

## Analysis on Research of Homosexuality in Korea

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this research is to develop a basis for homosexuals to lead a healthy and happy life, by analyzing the research trend on homosexuality and increasing social interest toward it through the analysis of dissertations on homosexuality in Korea. By using the database of National Assembly Electronic Library, research design, keywords, and the major of researchers from 122 dissertations in Korea were analyzed. Literature review was the most common form of research design in homosexuality dissertations published in Korea, followed by survey research, novel review, and correlation study. Next, theology was the most common major of researchers, followed by sociology and counseling psychology. Finally, research keywords varied depending on the major of researchers.

**Keywords:** Research, Homosexuality

### 1 Introduction

In the new era of globalization and information, modern society is experiencing profound changes due to the opening and liberalization of sex, along with generation gap and chaos of values [1]. Also, the increase of singles, late marriage, and the tendency of refusing to give childbirth due to young people's unwillingness have brought low fertility, which has become a huge national problem.

'Homosexuality' was classified as a 'sexual deviant' in the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders by American Psychiatric Association in 1992, and was deleted from the list of mental disorders in 1974. Then, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition in 1980, it was classified as a disease of "ego-dystonic homosexuality" and was deleted in 1987 [2].

In Korea, a discourse on homosexuality started from about 1980, and the prevailing awareness was that homosexuality was unethical and negative. However, as homosexuality-related issues have received the attention of society since 2000, it has been addressed by dramas and films as well [3]. Also, homosexuality is already explained as 'value neutrality' in middle and high school textbooks [4]. On the other hand, due to a powerful social norm of Confucian culture and the influence of Christianity in Korea unlike the West, homosexuality is considered as a major factor that dismantles families and destroys social justice [5]. Recently, issues on homosexuality from all levels of society have been controversial, with regard to the anti-discrimination law.

Therefore, this research intends to form a basis for homosexuals to lead a healthy and happy life by analyzing homosexuality-related researches in Korea and their research trend, and by increasing social interest toward homosexuality.

## 2 Research Method

### 2.1 Data collection

This research selected and analyzed 122 dissertations published between 1985 and 2015, by entering 'homosexuality' as a search word on the database of the National Assembly Library.

### 2.2 Data Analysis

This research focused on analyzing research design, keywords, and researchers' majors, based on the analysis criterion that Im et al [6] used in the analysis of addiction-related nursing research in Korea

## 3 Result

### 3.1 Classification of study design:

Table 1. Study design

Study design	1981 ~1985	1986 ~1990	1991 ~1995	1996 ~2000	2001 ~2005	2006 ~2010	2011 ~2015	n(%)
Survey			1(50.0)	1(5.9)	5(18.5)	8(20.0)	7(20.0)	22(18.0)
Correlation				1(5.9)	4(14.8)	3(7.5)	2(5.7)	10(8.2)
Quasi-experimental				1(5.9)			1(2.9)	2(1.6)
Qualitative					3(11.1)	1(2.5)	4(11.4)	8(6.6)
Literature review				9(53.0)	10(37.0)	19(47.5)	7(20.0)	45(36.9)
Model development							1(2.9)	1(0.8)
Instrument development							1(2.9)	1(0.8)
Theory verification							1(2.9)	1(0.8)

tion								
Case study			1(5.9)	2(7.4)	1(2.5)	2(5.7)	6(4.9)	
Drama/Movie review					3(7.5)	3(8.6)	6(4.9)	
News frame re- view						1(2.9)	1(0.8)	
Cartoon review						1(2.9)	1(0.8)	
Law article review						1(2.9)	1(0.8)	
Journal review						1(2.9)	1(0.8)	
Novel review	1(100.0)	1(50.0)	4(23.5)	3(11.1)	3(7.5)	2(5.7)	14(11.5)	
Art review					2(5.0)		2(1.6)	
	1(100.0)	0(-)	2(100.0)	17(100.0)	27(100.0)	40(100.0)	35(100.0)	122(100.0)

