

# Seoulites' Daily Living Spaces Reflected in Park Tae-won's Novels of the 1930s

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## Abstract

This study aims to analyze living spaces as depicted in Park Tae-won's various fictional works set in Seoul in the 1930s, and thus to understand better the lives of citizens in those days. To clarify the significance and necessity of the study, it first examined the trends of similar studies overseas. Second, it analyzed previous studies related to urban and architectural spaces that appear in Korean literature. Lastly, it derived a differentiation by analyzing the existing researches of Park Tae-won's works.

The analysis of residential and commercial exchange spaces used by a wide range of people in Seoul, in which modern culture was introduced, helps our understanding of the changed lifestyles and lives of people. The emergence of new types of space with Western and Japanese influences could also be found. These spaces served as the background to a variety of changes, such as changes in roles and self-consciousness, gender discrimination and hierarchical conflicts associated with political and economic characteristics at that time.

**Keywords:** urban context; modern housing; Korean modern literature; Tae-won Park and 1930s Seoul

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## 1. Introduction

Among literary works of various genres, the novel is centered on the description of events and conflicts taking place around its main characters. Since events do not occur in nothingness, the spatial background of the novel plays an important role in understanding or maximizing the events or conflicts.

The space in novels is described on the basis of universal spatial recognition. In addition, it assigns a theme for the novel to relate the feelings that a particular space gives with events, or it is sometimes described in great detail. Thus, the research on architecture and urban space through works of literature has focused on understanding the public perception of architecture and urban space as revealed in the description.

In particular, literary works set in the 1920s and 1930s, written by Park Tae-won, Kim Yoo-jeong, Lee Sang, Yeom Sang-seop, Chae Man-sik, Lee Hyo-seok and Han Seol-yah, have special historical backgrounds such as the new modern era, referred to as the early

modern period and the Japanese colonial period. Therefore, novels at that time dealt with subjects to understand urbanity and modernity.

Of these, Park Tae-won's novels do not focus on describing a particular incident and conflicts, unlike other typical novels. Rather, they lay emphasis on descriptions of the urban landscape that follow the author's thoughts and eyes in the urban space of Gyeongseong (Gyeongseong is the old name of Seoul.). The narrative of Park Tae-won's novels and the features of the depicted spaces give a glimpse of insight into the characteristics of architectural space and changes in people's lives in those days.

In this regard, this study seeks to analyze urban and residential space as reflected in modern novels of the 1930s, and thus to understand the characteristics of daily living spaces for city dwellers at that time. To achieve this end, Park Tae-won's works set in the 1930s were utilized in this study.

## 2. Trends in Similar Studies Domestic and Abroad

### 2.1 Overseas Research Trends

A great number of studies on the close relationship between architecture and literature have been produced in Western academia. Older works include Robert Harbison's *Eccentric Spaces* and Ellen Eve Frank's *Literary Architecture*. It is also worth mentioning the following works: *City as a catalyst: a study of ten novels* by Dianne Festa-McCormick; *The City in Literature: an intellectual and Cultural History* by

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Richard Lehan; and *The image of the city in modern Literature* by Burton Pike.

Recently, Klaske Havic explored how literary techniques can be used in architectural education in her *Urban Literacy: Reading and Writing Architecture* (2015).

## 2.2 Domestic Research Trends and Necessity of Research

The subjects of this study are Park Tae-won's fictional works, titled *Nirvana* (1930); *Warm Breeze in May*, *Forlorn People*, *Spring Moon that Starved for Three Days* and *Exhaustion* (all 1933); *Circumstance* (1935); *Biryang* and *Street* (both 1936); *Christmas* and *Scenes by a Stream* (both 1937); *A Day in the Life of Novelist Gubo* (1938); and *Inside the Alley* and *Yoon's Leaving for Seoul* (both 1939).

Through analysis of previous studies, this study sought to identify the differentiation and necessity, and to analyze spaces that depict and reflect daily lives, such as residences and department stores and cafes, through the novelettes and short stories written by Park Tae-won in the 1930s. This is to understand the changes taking place in daily living spaces at that time, and thereby to investigate how the characteristics of modern life are reflected, along with the modern space.

Since the fictional works which are the subjects of this study were studied in the history of literature from the viewpoint of architecture, there is a need to reveal the differentiation and value of the present study.

