THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TURNING POINTS AND TRAVEL STYLES: A STUDY OF FIRST GENERATION OLDER KOREAN AMERICANS

Young-joo Ahn
Clemson University, yj.joanna.ahn@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/all_dissertations
Part of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons

Recommended Citation
https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/all_dissertations/1072

This Dissertation is brought to you for free and open access by the Dissertations at TigerPrints. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Dissertations by an authorized administrator of TigerPrints. For more information, please contact kokeefe@clemson.edu.
ABSTRACT

People experience various significant events across their life course. The purpose of this study was to explore what turning point events occur and how these events influence travel style among first generation older Korean immigrants. To accomplish this, 33 interviewees were recruited by using theoretical sampling and a semi-structured interview with the retrospective interview technique.

Following the grounded theory approach (Strauss & Corbin, 1990, 1998; Corbin 2008), several themes emerged that created turning point events and travel styles among first generation older Korean immigrants. In the findings, however, the participants seemed to experience not only a single turning point event at a time, but also interpersonal, multiple, and sequential events. They were also in different situations and dealt with their significant life events in relation to various factors (e.g., changes of transitional role, changes of family structure, changes of socio-economic status, and changes of priorities in life), which are general outcomes of turning point events.

The model suggests travel behaviors changed after turning point events in three specific travel outcomes of turning point events (i.e., value of travel, timing of travel, and opportunity to travel), which become facilitating or constraining factors that lead to travel participation or non-participation. Four different types of travel styles were emerged: day trips, travel to Korea, travel to iconic places of the United States, and religious and mission trips. This study provides a grounded theory that attempts to explain the complex nature of turning points and the impacts of turning point events on travel among first generation older Korean immigrants.
DEDICATION

To my parents, Jongsoon Ahn and Joonja Kim, my sisters and brother

for their unconditional love and unlimited support.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my chairs, Dr. Francis McGuire and Dr. William Norman for their guidance for my dissertation. My two chairs have supported me with their patience, faith, and love during my Ph.D. program. They made my Ph.D. experience as a turning point in my life and encouraged me to set my new life goal to be a good teacher and researcher. Their persistent support and concerns throughout my graduate years would not be forgotten forever.

I would also like to thank my committees, Dr. Kenneth Backman and Dr. DeWayne Moore for their feedback and advisement during various stages of my dissertation. Dr. Kenneth Backman has guided me to be attentive to learn about global understanding of tourism in class within cross-cultural class atmosphere. I also appreciate Dr. DeWayne Moore who has kindly advised best methods of my projects. I thank for his willingness and time to give me valuable advices.

I truly thank my mentor, Dr. Megan Janke for her continuous support and kindness. Without her, I would not have been interested in the topic of my dissertation and completed all my work. Special thanks goes out to my best friends, Wei-jue Huang, Jungeun Kim, Hakjun Song, Namhyun Kim, Doohyun Hwang, Hwaseon Jeong, Moonkyeong Jeong, Hayang Choi, Bona Kim for their encouragement and support during my master and doctoral study. I would also like to thank all my PRTM graduate students for their encouragement and support. Lastly, I would like to express my love for Seokjoon Yoon who has given me strengths for enduring difficult times and pursuing my doctoral degree.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TITLE PAGE</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEDICATION</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGMENTS</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF TABLES</td>
<td>viii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF FIGURES</td>
<td>ix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem Statement</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Question</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose of the Study</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rationale of Research Participants and Research Site</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Objectives</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Contribution</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definition of Terms</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outline of Dissertation</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER II: LITERATURE REVIEW</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Span Perspective</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerontological Perspective</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selection, Optimization, and Compensation (SOC) Theory</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Style Preference</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Life Cycle (FLC)</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turning Point Events</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turning Point Perspective</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Retrospective Interview Technique (RIT)</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rationale for Using Grounded Theory</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table of Contents (Continued)

CHAPTER III: METHODS ............................................................................................ 57
  Research Site ........................................................................................................ 57
  Definition of First Generation Older Korean Immigrants .................................. 60
  Study Participants ............................................................................................. 61
  Data Collection Steps ......................................................................................... 62
  Pilot Interviews .................................................................................................... 67
  Interview Language ............................................................................................ 69
  Data Analysis ....................................................................................................... 69
  Issue of Trustworthiness ..................................................................................... 73

CHAPTER IV: FINDINGS ............................................................................................ 76
  Demographic Profiles of the Participants ............................................................ 76
  List of Turning Point Events ............................................................................... 80
  Analysis of Participants’ Turning Point Events ................................................... 82
  The Current and Past Travel Styles of Older Korean Immigrants ...................... 128
  Model of the Influence of Turning Point Events among First Generation
      Korean Immigrants ........................................................................................... 149
  Turning Point Events .......................................................................................... 152
  Different Patterns of Turning Point Events ......................................................... 153
  General Outcome of Turning Point Events ........................................................ 159
  Specific Travel Outcome of Turning Point Events .............................................. 166
  Influence of Turning Point Events on Travel Participation .............................. 178
  Travel Style of People who Participate in Travel .............................................. 184
  Non-Participation to Travel ............................................................................... 190

CHAPTER V: DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION .................................................. 193
  Turning Point Events and Outcomes of Turning Point Events ......................... 193
Table of Contents (Continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specific Travel Outcomes of Turning Point Events</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turning Point Events Which Facilitate or Constrain Travel</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Styles of Those Who Participate in Travel</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Participation to Travel</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From Turning Points to Travel Style</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theoretical implications</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limitations</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendations for Future Research</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPENDICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appendix</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A: Interview Consent Form and Research Site Form</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B: The Clemson University Institutional Review Board (IRB)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approval</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C: Interview Questions</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D: Demographic Profiles of the Participants</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E: Initial Coding of Turning Point Events</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F: Examples of Three Interviewees</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFERENCES</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### LIST OF TABLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1: Credibility and Dependability</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2: Demographic Profiles of Interview Participants</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3: Turning Point Events</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4: Categories of Turning Point Events</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5: Immigration and Move</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6: Immigration Stabilization</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7: Work</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.8: Marriage</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.9: Family</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.10: Death of Family Member</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.11: Health Problems</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.12: Accidents</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.13: Leisure and Travel</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.14: War and Military Services</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.15: Home Country’s Cultural Event</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# LIST OF FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1: Model of the influence of turning point events among first generation Korean immigrants</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

*The story of a life begins somewhere, at some particular point we happen to remember; and even then it was already highly complex. We do not know how life is going to turn out. Therefore the story has no beginning, and the end can only be vaguely hinted at.*

- *Carl G. Jung* (1973, p.4)

The increasing global population of older adults and their increasing demand for travel are two areas of focus in this present study (Musa, & Sim, 2010; Nimrod, 2008; Patterson, 2006; Sedgey, Pritchard, & Morgan, 2011). Studies about older adults have shown that they are interested in traveling, have free time and discretionary income for such leisure activities, and many choose to travel because they are empty nesters whose family obligations are declining (Patterson, 2006). Their types of travel vary from luxurious and expensive cruises and international travel to less expensive bus travel packages. They are more likely to travel for longer periods of time than their younger counterparts, prefer to travel off-season, and have a variety travel purposes and experiences (Anderson & Langmeyer, 1982; Jang & Wu, 2006; Javalgi, Thomas, & Rao, 1992; You & O’Leary, 1999). For two decades, older adult travelers have been considered to be an important topic in tourism; however, previous studies on senior travelers provided limited findings because they rarely examined a lifelong perspective of travel. Further, these studies generally overlooked travel in relation to the aging process and life events of older adults.
An issue of interest in social sciences since World War II is life course inquiry. Bengtson, Elder, and Putney (2005) noted that “the ‘lifecourse’ is conceptualized as a sequence of age-linked transitions that are embedded in social institutions and history (p.10).” The subsequent development of the life course model promoted an understanding of social behaviors, ranging from political attitudes to the treatment of the elderly (Giele & Elder, 1998). The life course perspective provides a useful theoretical framework for researchers to explore the fundamental importance of historical conditions and various changes around individuals’ lives and interrelated lives (i.e., family life) (Bengtson, Elder, & Putney, 2005). The life course approach had been popular in 1960s and 1970s and provided a new lens of the meanings of age. Age orders individuals’ birth cohorts, social roles, and historical events (Bengtson, Elder, & Putney, 2005). Levinson’s life course model (Levinson, Darrow, Klein, Levinson, & McKee, 1978), suggests specific and diverse life stages in a developmental life span perspective. However, Levinson’s life-course perspective provides different periods of life transitions which are divided into certain age group as if everyone experiences the same transition at a certain age. It is widely accepted that the traditional, deterministic life stage concepts of human development have limitations and should be replaced. O’Rand (1998) noted that social behavior researchers began with cross-sectional studies of age-related behaviors and moved toward longitudinal observations for several decades. A turning point perspective has been used to examine events across the life span that alter the ordinary paths of individuals in the life developmental perspective (Elder, 1985; Bengston, Elder, & Putney, 2005). According to Giele and Elder (1998), the key elements of the new life course
paradigm are events. People experience events across the life course that are sometimes significant and sometimes less so. Living itself may be considered a continuous life event. The episodes of events in people’s lives are combined in event histories, trajectories and turning points. To understand the fragmented events, timing, duration, rates of change caused by the events, and background characteristics, studies should compare differences across persons and groups and interconnections between individual life change and the complex social system. The new paradigm of life course research was coined as a turning point event perspective. A turning point is defined as “A turning point involves a fundamental shift in the meaning, purpose, or direction of a person’s life and must include a self-reflective awareness of, or insight into, the significance of the change (Wethington, Cooper & Holmes, 1997, p. 127).”

These turning point events are mostly related to role transitions, causes of the events, and consequences of the events. Clausen (1998) indicated that more than half of the turning points reported were about entering school, graduating from school, getting a job, getting married, having children, getting divorced, retirement, and death of parents and significant ones. Education, occupation, marital status, and family relationships were the major roles most affected. Unexpected and unplanned events such as illness, accidents, abuse, role failure, war, the death of loved ones, and economic conditions were also noted as turning point events. A turning point event may influence a life both negatively and positively. For example, retirement can bring relaxation, freedom from stress, challenges, and crises from the workplace and strong family ties (Weiss, 1997). However, Ranzijn (2002) found that retirement may have a negative impact, if, for
example, older adults are forced to leave their workplaces before they want to or need to. Therefore, highly-skilled workers may feel a loss of meaningful employment which may lead to negative psychological effects (e.g., loss of self-esteem) and an increase in mental illness and alcoholism (Gallo, Bradley, Siegel, & Kasl, 2000, 2001). Retirement sometimes leads to social isolation, a loss of acuity and a diminished sense of worth, a loss of work associations, a lack of excitement, and a diminished stimulation from the challenges of work. Since these retirees experienced the benefits and burdens of retirement concurrently, they needed to adapt to their changed lives (Weiss, 1997).

Other disciplines such as psychology, sociology, and social work have been conducting in-depth research on the turning point perspective. A turning point perspective appears to be a useful tool for examining what older adults experience as turning points in their lives and how they deal with these events which alter their perspectives. Except for Gibson and Yiannakis (2002) and Nimrod’s (2008) studies using the life-span perspective, research on older adult travelers from the turning point perspective. Even though older adult travelers have been the subject of considerable academic attention since the 1980s, there is little research on how older adult travelers have developed their travel styles.

Travel style is an important framework for understanding travel needs, motivations, and choices of travel-related products (Cohen 1972; Gibson & Yiannakis, 2002; Mo, Haward & Havitz, 1993; Lepp & Gibson, 2003, 2008; Pizam et al., 2004; Plog, 1992). Cohen’s (1972) tourist role typology, developed from a sociological perspective, is based on a novelty-familiarity continuum. Plog’s (1973, 1990) continuum of
allocentrics and psychocentrics were employed to understand dynamic tourist behaviors. Recently, Pizam et al (2004) and Lepp and Gibson (2008) suggested Zuckerman’s (1964) sensation-seeking to understand tourists’ need for novelty and stimulation. Empirical studies have suggested that novelty/familiarity-seeking behaviors explained different tourist behaviors and their choices of travel attributes, ranging from travel types and purposes, accommodation types, travel modes, travel-related services, travel destination choices, and preference for social contact with local people (Jiang, Havitz, & O’Brien, 2000; Lepp & Gibson, 2008; Pizam et al., 2004; Plog, 2002).

This present study has focused on travel experience before and after turning point events throughout the life span, the influence of turning point events on travel styles, and the reasons why people develop different travel styles. The term, ‘travel style’ is chosen to examine tourists’ preferences for travel related services, travel activities, novel or familiar cultures, and destination choices because the term can be readily understood. Travel style research has focused on essential components of the travel experience such as destination choice, preference to use standardized travel related services, interaction with local people and different culture and food as well as interrelated factors (e.g., travel purpose, travel companions, demographic characteristics, socio-economic status) (Chang, Wall, & Chu, 2006; Cohen 1972; Mo, Haward & Havitz, 1993; Jiang, Havitz, & O’Brien, 2000; Lepp & Gibson, 2008).

Previous studies on travel style employed multiple domains and various components such as different preferences of travel destinations (Lepp & Gibson, 2008), travel modes and language of travel destination (Basala & Klenosky, 2001), and
preferences of social interaction with locals (Mo, Haward & Havitz, 1993, 1994). For example, Mo, Haward and Havitz (1993) proposed three dimensions of tourist roles based on Cohen’s (1972) tourist role concept: 1) the destination-oriented dimension measures the extent to which a traveler prefers novelty-familiarity when choosing an international travel destination, 2) the travel service dimension measures a traveler’s preference for institutionalized travel services, 3) the social contact dimension measures a traveler’s preference to interact with local people. Novelty seekers were more likely to interact with local people, stay in local lodging, taste local food, and seek challenging and risky activities during their travel. Familiarity seekers, in contrast, were more likely to prefer institutionalized travel services, familiar food, and familiar activities during their travel (Mo, Haward & Havitz, 1993; Jiang, Havitz, & O’Brien, 2000).

Interrelated factors are also considered in order to explore different individuals’ travel styles. Research has shown that different travel styles are associated with demographic characteristics, such as socio-economic status (Mo, Haward & Havitz, 1993; Jiang, Havitz, & O’Brien, 2000; Lepp & Gibson, 2008). Additionally, travel companions and language of travel destination (Basala & Klenosky, 2001), perception of risk and sensation seeking (Lepp & Gibson, 2008; Pizam et al., 2004), and cross-cultural differences (Pizam et al., 2004) have been shown as factors that differ among tourists’ travel styles. Changing travel behaviors of older adults after turning point events was explored to understand the influence of turning point events on travel style based on two theoretical frameworks, the life course perspective with turning point events and travel style.
Problem Statement

The relationships between turning point events and travel style has not been examined within the tourism. Research called for explaining what significant life events (e.g., retirement and widowhood) older adults experience and how these significant life events influence older adults and their travel behavior (Nimrod, 2008). Research on influence of turning point events on travel styles among older adults has rarely been conducted. Previous studies on senior travelers did not typically explore a lifelong perspective of travel among older adults. Further, these studies generally overlooked travel in relation to significant life events that occurred throughout the life span.

In addition, researchers have criticized that the extant research on older adult travelers is largely quantitative and focused on market segmentation of older adult travelers (Nimrod, 2008; Sedgley, Pritchard, & Morgan, 2011). Research is necessary to generate a theoretical model for understanding influence turning point events on travel styles among older adults who have experienced significant life events over time. Research on the relationship between turning point events and travel in later life, using a grounded theory approach, provides a greater understanding of the essential components that account for why older adult travelers are heterogeneous and may change or later their travel style after turning point events.

Research Question

The research questions involved aimed to explore how older adults change their travel style as they go through their life course. The primary research questions of the
The present study explored the influence of turning point events on travel style among first generation older Korean immigrants using the retrospective interview technique. Unlike previous turning point studies of adults in later life (Cappeliez, Beaupré, & Robitaille, 2008; Weiss, 1997), this study focused on the turning point events of older adults first and then examined travel styles among first generation older Korean immigrants. Lastly, the study examined the relationship between these turning point events and their travel styles as well as focused on the influence of turning point events on travel styles.

The research questions of this study include:

Q1: What are the turning point events in the lives of first generation older Korean immigrants?

Q2: What are the current and past travel styles of first generation older Korean immigrants?

Q3: What turning point events influence travel styles and how do these turning point events influence travel styles among first generation older Korean immigrants?

**Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of this study was to explore what turning point events occur. It also explored how these events influenced travel style among first generation older Korean immigrants and focused on how older adults make decisions to travel throughout their life span. Finally, the purpose of this study was to develop a theoretical model to explain the process of how turning point events influence travel style among first generation older Korean immigrants using the grounded theory approach. The examination of the
relationship between turning point events and travel style provides a greater and expanded understanding of the life course perspective of turning point events as well as a holistic understanding of life events and their effects on travel participation.

Rationale of Research Participants and Research Site

First generation Korean immigrants were chosen as a group for examining turning point events and travel style. Atlanta, Georgia was selected as the research site. There are several reasons to choose the specific population and the research site. First, the aim of the study is to examine whether turning point events influence travel style. A general definition of first generation Korean immigrants is those born in Korea who immigrated to the United States; and second generation Korean immigrants are those born in the United States after their parents immigrated to the United States (Choi, 2006). As a result, this population was chosen because immigration to the United States is assumed to be one of the most significant turning point events. After immigration, they often deal with language barriers, different tourism systems, and western cultures. Second, Korean immigrants are one of the fastest growing immigrant populations in the United States. A total of 1,332,387 Korean immigrants received U.S. citizenship in 2010, making South Korea the eleventh largest immigration country (U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2011). Third, the role of travel is also crucial for older Korean immigrants. During the process of adaptation to their new environment, travel is likely to play an important role in learning about different geographical, social, and cultural environments.
The research site of Atlanta, Georgia, metropolitan area was chosen for two reasons. First, Atlanta has a geographical advantage from the researchers’ institute. Second, the 2010 U.S. census reported that Atlanta has been one of the fastest increasing population sites of Korean immigrants over the past decade. In addition, Korean communities in Atlanta have developed in the suburban areas of Atlanta. These Korea American communities are located within the I-285 beltway, and the majority of Korean Americans live in Doraville, Duluth, and Atlanta, Georgia. Thus, the metropolitan region, Atlanta was an ideal place to reach first generation older Korean immigrants.

**Research Objectives**

There were four research objectives for this study. The first objective was to identify turning point events that first generation older Korean immigrants experienced throughout their life span. The retrospective interview technique (Scott & Alwin, 1998) was a useful means for remembering past experiences and sharing stories of significant life events and travel experiences. Semi-structured interviews with the retrospective interview technique were conducted to identify turning point events. The second objective was to explore the past and current travel experiences among first generation older Korean immigrants. It helped to remember travel experiences in the past in order to explore general travel styles. The third objective was to explore the relationship between turning point events and travel styles among first generation Korean immigrants. It is essential to understand the influence of turning point events on travel styles and identify changes of travel styles before and after turning point events. Finally, the fourth objective
was to generate a theoretical model of the influence of turning point events on travel styles among first generation older Korean immigrants. The theoretical model was generated based on the interviews conducted from February to April. Using the theoretical model as the outcome for the final objective facilitated a more complete understanding of the process of the influence of turning point events on travel styles.

**Study Contribution**

There are several reasons why the relationships between turning point events and travel styles are important to explore. First, the turning point perspective may provide a deeper understanding of the nature of travel styles among older adults. Significant life events, both big and small, and experiences of adults throughout their lives shape their life style, preferences, motives, and life goals (McAdams & Olson, 2010). In addition, accumulated life lessons from turning point events across the life span develop personal internal and external resources. The turning point perspective shows how older adults have developed their travel styles across their life courses. If there are any changes in their travel style, it will indicate reasons for the change.

Second, the aim of the study is to examine whether turning point events influence travel style among first generation older Korean immigrants. It aimed at developing a theoretical model for explaining the process of the influence of turning point events on travel style by using a grounded theory approach (Glaser & Strauss, 1967; Strauss & Corbin, 1990, 1998; Corbin, 2008). The generated theory will allow the researcher to describe the situations before and after turning point events, identify what critical factors
change after the turning point events and how people responded to these events and changes after the events. The model will also describe the process of changes of travel style after turning point events.

**Definition of Terms**

**First generation older Korean immigrants**

Those who were born in foreign countries and immigrated into American, and those have their own heritage of their original county, have their ethnic language fluency (i.e., speaking, reading, and writing), and have native ethnic values and norms (Chan, 2006; Zhou, 1997).

**Turning point**

“A period or point in time in which a person has undergone a major transformation in views about the self, commitments to important relationships, or involvement in significant life roles (e.g., job, marriage). A turning point involves a fundamental shift in the meaning, purpose, or direction of a person’s life and must include a self-reflective awareness of, or insight into, the significance of the change. Major life events, chronic difficulties, normative life transitions, minor events, and such internal, subjective changes as self-realizations or reinterpretations of past experiences may bring on a turning point” (Wethington, Cooper & Holmes, 1997, p. 127).
Travel style

the degree to which tourist choice and preferences in terms of destination choice, preference to use standardized travel related services, interaction with local people and different culture and food as well as interrelated factors (e.g., travel purpose, travel companions, demographic characteristics, socio-economic status) (Basala & Klenosky, 2001; Cohen 1972; Gibson & Yiannakis, 2002; Mo, Haward & Havitz, 1993, 1994).

Outline of Dissertation

This dissertation included five chapters, followed by appendices and references. Chapter one includes introduction of the dissertation. It presented background, problem statement, study purpose, research questions, research objectives, study contributions, and definition of terms.

Chapter two included literature review and presents relevant theoretical framework: life span perspective, gerontological perspective, selection, optimization, and compensation theory, novelty seeking and familiarity seeking travel styles, family life cycle, and turning point events.

Chapter three included methods used for this study. In Chapter three, it presented detailed information about research site, study participants, rationale for using grounded theory, data collection procedures, interview techniques, results of pilot interviews, data analysis, and issue of trustworthiness.
Chapter four pertained to findings of the present study. Four main sections were in chapter four: demographic profiles of the 33 participants, the list of turning point events described by the interviewees, analysis of participants’ turning point events, the current and past travel styles of older Korean immigrants, and a model of the influence of turning point events among first generation Korean immigrants that was developed using the grounded theory approach. The developed theoretical model included several themes such as turning point events, different patterns of turning point events (i.e., single turning point event, interpersonal turning point events, multiple turning point events, sequential turning point event), the general outcome of turning point events, the specific travel outcome of turning point events, influence of turning point events on travel participation, travel styles of those who participate in travel, and non-participation to travel.

The Chapter five included a discussion of findings based on the developed theoretical model. This chapter also presented theoretical implications, limitations, and recommendations for future research. In the final section of the dissertation, appendices and references were included.
CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This present study aimed to provide a deeper understanding of travel styles among older Korean immigrants and the influence of turning point events throughout their life course. The second purpose of this study was to develop a theoretical model to explain the process of how turning point events influence travel style among first generation older Korean immigrants using the grounded theory approach. It is important to illustrate several related research, including theories of, life span perspective, gerontological perspective, family life-cycle, and travel styles, turning point perspective and the studies of turning points.

