



March Interviews

Interviewee: Griz

Capacity: Organizer Assistant

Hi Griz, how have you been doing lately?

I have been good! Busy, but good. How have you been?

That is a good question..! [laughs] Um, passable.

Okay, we are here today to interview you as a member of the org staff team; could you start by introducing yourself please?

Okay, my name is Griz. I joined the server in 2021. I watched a lot of K-Dramas and I started catching on to the words that they were saying. I was able to make some simple sentences in my head so I decided to give Korean a try. Plus, I kept seeing words and I could not understand, however, if I knew how to read 한글, I would have understood it. I started my Korean learning journey and came across this server. Due to some mishap, it took me a while to get accepted to the server but nonetheless, I got in and have been here ever since. About myself, I am twenty one studying Computer Science in university.

Okay, thank you.

How did you first hear of or find the server?

I was scrolling through Twitter. I was pretty active then, so I came across the server. I do not remember the exact moment since it was a couple of years ago, but it was on my timeline. I bookmarked it for later but I kept missing the date, because the timings were really early in the morning for me. If I



wanted to join, I had to wake up at like 6 am or 5 am or something, but yeah, one day I finally set an alarm, woke up, and did it.

When you say the timings, do you mean for the tour?

No. So what used to happen is that there was only a limited number of people that could join, so on Twitter they would send a Discord link when the server was open, I think it was on the weekend? And they had a certain amount of time and a certain amount of people that could only join, and yeah, so you had to join at that window, and if you missed it, then you would have to wait for the next time they got sent out.

Oh, I see! It is interesting to hear about how it used to be.

So, what made you join the server then, was it to learn Korean, like, with other people?

Yeah, it was to learn Korean because I am a big procrastinator. Since the server is based on activity quota, I was like 'This is a good chance for me to not procrastinate as much'.

You said you have been picking up words and things like that from K-Dramas; when you first joined the server, were you a beginner? Or, what level did you find yourself?

Well, I was DIMS (now Go Go) at that point because I studied a bit of 한글 before I joined. I knew more vocab but I did not know grammar so I got DIMS. [laughs]

I see you are, 2nd Grade now, congratulations! You have come really far since then.

Yeah, I did.

Me too! [laughs]



Yeah, you did too, you are... *I'm Fine* now? Is that it?

Yes... technically.

Congratulations to you too.

Has the server helped you in your Korean learning journey as you were hoping?

Yeah, it helped a lot. I really like the courses the server offers, not to mention of course K-Language Club. Even if I do not have time to study, because of K-Language Club I am kind of pushed to it. And I did BK2 (Beginners Korean 2 - Soundcheck) with Nae and it was so good and it really helped me a lot. These past few months I have not been studying, I have gotten very behind, now I have got to catch up.

Which things, or like activities, parts of the server, would you say have helped the most?

Well, BK2 (Beginner Korean 2 - Soundcheck) definitely helped a lot, but I would say K-Language Club. *[laughs]*

[laughs]

Oh, and Nae's lives! Nae (@yaadealid) used to do a lot of lives before and those used to go on for hours together. She came up with different different topics to talk about. And of course, again, K-Language Club.

Of course, we cannot forget the K-Language Club. I do remember Nae's lives - I remember them being really useful.

Which server activities, apart from the lives, do you have experience doing, if any?

I have actually experienced a lot. I have done Chat & Speaking, I attended one (session of) Comprehension Activity - not the others because the timings at that time when it came out were really bad for me, it would be 3 am or



something. I have not done Instagram but I have done Twitter Activity (now *Social Media*), Lives, Quiz Activity, Speaking Activity, and some RUN KSG as well.

Oh, nice.

From the courses, I have done 아미 KSG Textbook Course. Though, I have not finished it yet. I kind of have to because when I am correcting for 아미 KSG Textbook Course, I study it, so that I do not end up saying something stupid or wrong. I just have not done the test yet though - I should do that. I did not do 한글 101 because I had already previously studied it before coming here. I am doing Talk To Me In Korean right now, but I am still in (Level) 2 for the past year. I did Coursera Beginner, and I think that is it. Yeah... unless you want me to list the clubs as well.

Well, maybe at some point, but I have a couple of questions now based on stuff you have said so let us look at those first.

One question was do you find that marking the Textbook Course, as you mentioned that you do as an org assistant, does it kind of act as a way of studying it, almost, when you mark it?

Oh, definitely. Well, it depends on how a person corrects it. But how I do it is, when someone writes something wrong or something different from the answer sheet, I kind of go out and I check why it is wrong, or what makes it wrong, so that kind of helps me understand, okay, that this is not supposed to be done and why, or, this can also be done. Because sometimes, but sometimes there are other answers which are not on the answer sheet that are also okay, or correct, so yeah. So I think that helps keep me up-to-date with Textbook because the answer sheet has to be made, so whenever the lessons come out, someone would have to step up and make the answer sheet. So, I did some of them, so while doing those, I kind of learned, as well.



Did you say you had to make the answer sheet, sorry?

Before, we barely had mentors like we have now, and from what I remember, Makhi used to make the lessons, and we would post it, but there were not any answer keys for the lessons. I was kind of struggling at the beginning, and then finally we made a folder that we put our answers in, hence the “answer sheet”. But basically, when the lessons were posted, we did not have answers to them, so whoever would correct the first person who did it would tend to make the answer sheet.

Ah, I see.

Of course, we got them from mentors or someone who knew more.

That is really interesting, and it shows how much the server has grown now.

Yeah, yes, I mean it was very organized before as well, but now it is ten times more organized, I would say.

