



Workshop on Traditional Forest Knowledge for Ecosystem Services in ASEAN Countries
Folk Culture: Proverbs, Old Sayings and Community Rules
2-4 March 2016, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Protocol to Survey Proverbs and Old sayings related to Climate Change and Forest Management in ASEAN countries

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The purpose of this presentation is,

“to share the potential of **proverbs and old sayings** for **traditional knowledge** research for ecosystem services, and our ideas about **methods**”
and to be led to **lively discussions**.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Traditional Forest Knowledge

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (Berkes et al., 2000)

traditional knowledge

“a cumulative body of knowledge, practice, and belief, evolving by adaptive processes and handed down through generations by cultural transmission, about the relationship of living beings (including humans) with one another and with their environment.”

Indigenous people's traditional knowledge is usually transmitted by tradition.

Proverbs

Old sayings

expressions of basic truth or practical percept that based on common sense or cultural experiences

Major problems of Oral tradition for its use in archaeology (Mason, 2000)

- Dependent on memory and verbal transmission, oral traditions are simply not **trustworthy**.
- The genre by its nature is more an artifact of contemporary culture than a record of the past
- Oral traditions are **closed belief systems**, beholden to authority and impervious to external challenge
- All or parts of oral traditions may be considered sacred, **only partly or not at all accessible to outsiders**; guardians of such lore determine what may be released and how it may be used.

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봄비가 많이 오면 아낙네 손이 커진다.

If it rains much in spring,
women's hands become big.

<http://www.nfm.go.kr/>

제비가 낮게 날면 비가 온다.

If swallows fly low, it will rain.



A close-up photograph of green grass blades covered in a thin layer of white frost. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the same grassy field. The overall tone is cool and wintry.

서리가 많이 온 날은 맑다.
On a frosty day it is much clear.



뿌리깊은 나무가 가뭄 안 탄다.

Deep rooted tree doesn't suffer
drought damage

Roots of *Pinus densiflora*

정떨어져 헤어진 남녀를 꿰매는 것 말고 솔뿌리 끈으로 못 꿰매는 것은 없다.
There is nothing that can not be sewn with pine roots
except broken-up couples out of love with each other.



Korean sifter, MA-MI-CHE

“Climate Change”

“Forest Management”

UN (2014) also stated that indigenous people can contribute their countries with **their traditional knowledge of effective use and preservation of the environment**. They emphasized indigenous knowledge **can inspire world** in the aspect of **climate change and disaster risk reduction**.

Methodology

1. Investigation of Proverbs and Old Sayings
2. Recognition Survey on Proverbs and Old Sayings

제비가 낮게 날면 비가 온다.

If swallows fly low, it will rain.



1. Investigation of Proverbs and Old Sayings - Field Note

1. Proverbs (Old Sayings)

(In native language) 제비가 낮게 날면 비가 온다

(In official language) _____

(In English) If swallows fly low, it will rain.

2. Meanings

1) Meaning People believed if swallows fly low, it will rain.

2) Subjects Swallow , rain

3) Category :

Weather / Seasonal change / Natural phenomena / Plants / Animals / Ecosystem / Life

Observation of nature / principles for management

3. Usage level

Where / Whom did you learn this from? In school

Check the usage level : personnel community regional national

4. Usage

1) Metaphor

When it is under low air pressure, insects fly near ground, so swallows fly near ground to catch prey insects.

2) Applicability to modern society

When we observe behavior of animal, it is possible to know the change of microclimate

What is the differences among proverbs, old sayings, folklores?

Proverb (俗談) : a short statement, usually known by many people for a long time, that gives advice or expresses some common truth:

Saying (名言, 格言) : a well-known wise statement that often has a meaning that is different from the simple meanings of the words it contains:

As the saying goes, "Don't count your chickens before they're hatched."

Folklore (民俗說話) : the traditional stories, beliefs, and customs of a group of people

Methodology

1. Investigation of Proverbs and Old Sayings
2. Recognition Survey on Proverbs and Old Sayings
 - a. Indigenous people
 - b. citizens

Questionnaire

Instructions

1. Please put an X next to proverbs that you have heard before.
2. It's okay if a word or two is different from the way you have heard the proverb. For example, if you have heard "Don't bite more than you can chew" then you can check off "Never bite off more than you can chew."
3. Don't guess the meaning of sayings that are unfamiliar. Only mark proverbs you have heard before.
4. If you know the meaning of the proverb, write down meanings below.
5. If you agree with the meaning, check yes. If not, check no and please write down reasons.

1. 1) When swallows fly low, rain comes.

means :

- 2) Do you agree with it?

yes no (why? _____)

2. 1) Rice ripen well when the summer is sweltering.

means :

- 2) Do you agree with it?

yes no (why? _____)

3. 1) If it rains often in spring, the hand of women becomes bigger.

means :

- 2) Do you agree with it?

yes no (why? _____)

4. 1) Trees with deep roots sustains drought.

means :

- 2) Do you agree with it?

yes no (why? _____)

Expected results & analysis

1. Database of investigation proverbs and old sayings
2. Qualitative or quantitative analysis related to climate change and forest management
3. Recognition survey results
4. ...

Schedule of 2016

March	April	May	June
			1 st results sharing
July	August	September	October
	2 nd results sharing	Reporting the results and analysis	

Implications of our research

- Many traditional forest knowledge could be excavated.
- Proverbs and Old sayings are also traditional forest knowledge themselves.
(in Korean TFK classification system, it is sorted to Humanities, Philosophy(A01))

Implications of our research

- Differences or common ground of knowledge system in Asian countries can be discovered by comparing proverbs and old sayings among ethnic groups or nations.
 - For example, two ethnic groups with similar geographical environments have different sights of managing their environment, or there are analogous ideas among all ASEAN countries.

Implications of our research

- Proverbs and old sayings could be no more suitable in these days due to climate change and environmental destructions. However, looking inside that point we might be able to figure out where we are now.



There are 260 million indigenous people in Asia and they constitute more than 2,000 civilizations and languages (UN, 2014).





Through this research, we are looking forward to identifying the common value of Asian culture, further, Asian knowledge system.





References

Berkes, F., Colding, J., & Folke, C. (2000). Rediscovery of traditional ecological knowledge as adaptive management. *Traditional Ecological Knowledge*, 10(5), 1251–1262.

Mason, R. J (2000). Archaeology and native North American oral traditions. *American Antiquity*, 65(2), 239-266.

United Nations (2014). Indigenous peoples in the Asian region. *Thirteenth Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 15 May 2014*



Thank you.
Let's Discuss!

