



Korean Ladder Study Note

자네 / 그대 / 노형

Second-Person Address in Formal and Literary Korean

Level	Topic	Focus
C1 · Advanced TOPIK 5	Honorifics Titles & Address	자네 / 그대 / 노형 Second-Person Address in Formal and Literary Korean

Study Links

Open this lesson on Korean Ladder

<https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-HON-ADR-005>

Watch the full video on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=po2Qocn9Nfk>

Visit koreanladder.com for all free lessons

<https://www.koreanladder.com>

Core Idea

Okay, real talk. In a sageuk, an older man says 자네 to a younger guy, and I thought, oh, fancy polite you. Then I almost said it to my professor. Bad idea?

좋은 본능이에요. 자네는 멋있어 보이지만, 공손한 평등한 you가 아니에요. In English, it is elder speaking down to junior — warm or firm, but still higher to lower.

오늘의 패턴은 세 갈래예요. 자네, 그대, 그리고 노형과 귀형. In English: hierarchical you, poetic you, and classical male address.

왜 중요하냐면, 영어 you 하나로 다 덮이거든요. 한국어는 장면마다 you가 달라져요. In English, the word 'you' splits by power, poetry, and period style.

Conversation Snapshot

Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Hana	이 소설 대사는 자네, 이리 오게가 자연스럽네요. —	For this novel line, 자네, 이리 오게 feels natural.



Speaker	Korean	Meaning
Junho	이 발라드 가사는 그대여가 맞아요. —	For this ballad lyric, 그대여 is right.
Hana	그리고 이 옛 편지 첫머리는 노형, 그간 평안하시오? —	And this old letter opening is 노형, 그간 평안하시오?
Junho	맞아요. 같은 you라도 채널이 완전히 달라요. —	Right. Same English 'you,' completely different channel.

Vocabulary & Useful Expressions

Word	Meaning	Example
자네 / 그대 / 노형 · 귀형 jane / geudae / nohyeong · gwihyeong	elder→junior you / poetic you / classical male address	오늘의 패턴은 세 갈래예요. 자네, 그대, 그리고 노형과 귀형. In English: hierarchical you, poetic you, and classical male address.
알아듣기 먼저 aradeutgi meonjeo	Recognition first, production later	그래서 오늘은 말하기보다 먼저 알아듣기예요. Speeches, sageuk, letters, and song lyrics — that is where these forms live.
자네 + 하계체 jane + hageche	자네 often travels with 하계체 endings like -나, -네, -게	여기 끝의 나는 하계체예요. 자네와 자주 같이 다녀요. In English, the ending 나 matches that senior-to-junior speech level.
위→아래 / 시 · 노래 / 옛 편지 wi→arae / si · norae / yet pyeonji	downward hierarchy / lyric literary / classical male letters	So... 자네 is power plus closeness from above. 그대 is poetry. 노형 and 귀형 are old-letter men talking. Not coffee-shop Korean.
자네 = 위→아래 jane = wi→arae	Speaker is higher; listener is junior	맞아요. 자네는 관계를 내려서 말해요. In English, the speaker claims a higher seat — teacher, elder, senior character.
그대 = 시 · 노래 · 연서 geudae = si · norae · yeonseo	Poems, songs, love letters	그대는 감정을 올려요. In English, it lifts the line into poem, ballad, or romantic letter. Daily speech almost never needs it.
노형 · 귀형 = 고전 남성 호칭 nohyeong · gwihyeon g = gojeon namseong hoching	Classical male address between adult men	노형과 귀형은 시대 느낌이 강해요. In English, they smell like historical novels, classical letters, and gentleman speech among men.
일상 ≠ 자네/그대/노형 ilsang ≠ jane/geuda e/nohyeong	Everyday talk is usually name, 씨, 님, or no 'you' at all	현대 카페에서 친구에게 자네나 그대라고 하면, 연극처럼 들려요. In English, it sounds like you started performing a play.



Grammar / Structure Notes

자네 / 그대 / 노형·귀형

자네 / 그대 / 노형·귀형 — elder→junior you / poetic you / classical male address

Recognize register before you reuse it

자네 / 그대 / 노형·귀형

자네 / 그대 / 노형·귀형 — One English 'you,' several Korean registers

Listen for where the line comes from

알아듣기 먼저

알아듣기 먼저 — Recognition first, production later

C1 listening skill

자네는 어디로 가나?

자네 + 는 + 어디 + 로 + 가 + 나 + ? — You, where are you going? (elder to junior)

첫 예문입니다. 자네는 어디로 가나? 뒷사람이 아랫사람에게, 부드럽게 묻는 말이에요. In English: You, where are you going? — senior to junior.

자네 + 하게체

자네 + 하게체 — 자네 often travels with 하게체 endings like -나, -네, -게

Register package, not a lone pronoun

Pronunciation Loop

Phrase	How to practice
자네는 어디로 가나?	jane-neun eodi-ro ga-na?
내 마음은 그대에게로.	nae maeum-eun geudae-ege-ro.
노형, 그간 평안하시오?	nohyeong, geugan pyeong'anhasio?

Self-Check

- 1 Say 자네 / 그대 / 노형 three times: slow, natural, then inside a short sentence.
- 2 Write one original sentence that was not in the video.
- 3 Rewatch the YouTube lesson and pause when the same pattern appears.

Related / Subsequent Studies



Lesson	Why study it next	Link
귀하 / 귀사 / 본인 Formal Written Address in Letters	C1 Honorifics: compare 귀하 / 귀사 / 본인 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-HON-ADR-003
아드님 / 따님 / 자제분 Referring to Someone Else's Family Politely	C1 Honorifics: compare 아드님 / 따님 / 자제분 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-HON-ADR-002
여러분 / 모두 / 다들 Addressing a Whole Audience Politely	C1 Honorifics: compare 여러분 / 모두 / 다들 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-HON-ADR-004
이모 / 사장님 / 기사님 Kinship & Job Titles for Strangers	C1 Honorifics: compare 이모 / 사장님 / 기사님 with this lesson so the boundary becomes clearer.	Open lesson https://www.koreanladder.com/lesson.html?id=KOR-C1-HON-ADR-001

My Notes

Your ladder to fluent Korean. This PDF, the website, and the video lessons are free for personal study.