You also mentioned doing 아미 RUN KSG and I was wondering if that has helped you with your Korean learning journey at all?

Honestly, I can not even remember what I did, because it was so long back. I did like one or two of them, one of which was a writing task where I had to write maybe a word or a phrase in Korean and then we described it. [searches up] From what I can see, I have written about self-quarantining, everyday life 일상, infections, and things like that.

So, were you writing the answers in Korean?

So, we wrote one word or a sentence in Korean and then the rest of it we just explained it in English.

Ah, I see. So, is the activity more for fun as opposed to learning then, would you say?



It depends because you get different tasks; there are fun tasks and there are learning tasks. So... yeah, if you complete a certain amount of tasks you get a server point.

I have not had time to do it in a while, so that is interesting to know.

You should try it out, you can get the role and you will not get warned if you do not complete it or something. If you maybe just find one task that you are like, 'Oh, that seems fun', you can just do it. It depends, some tasks are one second long, while some might take longer because some of them are like drawing and creativity and stuff, but we are not obligated to do all of them.

Yeah, maybe if I have time one day. Uh... in the holidays. [laughs]

[laughs]

What was your favorite out of all of the server activities that you have done?

I would say BK2 and Lives. Nae is a really good teacher so... definitely those things.

Okay.

I remember waking up at like 3am to attend her BK2 classes.

Did you say 3am?

Yeah

Wow...

Yeah, that was like the other time. One was on Saturday, which I think you went for, and then I went for Wednesday or something, which was way too early in the morning, but that was the only time I could go for.



I would not consider 3am a time that you “can” go for but, uh, whatever works for you, I guess.

laughs Yeah, I guess, yeah

Okay, so, when did you decide to join the org staff?

A month after joining a server, I applied for it. I joined the server in about July and I became org trainee in August. Actually, literally, exactly a month, because, suppose if I joined on 10th of July, I became org staff on 10th of August, it was something like that.

Interesting. Is there not a minimum amount of time you need to be on the server before you can join the org staff?

I do not know. [laughs] It was not there at that time.

[laughs] Okay. How long were you an org trainee for?

We did not really have a set form of rules as to how you would get promoted. Yeah Sas and I, from what I remember - Sas was even before me - we stayed as an organizing trainee for quite a long time. Sas stayed even after because they have the rule about organizing assistant staff can only be 18+, and Sas was not at that point, and so I was a trainee from August to December! December is when they came out with the new rule of, once you finish training someone, you become an organizing assistant, so I would say January 2022 is when I became an organizing assistant.

Ohh okay, is that still how it is?

It depends. The rules keep changing, and at one point, you would get promoted if you do this test by the end of like some day, then organizers and admins would look through the answers and then they would see if you passed to be an organizing assistant. Now we do not have that rule, again- I am not sure, because we do not have a set form of doing promotion. I do not



think there has been anyone new. I know besides Ila and Lissy, there is no one new. Ila is extremely new and Lissy has gone and come a few times. So, yeah, until now, there has not been anyone to go up that level anyways.

Was the training for the org staff position difficult?

Um.... kind of, yes?

[laughs]

Because, there were not any rules or anything that was in a paper or something, I just kind of had to figure it out as I went and I would annoy everyone so much by asking so many questions all the time. Sas would patiently answer all my stupid questions. But yeah, I am pretty sure I annoyed everyone for like a month or two until I got it all down, but also, at that time we were not really assigned tasks, it was more of you do as you are free kind of a thing, and so I would touch base with all of them, so I would be able to kind of grasp all of them faster. Of course, I had a lot of questions and obviously there will be places or things I have not seen before. So yeah.

It is kind of.... reassuring, I think, to know that you also found it difficult at the start.

Really?

Yeah, because you have been around as a staff member for so long and now you clearly know what you are doing et cetera et cetera so it is a bit reassuring, I think, for newer staff members, or people considering joining the staff.

Yeah, the ones who are considering now, it is much more organized, we have like a proper training doc, we have everything written down. We have someone to train you as well, because if someone wants to become an organizing staff, one of us will train them personally, and yeah, so it is a lot easier now.



That is good to know, for anyone who's thinking of joining the org staff.

Do not be afraid of what I said earlier.

***loud laugh* No, I actually meant more that it would be reassuring to know that it is natural to find it a bit difficult at the start. You just kind of have to keep going, get used to it, adjust.**

Yeah, true.

What did you find most difficult to grasp as an org trainee?

I think it would be the club checks because there are so many rules and like I said, there was not any book or anything where it was all written in, and I had so many questions about it, like so many. I think that was the most complicated task at that point but the moment I understood that stuff, it became my favorite task. Actually most people dislike that task, but I used to love it.

You said 'club checks', right?

Yeah, so, basically toward the end of the month, week 3 onward, when clubs finish their attendance, homeworks and everything, we started dropping people from week three, week four (depending on if they have week five), so that will count as club checks. That task used to be the hardest, because there were a lot of warnings and other rules that we ourselves were confused about, cause everyone said different things for the rules. So, yeah, but now it is all over. I hope.

Do you have any fun or nice memories as a trainee?

I think the fun memory is that everyone is so chaotic. Everyone who ends up doing something- especially Sriya *laughs* she is just so funny, in general, I just find her very funnily chaotic. Oh, I remembered something! So, I do not



know who started it, I think it was Cat who started it, but basically, romanizing... really badly.

[snorts] Okay

I think it was Cat. She does it way too much, and it is just filled with all of us attacking each other at the end of the day and mainly attacking her. Half the time, it is more me fighting with her... but yeah, she romanizes way too much, and her romanizing is like, if you want to say '오빠', it is not "oppa", it is "oppar". These horrible kinds of romanizations, and she does that all the time, and all of us just want to kill her.

