



February Interviews

Interviewee: Carmen

Capacity: Club Leader

Hello, Carmen, how are you today?

Hello, I am well.

We are here to interview you as the club leadership for the Song Analysis Club.

To start, could you please introduce yourself?

Not sure how to introduce myself however, Hi, I am Carmen, Leader of the Song Analysis Club. I first joined the Song Analysis Club almost 2 years ago. I believe this because I found the meetings to be interesting like we were analyzing Bangtan's lyrics vehemently. A few months after the leader left, there was not anyone who wanted to be the leader and I felt like the club had a lot of potential so I volunteered.

Oh, that's interesting. Has the club been around kind of since the start of the server then?

I am not sure about that. I believe, after a few months of the server opening, the club was opened.

Oh okay, so yeah definitely a long time ago. One of the original clubs then.

Somehow, it does not feel like it's been long. Everything flew by during the pandemic.

[laughs] Would you like to introduce the rest of your leadership team to the Song Analysis Club?



Someone else's club?

Song Analysis [laughs]

Apologies about that, I was unable to hear.

I mean that was probably my pronunciation as well. I woke up like, 10 mins ago.

Yes, so we have three secretaries (Rachel, Renuka and Kim) and a co-leader (Clara). Rachel and Renuka have been a part of leadership around the same time as me since we all volunteered together. Kim joined a few months later and Clara joined pretty recently when we asked around for a co-leader to help out with club work. I'm very grateful for all of them, without them I do not think the club can run smoothly. They contribute a lot to the ideas and feedback of the club, and all of them contribute to making the content for the assignment, weekly meeting content and activities.

Did it run differently before Clara joined? When it was just you and the secretaries?

Adding Clara helped a lot, it helps to have another helping hand. As the saying goes by, 'the more the merrier' and she helps with meetings and content as well.

What's the best part that you would say, has been about being a part of club leadership?

That's a good question. I enjoy making the content for the club and hosting the meetings. Making the slides for our meetings weekly actually helps me to learn more about the lyrics we analyze plus Korean since we do include vocabulary and grammar in the slides. Meetings are always very fun, there's some synergy every time all the members get together and have a discussion about the song we analyze. Being in leadership it just feels like we help create the content, I still sometimes feel like a member.



The first question I would have from that would be, that's like a really interesting perspective about still feeling like a member. It makes me wonder, what would you say is a fun memory that you've had either as a club member or with the leadership team?

Oh, it's hard to pick one.

You could always pick more than one. We do have time.

They're all good memories.

[chuckles]

Our club has fixed the same 3 meeting times on Saturday for a very long time and I can't speak for others but from what I heard, I look forward to it every Saturday. We often joke about our meetings being like 'therapy, healing sessions' cause we cover quite deep topics sometimes and in a lot of meetings, I remember I always end up tearing up. Some moments, I remember, are that we have few members who are very good with certain knowledge so whenever they drop a fact bomb we'll all call the meeting an "astronomy class, psychology class, biology class...etc" because Bangtan's music includes so many various topics we can talk about.

[chuckles] I went from "Aww that's so sweet" to "Haha wow" because it's true about BTS's music including many things.

Yes, that's true.

Before I forget, could you give us a general overview of the club?

Sure. Song Analysis Club, just like the name we analyze songs, but up to now we have only covered BTS songs. Members and leadership have talked about venturing into other artists but have not done any yet so far. Possibly in the future! (Initially, when I joined the club, it was only BTS songs and we



discussed wanting to cover their whole discography (which could be impossible with the number of songs BTS has). So usually, each month there is a theme like an Album and for the four/five weeks of the month, we cover one song per week. During the meetings, we share thoughts and discuss the lyrics, MV, behind the story/making of the song, theories, background information, wordplays, Korean vocabulary, grammar, etc. Sometimes, when there are 5 weeks in a month, the last week we would hold a game night where members can gain hearts! Our assignment is usually the analysis of the songs we covered and a little bit of the Korean vocabulary we have learned for the month. Overall, it is a fun place to interact where we just share this common interest.

Game night is a really fun and interesting concept. I was wondering actually, how do you make each month different? Given that you are doing the same kind of fundamental exercises, analyzing songs? Or, how do you make it more fun, more lively each month?

That's a tricky one. I believe not much has changed since the last time. After I had joined leadership, we started making slides and putting the lyrics in there and then I remember enjoying the games from other clubs so I discussed with our team and we came up with some fun activities (like game night) that can get members to participate more. Then, later on, I remember staff saying or someone giving feedback that since the club is a learning one, we could include more learning so I thought about it, and I think since we analyze lyrics in Korean we can pick vocabulary + grammar from there and put it in the slides. Then, that became included as activities as well as part of the assignment.