Life Span Perspective

Different experiences among older adults throughout their entire lives may shape unique personal characteristics. A life-course perspective allows us to investigate related changes, opportunities, or constraints on leisure or travel participation over the course of one’s life. The accumulated life lessons learned by experiencing positive and negative life events (or gains or losses) form personal (internal and external) resources that become available to individuals from early childhood to later adulthood (Ryff, Singer, Love, & Essex, 1998). According to Kelly (1999), the life course approach includes “both continuities and changes in which all the dimensions of life are interrelated and work, family, community, and leisure are not segregated domains, but intersecting elements in which change in one impacts the others.” (p.142). It is also a useful theoretical framework
for understanding leisure behaviors and the various types of travel among cohorts or
different generations who had different social and historical experiences during life
transitions (Kelly, 1999; Gibson, 2002). For example, older adults, who experienced the
Great Depression of the 1930s, did not travel at all, but the opportunity to travel to
Europe was given after joining in military service during the Second World War.
However, because of this, participants did not have any desire to go to Europe (Gibson,
2002).

Another advantage of the life-course perspective is that it provides an integrated
perspective of work, family, gender, community and leisure roles which are associated
with life-developmental changes (Rapoport & Rapoport, 1975; Kelly, 1999). Numerous
studies suggest that work, family, retirement, and gender are interrelated with travel
participation and those events and transitions in the life course facilitate or discourage
tavel participation (Gibson, 2002; Nimrod, 2008). For example, many older adults
indicated that retirement provides an opportunity to engage in new ways of travel
participation on account of their freedom from work. In addition, retirement can be a
turning point to change the travel style. A retiree who was an executive used to travel as
part of his business and after retirement, he traveled to see his family (Gibson, 2002).

One of the challenges to the life course perspective is its presumption of
normality. The normal transition in life course perspective is fitted by few individuals.
Each individual may have a different starting point and temporal shifts to the next
transition. Individual and social conditions may vary (Kelly, 1999). For example, there
are diverse types of marital status, such as living alone, never married, divorced, and
homosexual. Moreover, there are various forms of family relationships, such as two
parent family, single parent family, or blended family (e.g., stepparent-stepchild
relationship). Another challenge is that life-span perspectives present several life stages
as if everyone experiences these stages. Moreover, the stages are divided by certain age
groups (e.g., the stage of setting down from between ages 33 and 40; the stage of mid-life
transition between 40 and 45 years old). Lastly, there are differences in terms of race and
ethnicity, gender, and social class and specific individual situations (Kelly, 1999).

Gerontological Perspective
The changing travel style of older adults is rarely found in tourism literature.
Instead, many researchers examined leisure patterns in conjunction with transitions from
adulthood to late adulthood, such as retirement, and the relationships between leisure
patterns, life satisfaction and leisure satisfaction (Nimrod, 2007; Pinquart & Schindler,
2009). The main focus of those studies was to find out leisure patterns of those who have
increased free time after retirement and the behavioral and psychological aspects of older
adults’ successful aging, well-being, and life satisfaction.

Two aging theories in leisure studies were dominantly employed: Continuity
Since 1989, Continuity theory is one of the most popular theories in the study of travel
and leisure behavior among older adults. Continuity theory, proposed by Atchley (1989),
suggested that individuals have a tendency to continue doing activities they prefer as they
age. Continuity theory consists of two strategies: an adaptive strategy and a coping
strategy. Older adults can maintain their self-identity as they continue their personality, lifestyles, or hobbies as an adaptive strategy which deals with changes of normal aging. Older adults are able to preserve and maintain old patterns which may keep them competent. There is little empirical evidence found to explain the continued patterns of travel activities among older adults because there are very few longitudinal studies that examined activity changes of older adult travelers. However, Shoemaker (2000) found similar patterns of travel activity preferences, such as playing golf, by comparing travel activities from his 1989 study and his replicated 1996 study; whereas, the tendency to seek new places and experience new things, decreased.

Atchley (1989) stressed the importance of internal continuity for older adults to maintain an inner self, rather than an external continuity (e.g., income, transportation, or recreation). The continuity theory is still a useful theoretical framework for explaining the tendency of leisure participation of older adults who are in a distinctive transition and need to adapt to an increased free time and/or age-related changes.

The other theory which has been supported by a number of leisure studies is Activity theory, developed by Lemon, Bengtson, and Peterson (1972) (Ragheb & Griffith, 1982; Riddick & Daniel, 1984; Riddick & Stewart, 1994). Activity theory posits that active social and physical engagements are related to better health and more positive outcomes in later life.

In the perspective of the activity theorists, successful aging relies on how well older adults replace their lost role (e.g., retirement) with new activities. Older adults who participated in higher frequencies of activity also reported higher life satisfaction and
better health. On the other hand, older adults who reported low activity participation had lower life satisfaction and poor health (Lemon et al., 1972). Rowe and Kahn (1999) defined successful aging as the effort to “just keep on going…active engagement with life and with other human beings” (p. 40). They also noted that more activity participation is related to the successful prevention of mental and physical functions. By participating in these activities on a regular basis, older adults can continuously receive emotional support from others and discover new meaning in life. Menec (2003) studies the relationship between activities, successful aging and the changed activity patterns among older adults during the years 1990 to 1996. Social and productive activity was associated with happiness and better health.

While two empirically-supported theories of aging were useful frameworks, two theories were criticized for a number of reasons. First, continuity theory was criticized because continued activity participation may be applicable only to those considered part of the normal aging process rather than the pathological aging process (Burnette-Wolle & Godbey, 2007). Second, one of the problems with activity theory is causality. It is not obvious whether the high activity levels cause high life satisfaction or whether the high life satisfaction causes the high activity levels (McGuire, Boyd, & Tedrick, 2009).

**Selection, Optimization, and Compensation (SOC) Theory**

In recent years gerontology theorists have explored the link between life satisfaction and well-being and behavior of older adults at the micro level. One of the aging theories about successful aging and the life-span developmental process is the
model of selection, optimization, and compensation (SOC) proposed by Baltes and Baltes (1990). In this model, successful aging is defined as “the maximization and attainment of positive (desired) outcomes and the minimization and avoidance of negative (undesired) outcomes” (Freund & Baltes, 1998, p. 13). With harmonious use of selection, optimization, and compensation, the successful adaptation can be promoted because people set personal goals, participate in goal-directed actions and use possible means to maintain a certain level of functioning.

Freund and Baltes (2002) view SOC as an action-theoretical framework and understand the positive development of aging in conjunction with the integration of these three hierarchically-ordered components: selection, optimization and compensation. Selection is associated with setting personal goals and direction by focusing on the most important things within the scope of limited resources in later life (Baltes, Staudinger, & Lindenberger, 1999). Selection, viewed as an adaptive response, encompasses two types of selection: Loss-based Selection and Elective Selection. Loss-based selection means giving up or choosing alternative goals due to age-related losses, such as illness, loss of spouse, or difficulty with mobility. Elective selection is associated with decisions about goal priorities and a concentration on the most important things and a giving up of the less important things (Jopp & Smith, 2006).

Optimization refers to the acquisition, application, and refinement of means and resources in order to achieve desired goals and reach a higher functioning of resources (Freund & Baltes, 2002). In addition, optimization is associated with learning new skills, discovering resources, and investing time for goals (Godbey, Burnett-Wolle, & Chow,
Compensation is related to losses or declines of goal-relevant means like selection. However, compensation is a process that seeks possible means (i.e. technology and human) and resources to maintain a given level of functioning in order to continue with activity participation or achieve personal goals in spite of losses of resources (Baltes & Carstensen, 1996). In summary, the three processes of SOC promote gains and help to deal with losses by concentrating on the most important personal goals (elective selection) or selecting alternative ones in response to losses (loss-based selection). Moreover, people seek optimal means and possible resources in order to achieve their selected goals (optimization) and make efforts to maintain and regulate functional capacity (Freund & Baltes, 2002).

There are a growing number of studies exploring the role of SOC in successful aging. Furthermore, a number of empirical studies were conducted with a self-report SOC instrument developed by Baltes, Baltes, Freund, and Lang (1999). The results of these studies revealed that SOC was associated with various indicators of successful development, such as subjective well-being (Freund & Baltes, 1998), aging satisfaction (Jopp & Smith, 2006), and adaption to aging losses in everyday activity (Lang, Rieckmann, & Baltes, 2002). For example, Jopp and Smith (2006) investigated whether the use of SOC and the effect of resources may predict the subjective well-being of older adults. They found that the SOC strategies buffered the negative effects of low resources and enhanced aging satisfaction. The extreme elderly and resource-poor individuals reported more aging satisfaction by using SOC strategies which appealed to a self-regulatory process that helped deal with loss.
Recently, researchers attempted to apply the SOC theory to various specific life domains and leisure studies, such as work-family conflict (Baltes & Dickson, 2001), work-related well-being (Wiese, Freund, & Baltes, 2000, 2002), physical activity for orthopedic rehabilitation (Ziegelmann & Lippke, 2007), leisure activity participation among adults with arthritis (Janke, Son, & Payne, 2009), positive adaptation as dealing with constraints (McGuire & Norman, 2005; Kleiber, McGuire, Aybar-Damali, Norman, 2008), and promoting physical activity (Godbey, Burnett-Wolle, & Chow, 2007). These studies suggested new insights for applications of SOC strategies in leisure behavior among older adults.

Godbey and the colleagues (2007) suggested ideas for promoting physical activities among middle aged and older adults in terms of the SOC framework. Since obesity is a serious health problem among older adults (and related to various illnesses, such as heart disease, diabetes, and osteoarthritis), the researchers insisted on the importance of promoting physical activity participation by creating an age-friendly environment. For example, programmers can encourage people to participate in physical activities by providing various activity programs with cognitive exercises, such as learning the flora and fauna during a nature walk. Local trails are need seats along paths to alleviate the physical constraints among some older adults. Physical education and recreation providers can provide human resources to help older adults maintain physical activity. Therefore, the application of the SOC theory is relevant for the improved planning of leisure facilities and the encouragement of leisure facility use.
The study conducted by Janke, Son, and Payne (2009) was the first empirical study which used a revised SOC instrument in specific a domain: leisure. The researchers examined how older adults with arthritis used the SOC strategies in their leisure activities. Loss-based selection was related to increased pain from arthritis among older adults. The use of elective selection, optimization, and compensation strategies in leisure enables a prevention or reduction in the level of arthritic pain and its related symptoms. In addition, the frequency of SOC strategies was different according to marital status and the level of resource (e.g., the types of residence).

The SOC theory suggests that the greater the use of the SOC strategies, the better health and well-being of those involved. This is because those using these SOC strategies are more self-regulated and better equipped to adapt to their changed situations as they age (Baltes & Baltes, 1990). The SOC was rarely found as a theoretical framework in tourism literature. However, it can be a potential means to understanding specific strategies for adaptation in this late life stage, and it may provide adequate travel information, guides, and various modes.

While the SOC theory has merits, there are some problems with the general applicability of the SOC theory. The SOC theory has rarely been applied to a specific domain. Wiese, Freund, and Baltes (2000, 2002) investigated the relationship between work-related SOC use and job satisfaction and well-being (e.g., positive emotional balance). They found weak evidence of the relationship between job satisfaction and well-being, and the use of work-related SOC. The first study of the SOC strategies in tourism was investigated by Wang (2005) and the study of travel intention and the SOC...
was also not successfully associated. Janke, Son, and Payne (2009) demonstrated the usefulness of the SOC theory to explain the activity participation and the use of SOC; however, the population of the study was older adults with arthritis. The SOC theory has not accounted for differences of the SOC use among older adults with rich resources.

The SOC theory appeared to be more powerful with other substitute theories. Socioemotional selectivity theory (Carstensen, 1991, 1992) is the most frequently employed with the SOC theory. Briefly, this theory explains why elderly adults tend to build smaller and deeper social relationships with close and significant others, such as family members and old friends. According to this theory, older adults select the size of their social network by discarding unimportant relationships and spending more time and energy building meaningful and deeper relationships with a smaller-sized social network (Lang & Carstensen, 1994).

The SOC and the socioemotional selectivity theory may be distinguished from activity theory. According to activity theory, reducing one’s social network was considered harmful because older adults would lose social support. In addition, successful aging was determined by optimal physical health, cognitive ability, and active engagement (Rowe & Kahn, 1999). However, Baltes and Carstensen (1999) identified that older adults were motivated to engage in emotionally meaningful social relationships with a small social network (i.e., close friends, family, or relatives).

The life-span developmental perspective of successful aging outlined above provides background for the changes older adults experience on account of their age. These theoretical frameworks illustrate the issues of older Korean immigrants and
highlight personal strategies and social factors that have a major impact across their life courses.

Travel Style Preference

The heterogeneous nature of tourists has been observed by many researchers. The different characteristics of tourists were associated with demographics, travel activity, travel motivation and transportation (Jang & Wu, 2006; Javalgi, Thomas, & Rao 1992; Prideaux, Wei, & Ruys, 2004; Shoemaker, 1989, 2000). In order to identify the complex and heterogeneous travel styles of tourists, many researchers suggested a multi-dimensional approach. For example, Oppermann (1995) explored the changing travel patterns by investigating the month and year, travel purpose, length of each trip, number of overnight destinations, main transportation and accommodation types used, and number of accompanying travelers.

Researchers referred to the concept of travel styles by using various terms: travel patterns (Plog, 2002; Oppermann, 1995), international tourists’ role (Foo, McGuiggan, & Yiannakis, 2004; Gibson & Yiannakis, 2002; Jiang, Havitz, O’Brien, 2000; Keng & Cheng, 1999; Mo, Havitz, & Howard, 1994), and travel-style preferences (Basala & Klenosky, 2001).

Plog’s (1972) allocentric and psychocentric continuum and Cohen’s (1972) novelty-familiarity continuum were more frequently applied for identifying the typologies of tourists. In Plog’s (1972) allocentric-psychocentric continuum, there were six personality types relating to travel destination choices; Plog (2002) changed to
identify allocentrics as venturers and psychocentrics as dependable: (1) venture (allocentric), (2) near-venturer (near allocentric), (3) centric-venturer, (4) centric-dependable (mid-centric), (5) near dependable (near-psychocentric), and (6) dependable (psychocentric). He illustrated the normally distributed continuum with small percentages of each extreme: 2.5% - 4% of venture (allocentric) and dependable (psychocentric).

According to Plog (2002), ventures seek exciting, adventurous and risky travel experiences at new destinations they had never traveled to before. They have a strong sense of self-confidence and self-achievement and can easily adapt to new destinations as they have no problem eating local food, for example. Even though they do not know the language that local residents speak, they feel comfortable nevertheless. Dependables, however, prefer traveling to familiar destinations and choose well-developed and famous tourist countries on account of safety (Plog, 2002). Plog’s instruments consisted of the following three: Rotter’s (1966) Internal-External Locus of Control measuring a sense of powerlessness, Zuckerman’s (1979) Form V Sensation-seeking Scale, and Leary’s (1983) Interaction Anxiousness Scale (Cited in Griffith & Albanese, 1996).

There are few empirical studies of Plog’s model. Nickerson and Ellis (1991) noted that Plog’s continuum broadened activation theory. They suggested an activation model of travel personality which can be explained with respect to destination preferences, travel companions, interactions with local cultures, degree of activity participation, and travel characteristics. However, Nickerson and Ellis (1991) did not provide empirical evidence to predict tourists’ travel patterns based on Plog’s model.
Smith (1990) criticized Plog’s model for its failure to predict destination preferences within the allocentric-psychocentric continuum. Plog (1990) responded to Smith’s (1990) study and pointed out that the condition of Smith’s study had problems with the instruments and the model. Smith (1990) did not use Plog’s instruments and used his tourism personality items.

Griffith and Albanese (1996) tested the actual travel behaviors among undergraduate students by using Plog’s model. They examined the relationship between the actual travel behaviors and the aggregated three domains of Plog’s instruments: a sense of powerlessness, sensation seeking, and generalized anxiety. The results of the study supported the validity of Plog’s model and found the relationships between tourists’ personality and the allocentric-psychocentric continuum. Plog (2002) also examined the relationship between travel characteristics and income along the allocentric-psychocentric continuum to provide empirical evidence for the usefulness of his model. The level of income did not determine specific travel styles, and the study did not reveal income to be associated with an increased level of travel activities. Those who had higher incomes were more likely to engage in novelty-type travel styles. As expected, venturesomeness was associated with novelty travel activity characteristics. Novelty seekers were more likely to seek new cultural experiences as they visited historical and cultural sites, local restaurants and participate in physical activities, such as hiking/backpacking/camping.

Many researchers also employed Cohen’s (1972) international tourist role (Balsala & Klenosky, 2001; Keng & Cheng, 1999; Mo, Havitz, & Howard, 1994). Cohen (1972) suggested that international tourists fell into four different travel roles of the
novelty-familiarity continuum. These four categorized travel roles are the drifter, the explorer, the individual mass tourist, and the organized mass tourist.

The drifters seek novelty experiences and attempt to melt into the host cultures they visit by staying at local accommodations. The explorers tend to experience local cultures at their travel destinations, interact with local people, and experience novelty, but expect basic comforts in terms of meals, accommodations, and transportations. The individual mass tourists purchase travel program packages from travel agencies, but prefer to control their travel itinerary and travel with their own companions. The organized mass tourists are typical mass tourists who also purchase group travel packages from travel agencies, prefer to belong to a travel group, and enjoy doing familiar activities during travel. The organized mass tourists are the extreme opposite to the drifter (Cohen, 1972).

There are few empirical studies that employ the novelty-familiarity continuum. Keng and Cheng (1999) tested the novelty-familiarity based tourist roles of the outbound Singaporean tourists. Significant differences were found among the four groups: cultural dissimilarity seekers, destination novelty seekers, novelty seekers, familiarity seekers. The cultural dissimilarity seekers were motivated by visiting scenic sites, learning more about local culture, shopping, farm-stay, and seeing historic sites. The destination novelty seekers tend to visit scenic sites, and learn about local culture. Novelty seekers involve more physical activities than familiarity seekers do in their travels. However, both novelty seekers and familiarity seekers are motivated to visit scenic sites, experience local culture, and shopping. There were also significant differences in terms of travel type,
accommodation, frequency of travel, and traveling companions. The familiarity seekers were more likely to be married, belong to group package travels, and stay in accommodations arranged for them by travel agencies. The destination novelty seekers had a higher rate of a higher education degree than familiarity seekers and cultural dissimilarity seekers. The empirical studies supported the different types of travel preferences along the novelty-familiarity continuum (Keng & Cheng, 1999).

Basala and Klenosky (2001) investigated intentions to travel and tourists’ travel styles and examined their choices based on three factors: types of accommodation, travel companions, and language. The researches accomplished their task by providing a scenario description of a novel destination. The researchers selected these three factors because they were related to the level of social contacts at the novel destination. The results revealed that the familiarity seekers tended to stay at chain hotels and resorts, travel with organized travel groups, and travel to countries at which people speak the same language as they do. However, the researchers pointed out that the novelty seekers did not always prefer to select the most novel options. Since the scenarios of the study illustrated a novelty travel country which was in terror and experienced government instability, the novelty seekers tended to travel with friends/family or organized travel groups rather than travel alone (Basala & Klenosky, 2001).

A number of researchers have classified tourists into four categories along Cohen’s novelty-familiarity continuum to compare tourists’ behaviors and travel activity preferences by using the international tourist role. The international tourist role includes three dimensions: the destination oriented dimension, the travel services dimension and
the social contact dimension. The destination oriented dimension indicates tourists’ preference for novel or familiar destinations. The travel services dimension represents tourists’ preference for selecting standardized tourist services, such as organized tour packages, travel agencies, preplanning travels. The social contact dimension represents tourists’ preference for interaction with local people and new and different people at travel destinations (Jiang, Havitz, & O’Brien, 2000; Mo et al., 1993; Mo, Havitz, & Howard, 1994).

Unlike studies using the international tourist role, Gibson and Yiannakis (2002) and Foo, McGuigan, and Yiannakis (2004) identified 15 leisure-based tourist roles: Sun lover, Action seeker, Anthropologist, Archaeologist, Organized mass Tourist, Thrill seeker, Explorer, Jetsetter, Seeker, Independent mass tourist, High class tourist, Drifter, Escapist, Sport tourism, and Educational tourist. The researchers compared the identified tourist roles on the novelty-familiarity dimensions, and these diverse tourist roles provided a deeper understanding of underlying psychological motivations and intrinsic needs.

Beside Plog’s and Cohen’s model, sensation seeking (Zuckerman, 1979) and a list of values (LOV) (Madrigal, 1995) were used. For example, Lepp and Gibson (2008) employed sensation seeking (Zuckerman, 1979) and degree of novelty (Cohen, 1972) to investigate preferred travel roles among those in the 18 -30 age group. The study results found that the preference for those tourist roles seeking novelty increased as the preference for sensation seeking increased; whereas, the preferences for tourist roles seeking familiarity increased as the preference for sensation seeking decreased. Lepp and
Gibson (2008) noted that Plog’s allocentric-psychocentric model, Zuckerman’s sensation seeking, and Cohen’s international travel roles similarly predict the propensity for travel styles. Madrigal (1995) argued that personal values would be a better predictor of travel style because personal values reflect more internal oriented values (e.g., self-fulfillment, accomplishment, fun and enjoyment in life, excitement, warm relationships with others, and self-respect) as well as external oriented values (e.g., security, belonging, and being well-respected). The study results revealed that the internal-external motivator of one’s personal values were consistent with the allocentric-psychocentric continuum. The internal values were related to allocentrism, and the important components of external values, such as security, were also consistent with psychocentrism.

The implication such studies on travel style is that the situational characteristics and travel destinations may change over time; however, the general type of travel destination choices which reflect travelers’ personality and preference remain stable. Travel styles and actual travel behaviors provide important information. Researchers have attempted to provide empirical evidence showing the usefulness of personality and psychographic travel types. The travel style is a useful means to predict travel preferences of independent or group travels and to understand tourists’ differences (Plog, 1990, 2002; Gibson & Yiannakis, 2002). Plog (2002) noted, “knowing where people fit on this curve explains much of their travel behavior, including types of travel products they prefer, places they like to visit, travel experiences they select at destinations, and advertising that appeals to them (p. 246).”
The limitations of research on travel style are that it should avoid collecting data from one type of travelers. For example, Smith (1990) failed to demonstrate the allocentric-psychocentric continuum due to an inappropriate sampling. Another problem is that no model seems to include all factors into a single explanatory model. Furthermore, there are still few empirical studies in academic literature.

**Family Life Cycle (FLC)**

The present study chose a broad approach by combining the individual and social dimensions of life transition and travel style. It examined both the events and episodes that individuals experience throughout their life time, as well as the social roles and social relationships to understand the larger context of travel styles rather than focusing on specific types of activities during travel. Mieczkowski (1990) suggested the tourism system and illustrated that tourists distinguish from demographic and socioeconomic factors, such as age, gender, marital status, family size, occupation, and level of education. Mieczkowski (1990) also pointed out that one of the most important demographic factors which influenced travel demands was the family life cycle.