This sounds like an ongoing thing as well, not just something when you were a trainee, right?

Yeah. Honestly, I was a trainee in 2021. It is 2023 now, I am not going to remember from then.

That is fair of course! I think I am glad I am not in the organizing staff channels though because that romanization would get me.

[laughs] I mean, she does not do it all the time, it is just like once in a while kind of a thing, where we all attack her then, but yeah...

So, just for clarity, how long have you been an organizer assistant now?

I got it in January 2022 until now, so about a year.

Could you describe your experience of being an organizer assistant?

It has been fun, but there are a lot of things to do. I am kind of a workaholic, probably obvious to most people, I hate sitting down and doing nothing, so I kind of like being the organizer assistant. I always have something to do, and work became my escape in a way. It is a different kind of work from your



obligatory work, so I say I like it. Plus I got to meet and interact with so many new and different people through the role.

It is interesting that you do not consider any of the things that you do as an organizing assistant as work that you would procrastinate, if that makes sense?

If I were to procrastinate, I would just come and do work here. That is my procrastination.

I guess I kind of relate, to be fair. I... yeah, I tend to study Korean the most when I am supposed to be revising for my uni exams. [laughs]

[laughs] Yeah, I am addicted to doing work, but I am addicted to procrastination as well so... it is a weird combination.

What are some of your responsibilities in the role?

I think everyone has the same thing; we always divide stuff when we divide tasks. Oh! So, we have pins that have which secretaries that we are supposed to mention when we're doing waitlisting, then, for hearts. So I keep track of the secretaries, I keep track of the people hearts are given to. The leadership who we have to give hearts to. Sometimes - because of the hearts - I try to keep track of which club is paused and when. I just pick up things to do at random - you always find something to do over here, to be honest.

My understanding was that there is like an organizing staff tasks sheet and you guys kind of divide stuff up, is that how it works?

Yeah. So we get a certain amount of tasks that we have that should be completed every week and it gets rotated among us, so we do not end up having the same task the next week again. You are not given a task by yourself, there is always someone with you in case you are stuck on a thing you can not do or something.



Do you find that if real life gets in the way or, you know, you are ill or something, it is okay to ask for help or delegate?

It is. Everyone has their life and like something happens. If you get sick, it is like a sudden thing, it is not something you can do anything about, so they are really understanding. Personally, I just feel bad about it, but I do maybe the bare minimum, if needed, to help out, or I just take an excuse for that amount of time. And, usually, I do not take excused periods, but as I mentioned, most of January was (the server was) off, so January, December, November, these almost three months I was not there. Yeah, actually, the whole of January, because I got sick as well so I had to get the week off.

Was that because of illness? If you do not mind me asking?

Yeah, the one week I took off in January, towards the end was because I was sick. And I had a lot of assignments and I was very badly sick, so I had no way of even using my phone or anything.

Oh, I see. I hope that you got through your assignments and everything was okay!

...no [laughs]

[laughs]

I definitely did not! Oh, it was so bad.

Yeah, it sounds like it... would have been difficult to do that

It really was. It really was, because I could not stay up at all. Luckily I did some of them in advance so they were okay - the ones I did not do, I messed up badly.

Yeah... I think I was lucky this past week, I had an easier week so I could just lie in bed and do nothing *laughs*

Oh, lucky.



You mentioned that you had to train an org trainee to complete your own training, what was that experience like?

Well, I have trained two people at this point. I am doing the second one right now - Lissy. I trained someone else before but she has left the server. It was nice, at that time, I was making the training docs for it. I would just make text messages for Yalma - that was her name - giving detailed instructions and then eventually we just copy-pasted that into a doc and that became our instructions doc. [laughs] But yeah, it was okay. It was time-consuming, because I had to make those... instructions, yeah, but luckily I had time at that point because I just started with my job, and my job was chill. I would mostly just be at home and there was nothing to do half the time so...

Are you in the workforce now then?

Oh, no, no, I am not working right now. I was working - I was doing my placement year, which is between the second and last year of university.

Ohh, I see.

So, yeah, I got to work and now I am doing my final year of university.

Oh, okay. Undergrad degree?

Yeah, undergrad. Bachelor's.

Ah, okay. If you had the chance, would you train someone again?

Not at this moment because I am really busy with other things, but I do not mind training people.

What is your favorite part of being an org assistant?

You know how I said I like to procrastinate, basically, getting... something to do, I think that is my favorite part.



Ha!

Doing things- I mean, it is not like I am jobless or I do not have things to do, I do have, I just love to put them aside and not look at them.

Okay, that is an interesting favorite thing haha. Do you have any favorite moments or memories from the role?

Oh, oh, Nae! Attacking Nae and Nae attacking us back would be a lovely memory.

[laughs]

If someone would compliment her, she would take a screenshot of something and come to the organizing staff channel and she would say something like, 'See!', or she would say something I can not remember, and then we would diss her.

[snort of laughter]

But yeah, we would sometimes diss, but mostly, come at her again. I think those are pretty fun.

I think that sounds like a lot of fun. Sounds like we are missing out on not getting to see some of this.

Nae getting bullied is what we live for.

[laughs] Yeah, that sounds accurate. Nae is just really, really funny though.

She really is, honestly, I used to be scared of her before, but now I am not.

Ah. I am still scared of her.

Now she is just like- now she is just a chaotic person honestly.



There are some, like, especially on the Easter Egg Hunt, when I was trawling through... so many messages she sent, but some of them are so funny.

[laughs] Yeah

I should have screenshotted more and sent them for memories.

