3

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

3.1. Data
Two types of main data sets are used: audio-recorded controlled data, and audio-recorded and video-recorded naturally occurring conversation. In addition, supplementary data from TV programs are used.

3.1.1. Controlled Data
The data consist of controlled recordings of 37 constructed contextualized sentences with different sentence-ending suffixes, plus several minimal pairs with only one variable, the boundary tone. The modality of the sentence-ending suffix is emphasized by the boundary tone which has a noticeable prosodic juncture. I used the classification of Korean sentence types based on Suh (1996) and H. Sohn (1999). The data consists of five sentence types (provided in the Appendix) including 24 sentence-ending suffixes.

The 37 sentences were randomized and given to ten Standard Korean native speakers, five male and five female, to read. Speakers were in their 20s and 30s and they all came to Los Angeles about a year ago or less for study purposes. Each token sentence with its background information was written on an index card. Each speaker read the background information silently for a thorough understanding of the situation within which the token would be read. After the subjects understood the context within which the token sentence would be said, they read the sentence aloud as naturally as possible. The recording took place in their respective homes using a portable recorder and without the

1 See Appendix.
presence of the researcher. Question/answer sentences were read by two parties facing each other. The motivation for including controlled data in this study was to create an inventory of utterances utilizing all possible sentence-ending suffixes in Korean. This was done because it is very hard to gain a comprehensive inventory of all of the sentence-ending suffixes by using naturally occurring data alone, since speakers’ choice of the sentence-ending suffixes is influenced by conversation topic, age and social status of the interlocutors, among many other linguistics and social factors. The controlled data was mainly used to conduct a pilot analysis in order to help identify general patterns in the relationship between boundary tones and sentence-ending suffixes.

3.1.2. Naturally Occurring Conversation Data
A weekly home Bible study in Los Angeles was audio and videotaped for a period of approximately six months. A total of 650 minutes of recorded data was analyzed for this study. Subjects include five Korean men and five Korean women (five couples) in their early and mid 30s, with no children, or one or two young children. They all stayed in the U.S. for four to five years. These data were collected in two kinds of interactive frameworks: the informal gathering time, which was primarily gender-segregated, and formal Bible study which included both men and women. The informal gathering times were mostly audio-taped, for both the men’s and women’s groups.

The data to be analyzed consist of three main parts: (a) same-gender casual interaction among men, (b) same-gender casual interaction among women, and (c) cross-gender formal interaction during Bible study and cross-gender informal interaction. Due to the nature of the meeting, a home Bible study, there is a lot of background noise and overlap among the conversations. They all share very similar socio-cultural, economic, educational, and religious backgrounds: e.g. all couples (both men and women) graduated from the five top universities in Korea; all women came to the U.S. for their husband’s PhD degree; they all live at the