The focus of family life cycle was on different family members, family characteristics and similar travel preferences of each family stage. The family life cycle was used to explain different travel patterns across the life course (Collins & Tisdell, 2002a). This perspective also emphasized that families experience changes as their family members go through certain stages. For example, a young married couple changes their lifestyle as they have a newborn baby. The event of this family also influences their
decision making and travel preferences (Lawson, 1991). The family life cycle is a useful framework for research and demonstrated the influences of life events and different travel patterns and preferences among the various family units (Collins & Tisdell, 2002a; Lin & Lehto, 2006; Oppermann, 1995). An important part of the family life cycle is various family stages based on age, marital status, employment, and the age of children. Wells and Guber (1966) suggest nine stages of family life cycle in their marketing research. Wells and Gubar’s (1966) family life cycle classified nine stages: bachelor, newly married, full nest I (preschool children), full nest II (school-age children), full nest III (older/non dependent children), empty nest I (still working), empty nest II (retired), solitary survivor I (older, widowed or divorced, in labor force), solitary survivor II (older, widowed, or divorced, retired).

However, Wells and Guber’s (1966) categories were criticized because the modern families in this society include more diverse family structures than the traditional nuclear family model. For example, researchers faced challenges when trying to classify the participants who were a single parent with children or middle-aged families without children into a stage which was not in the family life cycle model. Therefore, many researchers employed the modernized family life cycle model (Collins & Tisdell, 2002a; Lin & Lehto, 2006). Murphy and Staples’s (1979) modernized family life cycle consisted of 13 family stages: young single, young married without children, young married with children, divorced young without children, middle-aged without children, middle-aged without dependent children, divorced young with children, middle-aged with children, middle-aged married without children, middle-aged married with children, middle-aged
married without dependent children, older married (no dependent children), and older unmarried (no dependent children).

Oppermann (1995) explored changes in travel patterns using a longitudinal study of individual tourists in terms of family life cycle. The results revealed that destination choice, travel purpose, and travel periods varied by age, and there was a different cohort effect. The younger generation was more likely to travel further and more frequently than the older generation at the same age. This study, however, did not provide specific differences with regard to family life cycle stages.

Collins and Tisdell (2002a) provided more specific information by exploring overseas travel patterns and the purpose of travel among different age groups. Individuals aged 55 and over reduced their overseas travel for business and conferences/conventions whereas those aged 30s and early 40s was the highest among all of the age groups. In contrast, individuals in the empty nest period showed high level of holiday travels because they had accumulated assets and free-time. Their frequency of travel was reduced because of their health concerns (Collins & Tisdell, 2002a).

Australian older adults preferred travel destinations which has a western culture and the same language, such as in European countries. These adults showed their willingness to go farther for travel to these countries. In addition, these age groups (55 and over) traveled more to visit friends and family (Collins & Tisdell, 2002a). Collins and Tisdell (2002a) interpreted that travel behaviors of these older adults may be due to their country of origin. Approximately 60% of immigrants between 1961 and 1980 in
Australia were from Europe. These older adults preferred to travel Europe in which their family and friends lived and sought their cultural ties.

Several gender differences in travel behavior have been observed. Collins and Tisdell (2002b) found that gender differences in percentages were shown among different age groups based on their purpose of travel. Generally, Australian women were more likely to travel for a holiday and education, and to visit friends and relatives; whereas Australian men were more likely to travel for business, conferences, and conventions. Women’s outbound travel for business was high in the 25-34 age group. There was the largest gender difference in business travel between the 45-54 age group. The results mean that women entered the workforce and married after building their careers, but women in the 45-54 age group may not concentrate on their career, but focus on family commitments, housework, and child-care. Both men and women showed the lowest participation in business-related travels among the 55 and over age group due to retirement. Women traveled to visit friends and relatives more frequently than men. The researchers concluded that the propensity of these travel patterns may be due to security during traveling overseas (Collins & Tisdell, 2002b).

Bojanic (2011) examined different travel patterns and shopping expenditures in terms of the family life cycle among Mexican visitors at shopping malls in south central Texas. The researcher employed the traditional family life cycle stages and added Bachelor stage, Empty Nest stage, and single parent stage. 85% of participants fit in the family life cycle. In addition, significant differences were found with regard to brand preferences and shopping expenditures relating to the family life cycle. Bojanic (2011)
Lin, Yeh, Chen, and Wang (2008) focused on a life cycle stage: Single-parent families which were ignored in the traditional life cycle model. The results found that Taiwanese single-parent families preferred to visit travel destinations close to countries, such as China, Thailand, and Japan in an effort to reduce travel cost and length of travel. Their preferred activities were water sports, cultural and historical sites with beautiful scenery, and theme parks. Their travel decisions were mostly influenced by their children’s interests. The group package tour appeared to be preferred by single-parent families because they needed a personal assistance to travel with their young children and to save money on travel costs. Collins and Tisdell (2002a) identified that single parent families were relatively less likely to travel overseas than the same age group without children. The 35-44 age group also showed a low travel frequency due to employment and child-care.

An important implication of this perspective is the family role. Each family member has multiple roles (Mattessich & Hill, 1987). For example, a female member may play major roles as a wife, a mother, a teacher of her children, a family caregiver and a worker (Mattessich & Hill, 1987). Lin and Lehto (2006) examined female travelers’ travel preferences trajectory and travel motivation by employing the modernized family life cycle and the travel career ladder. Most female travelers across most family stages except for older female travelers without children sought relaxation and escape from daily routines on their pleasure travels on account of their multiple responsibilities. In addition,
single parents with children inclined to travel a short distance or travel to visit family or relatives. It was assumed that single parent families were less likely to have discretionary money and needed supervision for their young children (Collins & Tisdell, 2002a, Lin, Yeh, Chen, & Wang, 2008).

This may also be used to compare different groups of the travel patterns. For example, educational types of travel were highest among the young adults while employment travel, such as conferences or conventions, was high among the middle age group. Adults aged 55 and over rapidly declined in the rate of travel participation in outbound educational and employment travel; whereas they showed the second peak on holiday tourism (Collins & Tisdell, 2002a). Older adults (the empty nester group) prefer pleasure travel to visit friends and relatives. Especially older immigrants in Australia, who moved from Europe in the immigration peak period of 1960 and 1980s, were more likely to travel to Europe to visit friends and relatives and to keep their cultural family ties (Collins & Tisdell, 2002a).

Although the modernized family life cycle consists of more diverse family structures, it is expected that new family structures will be created in this society (e.g., single-parent families, middle-age married couples without children, gay couples and gay couples with children). Mattessich and Hill (1987) noted that the 13 categories of the family life cycle may not be applicable to all family structures and families from different cultures (e.g., non-Western cultures). In addition, previous study classified family stages based on participants’ ages. For example, Collins and Tisdell (2002a) defined the stages as follows: 15-24 (bachelor and newly married groups); 25-34 (newly married and full
nest I); 35-44 (the full nest I and full nest II groups); 45-54 (Full nest III, empty nest I); 55-64 (empty nest I, empty nest II, and working); 65 and over (empty nest II, retired).

Individuals may not fit in the family stages at this age because women may not focus on their work career and get married at a late age or there may be an increased number of middle-aged couples who did not have children.

Another challenge of this family life cycle perspective does not reflect the changes of travel behaviors as people move through next or different stages over time. Rather, the family life cycle assumed that people in the same family stage may be in similar situations and show similar preferences. Nevertheless, it is a useful tool to account for the different travel patterns among diverse family stages at the aggregate level (Mattessich & Hill, 1987). This perspective has not yet been applied in an effort to describe the relationships between changed family structures and travel patterns.

Finally, the challenge of family life cycle is that travel party size does not match family stages (Oppermann, 1995). This theory focuses on travelers with family members rather than other travel groups. Therefore, it does not account for travel styles of those who travel without family members. For example, single parent families may travel overseas with friends. Married couples may travel alone for business or travel with friends or other groups on holidays.

The changes in family structure among a particular group and their changes of travel styles can provide a deeper understanding of their travel behavior. In particular, this present study of older Korean immigrants with different personal backgrounds can provide useful information on current immigrant travel trends and changed travel patterns.
Turning Point Events

The present study explored the changing nature of travel styles among older adults. The examination of the relationship of the personal life turning point events and the changing travel style among older adults provided important information about how older adults form their travel styles and how significant life events have influenced their travel styles over time.

According to Wheaton and Gotlib (1997), the life course is not a straight path, but has a trajectory or trajectories and turning points. A trajectory refers to “the continuation of a direction” (p.1), and a turning point is “a disruption in trajectory, a deflection in the path” (p.1). Most researchers agreed that turning points are difficult to define precisely. Many researchers see that turning points change the direction of the life course, either positively or negatively, and are perceived as redirected paths on the life course (Clausen, 1993). Some researchers defined turning points as an isolated event that causes permanent change in a relationship, such as a sexual abuse (Baxter & Bullis, 1986). The conceptualization of turning points by Baxter and Bullis (1986) differs from Wheaton and Golib (1997). For example, Baxter and Bullis (1986) focused on only specific events in romantic relationships between a young couple and changes of their closeness of relationships after events. Wheaton and Gotlib (1997), in contrast, referred to “psychological turning points,” included a longer period time and conceptualized their theory based on the broad context of the life course, such as major life events, personal and social role transitions, and periods of reflection after events experienced. Wheaton
and Gotlib (1997) followed Clausen’s (1993) definition of a turning point and defined a turning point as follows:

A period or point in time in which a person has undergone a major transformation in views about the self, commitments to important relationships, or involvement in significant life roles (e.g., job, marriage). A turning point involves a fundamental shift in the meaning, purpose, or direction of a person’s life and must include a self-reflective awareness of, or insight into, the significance of the change. Major life events, chronic difficulties, normative life transitions, minor events, and such internal, subjective changes as self-realizations or reinterpretations of past experiences may bring on a turning point. These can be either positive or negative in character (Wheaton & Gotlib, 1997, p.217).

The definition of a turning point, according to Wheaton and Gotlib (1997), accounts for a time or various periods of transitions and permanent or temporary changes after critical events and adaptation to such changes. In order to include the various possible pathways of turning point events in changing travel styles among older adults, the present study followed Wheaton and Gotlib’s (1997) definition.

Turning points are a useful tool to identify events that individuals have experienced as their lives tend toward different directions after those events. Clausen (1993) asked all members of the study to plot a Life Satisfaction Chart using a scale of 0 (rock bottom) to 10 (absolute tops) in order to find the peak experience and sharp drops. The X-axis was a year, and the Y-axis was life satisfaction. He found that the death of a parent, spouse, or child, an injury or illness, divorce, and unemployment caused a sharp drop in life satisfaction. Turning point events such as severe marital problems or divorce, and career problems (especially men) reduced life satisfaction. Career change, due to heavy alcohol use or seeking a satisfying job after trying various types of work, was also
identified as a turning point (Clausen, 1993). Many events identified as turning points were experienced in various life stages (e.g., childhood, adolescence, or young adulthood). Family decisions, such as staying in the United State rather than going back to a home country could be considered as a turning point, but the most frequently reported turning points involved career and marriage. The turning points related to jobs were starting a chosen career, getting a promotion, changing a profession, or losing a job (as mentioned by two-thirds of the men). Marriage was also reported by more than a half and divorce was mentioned by almost everyone who had been divorced. Having children was also reported by a fourth (Clausen, 1993). Clausen (1993) found a variety of meanings associated with particular turning points. For example, stressful life events, such as the death of close relatives, mostly influence individuals negatively. Sometimes deaths changed people and encouraged new challenges, such as adopting new roles like running the family business when all other family members died. Turning points could not assess change but provide deep insights into the life developmental perspective.

Wethington (2003) explored the psychological turning point events, the major life role and personality by mixed method design in the portion of the MacArthur Foundation National Study of Midlife in the United States (MIDUS). The quantitative study was conducted based on the reports from respondents about chronic difficulties (i.e., marital problems and spouse adjustment problems, job chronic stress, control at work, and children’s health and adjustment problems) and personality (e.g. neuroticism, openness to experience, insight, reappraisal, self-direction, and depression) in the past 12 month. Moreover, the qualitative study asked respondents about chronic difficulties that
were considered as a turning point event over the past five years by using the technique of retrospective interviews. The results of the study found that females reported more turning point events than males, and the turning points were associated with important life roles. In a quantitative study it was not obvious, but negative chronic difficulties and negative turning points were related to positive psychological turning points, such as reflection about heretofore overlooked flaws, healthier life style, learning something new and a sense of mastery from accomplishing challenging tasks at work or taking care of an elderly parent. In this study, positive turning point events included getting married, finishing school, having or adopting a child, and starting a new business that caused positive influences in their lives (Wethington, 2003).

Moen (1997) conducted a panel of data collected two times: the first data in 1958 and the second data in 1986. It was used for investigating women’s resilience and adaptation to changes that were experienced and associated with age-related changes, role changes, and turning point events. He also focused on the links between women’s resilience and psychological well-being and differences according to social resources (e.g., family roles, occupational roles, and community roles) and psychological resources (e.g., self-esteem, self-understanding, mastery and so on). The results revealed that women with higher levels of personal and social resources dealt more effectively with stressors than those with lower level of resources. Volunteering, returning to school, caregiving, and divorce were identified as turning point events which changed women’s roles and resilience. Moen (1997) suggested that trajectories of resilience over the life
course are useful because women’s experience in previous life stages is related to their psychological resources in later life.

**Turning Point Perspective**

Little research has been conducted in the field of tourism in terms of critical events and its influence on changing travel styles of older adults. Numerous studies in tourism have been conducted on travel motivation, constraints, and travel mode. However, few studies have closely investigated how older adults pursue their travel goals as they experience age-related changes over time. Moreover, previous studies have not explored the significant events which change older adults’ travel styles, the influences of these events on older adults’ travel styles, and factors which support or frustrate their travel pursuits.

Turning point analysis is an effective means to capture the changes of travel styles over time by analyzing the significant events that change travel styles among older adults and the direction of such influences (i.e., negative or positive). Researchers demonstrated that turning point analysis is able to capture the changes in midlife (Wethington, Cooper, & Holmes, 1997). It also indicates retirement as a turning point event as well as adaptation of the retirees (Weiss, 1997). The turning point analysis presents the types of events that people in specific life transitions experience, how these events influence them, and their significance (Weiss, 1997; Wethington, Cooper, & Holmes, 1997).
One advantage of the turning point analysis is that it is not a longitudinal study; however, it may allow us to explain diverse trajectories of the life span and uncover interrelated issues as well as the broader context of travel behavior among older adults. Another advantage is that the turning point analysis provides narrative episodes with regard to the stories behind the turning points. These advantages promise a potential for understanding the diverse travel styles of older adults.

A turning point analysis may also allow the research to uncover interrelated issues and the broader context of travel behavior among older adults. Furthermore, information from the turning point analysis may provide insightful information to refine gerontology theories, such as continuity theory, activity theory, or disengagement theory, selection optimization and compensation theory, or socio-emotional theory.

The turning point analysis provides the narrative episodes: stories about the occurrence of turning point events. Living involves lots of events, thoughts, and interactions that form a unique personal identity over one’s life course (McAdams, Josselson, Lieblich, 2001). Life stage studies about adult development and aging focused on mapping various life transitions or phases which predict sequences of life developmental processes (Levinson, 1978) or focused on social and historical contexts and roles, and interpersonal relationships of adult development (Elder, 1986, 1996). These narrative episodes account for the major transitions which change our social and cultural worlds. The turning point analysis may cover not only on-time transitions of life, such as getting married in young adulthood, having children, and retiring around 65, but also the sometimes unexpected changes in the psychosocial perspective, such as divorce,
accidents, personal trauma, or religious turning points (McAdams et al., 2001).

Sometimes the changes in transitions are conscious or sometimes people are unaware of change until they reflect on their past. The life stories and travel styles of older adults can map out important turning point events and meanings of significant transitions and changes in their travel styles over time. The past experience of travel and the narrative episodes of significant life events can be collected by using the Retrospective Interview Technique (RIT).

The Retrospective Interview Technique (RIT)

The Retrospective Interview Technique (RIT) has been employed for the turning point studies in various domains, such as romantic relationships (Baxter & Bullis, 1986), closeness of the adult children and their parents (Golish, 2000), and the general life turning points of older adults (Cappeliez, Beaupré, & Robitaille, 2008). The RIT has been often used for collecting retrospective data (working backward in time) that refers to “collecting information about past events and experiences” (Scott & Alwin, 1998, p.104) and asking individuals to remember their responses to an event at the time it was occurring (Scott & Alwin, 1998).

The RIT offers benefits and challenges in several ways. One of the major advantages of the RIT is that the retrospective cross-sectional design can cover a long life history and generate a longitudinal data instantly. Schuman and Scott (1989) were the first researchers to explore what people recalled from their memory of the past. For example, Schuman and Scott (1989) asked people to recall their lives over the past 50
years. They explored the collective memories of individual and national history and identified the influences on individual lives in the significant historical events of the nation and other countries. Participants were interviewed at a point in time. However, the information of the interviews provides the participants’ past experience from a particular perspective on the present. The RIT is efficient and requires less cost than a longitudinal panel study. A longitudinal study required a high level of funding and a project research team to conduct the long-term project through its completion. Both the sponsors of research and researchers should be patient until the longitudinal data is collected.

Second, the RIT allows for identifying various pathways and various patterns of turning points across one’s life course. For example, Golish (2000) demonstrated seven different patterns of turning points in the closeness of a grown-up child and parent relationship. This result suggested that there were various pathways rather than a single life stage and the single life developmental process. Third, the RIT also helps to remember their changes easily. Participants may not find it easy to answer everything about what happened in the past, but by asking participants to share their significant turning point events first and then think about the changes of their behaviors before and after the turning point events easily recall their past memories.

One of the most serious disadvantages of the RIT is the recall bias. Past experience information sometimes cannot be measured retrospectively because people do not recall the specific and relevant experiences that researchers ask; people may give inaccurate information of the timing and the data of events or some memories may not be recalled clearly at the time (Scott & Alwin, 1998). The obtained data from the
retrospective interviews is not actual data, but recollections from the participants’ memory (Fitzgerald & Surra, 1981). The researcher should be aware that the past memories collected by the RIT are only from the subjective perspective of the participant. Second, reconstruction of the past experiences may be influenced by current emotions, circumstances, and conditions. Participants may interpret their situations differently according to their current mood or personal emotions based on the results of negative or positive consequences of turning point events. For example, participants who currently have a positive emotion might associate their turning point with positive events. On the other hand, participants who have a negative emotion, their interpretation of the events will be negative (Scott & Alwin, 1998).

Even though the RIT has these disadvantages, previous studies demonstrated the usefulness of the RIT for the turning point perspective. Specifically, Lin, Ensel, and Lai (1997) illustrated that recall error is more related to routine rather than significant events. For example, the significant events of giving birth to their children, marriage, moving, deaths, or legal problems showed less recall errors while events in health, occupation and work, and financial situation could not have stable results when researchers compare the two measures between interviews and recall data (Jenkin, Hurst, & Rose, 1979). Lin, Ensel, and Lai (1997) attempted to demonstrate the reliability and validity of the retrospective data. They examined the multiwave longitudinal studies collected in 1979, 1980, 1993 and compared the data of the recalled interviews of their past (1979) in 1993 to the actual data collected in 1979. The differences of the two data were considered as errors. They found that personal experiences such as marital changes, births of children,
residential moves, or conflict with spouse/partner were less likely to be reported incorrectly. However, daily routines, such as some changes in health, death, financial/work, recreational and social activities, tended to create recall errors. The study found that recall errors result from forgetting the experience rather than reporting more events which did not happen or misplacing the events in time. They concluded that recall errors tended to increase with regard to routine activities rather than personal and family experiences. The present study examined the significant events across one’s life course, travel styles, and the influences of these significant events on travel styles. Travel triggers changes and a sense of freedom from daily routines. Travel experiences may be more memorable than daily routines and create less recall errors which have a high discrepancy between recalled memories and actual travel experiences.

Many researchers suggest various ways to improve reliability and validity and recommended the use of a Life History Chart for improving the reliability of the retrospective data (Scott & Alwin, 1998). By placing the timing and durations of significant events that occurred in the past, people place the year of the events and make efforts to replace the events placed incorrectly. The RIT with a Life History Chart for studying the relationships between turning points and travel styles among older Korean immigrants may increase the reliability of the collected data. In this study, participants are asked to recall the significant events throughout their lives and explain their travel styles and then think back to their changed travel styles and the influences of the significant events on their lives and travel styles.
Rationale for Using Grounded Theory

Qualitative research method was chosen to examine the relationship between turning point events and travel style among first generation older Korean immigrants. When the researcher decided to choose to undertake a qualitative study, the researcher’s own worldviews, paradigms, or sets of beliefs to the present research needed to be addressed (Cresswell, 2007). Many qualitative studies employed five approaches: narrative research, phenomenology, grounded theory, ethnography, and case studies. All five main approaches have similar research procedures that identify research problem, construct research questions, collect and analyze the data, and write the findings. They also have similar data collection processes that employ purposive sampling, conduct interviews and observations, and use audiovisual materials and reports (Cresswell, 2007, 2009). However, five qualitative approaches use different types of data and different ways of analyzing the collected data. For example, narrative research, ethnography, and case study research appeared to be similar when the unit of analysis is a single individual. However, in narrative research, the focus is on the stories of an individual in chronological order and the research collected few interviewees in order to describe personal stories in detail. In ethnography, the focus is on the stories of an individual with the context of their specific cultural settings and cultural group. In case study, the research collected data within the bounded cases related to research issues (Cresswell, 2007). In addition, each qualitative approach has different primary objectives of the study. For example, a narrative study focuses on an individual’s life stories in detail. A phenomenology study focuses on the common and essential experience of the
phenomenon. An ethnography study focuses on a holistic view of culture in a cultural group. A case study focuses on an in-depth understanding of a case or a comparison of bounded cases. Finally, a grounded theory study focuses on developing a theory which explains process, action, or interaction on an issue (Cresswell, 2007).

Since the grounded theory introduced, the grounded theory has been applied in education, nursing, business, family studies, gerontology, social work, gender studies, and cultural studies (Morse, 2008). There are several reasons why the grounded theory applied for many social science disciplines. Grounded theory allows the researchers to describe and identify phenomena, main attributes, and the process of change. It enables to explain what is going on or what is happening around a particular event. It is a useful means to analyze the collected data, identify the emerged concepts, and develop a midrange theory which is applicable to other instances (Morse, 2008).

It is important to note that the way of interpreting the data of grounded theory cannot be the same as researchers have different personalities, different social, political, and historical backgrounds, and different research goals. It means that grounded theory researchers have their own strategies of dealing with data. For example, in 1990, two distinct versions of grounded theory approaches were developed: Glaserian and Straussian grounded theory (Stern, 2008). Strauss focused on theory generation and symbolic interactionism. He had suffered from heart disease so that his attention was given to chronic illness and symbolic interactionism. However, Glaser focused on constant comparisons on the data due to Glaser’s experience with descriptive statistics. Since the two developers of grounded theory separately extended two grounded theory
approaches, grounded theory has also been evolved and extended by their students in 2000s. Corbin (2008) who collaborated with Strauss over a sixteen-year period continued to develop Straussian grounded theory. Charmaz (2006) developed constructivist grounded theory and Clarke (2005) developed situational analysis of grounded theory.