Yeah, I remember even the one we had recently for Valentine's? Oh my god, the amount of times she would give a hint and then be like 'Oh, it is wrong' or 'Oh, maybe I lied' or something like that.

[explosive huff of laughter]

It would just infuriate me but at the same it was so fun.

Ha, I can imagine that, yeah.

Do you have a favorite task, like a favorite organizing assistant task?

아~ KSG Textbook and club checks, I think those are my favorite tasks, yeah.

Do you not find that marking the same 아~ KSG Textbook Course ever gets boring at all?

Well, until now I have not... I feel like because we keep getting rotated as well, we do not get bored of it. I have not gotten bored. Sometimes I also see very different answers and I am like 'Oh, I never saw this before' and I end up searching it up and I would be like 'Wow, this is something new I learned'. I still end up learning things like that.

That is interesting, that is quite a refreshing way of, like, viewing it, I think.

Yeah, I mean, I do not know if I would also view it the same way if I was marking the same course for a long time. But then yeah, maybe the rotation helps also.

What is your least favorite task that you have?



I used to hate doing the quizzes (for Quiz Activity), I think, because they would take up a lot of our time and it has a specific time slot. I am not bad with specific timings, but I just have a constantly changing schedule most of the time, so it did get hard after a point. But, now we changed it, but it does not fit any of my schedule totally. Because every week everyone has to- unless you are excused- contribute towards the Quiz Activity task, so since I can not because the timings do not match for me, I just do something else related to Quiz Activity.

Have the new changes to the Quiz Activity made managing easier?

Hm, it definitely helped with the voting and stuff like that, because it would get quite annoying in a way? Because two people were assigned to the Quiz Activity and then we had to communicate with each other in time and post the announcement thing; and if you did not do it in time it would be too late for the deadline. It was also too close to Sunday, I used to be mostly busy on Sundays, so it would get kind of... annoying for me? *laughs* In a way? So I think this would be better but I do not really- I have done only one quiz, to be honest, with the new way, I have not hosted any other ones. Because yeah, like I said, the timings do not match for me.

That is interesting, I did not realize it was such a big task on the back end.

Do you get any perks as a member of the org staff?

Of course I do not get kicked if I do not study Korean, that is one perk - well, that is also a double edged sword since it leads to procrastination, but K-Language is there to keep me down anyways. What else... I would say being an organizing staff has a lot of advantages, like I can change my name to 'Team Bear' without any issues, you know?

[huff of laughter]



I can change Sara's name to 'Team Bear' as well but I do not do it because I do not abuse my powers. Unlike Nae, who tried to do that to me. But yeah, you can have fun moments like this, you know, abusing powers [laughs] when one of us would do it, everyone was like, okay, "who is doing it?" And they try to find out who has done it. I think that is funny. That was not the question, but yeah. [laughs]

Ahaha, it was an interesting answer though - while we are on the topic, would you like to expand on the TEAM BEAR thing?

Oh, Team Bear! Okay, so basically, Sara (@s.ssara7) is a loser who does not accept the fact that Tae (V of BTS) is a bear. I am ready to accept that he is both a bear and tiger, but she will not have it. She is like, "No, he is a tiger, I do not care." Even though V himself has said during a live that Bear wins, Sara is too stubborn to listen, so... I think that is it, just Sara fighting with everyone, about bear winning. She will even call a panther 'tiger', just to make a point. And then you try to explain to her that it is a panther not a tiger and she still will not listen.

She does not have anything in her name though, does she?

No, no, so, she and I, we were fighting - well not fighting, but yeah- so there was this RUN BTS that came out and each member had this animal assigned to them as their logo, kind of their sports team, in a way, so for Tae it was a bear and I sent a picture to Sara and then we were in a conversation and then Nae abused her powers and wrote 'TEAM TIGER' on my name, so I changed it to 'TEAM BEAR' and that is why it is still there for me and Sara does not have it, because I do not abuse my powers.

Ahh, I see. [laughs] I see, you are a very responsible staff member.

Very responsible, you know?



Mhm.

But of course, I gave tiny (@tinymyg), 'TEAM BEAR', because they asked nicely.

Oh, see, I was wondering about that - I saw that and I just thought it was so random for one single server member to have it.

[laughs] Yeah.

Okay.

You can blame it on Nae.

Haha! It seems most things can comfortably be blamed on Nae.

[laughs] [pauses] Oh my god, she is going to read this.

[explosive laugh] Oh no. Uh... it was not me interviewing you. I did not write this question.

Sorry, what?

It was not me interviewing you. It was Soora, she said all of these things.

Yeah yeah, we can just blame it on Soora. It is okay.

[laughs] [clears throat] I would never say anything against, uh, the greatest Nae, mmmm.

[laughs]

Right. Moving on. I was wondering how do you balance the commitments of the staff position with your Computer Science degree?

I just... procrastinate. Even today I did not sleep yet; I was doing my work. So I have been up for like over 24 hours now. But, when I am tired of doing my school work, I do organizing staff work. It is kind of harder now because university is taking over and I have K-Language Club, Yearbook Club. I have



taken up too much on my plate haha but... yeah, I think I am doing okay. I think I am managing it somehow. I do not know how, but I am.

That is good. Are you graduating soon then? Do you think that will make things easier or harder?

I do not know. I am hoping to get a job... I will graduate by- I think all my assignments and everything will get over by the end of May so by then I am going to be free. I think once I get a job I will be more free, I think, I do not know. I guess it all depends... on God, not me *laughs*

Ahahaha yeah, that is accurate, I suppose...!

Are there any other challenges of being an organizing assistant?

