“Here or To Go?”

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Once there was a Korean postdoctoral researcher who was an outstanding student, kind to his peers, and even practiced conversation in English all year long before moving to the United States. On the first day he moved to the US, he went to McDonald’s to eat. Little did he know, that was the last day of his life. He was allegedly shot by the cashier after an argument between them. During the investigation for the shooting, the cashier said that he was ridiculed by the student. He asked the student “Here or to go?” and the student repeatedly said, “Yes!” The thing is, the researcher has learned English for many years but he never learned the phrase “Here or to go?” This is a famous urban legend for Koreans who are planning to move to the US for the first time. Although this is only an urban legend, in Korean language Institutes, they started teaching the phrase on the first day of the class because such a simple phrase could determine a person’s life.

In the past, despite the excellent quality of Korean child and adolescent psychiatry papers, they have not adequately recognized due to lack of understanding of western academia, such as SCI, Scopus, and SSCI. Like the misunderstanding between the McDonald’s cashier and the student, the issue was a mere lack of understanding between the two cultures. Now that we are aware of this problem, the new challenges we face are: are we going to publish papers written in English that meets the Western academia standards? There is no simple solution. Even if we publish only English papers, not all would be accepted in SCI journals.

Since 2016 as I became the editor of the official journal of the Korean Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (JKA-CAP), editorial committee have decided that the best solution for now would be to publish only English papers in January and July, and only Korean papers in April and October. For our first journal this year, we published three review articles related to the Academy of Violence and Abuse (AVA) with the help of Professor Un-Sun Chung, Kyungpook National University, Korea, and Professor David Corwin. Dr. Corwin is a board certified child and adolescent psychiatrist, an internationally well-known expert of long-term impact of child violence and abuse on health, the vice president of American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children and the board chair of the AVA. The first paper was submitted by Susie Wiet entitled “Origins of addiction predictably embedded in childhood trauma: a neurobiological review”, and the author investigated the pathways of emotional, cognitive, and behavioral disturbances related with chronic stress and childhood adversities. Brooks Keeshin and Jeffrey R. Strawn sent “Pharmacologic considerations for youth with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder”. Authors reviewed the assessment modalities and pharmacologic interventions in post-traumatic stress disorder. And Joan E. Durrant and Ron Ensom submitted “Twenty-five years of physical punishment research: what have we learned?” This article is an update of “Physical punishment of children: lessons from 20 years of research”. These review articles have never been published before in other journals and has originality. In this volume, there are three original articles submitted by members of KACAP as follows: Woo Hyun Kim et al’s “Comparing intelligence test profiles to assess Tourette’s disorder with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder”, Yooli Lim and Bongseog Kim’s “Body mass index, body weight perception, and depressed mood in Korean adolescents”, and Geon Ho Bahn et al’s “Is sorting hat in Harry Potter identity identifier for adolescents?”

I would like to thank all the international and Korean colleagues who sent their papers to JKACAP. Also I kindly ask KACAP members to fully utilize http://www.jkacap.org/main.html to study and cite.

I hope that the choice to take the “road not taken” instead of taking “the one already traveled by” is beneficial and be helpful for everyone.