Stancetaking in Korean Conversation: Using the Maliya Construction to Accomplish Intersubjectivity

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1 Introduction

Previous studies of reported speech have focused on its grammatical forms, but in recent years its function and the speakers’ interactional motivation for its use have been discussed. In the storytelling sequence, reported speech can display the speakers’ attitude toward the repeated utterance while retelling the story (Holt and Clift 2006). Direct reported speech cites the statement uttered exactly as it is, whereas indirect speech denotes the speaker’s perspective or attitude towards his/her statement (Li 1986, as cited in Holt and Clift 2006). Maliya used only in indirect quotative constructions conveys the speaker’s attitude or stance, and it often appears as -tan maliya, -yan maliya, and -lan maliya, combining with sentence enders like declarative (ta-), interrogative (nya-), and imperative (la-).

Korean maliya consists of mal (words), i (copular), and ya (sentence ender). Mal (words) has gradually lost its lexical meaning while undergoing
grammaticalization. Hsieh (2012:489) reported that the Kavalan verb zin “say” in Austronesian languages has lost its verbal meaning and grammaticalized into a pragmatic marker, which indicates “the speakers’ commitment to the source of information,” and conveys the speaker’s “attitude and belief” (as cited in Ahn and Yap 2014:303). Similar to the Kavalan verb zin, Korean maliya is also used as a pragmatic marker, displaying the speaker’s stance or attitude.

M. K. Kim (2011) claimed that the malita construction (combined with declarative sentence ender, ta) has an effect of asking confirmation on the reconstructed utterance from the addressee’s perspective as well as emphasizing the utterances from the speaker’s perspective. According to M. K. Ahn (2012) and Ahn and Yap (2013), the discourse marker maliya has been used as a complementizer or an emphatic marker with an additional function of eliciting the addressee’s involvement in the conversation.

Both malita and maliya have the function of placing an emphasis on what the interlocutor utters. Ahn and Yap (2013) explained an additional function of maliya as constructing common ground between the speaker and addressee, carried out by the final particle ya, which functions as a common ground marker (Seo 2010). However, building common ground between co-participants is a complicated process, which essentially involves a series of interactive negotiations of the interlocutors’ stances in a sequence of conversation. This means that the joint construction of stance between the speakers needs to look into not only the characteristics of the specific grammatical or lexical devices (common ground marker, ya), but also the interactional process of stance taking and interactional motivation behind such shared stance (Kärkkäinen 2006). “Stance is more than the context-free connotations of words or sentences. The missing ingredients can only be formed by contextualizing the utterance, defined as the situated realization of language use” (Du Bois 2007:146). Since previous research has examined the maliya construction on a macro-level of talk, the current study attempts to fill the gap through a micro-analysis of the maliya construction in naturally-occurring conversation to identify how the speakers achieve a shared stance in moment-by-moment interactions. From a conversation analysis (CA) perspective, intersubjectivity between two participants is constructed on a turn-by-turn basis (Heritage 1984), which appears to provide an appropriate analytical framework to analyze the process of establishing common ground between co-participants. Thus, this study examines how the stance marker maliya is deployed to negotiate their stances, which results in the intersubjectivity between two interlocutors in a naturally-occurring conversation.
2 Data and Method

The data for the current study was obtained through the Korean Telephone Conversation Speech corpus provided by the Linguistic Data Consortium (LDC, Ko et al 2003). The participants were native Korean speakers who lived in either the U.S.A. or Canada. Two participants’ spontaneous conversation on the phone was recorded with their consent for research purposes. A total of 137 instances of the maliya constructions were identified in 60 telephone conversations in the present study. This study aims to identify the function of maliya in a natural conversation through an employment of a conversation analytic approach.

In section 3, the use of the literal meaning of maliya will be briefly introduced, and in section 4, maliya as an epistemic marker via quoting what the speaker stated in the preceding turn will be discussed. In section 5, the use of maliya to take an affiliative stance when quoting the other party’s talk will be examined, followed by the opposite cases of maliya to mark a disaffiliative stance without quotation in section 6.

