Stancetaking in Korean conversation: Maliya construction to accomplish intersubjectivity

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Maliya (roughly translated as “I am saying that” or “What I am saying is that”) consists of mal (words), i (copular), and ya (sentence ender), is in an ongoing grammaticalizational path and has developed into a pragmatic marker. Mal (words) has gradually lost its lexical meaning, and grammaticalized into a pragmatic marker, which conveys the speaker’s attitude and stance. It has been reported that indirect speech denotes the speaker’s perspective or attitude toward his/her statement (Li, 1986, as cited in Holt and Clift, 2006). This study examined the cases of maliya used in indirect quotative constructions in which the speakers try to establish intersubjectivity, displaying his/her strong stance.

Maliya portrays a speaker’s epistemic, affiliative, and disaffiliative stances in different sequential contexts, attempting to accomplish intersubjectivity through negotiation between co-participants. The stance marked by maliya differs as to whether the words are quoted in the previous sequence or not, and whose words are quoted in the sequence. A total of 138 occurrences of maliya were identified in the LDC data (Ko et al., 2003), and maliya was deployed to display an epistemic stance \( (n=10) \), an affiliative stance \( (n=62) \), a disaffiliative stance \( (n=7) \), and a literal meaning \( (n=23) \), among other uses \( (n=36) \).

First, maliya occurs when the speaker urges the recipient to share the same epistemic stance, reproducing the utterance by quoting his/her own statement mentioned in the same or preceding turn. Inasmuch as the speaker plays three roles, i.e., animator, author, and principal concurrently (Goffman, 1981), the speaker marks his strong stance or claims his epistemic authority. Thus, maliya has the effect of emphasizing the speaker’s utterance through repetition to accomplish intersubjectivity when there is an information gap between co-participants. Extract 1 below shows that Ara, who has epistemic authority, urges Bin to share her epistemic stance by restating her previous utterance when Bin has a trouble understanding.

Second, the interlocutor displays an affiliative stance when quoting the counterpart speaker’s statement in the preceding turn, which serves as the common ground that co-participants construct and succeeds in establishing intersubjectivity between co-participants. Citing the other’s utterance as a whole with no change indicates an absolute stance follow (Du Bois, 2007, p. 161), but the degree of the speaker’s affiliation and epistemic authority slightly differs depending on whether it is just a few words or most of the words in the utterance that have been changed.

Third, the speaker displays his/her disaffiliative stance with the other party’s prior utterance, urging him/her to solicit understanding in a forceful way before they establish common ground. The maliya construction with no quotation is employed to respond to the addressee’s assertion without delay, rebutting it straightforwardly and urging the recipient to understand the speaker. As a result, this enforced intersubjectivity can be constructed between two participants, but it is often rejected by the counterpart speaker in the current data. Extract 2 shows the example that the speaker employed maliya to display her strong stance urging the other party to solicit congruent understanding.
Extract 1 [ko_4548, 1:35-2:17]

1 Ara: Kil-ul – kil-ul kalache cweya tway, ‘wuli-nun. Chonnom-i-lase’
Road:AC Road:AC teach:for must we:TOP rustics:COP-because
‘You should give us direction, because we are rustics.’

2 Bin: kunikka ulla-nun kil-i mwe-nya-nya third-hako, 3-ka-hako
I mean come up:RL road:NOM what:it.is 3-COM 3-avenue-COM
‘I mean, the avenue that takes you up to here is, Third, Third Avenue, ‘

3 → (0.7), ku, taume six hako-ka olla wa
The next 6 COM-NOM come:UP

4 wif(cek-ulo) mith-eyespwtuie
upward-toward bottom-from
‘and Sixth will take you up here, come upward from the bottom.’

5 Ara: [kulenikka sam-ka-la-nun key, sam pen avenue ya?]
You mean, 3-avenue-so:called 3rd avenue Q
‘You mean, Third means Third Avenue? Is that Third Avenue?’

6 [sam avenue e, e, 3 avenue uh-huh
Third Avenue. Uh-huh.’

7 Bin: [e, third. third avenue-na ani-myen six ha(ko)-kulenikka
Right, 3, 3rd avenue-or NEG-COND 6 COM I mean,
‘Right, Third, Third Avenue or Sixth, or take Sixth, I mean,’

8 → wiloo ollawa.
upward come up:IE
‘come up the road.’

9 Ara: um. kukey mwusun soli-ya, [six, six avenue?
Well. That what sound-Q six, six avenue?
‘Well. What do you mean? Sixth, Sixth Avenue?’

10 Bin: [ani kulenikka] kil-i yeki-nun
DM, I mean road:NOM here:TOP

11 ilbangthonghyang-i-f-cana hanhattan-i kulenikka,
One-way COP-you know Manhattan-NOM I mean,
‘Well, I mean, the road here is one-way as you know, because this is Manhattan.’

12 Ara: [e.e a sam-, kulenikka third avenue na six avenue
I see ah 3 I mean, third avenue or six avenue
‘I see. Third Avenue or Sixth Avenue.’

13 → Bin: kulenikka olla on-ta-n mal-il-ya, kulenikka twul
I mean, come up:DC-RL words:COP-IE I mean two
‘I mean, come up the road, maliya. I mean, take either one.’

Uh huh know-PST-IE know-PST-IE
‘Uh-huh. I got it. I got it.’

Extract 2 [ko_5543 7:58-8:15]

1 Jun: kuney yeki-nun mwe kulen key eps-e. mwucoken(1.0) camkkannman
but here:TOP DM such thing not.exist-IE unconditionally wait
‘But here, there’s nothing like that. It isn’t flexible at all. Wait a minute.’

2 Mira: ‘ung’.
Uh huh
‘All right.’

3 Jun: camkkannman. Apeci-ka sewul-eyse fax-ponay-n ke kath-ketun;
Wait father-NOM Seoul-from fax-send:RL thing seem-CORREL
‘Just a minute. It seems that my father sent me a fax from Seoul.’

4 Mira: ‘ung’.
Uh huh
‘OK.’

5 Jun: ku nay-ka com issta tasi hal- a ney-ka com issta tasi ha-lay?
DM I-NOM a little later again do ah you-NOM a little later again do-VOL
‘I will call you back later aga-, can you call me back later?’

6 Mira: (a)isi:: the kongce-i-ntey ike kkunh-umyn incey
Oh, no! this free-COP-CIRCUM this hang up-COND DM

7 → kkuth-i-la-n mal-il-ya::
end-COP-DC-RL words:COP-IE
‘Oh, no. This is a free call, so once I hang up, that’s it, maliya.’

8 Jun: =a kulay kulem kitalyez
Ah, all right then wait:IMP
‘I see. OK, then wait.’

9 Mira: e, al-ass-e
Uh huh know-PST-IE
‘OK.’

References

