Appendix A: Object-Verb Idioms in Korean

This appendix and the next present the data from Korean and Vietnamese that we gathered. Each idiom is listed in a sentential context to illustrate its use, with the elements that are a fixed part of the idiom italicized. Any element that is not italicized can be changed.

A1: N-V Idioms, No Functional Elements

We have found 65 idioms of this type, but do not believe this to be an exhaustive list.

A1.1 Idioms that Permit Functional Elements

1. il.il.kw kwukup.cha-ka cho-lul tatwu-e talli-ko iss-ta.
   one.one.nine emergency.car-Nom second-Acc dispute-e run-ko exist-Decl
   ‘The 119 ambulance is running in a very urgent situation.’ (dispute a second = urgent)

2. notongca-tul-uy pwulman-i hanul-ul ccilu-n-ta.
   worker-Pl-Gen complaint-Nom sky-Acc pierce-Pres-Decl
   ‘Workers complain a lot.’ (pierce a sky = have a lot, great force)

   he-Top sleeve-Acc roll.up-and business-in-only concentrate-Pst-Decl
   ‘He took a positive attitude and concentrated on his business.’ (roll up sleeve = take a positive attitude)

4. wuli-nun siemeni-ey tayhayse yelsimhi hopak.ssi-lul kka-ss-ta.
   we-Top mother.in.law-in about hard pumpkin.seed-Acc peel-Pst-Decl
   ‘We backbit our mother in law.’ (peel pumpkin seeds = backbite)
We barely understood a situation by now. (catch strand = get a clue)

I will discontinue a relationship with my friends to focus on my test. (cut off a leg = discontinue a relationship)

Because my elder brother was fired, he is in the situation of starving. (suck finger = starve)

The mother gave up her son. (hold up hand = give away/up)

He interrupts very well. (spread vinegar = interrupt)

No matter how mean they are, they would not rob us of things we have. (peel off skin = rob of by employing all means)

A1.2 Idioms that Permit Non-Functional Elements

‘We will know the result of the victory or defeat of the game once the game is done.’ (open lid = find out a result)
(14) ipen-ey tayhak mwul-ul mek-ess-teni mollapokay selyen-toy-cye-ss-e. this.time-in college water-Acc eat-Pst-because recognizably elegant-become-become-Pst-Int
‘Because she started her college this time, s/he became much more elegant.’ (eat water = be influenced by surroundings)

(15) nay-ka emma-uy sok-ul cengmal manhi kulk-ess-ta. I-Nom mother-Gen stomach-Acc very much scratch-Pst-Decl
‘I made my mother worry very much.’ (scratch stomach = make worry)

(16) hyentay.in-tul-un ton-ttaymwuney mengey-lul ssu-ko sal-a-ka-n-ta. modern.person-Pl-Top money-because yoke-Acc wear-ko live-a-go-Pres-Decl
‘Modern people are heavily bound by money.’ (wear a yoke = be bound by something)

(17) yenkum mwuncey-uy khal-calwu-lul cw-i-n sal-am-un palo pension problem-Gen knife-hilt-Acc hold-Adn person-Top exactly kim-tayphyo-i-ta. kim-representative-Cop-Decl
‘It is exactly the representative Kim who has an actual authority to the problem of pension system.’ (hold a hilt of knife = have actual political power, authority)

(18) celtaylo ku-nun i sasil-ey tayhayse nabal pwu-l salam-i ani-ta. absolutely he-Top this fact-in about bugle blow-Fut person-Nom Neg-Decl
‘Absolutely he is not a person who talks about it exaggeratedly.’ (blow a bugle = talk about something absurdly, exaggeratedly)

‘There would not be anybody that criticizes you who did your best.’ (throw a stone = criticize)

(20) ku-ka yaksok-ul cikhi-tolok sswayki-lul pak-aya kyess-ta. he-Nom promise-Acc keep-in.order.to wedge-Acc drive.inindeed Fut-Decl
‘We should take steps to make sure that he will keep his promise.’ (drive in wedge = make certain)

(21) ku il-i palmok-ul cap-ase yehayng-ul mos ka-yo. that job-Nom ankle-Acc grab-because trip-Acc cannot go-Pol
‘The job prevented me from going to the trip.’ (grab ankle = prevent, interrupt)

(22) ku kyelceng-ey nongmin-tul-un wulpwun-uy phi-lul thohay-ss-ta. that decision-in farmer-Pl-Top resentment-Gen blood-Acc vomit-Pst-Decl
‘For that decision, farmers were outraged.’ (vomit blood = be outraged)

(23) nay-ka chinhan chinkwu paltung-ul cek-ess-ta. I-Nom close friend instep-Acc hack-Pst-Decl
‘I betrayed my close friend.’ (hack instep = betray)

