Dear Director:

Through my previous visits to Korea and my Korean colleagues, I have learned of your school and its language teaching programs. I am interested in taking a one-year leave from my current Ph.D. studies and teaching English at your school for the 2001-2 academic year.

I have a strong background in linguistics, first obtaining an M.A. in Linguistics with a focus in phonology. As I later pursued a second M.A. in TESOL, my interest in pronunciation pedagogy and prosodic phonology led me into applied linguistics, discourse analysis and pragmatics. I will complete my current M.A. program this summer, and I have concurrently started a Ph.D. in the applied linguistics track of Educational Psychology program. My current research involves phonological and pragmatic analysis of English sentence stress and pedagogical applications for ESL teaching. My other interests include psycholinguistics, and understudied aspects of pragmatics and their pedagogical applications, such as discourse markers. Some of my research and teaching materials are available from links at my web page above.

I have taught in an Intensive English Program here, as well as ESL courses for graduate students. I have enjoyed teaching a variety of subjects, and interject my enthusiasm into my classroom teaching. My teaching benefits from my love for linguistics and even for grammar, my desire to make basic principles accessible to learners, and my desire to develop my own lesson materials. My teaching style balances a focus on linguistic forms and principles and communicative language teaching, driven by a concern for students’ real-life practical and intellectual needs.

I am, of course, a native speaker of English (and my family name is of Anglo-American origin), and my wife is Korean. I have visited Korea several times and am familiar with the culture and language. I know that I would enjoy teaching at your school, and that my linguistic background, drive, and concern for students’ needs would make me a valuable asset to your institution.

Sincerely yours,

Kent A. Lee
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