### 3.2 Homosexuality-related keywords

Table 2. Keywords

Major of the researchers	Keywords
Theology	Reformed counseling, God image, Reformed theology, Biblical perspective, Phenomenological study, Christian counselor, Sexual ethics, Fanfic, Discrimination laws, Korea church, Obscene acts, New testament
Sociology	Partnering, Sexual script theory, Military criminal law, Discourse, Social practice, Dynamics of emotion, Religious ritual, Fanfic culture, Capitalism, Homosexual identity, Massmedia, Homosexual community
Art	Anxiety, Self-esteem, Gender, Performance theory, Artist, Bisexuality, Sex-role identity, Portrait' drawing characteristics
English language and literature	Social pressure, Transsexual projection, Sexual reproduction, Transvestic fetishism, Gay lesbian theory
Counseling and psychology	Sexual orientation, Phenomenology, Stress, Coping, Self-esteem, Mental well-being, Lewd materials, Homophobia, Prejudice, Cyber homosexuality
Psychology	Sexual orientation, Character virtues, Internalized sexual stigma, Suicide, Stress, Depression, Suicidal ideation, Disclosure, Mental health
Christian ethics	Ethics
Counseling	Stress, Faith adaptation, Ego-dystonic homosexuality, Psychoanalysis, Spirit healing
Pedagogy	Internalized homosexuality aversion, Well-being, Disclosure, Information processing, Proust
Social welfare	Media, Mental health, Minority stress, Sexual awareness, Soldier, Social stigma, Life satisfaction
General social studies	Adolescents, Christian teacher, Discussion lecture, Films, Consciousness

Literature	Modern short stories, Homosexuality motif, Aestheticism, Novels, Eros, Death
Historical studies	Homosexuality identity, Nazi germany, Sexual discourse
Women' s studies	Identity disclosure, Information control, Coming-out, Outing, Gihon Iban women, Queer intimacies, Family norms
Korean education	Homosexual marriage
Journalism and mass communication	Chinese college students, Cognition, Emotions, Civil rights, Entertainment media, Attribution, Emotions, Values
Movie film	Movie, Male sexuality, TV drama, Image
Media studies	Homosexuality contents, Reproduction
Child welfare	Violent type, Abortion acceptance
NGO studies	Work experience, Employment discrimination, Korean protestant christian faith community
French language and literature	Genet
Cultural studies	Gender identity, Consumer spaces
Korean studies	Religious inclination
Social work studies	Mental health, Depression, Suicidal ideation, Social worker
Advertising and public relations	Heterosexuality, Advertisements
Animation	Genre study, Homosexual comics, Feminism
Journalism and Broadcasting	News frame
Child psychology and education	Parental child-rearing attitude, Authoritarian personality
National ethics education	Christian ethics
Public law studies	Fundamental rights
Nursing	Identity developmental process, Mental health
Japanese language and literature	Fetishism
Business administration	Advertisements
North American studies	Culture wars
Korean language and literature	Homosexuality motif
Anthropology	Korea gay movement
Fashion marketing	Fashion advertisements, Homosexual expression
Christian education	Holistic health, Sexual education

### 3.3 Major of the researchers :

**Table 3.** Major of the researchers

Major of the researchers	n (%)	Major of the researchers	n (%)
Theology	28(23.0)	NGO studies	2(1.6)
Sociology	7(5.7)	French language and literature	2(1.6)
Counseling and psychology	6(4.9)	Cultural studies	2(1.6)
English language and literature	6(4.9)	Korean studies	2(1.6)
Art	6(4.9)	Social work studies	2(1.6)
Counseling	6(4.9)	Advertising and public relations	2(1.6)
Christian ethics	5(4.1)	Animation	1(0.8)
Psychology	5(4.1)	Journalism and Broadcasting	1(0.8)
Pedagogy	4(3.3)	Child psychology and education	1(0.8)
Social welfare	4(3.3)	National ethics education	1(0.8)
General social studies	3(2.5)	Public law studies	1(0.8)
Literature	3(2.5)	Nursing	1(0.8)
Historical studies	2(1.6)	Japanese language and literature	1(0.8)
Women' s studies	2(1.6)	Business administration	1(0.8)
Korean education	2(1.6)	North American studies	1(0.8)
Journalism and mass communication	2(1.6)	Korean language and literature	1(0.8)
Movie film	2(1.6)	Anthropology	1(0.8)
Media studies	2(1.6)	Fashion marketing	1(0.8)
Child welfare	2(1.6)	Christian education	1(0.8)

## 4 Conclusions

This research was conducted to form a basis for homosexuals to lead a healthy and happy life, by analyzing dissertations on homosexuality in Korea and increasing social interest toward it. Using the database of National Assembly Electronic Library, the analysis focused on research design, keywords, and the major of researchers from 122 dissertations published in Korea.

In Korea, a dissertation on homosexuality was first published in 1985, started reappearing in 1994, and has been increasing since 2000. Literature review was the most common form of research design in dissertations on homosexuality in Korea, followed by survey research, novel review, and correlation study. The distribution of researchers' major demonstrated that theology was the most common, followed by sociology and counseling psychology. Research keywords varied depending on the major of researchers.

Since this research only analyzed the dissertations in the database of National Assembly Electronic Library through internet search and did not include various papers in other search websites, there is a limit to generalize the research result. However, it is expected that research will become a basis for expanding various studies on homosexuality.

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