Table 1. Previous Studies on the Subject of Architectural and Urban Housing in Korean Early Modern Literature

Author	Title
Jeon, Hyeja (1994)	1930s Research of Urban Literature, Relation Between Modernism Novels and Urban Characteristics
Seo, Gwysuk (2000)	A Research of Space in Housing Architecture as Depicted by Literary Expression-Space in Housing Architecture as Depicted in the Literary Writing, <i>Togo</i>
Park, Hyungjin (2004)	A Study on the Modernity Characteristics of the Traditional Housing in Seoul 1920s 1930s
Park, Cheolsoo (2006)	Dichotomous View on Seoul Residential Areas Presented in Park, Wan-So's Literary Works
Kim, Jin Sung (2007)	A Study on the Modern Residential Discourse About "Home Visit Report" of Magazines in the 1930s
Park, Cheolsoo (2008)	Physical Identities of the Bukchon Hanok Area Viewed from Literary Geography
Lee, Ick Seong (2008)	The Modernity of the Urban Short-stories of Kim Yu-Jeong
Kim, Chun Sik (2010)	The Literary Representation of Colonial city 'Gyeongseong' and 'Modern Seoul'
Ahn, ChangMo (2011)	Formation and Change of Modern Urban Housing (In Seoul, Korea from 1876 to 1945)

Source: Yoonchun; Jung and Haeyon Yoo, Architecture's Literary Context, Seoul's architecture and urban housing portrayed in Korean modern Literature, 1920-1950, Cultural Elements in Architectural Advancement(10thISAIA) (2014), p.2.

Table 2. Previous Studies on the Subject of Architectural and Urban Housing Park Tae-won's Literature

Classification	Author (Year)	Title	Novels
Modernity & Everydayness	No, SeungWook (2011)	The Experience of Gyeongseong's Street cars in the 1930s and the Motif of Street cars in ParkTae-won's Novel	①
	Ji, Se-Jeong (2005)	A Study on the Usualness Narrative of Park Tae-won's novels	⑩, ⑪, ⑫, ⑬, ⑭, ⑮, ⑯, ⑰, ⑱, ⑲
	Zgirska-Lee Marzena (2009)	A Study on the <i>Flâneur</i> Motif in Modern Korean Novels: <i>The day spent by a novelist Mr. Kubo; Seoul, Winter of 1964.</i>	①
	Lee, PyeoungJeon (2008)	The Origin of the Quest for Modern City Life and Pathological Nature, On the Basis of Park Tae-won's novels	①, ②, ③
	Ahn, JungMin (1997)	A study on the Modernity in Park Tae-won's Novels	①, ②, ③, ⑤
Awareness of Urban Space & Urbanity	Jang, HeeKwon (2009)	Stadtraum der Moderne und Lokalkonstruktion	①
	Lee, KangEon (2002)	Cities and Recognition of Cities in the Novels of Park Tae-won	①, ②
	Jang, DongCheon (2005)	A Comparative Study on the 'Novel of Manners' of Lao-She & Park Tae-won - On Four Generations Under One Roof ( <i>Sishitongtang</i> ) & Streamside Scenery ( <i>Chonbyunpoongkyong</i> ), etc	②
	Kim, Mi-Ah (1998)	(A) Study on Urban Novels in Park Tae-won's	①, ②
	Kim, MyoungIn (2000)	Modern Novel and the Problem of Urbanity, In relation to Park Tae-won's <i>One Day of Novelist Kubo</i>	①, ②
Urban Architecture	Lee, JeongAh (1998)	A Study on the Meaning of Spaces Shown in the Novel <i>Chunbyunpoongkyung</i>	②
	Song, KiSeob (2010)	Landscape of the City and the Inside of Park Tae-won's Novels	①, ②, ④
	Kim, JungHyun & Kim, TaiYoung (2007)	A Study on the Living Space of Common People Around Cheonggyecheon in the Novel <i>Landscape Along the Riverside</i> of the 1930s	②
	Cho, DongGil (1985)	One Aspect of the Novel Space Enlargement: theCase of Gu-Bo	①, ②
	Yoo, SeongHo (2004)	A Study on the Figure of 'Seoul'Which is Reflected in Korean Modern Literature	①
	Yeom, HyoungWoon (2001)	Study of City Space Through <i>Bulyunsoksun</i> and <i>Chunbyunpoongkyung</i>	②
Literary Value	Lee, MiHee (1998)	A Study of Park Tae-won's Novels Centering on <i>One day of the Novelist Mr. Gubo</i> , <i>Chun Byun Poon Kyung</i>	①, ②
	Ahn, SookWon (1993)	A Study on Park Tae-won's Novels: Poetics of Movement	⑥, ⑦, ④, ⑧, ②, ①, ⑤
	Jung, YoungSun (2009)	A Study of Park Tae-won's Urban Novels-Focusing on <i>One Day of the Novelist Mr. Gubo</i>	