3 Verbal Meaning of Maliya

Drawn from the basic meaning or function of malita, maliya can be used for the speaker to emphasize what he/she says, and can be roughly translated as “what I am saying is~”, or “I am referring to~”. Meanwhile, from the addressee’s perspective, maliya is deployed to verify what he/she hears in the prior turn. Extract 1 below shows an example in which the addressee invites the speaker to confirm his utterance with the verbal meaning of maliya embedded. The extract is organized in a series of questions and answers, and the maliya construction is one of the questions employed in this segment (“hy- engi tonul ponay cwuntan maliya?”, line 6) to make a request for an explicit or preferred answer to confirm the information, dealing with trouble in understanding. Maliya used in a polarity question asks further clarification on the previous utterance to accomplish intersubjectivity. Hence, one party positions the other party as a more knowledgeable one who can confirm the information. In this case, maliya can be roughly translated as “Is this what you are saying that~? Are you referring to~”, holding its literal meaning.

Extract1. [ko_5109, 3:20-3:50]
01. Ho:   hh. ani, hyeng-i( ) ponay cwu-nun ton sse-yo.    [I am using the money my brother sent].
          hh. dm brother-nom send give-rl money use-pol
02. Ri: ->   hyeng-i ton-to ponay cwe?
              brother-nom money-too send give:ie
              ‘Does your brother send you money?’
Ho and Ri are talking about Ho’s elder brother. In the previous talk, Ri states that Ho’s brother has started learning how to play the piano. In response to this news, Ho deprecates himself in comparison with his brother, who is enthusiastic about his work and hobbies. By contrast, Ho says that he has been unemployed receiving financial aid from his brother (line 1). Ri asks polar questions in order to check her understanding (line 2), because she was not aware of his attentiveness, as evidenced in line 11 and 12, stating, “hyengi tto kulen tey-ka iss-ess-e?” In response to Ri’s question in line 2 (“hyengi tonto ponay cwe?”), the preferred answer is likely to be yes or no, but Ho elaborates his answer providing accounts for receiving money from his brother, because he feels apologetic toward his parents (line 3,4,5). Ho’s dis-preferred answer elicits Ri’s polarity question of the maliya construction, “hyengi tonto ponay cwuntan maliya?” to request a clarification (line 6).

Note how Ri forms the polar question in line 6 when her candidate understanding was rejected to seek confirmation in her first attempt (line 2). She quotes the word she uttered in line 2, and asks an additional question employing a sentence ender, maliya. It can be roughly translated as “Is this your
saying that your brother sends you money?". Compare the following two sentences:

02 Ri: hyengi tonto ponay cwe?
06 Ri: hyengi tonul ponay cwuntan maliya?

Cwuntan maliya is an indirect quotative construction in which -nun or -n (cwuntan is an abbreviated form of cwntanun in colloquial speech) modifies the noun, mal (words). Hence, -cwuntan maliya has a function of repeating her previous turn by quoting herself, urging Ho to design a type-conforming answer as Ri requests in her polarity question. This can be easily understood as, “I am repeating my question, because your previous answer did not affirm my candidate understanding. This time, I urge you to confirm whether my understanding is correct or not.” After Ho’s explicit confirmation saying “yey” in line 7, Ri finally states “mollassney”, which indicates her change of the state from not knowing to knowing in line 8. Thus, the maliya construction in extract 1 reiterates the speaker’s question via self-quotation with its verbal meaning embedded, and places a constraint on the design of the recipient’s upcoming answer to receive an explicit or preferred answer for seeking confirmation.

4 Epistemic stance marker to accomplish intersubjectivity via self-quotation

This section will examine the maliya construction not as a question, but as a statement with its verbal meaning lost, quoting the speaker him/herself. Maliya is used only in indirect reported speech, which is often related with the current speaker’s point of view (Leech and Short 1981, as cited in Holt and Clift 2006). The known reason for the use of reported speech is the speaker’s attempt to “reduce personal responsibility,” notifying that there is a gap between what he uttered and what he actually heard. “He splits himself off from the content of the words by expressing that their speaker is not he himself or not he himself in a serious way”. (Goffman 1974:512). In contrast, when using the maliya construction, translated as, “I am saying that~” or “What I am saying is that~”, the speaker exhibits that he is an informant who can claim his epistemic authority, marking his sturdy stance. Inasmuch as the maliya construction also quotes the words of the speaker himself, he plays three roles, i.e. animator, author, and principal concurrently (Goffman 1981).