Ah, I see, I see. So, you mentioned the assignment as well, is that usually the same concept each month, just different songs each month?



We have switched it up a few times, sometimes the month is short or something came up then we gave other assignments, here's an example!

Name: _____ Date: _____

No More Dream

Across

1. Quiet Room
2. Self-study time
3. Dream
7. Expression for younger generation giving up on numerous essential (according to society) things
9. Worry

Down

4. Please grow up, dude, you're just all talk with a ____?
5. Relief Pitcher
6. Comfortable
8. College
10. Fast Ball

Word Bank

N포세대	야자	독서실	편하다	걱정
구원투수	꿈	유리멘탈	직구	대학

Do you guys usually provide feedback on the assignments? Or at all?

Not usually, I can not remember if we did that last time, I would sometimes write a response but not at the moment. We do not give feedback as of now.



Okay, so I heard that you used to be Organiser Staff at some point. Is that true?

Yes, I was.

Oh okay, why did you leave Org staff?

It was fun, but I couldn't keep up. I joined when I had a lot of free time but then I got busy. However, I still have a lot of respect for them.

I see, yeah I have a lot of respect for Org Staff. Was it a hard decision to make, when you finally decided to leave?

Yes, it was. I enjoyed learning about the server and helping but I think I shouldn't do things half-heartedly.

Did it have anything to do with the Song Analysis Club - That you had to kind of prioritize and choose one over the other? Or was it like a separate decision?

Actually, after a while, I slowly dropped other clubs as well. It was a hard decision but the Song Analysis Club felt very personal. I had an emotional attachment there, and I think, because before I joined this server I was learning Korean through BTS music as well so it felt like something I could keep doing.

Since you became a leader. Have you faced any challenges in that role?

Keeping up the content weekly. Sometimes, it gets a little difficult thinking about new content, or just overall seeing the club. It's my first time trying a position like this as well, but the amusement and the interactions we get to have in the club keep me going.

How do you usually overcome the challenges that you face? Or plan on overcoming them?

The times when I was not able to keep up, our leadership team always got each other's back so for example if I couldn't make the content for a certain



week, others would help out or take over meetings. Even the club members are very understanding when we let them know that we are unable to organize a meeting.

Do you guys make content weekly rather than in advance then?

Yes, we make content weekly.

Would you say that the leadership team and the members are the main way you overcame the issue around content or scheduling?

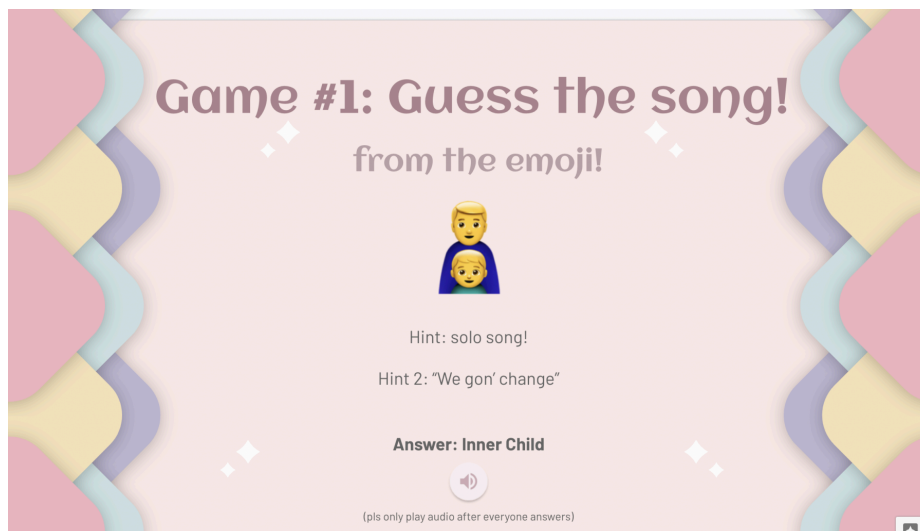
Yes.

Okay! How do you think the club could be improved?

I want to hear this more from our members, I feel like from their point of view they might be able to tell us more about how it can be improved because I'm not too sure how else we can improve the club right now.


Consulting with the members sounds like a good idea. What's an idea you've done in the club that you've personally loved?