I think, okay, this is not like an organizing assistant thing, it is more of a me thing, but, I am not good with people. I know, shocking.

laughs

But I am bad at talking. And I might come out as rude many times, and I know people will not say it to me but I think that is just in general a hard thing for me.

That is interesting..

Yeah, that is why I have been starting using more emojis in my texts as well.

Yeahh, one of the things I have noticed is you are a bit like Nae; you do not use emojis or even the little text thingies that people use to mean like a smiley face?

Yeah, I started using them more now because I do not want people to be scared of me, because usually I get comments about how people are intimidated- and then they get to know me and they are like 'ugh'

[tiny snort]



Even Cat, Cat told me once that at first she was really intimidated by me and then now she is like 'ugh, this loser'. She did not say those words but... I can feel it.

Right, I see. I guess, because I have heard you speak enough times, so in my head I am always just like 'She is probably thinking with the same tone that I would mean if I wrote with my emojis'.

[laughs]

I guess it is like a mental adjustment.

Yeah, I guess. I think that is why I prefer calls, because my tone never really translates well on text. I have improved a lot though. I used to be horrible before using proper grammar and full stops and everything. I still do that when I get mad though, if someone pisses me off really bad, I am full on proper grammar and full stops mode, but normally now I am just filled with grammar and spelling mistakes, filled with everything.

The grammar mistakes thing is interesting, because I know a lot of people just type as if, like... *ahem* not to say that they were asleep, but-

[laughs]

That is just, that is always what goes through my head.

[laughs] I type like that. You can see my cat GIF (if you know the GIF, you know the GIF) right now, I type like that. You will notice when I am talking as well, I stop a lot, because I already thought about what I will say and have moved to the next sentence in my head, but the topic is still at the previous thing. My brain is faster than my fingers and so I end up missing a lot of words as well when I type - as well as the grammar.



Oh, I see! That is interesting, I feel like that is a problem. It is not just you. Other people struggle with that as well.

Yeah, yeah. A lot of people have it, yeah.

Yeah. For me, I just type... fast, so I do not have that problem but I am always the one who is like word-vomiting in a channel. It is... it is a different kind of problem.

[laughs] I would not call it problem but yeah

Has the server changed a lot since the beginning?

Oh, *a lot*. Like, you name anything and it has probably changed. And for the good as well. The server has grown a lot since I have been here and it has grown into a better organization but at the same time better learning opportunities as well. We have more mentors now and we have more activities too, like Speaking Activity, Comprehension Activity. Soundcheck is back! When I joined the server, Soundcheck had just closed, so it is back now. A lot more clubs were established; when I joined the server, that is when the new clubs started coming in, like K-Language came - that is how I became K-Language Secretary, K-Theatre came, K-History, Writing Club, yeah, all these clubs came in. There were already clubs before that, the Singing Club and Art Club were definitely old. The clubs have grown quite a lot. Open Meetings are there now.

Oh, were they not there at the start?

No, it was not there and someone suggested opening the meetings. Ka asked all the leaders what they thought about it, then we ended up making this Open Meeting thing, which I think is a great idea because a lot of people can just test the waters.

Yeah, definitely! How have these changes affected organizing staff?



Each different thing that KSG brings into the server, the organizing task increases. [laughs]

Oh okay. Are there any changes you would like to see implemented in the future?

So I know there is Speaking Activity and now we have 한글 101 and BK (Beginner Korean - Soundcheck). I think that is more speaking (practice opportunities), but I do not know, I feel like - maybe because personally I am really bad at speaking - I would like more speaking-related things or courses. I mean just in general like how we have C&S, I think that is really good, but something about more- oh, someone suggested this idea which I really liked, I think it was in the *feedback* channel, you know how we have 한국어 only channels, yeah? So, instead of texting, it is just speaking; you send in voice notes.

Oh, is that what that person meant? I do not think I understood what they meant.

Well, I hope that is what they meant? [laughs]

I mean that sounds like a cool idea!

Yeah, I really like that idea to be honest.

Maybe that one will get implemented, since it is already in the *feedback* channel.

Yeah, true. Who knows.

What is it like working with the other organizing staff?

Nice. It is fun. It is nice to work with organizers - it is always nice to work with other people as well.

As an organizer, do you work with the other KSG staff as well?

Hm, yeah. We kind of dabble. So we have a channel for us in mods where we, if mods have any questions because there are times where they are not able



to answer someone's questions, then they would ask us and we would collaborate with them. We work together on different tasks as well. Ex, if someone changes their username and does inform us- because we keep track of all the information with the username so then it becomes hard for us- so the mod staff, they see if anyone has done it and not informed us and then let us know. We do interact with mentors here and there. We have this questions channel where if we are not sure if an answer is correct or wrong, we just send it in there and then they will answer it for us.

How has your experience been working with the KSG staff team?

It has been amazing, everyone is really wonderful. I mostly speak to the mods anyways so, all of them are really nice and sweet, and some of them never sleep, always online, yeah...

I thought you were saying that the fact that some of them never sleep is part of why they are so nice..! *laughs*

laughs No, it is probably why they are always online, but yeah. We sometimes have fun conversations there. They are all really lively people, fun people.

I was wondering, do you have any language barriers or trouble communicating sometimes with all the people, or all the staff people, on this server coming from different places?

Hmm, I would say sometimes I do get confused, but that is just because I am a confused person. English is my first language, so not really. I think that is where confusion comes in, and I am terrible at explaining in text, like I mentioned before. I think that is my barrier, yeah.

Is there anything you have learned through being an org assistant? For example, any skills you have picked up?