Hence, maliya basically functions as confirming the propositional content of the speaker’s utterance exerting his authority. A speaker can affirm whether the propositional content of the statement is precise or not, placing
him/herself in a higher epistemic status than an addressee. Maliya occurs when the speaker urges the recipient to share the epistemic stance, reproducing the utterance by quoting his/her own statement mentioned in the preceding turn. Thus, *maliya* has an effect of underscoring the speaker’s utterance through repetition to accomplish intersubjectivity when there is an epistemic gap between co-participants.

In extract 2, Ara, who can claim epistemic authority, restates her previous utterance using *maliya*, urging Bin to share her epistemic stance when she has trouble in understanding.

**Extract 2.** [ko_4548, 1:35-2:17]

01. Ara: kil-ul kil-ul kaluchye cweya tway, road-ac road-ac teach must
02. 'wuli-nun. chonnom-i-lase?'. (1.0)
   we-top bumpkins-cop-because
   'You should give us direction, because we are bumpkins'.
03. Bin: kunikka ollao-nun kil-i mwenyamyen
   I mean, come up-rl road-nom what.it.is
04. third-hako, 3-ka-hako (0.7), ku taumey six
   third-com 3-avenue-com the next six
05. -> hako-ka olla wa, wi-[ccokulo, mith-eysepwute] com-nom come up:ie up-toward bottom-from
   'I mean, the avenue that takes you up here is, Third, Third Avenue, and Sixth will take you up here, come upward from the bottom'.
06. Ara:
   [kulenikka]
   You mean,
07. sam-ka-lanun key, sam pen avenue ya?
   3-avenue-so:called 3rd avenue q
08. [sam avenue e, e.
   3 avenue uh-huh.
   'You mean, Third means Third Avenue? Is that Third avenue? OK'
09. Bin: [e, third. third avenue-na animyen six ha-right,third third avenue-or neg-cond six com
10. -> kulenikka wil ollawa.
   I mean upward come up:ie
   'Third, Third Avenue or Sixth, or take Sixth, I mean, come up the road.'
11. Ara: um. kukey mwusun soli-ya, [six, six avenue?
   well that what sound-q six, six avenue?
   Well, what do you mean? Sixth, Sixth Avenue?
dm i mean road-nom
13. yeki-nun ilpanthonghayng-i-[canha Manhattan-i
   here-top one way-cop-you know manhattan-nom
14. kulenikka,
   I mean,
   'Well, I mean, the road here is one-way as you know, since this is Manhattan.'
15. Ara: [e.e a sam-,
   I see ah 3
16. kulenikka third avenue na six avenue
   I mean third avenue or six avenue
   'I see. Third Avenue, or Sixth Avenue.'
Bin is a graduate student living in New York. Ara and their mutual friends are planning to visit Bin’s place while travelling in New York. As Ara is a stranger in New York (line 2), trouble in mutual understanding is often identified while Bin is giving directions. This is evidenced by their frequent use of “kulenikka” (line 3, 6, 10, 12, 14, 16, and 17), which is often used as a repair initiator (Kim and Suh 1994, as cited in H.S, Kim 2013). First, Ara is confused with the name of the road in line 7 (3 가 can refer to either the Third Street or the Third Avenue in Korean). Bin confirms that 3 가 is the Third Avenue (line 9), and continues her turn repeating her previous utterance (line 5), stating “wilo ollawa” (line 10). Then, the direction of the road is another source of trouble. When Bin told her to come upward, Ara initiates repair and requires further clarification stating, “kukey mwusun soliya?”, which indicates a problem in her understanding (line 11). Note how Bin repairs by making the trouble source more accessible to Ara to construct the shared epistemic stance with Ara. After providing accounts explaining the one-way traffic system in Manhattan (line 12, 13), Bin quotes herself and repeats what she said in the previous turn (line 4-5, 9-10) using maliya, “kulenikka third avenue na six avenue kulenikka olla ontan maliya” (line 16-17). This can be interpreted as “As I said before, I explain this to you again. I bet you understand what I am saying now.” When the speaker repairs the preceding turn, quoted speech does not occur in English, but it does in Korean as seen in this extract. The following illustrates how maliya is used via the quotation of the speaker’s preceding turn.