(24) ipen il-ey kunye-tul-i chay-lul cap-ass-ta.
this.time matter-in she-Pl-Nom stick-Acc grab-Pst-Decl
‘The women lead on this matter.’ (grab stick = lead)

(25) han sitay-lul cwulum cap-ten ye.paywu-ka ecey kyothong sako-lo
one period-Acc wrinkle grasp-used.to female.actress-Nom yesterday traffic accident-Inst
decease-Pst-Decl
‘The very famous female actress in this period deceased yesterday due to traffic accident.’ (grasp wrinkle = be famous)

(26) ku mal-un simcang-ul khok ccil-less-ta.
that word-Top heart-Acc firmly stab-Pst-Decl
‘That word attacked me; that word gave some hurt to me.’ (stab heart = attack an essential part)

Kim Sanghyen SK-in wing-Acc spread-Decl
‘Kim Sanghyen (the baseball player), his dream comes true in SK.’ (spread wings = have one’s dream come true)

(28) na-uy uykyen-i thulli-myen seng-ul ka-n-ta.
I-Gen opinion-Nom not.correct-if family.name-Acc change-Pres-Decl
‘I swear that my opinion is correct.’ (change family name = swear)

iPhone-Top always come.out-l whenever limelight-Acc receive-Pres-Decl
‘IPhones always gain popularity whenever their new versions come out.’ (receive limelight = be popular)

(30) wuli hakkyo-uy ilum-ul kel-ko ku sang-ul kkok tha-keyss-ta.
our school-Gen name-Acc hang.up-and that prize-Acc certainly win-Fut-Decl
‘I will win the prize to be responsible for my school’s reputation.’ (hang up name = be responsible for one’s reputation)

(31) seymwu kemsa-lo ku hoysa-nun khukey seli-lul mac-ass-ta.
tax inspection-because that company-Top greatly frost-Acc get.hit-Pst-Decl
‘Due to the tax inspection, the company had a great loss.’ (get hit by frost = gain damage or loss)

he-Top parent-Hon heart-Dat nail-Acc drive-Pst-Decl
‘He hurt his parents.’ (drive nail = hurt)
(33) kutul-un sikminci thongchi-ey makak-ul tulenay-ess-ta.  
they-Top colony reign-in horse.leg-Acc bring.out-Pst-Decl  
‘They disclosed the hidden details of their colonization.’ (bring out a horse leg = disclose hidden details)

(34) tasi nasa-lul kkawk coi-ko yelsimhi saynghwal-ha-kess-ta.  
again screw-Acc firmly tighten-and hard life-do-Fut-Decl  
‘I will control my mind and live a life in full.’ (tighten screw = control)

(35) Chelswu-nun mekmwul-ul kkwayna mek-ess-ta.  
Chelswu-Top ink-Acc sufficiently eat-Pst-Decl  
‘Chelswu has been educated to some sufficient extent.’ (eat ink = be educated)

(36) nayil-pwuthe-nun sangsa palpatak-ul halth-ci anh-kess-ta.  
tomorrow-from-Top boss sole-Acc lick-ci Neg-Fut-Decl  
‘I will not flatter my boss from tomorrow.’ (lick sole = flatter)

(37) ye.haksayng-tul-un ku iyaki-ey cangtan-ul cal macchwu-ess-ta.  
female.student-Pl-Top that story-in rhythm-Acc well set-Pst-Decl  
‘The female students listened to the story carefully and agreed with it.’ (set rhythm = listen carefully and agree)

(38) na-nun chel.phan-ul kkal-ko ku namca-eykey kopaykha-yess-ta.  
I-Top iron.pad-Acc ku that namca-eykey kopaykha-yess-ta.  
I-Top iron.pad-Acc that guy-Dat propose-Pst-Decl  
‘I was brash, and proposed to the guy.’ (spread out iron pad = be brash)

A1.3 Idioms that Permit Both

(39) pwuceng kongcikca-uy ssi-lul malli-kess-ta.  
corruption official-Gen seed-Acc dry-Fut-Decl  
‘We will get rid of the officials’ corruptions.’ (dry seeds = get rid of)

(40) ce nom-tul-i ta santhong-ul kkay-ss-ta.  
that guy-Pl-Nom that container.for.branches-Acc break-Pst-Decl  
‘Those guys ruined the matter.’ (break a container for branches = ruin)

(41) kipwu yeksa-ey hoyk-ul ku-u-si-n kwon sacang-nim.  
donation history-in stroke-Acc draw-u-Hon-Adn Kwon boss-Hon  
‘Boss Kwon who has made a great contribution to the history of donation’ (draw a stroke = make a crucial contribution)