Charmaz (2006) attempted to include participants; meanings (i.e., ideologies) and actions in larger social structures (i.e., power relationships, individual responsibility, solutions). Situational analysis of Clarke (2005) emphasized to analyze situations, linkages between consequences and conditions and networks of collective activities across space and time from the individual level to the organizational level (Clarke, 2005). Unlike traditional grounded theory, Charmaz (2006) and Clarke (2005) have applied postmodernism and constructivism to grounded theory. They provided their analyses of grounded theory to interpret meanings and actions.

Corbin (2008), who continues to develop Strauss’s version of grounded theory, agreed that grounded theory is evolving and extending to interpret a complex phenomenon in our society. Even though grounded theory has been extended and changed, different versions of grounded theory have followed the same basic procedures of Glaser and Strauss’ class version of basic grounded theory approach in common. Grounded theorists also adopt the inductive, comparative, and emergent approach to check and refine the development of concepts, categories, and a theory. They also agree that grounded theory is an iterative process of moving back and forth as they constantly compares data and concepts (Glaser & Strauss, 1967; Strauss & Corbin, 1998; Charmaz, 2008).
In order to answer the qualitative research questions, choosing the best qualitative approach is crucial (Richards & Morse, 2007). Turning point events among first generation older Korean immigrants were rarely studied and little is known about what turning point events influence travel styles among first generation Korean immigrants and how these turning point events influence their travel style. Inductive grounded theory allows us to understand the meanings of these events and the process of changes of travel styles after the turning point events.

Given the research questions in the present study: *What are the turning point events, what turning point events influence travel styles and how these turning point events influence travel styles among first generation older Korean immigrants?*, the grounded theory approach was chosen, developed by Barney G. Glaser and Anselm L. Strauss, has been applied for the last four decades and demonstrated the usefulness of the grounded theory approach for systematically collecting and analyzing data (Suddaby, 2006). There are several reasons for using the grounded theory. First, this study examined the changes of travel styles over time and the influences of significant events people have experienced across their life span. Grounded theory explores process and change over time and asks participants, “What is going on here?,” in order to learn from participants how they understand a process or a situation (Richards & Morse, 2007). Second, the methods and analysis of grounded theory attempt to identify stages and phases through detailed exploration with theoretical sensitivity. The key goal was to develop new theoretical concepts from the data and understand the core concepts. New theoretical concepts from the data can also provide new domains or new concepts to an existing
theory (Strauss & Corbin, 1998). In this study, the guiding theoretical framework can provide insightful concepts into life-span theory, family life cycle, and travel styles based on Cohen’s novelty and familiarity continuum. Third, the turning point perspective and travel styles may constantly change, thus grounded theory is the best approach for leading the researcher to flexible and active inquiry of events over time. Researchers actively explore events’ characteristics, causes, antecedents, and consequences of events as well as consistently compare event characteristics. As a result, researchers thoroughly explore detailed knowledge, similarities and differences of events and the trajectory of the events. Finally, all identified concepts were included in the integrated theory (Richards & Morse, 2007). The techniques for developing a theory grounded from data followed the guidelines developed by Strauss and Corbin (1990, 1998).

The research’s philosophical standpoint is Strauss’ symbolic interactionism. Corbin (2008) pointed out that people experience external events such as a war, the 9/11 attack, and accidents, but the process of individuals’ interaction how they respond to these events and take their action is more important than the events themselves. Each person experiences events and gives meanings to, and deal with the events in light of their own experiences based on different characteristics (i.e., gender, time and place, cultural, political, religious backgrounds) (Corbin, 2008). In this manner, the grounded theory approach is a useful methodology to explore the research questions of this present study. Finally, grounded theory is an appropriate qualitative approach to generate an underlying theoretical explanation for different travel styles among first generation Korean immigrants. The aim of this present study is the development of a midrange
theory which explains the process of the relationship between turning point events and travel style drawn from the data. The emerged theory provides a deeper understanding of turning point events and travel style among first generation Korean immigrants.

Summary

The present study explored the nature of travel styles among older adults. The examination of the relationship of the personal life turning point events and the travel style among older adults provided important information about how older adults develop their travel styles and how significant life events have influenced their travel styles over time.

It was assumed that critical events and changes occurred in people’s lives as they age. A life-course perspective and a life-developmental perspective were employed. Levinson’s life course model (Levinson et al., 1978) suggests specific diverse life stages in one’s developmental life span perspective. In addition, a life-course perspective allows us to investigate related changes, more self-regulated and adapted to their changed situations as they age (Baltes & Baltes, 1990), and positive adaptations to constraints (McGuire & Norman, 2005; McGuire, Kleiber, Aybar-Damali, Norman, 2008).

Accumulated life lessons that were learned by experiencing positive and negative life events form personal, internal and external resources that become available to individuals from early childhood to later adulthood (Ryff, Singer, Love, & Essex, 1998). The important point of these frameworks is that the significant events occur over a continuous period of time and the exact timing of change does not exist.
These continuities and changes in life are interrelated with work, family, community, and other leisure and travel activities (Kelly, 1999). The family life cycle has guided research as a useful framework and demonstrated the influences of life events and different travel patterns and preferences among various family units (Collins & Tisdell, 2002a; Lin & Lehto, 2006; Oppermann, 1995). An important part of the family life cycle is various family stages based on age, marital status, employment, and the age of children. One important implication of this perspective is family role. Each family member has multiple roles (Mattessich & Hill, 1987). This is a useful tool to account for different travel patterns among diverse family stages at the aggregate level (Mattessich & Hill, 1987).

In the present study, the term “travel style” is chosen to examine tourists’ preferences for travel related services, travel activities, novel or familiar cultures, and destination choice because this term refers to these multiple meanings. Travel styles and the actual travel behaviors provide important information. Researchers have attempted to provide empirical evidence on the usefulness of psychographic travel types. The travel style is a useful means to predict travel preferences of independent or group travels and understand tourists’ differences (Plog, 1990, 2002; Gibson & Yiannakis, 2002).

The present study took a broad approach by combining the individual and social dimensions of life transition and travel style. It also analyzed both the events and episodes that individuals experience throughout their life time as well as the social roles and social relationships in an effort to understand the larger context of travel styles, rather than focusing on specific types of activities during travel.
The turning point analysis presents what types of events people in a specific transition in life experience, how events influence them, and the significance of these events and life changes (Weiss, 1997; Wethington, Cooper, & Holmes, 1998). The turning point analysis also provided narrative episodes of the stories surrounding the turning point events. Living involves lots of events, thoughts, and interactions that form a unique personal identity in one’s life course (McAdams, Josselson, Lieblich, 2001). Life stage studies about adult development and aging focused on mapping various life transitions or phrases which predict sequences of life developmental process (Levinson, 1978) or focused on social and historical context and roles, and interpersonal relationships of adult development (Elder, 1986, 1996). These narrative episodes account for the major transitions which change our lives in our social and cultural worlds. The turning point analysis may cover not only on-time transitions of life, such as getting married in young adulthood, having children, and retiring around 65, but also unexpected changes in the psychosocial perspective, such as divorce, accidents, personal trauma, or religious turning points (McAdams et al., 2001). Sometimes the changes in transitions are conscious or sometimes people are unaware of change until they think back on their lives. The life stories and travel styles of older adults can map out important turning point events and meanings of significant transitions and changes in their travel styles over time.
CHAPTER III

METHODS

The following sections outline the methods of the present study in order to explore its goals: 1) research site, 2) definition of first generation older Korean immigrants, 3) study participants, 4) data collection steps, 5) procedures, 6) interview questions, and 7) data analysis (a grounded theory analysis).

Research Site

According to the U.S. Census (2011), the Korean immigrant population grew rapidly; there were approximately 270,000 Korean immigrants. After the United States changed its immigration policy in 1965, about 30,000 Korean immigrants moved to the United States annually between 1965 and 1984. The peak of Korean immigration was between 1985 and 1987; at this time, approximately 35,000 Koreans immigrated annually. The number of Korean immigration declined between the 1990s and 2000s. Approximately 22,000 Koreans immigrated to the United States in 2010. A total of Korean immigrants who received U.S citizenship were 1,332,387 in 2010, making South Korea the eleventh largest immigration country (U.S. Census, 2011).

The influx of Korean immigrants increased rapidly in Atlanta, Georgia over the past ten years. The 2010 U. S. census reported that there were 23,000 Korean immigrants residing in Atlanta, Georgia. Although the actual number of the Korean population is much higher in states with major metropolitan areas, such as California, New York, New
Jersey, Illinois, Washington, and Atlanta, Georgia showed the highest influx of a Korean American population which doubled, comparing the previous year between 2003 and 2006. The percentage change in Atlanta was the highest among the 50 states in the U. S. (U.S. Census, 2011).

Korean communities in Atlanta have grown because several Korean companies recruit bilingual employees (i.e., those who speak Korean and English), and Korean Americans move to Atlanta to fulfill the needs of the growing Korean population by running small businesses, such as unique restaurants, grocery markets, and shopping centers. Holt (2004) illustrated that this change may be because Korean immigrants sought new economic opportunities and came to Atlanta. As a result, they helped create the new economic booms in the suburban areas of Atlanta. These Korean American communities are located within the I-285 beltway, and the majority of Korean Americans live in Doraville, Duluth, and Atlanta, Georgia.

The research team contacted three main life-long learning institutions for first generation older Korean Americans, which are located in Doraville, Duluth, and Atlanta, Georgia and the most popular life-long institutes for first generation Korean immigrants. The Korean American Senior Association (KASA) provides several programs, such as tap-dancing, playing Korean traditional musical instruments, or lectures offered by retired Korean professors from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Tuesday to Friday. KASA provides not only education and recreation services, but it also offers food and snacks for over a hundred Korean Americans. Older Korean Americans can either participate in recreational activities or build social relationships with others as they sit around tables.
and talk with other people. The second institution was a senior life-long learning school, New Days Church, has provided four regular educational and recreational classes about political and social issues, music, healthy lifestyle, and yoga to senior Korean Americans every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the past 16 years. After four classes, lunch is provided for older adult students. The third institution was a senior life-long learning school. The Korea Community Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, provides educational services every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It also offers similar programs like other senior life-long institutes.

The three senior life-long learning schools’ educational and recreational activity programs are similar. The differences between New Days Church’s, Korea Community Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, and KASA’s are whether worship and prayers are included or not because two schools are run by church organizations and pastors. However, older Korean adults attend New Days Church’s school and Korea Community Presbyterian Church of Atlanta regardless of their religion. Some older Korean Americans attend all three schools because each school provides their services on different days of the week. The three life-long learning schools are all non-profit organizations to provide various educational and recreational programs to those who had difficulty to use American senior centers due to lack of language fluency, transportation, or social networks. Although two life-long learning schools for seniors are run by Churches, older adult participants had a choice to attend these schools regardless of their religion or their church membership.
Definition of First Generation older Korean Immigrants

First generation older Korean immigrants were chosen as a group for examining turning point events and travel styles and the influence of turning point events on travel style. A general definition of first generation immigrants were those born in foreign countries and immigrated to America, and second generation immigrants were those who were born in America after their parents immigrated to America (Choi, 2006). The two different generations are distinguished by their level of language fluency and assimilation, and Americanization (Choi, 2004). First generation Korean immigrants are more likely to face challenges related to naturalizing with American life. However, first generation immigrants who arrived in America at the age of one can be fully melted into American life. Therefore, in this present study, the definition of first generation immigrants are those who were born in foreign countries and immigrated to America, those that have the heritage of their original county, those with ethnic language fluency (i.e., speaking, reading, and writing), and those with native ethnic values and norms (Chan, 2006; Zhou, 1997).

The data for this study were collected from first generation older Korean immigrants who fit the definition of first generation immigrant, are 55 years of age or over, and attend Korean American senior institutes in the Atlanta, Georgia region. The participants’ age was limited to 55 because previous senior travelers were consistently defined as adults aged 55 and over in the tourism literature. Older Korean immigrants who have lived in the United States for at least five years at the time of data collection were also selected. There were several reasons for these criteria. First, we wanted to
ensure that first generation immigrants had more difficulties due to English fluency, different cultural norms and values. Immigration can be one of the turning point events experienced among older Korean immigrants as it involves learning new ethnic values and norms and adapting to the new environment. Second, we assumed that significant events influence travel behavior among this population. By exploring how they have developed their travel style over their life course, the influences of turning point events on travel style can be identified. Third, older Korean immigrants who have lived in the U.S. for at least five years are chosen because that was considered to be a sufficient time to adapt to the new cultural environment as well as reflect upon the adaptation process and their travel styles after immigration.

Study Participants

The participants in the present study consisted of a purposeful sampling of 33 older Korean immigrants living in the Korean communities in Doraville, Duluth, and Atlanta, Georgia. In order to recruit information-rich participants, it was essential to determine what selection criteria were important in selecting the interview participants or sites to be studied (Patton, 2002). LeCompte and Preissle (1993) used the term “a criteria-based selection,” which means that a researcher “create[s] a list of the attributes essential” and then “proceed[s] to find or locate a unit matching the list” (p.70). The criteria-based selection reflects the purpose of study and leads the researcher to identify information-rich participants. Therefore, participants were chosen based on age, gender, and number of years following immigration. Attendance of these life-long learning schools and
diversity of living arrangements (e.g., types of a housing and residential area) were also considered in selecting the interviewees. The minimum age of this present study was 55 years-old because previous studies about senior travelers include Baby Boomers and older adults. Although the minimum age was 55 years-old, the average age of the participants of these three life-long organizations is approximate 72 years-old. Gender and living arrangements were also controlled. For example, in the Korean American Senior Association, age was easily identified because similar age groups seated together and older Korean Americans in life-long learning schools tended to seat the same table every time they attended. Living arrangements were identified by free bus shuttles of the life-long learning schools. Older age groups who aged late 70s and 80s came to the schools from 9 a.m. and younger older groups who aged early 60s and 70s tended to come to the schools from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. to attend recreational programs such as line dancing, Korean traditional music instruments, card games, and yoga.

Moreover, the minimum length of immigration was set at five years. Because immigration to the U.S. was considered a significant turning point, older Korean Americans needed enough time to have adapted to their new cultural environments in the U.S. They were also able to share their changed life styles and travel styles after immigration.

Data Collection Steps

In order to gather solid information, the researcher followed the data collection steps as suggested by Creswell (2007): 1) locating site/individual, 2) gaining access and
making rapport, 3) purposefully sampling, 4) collecting data using interviews, 5) recording information, and 6) storing data.

Site and Individual

Creswell (2007) recommended that a researcher start by choosing a site or an individual to study. Participants for this study were recruited from the Korean American Senior Association (KASA) and the life-long learning schools for older Korean Americans because this was where senior members of the Korean communities are located. Older Korean immigrants were purposively sampled from these organizations that provide services to first generation older Korean Americans in Atlanta area. The sample criteria are that participants needed to be at least 55 years old and be a first-generation Korean immigrant living in Atlanta. Fifty-five was the age selected to get a perspective during later life and the turning point events in the later life stage.

Access and Rapport

This study followed the guidelines and the ethical practice of the Clemson University Institutional Review Board (IRB). The participants were recruited after receiving approval from the IRB (45CFR 46). The primary research also received the permission from three life-long learning schools for first generation older Korean immigrants. The directors of three schools introduced the primary researcher to attendees of these schools and encouraged them to participate in this study before the researcher recruited the study participants.
Before the interview session started, participants were informed about the purpose of this study: to gain knowledge about turning point events and travel styles among older adults and the influences of turning point events and changed travel styles. Moreover, the participants received a consent form that they needed to review and signed in order to participate in the present study. Interviews were conducted in a place that ensured confidentiality. On the consent form, Creswell (2007) suggested to include the following six elements: 1) participants can withdraw from the study whenever they want, 2) the purpose of the study and the procedures for data collection needed to be included, 3) participants were informed that the interview contents were confidential and protected, 4) if there were risks associated with participation in the study, participants should be informed, 5) the signature of both the participant and the research were presented in the consent form. The consent forms are written in English and Korean and attached in Appendix A.

Theoretical Sampling

The present study collected samples purposively. This means that the researcher selected the research site and individuals that contributed to the development of a grounded theory. In order to maximize opportunities to compare the collected data and uncover various categories, theoretical sampling (Morse & Field, 1995; Strauss & Corbin, 1998) was employed. Theoretical sampling is accumulative. The researcher gathered as many categories as possible in initial sampling. Once some categories were found, the researcher aimed to develop, constantly compare, and saturated those categories (Strauss
& Corbin, 1998). Categories means groups of similar concepts which gathered the key points and codes of the data and the identified categories were used to generate a grounded theory (Strauss & Corbin, 1998).

There are four sequential sampling types in theoretical sampling. First, open sampling means to select interviewees who meet the criteria of the study and find homogeneous participants; and in the open sampling, there are no concepts which have a proven theoretical framework. Second, axial sampling is a means to discover categories and their subcategories and develop categories that emerged from the interviews. In the axial sampling, researchers look for older adults who are heterogeneous to confirm and disconfirm the emerged categories, uncover new categories, and verify similarities and differences among the categories. Third, selective sampling means to integrate the categories to develop a refined theory and validate the categories. Finally, discriminate sampling means to look for an interviewee in the previously selected site again or find new ones to gather the data to saturate concepts and complete the data collection (Strauss & Corbin, 1998).

The sampling was continued until all categories are saturated. Creswell (2007) recommended interviewing 20 to 30 individuals in order to build a well-saturated theory. “Theoretical Saturation” in the ground theory means that the concepts include adequate information. The researcher continued to sample when new or relevant data do not emerge, when the key concepts of the theory were developed, and when the relationships between categories were well validated by consistently comparing, modifying and adding the existing data against new data (Glaser & Strauss, 1967; Strauss & Corbin, 1990).
Collecting Data Using Interviews

In a grounded theory study, interviews played an important role in the gathering of data. The present study focused on how participants perceived their past events as turning points in their changed travel styles. In order to identify these turning point events, a one-on-one interview was appropriate to answer the research questions. In addition, the Retrospective Interview Technique (RIT) was employed for collecting turning point data (Huston, Surra, Fitzgerald, & Cate, 1981). In order to identify these past events, interviews were appropriate to answer the research questions because the participants shared their lived experiences during interviews. A list of broad questions about turning point events, travel styles and influences of turning point events on travel styles were developed to guide the interview.

Before the interview session started, participants were informed about the purpose of this study: to gain knowledge about this present study, and they received a consent form that includes the name of the main researchers, the purpose of the study, the right of the participant, the confidential issue of the interview content, the expected rewards of the participants, contacts of the researchers, and the signature of the participant and the interviewer.

The researcher focused on rich description for obtaining a detailed understanding of significant events and travel styles throughout the life-span. For rich and thick interviews, the interview lasted for an hour and a half. Older adult interviewees can freely stop the interview because they may have health problems or refuse an hour-long interview. The researcher stopped the interview anytime when the interviewees wanted.
Recording Information and Storing Data

Audio-recording, memoing, and researcher’s reflection note as well as interviews were employed. These multiple modes of data collection were useful as the secondary data of the interviews in this grounded theory study (Creswell, 2007). The interview contents were only accessible to the researcher and the research team. Participants were reassured that the interviews were not being used for other purposes, it was kept in a locked file in the researcher’s office and personal computer.

Pilot Interviews

Three semi-structured interviews were conducted for a pilot test in order to have an initial run of interview questions that the researcher planned to use. The three pilot interviews were conducted to polish interview questions and explore further and deeper understandings of research questions. For participant selection for the pre-test, the convenience sampling techniques were used. Three older adults who volunteered were contacted for an in-depth interview to express their opinions on the research questions and to identify any initial questions they found to be confusing or ambiguous. The respondents for the pilot interview were two, first-generation older Korean immigrants and a couple of American older adults. They were over 70 years of age. The two, first-generation older Korean immigrants were able to read and speak Korean fluently and were interviewed in Korean. The first Korean immigrant woman was contacted through a Korean community to which the researcher had access in Clemson, South Carolina. The second pilot interview was conducted in Seneca, near Clemson. The third Korean
immigrant man was contacted through an organization of Korean American Senior Association for the third pilot interview.

These pilot interviews suggested that the researcher needed at least one hour and a half or ideally two hours for an interview in order to obtain rich information from interviewees about their significant events across life course, changes on their life and travel styles, and specific travel styles in detail. Second, a Life History Chart appeared to be a useful means to collect data. It helped participants to recall their previous experiences and arrange the year of their turning point events and travel experiences. Third, the pilot interviews suggested that gender may be important in selecting the interview participants. Male and female participants reported different turning point events. For example, employment, graduation from college, and family events were the most significant turning point events for male participants. Marriage and having children or grandchildren were the most significant turning point events for females. In this present study, a gender ratio was balanced purposively. Fourth, the interview language should be Korean. Because the target interviewees are first-generation Korean Americans, their primary language is Korean, and they also prefer speaking Korean to English. Fifth, interview questions about travel style should be more detailed to identify travel styles among interviewees. The initial interview questions about travel style were “Do you like travel?”, “Did you travel recently?”, “Please tell me about your travel experience”, and “Could you tell me your specific travel settings?” Interview questions are developed specifically and presented in Appendix C.
Interview Language

Based on the results of pilot interviews, Korean was used as the main language for communication in order to produce rich descriptive data. Interview questions and the interview consent form were translated into Korean. Finding appropriate words of Korean from English to convey a clear meaning of interview questions was not problematic. For example, “turning point” is translated into “Jeon-Hwan-Jeom (전환점),” which is the point changing a direction or a condition. In pilot interviews, Korean Americans understood the meaning of their turning point events in life when the researcher asked what “In-seng-ui Jeon-Hwan-Jeom (인생의 전환점)” were. In-seng-ui Jeon-Hwan-Jeom (인생의 전환점) is “turning points in lifetime” in English. Older Korean participants in pilot interviews understood exactly the meaning of turning points in life.

Each interview was digitally audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim in Korean, and the interview was translated from Korean into English. The translated data was checked by a Korean-English bilingual person to make sure the correct translation was made from Korean into English. Interview Questions were in Appendix C.

Data Analysis

In order to answer the research question, the grounded theory analysis was used (Glaser & Strauss, 1967; Strauss & Corbin, 1990, 1998). The grounded theory analysis, developed by Glaser and Strauss (1967), has been used to identify turning points in previous research (Baxter et al., 1999; Graham, 1997) for categorizing the turning points that emerged from the RIT.
Coding

The primary researcher conducted 33 interviews and continued interviewing until the categories of data are saturated. Categories are defined as “concepts, derived from data that stand for phenomena” (Strauss & Corbin 1998, p.114). In other words, a category is a unit of explained and elaborated information concerning complex events, happenings, and instances (Creswell, 2007). For comparing emerging categories, the constant comparative method of data analysis was used (Strauss & Corbin 1998). There are three steps in this coding process: open coding, axial coding, and selective coding.

Open coding

Open coding is a beginning step to know the collected data and open all possible theoretical directions by reading the data (Corbin & Strauss, 2008). Charmaz (2006) refers to open coding as “initial coding.” There are at least three ways of open coding. Line-by-line analysis is able to develop categories through analyzing line-by-line and word by word. The second way is to analyze a whole sentence or paragraph. The third way is to analyze the entire data and compare the similarities and differences (Strauss & Corbin, 1998). Line-by-line analysis for open coding was chosen for this present study in order to generate initial categories for all interview texts.