Index of Novels: ① One Day of Novelist Mr.Gubo (1938), ② Scenery of a Riverside (1937), ③ Exhaustion (1933), ④ Street (1936), ⑤ In Alley (1939), ⑥ Whole Story (1935), ⑦ Biryang (1936), ⑧ Christmastide (1937), ⑨ The Pitiful People (1933), ⑩ Beard (1930), ⑪ Annihilation (1930), ⑫ Warm breeze in May (1933), ⑬ The Lady Next Door (1933) ⑭ The Spring Moon starved for three days

Accordingly, preliminary studies were conducted prior to the present study from the following three aspects: first, the study of daily lives or architectural and urban space through literary works; second, the study of spaces through modern novels set in the 1930s; third, the trends in previous studies of the research subjects.

In addition, Park Tae-won's novels, referred to as "urban fictions" have been mainly studied singly or together with works of other writers. To identify the differentiation from the existing studies and clarify its significance, this study analyzed the trends of previous studies, focusing on Park Tae-won's novels.

The previous studies related to Park Tae-won's novels largely dealt with: (1) modernity and daily life; (2) urban space perception and urbanity; (3) the city's architectural side, and; (4) an overall story. In particular, Park Tae-won's work most often selected as subjects for research were short stories set in the late 1930s such as *A Day in the Life of Novelist Gubo* and *Scenes by a Stream*. Their spatial backgrounds (tram, Chosun Bank, Cheonggyecheon, etc.) were used as a means of recognizing the modernity and urbanity at that time.

However, the city in those days went through functional and spatial differentiations while the progress of modernization, and structures that gave a glimpse of new lifestyles also appeared. On the other hand, one view the previous studies lacked was in approaching the situation from the aspect of living space in terms of a place of the life and daily routines of city dwellers. To make up for this point, this study investigated the living spaces that appear in modern novels by dividing them into new residential spaces, commercial spaces, and spaces for exchange.

### 3. The Living Space in Park Tae-won's Novels

In Park Tae-won's novels, locations such as government offices, prisons, kindergartens, schools, barbers' shops, police stations, pharmacies, railways, Gyeongseong Station and tramways serve as the backgrounds. The emergence of new buildings and changes in urban structures are found to change people's daily lives.

However, there is a limit to the exploration into all the structures and urban spaces that emerge as modern living spaces in the novels. Therefore, this study sought to investigate residential spaces that typically reflect modern lives, and department stores as newly emerging commercial facilities, and coffee shops as spaces for exchange between elites.

#### 3.1 The Residential Space

Through descriptions of residential spaces that appear in modern novels, we can understand the street address system, housing characteristics, living arrangements and payment methods of housing prices at that time. The 1930s was a period when new parcels, roads and houses were developed along with traditional urban structures. From this, we can deduce the type of

urban Hanok (Korean traditional house) that emerged with a new method of parcel division before and after the land readjustment project, in accordance with the Chosun Planning Ordinance for Urban Areas that was established in 1934 and came into force in 1936.

The numbering system of houses mentioned in *Encumbered House* or *Yoon's Leaving for Seoul* allows us to understand new urban structures along with changes in the address system at that time.

*"Where could your house be?" And the complicated address was not helping, either. It ended with "No. 22", as if the "four hundred eighty seven" that preceded it were not enough.*

(Encumbered House)

*Mr. Yoon, after many failed attempts, finally managed to find Kim's house at 34 Leejeong-mok, Seodaemun-jeong. Gabdeuk, however, was not at the house. Mr. Yoon asked whether a telegraph had arrived from the landlord and the answer was yes.*

(Yoon's Leaving for Seoul)

In addition, we can infer the internal spaces of an urban-type Hanok that appeared during the process of modernization through the emergence of gate, door, yard, room, ante-room, dual master bedroom, open quadruple hall, and reception room for male guests and outbuilding, in addition to changes in parcels and road systems.

