



October Interviews

Interviewee: Soora
Capacity: Moderator

Hello Soora, how are you today?

I'm well. Okay, I'm pretty well. I'm a bit tired. I had to run a lot.

We are here to interview moderators for the yearbook. To start off, could you please introduce yourself?

Okay, umm.. Hello. My name is Soora. I'm twenty five and I'm from Portugal. My bias is between Taehyung and Yoongi.

How long have you been on the server?

I think almost 2 years.

When did you decide you wanted to become a moderator?

I know it was after I became a leader in K-History. I think it was between October. But it was last year, 2021.

Why did you decide to become a moderator?

I thought I could help. I had asked Sas cause she had posted the post regarding staff applications and I thought they needed staff. So I was like oh! Therefore, moderator. Becoming a moderator was not my first option, because I thought that it might be too difficult, but then I was talking to Sas and she was very, very good at explaining everything. Because I said, "Oh , I'm interested in becoming one(staff). But I don't know if I should be an organizer or moderator."

Okay, So how have you been finding your experience?

Oooo, it is fun. When you are a general member you think, "Ahhh maybe it is not very difficult to be a mod". But being a mod is very difficult. Because you have to be the balance of the entire server. Not let people be mean, you



know. When most members come in, they have to go through the server entry process. We have to help them sometimes because sometimes they don't read the rules. And then we have to help them. I have to say one thing, always read the rules. Rules are important. One thing, one of my favorite things, that we don't have anymore, because it was very time consuming for us mods and also at least for mods and org- I don't know the organizers. Very complicated to have a lot of tasks.

So you've been a moderator for quite some time now, what do you think the best part about being a moderator is?

The help that mods give us. The reason I'm still there [as a mod trainee] is because I stopped doing moderation duties for a while because of school. So I had to kind of stop my training process of becoming a moderator. But one of my goals this year is to finally become an official moderator. Guada, Sara now, Swathu, one more, umm... OMG there was one more mod, oh they are gonna kill me wow Rara, but that was not who I was thinking about Kim, oh Marie as well. You know they are all so nice. Oh and my fellow mods trainees like Azzy. We always help each other. Even the mod trainees try to help each other. Because we are not born with knowing everything and sometimes we can differ from situations to situations.

What is your favorite task to do as a moderator?

I have to say it used to be server tours. But now it is role giving. I like giving roles. I also like updating the files when I have the time. That's my favorite thing.

What are some of the challenges you have faced while being a moderator?

Hmm, Oh I have one! It's not a challenging experience but rather it was a very weird thing that happened. I think Griz was there, she knows the situation. I was doing the server tour, and I was being the nicest person ever and then suddenly a person came up to me and was being very rude towards me, very rude. I wondered if I said anything that was wrong? After that I told myself, "Ah don't worry dont worry dont- forget about this". I'm not certain if it was with Griz. Also I mentioned earlier that you should always read the rules, because sometimes people join the clubs before going through the waitlist process, because they don't read the rules. Of course when that happens, we



have to warn them. After we warn them they say “oh I didn’t really know”, I am like yeah but you should have read the rules. That’s the thing that hurts me more like when I have to warn them.

The challenges of facing this rude person, how umm did you manage to overcome or deal with the situation at hand?

Be as calm as possible. This is what I learn on the server, to become calm. The first couple times you actually warn someone. You feel like, aww I’m warning them. It feels like it’s a very serious thing, that goes to my colder side. So, I feel a little bad. But you have to follow the rules. When I warn, I usually go to my colder side [laughs] so not be as emotional. It is tough to be emotional while warning or banning someone.

Okay and how long have you been studying Korean for?

Officially 2 years. Same amount of time when I entered the server, that was my kick start to really study Korean. I was trying to start other ways to study Korean, but I wasn't very successful. It was not working for me. I waited for 2 weeks to get into the server. So, when I finally entered the server I was like I’m gonna finally focus and study Korean. The happiest 2 years of my life, I can tell you.

How did you get into learning Korean?

My friends and they are aware of this. Before going to college, I was not very well aware of K-Pop Culture, because in Portugal it is not very traditional to talk about Asian culture. And you know, on the first day of college, my friends were like, “Oh do you know K-Pop, and I was like, “No... No, I do not, I'm sorry”. And they responded, “No you have to listen to DNA,” and I listened and I thought "oh I like this song”. Then I started listening but it was not listening like a lot, so. When the pandemic started. I know I’m baby ARMY. But I went differently, most baby ARMYs from the pandemic only got into the new stuff, I went differently, I started listening to their old stuff and then started. That was regarding music, and I think it was K-Dramas, I really like watching K-Dramas. But also during college. So it was the best thing.

Do you feel like K-pop and K-Dramas have helped you learn Korean?



