Zealanders: Issues in Education

Pathways to Metropolis in the 21st Century Conference

October 25, 2012

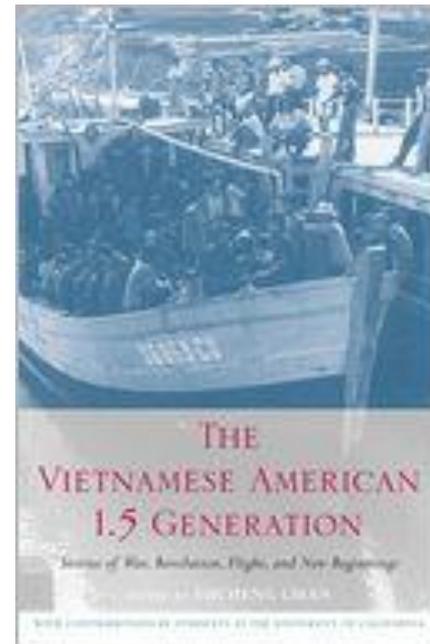
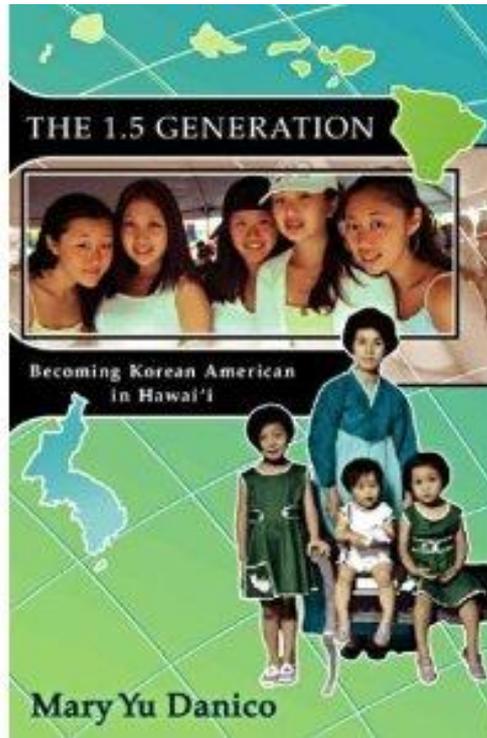
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Introduction

- Generation 1.5 Korean New Zealanders
- Some Issues in Education
- Cases of Two Korean Students
- A New Course for 1.5 Generation KNZers
- Conclusion

New attentions to 1.5 Generation

- Those who immigrated during early or middle adolescence
- Bilingual and bicultural
- Transnational life styles
- Different perspectives from their 1st generation parents
- May have dual identities



Characteristics of the 1.5 generation

- The group of immigrants who immigrated during early or middle adolescence
- Different perspectives from their parents (1st generation)
- May have dual identities → Identity crisis may incur
- Bilingual and bicultural (to a certain degree)

1.5 and the 1st generation

- Followed their migrating parents with no choice
- Relatively quickly learn English and adapt to the culture of host society
- Help parents communicate with the host society
- As they grow, however, Asian youths tend to stick to peers of same ethnicity
- May want to go back to their ethnic homeland
- Came to New Zealand for better environment, life style, and **education** of the next generation
- Most of them do not speak English, and stick to their own ethnic community
- Want the next generation to keep Korean culture and identity.
- Majority believe that their children are better off in New Zealand



A Japanese American Teenage Girl



New Trends

- Rise of Asia and relative decline of the West
- Transportation, Telecommunication, and Information Technology development
- Asian migrants tend to keep their ethnic identities

Issues in Education

- Language Questions
- Academic Competence
- Parental Expectations and Misunderstandings
- Cultural Adaptation and Identity Question

Language Issues

- Learning language mostly aurally and orally
- In stead of through reading and writing
- Not competent in host language

Academic Issues

- Many 1.5 generation students do well, but some don't.
- Not competent in reading and writing in the language of host society
- In some cases, low academic competence
- Many 1.5 generation students in community colleges in the US

Parental Expectations and Misunderstandings

- High expectation of parents
- Misunderstood 'bilingualism' of 1.5 generation children
- Generation 1.5 as linguistic 'cripples'?