In 1929, there were more than 30,000 rented houses in the Seoul area, which was about 80% of the entire housing stock. This situation is also revealed in the use of words such as "creditor" and "receipt" and



Fig.1. Urban Traditional Housing  
(Left: Gahoe-dong 11-18, Muae Architectural Research Institute, Gahoe-dong Hanok Preservation District actual survey report, 1986. Right: Nusang-dong 166-85: Muae Architectural Research Institute, Urban-style Hanok actual survey report, 1990) Source: Park, C.J & Jeon, B.H (2002), The Socio-economical Background and Characteristics of the Plan of Urban Traditional Housing in Seoul of the 1930s, Architectural Institute of Korea,18(7), p.103



"room to let" and "main building of the house" in *Encumbered House*, through which we can understand changes caused by the land readjustment project in rent payment methods, land purchases and mortgages for building houses.



Fig.2. Culture House, Coexistence of Western-style and Japanese-style Room

Source: Lee, K.A & Jeon, B.H (2005), *The Study on culture Village (Bunka Mura) and Culture Houses (Bunka Jutaku) at the 1922 Peace Memorial Exposition in Tokyo*, Architectural Institute of Korea, 21(8), p.103



Fig.3. Culture House, Coexistence of Western-style and Japanese-style Building

Source: Lee, K.A & Jeon, B.H (2005), *The Study on culture Village (Bunka Mura) and Culture Houses (Bunka Jutaku) at the 1922 Peace Memorial Exposition in Tokyo*, Architectural Institute of Korea, 21(8), p.104

In the 1930s, the culture house (文化住宅) emerged as an ideal residential space for the urban middle class (and until the 1970s), in addition to the urban-type Hanok. Unlike Hanok, a large-scale culture house located in the Sindang district had an interior bathroom, a reception room, a study and dining room.

There were two-story houses at that time. In the novel *Exhaustion* a two-story house and a written advertisement seen from the window of a coffee shop are described as follows.

*The window, 6 x 1 x 5.5 in size, is open towards the east [ . . . ] Through the window, a neat two-story house in Western style standing on the other side of the road and a written advertisement hanging between the windows on the second floor can be seen.*

A two-story house with a scene from a life in the low income bracket going on within it appears in *Forlorn People*.

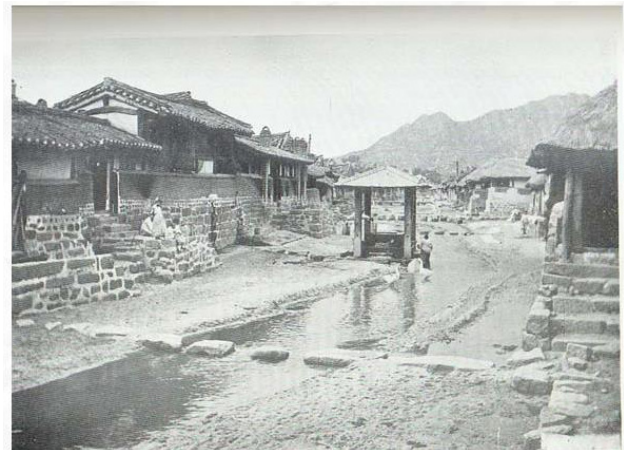


Fig.4. Residential Area in Gaeseong Before and After the 1930s  
Source: Japanese Geography and Custom Compendium, Joseon Part (the last volume), 1930, photo pictorial.  
<http://blog.naver.com/bookhunt?Redirect=Log&logNo=110189425408> (30 March 2015)

*Sungu tiredly shakes his head, and lifts up his empty eyes to look around the room, in a near mechanical response. [ . . . ] While picking up the match, Sungu stopped short and began to listen. He could hear footsteps coming up the stairs. Maybe it's Taesik. But as soon as the thumping footsteps abruptly stopped at the threshold, he realized ... It's yet another visit from the landlord, demanding payment.*

*[ . . . ] He opened and closed the latticed door, answered the landlord's questions, climbed up the 13 steep stairs, and opened the door to his room. Standing at the doorway, he felt like a rotten tree trunk, awaiting the inevitable fall to the floor as soon as he took his hand off the doorframe.*

Thus, the 1930s was a period when Korean traditional houses and thatch-roofed houses coexisted with various housing types in which Western and Japanese styles are combined. The size, position, scale and type of the residential space varied depending on the class, but they all included ideas taken from Western and Japanese culture.