Yes, but I like trot more sometimes, depending on my mood. Currently I'm listening to trot more. And it definitely helped. But I've also learnt that it is also not good learning from K-Dramas cause sometimes it's different. Ofcourse, speaking helps with the listening as well. So we have more contact with the language. By the way, I do not only listen to BTS, I listen to other groups as well. I got into Loona at the same time as well, sorry I had to mention.

Going back to mod questions. How is your mod team? and how do you find working with them?

Fantastic. I love them. I love all of them. They help so much. Even though sometimes I make mistakes they correct me, so when I do it again I learn from my mistake. I once said something that they(general members) could have done regarding the roles, I was like 'ohh you just have to do this', and I think it was Griz, 'oh no you can't do that, it has to be you'. I was like okay, sorry I forgot, it's been a long time *laughs*. Because we are from all different time zones, I see more of Sara, Rara and Swathu when she was more active. Guada and Bndrea as well when she was on the server. Oh! Marie as well. I like being with everyone. I adore them all.

I believe you guys work with organizing staff too, how is working with them as well?

Oh, I love all of them as well. They are so kind. They actually help a lot. I remember when we were, okay I have to go back to the server tours. They were the fundamental part. It's because regarding courses and other things they can explain better because they are the brains behind it. If you have any questions, regarding dates or anything we can ask them in our channels, like "oh, do you know, do you know when this is going to open?", or like "do you know how this works?". And they always help, so Organizers thank you very much. I really like them. They are the perfect team. We, the mods and organizers are the perfect team. We are the A team for I was gonna say- but it's not a team so. We are the Marvel team, the DC comics team. Oh we are everything, we are superheroes.

You mentioned earlier it took you 2 weeks to enter the server, how was your experience joining the server and being a part of it?



I don't know the first time that I saw an ad, I don't remember how it appeared to me. It was an ad on twitter, and I was like oh this sounds fun. Then I was like oh I'm gonna follow their page. Then there was a post that said 'Oh do you really want to learn Korean?' And I was like 'Yes I do', 'Enter our server', 'Okay I will', so I clicked it. Aww there were no openings. One time I woke up at 7am on a Sunday morning. I was like I'm gonna make it, I'm gonna make it. As soon as the staff sent the post. I was like *tick sound* I clicked it. And I entered and was like Yay I entered! The whole process was really easy. I already knew some Korean but it wasn't perfect Korean. I knew the alphabet, so I did the Korean Level Assessment. And all things were really easy, it didn't take long. The whole process itself took me around 2 hours until the server tour. I didn't pass the first time around. I was a bit sleepy when I did the server tour quiz. Second time I did the quiz, I managed to enter the server. I was like, "Aw I'm so happy, thank you so much". Yeah, I think I did everything on that weekend, that sunday. Probably not, I think it was like one week. It took me, after getting the server tour role it took me a week to get it.

How long has your training process been so far?

Hmm 100%, it is tough. But yeah it's been good. Oh, That's my goal. My goal is to become a mod this year so yeah. So it has been good I think. I think I can't evaluate myself cause I will say oh it's a 100%. I think mods will say that my journey has been okay ish. I hope so. This is so nerve wrecking, Sorry.

No worries, I believe you have some new mod trainees that have just joined right?

Yes, we have Azzy, Dez. We are only 3, but we are 3 but good. They all work really hard.

As a mod trainee are you responsible for training any of the mod trainees at all?

No, I don't think trainees can train trainees. But if any of them need help, they can dm me because I will try to help them, since I am the older mod trainee. I can help a little so my dms are always open for them. I hope this will continue when we are mods. We can always DM each other regarding questions.

You didn't mention in your intro but, what do you do, are you studying or working?



Ah sorry.

No it's okay.

I have officially graduated yesterday, I have finished all my disciplines of my master's degree and I only need to send my thesis. Which I hope will be on november. I still have to write it. November to January or at least the first quarter 2023, so yeah. I have a bachelor's degree in Languages especially European language and I have a masters degree in translation.

So you mentioned being a translator. How is that going?

Ah not going well... the market is not very good for apparently, the market for new translators. You have to be very lucky, because sometimes when you go to job interviews they ask people with experience. And I am more experienced in Audiovisual translation than translation books or papers. Because I like more audio visual products but for that, for audio visual I have, I do volunteering in a streaming company. Yes, I don't know if I should say the name, it's better not to.

Okay, umm what languages do you translate or specialize in right now?

I do Portuguese to English, Portuguese to Spanish, and I do reverse translation. So the English slash there is a spanish or japan- the- spanish to portuguese, sorry. I'm here, my objective is to do the Top- the exam, the Korean exam and get a level, so I could also translate Korean. And the same thing I'm going to do when I have time and when I find a school here in Portugal where I can do the exam. To Thai, from Thai to Portuguese.

Are you studying Korean as a career approach as well? Or is it just for fun right now?

