



November Interviews

Interviewee: Dani

Capacity: Admin & Owner

Hello Dani, how are you today?

I'm doing well, thank you so much for asking!

We are here to interview you as the owner and admin of the KSG server for yearbook! To start off, could you please introduce yourself?

Hello, I'm Daneka or Dani as most of you may know me. I'm the creator and admin of the 아미 KSG server!

What initially made you want to start the server?

During the pandemic, I really wanted to do something with my life rather than just sitting around all day. Learning Korean was one of my passions ever since I was young, but just never had the time to complete. So, I thought to myself, perhaps creating a group chat with people who were also interested in learning Korean will help me out. So we started with a Twitter group chat and moved over to a Discord server!

How did you think of making a Korean study server?

It was with the help of Ka (@choitaba) actually. When we were in the Twitter group chat, it came about. Then, we started discussing how we would operate and went from there.

How have you been finding your experience as an admin and owner?



I've actually learned a lot of things from it including having experience managing such a big group of people. It's actually helped me with my current jobs, and I found out through being admin/owner that I really enjoy doing what I do.

How did you, Ka, Moonie and Nae initially meet?

I initially met Ka and Moonie through the Twitter group chat. I'm assuming they saw my Tweet from my account and were interested in the prospect of connecting with others to learn Korean. A year or so later I believe, is when I met Nae. She actually started in the organizing staff before switching over to help our mentors out. Truly grateful for all of them!

When did you start learning korean?

I 'started' learning when I was about 10 years old. I had downloaded all the packets of TTMIK because back then they didn't really have the books. I stopped because life comes, you know, and then 2020 happened. I dedicated a lot of my time and was determined to get somewhere. Even getting Korean tutors to help me progress.

What made you start initially learning korean?

I really love how Korean sounds to the ear. That was always my first response whenever I was watching K-Dramas or listening to K-POP. It was the first language that I felt really drawn to learn.

So you've been an admin for some time now, what would you say the best part is?

Being able to see a community you've created from scratch grow to what it is today. I really poured my heart into this server of people alongside the other staff, and it always makes me so happy to see people thoroughly enjoy what it's all about and what it has to offer.

In addition, what is your favorite task to do as an admin?



Definitely brainstorming and initiating those new ideas and plans into the future. We plan things way in advance for the server. It could be months or even years, but we hope to see those plans play out.

What are perhaps some of the challenges you have faced?

Finding people who would like to help. As a volunteer group, it's a difficult task to find people who will dedicate their time to become a mentor or a staff member as a mod or organizer. It's extra work on top of learning Korean, so I understand this difficulty. However, I've learned that this won't stop or deter us from finding that help. I like to think everything is meant to be and we will have the help in the future.

Going back to Korean, do you feel that K-Pop and K-Dramas have helped you with your Korean? If not, could you please elaborate?

I would say yes and no. Yes in the sense that it introduced me to the Korean language more. No because it wasn't what made me passionate to strive to actually start.

How is it working with the other staff?

They're all very hard-working and lovely people. Even though I'm extremely busy now, they're very understanding and take their jobs seriously. I'm once again very grateful for all of them.

Recently the server had its 2 year anniversary, how did this make you feel?

Actually I don't think it's really hit me yet. My sense of time is so distorted now that 2 years seems like yesterday. Even when I tried to think of it, it's so crazy to me it's actually been that long. It's really eye-opening though to see how far we've come from where we began.

Was the server always quota based? Please elaborate.



We actually weren't! We started off with classes where each mentor had a group of people at different times. We slowly re-integrated this back into the server recently and want to bring this back fully with more benefits in the future!

What was the hardest part to create on the server?

Can I say everything? Haha. Everything was really hard and without the rest of the staff to pull through and bring everything together, it would've been really tough on us. Ka and I had to really think and do everything from scratch. From coding, to organizing documents, having meetings, coming up with elaborate plans and considering the members, and lots more. It might not seem a lot on the outside, but it really is a lot on the inside.

What made it so difficult?

When we first started it honestly was just Ka and I organizing everything. I mean, everything, I have so much in my Google Drive just from the first few months of KSG, and probably so much in our chats. We really put our blood, sweat, and tears into the server.

What has been your favorite change or inclusion in the server?

The clubs! I love that we can grow in a way where people can share their interests on the server whether or not it's Korean related. It's so fascinating to me, and I love to join sometimes to see what the clubs have come up with. Everyone is so talented and creative!

Additionally, how does it feel in regards to the server having its own website?

IT'S AMAZING! Who would have ever thought you know? We've truly come so far and I would like to really thank Nae (@yaadealid) for all her hard work! She really made the website so beautifully. Such a talented individual!



That is all of the questions we have, but would you like to add anything?

Thank you so much for considering me! This was actually lots of fun and made me reminisce on the past with 아미 KSG. Hope you all have lovely days!