### 3.2 The Emergence of the Department Store

The space-related content in the novels mainly deals with commercial space in Chongno and Myeong-dong. In the novel *Warm Breeze in May* there appears a short sentence that can help us to understand how the department store that symbolizes modern times was used in everyday life. The main character, Cheol-soo, was of the elite, majoring in English Literature at the University of Tokyo. One Saturday he visited a department store to buy socks, and came out of the store with the socks in the pockets of his suit. The quotation below is from the novel:

*Cheol-soo bought two pairs of socks, which he put in his suit pocket. Then he left the department. He was standing at the front of the department store and staring at people on Chongno Street.*

From this small scene in the novel, we can understand that the department store has become an ordinary place for people to visit to buy small, everyday objects. Though the main character explained why he visited the department store to buy his socks, it was not a strange expedition for a member of the elite who lived in Seoul.



Fig.5. Hwashin Department Store in 1932  
(The Tallest Building Seen here is the Donga Department Store; to its Left was the Hwashin).  
Source: <http://w.hankyung.com/board/> (30 March 2015)

The department store that appears in this novel is the Hwashin Firm, which was opened in 1918 as a two-story wooden building selling gold and silver jewelry but later came to take the department-type configuration. In 1932 it was enlarged into a three-story concrete building, and a rotating show window, which was the most important factor in the planning department at that time, was installed on the roadside. In the same year, Hwashin took over the four-story Donga department store (opened in 1931) adjacent to it, on the east side. Then the two buildings were connected via an air bridge, and the latter was renamed the East Building (Kim Byeong-do *et al.*, 2006, p.46, pp.60~76).

Judging from the publication date of *Warm Breeze in May*, the Hwashin Firm in the novel maintained the scale and management structure of the department store shown in Fig.5. In this photo, the department store and shopping district in Chongno can both be seen, and a comparison of the scale reveals the architectural spectacle that the department store was.

That is, the shopping district, mainly consisting of single-story buildings, was transformed into a large building-department store. Products were on display in the continuous shopfront windows and the show windows inside the building, and the interior of the building was a large exhibition hall worth visiting for its own sake.

The East Building of Hwashin department store was destroyed by fire in 1935. It was rebuilt as a five-story building, and the West Building was newly constructed into a six-story building. In line with the style of the new building, decorative changes took place in the appearance of East Building, which can be identified through Figs.5.



Fig.6. Interior of Hwashin Department Store, 1930s  
Source: Institute of Seoul History, Seoul seen by photograph 2: Seoul Under Japanese Aggression (1910~1945), p.129



Fig.7. Hwashin Department Store, Since 1937  
Source: 70th Anniversary Commemorative Photo book of Sinsegye Department Store, p.29

and 6. This can be understood as an architectural device to respond to the Japanese Mitsukoshi department store (Fig.7.), established in 1930.

In the novel *Scenes by a Stream*, there is a story about a restaurant run by the department store. When Mitsukoshi department store was opened in its new building in the 1930s (it is now the main branch of Shinsegae department store), it was equipped with facilities such as a restaurant (Fig.8.), exhibition hall and rooftop garden as it borrowed the form from department stores in Japan. In a related move, Hwashin department store came to be equipped with restaurants on the fifth floor of the new building after the fire in 1935, and a Ferris wheel was placed on the rooftop. That is, the department store was no longer just a place selling products, but was transformed into a venue that allowed visitors to enjoy leisure activities.

The main character of the novel says that the restaurant is not for unhappy, sad or miserable people, but for people who can spend a peaceful day and feel happiness (Park Tae-won, *Scenes by a Stream*, p.239, Deep Spring Publishing, 1989), from which we can infer that the customers who visited the department store were from a specific social class. In *A Day in the*



*Life of Novelist Gubo*, the protagonist also witnesses a wealthy couple entering the department store.