Professional. I didn't see it as a professional at first. But the more that I study, the more I feel like, "oh I can do this for a living". Ofcourse I will never beat the natives but I can help, so that will be a good thing. In Portugal we don't like it. I'm always thinking about Portugal's reality and the fact is that we don't have a lot, only in Lisbon. But in the North we don't have it, so.. Maybe something I can work with.

Do you feel the server helps with that at all?



Yes it does. I've learnt so much by the courses, and even for the clubs like, the learning clubs that we offer. It's like a full package. It's more than a lot of language schools, they just teach you like, 'Oh! This is the grammar' and that's it, we don't. We give the full package. Umm... yeah. I was gonna say, I was going to do promotion but I'm not going to do *chuckles*. Even with clubs, like the clubs are the best thing for the members to learn, and I have a lot of conversations with members in the clubs and a lot of them are like 'oh! I'm with this club. I'm improving my language- my vocab, my reading, my grammar. I was like oh yeah that's the- that's the objective of here for you to learn. We learned something new, I was like yay. Ah yes, K-Language as well, that was what I was thinking, I was thinking about K-Language, K-Reading, that we have it. K-Vocab that I haven't been to a meeting yet, that's because I don't have time. K-History, please come, you know. K-History is good. You know, learning a language is more than just learning Vocab and Grammar, you have to know everything, you have to know the culture. And that's one thing as a translator, at least we have to have it's like, if you, imagine- most of them, if they want to live.. A lot of people when they come to K-History they say, Oh I want to go to Korea, I want to live in Korea. And I was like yeah but you have to know more than the language, you have to know culture, the history, so you don't get there and be like "Ah no!" you know what I mean. You have to be prepared to get there and to see there is a completely different reality from America or Europe or africa. It's different, there are different differences. Sometimes there can be good differences, sometimes there can be bad differences in every country. Every culture is different so we have to know that when you go there, you'll have to adapt. Not thinking that they will have to adapt to you. Does it make sense? I hope it does.

I think that makes sense.

Yeah. It's too early to be philosophical, But yeah. Even if the clubs, if they got out of the club learning like, uhh two things, a couple of things that are important, I think, I think every leader, every leadership is happy, I'm always happy, when I do questions regarding old materials, and they still know it. I was like I'm so proud of you. Even when they like, they know but they don't say the right words, like the words that I'm expecting but they say like, don't worry you have done a good job because you know what it is. So.. I'm always happy. So join K-Language, K-History, oh and K-Theatre as well. Yes.



You've been a mod staff for a while and a member of the server for longer. The server offers many activities, clubs and courses. What did you start doing when you joined the server, and what are you doing now?

Good question, which was first. Clubs, I think I went to K-Language and K-Culture first. And I was like ohh nice, and then it got the opportunity to be the leadership and become the leadership of two different clubs, umm.. K-History as a secretary first and as well, secretary in K-Culture- uh, K-Theatre. But then in September I began, I became, umm K-Language Leader. And I think I did another course- ah of course the first course that I did was Hangul 101.

Hangul 101 was my first course. Then, I did TTMIK1 but I did not follow up. Because it opened up opportunities to go to beginners. And I thought it would be more beneficial to me if I go to Beginners 1, now I'm Beginners 2.

What would you say is your favorite activity, club, course is on the server that you like to do?

Mine is my club. Can I-can we include my clubs cause that's my- one of my favorite things to do. Not to be like that either. Except my clubs because I always have fun in my clubs. It is.. let me think, I like K-Language, BU club, Nae's classes which is Beginners 2, our club. I like all of them. All the clubs or all the activities I'm on, is because I felt happy doing it. I feel like-Oh I forgot about K-Writing, sorry. You know every activity that I do has a purpose, and that purpose is like to learn so, there's no one club that ahh. Everything I do I do with happiness and with my best.

So you study, are leadership for multiple clubs, a mod trainee along with learning Korean. How do you manage to juggle all of this?

It's complicated. I don't- Manage that's complicated. It-It takes patience. And I do a lot of multitasking. So sometimes I like when I'm doing mod stuff, and I'm like, I have a list of things I have to do, If multiple are in Google sheets. I like to put all of them that I need to do and I go one by one. So I do multiple things in one hour. I can do multiple things from everything. And study, I study now with Beginners 2 because I don't have a lot of time. So I do most of my work, that is- so that where I study mostly- I study mostly in the class and after the class.



Okay, and you are currently a mod trainee, so what would you say your current expectations of becoming a moderator are?

To continue my hard work. And to bring happiness and organization to the server.

Okay, perfect! So we have come to the end of the interview. Is there anything you would like to say before we finish?

I don't remember, I'm always nervous for an interview, I never know. I always feel like my interviews are never good. I don't think so. I just wanna thank everyone for the opportunity that I've had this year and a half. That has allowed me to become that helped me to become a better Mod.

Thank you for doing the interview Soora.

Oh thank you so much.