(42) ne cengmal khong.pap mek-eya cengsin-ul chali-keyss-ni?  
you really bean.rice eat-have.to mind-Acc recover-Fut-Q  
‘Are you going to wake up if you have to go to a jail?’ (eat bean rice = to go to a jail)
(43) wuli-nun kan-ul coli-ko iss-ess-ta.
we-Top liver-Acc boil.down-ko exist-Pst-Dec
‘We were being very nervous.’ (boil down liver = be nervous)

(44) kamthwu-lul sse-ss-u-myen ku-ey kelmac-nun phwumkyek-ul kacy-eya ha-n-ta.
hat-Acc put.on-Pst-u-if that-in befit-Adn dignity-Acc own-should do-Pres-Dec
‘If you are in a position of authority, you should have a dignity befitting that.’ (put on a traditional hat = gain authority)

(45) ku cong-un temtheki-lul ssu-ko cwukim-ul tangha-yess-ta.
that servant-Top worry-Acc wear-and killed-Acc suffer-Pst-Dec
‘That servant got all the blame, and was killed.’ (wear worry = get blamed)

A1.4 Idioms that are Fixed

(46) wunun aki-lul tallaynu-lako ttam-ul ppay-ss-ta.
crying baby-Acc soothe-because sweat-Acc wring.out-Pst-Dec
‘I had a hard time because I soothed the crying baby.’ (wring out sweat = have a hard time)

(47) kahayca-nun casin-i ohilye phihayca-i-n chek kepchwum-ul mwul-ko taytul-ess-ta.
assailant-Top self-Nom rather victim-Cop-Adn pretending foam-Acc bite-and defy-Pst-Dec
‘The assailant pretended to be rather a victim, and was very enraged and defied.’ (bite a foam = be enraged)

(48) moin salam-tul-i motwu hye-lul naytwul-ess-ta.
gathered person-Pl-Nom all tongue-Acc wave-Pst-Dec
‘All gathered people were very astonished.’ (wave a tongue = get astonished)

(49) naynyen-ey-to heli.tti-lul coll-a-may-ko cal sal-a-po-ca.
next.year-in-too waist.belt-Acc tight-and-tie-and well live-a-try-Exh
‘Let’s be frugal and live well next year, too.’ (tighten one’s belt = frugal)

(50) onul sihem-eyse cwuk-ul sse-ss-ta.
today test-in porridge-Acc cook-Pst-Dec
‘I failed in the test today.’ (cook a porridge = fail)

(51) ku-uy cenkwa-ka kongkay-toy-ca kakkawun chinkwu-tul-to
he-Gen criminal.record-Nom publicize-become-once close friend-Pl-even
sayk.ankyeng-ul kki-ess-ta.
color.glasses-Acc wear-Pst-Dec
‘Once his criminal record became publicized, even his close friends got to have bad opinions about him.’ (put on color glasses = have bad opinions or prejudices)
(52) soyoung-un macimak-kkaci sichimi-lul ttey-ss-ta.
soyoung-Top last-till name.tag-Acc detach-Pst-Decl
’Soyoung pretended not to know about it till the end.’ (detach a name tag = pretend not to know)

(53) uysa cinchal hwu-ey twutie saci-lul phye-ss-ta.
doctor examination after-in finally limbs-Acc unfold-Pst-Decl
‘After the doctor’s examination, finally I got comfortable without any worries.’ (unfold limbs =
get comfortable with no worries)

(54) na ce kapang cem ccik-ess-e.
I that bag dot mark-Pst-Int
‘I kept one eye on the bag.’ (mark a dot = keep one eye on)

(55) nay-ka svutkalak-ul noh-ki cen-kkaci-nun helakha-ci mos-ha-n-ta.
I-Nom spoon-Acc put.down-Nml before-until-Top permit-ci Neg-do-Pres-Decl
‘Until I die, I will not permit it.’ (put down a spoon = die)

(56) sengkongha-myen na-hantey sayikki chye-la.
succeed-if I-Dat baby bear-Imp
‘If you succeed (in your blind date), you should introduce me (to a girl).’ (baby bear = introduce
to)

(57) wuli-nun ip-ul mo-ase Hana-lul chingchanha-ysess-ta.
we-Top lip-Acc collect-and Hana-Acc praise-Pst-Decl
‘We praised Hana all together (without any disagreement).’ (collect lips = act unanimously)

Chelswu-Nom this test-in seaweed.soup-Acc eat-Pst-Decl
‘Chelswu failed this test.’ (eat seaweed soup = fail)

(59) Kyengswu-nun sihem-i takao-myen hangsang nal-ul seyu-n-ta.
Kyengswu-Top test-Nom approach-if always blade-Acc stand-Pres-Decl
‘Kyengswu becomes always sensitive and nervous whenever the test date approaches.’ (stand
blade = be sensitive)

(60) celmun yeseng-tul-i chongtay-lul mey-ess-ta.
young woman-Pl-Nom gun.stock-Acc carry-Pst-Decl
‘Young women were the representative of the work, and led it.’ (carry gun stock = become a
representative and lead)