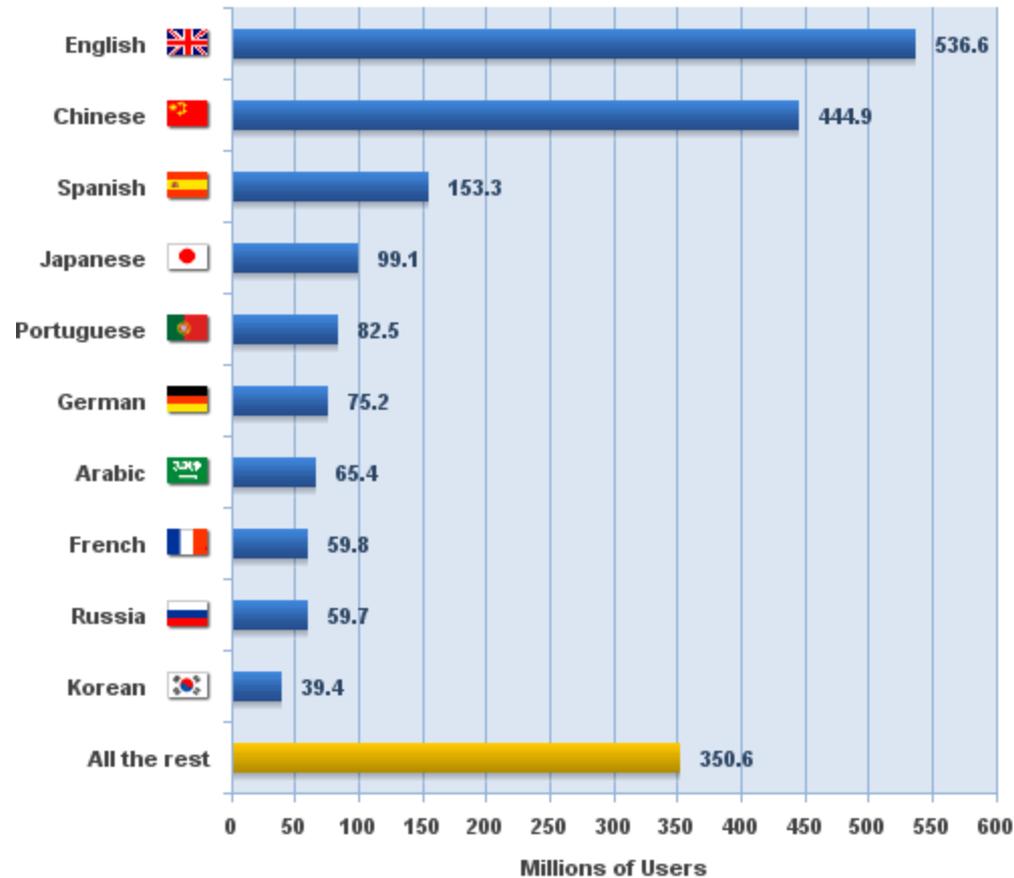
Cultural Adaptation & Identity Issues

- Cultural Adaptation
- Identity Issues

Importance of Multilingualism

- Assimilation vs. multiculturalism
- Korean Americans in the 1970s
- Korean New Zealanders in the 2000s
- Multilingualism as a cultural capital
- The problem of English-only

Top Ten Languages in the Internet 2010 - in millions of users



Source: Internet World Stats - www.internetworldstats.com/stats7.htm
Estimated Internet users are 1,966,514,816 on June 30, 2010
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[http://www.internetworldstats.com/
stats7.htm](http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats7.htm)

A Case of 1.5 Generation Youth



Cho, Seung-hui

- Migrated to the US with his family in 1992 at the age of 8.
- Finishing the three-year program at Elementary School in one and a half years.
- Good at mathematics and English
- Began to show problematic behaviors in middle school
- In 1999 when Cho was 8th Grade the Columbine High School Massacre made national news.
- On April 16, 2007 at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, Virginia
- Killed 32 people and wounded 23 others



NBC NEWS



BULLETIN

**NBC RECEIVES PACKAGE
FROM VIRGINIA TECH KILLER**



MSNBC





Young Wook Ma



Young Wook Ma

- Born in 1983 in Korea and migrated to NZ at young age
- A student at the Newmarket campus of Wintec (Waikato Institute of Technology), studying for a National Certificate in Computing.
- Finished Course in June 2006
- He also had a part-time job at the New World bakery in Birkenhead.

In 2006 at the age of 23

- Last seen by his family at his Glenfield home on June 12 and missing for more than two months.
- October 10, 2006 body found in bush 150 metres from Albany Highway, Glenfield

Family Pressure on young students

- Korean parents believe that New Zealand, which offers an English-medium education, will give their children a head start to get into top universities, hoping this could land them jobs with multi-national companies.
- Korean students are often accompanied by one or both parents when they come here to study, and because many are not able to find employment, the parents focus 100 per cent on what their children get up to.
- But some Korean parents can put too much pressure on them.
- “Korean students have more stress and face problems at school”
(Unitec Lecturer)

A New Course for 1.5 Generation

- Korean 250 “Korean for Heritage Speakers”
- Course Contents:
 - Focusing reading and writing
 - Also on the understanding of the unique needs of 1.5 Korean New Zealanders (cultural and social)

Conclusion

- The strengths and weakness of 1.5 generation
- What university education can do to meet their needs.