*Gubo crossed the streetcar tracks with small, confident steps and went to the Hwashin Department Store, which he entered, in spite of himself. A wealthy couple with four or five year-old children were waiting for the elevator inside the store. Maybe they will go to a restaurant and enjoy their luncheon.*

Thus, the chances are high that the main customers of the department store were intellectuals and wealthy people. However, it also served as a place for people to stop by to buy products, see the sights and show the new daily lives of leisure activities.



Fig.8. Restaurant of Mitsukoshi Department Store, 1930s  
Source: Institute of Seoul History, Seoul seen by photograph 2: Seoul Under Japanese Aggression (1910~1945), p.307

### 3.3 The Commercialized Space for Social Exchanges

The coffee shops and cafes that appear frequently in Park Tae-won's novels give a glimpse into the lives of the elite and of social exchanges at that time. Let's take a look at the coffee shops that appear in *Exhaustion* and *A Day in the Life of Novelist Gubo*.

The coffee shops can be seen as a Japanese version of the salons and cafes that emerged in Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries. Of course, there were also cafes, but they were more similar to bars in nature, differentiated from coffee shops and divided into two types where people simply enjoyed tea and coffee or joined discussions. Meanwhile, the coffee shop served as a place for cultural exchanges but was also used as a meeting place for the helpless intelligentsia according to the indications of the times.

This situation can be seen through the eyes of the main character of *Exhaustion* expressing helplessness while witnessing discussions among young writers at a coffee shop called the Nakrang Parlour, and thinking of the manuscript to be written, all while listening to "Elegy" by Santiago Caruso at the coffee shop in the afternoon.

This situation in the novel was based on what the author experienced in the Nakrang Parlour, which was



Fig.9. Exterior & Interior of 'Nakrang Parlour'  
Source: Kim, Yoonsik, 2011.11.18 Article 'Passing by Rapid Change Period, Going to Romantic Period' IncheonIlbo

known as a study-place for the Association of the Nine People (Guin-hoi) to which he belonged, as well as a meeting place for artists (Jang Yoo-jeong, 2008, pp. 25~34).

Unlike most other commercial facilities located on the street, the Nakrang Parlour was situated in an area crowded with private dwelling houses. That is how it came to serve as a reception room for literary men.

This situation can also be identified in Park Tae-won's *A Day in the Life of Novelist Gubo*, where the Nakrang Parlour appears again, as well as a coffee shop named 'A Swallow', run by Lee Sang. 'A Swallow' was also a place for literary men to meet. The main character in the novel enjoyed tea there, met his childhood friend, who was a poet and novelist, and talked for a while.

Thus, the coffee shop served as a new space for social and cultural exchanges between intellectuals. In ancient times, social exchanges between the nobility took place in the male quarters of their own homes, but the intellectuals, the new class of modern times, used coffee shops as reception rooms on the street.

The working poor, however, still used the pub, and the womenfolk used public washing facilities as a place for social exchanges. In *Nirvana*, the main character, who is a novelist, opens the window for ventilation at dawn, and the washing place at Cheonggyecheon is there outside.

A view of this outdoor scene includes the womenfolk, aged over 50 and presenting blank faces. From their expressionless faces, the start of a tough day can be imagined, but the washing place was also a place for exchanges.

In *Scenes by a Stream*, there is a scene where a country woman uses the washing place without realising that it is not free of charge. She was subjected to criticism from the manager, and the main character sees the womenfolk wag their tongues.

The washing place at that time was equivalent to a Laundromat for one-person households in the modern city. Though washing places in a crowded city came to be commercialized, they were far removed from the sanitation and water/drainage services. In this sense,



Fig.10. Women Washing in the Cheonggye Stream Side, 1930s  
Source: Chosunilbo, 18 July 2002, p.9

they werenot a living space representative of modern times. For lower middle-class citizens, cafes and coffee shops are still not daily living spaces, whereas the traditional washing place was a space for daily exchanges.

#### 4. Features of Life in the 1930s Seen Through the Space in the Novels

Through the spaces such as residences, department stores and coffee shops that appear in the novels of the 1920s in Section 3, we can understand the lives of the intellectuals and low-income people by comparison.