(61) Hana-ka ttum-ul olaystongan tuli-ess-ta.
Hana-Nom steam-Acc for.a.while let.in-Pst-Decl
‘Hana took an interval of time before she told about something.’ (let the rice settle in its own
steam = give an interval of time)
(62) sensayngnim-i yel-ul manhi pat-u-si-ess-ta.
teacher-Nom heat-Acc much receive-u-Hon-Pst-Decl
‘The teacher got very angry.’ (receive heat = get angry)

Jwumi-Top all unmarried.man-Dat tail-Acc wag-Pst-Decl
‘Jwumi flirted with all the guys.’ (wag tail = flirt)

(64) Khulisu-nun ecey siccang-eyse pakaci-lul sse-ss-ta.
Chris-Top yesterday market-in bowl-Acc wear-Pst-Decl
‘Chris was ripped off in the market yesterday.’ (wear bowl = be rip off)

(65) ku cali-nun nay-ka myengham-ul naymil manhan kos-i ani-ta.
that position-Top I-Nom name.card-Acc hold.out worth place-Nom Neg-Decl
‘The position is not the place that I can show my identification (i.e., there are many other people
who are more excellent than me. I am not much as competitive as they are).’ (hold out name card
= identify oneself)

A2: N-V Idioms with Functional Elements

All of these permit the functional elements to vary.

(1) kwansim-kwa yelceng-ulo han wumwul-ul pha-la.
interest-and passion-with one well-Acc dig-Imp
‘Focus on one matter with your interest and passion.’ (dig one well = focus on one matter)

(2) wuli-nun onul-pwuthe han soth.pap-ul mek-nun-ta.
we-Top today-from one cauldron.rice-Acc eat-Pres-Decl
‘From today we live in the same house.’ (eat one cauldron rice = live in the same house; work
together in the same team)

(3) swuswul-i sengkongcekulo kkuthna-se icye han swum-ul tolli-n-ta.
surgery-Nom successfully finish-because now one breath-Acc turn-Pres-Decl
‘Because the surgery was successfully finished, now we get relieved.’ (turn one breath = get
relieved)

(4) wuli-nun han ipwul-ul teph-nun sai-ya.
we-Top one blanket-Acc cover-Adn relation-Int
‘We are married.’ (cover one blanket = marry)

(5) ne-nun sinsa-losse ettehkey twu mal-ul ha-ni?
you-Top gentle.man-as how two word-Acc do-Q
‘How come do you as a gentleman change your mind so easily?’ (say two words = change one’s
mind so easily)
(6) Chelswu-nun yang tali-lul kelci-n-ta.
Chelswu-Top both leg-Acc span-Pres-Decl
‘Chelswu is a two-timer.’ (span two legs = date more than one person at a time)

(7) i kos-ey cip-ul sa-myen ancen-ha-ko kyengchi-to coha-se twu swu-lul
this place-in house-Acc purchase-if safety-do-and landscape-too good-because two move-Acc
po-nun kes-i-ta.
see-Adn thing-Cop-Decl
‘If you purchase a house in this place, you gain double profits because it is safe and its landscape
is great.’ (see two moves = gain double profits)

(8) wuli-ka icye han pay-lul tha-ss-ta.
we-Nom now one boat-Acc ride-Pst-Decl
‘We now share a destiny.’ (ride one boat = share the same destiny)

(9) Kim sacang sosik-ey wuli motwu han pang-ul mek-ess-ta.
Kim boss news-in we all one fist-Acc eat-Pst-Decl
‘We were very shocked at the news about the boss Kim.’ (eat one fist = be shocked)

(10) ku-nun sakwa-nun khenyeng han swul-ul te tte-se hwa-lul nay-ess-ta.
he-Top apology-Top rather.than one spoon-Acc more scoop-and angry-Acc make-Pst-Decl
‘He made the situation more worse by getting angry rather than apologizing.’ (scoop one spoon
more = make the situation worse; outwit)

Kim boss-Nom one matter-Acc raise-Pst-Decl
‘Our boss Mr. Kim made some achievements.’ (raise one matter = make some achievements)

Min professor-Nom student-Pl-Dat one tray-Acc shoot-Pst-Decl
‘Professor Min treated his students.’ (shoot one tray = treat)

(13) han nwun-ul phal-ci mal-ko kongpwu-man hay-la.
one eye-Acc sell-ci Neg-and study-only do-Imp
‘Focus on studying.’ (sell one eye = not to focus)

(14) Hana-nun mikwuk-eyse twu mali thokki-lul motwu cap-ass-ta.
Hana-Top America-in two Cl rabbit-Acc all catch-Pst-Decl
‘Hana accomplished what she has planned in America.’ (catch two rabbits = accomplish)