

1443-1446
IN THE YEAR
1443

King Sejong the
Great created the
Hangeul alphabet
[aka Hangul]

Chinese Korean

水

/shuǐ/
Water

(Sagay, 2023a).

물

/mul/
Water

ㅁ — m
ㅜ — u
ㅡ — i

Hangeul is a phonetic
language, vs Chinese
which is logogram.

The change to Hangeul
made it much easier
for the masses to
communicate.

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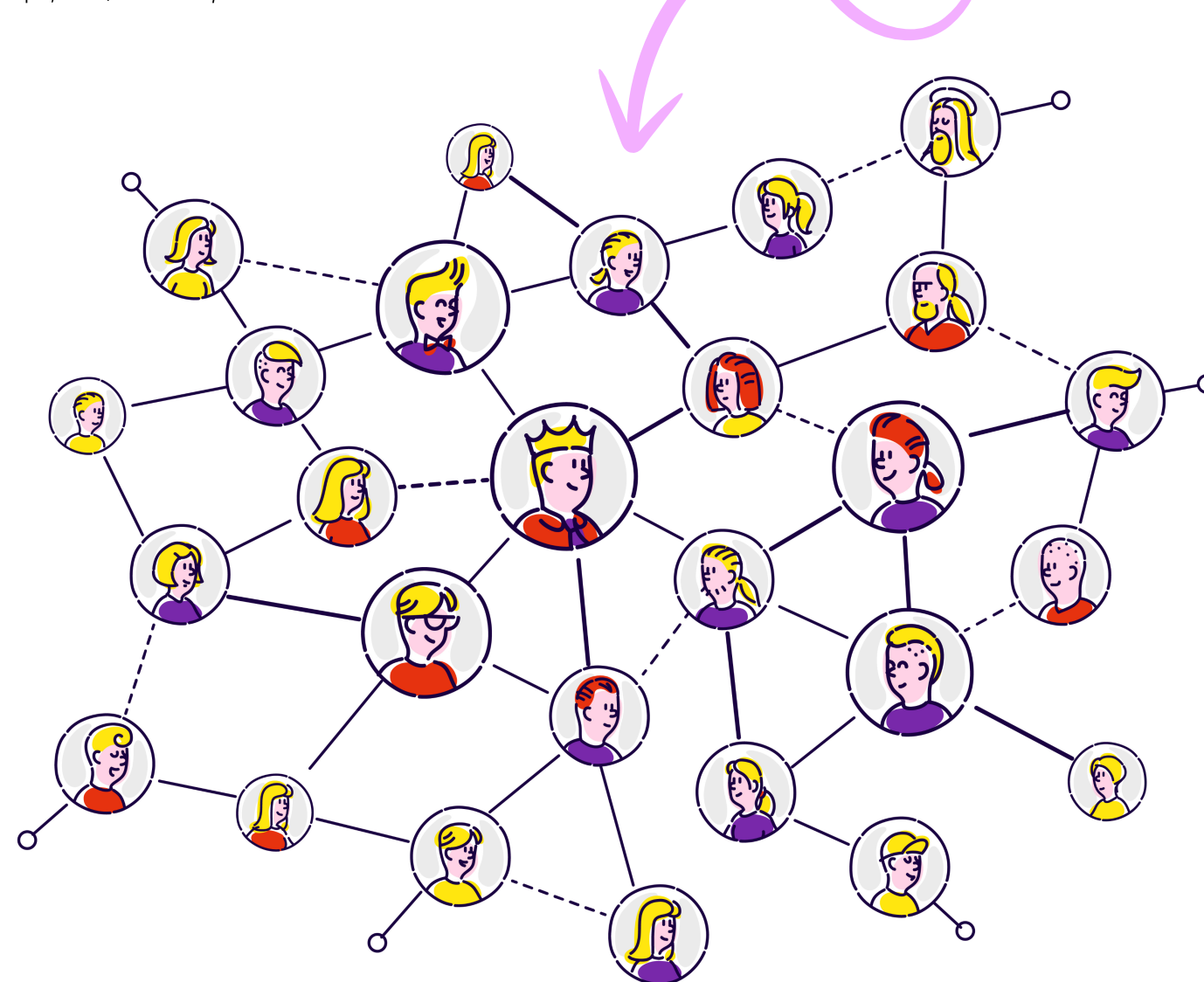


