

UDC 811.531:811.512.3

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## **KOREAN HANGUL AND MONGOLIAN SQUARE SCRIPT**

### **Abstract**

Korean is the official language in the Republic of Korea and the DPRK, where it is called *Hangul* and *Chosongyl* respectively. For a long time, Koreans had used a complex system of Khancha before in 1444 King Sejon the Great created the Korean alphabet, but Khanch remains an important element in the life of Koreans to these days. The current research aims to find out what writing system was the predecessor of the new writing system, particularly, whether the Mongolian square script could have become the “progenitor” of Korean writing. The question of the origin of *Hangul* is interesting and, at the same time, challenging for many researchers. In Russia, L. R. Kontsevich, a Soviet and Russian Orientalist-Korean scholar, studied this issue. In this article we examine the theory of American Korean scholar Gary Ledyard and his assumption about *Hangul* originating from the Mongolian square script.

**Keywords:** Korean writing system, Hangul, Hancha, Mongolian writing system, Hongmin Chonym, vertical Mongolian writing, Mongolian square script, syllabic sign.

**doi:** 10.22250/2410-7190\_2019\_5\_4\_97\_106