First, with the combination of Western-type housing (Western-style room and building) brought in from the late 1800s, Japanese-type housing (Japanese-style room and building) introduced in the Japanese colonial period in addition to the housing type of the Joseon Dynasty Period, a variety of housing appeared. In addition, the emergence of new road systems and institutions brought about a change in street addresses and the division of city planning parcels. The cases of the single room, the monthly rent room, lodgings and a two-story single room can be said to show new residential space occupation methods.

Second, the department store, a new type of sales space, appeared in the shopping district formed around Chongno. A look at the products sold in the department store, and its other spaces such as restaurants and rooftop gardens, can reveal changes in the lives of the wealthy privileged people that embraced modern civilization.

Third, through the coffee shop, a space for exchanges between the elite, we can learn that educated people joined discussions about the life and literature of their

times and sometimes ended up in a helpless state. On the other hand, the paid-for washing place as a space for exchanges between women helps us to know their daily lives.

Thus, the spaces in the novels neither represent the lives of the elite such as modern boys or modern girls, nor depict those of low-income people. However, it can be found that the spaces that appear in the novels reflect the professional spaces of main characters coming from various walks of life and economic situations.

The following table shows excerpts from several fictional works by Park Tae-won. Though physical space does not appear as a direct background, we can infer that the economic difficulties of Seoulites occur through the content of the writing in the novel.

Table 3. Extracts from Novels Showing People's Lives

Title of novel (Year, Publisher)	Extract
Spring Moon that Starved for Three Days (1933, Shindonga)	<i>Do these people even realize that there is a fellow in the park who's now missed six meals, while they have been busy chasing after booze, girls and leisure in the same place?</i>
Biryang (1936, Joongang)	<i>Last winter, the winter when he lost what pathetic job he had, with no way left to earn a penny for the whole month... a break up in that winter would have been permanent. I spend, you earn...</i>
Christmas (1937, YeoSeong)	<i>It does not make any sense! So you say I am a filthy whore. She didn't know why, but she found herself thinking of the image of Suni she saw on the sports day, as if she were standing right there. She kept staring at the image in silence. Yeongi sighed. How has it come to this, YOU buying black bean noodles for your family? You, of all people?....</i>
Inside the Alley (1939, Munjang)	<i>As is typical with streets where poor people live, the smell that swept his nose as he took a step into the alley was not exactly nose-friendly.</i>
Forlorn People (1933, Chosun Joongang Ilbo)	<i>He beguiled himself saying, did what I could do to find a job, though. And if I make more efforts to search for a job, I am sure to get one. "It seemed that Soon-gu was browsing through notices for job opportunities' in the newspapers, because he might need such an excuse. For this reason, whenever he realized there was no job for him, a sigh of not despair but of relief came from his mouth.</i>
Exhaustion (1938, A Day in the Life of Novelist Gubo, Munjangga)	<i>As is typical for a rush hour, the bus was packed with people. I squeezed myself through and crouched on a seat, and looked at the others who were talking to each other with their bodies pressed against each other. And I realized that there was not one woman in the crowd. The only man in the bus who accompanied a female was the driver himself.</i>

## 5. Conclusion

This study is aimed at analyzing residential, commercial and exchange spaces depicted in Park Tae-won's various fictional works set in the 1930s, thereby helping to compare and understand the lives of Seoulites at that time. Through the structures of the culture houses and urban-style Hanok used as residential spaces in those days, as well as rental properties of lodgings and rooms to let described in the novels, we could understand the difference in residential space between Seoulites.

In addition, a look at the department stores that emerged in Seoul during the Japanese colonial period and various facilities inside the buildings help to predict changes in the lives of the elite. Lastly, a comparison of coffee shops, cafes and washing places could reveal the different characteristics of spaces for social exchanges among females, males, elites and low-income people.

In addition to these spaces, modern buildings such as government offices, prisons, kindergartens, schools, barbers' shops, police stations, pharmacies, railways, Gyeongseong Station and tramways were found to bring about changes in urban structures and the daily lives of people. They also served as the backgrounds to express changes to various walks of life, such as "job characteristics by gender, changing roles" and "shift in awareness about the self" in line with political inclinations at that time.

For future work, there is a need to conduct a study on issues, such as "social stratification" and "class conflicts" in Park Tae-won's novels, as they are shown in some analyses used in the paper. In addition, comparative analysis of works by contemporary writers based on the findings of this study, and thus to derive the characteristics of more specific and various modern spaces, is required.

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