04-05  Bin: third-hako, 3-ka-hako ku taumey six hako-ka olla wa.
09-10  Bin: e, third. third avenue-na animyen six ha- kulenikka wiло ollawa.
16-17  Bin: kulenikka third avenue na six avenue. kulenikka olla ontan maliya.

Bin’s quoted restatement using maliya and explanation about the Manhattan traffic system finally leads to intersubjectivity between the two interlocutors, as evidenced by Ara’s utterance, “e e e, alasse”. (line 19).
Extract 3 below shows that the speaker reformulates his prior statement using *maliya* with additional explanation that is critical to construct intersubjectivity between two conversational co-participants. Prior to extract 3, Jae was complaining to his sister, Hye, that he had to spend a lot of money on rent, movement, and travelling.

Extract 3. [ko_5343, 12:17-12:42]

01. Jae: tto cha-kkaci tto ton tule kasseyo, tto.
   again car-even again money spend again
   ‘I also had to spend money even on a car.’

02. Hye: cha?(0.2) way? way?
   car why why
   ‘Car? Why? Why?’

03. Jae: -> ai, cha samman ochen mail tha-ss-canha:.
   well car 30,000 5,000 mile ride-pst-you know

04. Hye: e(1.0) "ku[lemynun"]
   OK, then
   ‘OK, then….’

05. Jae: -> samman ochen mail-i-myen khillo-lo
   30,000 5,000 mile-cop-if kilo-into

06. -> oman khillo-la-n maliya.
   50,000 kilo-dc-rl maliya
   ‘35,000 miles are equivalent to 50,000 kilometers, maliya’

07. Hye: (0.5) ha:::::, manh::::i::::to tha-ss-ta.
   Oh, my! a lot ride-pst-dc

08. oman khillo?
   50,000 kilo
   ‘Oh, my, you’ve driven so far, 50,000 kilometers?’. 

   Yes 50,000 kilo exceed
   ‘Yes, more than 50,000 kilometers’

Jae states that he had to pay extra money on his car (line 1), and Hye asks the reason (line 2). Note how Hye responds to Jae’s account that he has driven his car for 3,500 miles. In line 4, Hye says “e” first, and continues her turn after a long pause (1.0), adding, “kulemyenun” in a distinctively soft voice, which means that she needs time to process information. That is, Hye’s response to Jae’s account demonstrates that she needs time to convert miles to kilometers with which she is familiar. Acknowledging Hye’s delayed response, Jae’s next turn (line 5-6), overlapping with Hye’s turn, is designed for the recipient to come to understanding with ease (Sacks and Schegloff 1974). Jae recycles part of his prior turn (“cha samman ochen mail thasscanha” line 3) and reformulates it including converting information using *maliya* (“samman ochen mailimyen khillolo oman khillolan maliya” line 5-6), which evokes the recipient’s immediate response (line 7).
Hye finally displays her understanding with a big surprise employing prosodic resources such as high pitch, elongation and loud voice (line 7).

5 Marking an affiliative stance to accomplish intersubjectivity via quoting others

This section will focus on the instances of quoting a counterpart speaker, not a speaker himself. As a result of quoting other’s talk, a speaker attempts to construct intersubjectivity between interlocutors, displaying an affiliative stance toward the other party. In extract 4 below, Hye and Min are talking about a member of Hye’s host family, Randy.

Extract 4. [ko_6735, 12:07-12:30]

01. Min: toykey chincelhakey mal-ul ha-nun kes
very kindly words-ac do-rl thing
02. kathtelako. kulay ttak tule
seem-I noticed so exactly listen-conn
03. pw-ass-teni al-keyss-tela::
see-pst-evid know-dct:re-I noticed

'It seemed that he speaks so kindly, so I could see how kind he is'.