I think Padlet. Padlet is the website we use for our assignments, and it got good feedback from members because it was all compiled there for everyone to see. Game nights as well! (some pictures for example)





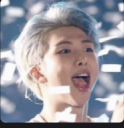
1. Multiple-choice Report an issue 30 seconds 5 points

 Q. “너는 나 나는 You’re me, I’m you” What song does this lyric belong too?

answer choices

- 보조개 (Dimple)
- Serendipity
- Outro: Her
- DNA

2. Multiple-choice 30 seconds 5 points

 Q. What was Namjoon’s thought process while writing 보조개 (Dimple)?


answer choices

- It should be flirty~
- A song to make Army’s heart flutter
- How about I sing this song to myself?

**Game #1:
Guess the
song!**

What choreo is this from?

Reveal with Music!
Answer: Dionysus



Oh, looks cool! Hmm, I don't remember doing game nights when I was a member. I suppose that was very brief.

Yes, we did not do them previously. Come join us again.

Well, if I have time.

I'm also really hoping you can't hear my stomach rumble this way.



Griz: Get something to eat!

So I know of course that the club has covered a lot of songs but is there one that you could pick that you had the most fun analyzing?

Currently, Yun, our most recent meeting was really fun! I loved all the album-themed months. MOTS was fun.

Darcy: Yun?

Griz: I keep forgetting Darcy is not an ARMY.

Darcy: I am though (with tears).

Griz: Time to cancel you.

Ah, Yun (with Erykah Badu) is the first track of RM's album Indigo.

Oh!

Yes, "I know the song, but I do not know the song's name." Haha.

But I was there for some, I think album-themed months. And those were fun. I remember that. What was the most complicated song to analyze?

I remember we had a very deep discussion about 'STOP' from Jack in the Box, but I think there was a more complicated one but I cannot remember.

That's alright, No pressure. What about a song you haven't analyzed yet but would like to in the future?

I am waiting for PJM1. Oh, and how can I forget, Mixtapes. We talked about it for a long time. We wanted to do BTS mixtapes.

That sounds amazing. I might have to stop by open calls for that.

Yes, of course.

What have you guys planned for the club members this month?



We're analyzing the album Indigo. This week is 'Still Life.'

Are you doing it for this month? Or will you go through all of the songs next month?

Good question, I have not decided that yet because I think we planned many times and new songs dropped so suddenly so we would always prioritize the new releases.

That makes sense. I guess that is to do with the nature of the club. Focusing on the newest release.

Yes.

What are your goals for the club and what do you look forward to doing in the future?

The goal would be that members could improve in some way in Korean or other aspects. In some ways having these meetings and talking about various topics not only can be fun but help us to learn in life as well. For the future, it's hard to say but I hope that we can continue to improve our club in a way that would benefit everyone.

So I recently found out clubs have previously done collaborations with other clubs in the past. So, I was wondering, has the Song Analysis Club ever collaborated?

No.

Ah, okay. Would you like to?

It would be fun, but not sure how that would go. I shall bring this up with the leadership.



Do you have any club in mind that would be good to collaborate with, or that you would like to collaborate with?

Recently, Soora told me to collaborate with K-History if we analyze *Daechwita* which sounds amusing.

Darcy: Oh, that does sound fun. Especially because the club could collaborate with K-Reading as well. Read the lyrics and analyze.

Griz: [laughs]

Darcy: [laughs] I can't help myself.

Griz: K-Language as well! With the grammar and vocals and all that~

Oh, let's do it!

Darcy: You make a fair point I suppose. Not just a blatant plug haha.

I wish I had more time. I have been curious about K-Language

Griz: OMG yes DM me! We can talk about it! And join the club!

Okay!

By the way, may I roughly know how much more time the interview will take?

We are on, I think, the last 2 questions. So almost done. Thank you for staying and answering all these questions for so long.

Alright!

So, the second last one is. Generally speaking in terms of clubs. Do you have any ideas or suggestions you would like organizers to implement?

Honestly, I think so far the staff has been keeping everything very good with the clubs. I may be falling back a bit like club perks. I have not tried them out.

Okay so, final question. Why would you recommend that members join the Song Analysis Club?



It's quite rare to find a club like this that consistently meets every week and discusses BTS lyrics plus you get to gain some extra knowledge whether Korean or other topics! It's a safe space and everyone is very nice here. Come join us, you'll surely have fun!

Okay, thank you so much for the interview Carmen, I hope that we didn't take up too much of your time and I hope that the club continues to grow and you have an amazing year.

Yay, thank you so much, Darcy and Griz. Hope you get to eat something nice Darcy. Haha.

Darcy: Haha, I'll go get cinnamon rolls.

Thank you again for your time, Carmen.