We use a lot of Google Drive, and Google Sheets, stuff like that. I mean I had never used it before. Google Drive was very confusing for me, mainly because I never bothered to sit down with it and now, I would say I am a master with it, you know? I think that is one thing I have learned. To be honest, I end up learning a lot of different things because we end up using a lot of different things, like the HammerTime in Discord where you can put the time in the respective person's timezone? Everyone can see their own timezone there.

To be fair, I do not know how - because I learned the timestamp thing as well, but I do not know if it is really applicable to ... real life, at all. [laughs]

I would say that it has helped me with my 'work ethic'? Even more? And I have realized a lot of my plus points as well. I used to be really really really bad at any kind of design, being creative in general. I used to be horrible at writing, making these announcements and stuff? Now I think I am like [laughs] five times better. So, before, I used to keep missing out stuff but now I do not as much. Even the way it correlates to in real life is when you write emails, if you end up missing stuff and sending another email, it looks unprofessional, you know?

Mhm.

So this kind of helped me with that. And also, I kind of learned to be more organized in my way of doing things. I think that has definitely changed a lot for me- because I used to go about doing things in a very aloof kind of way and now it is more organized, I would say.

That is quite cool. And I think I understand as well, because those kinds of skills that you practice here are probably the most transferable things to real life.

Yeah. I think there are a lot of transferable skills that you end up gaining that you do not even realize. Oh, communication! I am still bad at communication



but I am so much better than what I was and I think it is because of the server as well because I interact with other people so much? Yeah.

Do you see yourself maintaining your staff position into the future long-term?

Yeah. I do. I like helping out a lot. So, it is something I feel like I would like to do for as long as possible.

Aw, that is really nice.

Well, I am a nice person, so...

[laughs] I am sure you are. Life is not always predictable but I hope you do get to maintain it for a long time.

Would you recommend the position to other server members?

Yess. Of course. Definitely join in if you want- no, only join in if you are ready to. If you are Team Bear join. If not, do not join. You can... go to Sara.

Why would you recommend the position?

It depends on who it is; if you are someone who wants to give back, I think this is a really good thing. It helps you feel productive in a way as well, especially if you have time on your hands. I know I have not mentioned much but I end up learning a lot and growing quite a bit over time. I started when I was 19, now I am almost 22, and honestly, it is a great and long journey, so if you want a great journey, then join in.

This is a bit of an inverse of that skills question from earlier, but have you ever implemented something that you learned from your Computer Science degree on the server or on Discord more generally?

On Discord, I would not say from a Computer Science degree but on my own, I went forward and I was learning Python and I kind of made a Discord bot. And I made a lot of things with it but then, the person who handles Python



left Discord and his API -the thing I used to connect to Discord - went away with him, so... mine does not work. They do have other things right now that you would have to use to make your app using Python. But it is like starting from scratch and that kind of just annoys me because I put so much effort. A full year's worth of effort, blood, sweat & tears that I put into it just... destroyed and that just broke my heart. Actually a lot of bots of Discord went away because of that.

Oh, I see... I did not know.

Commands are probably easy for me to understand because I like coding, I guess.

If I had any kind of technical knowledge, I might be able to ask more... on that, but [laughs] I will take what you have said haha

Maybe if I get time I will help out with something else on the server, technically, but for now it is a no.

Okay, we will move on to some slightly more personal questions now!

Firstly, did you start watching K-Dramas first or did you get into K-Pop first?

In my class there were a lot of people who were into K-Pop, so during our free periods or breaktime, they would play K-Pop-related stuff. They started off with BTS at first and brought us to it with Blood Sweat & Tears, Spring Day, and Mic Drop, etc., and while listening to all of that I kind of liked them? I would not say I got into K-Pop, I would just hum along with them sometimes here and there and listen to the music sometimes if I feel like, but I would not say that I would actively go search for their songs. Then one day my friend told me to watch a few K-Dramas and that is how I started getting into it. I started watching a lot of K-Dramas and it was more entertaining because I started getting very annoyed with how English shows have never-ending seasons and... I just felt like K-Dramas are more light-hearted,



at least at that point. Yeah, so then, eventually, I watched 'Hwarang', that is where I saw Tae (V of BTS). I fell in love with him there. Afterward I was like, 'Okay, let me watch other shows that V has made' but there was none and that is when I realized that he was actually from BTS. So, I started listening to their songs more and I heard the song 'Spring Day'. I read the lyrics and I thought 'Wow, these people are really good' and yeah, that is when I started.

Is that how you first became an ARMY then, because of Hwarang?

Yeah, that is how I became an ARMY. Like I said, my friends were all K-Pop fans so they got me into it as well. [laughs]

That is so cool because it is usually the opposite; most people have only heard of Hwarang because they went and found Tae's drama.

I heard of Hwarang because of the actors in there.

Ah. That is fair! It is one of their older shows though. Fight for My Way comes up for Park Seo-joon a lot more, I think.

Oh, I love that show.

Mm, that is a very good show; that and What's Wrong with Secretary Kim?.

Oh, of course, yeah, that is top ten.

It is a very good drama.

Do you have any K-Dramas that you would absolutely recommend?

So if you are going for a light-hearted serotonin boost, I would say Hometown Cha-Cha-Cha, hands down. That one is really good. It just... boosts your serotonin so much. I am watching Crash Course in Romance, that is really nice. It has this kind of murder mystery kind of a thing in it but it is mostly very lively. Um... oh! Reply 1988. I would not call that a serotonin boost, compared to the other ones I recommended, but it is really good.



Maybe it is because the point of my life I watched it in was the point where I had just kind of left everything and got pushed into adulthood, and watching it just brought back memories, made me appreciate my parents more and appreciate my life. So I definitely do recommend Reply 1988.