Strauss and Corbin (1998) illustrated that the types of categories emerging repeated patterns of events, happenings or interactions (core phenomena). They consist of casual conditions, strategies, contextual and intervening conditions and consequences. Causal condition represents “sets of events or happenings that influence phenomena”
Intervening conditions are factors that reduce or buffer the impact of causal conditions. Strategies are ways to “handle situations, problems, and issues that they encounter are terms actions/interactions” (Strauss & Corbin, 1998, p.133). Contextual conditions are “the specific sets of conditions (patterns of conditions) that intersect dimensionally at this time and place to create the set of circumstances or problems to which persons respond through actions/interactions” (Strauss & Corbin, 1998, p.132). By implementing line-by-line coding, the primary researcher examined those conditions and strategies in the emerging categories in order to capture core phenomena. Clarke (2005) emphasized that the memo and the field notes are important to capture initial visual discourse and the researchers’ narratives. These field notes were used for further analysis. The next step is axial coding.

**Axial coding**

Axial coding is the process of re-analyzing categories systematically found by open coding. The axis of Axial coding means a category (Saldaña, 2009). The process aims to find reassembling data to identify the interrelationships among categories and find subcategories based on the categories’ properties and dimensions (Strauss & Corbin, 1998). Strauss and Corbin (1998) suggest relating an emerging category to its subcategories as the researcher conducts open coding and axial coding together. Through axial coding, the properties and the dimensions of a category and a subcategory can be obtained. The properties and the dimensions of a category are the important sources that help the researcher understand the conditions, causes, and consequences of a process.
Axial coding reduces the number of open coding and combine similar codes. It also develops more than one category. Axial coding is a transitional coding process between open coding and selective coding (Saldaña, 2009).

Memo

The main interviewer continually wrote memos during interviews and wrote research notes after interviews in order to record my thoughts and observations. All memos and research notes were analyzed to find the key codes, concepts, and categories. Analytic memo is an important step of Axial coding.

Selective coding

In open coding, the categories were developed from the data. In axial coding, the categories were systematically related to subcategories. The final coding was selective coding which was the final step of integrating and refining the identified categories for developing themes of the study. Furthermore, several categories were reduced as the core categories and salient themes were found. Therefore, some researchers referred to Selective Coding as Theoretical Coding. The process of selective coding helped locate a larger theoretical framework. Selective Coding worked like “an umbrella that covered and accounted for all other codes and categories formulated thus far in grounded theory analysis” (Saldaña, 2009, p.163). For developing a theory, Strauss and Corbin (1998) recommended that the core categories should be identified to increase precise explanatory power of the established theory and also that a category should have sufficient
information. The three coding processes of this grounded theory study assisted in the formation of the central concepts and categories as well as refined them in order to develop a theory.

Saturation

The coding process stopped when the categories became saturated. Saturation means that there is no more new information and no new categories that emerge from the data. Creswell (2007) recommended interviewing homogeneous groups first and start to find different groups for filling out the gaps between the properties and dimensions of categories. The researcher interviewed 33 participants. The contents of the data were considered to be saturated and when the data was saturated and the new categories were not emerged, the interviews were completed.

Issues of Trustworthiness

In qualitative research, researchers recommended clarifying to the readers how the researcher has accounted for trustworthiness. In order to conduct convincing research, validity and reliability should be ensured. Guba and Lincoln (1998) coined the terms “credibility and dependability” instead of “validity and reliability,” which were traditionally used in quantitative research because different criteria were needed to fit to qualitative research. Credibility refers to whether the researcher’s description matches up with participants’ thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. Therefore, the researcher made effort to describe the situation from the informant’s eyes. Dependability refers to whether
researchers study the same phenomenon. Transferability is the substitute for generalizability. It is well known that qualitative research cannot account for a general population. Transferability is also challenging for qualitative researchers due to the uniqueness of the phenomenon (Guba & Lincoln, 1998). Confirmability is related to objectivity. Confirmability is the degree to which the results analyzed by the researcher can be confirmed by others.

Table 3.1 Credibility and Dependability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credibility (Validity)</th>
<th>Dependability (Reliability)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Recording research field notes</td>
<td>• Providing explanation how the data were collected in detail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Persisting involvement with the research sites</td>
<td>• Coding interviews with colleagues for inter-rater reliability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Collecting multiple sources of data (Audio recording, memoing, and observation)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Triangulation of data collection</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Disconfirm and challenge of the emergent findings or expectations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Member check</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Peer debriefing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For increasing validity of the present study, the procedures of the data used investigator triangulation (Maxwell, 2005) and member-checks (Creswell, 2007). First, member checks were conducted informally. The respondents were asked whether the transcribed data was correct to make sure the findings and the interview contents are well reflected in the data. The interviewees are regular participants of the senior organizations.
Because the researcher collected data every weekend from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the previous participants were easily contacted every weekend and asked additional questions. Second, all collected data were audio-recorded and transcribed. Moreover, research memos were taken during the interviews to ensure thick descriptions of the data. Third, after interviews, the researcher wrote research notes and observation memos. Fourth, the analysis of the collected data from interviews was discussed during peer data analysis meetings. The main researcher completed the primary analyst of the data, and the research team questioned and challenged the concepts and the categories that emerged from the data during the analysis.
CHAPTER IV
FINIGNS

This chapter presents demographic profiles of the participants and the findings of the three research questions. First, demographic profiles of thirty three interviewees were described. Second, the types of turning point events which first generation older Korean immigrants experienced throughout their life course are described. Reasons for why they considered a particular event to be a turning point in life as well as the outcomes of these events are also addressed. Third, the past and current travel styles among first-generation older Korean immigrants in this study are described. Fourth, the chapter addresses whether these turning point events influence travel styles among first generation older Korea immigrants.

**Demographic Profiles of the Participants**

In order to study travel styles among first-generation older Korean immigrants, the researcher interviewed people at three life-long schools for first-generation older Korean immigrants. These took place in Georgia at the following locations: Doraville, Duluth, and Atlanta. Interview time ranged from approximately 30-90 minutes. The researcher collected data between February to April, 2012. Participants volunteered to participate in the interviews for this study. Interviews were conducted between 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; appointment times were chosen by the interviewees, and appointment scheduling
did not conflict with recreational classes or lectures. A total of 33 first-generation older Korean immigrants were interviewed in this study (See Table 4.1).

The sample consisted of 20 females and 13 males. Ages ranged from 59 to 87. The average age was 74 years old. Twenty one participants were married, nine were widows, and three were divorced. All males were married. All widowed and divorced participants were females. Twenty two interviewees were retired, seven were housewives, and four had part-time work or full-time work.

### Table 4.1 Demographic Profiles of Interview Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interviewee</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Year of Immigration</th>
<th>Health problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diana</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Widow</td>
<td>Retired (Restaurant)</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Diabetes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Retired (Dancing teacher)</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christine</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Widow</td>
<td>Housewife</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katherine</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Widow</td>
<td>Retired (Cashier)</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dexter</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Doctor</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paige</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Widow</td>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Widow</td>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Heart surgery various small disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>1978</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interviewee</td>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Marital Status</td>
<td>Occupation</td>
<td>Year of Immigration</td>
<td>Health problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>----------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Widow</td>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Brain surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Partly work</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Housewife</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Widow</td>
<td>Housewife</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Widow</td>
<td>Partly work</td>
<td>1978</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Retired (Mechanic)</td>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Heart problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Widow</td>
<td>Housewife</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Retired (Mechanic)</td>
<td>1978</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Retired (Grocery Store)</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>Various small disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Retired (Doctor)</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Cancer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Disk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Housewife (Teacher)</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Travel Agency</td>
<td>1978</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Retired (Grocery Store)</td>
<td>1975</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table Continued
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interviewee</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Year of Immigration</th>
<th>Health problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joe</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silvia</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Housewife</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophie</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Housewife</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billy</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Retired</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Their years of immigration ranged from 1966 to 2008. One of these immigrated to the U.S. in the 1960s, eleven in the 1970s, twelve in the 1980s, four in the 1990s, and five in the 2000s. Their main purposes of immigration were for their children’s education, for a better life than life in Korea, and/or to financially support their family in Korea. Eight reported health problems such as diabetes, heart diseases, brain tumor, cancer, high blood pressure, arthritis, and various chronic diseases. Twenty five participants reported that they were in good health condition.

All of the participants presently live in Korean American communities located in these Georgian cities: Doraville, Duluth, and Atlanta. All attended one of three senior life-long learning schools from these areas. Korean American Senior Association (KASA) provides programs from Tuesday to Friday. New Days Church and Korean Community Presbyterian Church of Atlanta provide programs on Saturday and Sunday. Therefore,
some older adults attend both KASA and New Days Church or KASA and Korean Community Presbyterian Church of Atlanta. Some attend only KASA because of their religious belief and some attend only a church program.

The short profiles of each participant were noted in Appendix D. In order to maintain confidentiality, participants’ names were substituted with pseudonyms.

List of Turning Point Events

The first research question was the following: What are the turning point events in the lives of older Korean immigrants? From 33 participants, a total of 151 turning point events were reported. One participant, Howard, mentioned no turning point in his life until now. Other participants mentioned two to eight turning point events throughout their life course. Table 4.2 summarizes the types and frequency of turning point events. Forty four turning point events were identified.

The most frequently mentioned turning point event was immigration. Thirty one participants considered immigration to be a turning point event in their life. One participant, Howard, did not have any turning point events, and another participant, Dexter, did not reported immigration as a turning point event. They did not consider immigration to have significantly changed their lives; however, Dexter reported that getting a job at a hospital in Boston was a turning point event for him. Immigration seems a significant life event for almost all participants.

Retirement was the second turning point event. The majority of the participants had operated a small business, such as a grocery store, a liquor store, a restaurant, or a gas
station. After retirement, they had more free time and different life styles. Some participants bequeathed their business to grown-up children and helped them to run the business. Some participants sought a part-time job after retirement because they were still healthy and needed to pay bills. As participants aged, personal illnesses were mentioned as a turning point event. They had chronic diseases, diabetes, heart diseases, high blood pressure, and cancer. However, there are participants, who are in their late 70s and 80s who reported that they are in good health condition and do not have any serious diseases.

Table 4.2 Turning Point Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Turning Point Events</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Immigration to the U.S.</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>20.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Retirement</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Personal Illness</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Death of Spouse</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Accident</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Getting a Job</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Starting Business</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Move to a New City in the U.S.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Marriage</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Korean War</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Life-long Schools for Seniors</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Business Failure</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Business Success</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Divorce</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Mission Trip</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Change in Health of a Family Member</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Remarriage</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Death of a Child</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Traveling Internationally during Childhood</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turning Point Events</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Marital Separation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 U.S. Citizenship</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Rehabilitation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Military Service</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Books</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Life Experience in North Korea</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Marriage of Grown-up Children</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Immigration to Paraguay</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Love Affair of a Spouse</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 After War, Returning to Korea</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Homesick (Korea)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 Attempting Suicide</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33 A Close Family Member's Study Abroad in the U.S.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34 An Enemy during the Korean War was Ready to Shoot Him</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 61st Birthday</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 Marital Conciliation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37 Buying a House</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38 A Grown-up Child Got a Job and Left</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39 Family Conflict</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 Taking Care of Grandchildren</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41 Giving Birth</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42 Learning Skills</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43 Diet (Lose Weight)Health Concerns</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44 Changed Law (Medicaid)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 Job Promotion</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The initial coding presents a total of 151 turning point events reported from the interviewees (see Appendix E). Several events were repeatedly reported by interviewees. For example, immigration to the United States was mentioned by 31 interviewees and retirement was mentioned by 9 interviewees. Through axial coding, all events reported
from 33 interviewees were reduced to 45 unique turning point events. Table 4.3 shows that 45 turning point events appeared.

Analysis of Participants’ Turning Point Events

The list of turning point events was categorized through the selective coding process. The selective coding was to develop related concepts. The analysis of participants’ responses yielded eleven categories of turning point events. The list of the categories was presented in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3 Categories of Turning Point Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Subcategories of the Turning Point Events</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Immigration and Move</td>
<td>Immigration to the U.S.</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Move to a new city in the U.S</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Immigration to Paraguay</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Immigration Stabilization</td>
<td>U.S. Citizenship</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Buying a house</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Work</td>
<td>Retirement</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Starting business</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Getting a job</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Business failure</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Work</td>
<td>Business success</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Learning a job skill</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Job promotion</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Changed law (Medicaid)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table Continued
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Subcategories of the Turning Point Events</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4) Marriage</td>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Divorce</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Remarriage</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marital Separation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Marriage</td>
<td>Love affair of a spouse</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marital conciliation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Family</td>
<td>Marriage of grown-up children</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A grown-up child got a job and left home</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Taking care of grandchildren</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Giving birth</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family conflict</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A close family member’s study abroad in the U.S.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6) Death of a Family Member</td>
<td>The death of a child</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The death of a spouse</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7) Health Problems</td>
<td>Personal illness</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Change in health of a family member</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diet (health concern)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8) Accidents</td>
<td>Accident</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rehabilitation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Attempting a suicide</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9) Leisure and Travel</td>
<td>Life-long learning school for seniors</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table Continued
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Subcategories of the Turning Point Events</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9) Leisure and Travel</td>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mission trip</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Traveling internationally during childhood</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Books (Bible, a book for life goals)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10) War and Military Services</td>
<td>Korean War</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Military Service</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Life experience in North Korea</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>After war, coming back to Korea</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>An enemy during the Korean War</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>was ready to shoot him</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11) Home Country’s Cultural Event</td>
<td>Homesick (Korea)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>61th Birthday (Hwan-gob)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These turning point events were categorized based on its similar characteristics of events and consequences of events. For example, Immigration and Move included events such as immigration to the U.S., move to a new city in the U.S., and immigration to Paraguay which interviewees moved to a new environment and needed to experience an adaptation process. Immigration Stabilization included two different events such as the U.S. citizenship and buying a house. However, the interviewees illustrated the same consequences after these events. They felt a sense of attachment in the United States and
a sense of home after these events. Moreover, the unique turning point events were
categorized based on similar characteristics such as work, marriage, family, death of
family members, and health problems.

These categories included 1) Immigration and Move (immigration to the U.S.,
move to a new city in the U.S., immigration to Paraguay); 2) Immigration Stabilization
(the U.S. citizenship, buying a house); 3) Work (retirement, starting a business, getting a
job, business failure, business success, learning a job skill (e.g., chiropractics), changed
law (e.g., Medicaid)); 4) Marriage (marriage, divorce, remarriage, marital separation,
marrriage of grown-up children, love affair of a spouse, marital conciliation), 5) Family (a
grown-up child got a job and left, taking care of grandchildren, giving birth, family
conflict, a close family member’s study abroad in the U.S.); 6) Death of a Family
Member (death of a grown-up child, death of a spouse); 7) Health Problems (change in
health of a family member, personal illness, diet); 8) Accidents (various accidents (car
accidents, fire, sequential accidents), rehabilitation after accidents, attempting suicide; 9)
Leisure and Travel (life-long schools for seniors, religion, mission trip, traveling
internationally during childhood, books); 10) War and Military Services (Korean War,
military service, life experience in North Korea, returning to Korea following war, when
an enemy during the Korean War was ready to shoot); 11) Home Country’s Cultural
Event (missing Korea, one’s 61th Birthday [환갑]:Hwan-gab]).
1) Immigration and Move

Immigration and Move consisted of events based on reports of immigration to the U.S., move to a new city in the U.S., immigration to Paraguay. In most instances, older Korean immigrants considered immigration and moving to be one of the most important turning point events in their life. Almost all people reported that immigration changed their life. Ten subcategories emerged from the data:

- Language barrier (English),
- Job
- Transportation
- Children’s education
- Living with grown-up children and taking care of grandchildren
- Lack of family connections in Korea
- Religion
- Sense of the importance of nature
- Changed personality
- Starting a new life

Table 4.4 Immigration and Move

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Turning Point Events</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immigration to the U.S.</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Move to a new city</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration to Paraguay</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Language barrier (English)

The majority of the interviewees experienced a language barrier and communication difficulties. The level of language proficiency varies among the interviewees. Several of the older adults who did not suffer the language barrier were highly educated and trained as a teacher, doctor, or interpreter. Twenty out of thirty three interviewees were not motivated to learn English because they believed that they were too old to learn English and would easily forget. For instance, Joe, who came to the U.S. in 1985 when he was 51 years old, said,

I refused to learn English because I felt that I was too old to learn English. I sought a job which I did not need to speak English for a year and was hired in a fabric factory. Now I still cannot speak English, but I have thick-skinned. I tell few words. Americans understand what I am talking about.

Another interviewee, Pamela, who came to the U.S. in 1987, had tried to learn English in the U.S. She mentioned, “As people age, older people’s brains did not work fast, but… I memorized many English words so that I could understand some English.”

Connor had been working for 30 years in an American company as an interpreter and mechanic. He cannot speak English as natives do, but he is confident in his English-language abilities. He commented:

There are lots of Korean Americans who cannot speak English. They may have lots inconvenient experiences. I can ask others to get information anywhere, but many people cannot ask a question due to English. For example, older Korean adults, who cannot speak English, may not know what to do when they meet a thief. I know an older adult who met a robber near a bank. Then the robber with a gun asked to give him his wallet, but my friend did not understand English, but did not move and stood. The robber hit my friend’s head with a gun. Do you think my friend wants to live here (America)? He went back to Korea.
Older Korean immigrants face a language barrier. When they have a family member who speaks English well, however, they do not experience the barrier with great severity. For instance, Emily, who came to the U.S. in 1986 and ran a grocery store, did not have many difficulties because her husband was an interpreter in the U.S. army in Korea. Because he is good at speaking English, he deals with customer claims and builds good partnerships with American companies.

Mary and Alan also were helped by their children when they needed to speak English. Even though they had a language barrier, they had no difficulties after immigration because their grown-up children took care of everything. Mary, who came to the U.S. in 1986 and ran a restaurant, commented:

The most changed thing is immigration. English is a problem to me. I used to take care of my four children and did not have much time to do other things in Korea, but after immigration, my children quickly adapted to this new environment in the U.S. and opened a restaurant. My children deal with everything and I worked at the kitchen in the restaurant. My children seemed to take care of me after immigration because of English.

Alan, who came to Georgia in 1991, commented:

I had lots of difficulties after immigration. I did not speak English well, but I believed that I am smart and able to deal with something happened in his store. My son also helped me to sell the products and deal with claims and customers’ complains.

Even though older Korean immigrants experience a language barrier, their young children attend school at an early age. The majority of their children speak English much better than their parents. As a result, whenever older adults need help with English, their children help them.
Job

Working in the United States is a change after immigration. Some people got a job before coming to the U.S. in order to earn a higher income than in Korea. Their aim was to support their family in Korea or to educate their children in a more advantageous environment. For instance, Cameron, who is a retired obstetrician, came to America to financially support families in Korea. Her father was an interpreter in the allied forces, however, he lost his job after the Korean War. She applied for an intern position at a hospital in the U.S. Her salary could help her sisters and brothers to attend schools.

Another interviewee, Michael was a retired mechanic with five children. He thought that educating his five children would be difficult in Korea because of his low income. He applied for a job in the U.S. and received a job offer as an interpreter and a mechanic. His English was not good, but he could speak Japanese and Korean and work for an automobile company.

Some interviewees changed their job after immigration. Due to the language barrier, the majority of the interviewees started to run a small business such as a grocery store, a liquor store, or a restaurant. For example, Alan came to Georgia in 1991. He was a public officer in Korea. His sister-in-law was a nurse in the U.S. and invited his family. He decided to immigrate to the U.S. for his son’s education. He started a small business instead of seeking an office job in America. His first business was a grocery store; however, after threatened by robbers with guns, he started a liquor store.

Changed job and different working conditions were reported as one of the changed things after immigration. Comparing to their job in Korea, the salary increased,
however, the length of work hours and the perceived work stress due to English appeared to increase.

**Transportation**

After immigration, lack of transportation was one of the barriers. Especially, older female interviewees found it difficult to access public transport or navigate the area. They did not know how to drive and felt anxious to learn how to drive because they may have a car accident. In addition, their children are also worried about their older parents and prefer to give them rides to a senior center and church. For instance, Teresa has lived in Georgia for fourteen years, but she did not go out many times.

I came to the U.S. to live with my son’s family when I was early 60 years old. At that time, a 60 years old person was considered as a very old person who cannot do anything. My son-in-law encouraged me to learn how to drive and get a driver’s license because I took care of grandchildren at that time and I may be able to give a ride and pick up my grandchildren. But my son said, “No.” because of my age. He said that he could drive anywhere for me. However, my son is busy and has his life. It seems impossible to give a ride anytime I want to go a grocery store, senior centers, shopping malls, or her friends’ house.

The major barrier among older Korean immigrants is lack of transportation access to places they need to go. The majority of male interviewees can drive a car and feel relatively free to go to places they want more than female interviewees.

**Children’s education**

One of the major purposes of immigration to the United States is children’s education. Many interviewees were proud of their children’s success. For example, Joe, a
retired employee at a fabric factory, is proud of his daughter who graduated from Emory University and became an ophthalmologist. Another interviewee, Michael, who is a retired mechanic, mentioned several times about his grown-up children’s university attendance. Their children graduated from Duke University, Georgia Tech University, Connell University, and Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Linda, who came to the U.S. in 2002 for her youngest child’s education, also commented,

Timing was just right. I did not wait for having permanent residence visa of the USA. My father’s brother invited all his families in Korea 14 years ago because he was lonely. My husband retired and my youngest daughter was 18 years old at that time. My daughter wanted to enter a university in the U.S. so we came to Georgia. As soon as I arrived here, I wanted to go back to Korea. I felt like all connections with my family ended. I also can’t speak English and have no friends in Georgia. However, my decision of immigration is right for my child.

Immigration is a major turning point mentioned when the interviewees reflect on their past. Older Korea immigrants have various barriers such as language, lack of transportation, and work; however, the success of children’s education seems to compensate for their efforts after immigration.

Living with grown-up children and taking care of grandchildren. According to Korean traditions, a grown-up child lives with older parents. Some interviewees immigrated to the U.S. to live with grown-up children. Female interviewees who lost their husband in Korea were invited by a grown-up child to live together in the United States. They help with housework and take care of grandchildren. For example, Joyce’s daughter met a second-generation Korea American and married him. Because he works
for a company in the U.S., her daughter immigrated to the U.S. After Joyce’s husband died of lung cancer, she lived alone for three years in Korea. Her daughters called Joyce almost every day by using an internet phone and encouraged her to move to the U.S. Joyce, who is 67 years old, refused to move in with her daughter and visited her daughter’s house in the U.S. for about a month. Three years later, she imagined if she moved to the U.S., she could have taken care of her grandchildren and helped with housework. She immigrated to the U.S.

My husband passed away due to lung cancer. Because I live alone in Korea, my daughters called me almost every day. They were worried about me a lot. …Internet is developed…They called me by an Internet phone. They told me, “Mom, come to my house, mom come to my house.” I visited my daughter’s house once. When I traveled back and forth to see my children, I saw many good aspects of the immigrants’ lives. After immigration, the reality was quite different.”

