

IV

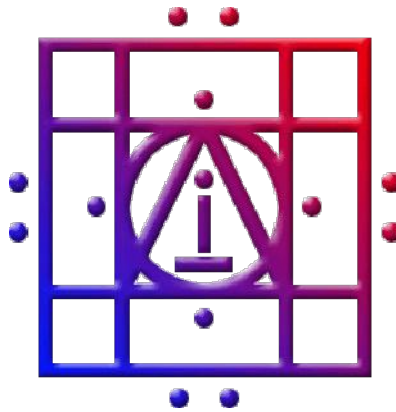
DIAGRAM

▶ Nurigeul is a Divine Letter Endowed by Heaven

Let us take a look at this Diagram of Nurigeul Alphabet.

▶ Diagram of 28 Primary Nurigeul Alphabet

훈민정음도-訓民正音圖



This illustration is a diagram to help us visualize the design principle of the Korean alphabet of 1446 at a glance. It is an emblemized ‘Blueprint’ of Sejong’s primary Nurigeul Script which consists of **11 vowels** and **17 consonants**.

Of the 11 Vowels the cardinal three vowels \bullet [Δ], — [ᄃ] and | [i] are in the center.

The four derived vowels ㅏ [a] ㅑ [o] ㅓ [e] ㅕ [u] and the four yodized vowels ㅛ [ya] ㅜ [yo] ㅠ [ye] ㅠ [yu] are situated in the way they were generated according to the secondary and tertiary conjugation.

The 17 consonant graphemes, ㅇ [0] ㅎ [ʔ] ㅎ [h]; ㅇ [ŋ] ㄱ [g^h] ㅋ [k^h]; ㄴ [n] ㄷ [d^h] ㅌ [t^h] ㄹ [r]; ㅅ [s] ㅈ [c] ㅊ [c^h] ㅊ [z]; ㅁ [m] ㅂ [b^h] ㅍ [p^h], are all contained in this Diagram.

King Sejong did not include the diplograms ㅎ [h] ㄱ [k'] ㄷ [t'] ㅅ [s'] ㅈ [c'] and ㅂ [p'] in the primary 17 Nurigeul consonants, because they are not “phonemes” but “allophones”.

For example, ‘peak’ is a phoneme but ‘speak’ is an allophone.

Allophone is a sub-phonemic feature as in the case of ㅎ -‘nicht’ in German, ㄱ -‘school’, ㄷ -‘st^heak’, ㅅ -‘conceal’, ㅂ -‘speak’ ㅈ -‘itchy’ or ‘catch-up’ in English.

► Nurigeul is a Global Script given by God through Sejong

VIDEO SESSION: Narrator A

Sejong created not only 28 letters necessary to transcribe Korean language according a universal phonetic principle of letter design, but he created Nurigeul, a Global Script that can effectively transcribe all other languages, including the Chinese language. It can be considered only as God's divine grace that we now have the script at hand with which we not only can eradicate illiteracy, but also transcribe the Bible phonetically and spread the gospel for Global Outreach.

We have spent an hour to get acquainted with the design principle of Nurigeul and its generative principle which permits us to develop an unlimited number of letter shapes in order to accommodate the entire range of speech sounds.

With reference to the Original Text there certainly is a mystery of a holy spirit conjured between Sejong and God for the creation of Nurigeul.

According to the compiler's 'Envoys' on the Postface of the Original Text, the inventive work of Nurigeul was a Product of Synergism between Sejong and God's intention. Evidences are contained in the following passages.

Narrator B & D

1. “吁.正音作而天地萬物之理咸備,其神矣哉.是殆天啓聖心而假手焉者乎.” (Envoy)

“Oh, with the designing of the Correct Phonetic Alphabet Nurigeul, the Pattern of the Myriad Things of Heaven and Earth is completely accounted for. **How divine it is! Heaven has seemingly opened the Sage King's mind and lent its hand to him to endow the idea of creating the divine letters.**”

2. “正音之字只二十八, 探蹟錯綜窮深幾 脂遠言近牖民易 天授何曾智巧爲”

“The letters of the Correct Phonetic Alphabet Nurigeul are only twenty-eight, but they cut through all entanglements and open up the deepest mysteries. While pointing to the far-reaching, they speak to the close-by, making easier the enlightenment of the people. **They are Heaven's gift.** How can they be the mere product of wisdom and art?”

3. “一朝制作侷神工, 大東千古開朦朧.” (6.1.4. Envoy)

“The inventive work of a single morning seems as if **a divine craft.** In our Great Korea **it has thrown light onto thousands of years of darkness (illiteracy).**”

The heart of King Sejong in creating Nurigeul is reflected clearly in the following words: “Lowly people are not to be treated carelessly, for although they are the common illiterate people(賤民) **they are also the people of Heaven(天民)**”. This is recorded in the 26th year of the Annals of King Sejong.

The King’s primary concern was to eradicate the suffering of his illiterate people. Once their illiteracy is removed, they would be able to enjoy **a heaven-blessed life**. But even so, what the King has accomplished was not just the creation of a writing system, but the **Alphabet that correctly transcribe all human speech sounds** based on an admirably modern idea which pictorially visualizes the speech organs as the sounds are being produced. Thus Nurigeul can be described as “**Visible Speech Sounds**” with which we should be able to help deaf people produce oral sounds exactly Nurigeul is designed for.