Have you found that watching K-Dramas and listening to K-Pop also has helped with your Korean learning?

Definitely. In fact, I started learning because of how it helped me. If I were to be tested, and I would have to read, I would probably not understand it, but if you read it out loud for me, then I would understand it more. I watched so much that my listening has become relatively good. But, if you tell me to write the same words or like to grasp them, I will not be able to. So, I guess that is also my aptitude for how I learn. For me, or for people who are like me, I would say if you want to practice your listening, definitely go for K-Dramas. If you want to go for vocab, when they keep repeating the words it definitely helps.

Mhmm. Also, I think, if you use them in conjunction it helps. If you are learning vocab alongside (watching), you will start to recognise those words in the K-Dramas and then it will act as reinforcement.

Yeah. I started noticing lately. I think before the hardest thing was to recognise them changing their speech levels? But now when they do that, I am like 'Oh!', before, I remember that when I used to watch, someone (in the K-Drama) would say something and the other person would get offended and I thought 'Why, wha- what is happening?', but now, as soon as the person says it, I am like 'Ohh, no, you did not!'

Yeah, it does give a lot more nuance, because they can not put that in the subtitles, really, but we understand.



Yeah, the thing is, language is hard to translate. Any language you give it, it is like, English just will not fit. I mean, it is not even English, some nuance is lost in translation. At least on Netflix. They do not translate to the effect, or fully correct, so that... annoys me a lot. I would hear something and on Netflix they are saying something completely else. I was watching Crash Course in Romance, and so this guy says “엄마도” so which means “Mom, you too”. Instead (of translating it as such), they said something along the lines of “with the police”. Basically, he was a suspect for a murder and his mom asked him, “Why did you not tell me?” He said, “Because everyone automatically assumed that I am the killer. 엄마도.” I can not remember exact words, but, “with the police” or something like that. Basically, it ruined the effect of it. You could have literally written “Mom, you too.”

Yeah, wow... I suppose sometimes they are trying to work with languages that do not... necessarily translate very well. It is a hard job, I guess, being a translator.

Yeah

Have you been to Korea or would you like to go if you get the chance?

I have not been to but I would definitely want to go if I have the chance to. I think I would prefer going with friends or something, you know, for a trip, I think that would be really fun. I definitely want to go when the cherries blossom.

YES! Yes, and also go to Japan. *very excited* You have to do both.

Oh, yes.

What are your plans for the future?

About my life?



Yeah, your own plans if you are happy to share, or more server-related if you would like.

I do not think I have any plans server-related, just going as it is, having K-Language Club for a long time. I love my teammates. (I also want to) continue to be in the Yearbook Club. I hope Yearbook Club goes really well, and gets more members. That is what I am hoping for. Especially interviewers...! *[laughs]* Yeah, I am happy with how the organizing staff is - hopefully I will be able to maybe add my coding skills into it and help them as well. Because the bot is a little bit annoying. Personal plans, I would say, have a good job, a good place, good friends and live happily. I think that is my goal. I am a workaholic so I do like to work a lot, that is probably what I will end up doing in the future as well. Maybe travel! I think that is what I want to do. Travel, I think that is what everyone says, but I do love traveling. I am from Dubai and because all of us are expats, some companies, they give flight tickets also, or like travel expenses, so my parents used to receive that so we used to go to different places and travel and I think that is something I miss right now, and I do want to go about and travel a bit more.

What kinds of countries do you have in mind?

Korea, of course. *[laughs]*

***[laughs]* Apart from Korea.**

Japan, USA again, Canada, Germany, Switzerland again. I wanted to go to Australia but looking at all the insects and spiders and everything, I am like 'Oh... no, no'. Snakes also. So, no Australia. I want to go everywhere in the world. Oh! Thailand, Maldives, and all these places.

Have you been to Thailand before?

No.



I recommend the mango sticky rice, if you ever go. It is very nice.

Oh, so you have been to Thailand?

Yeah, on holiday.

Okay, when I go there I will try it out.

Do you have any goals that you are working on right now?

Finishing my assignments, I think that is my biggest goal, and maybe hoping that the app I am working on goes well, getting the grade I want. Oh, and getting a graduate job. These are my goals right now.

Good luck with your goals, I hope you get to achieve all of them.

Thank you. In Korean, (I am) just getting back on track again and really starting to speak. It is almost as if I have forgotten everything right now because I have been away for quite a while.

It will come back with practice, I am sure.

I did not even end up attending any K-Language meetings as well, during September, October, November, December, so...

Hopefully you have more time after you graduate and then you can attend again.

Oh no, I have. *[laughs]* I have started attending them again now since January. I have been regularly attending both their meetings.

I had one kind of.. not an odd question, but a question that I think people reading this interview might like to know, which is: server members are often startled when they hear you speak for the first time, why do you think that is?

[laughs] Well, I mean, I am startled as well with their reaction, at first, I remember this one time I was speaking during a server tour - when server tours used to be spoken and we would give live tours about the server on the



server - and Nae heard me for the first time and her reaction in our channel was really funny. It was like 'What? Wha-what?! What?' I can not remember exactly but it was really funny and I was like 'What?' At first I was not sure if it was a good or bad reaction, but yeah. I think it is mainly because, like I said, the way I type... it just comes off as bad and people just assume I am this kind of like a - okay, it is weird me saying it, but at least this is what I think people assume - I am kind of like this tough-sounding person, I guess?

Mhm! I would say that is accurate.

Yeah? But when they hear me speak - according to people, I have this really small and soft voice and they always have to increase my volume to... whatever the highest percentage is. So... I think that is what it is, I emit a different kind of vibe when typing compared to when I speak.