Paige, who is 87 years old, lived alone for decades in Korea. She decided to live with her second son in Georgia because she suddenly felt lonely and did not want to live alone when she was 81 years old. Six years ago, she called her son who kept asking her to live with him in the U.S. and told him that she was ready to go to his house. She did not want to live alone again and is satisfied with her life with her son’s family, but she misses Korea. She still has her house in Korea. At her house in Korea, there is antique furniture that her mother gave her when she married.

Christine, who is 72 years old, immigrated to the United States to help her daughter and take care of children in 2005. Her daughter studied abroad in the United States, received a M.S. degree, and got a job. She needed someone to take care of her
children. Her daughter and son-in-law are also a dual-income family. Therefore, she plays a role as a caregiver of her daughter’s family.

Almost all interviewees, who came to the United States recently, were invited to their grown-up children to live together. Therefore, these interviewees reported that the changed thing after immigration was living with a grown-child’s family.

*Lack of family connections in Korea*

Some older adults felt that their family connections were cut off after immigration. Even though advanced technology is available, the interviewees are often not familiar with using internet, smart phones, social network, or webcam chatting. They talk on the telephone or their children help them to use advanced communication technology. For example, Linda, a 64 year old housewife, came to the U.S. in 2002. After immigration, her older parents became sick. She worried about her parents in Korea while she took care of her family in the United States (from 2002 to 2007). She visited Korea annually for five years. After her parents died, she did not visit Korea for four years.

*Religion*

The majority of the interviewees attended a church. Some became devoted Christians after immigration and some attend a church to socialize with other Koreans. In Korea, the three popular religions are Buddhism, Protestantism, and Roman Catholicism. Even though there are many Protestant and Catholic churches in Georgia, temples for Buddhists are rarely found. Moreover, family members, who have lived in the U.S., are
more likely to attend church. Therefore, some interviewees changed their religion after immigration to the U.S. For instance, Robert, who was born in 1926, came to the U.S. six years ago to live with his grown-up children, changed his religion from Buddhism to Christianity because his daughter graduated from a theological college and his son-in-law is a pastor in a church. He recently started to attend the church with his family. He commented, “I believed in Buddhism in Korea, because of them, I now attend to church. And it is not easy to find a temple.” Because they cannot make American friends due to a lack of English proficiency, churches are important to the interviewees because it provides programs and offers a place to socialize with others in the Korean community.

*Sense of the importance of nature*

After immigration, older Korean immigrants prefer living in the U.S. because of the rich natural resources around their community. For instance, Linda, who came to the U.S. in 2002, missed Korea and planned to go back to Korea after her child’s graduation. Five years later, she realized that she lived in a wider space and around more beautiful trees compared to Korea. She loves her life in the U.S. and bought a house near a well-designed park. She does not need to live in an apartment anymore and commented, “I feel like I have a lot of fun and relaxing in my life in the U.S. comparing to Korea.”

Another participant, Teresa does not want to go back to Korea because the cities of Korea are too complex and her hometown is changed from what she used to know. She suffers from sore throats because of air pollution while she was in Korea.
I love nature, fresh air, and trees here (America). I cannot meet my friends freely, go out with her friends, and shopping, but my life in America is comfortable and relaxing because of nature in American.

Even though the interviewees have various barriers after immigration, they fully appreciate the natural resources in their lives. However, the interviewees realized the rich natural resources after they adapted to their new life in the U.S because they formerly had limited knowledge of the regions.

*Changed personality*

Some interviewees claimed that their personality seemed to change after immigration. For instance, Karen, who is a 70-year-old woman, came to America in 1991. There was no body supporting her to start a new business or introduce her to a job in the U.S. She had lots of difficulties adapting to her new life. She commented, “My personality seemed to be changed.” She used to be a traditional Korean woman who was obedient and subservient, but now she openly expresses her opinions.

Another interviewee, Pamela, who is a 68-year-old woman, came to the U.S. with her three young children in 1987. After immigration, her sister, who invited Pamela to the U.S., moved from Atlanta to New York. Pamela did not follow her sister, but stayed in Atlanta. She needed to learn how to drive as soon as she arrived in Atlanta because she did not receive a ride from her family members. One of her new friends taught her at an open field. Pamela commented,

I was a traditional Korean woman and depended on my husband. And then I got divorced and decided to move to the U.S. I need to be independent. Even though I
never drive a car in Korea, I learned how to drive. Driving is fun. I travel here and there by car.

In some cases, older Korea immigrants did not have any family members or friends to help them. Their introverted personality could change in order to solve problems and adapt to their new lives in the U.S. and deal with various situations alone.

*New life*

Some interviewees dreamed about their new lives after immigration. For example, Dan got in a car accident at the age of 31 and had rehabilitation treatment for two years in Korea. He decided to go to the U.S. for himself. He wanted to start a new life in a different place. Even though he did not earn lots of money, he has not been burdened by debts until now. Dan claimed that,

Other people said that they came to the U.S. for children’s education and their family. Or some people came here due to political dissent. But, I came here for myself. I wanted to restart my life in the U.S. And I got a chance and came here.

Another interviewee, Michelle, who is a 67 year-old woman, immigrated to Paraguay with her family. Her husband was an elite and a student activist against the Korean government; he was, therefore, a target of the police. Michelle’s family decided to immigrate to Paraguay in order to avoid dangerous situations and live a new life. She started various businesses, such as a grocery store and beauty shop. Her family, however, could not earn enough money in Paraguay and America. Diana is a 75 year-old woman who lost her husband at the age of 43. She needed to support two daughters. She became a negative person and complained for ten years after the death of her husband. In order to
change her mind, she decided to immigrate to the U.S. and live a new life and devote faithfully to her children.

Because immigration is the most important turning point event in the interviewees’ life, ten subcategories were reported why they considered immigration was the turning point event throughout their life.

2) Immigration Stabilization

The majority of the informants mentioned that immigration was a significant life event. After adapting to a new environment, participants prefer their lives in the U.S. When they determined to live in the U.S. for the rest of their life, they wanted to be a U.S. citizen or buy a house.

Table 4.5 Immigration Stabilization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Turning Point Events</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. citizenship</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buying a house</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

First, the U.S. citizenship increases the sense of belonging to the U.S. However, older Korean immigrants appear to have difficulty studying for the U.S. citizenship test due to the paper and oral exams in English. After passing the exam, they were proud of themselves and considered themselves as a Korean-American. For example, Conner came to the U.S. in 1978 and received U.S. citizenship in 1984. He commented,
In order to live in the U.S., we need U.S. citizenship. Now as an American citizen, I do my duties and responsibilities. Few months ago, I also participated in the jury. I also voted for president and was also called up for jury service...because I am Korean-American. I want to do the same duties for America.

Conner also encouraged his wife to take the U.S citizenship exam. Second, buying a house may guarantee older Korean immigrants’ safety in later life, make retirement comfortable, and encourage leisure activity such as gardening. For instance, Diana, who came to the U.S. 1979 and bought a house in 1985, was satisfied with her large house and an expansive front and back yards. She started a new leisure activity. She commented,

I bought a house in 1985. I did not want to have free time. I got two or three jobs at once after immigration because I did not want to think about my difficult life and dead husband. I was so sad that I almost lost the will to live. As working hard after immigration, I decided to buy a house for my later life. I thought I could live comfortably in my old age at my house

After buying a house, she felt relieved. She also has a new leisure activity, such as planting various vegetables in her yard. She said, “I never lived in a country side. When I came here, I live in a house with a large backyard. I planted various vegetables except for grains.”

Two turning point events, acquiring U.S. citizenship and buying a house, may indicate immigration stabilization and well-adaptation. Few participants did not consider U.S. citizenship and buying a house as their turning point events in their life. They claimed that receiving various benefits from the government and buying their own house provided emotional stability.
3) Work

As shown in the Table 4.6, career-related turning point events were reported. These events happened after immigration. Because the majority of the older Korea immigrants cannot speak English fluently, their selection of jobs is limited. As a result, most interviewees started a small business such as a grocery store, beauty shop, liquor store, restaurant, or gas station. Some interviewees were hired in a store own by Koreans. One of the major changes in work-related events is hours. For example, Alan, a retired liquor store owner, said, “I needed to wake up very early in the morning and had not had a holiday, but worked every day from 7am to 11pm. I also had gum disease and lost my teeth because I was tired and stressful.”

Table 4.6 Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Turning Point Events</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retirement</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starting Business</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting a Job</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Failure</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Success</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Job Skills</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Promotion</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changed Law (Medicaid)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Another participant, Peter, who was a retired grocery owner, commented, I had difficult time after immigration. There was no body or my family to help me to adapt to new place. My immigrant’s life was not the same I imaged in Korea. My life in Korea was also not comfortable because my parents did not support me and I should be independent. In America, I worked more than in Korea and my
wife and my young children depended on me. I kept thinking about that I need to cool me off until my family and I lived well.

Diana, who was a retired restaurant worker, also commented,

I worked from 9am to 5pm and then worked from 6pm to 3am. After working like that, I used to sleep in the subway Sometimes, when I woke up, it was almost time to go to work in the morning.

In such cases, interviewees, who received a job offer before immigrating from Korea, speak English frequently and are highly educated. They are professionals such as medical doctors, nurses, and automobile technicians. For instance, Dexter, who is a retired doctor and owns three clinics in Korean communities in Georgia, commented, “I applied for an intern position of a hospital in Boston, U.S. and after graduation, I moved to Boston. I had a dream. It is my turning point. Thirty three people were chosen for interns at the hospital located in the Northern site of Boston.” Dexter also mentioned his long working hours.

When I came to Boston, I experienced Culture shock. As soon as I graduated from a college, I was doing my internship at a hospital. Interns were not doctors, but labors. I worked from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. I needed to wake up all days and nights. I had the language barrier and also I felt very lonely. I did not have any friends and family in Boston. I felt like being in an open field alone. I learned toughness of life. I became independent. I felt like I could rebuild my life. I used to study hard under the care of my parents. As I looked back, I disciplined myself for understanding and treating his patients rather than thinking about money.
Older Korean immigrants worked for long hours diligently. Their success in business is a result of hard work. For example, Emily, who is a retired grocery owner, commented that,

My husband is diligent and has good relationship with business partners who are willing to provide goods and items for our grocery store. My husband is good at speaking English. His business partners trust us and help us support food and grocery products. We did not have much money to pay all products, but the partners wait for us selling them and paying checks. For example, a partner provided products valued $100,000 with a contract to pay money within two years, we sold the products and paid money within 8 months.

Alan, who came to Georgia in 1991 for his only child’s education, was a public officer in Korea. He had enough money to start his business. His first business was a grocery store; however, after threatened by robbers with guns, he started a liquor store. Now his liquor store is one of the biggest stores in Georgia and sales for one year amount to 7.5million dollars. His store has increased in sales since the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. He became a successful businessman and turned his business over to his son. As Korean communities develop and the population of Korean immigrants is increasing around Atlanta, Georgia, Dexter, who is a retired doctor, has many patients and operates three hospitals.

One participant, Cameron, who is a retired obstetrician, considered changed law as a turning point event in her life. When Cameron opened her hospital in 1985, she was not a popular doctor. She described herself as a small and black-haired Asian female doctor. She understood that people may not prefer her. She had approximately two patients a day. Most of her patients were very poor minority families. She also provided
medical services to those could not afford to pay all medical expenses. She did not try to make profits because her husband was also a doctor; she did not worry about living expenses. However, there were some changes of laws in Medicaid payment for hospital services in 1995. The poor could receive medical services with Medicaid. Her patients continue to see her.

Some interviewees failed in business due to a fire accident, fraud, and economic recession. For instance, Jennifer, who operated a small motel, commented,

I ran a small motel. My business partner did me out of a large sum of money. I lost a lot of money, but tried to forget about my business failure. If I keep thinking about the failure, I would get sick in my mind. I had rather give it up. … If would get sick, it develops serious illness. These stressors would develop cancers.

Another interviewee, Karen, who is a retired chiropractor, ran a grocery store in Florida and faced a fire accident. She lost her business and needed to find a job. She learned a new job skill as a chiropractor. Peter, a retired businessman, also was forced to sell his business because of financial failure. He was 60 years old. As his wife and he age, maintaining good health condition is important. Therefore, Peter visited Korea for six months and learned acupuncture. Peter was told that a university provided a course for health and acupuncture at the academy of continuing education. He has been reading health-related books for ten years. Paul, who had worked for construction sites, started a business after retirement. Because he did not have business experience and the economy was down in the mid-1990s, he lost 2 million dollars on his failed business investment.
The majority of the interviewees were retired. Some continue to work part-time for a store turned over to their children. The turning point event of retirement often coupled with other events, such as personal illness and business failure. For instance, Karen, who is a retired chiropractor, suffered from finger arthritis. She practiced chiropractics for years. Because of her finger arthritis, she decided to retire. Another interviewee, Michael, who was an automobile professional, retired in 2000 because his health condition was not good, and he underwent heart surgery in 2005. After retirement, he started volunteer work at KASA. He also worked for KASA as a president for two years. He guided a trip with other KASA members to Korea. He was a representative of Georgia Senior Association and participated in senior association conferences from other countries in Korea.

Diana, who had worked for a restaurant for 18 years, decided to retire because of her health condition. She commented, “The symptoms of my diabetes got worse. I used to eat fat meats and rice much more than I needed. Doctors recommended me to go on a diet for better health.” At that time, her eyesight deteriorated and her driver’s license was revoked due to a car accident. After retirement, she traveled to Japan and Korea to see her daughter in Korea. In addition, while she was traveling, she lost weight by eating fresh fruits and vegetables, available in grocery stores and at the hotel. She used to cook and eat more food at home. By traveling for months, she ate a limited amount of food and instead ate more fresh food and walked for hours. Healthy eating and exercise contributed to her weight loss.
Peter and Paul mentioned that they are interested in reading health-related books to maintain their health and to help others. As they age, the most important thing for them was to remain in good health. For over 10 years, they have read many books about health, human body structure, and healthy food.

After retirement, the major change for him is more free time for leisure and travel. Mary, who is a 73 years-old female, retired 10 years ago. She traveled more frequently and visited Korea to see one of her children living there. She meets with friends, travels with them once a year, and attends the Korean American Senior Association (KASA). Following retirement, Joe, who is a 78 year-old man, also has been volunteering for KASA for over 10 years.

Some interviewees actively searched for employment after retirement. Conner, who retired at the age of 65 and had worked for a company for 30 years, began a part-time job for 10 years. He wanted to work because he still had to pay his car payment and house payment. He is 75 years old at present. He feels very lonely recently.

I feel so lonely, I do not have friends and relatives here (Georgia). That’s why I regularly attend KASA. If I were in Korea, I would meet friends….I have few friends, but they are busy to take care of their grandchildren…I do not have grandchildren to take care of. My first son lives in Georgia. My second son is in San Francisco. I talked on the phone with him, but rarely see him (the second son).

Peter involuntarily retired at the age of 60 because of his business failure. He found his new leisure activity in acupuncture and oriental medicines; however, he too sought a job after retirement. He found an announcement looking to hire taxi drivers in Alaska. He moved to Alaska with his family and failed the exam twice due to his lack of English proficiency, but he passed the exam in the end. He worked for a taxi company for
months and then his son moved to Georgia and started a new business with investors. Peter subsequently moved to Georgia with his son’s family.

4) Marriage

After marriage, female participants in particular spent most of their time with family members. For instance, Belle commented that, “I want to be a professor. After marriage, I gave up to continue studying. My husband did not like me to be a career woman. I married him in October, 1954. I might meet a husband who is not considerate. I tried to be a good mother and good wife.” Traditionally, women are responsible for preparing meals, taking care of children and supporting their education. They stay at home more often than men. However, many older Korean females in this study also helped to run family businesses. Therefore, many female interviewees have work experiences outside of the home.

Only one male participant, Paul, age 82, considered marriage as his turning point. Paul married his wife in 1959, and they lived together for almost 60 years. In fact, he had girlfriends who he wanted to marry, but parents objected marriage because he was from North Korea and was almost an orphan. Later, he met his wife and married.

I failed three times to marry my girlfriends because I was from North Korea and did not have parents. I changed my view of life. I decided to marry any woman who was willing to be with me for the rest of her life. I would not ask anything. I almost lived with my wife for 60 years.

He had a hard time finding a life companion as his girl friends’ parents often refused their permission (three times) because he is from North Korea.
Divorce, Marital Separation, and Marital Conciliation

Divorce was also mentioned as a turning point event. Interviewees got divorces because their husband cheated on them or acted violently. For instance, Michelle commented,

> When we received an invitation from the U.S. government and we moved to New York. In winter, we did not have any winter clothes. My husband and I did not have any ideas how to earn money. I started a beauty shop, but could not make a profit for two years. And then I divorced him because he hit me several times. It was 1989. I moved to Georgia without my sons.

After their divorce, the major change was moving to a new city. Most interviewees left their house and moved to Georgia to live with one of their grown-up children. One female interviewee, Pamela, decided to immigrate to the U.S. after her divorce. She commented, “I divorced my husband and well...I thought that my children would be happy when their father was out of sight... My sister invited me to the United States.”

### Table 4.7 Marriage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Turning Point Events</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorce</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remarriage</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital Separation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love affair of a spouse</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital conciliation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Marital separation also has a similar pattern. For example, two of the female interviewees moved to one of their grown-up children’s house, helped with housework, and took care of grandchildren.

**Remarriage**

Most female interviewees were not married again after getting divorced or losing the spouse. Two female interviewees married again. For instance, Mary, a 73-year old female, has four children. Her children are grown up and have their own families. She seemed to complete her duty as the caregiver of her children. Her children encouraged her to remarry in order to have a life companion with whom to travel together and spend free time. Another interviewee, Joyce, who is a 67 year-old female, married again after she lost her husband who died of lung cancer. After remarriage, she thought that her decision was right. She is happy with her husband. She does not need to be at home all of the time. Her husband gives a car ride anywhere. She married a Korean American she met in KASA a year ago. She commented that “He gave me so much strength and he tried to make me feel better. So...I decided to marry him.”

5) Family

As shown in the Table 4.8, the majority of the interviewees who mentioned family related turning points were female.
**Taking Care of Grandchildren**

Older female interviewees are more likely to live with their grown-up children. Because young couples are more likely to be dual incomers, older female interviewees help take care of grandchildren. For instance, Pamela commented,

> I am taking care of four grandchildren. My son was born in 1970… has four children. My son and daughter-in-law are busy. They go for work in the morning and came back home in evening. I have been taking care of my grandchildren for 10 years.

Many female interviewees took care of grandchildren; however, they did not consider taking care of grandchildren to be a turning point event. Instead, they appeared to accept this role naturally.

**Marriage of Grown-up Children, a Grown-up Child Got a Job and Left Home, and Family Conflict**

When grown-up children married and when they left home due to a new job after graduation, female interviewees experienced another life transition. Some feel a sense of freedom or loneliness. For example, Diana, who lost her husband and came to the U.S. with two daughters, described the situation thusly,

> My second daughter attended an elementary school in America… My first daughter, who came here at the age of 19, went back to Korea….she married and lives in Korea. Because my second daughter had attended American schools for a long time, she fell in love with an American guy and then married. She is in Michigan now. I could not meet her very often.
There were many changes after the marriage of her children. Diana no longer lives with her daughters. One daughter returned to Korea because she married a Korean man who got a job in Korea. The second daughter married an American man. Because the second daughter came to the U.S. at an early age, Diana felt that her second daughter appeared to be different from other Korean females. During holidays, her daughter and son-in-law visited her house. She experienced small family conflicts. Her son-in-law is a vegetarian, but she does not know receipts for vegetarians. Nevertheless, she makes salad. The couple also wanted to stay at a hotel near her house. She felt that they would felt pressure staying at her house. She heard that her son-in-law worried about making mistakes because he did not know polite gestures as other Koreans do to older adults. Because she cannot speak English well, she did not communicate often with them.

Another interviewee, Linda, who is a 64 year-old housewife, feels free after being empty nester. She commented that, “I feel like I have a lot of fun and relaxing in my life.” Even though two female interviewees experienced a similar transition, such as the period of empty nester, there are differences in each of their situations. Diana lives alone in a detached single-unit house while Linda lives with her husband. Due to the severity of her diabetes, Diana’s driver’s license was canceled. She needs help every day to go anywhere and feels lonely and uncomfortable as a result. Linda has no personal illness and has good eyesight. She also can drive a car. She enjoys her free time with her husband and friends by doing whatever she wants to do since her children have left her house.
Table 4.8 Family

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Turning Point Events</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marriage of grown-up children</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A grown-up child got a job and left</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taking care of grandchildren</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giving birth</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family conflict</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A close family member's study abroad in the U.S.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6) Death of a Family Member

Death of a spouse or a child was a turning point event. Females reported the death of a family member as turning point events more than males. Only one male participant lost his wife and remarried seven years after the event. For instance, Conner, who is a 76 year-old man who came to the U.S. in 1978, commented,

My wife died because of high blood pressure. After the death of my wife, I lived with my wife for seven years. …I have two children. Of course, do you think my children prepare their meals? No, they did not know. When they were in high school, their mother died suddenly…. I also had a hard time…After my children attended a college and got a job, my friend introduced a woman and I married her and live together until now.

Table 4.9 Death of a Family Member

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Turning Point Events</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Death of a spouse</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death of a child</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Seven female participants reported that the death of a spouse was a turning point event, and they did not marry again. Three widows had no one to support their families after they lost their husbands suddenly (on account of personal illness in midlife). They
focused on their children’s education and earning money to support their families. For instance, Katherine, who is an 82 year-old woman, commented that,

My husband died at his 49. At that time, I was 47. I was so afraid if my children dropped out their school and…I needed to do something. I had five children. My first son was an occupation soldier and my second daughter was in American. So I went to America to live with my daughter and earn money to support financially for my other children in Korea. My daughter ran a wig store in Georgia and had good business. Now she owns four wig stores.

Another participant, Brandy, lost her husband when she was 44 years old. She was a housewife and her husband was a teacher. She had a hard time due to her husband’s death. She has five daughters. She needed to support her children and pay for their college tuition fees before she was sick. Brandy, who is a 70 year old woman, commented,

My life changed when my husband died. I was 44 years old. After my husband died, well…no body helped me. I had five daughters. Who can I say how much I am sad? I was a housewife as I spent my husband’s salary. I had to earn money to pay my children’s college tuition fees and food….

Four widows lost their husbands in later life. They were less likely to marry again. Because their children were grown-up, they lived with one of their children and helped with housework and taking care of grandchildren while their grown-up children were working.

Two female participants lost their grown-up children because of illnesses, such as heart and lung disease. The death of a grown-up child affects participants’ emotions for a long time. After the death of a grown-up child, the participants dealt with it in different ways. For example, one participant, Christine, who had two daughters and lost
one of them due to an acute appendicitis, focuses on the other child and tries not to think about her daughter’s death. Christine explained, “When I kept thinking of the event (her daughter’s death)...I had such sorrows...Now, I do not think about it...I all cleaned...and always think about my first daughter living with me now...” The other participant, Helen who has three sons and two daughters, could not forget about her first son’s death. Helen’s first son was a taekwondo master. Her turning point event was the death of the first son who had a heart attack in his office. She commented that, “My first son suddenly died of a heart attack in his office at his 44 years old. It was 6 years ago. When I saw his picture before any meal, I cannot eat any until now...I cannot forget it.” Helen also lost her husband. Helen’s husband had Alzheimer’s disease. After taking care of him for years, her family sent him to a nursing home for patients suffering from Alzheimer’s. A week after being admitted to the nursing home, he ran away from there and disappeared. Helen’s family offered a reward if someone found Helen’s husband, but nobody found him. One of her sons hired 10 people for weeks to look for his father. They did not find any clues.