Uh huh nice-rl thing seem-ie
05. "ung": cal man-n-ass-e=-
right. well meet-pst-ie

'Uh-huh. He seems nice. It is good to have him as my host family.'

06. Min: -cingmal yeca-ka pok-i nam-ass:-ney [laugh]
really woman-nom luck-nom exceed-pst-fr

'His wife is really lucky':

07. Hye: e. cikum i yeca-nun umsik ha-l
right now this woman-top food do-rl
08. cwul-ul molu-ke::tun.
the way-ac don’t know-correl

'Right, she can’t cook well.'

09. Min: -> tekwntans yeca-ka umsik-to mos hanun-tyey
besides, woman-nom food-too neg do-circum
10. -> maliya. [laugh]
maliya

'Besides, she is even poor at cooking, maliya'.

11. Hye: e. umsik hanun- umsik hanun kes-ul silhehay::
right food do-rl food do-rl thing-ac dislike:ie
12. (0.7). kulay, cwulo incey ppallay kathun
so usually dm laundry such
13. ke-l ha-ki-n ha-nuntey kuhkhes-to
thing-ac do-noml-top do-circum that-too
14. nanwese ha-ci↑
divide-conn do-comm

'Yeah, she hate-hates cooking. She does laundry, but shares the work with him'.
Min states that a member of Hye’s host family, Randy, seems to be a very nice person based on her experience of listening to his voiced message on the phone (line 1, 2, 3). Hye assesses that she is fortunate to have a host family member like Randy (line 4, 5), showing her affiliation with Min’s statement. Min suddenly directs their collaborative assessment toward Randy’s wife, saying, “cengmal yecaka pokı namass::ney” (line 6), which is supported by the evidence that she is a clumsy cook as in line 7, 8. Note how Min shows her affiliative stance with Hye in line 9, 10. Min recycles part of Hye’s prior turn with an employment of maliya, which resembles what Du Bois termed as diagraph, “the structure of the stance parallels” (Du Bois 2007:159).

As shown above, Min responds to Hye in a very similar way, displaying her affiliative stance by switching particles (from ul to to), adding a connective (tekwuntana), and employing a sentence ender as maliya. The particle change from umsik (ul)\(^1\) to umsikto, along with insertion of tekwuntana (besides) suggest that it is additional information that can validate Min’s previous assessment toward Randy’s wife. This can be understood as “I cannot agree with you more, because you are providing important evidence to support my assertion (cengmal yecaka pokı namassney, line 6). Hence, the maliya construction in the extract 4 takes an affiliative stance by quoting the other party’s talk, suggesting that what the speaker can say is already mentioned by the other party.

6 Marking a disaffilative stance to enforce intersubjectivity without quotation

In the previous section, the maliya construction is used to emphasize the information for the recipient to share the epistemic stance with a speaker by quoting the speaker himself, or display an affiliative stance with the counter-part speaker via quoting the other party’s talk. Hence, the intersubjectivity is constructed in interaction between two participants by restating the preceding turn or sequence, which serves the common ground for co-participants to establish. In this section, maliya is used to urge the recipient to understand the speaker’s utterance that was not shared between co-participants in the preceding turn or sequence. Thus, the speaker displays his/her strong stance urging the other party to solicit congruent understanding unilaterally even before

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\(^1\) Object particles, –ul and –lul are often omitted in Korean colloquial speech.
constructing common ground between co-participants. Extract 5 shows the example that the maliya construction requires the recipient to share the speaker’s stance in a rather forceful way. In the previous talk, Jun talks to his sister Mia about the kindergarten that his child attends.