On the topic of images, actually, I have been told that you consider yourself to have-

Griz, realizing what is coming: Ohh my god haha

-a "very cool image" on the server, would you say this is accurate?

[laughs] [is maybe crying inside] Listen, I was joking that day, but I did have a few people tell me that. I think this was during server tours time. I swear, server tours time just gave people so many different impressions of me. Someone, whenever I would speak in like #bathroom-break or something, they would speak about how cool I am, I was like 'Whoa, really? Wow! Okay!' [laughs] but I think it is, they just find me intimidating in a way. But... yeah, I do not actually think I am cool, I like to joke around. But that is because I am cool as well, so, I think it is accurate. Yeah, I am cool.

Okay! Do you think the other organizing staff, as well as the server members and KSG staff, would agree with that perception?



[laughs] Why are you doing this? Um... yeah. I am going to say yeah. They probably would not, but yeah, I am just going to say yeah.

You also recently became the Co-Leader for Yearbook Club, on top of all of the many other things you also do on this server; what has that experience been like for you?

Well, I only became (co-leader) in February; before that I was doing the same thing - [laughs] interviewing. I have always done interviewing with Azzy, the previous leader of Yearbook Club. Then in January, she had to leave so Sas took over. I did offer at the time to become leader or co-leader, whatever was needed, because I really wanted to see the Yearbook through. So I thought 'Okay, I can just spend a little bit more time and get things done', because, I think, I... okay, this is going to come off as boasting, but I am a really organized person. At least I have developed the skills over time here, quite a bit. I am also very annoying. And as you mentioned, like work ethic, I am very particular, and I get things done, on my own, if not by someone else. The Yearbook Club was Azzy running the show with everyone leaving so I thought 'Maybe I could help out, this time'. Like I said, I am boasting but- 'use my organizing skills to help get the club into track'. So hopefully, hopefully it is happening. We have changed quite a bit of things and maybe more as months go by because we are testing waters and seeing how things run. Obviously everyone's suggestion is... required because from leaders' point of view, we do not know or understand how other people would feel.

I think it makes sense actually, the organizing skills thing, I do not think that is boasting. You have been an organizer staff for so long, it makes sense to have skills that you can apply, I think.

I am also very annoying to work with, like really annoying, a big perfectionist, and I... dote on everything? So, it can be annoying...



What is your workload like as the co-leader for the club?

Well, we kind of took three leaders for the club to kind of divide the tasks; I am currently only leading the interviewer tasks, but I do try to look at every task and make sure everything is okay, I try to keep an eye on the secretaries, make sure their tasks are done. I make a lot of announcements, a lot of pings, I think... organizing things and doing those things are my tasks, in a way- more like self-assigned tasks.

Okay, well, your mention of K-Language Club brings us to our final, and perhaps most important, question, which is: we all know that you are a very passionate K-Language Club member; would you like to explain what you love about the club? This is your free promotional space just for a bit haha.

[laughs] Okay, well, I will start off with my members, I have been with them for more than a year now. I love all of them, they are all amazing. Everyone has their own perks and quirks and I think that is really nice, at least from my point of view, we fit really well. We all teach each other different things. I definitely depend on them for Korean knowledge. They are all really helpful and they are all great people so I think being around them is really nice, and we all love to joke around a lot. I think that makes the club really lively. Even though it goes on sometimes for 2 hours, many times it goes on for that long just because we are just laughing and talking about various different things. But something about K-Language Club is... it teaches you in a fun way but at the same time we go through topics you would not tend to go through if you are studying Korean. For example, when you study Korean, you open a book, you follow the routine, you go through all of that. There are things we do that you would not do from a book. Pick-up lines, for example, you wouldn't learn from a book, or you would not think of going and learning them until you wanted to use them, which is rare. Then we did poems, which people would not really go searching for. Slang: though people want to learn slang, it is harder because we spend time going through different sites, different



materials, and gathering everything together, and if each person were to do it on their own, it would just take them forever. So I think... us bringing that all together and learning together is something really nice that K-Language offers, as a club rather than as a team.

I hope to see you promoting other clubs in this way, eventually, someday in the future. [laughs]

Well, during Anime Club, when the meeting was starting, I did go on #bathroom-break channel and ask people to join in. I think people have had enough of me now [laughs] with my bold, underlined, and italicized text.

Yeah... We all know at this point, it will be to do something or to check out something.

Yeah, I think people are just like 'Ugh, it is her again' so... my promotions have become useless.

Maybe you need to take a break and come back afresh, after people have forgotten slightly, and then come back and surprise them.

New people who come in, they will not realize, 'Oh, this one does that'.

Haha yeah, exactly.

Are you in any other clubs, apart from Anime, K-Language, and Yearbook?

K-Immersion just started; I am in there but I am probably going to leave because it clashes with one of my classes now, which came out of nowhere. I might join... K-Reading, I might join.

Aha!

[laughs]

Okay. Excellent!



I do not think I am in any other clubs, unless I am in and I do not know.

Okay, we have reached the end of our questions! Do you have anything you would like to add before we wrap up?

Not good ones [laughs] but thank you for the interview. I hope I did not bore you with my rambling, and... good luck, Soora, with transcribing this. 2 hours of interview. But thank you, for the questions, and thank you, KSG server, for letting me meet all new and lovely people, yeah. Oh, and, and... I am very cool, okay?

[laughs]

[laughs]

Thank you so much for your time, Griz, and all the best for 2023! May both you and 오아ㅁ KSG grow and thrive. It has been a lot of fun interviewing you!