The majority of the widows did not remarry but remained devoted to their children once they lost their husband in midlife. Some interviewees had a hard time adjusting physically and emotionally because they had no one to support their family. In other cases, women lost their spouses in later life. Older female participants live with their grown-up children and appeared to accept their spouse’s death due to natural causes.
7) Health Problems

Personal illness was frequently mentioned in later life. Maintaining health after having a personal illness is important among the majority of interviewees. The types of personal illness identified from the data were arthritis, heart disease, diabetes, brain tumor, various cancers, high blood pressure, depression, and various other chronic diseases. The reasons for why they considered personal illness as their turning point event were varied. First, some interviewees retired due to their health condition. For instance, Karen, who learned a new skill for chiropractics and health care in order to get a new job after the business failure of her grocery store, worked as a chiropractic professional for years. Because of her finger arthritis, she decided to retire. Another female interviewee, Katherine, who worked for her daughter’s wig store for decades, got spinal disks. She lay in bed for six months. She used to move heavy boxes. Her daughter’s store needed to stock many wigs and beauty products into the store and the storage units during weekdays. The store had $8,000 in sales on weekdays and over $10,000 in sales on weekends. Due to her spinal disks, Katherine stopped working. Second, most interviewees sought leisure and travel experiences after recovering from their personal illness. For example, Michael, who is a retired mechanic, underwent heart surgery. He was a devoted volunteer worker at KASA. He also served KASA as its president. He guided a trip with other KASA members to Korea. He was a representative of the Georgia Senior Association and participated in senior association conferences from other countries in Korea. Brandy, who is 70 years old, had two operations nine years ago to remove brain tumors. She said that “Doctors may remove my memory pockets in my
head. I forgot so quickly what my daughter said.” In order to increase her memory and rehabilitate her body and brain, she reads the Bible every day, attends church and a senior life-long center on weekends.

Third, some interviewees restricted themselves in order to maintain good health. For instance, Helen, who is 81 years old, commented, “I got a heart surgery four years ago. I am sick and sometimes my whole body hurts. Sometimes I am fine. I do not know when I am good or bad. It depends on my daily condition.” As a result, Helen limited her activity in order to have a sense of control over her body.

Change in Health of a Family Member. Change in the health of a family member is also a turning point event. Older female interviewees in particular considered that such events changed their lives. Because a Korean woman marries a man who is older than her, she is more likely to care for her husband when he is sick. As a result, an older woman’s life changed as a result of a change in the health of her husband. For example, Silvia married her husband who is eight years older than her. She has been caring for her sick husband for four years. Her husband has suffered from Alzheimer’s disease, gallstones, and a stroke over the past four years. In addition, young grown-up child also has personal illness. For instance, Karen, a retired chiropractor, commented,

My son is suffering from born cancer from a year ago. I paid all cancer treatments for my son. All medical treatments for born cancer were not covered by my son’s insurance because he is treated with new drugs. I spent all my private retirement savings and live with my pension

Female participants not only need to provide services for their sick family member, but they also spend lots of money in order to provide medical treatments.
Table 4.10 Health Problems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Turning Point Events</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal illness</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in health of a family member</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diet - health concerns</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8) Accidents

Various accidents such as car accidents, fire accidents, and sequential accidents were identified as turning point events. The reasons why the interviewees considered these accidents as their turning point events varied. First, a fire accident caused a business failure or financial loss. For example, Karen closed her grocery store because of a fire accident. She lost her business in the fire and needed to find another job. Dan, who is a retired line-dance instructor, also had a financial problem after a car accident,

I had a car accident and lost my consciousness for six weeks. Doctors said that I should walk on crutches for the rest of my life. However, I am a line dance instructor now. I do not need crutches. After the car accident, I should spend saved money for medical treatment and quit the job.

Second, a fire accident caused business failure, body burns, and strained relations with family. For instance, Gunter, who is a retired businessman, immigrated to the U.S. to start a chemical factory with his brother who became an expert after earning a Ph.D. Five years later, there was a fire accident in the chemical factory. It was described as an explosion at the chemical factory. He was wounded seriously, suffered burns to his front body. It took two years to partially recover. After the fire accident, he had a difficult time and also never saw his brother.
Third, this turning point event causes another turning point event. For example, Billy, who is a retired businessman, had four sequential accidents such as car accidents and bicycle accidents in Korea. He also had scars on the left side of his face. After experiencing four accidents over the course of a short time, he believed that these accidents were due to his bad luck. In addition, doctors could not provide appropriate medical services at that time; Billy believed in shamanism for fifteen years.

I was 30 years old. It is in 1970s. At that time, medical services and technologies were not developed yet in Korea. I was unconscious for 20 days. I could not recognize people and wore a respirator. Doctors said that I cannot live longer. Later, I awoke up. Because doctors gave me up, I went to see a shaman and believed in shamanism for 15 years.

These sequential accidents caused another turning point event. For Billy, this meant believing in shamanism.

Another interviewee, Joyce, who is a housewife and came to the U.S. in 2008, never learned how to drive in Korea. She was inconvenienced due to the lack of public transportation upon immigrating. Later, she decided to learn how to drive. When she practiced driving a car near her daughter’s house, her car crashed into the front yard of a neighbor’s house. Her son-in-law started yelling when she got in the car accident. She expected her family to worry about her due to the crash. She said that “I felt I was so stupid. I did not want to live with them and I also did not want to live anymore. He never asked me whether I was injured or not.” Because of this car accident, she decided to remarry.
Table 4.11 Accidents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Turning Point Events</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accident</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempting a suicide</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9) Leisure and Travel

Leisure and Travel related events were identified as turning point events among older Korean immigrants. First, the Korean American Senior Association (KASA) plays an important role in providing leisure and travel programs to first-generation older Korean immigrants. The benefits of KASA participation include learning new leisure and recreational activities (e.g., Korean traditional musical instruments (Jangu and Samul-nolri), Yoga, and health-related lectures). For instance, Diana, who is 75 years old and has attended KASA for over 10 years, commented,

I learned how to play a traditional Korean musical instrument. In the past, I was not interested in listening to Korean traditional music or trying to play any kind of traditional musical instruments in Korea. Now I love to perform Jangu (a Korean traditional drum) at KASA parties or Korean shopping malls...After I start to visit the Korea American Senior Association, I feel much comfortable. I have been attending over 10 years.

Moreover, many interviewees have attended KASA for years following retirement. Older Korean immigrants prefer attending KASA because it is not related to any religions and is open on weekdays. Therefore, older Korean immigrants enjoy various programs regardless of religion.
Joyce lost her husband before immigration and suffered from depression after staying at home for three years due to lack of language skills and lack of transportation. She shared her leisure life with KASA members and met her present husband in KASA. She commented that

I married a Korean American I met in KASA last year. He gave me so much strength and he tried to make me feel better. So...I decided to marry him. I did not go hiking before, but we enjoy going hiking together with the KASA hiking club members almost every weekend… Hiking is good for health and I feel getting healthier during hiking. Now the weather is cold so I do not go hiking because I need more equipment. When the weather is nice, we go hiking almost every weekend.

Table 4.12 Leisure and Travel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Turning Point Events</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life-long Learning Schools for Seniors</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Korean American Senior Association)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Trip</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traveling Internationally during Childhood</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Silvia is a 74 year-old female and her husband suffers from various diseases such as stroke, Alzheimer’s disease, and gallstone disease. She has been taking care of her sick husband. She said,

My husband has been sick for four years. My financial circumstances…We cannot go to travel and my grown up children also have difficulties financially because of economic recession. But I have a busy life. I go to KASA and YMCA every weekdays and I go to church every weekends. I also take a walk for an hour at a park near my house. My seven days go very fast.
KASA facilitates socialization among older Korean immigrants. Because older Korean adults experienced at least one turning point event, such as the loss of spouse, retirement, taking care of the sick spouse, or personal illness, they try to spend time in a community rather than feel lonely and depressed at home. The majority of the interviewees that attended KASA met friends there.

Religion

Religious turning point events were also reported by several interviewees. There were different results of the religious event. First, interviewees became spiritually richer than before. For example, Dexter, who is a retired doctor, commented,

I was Christian, but I was not a serious one. I married my wife in Korea and came to Georgia (in 1973). My wife was a committed Christian. I was always busy. I used to go to work early in the morning and come home at night. She was depressed because she had a dream to be a doctor in the past, but I discouraged her to make her dream come true. I also focused on the success of my hospital and my career too much and could not see her problems. I was like a blind. It takes time to realize my immature attitude to my family. I attended the church for 30 years. I was reborn. There was a turning point event in terms of my religion.

Through the religious event, some interviewees were able to balance their work, family, and mental and physical health. Second, the religious event helped some interviewees to deal with difficult problems in their lives and influenced their decision to commit to Christianity. For example, some interviewees experienced negative life events such as business failure or attempted suicide. After experiencing a religious turning point event, they viewed their lives in a positive way and participated in volunteer work at the church. For example, Billy, who is a retired businessman, ran a business in New York and was
successful as much as he bought a house with cash. However, his business suddenly went bankrupt. He lost his job, business, and house. Later, even though his wife got a job, her shoulders were wounded. She was told that a pray of a pastor near his house may heal her shoulders. Because he believed in shamanism, he did not go to the church together. He realized that his wife went to the church at dawn and she would be in danger because his house was located in a high-crime sector in New York. He tried to catch up with her. He saw his wife in church and felt very relieved at that moment. After that, he converted to Christianity and became a committed Christian from 1995. Another interviewee, Trevor, who attempted suicide at the age of 25, commented, “Attending church was a turning point event for me and I have been a committed Christian for 30 years.” He realized that he could learn valuable lessons from people following such a religious event. He believes that God gives many opportunities and people may not realize them. Trevor also commented,

People think today is the same like yesterday, but I believe that people believe in God live differently. I pray for God to give me new ideas. Sometimes new ideas come to me suddenly and I write memos and think how to apply for these ideas to use. For example, in our church, we will hold a senior conference. Nobody thinks the idea. I did. I work in travel and tourism for 20 years. I think I learned new and useful things through traveling as I saw beautiful creatures God made.

Trevor attempted suicide after immigration due to complex reasons. After attending a church, he changed his attitude toward life.
Mission trip

Mission trip to developing countries such as Nicaragua, Mexico, Bolivia, Kenya, Uganda, Russia were also turning point events. All interviewees that considered a mission trip to be a turning point event were male. For instance, Dexter described that,

The most influential event was a mission trip to Russian in 1999. Russia was collapsing of the former Soviet Union and communism. I was not interested in mission trips, but the pastor I have known for 30 years said that I must go to the mission trip. At first, I did not know what to do. After the mission trip, I changed my attitude toward family and religion. Now Church is my home.

As Dexter, a retired doctor, volunteered for people who needed medical help, he engaged with many different ethnic groups in Russia. The Russians responded to his medical treatment with gratitude.

I met people from different countries in Russia. At that time, people were very poor due to economic and political chaos in Russia. However, I saw the people were the same like me who believe in God. They felt the same emotions and they thanked for helps. I also saw many people needed medical treatments and help with my eye. I felt like my life became spiritually richer than before. I was regretful because I was arrogant. I used to think I was doing good job because I was smart. I never turned my success to others or God.

After the mission trip, he became a committed church member and participates in mission trips at least once a year. He used to focus on his career and patients rather than on his family’s happiness and others. After the trip, he tries to balance work, family, and maintain a healthy mind and body for his family’s and his happiness.
Study abroad

Studying abroad during childhood was a turning point event. For example, Billy had been in Japan for nine years during his childhood. Because he had a memorable experience with a nice and kind older Japanese adult, he is still interested in issues between Japan and Korea. For example, there are many political conflicts between Japan and Korea. However, he does not want to blame all Japanese people for these political conflicts. He knows that all Japanese people are not bad people and that they are very diligent. Whenever he saw the news about any conflicts between Japan and Korea, he tried to participate in any organizations that aimed to maintain friendly relations between these two countries.

Book

Books (e.g., the Bible and a self-development book) were also mentioned as a turning point event. For instance, Peter, who is a retired businessman, lived in the woods for a while and started reading the Bible from the first page to the last page when he was 25 years old. He said that he had a hard time overcoming psychological trauma after his military service. He used to be a mountain climber and loved to go to the mountains frequently when he was young. He believed that as he read the Bible, good things would happen and his prayers would be answered.

Another participant, Dan, is a retired line dance instructor who wanted to be a famous instructor. He reported that reading the book, *A vivid dreaming in the attic*, written by Jisung Lee, was a turning point event. To gain a better life, he thought that he
wanted to be successful, find a new source to earn money, and remain in good health. However, he could not find a job. He found no companies willing to hire older adults. After his 61th birthday, he had thought of his new life goal for the next five years. He did not know how to start. When he read a book, he felt that this book led him to find a goal and to make his dreams come true. The book, *A vivid dreaming in the attic*, introduces a theory of people who were very successful and super rich. This book is similar to *The Secret* written by Rhonda Byrne. The theory is $R = V \times D$ (Realization = ViVid * Dream). The idea is that people who dream vividly can realize their dream in the future. After reading this book, he has a certain dream to be an instructor who teaches about health and environment. He gets up early in the morning, reads recent newspapers, and makes PowerPoint presentations to prepare learning materials. He did not only think of how to find his goal now but was inspired to become a famous instructor vividly.

10) War and Military Services

The interviewees who experienced the Korean War or the Vietnam War are those who are over 70 years old. These turning point events were reported by male interviewees. Two female interviewees, Cameron and Belle, became refugees after the Korean War and moved to southern parts of Korea, such as Busan and Jeju Island. After the event, Cameron decided to become a doctor in response to witnessing dead bodies on the roads and sick people after the war. Belle, who was a housewife, decided to train her children to play musical instruments. During the Korean War, she moved to Busan. Even though she thought that she was highly educated compared to other Korean women, she found
herself with nothing to do at that time because it was during the Korean War. Her sister-in-law earned money by giving piano lessons to young children in Busan. She decided to teach her children music lessons because music seemed very useful anytime.

        Military experiences and the Korean War resulted in personality changes for the male interviewees. For example, Peter, who is a retired businessman, entered the military in Korea and his troops trained spies to send to North Korea. It was not during the Korean War, but North and South Korea were in a state of armistice. He practiced to enter North Korea several times over the course of three years. He was taught to tell false testimony. His life was tough and highly tense. After he was discharged from the army, he suffered trauma and lived a hard life. Another participant, Robert, said that his personality changed because of an event that happened during the Korean War. He treated badly a soldier from North Korea. Later, he met the soldier again and the soldier was ready to shoot him. Robert explained that he was ordered to treat the soldier as he did. The soldier understood it and did not shoot him. After the event, Robert was aggressive and talked openly about his complaints and feelings. Later, he became meek and gentle. He did not want to say anything negative to any person.

        In addition, some participants dreamed of a new life after the war-related events were over. For instance, Paul, who was a retired laborer and escaped from North Korea during the Korean War, commented,

        I lived in North Korea for 19 years and then escaped from North Korea and lived in Seoul from 19 to 48 years old. Seoul is not my home. Georgia is also not home. I was like an orphan in Seoul so I though living in a rich country would be better than living in Seoul.
Paul dreamed of a new life in America; however, he had difficulties adjusting to the new environment in the U.S. because of the language barrier and the low income of his unskilled job. He also commented that, “I earned three dollars per hour. I have six family members. I worked for 13 hours and was a worker in construction sites. I worked for 7 days a week. I did not work when it was raining. I thought I did not earn money due to the weather.”

The Korean War was reported by both female and male interviewees as a turning point event which altered their lifestyle, life goals, and personality. Military related events were reported by only males. These events influenced the interviewees to plan immigration to the United States for a better life.

Table 4.13 War and Military Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Turning Point Events</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Korean War</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Experience in North Korea</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After War, Coming back to Korea</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An Enemy during the Korean War Was Ready to</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoot Him</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11) Home Country’s Cultural Event

The majority of the interviewees lived in Korea for at least half of their lives. They considered Korea to be their home. After immigration, they still eat Korean food, watch Korean TV programs, and speak Korean. To be homesick was not a specific event; however, several people mentioned that they miss Korea. Therefore, they seek more Korean culture in America and socialize with Koreans. The majority of the interviewees
celebrate important Korean holidays, such as the Korean Thanksgiving (추석, Chuseok), Lunar New Year (설날 [Seol-nal]), and Parents’ day (어버이날 [Uve-i-nal]).

Table 4.14 Home Country’s Cultural Event

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Turning Point Events</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homesick (Korea)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61th Birthday</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some interviewees mentioned their special birthday party in later life. Koreans have different birthday traditions at 1 year old and 61 years old. Parents invite families, relatives, and close friends to celebrate a one-year old baby’s birthday. The first birthday party is called 돌잔치 [dol-jan-chi]. In the past, the number of deaths of children less than 1 year old was high in Korea. The one year-old birthday party is designed to wish the baby health and a good life in the future. The 61th birthday [환갑: Hwan-gab] also has a similar origin. In the past, people had shorter life spans. It was rare to reach the age of 61. The grown-up children celebrate the health and the longevity of the 61th birthday of a parent by inviting families, relatives, and close friends to a party. They also celebrate the 71th birthday [칠순: Chilsoon] and the 81th birthday [팔순: Palsoon]: every 10th birthday after their 61th birthday.

For instance, Dan’s turning point event was his 61th birthday. He is a dance instructor and runs a dance school for Korean people in Atlanta. Most of the students in his dance school are older Korean adults. People asked him whether he earns a decent income. In fact, he could not save lots of money. He thought he enjoyed his life before
his 61th birthday. He felt like living without any life goal until now. He mentioned, “What can I do? I am 61 years old. How can I earn more money? I was depressed when I concluded that my life would not make any progress.” His 61th birthday emphasized to him that his retirement is coming soon. He never tried to be successful in his business. For a better life, he thought he wanted to be successful and to find a new source of income and to maintain a good health condition. He wanted to change himself. When he participated in other friends’ birthdays, he kept thinking that one’s life goes downhill after he or she turns 50. He kept thinking what he really wanted to do for the rest of his life. His dance school maintained the status quo. However, he could not find any job. He did not find any companies that were willing to hire older adults. Few years later, he read a book, *A vivid dreaming in the attic*, and set a new life goal to be a famous instructor.

### The Current and Past Travel Styles of Older Korean Immigrants

Research question number two asked the following: What are the current and past travel styles of older Korean immigrants? The findings of research question two present the travel styles of older Korean immigrants in five different life stages: 1) childhood, 2) adulthood, 3) midlife, 4) early later life, 5) later life. The retrospective data collected from 33 individuals consisted of the participants’ travel experiences throughout their lives. Therefore, in order to present travel experiences in different life stages across one’s life course, the life stages are divided into five stages: 1) childhood, 2) adulthood, 3) midlife, 4) early later life, 5) later life.
Childhood

Two out of thirty three interviewees shared their memories of travel experienced during childhood. They traveled with their parents or grandparents when they were young. In the early 1950s, few people in Korea had the opportunity to travel. Two participants vividly remembered their travels in Japan and China. For example, Cameron, who is a retired doctor, traveled with her grandfather around Japan and China. She noted that,

My grandfather was a pastor. I travel with my grandfather who is still my role-model. When I was in China, the political situation among three counties, Korea, Japan, and China, grew worse around 1950s. After coming back to Korea, I also experienced the Korean War and saw lots of dead bodies on the street.

Travel during her childhood influenced her plan for the future. She decided to become a doctor.

Another interviewee, Billy, who was born in 1939 and is now a retired business man, stayed in Japan for nine years during his childhood. He shared one episode which made him appreciate Japanese people. He met a nice and kind old Japanese lady. When he was young, he was a mischievous boy in the neighborhood, but the old lady always treated him nicely. He remembered her and is still interested in issues between Japan and Korea. For example, there are many political conflicts between Japan and Korea. However, he does not want to blame all Japanese people for these political conflicts. He claims that, “all Japanese people are not bad people, but they are very diligent.”

Whenever he saw the news about any conflicts between Japan and Korea, he tried to participate in any organizations that aimed to maintain friendly relations between these two countries. Other interviewees except for two interviewees did not share their travel
experience in their childhood, but talked about their poor life conditions when they were young in Korea from 1930 to 1950.

Adulthood

First generation older Korean immigrants experienced the Korean War (1950-1953). In Korea, it is mandatory for Korean men to serve in the military. As a result, almost all of the male interviewees have military experience. In adulthood, the interviewees married and started a family by having children. When asked how they traveled in Korea, the majority of the interviewees replied that they participated in community-based travels. Each community or village in Korea planned a day trip or overnight trip for people, and they traveled to the mountains and sea together by coach bus. Brandy, who is a 70 year-old women, noted that she traveled around with her friends. She had lots of friends in her community. She used to visit mountains, temples in the mountains, and the city of Seoul before her husband died.

There are differences based on gender. Male interviewees had more chances to travel on account of their hobbies. For example, Alan, who was a public officer in Korea, worked for a public organization before immigration. He used to have paid holidays on weekends and national holidays. He enjoyed going hiking to mountains and sea fishing. Dexter, who is a retired doctor, went mountain hiking. Robert, who is retired businessman, traveled in order to swim in famous rivers in Korea, and he enjoyed other leisure activities, such as sport dancing and playing badminton.
However, female interviewees were less likely to travel because of their young children. When asked why they did not travel in this period of life, one of the female interviewees, Linda, who is a 64 year-old housewife, explained,

I only focused on the role of caregiver for her family and young children. When my children went to school, she needed to prepare lunch boxes for them. I used to refuse to travel with my husband because I could not leave my children alone at home. I do not know why I give 100 percent of my life to my children (laugh). I did not think anything, but housework and children. My husband wanted to go to America with me at the company’s expense. He persuaded me to travel because the travel program offered by his company was free. I do not know why I did not want to go, but for sure, I was very anxious about my children without me. I could have asked their grandmother to take care of them, but I did not do that because I was not comfortable at all.

Belle, who is 82 year-old housewife, noted that

My generation, who aged 70 and over, lived a life without travel. My generation experienced Wars and poverty. We did not have enough food to eat. Women were taught to educate children, however, I think they are traditional Korean women who were not able to receive formal education and innovative education in traditional Korean society. Women were taught to assist their husband and take care of children.

Another interviewee, Teresa, who is a 78 year-old housewife, also focused on her responsibility to her family members: doing housework, taking care of children and overseeing their education. Therefore, older Korea females in adulthood did not have many travel experiences.
Midlife

The period of midlife was divided into two parts: Early Midlife and Later Midlife. There were some changes before they transitioned (e.g., early later life). Because there are differences among the interviewees based on the level of business stability, or family related events, the stage of midlife period is not divided completely into two different stages as the stage of later life which is analyzed by separating two stages (i.e., early later life and later life).