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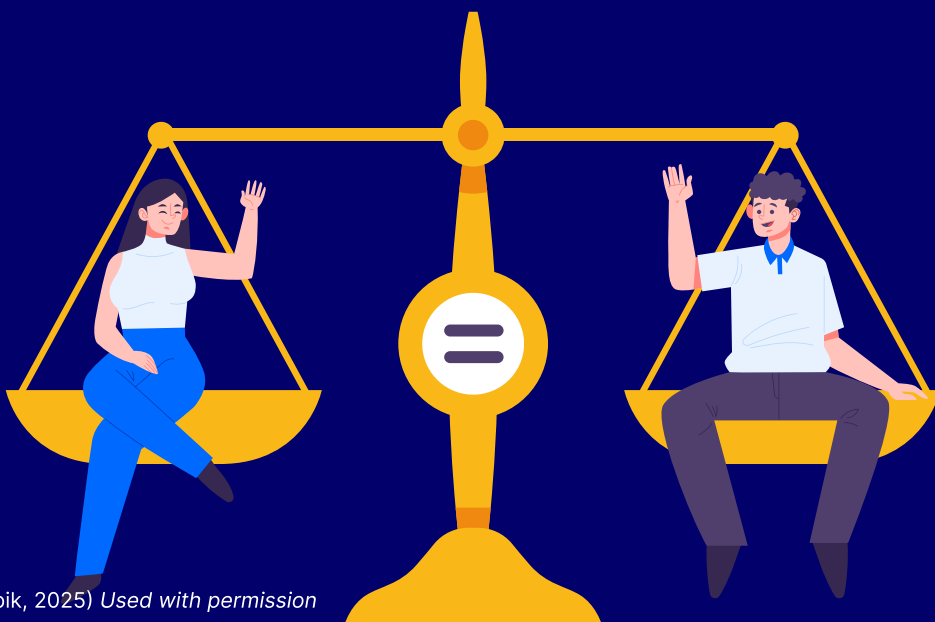
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“Education is one of the key sources of social
equity. [... A]ll that can be achieved in
education is to pursue an ongoing struggle to
reduce the gap between the haves and the
have-nots”

(Cope and Kalantzis, 2009, p. 168)



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Korean
-alphabet-

ㄱ ㄴ ㄷ ㄹ ㅁ ㅂ ㅅ
ㅇ ㅈ ㅊ ㅋ ㆁ ㅅ ㅆ
ㅋ ㆁ ㆁ ㆁ ㆁ ㆁ
ㅏ ㅑ ㅓ ㅕ ㅗ ㅛ ㅜ
ㅠ ㅡ ㅣ ㅈ ㅊ ㅋ ㆁ
ㅖ ㅗ ㅛ ㅜ ㅝ ㅞ

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99%

Literacy rate in
Korea today

World Bank Open Data (2018).

Power to the
people,
or control?

It is said the King Sejong had so much
empathy and love for his people, that he
created this language to improve their
lives.

Other accounts say that this new
language was created to reduce power in
the upper-class and create loyalty and
stronger communication between the king
and the working class people (Lee, 2013).

The true social-political reasons for the
creation of Hangeul may remain a
mystery, but its impact on the people and
history of Korea is undeniable.

“The ability to read and write in the
Chinese writing system was considered a
token of social status and further
reinforced the monopoly of learning and
knowledge by upper-class men”

(Pae, 2024, p. 35).

Before this time, Korean people
wrote with Chinese characters.

Only the nobility knew how to
write.