Extract 5. [ko_5343, 8:04-8:15]

01. Jun: kun te yeki-nun mwe kul en key epse. (1.0) but here-ac dm such thing non-exist:ie
02. mwucoken camkkanman unconditionally wait a minute ‘But here, there’s nothing like that, not flexible at all. Wait a minute.’
03. Mia: ‘ung’. all right. ‘All right.’
04. Jun: camkkanman. apeci-ka sewul-eyse fax-ponay-n wait a minute father-nom seoul-from fax-sent-rl thing seem-CORREL ‘Just a minute. It seems that father sent me a fax from Seoul’
05. ke kath-ketun↑. ‘ung’. all right. ‘All right.’
06. Mia: ‘ung’. all right. ‘All right.’
07. Jun: ku nay-ka com ista tasi hai- a ney-ka dm i-nom a little later again do ah you-nom ‘I will call you back later again, can you call me back later?’
08. com ista tasi hai-lay? a little later again do-vol
09. Mia: (.)a::i:::iike kongcoaintey ike Oh, no! this free-cop-circum this ‘Oh, no! This is a free call, so once I hang up, that’s it, maliya.’
10. -> kkunhu-myen incey kkuth-i-la-n maliya.:::=: hang up-cond dm end-cop-dc-rl maliya ‘Oh, no! This is a free call, so once I hang up, that’s it, maliya.’
11. Jun: ‘ah all right then wait:imp
12. Mia: e, ai-ass-e Uh huh know-pst-ie ‘OK.’
(1 minute later, they resume their talk on the phone)

While complaining about the kindergarten Jun’s child attends (line 1), he abruptly tells Mia to hold the phone for a moment (line 2), informing her that he needs to receive a fax from his father (line 4, 5). Mia exhibits her willingness to wait for Jun (line 6), but he asks her to hang up the phone and call him back a little later (line 7, 8). Then, Mia pauses a little and initiates her turn with the negative interjection particle, a::i::: in a loud voice with elongation (line 9), implying a prelude to rejection. She deploys maliya to refuse Jun’s request, providing a reason that their free conversation ends once
they hang up the phone (line 9, 10). The information that it is a free conversation for thirty minutes is new to Jun, because it was mentioned to Jun’s wife in the beginning of the conversation, and Jun’s wife suddenly put Mia’s brother on the phone in the middle of talk.

In Mia’s utterance, “ike kongccaintey ike kkunhunyen incey kkuthi-lan maliya”, -lan maliya is a form used for indirect reported speech. Thus, the sentence preceding -lan maliya should be quoted, namely, it should be mentioned in the previous talk. Yet, the maliya construction in extract 5 does not quote any utterance in the preceding talk. Mia utters this information using maliya without any elaboration, even before building common ground with Jun in the previous sequence. With an elision of the sequence that can negotiate the stance between co-participants, Mia shows her strong and disaffiliative stance against Jun’s request. She rejects Jun’s request, urging him to share her stance in a straightforward way. Note that this is contradictory to the context frequently observed in daily conversation in Korean, where politeness is highly recommended, and the dispreferred responses are often delayed to mitigate disaffiliation as a part of a face-saving strategy (e.g. kuntey in final position, S.H., Kim and S. O., Sohn 2015). When compared to the stance marker, -nun ke ani, which argues the claim against the addressee’s statement in an indirect way (M.S., Kim 2015), the maliya construction is used to respond to the addressee’s assertion without delay, rebutting to it in a more direct way, urging the counterpart speaker to display his/her agreement. Hence, in response to Mia’s strong refusal with an employment of maliya, Jun tells her to wait instead until he comes back (line 11).

7 Conclusion

The current study examined how the stance marker maliya establishes intersubjectivity between interlocutors in naturally-occurring conversation, employing a conversation analytic approach. The findings report that maliya portrays the speaker’s epistemic, affiliative, and disaffiliative stance in different sequential contexts, attempting to accomplish intersubjectivity between co-participants. First, the interlocutor quotes his previous talk to solicit the other party’s understanding, positioning him/herself in a higher epistemic stance. Secondly, the speaker attempts to establish intersubjectivity, marking an affiliative stance by citing the counterpart speaker’s words in the preceding talk, and the preceding turn or sequence serves to negotiate common ground between co-participants. Maliya is also deployed to display the interlocutor’s disaffiliative stance when quoting none of the previous turn. In this case, the speaker shows his disagreement with the counterpart speaker, urging him to share the speaker’s stance unilaterally in the absence of negotiation. It is hoped that the current study contributes to the growing body of knowledge in Korean reported speech and stancetaking in social interactions.
References