Early midlife

In the period of Early Midlife, the majority of interviewees came to the U.S. and started a new business. Most interviewees did not travel at all because of business. In addition, they did not have holidays because they ran a small business all year long. Some interviewees did not travel because they did not have enough money. For example, Michelle, who is a 67 year-old female said, “I was struggling to survive at that time. Traveling does not make any sense to me.”

Three out of thirty three interviewees traveled in this period. Pamela, who got divorced and moved to Georgia in 1987, learned how to drive after immigration. Pamela was a housewife before she was divorced. Because she married a wealthy man, she had a driver and therefore did not need to learn how to drive in Korea. She did not have a good relationship with her husband, but she tolerated her husband for a long time on account of her children (one son and two daughters). She did not want people to refer to her children as fatherless. After immigration, she learned how to drive. With her new friends, she
traveled around the west and east coasts of the United States. She traveled to the Rocky Mountains, the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Colorado, and New York. Because she likes to drive, she traveled by car and also airplanes. During travel, Pamela found America to be an advanced country. When her car was broken on the road, Americans were willing to help her, called her insurance company, and described the location of her car. Pamela did not know where she was because the place was not familiar and her English was not good at that time; it was three year after her immigration. She expressed that her impressions of Americans during travels was positive.

Although other participants could not travel due to their businesses, two male interviewees traveled on business during this period. Trevor, who is a 59 year-old tour conductor, worked for travel agencies for twenty years. He traveled around the U.S. as part of his job. He went to Peru, Mexico. He also traveled to many domestic destinations, such as Hawaii, Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon, Hollywood, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, New York, New Jersey, and Niagara Falls. He also guided church members to travel destinations around the U.S.

Dexter, who is a retired doctor, recalled his travel during the 1980s. During this period, he participated in medical conferences and workshops which were held at famous resorts. He traveled with his family. He noted that, “I was worried about my patients when I needed to close the hospital for travels for one –two weeks. However, traveling is necessary to recharge and refresh myself to increase my productivity. My wife….The most important thing is to make my family happy. My life in America was very busy. I
focused on learning something during travels rather than being popular places and taking pictures.”

Late Midlife

In late midlife, many people started to travel for the purpose of work: exploring the U.S. for religious purposes, mission trips, and visiting Korea.

Work

In this period, some interviewees did not travel because of their business. For instance, Alan was still constrained by time. He commented, “I needed to wake up very early in the morning and did not had a holiday, but worked every day from 7am to 11pm. I also had gum disease and lost my teeth because I was tired and stressful.” Even though he had enough money to travel, he did not have many travel experiences.

Exploring the U.S

Sixteen out of thirty three interviewees started to explore iconic places in the U.S. For example, Jennifer, who is a 73 year-old female, traveled to the west and east coasts of the U.S., Canada, and Cancun, Mexico. She said, “I came to the U.S. in 1985 and started traveling from 1990 every year. The memorable travel was Rocky Mountains. I am willing to revisit the Rocky Mountains.”

The majority of the interviewees did not speak English fluently and did not prefer driving for hours. They preferred to purchase travel programs from travel agencies. Most
of them also participated in religious travels and mission trips offered through their church.

Notably, one participant’s travel style changed upon remarriage to a European American in the period of mid-life. For example, Michelle, who is a 67 year-old female, traveled more after remarriage. She commented,

I love traveling with her husband. He preferred an independent travel. I enjoyed seeing wild animals in Montana, Mesa Verde National park. […] When I went to Maryland and Washington, I wanted to look around the Natural History Museum for days. I also traveled across European with my husband. I went to Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, and Paris. I do not worry about meeting people speaking different languages. I somewhat enjoy learning different languages. I have confident in languages. I also love sea fishing. I went to Dustin Beach, Panama City, Beaches, sea fishing, Catching crabs and small lobsters in streams and waterfalls near Georgia.

Religious travel

After immigration, religion became more important in older immigrants’ lives. Some interviewees participated in religious travel when they felt that their business was stable. For instance, Emily, who is a 78 year-old retired grocery store owner, traveled to Israel in her 60s.

The first trip I went to after immigration was a religious trip to Israel. I rode on a camel and walked around many places I read in the Bible for 15 days with 30 people and 3 pastors in my church. I think it was possible to travel like that because I was 60s. Now I may not make it.
Mission trip

Trevor, who is a 59 year-old travel conductor, moved to Georgia and started to attend the Korean Community Presbyterian Church of Atlanta. Trevor participated in a short mission trip for the first time in 2009. After the mission trip, his life goal changed. He commented,

Baul in the Bible traveled here and there and conveyed God’s words. I also want to live like that. Baul is my role model. I want to go mission travels and live like Baul. I posted experiences of my mission travels on the church websites and the Facebook. I used to write the specific programs and activities. I plan to write my lessons of each program and lessons from people I meet in mission travel destinations. “

Trevor is the youngest interviewee in this study. Unlike other participants, he is proficient at searching the internet for information and using social network services. He posted his travel experiences on the church websites and on Facebook. There, he expressed his interest to participate in mission trips in the future.

Changed Korea

Many interviewees visit Korea regularly after immigration. Some interviewees visit Korea every year because they had old parents. For example, Sophie came to the U.S. in her late 50s to live with her daughter in the U.S. She did not work, but took care of her grandchildren because her grown-up children are a dual-income family. After immigration, Sophie visited Korea once a year (13 times) for 13 years after immigration because of her mother. Her mother passed away five years ago. Sophie did not go to Korea once a year after that. She plans to go to Korea this year.
Some interviewees rarely visit Korea. When asked why they did not visit Korea, they replied that they did not have any family living in Korea. Most of their family members passed away and their close family members live in the U.S. They miss Korea but do not need to go to Korea. Some interviewees have siblings and close relatives in Korea. They said that family members in Korea asked them to visit Korea; however, they do not have enough discretionary income to cover the expenses associated with travel to Korea.

One aspect to highlight from the data findings is a changed perception of Korea. Older Korean immigrants perceive Korea as their home; however, they do not want to live in Korea anymore. Many interviewees claimed that Korea changed too much. For example, some interviewees came to the U.S. in the 1980s. When their businesses became stable or one of their elderly parents was sick or passed away, they visited Korea. They realized that the air in Korea was so bad and that their throats were sore. They were easily lost in their hometown because it changed significantly while they were away.

*Early Later Life*

The majority of the interviewees traveled more and started to participate in various leisure activities in the period of early later life. Most interviewees retired and turned their business over to their children. Their children were grown-up and left home. In this period of early later life, interviewees explored the U.S. and visited famous places. For instance, Linda commented,
My children all grew up. I do not take care of grandchildren. I have lots of free time. It is my golden time in my life. It is like an endless open field. I can go anywhere I want to go. I have time and materials…At present, I am healthy…I can do whatever I want… I can go to concerts if I want. I want to enjoy cultural life for the rest of my life. I also want to continue joining a book club with Koreans living in Korean communities. I feel that I would be happy if I have time for self-improvement. Now it is time for self-improvement.

She also traveled many places in the U.S. and planned to travel around the world. She also commented,

I traveled a lot here and there with my husband, LA, New York, Florida by car and airplane. We made the coast-to-coast trip from East to West of the U.S. Until now we traveled the U.S. Now I love to learn something. Especially, I am enjoying reading books and join a book club to have time for literary reviews and literary criticisms. I have good eyesight. As people age, they are losing eyesight. I want to read books as many as possible until I lose my eyesight. In the near future, I am planning to go a world-travel so that I am reading books about European history.

In this period, many Korean immigrants traveled to iconic places in the U.S., such as the Rocky Mountains, Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon, and Niagara Falls. When the interviewees recalled problems faced during their travel experiences, they vividly recalled their travel destinations such as these iconic places. For example, Christine, who is a 72 year-old housewife, recalled her previous travel experience from when she was in her 60s. She loves the Grand Canyon. When seeing the Grand Canyon, she had an open mind. In addition, she visited other iconic places such as Las Vegas, Hollywood, Canada. She could not tell about the other destinations that she visited with her daughter’s family because all of the sign-boards were written in English. She could not read the names of these unfamiliar places or pronounce them.
Many interviewees also increased their travel after retirement. When asked why they traveled more and where they traveled, one of interviewees, Sophie, a 78 year-old housewife, replied, “I felt free when I was about sixty years old. My grandsons went to college and I did not need to take care of them.”

However, some people mentioned that they felt tired after walking for hours during travel. As a result, the majority of the interviewees focused leisure activities. For instance, Michelle, who is a 67 year-old widow, commented,

Instead, I do not stay at home. I go out and participate in health related programs such as an Eastern traditional healing practice program, Yoga, Line dance, and computer class. I am not a person crying at home because I feel lonely. I had rather go out to anything like gardening, shopping, and participating in an interesting program. I also drive a car. If I did not know how to drive, I would move to a metropolitan city like New York.

New leisure activity

Another interviewee, Joyce, who is a 67 year-old housewife who came to the U.S. in 2008, spent most of her time at home due to a lack of transportation. After she met a Korean American at KASA, who is now her husband, she joined a mountain hiking club and started hiking and walking to the mountains for better health. She commented,

After I met him, I went to many mountains in the U.S. than before. I used to be at home after immigration. Hiking is good for health of older adults. I go hiking almost every weekend. Because of family conflicts, I almost have depression. I never smiled at home so my facial muscle seemed to get stiff, but now I am getting better. Well, I do not go to mountains in winter because I need special equipment and skills and the weather is too cold to go hiking. When the weather is fine, I go hiking almost every weekend.
Some people had more time after retirement; however, at the same time, some had personal illness. For example, Michael, who is a 77 year-old retired mechanic, commented,

After retirement, I spent more time on volunteering in KASA and was in the chair of the KASA for two years. Even though I received a heart surgery in 2005, I continued volunteering for the KASA. When recovering after the heart surgery, he also guided a Korea tour with fifteen KASA members and attended an international Korean senior association conference in Korea. I also enjoyed sea fishing travels with my friends.

*Family travel and intergenerational travel*

Because their grown-up children value travel experiences, they are interested in traveling to iconic places in the U.S. (e.g., the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Niagara Falls, Canada, Alaska, and Hawaii). They travel in order to show America to their children for educational purposes and to compensate their parents for their favor.

Unlike first-generation older Korea immigrants, their grown-up children appeared to have no difficulty searching for travel information, reading signboards written in English, and using multi-media and advanced technology (e.g., navigation). When first-generation older Korean immigrants travel with their grown-up children, they are more likely to travel independently rather than purchase an organized travel package. Billy commented that,

I cannot speak English, but my daughters attended a high school in America and went to college in New York. They speak English very well. They also search
information through Internet very well. My youngest daughter working for the Korean Air company knows a lot about travel and is good at finding good information and nice travel deals through Internet.

After immigration, their children attended middle or high schools in the U.S. and therefore their English must be strong. The 1.5 generation is also proficient at searching for travel information on the internet and finding good deals on travel products from travel agencies. However, first-generation older Korean immigrants depend entirely on paper-based travel information, such as a travel catalog or newspaper advertisement.

One of the most popular family travel destinations was an amusement park in Florida. Alison, who is a 68 year-old divorced female and lives with her first son’s family in Georgia, commented,

I regularly go to family travels to Florida. My youngest son lives in Florida and my grandchildren loves to play in the amusement parks in Florida. Every year, new amusement park opens and famous amusement parks make new facilities for children. I love to see my grandchildren playing in these amusement parks.

However, all older Korean immigrants in this early later life enjoy family travels. For example, Joyce, who is a 67 year-old housewife, has family conflicts with her son-in-law. She did not want to go on family trips with her daughter’s family due to these family conflicts. She commented, “It’s not fun for me to go family travels with my daughter’s family...Well…food was hard to find my taste. I prefer McDonald’s rather than restaurants they chose.” She complained that her daughter and son-in-law preferred different food. For example, young people like to eat meats and bread, but she likes Kimchi and Rice. In addition, their daily life patterns were different. They preferred skipping
breakfast, but she wanted to eat a hearty breakfast. Therefore, when older Korean adults have family conflicts, they do not travel with them in order to avoid fighting with each other.

**Religion**

Church and religion play an important role in the lives of first-generation immigrants. Church is more than a place to worship God. Church people have helped first-generation older Korea immigrants to deal with many difficulties after immigration and have provided various programs to help them adapt to new environments. Moreover, church provides a space to socialize with other Koreans. The interviewees participate in three types of travel in relation to church: religious travel, mission travel, and pleasure travel.

**Religious Travel**

Many interviewees reported that their most memorable travels were their religious trips to Israel. Diana, who is a retired restaurant owner, claimed that, “Church occupies my life a lot. My most memorable travel was pilgrimage to Israel” When asked why her most memorable travel was her religious travel to Israel, she replied,

The memorable travel was a religion travel to Israel for 15 nights and 16 days. When I traveled around Hawaii, my travel guide showed travel destinations by car and I did not need to walk to the destination. I was comfortable. Comparing to my Hawaii trip, the Israel trip was memorable because I walked for hours during the Israel trip to reach each destination by foot and keep listening travel destinations after the travel in Church sermons.
Three female interviewees mentioned that after the religious trip, when they read the Bible, they can image the places in the Bible. Moreover, they have the same idea that they were satisfied with the travel because they lived through it. They said that completing the travel was possible because they traveled in their 60s. Diana commented,

Well... I went to Israel before... It was hard to say the name of the places in the Bible because I could not memorize them. After traveling Israel, I saw that places with my eyes. When I read the Bible, I can remember the places, the graves the bones were buried, Siloham pond, and Jordan River. I saw everything. Well...well...that...well...I cannot say...I went to the valley of desert, it was difficult. But it was not a common travel, but visiting a holy land. The meaning of that travel was different. During my pleasure travel, I used to drive a car to the travel destination. I walked for a long time because it was a pilgrimage so it was difficult to travel. ...walked a lot around Israel. Once I took off the bus, I walked for hours and I was tired. I also saw several older ladies fainted because they could not walk anymore and their blood pressure was high...Well... I saw all planned destinations on foot. At that time I was around early 60s.

**Mission trip**

Some interviewees became committed Christians after turning point events, such as military service, a Russia mission trip, and attempting suicide. They are all males. After taking their first mission trip, they showed interest in participating in subsequent mission trips once or twice a year. For example, Dexter, who is a retired doctor and owns three hospitals in Atlanta, commented,

After the mission trip to Russia in 1999, Now, Church became my home. I go to mission trips twice or three times a year. I went to Kenya, Ethiopia, and Uganda. In the past, after the mission trip to Russia, I went to South America such as Nicaragua, Mexico, and Argentina.
These interviewees were not concerned about the distance to the destination. They also did not worry about language, accommodation, and other travel-related services because the organizers of the mission trip provided the minimum comforts for these participants. They went to unfamiliar travel destinations (such as a country where they never visited before), but the mission trip organizers provided organization for the travel. They stayed in based camps and moved 10-15 people together. After providing various programs and services, the mission trip participants travel together around the mission trip destination. In addition, during the mission trip, the participants learned how different ethnic groups felt the same emotions when they worship God. Thus they did not feel uncomfortable communicating with the locals. Three interviewees also are interested in learning local cultures, tasting local foods, and providing services to local people.

*Travel programs from Korean churches*

Church also played an important role in providing not only religious travel and mission travel, but also pleasure travel programs. Some participants preferred to participate in pleasure travel programs offered by their church. There are several reasons this is preferred. First, the interviewees trust the people in their church. They do not feel overpaid and trust that the travel program from church is the best choice in terms of travel price, travel destination, and travel program. Second, they get travel program information easily because they attend church every week. Third, their grown-up children are not anxious whenever their parents want to participant in these travels with church members. Katherine, who is an 82 year-old retired cashier, commented,
I traveled 32 countries. My daughter is a good girl. She said that she is too busy to travel with me so that she encouraged me to participate in every travel program offered by churches. She visited different countries for 20 years. Especially, I am proud of going to China with three pastors and three church members who were representatives of Georgia churches to participate in international Christian gatherings.

She earned five dollars an hour as she worked for her daughter’s wig store as a cashier. However, her daughter, who is a successful wig store owner and lives with Katherine, paid all of the travel expenses when she wanted to go traveling with church members. In short, church plays an important role in facilitating travel experiences among first-generation Korean immigrants.

Korea

The majority of interviewees visited Korea at least twice after immigration. Some people visit almost every year to see their parents and close family members. Sometimes people visit because of their work. Some people visited only once or twice over the last 30 years because their close family lives in the U.S. and there are very few relatives living in Korea. For example, Karen, who is a retired chiropractic professional, did not visit Korea frequently because she did not have parents or close family in Korea. However, when she did visit Korea, she went to her parents’ graves to cut the grass.

Many people after immigration did not want to go back to Korea because the cities are too complex to navigate and the air and water appeared to be seriously polluted. For example, Pamela, who came to the U.S. in 1987, commented that, “When I went to Korea, I felt that Korea was changed a lot. People in Korea seemed very busy and did not
help me ask a location when I got lost in Seoul.” Many interviewees also complained of the air pollution and had a sore throat when they stayed in Korea. Then they wanted to go back to their home in the U.S. Another male participant, Howard, who was a teacher and came to the U.S. in 1973, commented that, “I could not find a train station in my hometown. Everything seems to be changed. The home in Korea was not my home now.”

Because Korea is changing at a fast pace and developing quickly, first-generation older Korean immigrants, who came to the U.S. during the mid-1960 to mid-2000, needed to readjust to their changed hometowns in Korea.

**No travel experience**

Some interviewees started traveling and engaging in various leisure activities in early later life; however, some interviewees sought a part-time job in order to pay for their car or house after retirement in early later life. Or, they sometimes continue to help with their grown-up children’s business and check delivered products and stock them in storage. Some female interviewees take care of grandchildren because their grown-up children are a dual-income family.

**Later Life**

In this period of later life, older Korean immigrants prefer doing leisure activities which they began in early later life. Many interviewees participate in various leisure activities such as attending senior organizations (e.g., KASA, Korean churches, and YMCA), learning new activities (e.g., Korean musical instrument, Yoga, Go [baduk]),
socializing at senior organizations, gardening, exercising and taking a walk in a park. They appeared to keep a regular schedule for their leisure activities every week. For example, Joe, who is a 78 year-old retired labor, has been volunteering at KASA for over ten years. He enjoys gardening, volunteering at KASA, attending KASA and church. Because many participants attend KASA from Tuesday to Friday and attend church from Saturday to Sunday, they set a regular schedule for their leisure activities.

The majority of the interviewees travel in later life; however, they prefer going on day trips with their friends that are offered by churches and KASA. Popular destinations, such as Helen Georgia, Buford dam, Smoky Mountains, and parks near Georgia, are not far from Georgia. These day trips are also all organized trips. Interviewees did not plan to travel alone. When asked why they did not travel independently by car, one of the interviewees, Robert, who is an 86 year-old retired businessman, replied, “Even though I can drive a car, I cannot go outside freely because I do not know here. I even cannot use navigation because I cannot read English. It is not written in Korean. I also cannot enter the destination on the navigation.” Navigation (GPS) was also useless to him because of the language barrier. Once time he got lost. He tried to find a familiar road to his home. He got frustrated. He went to a gas station, called his son, and then gave his phone to a clerk at the gas station. Robert waited until the clerk drew a map that showed directions to his home.

Many interviewees did not want to travel because of their physical problems. In fact, some interviewees received heart surgery and some have other diseases such as diabetes, brain tumors, and other chronic diseases. Controlling their body seemed like no
easy task. One of the participants, Belle, who is an 81 year-old housewife, said, “I prefer staying at home while I am enjoying gardening, reading books, watching TV, and doing housework. I traveled with my grown-up children near Georgia such as Florida. Older adults prefer warm place. Once older adults are sick and have cold, their cold turned into pneumonia.” Many participants expressed concern for their children and their worry over sick parents. It is for this reason that older adults take care of their health by themselves.

Paul, who is an 82 year-old retired labor, also commented that,

> It would be difficult to travel now. I cannot control my body well. My son sang a song, “play-play when you are young, play play older people cannot play.” Traveling is good. I know people who love traveling. They do not easily change their tempo and they seem to have a broad mind and understand different people. I could go traveling if I want to go. However, I had rather not travel because my children would have pressure because of my travel expenses. I have been thinking that there is nothing to fear throughout my life, but my children would be sad if something happened to me during traveling. Parents still consider their children as babies.

Katherine, who is an 82 year-old female who traveled to 32 different countries in her late midlife and early later life, also did not travel in later life. She commented that, “There is no place I did not visit. But […] I registered to go to Alaska, but I could not go because I was sick.” She did not go traveling after having spinal disks. However, she still participates in day trips offered by her church. Pastors always want her to join every day trips when church members go to a mountain to enjoy BBQ and go hiking. She enjoys chatting with friends who are around her age instead of hiking. However, she does not need to travel to Korea to see her relatives and grown-up children living in Korea. Her grown up children and relatives visit America to see her. Her family discouraged from
traveling long distances because of her age and spinal disks. As a result, Katherine focuses on her leisure activities such as gardening. She plants roses in her yard rather than travel.

Model of the Influence of Turning Point Events among First Generation Korean Immigrants

The objective of this section is to develop a theory by using a grounded theory approach. The grounded theory developed in this study is presented in concrete images via a graphical representation of the findings. Consistent with many grounded theorists (Glaser & Strauss, 1967; Corbin & Strauss, 2008; Morse et al., 2008), the model will help to identify, construct, and interpret the relationships between turning point events and travel styles among first generation older Korean immigrants. Figure 1 offers a model of the influence of turning point events among first generation Korean immigrants.

The 33 interviewees identified turning point events that occurred throughout their life span. They talked about their travel experiences before and after their turning point events, and then described their travel behaviors and participation before and after turning point events. As the individuals described their travel experiences, it became important to consider how various life events influenced their decisions to travel or to not participate in travel. Decisions regarding travel participation or non-participation resulted from individual value systems related to travel and the degree of influence that a turning point event had on travel behaviors and styles.

In order to highlight the turning point events and travel styles among first generation Korean immigrants, the interview format remained consistent for each person.
Figure 4.1 Model of the Influence of Turning Point Events among First Generation Korean Immigrants
interviewed. The interviews were designed to gain insight as to why people felt motivated to travel or not after turning point events, where they preferred to visit during pleasure travel, and what travel styles associated with turning point events they displayed.

As shown in Figure 1, the grounded theory emerged as a result of the coding process and visualizing the way that interviewees described their travel experiences after turning point events. The third research question of this study is, “What turning point events influence older Korean immigrants’ travel style?” The study used Strauss and Corbin's approach of grounded theory to analyze data and answer this research question (Corbin, 2008). This approach offered an opportunity to capture, in data form, participants' life experiences and to find the pattern from variance of individuals’ lives. This study involves turning point events in life, such as the death of a spouse or child, personal illness, and/or immigration, insofar as these events are significant to the people who experience them. Thus, this study is about the meanings of turning point events, rather than the events themselves; it focuses on the reaction of people after such life events, and how these events influence travel behavior. The relationship between turning point events and travel behavior among first generation Korean immigrants are diverse and complex. The researcher tried to understand how the participants of the study responded to turning point events and how they developed their travel styles throughout the life course.

Several themes emerged that created turning point events and travel styles among first generation older Korean immigrants. These include various turning point events in lives, different patterns of turning point events, general outcome of turning point events (i.e., changes of transitional role, changes in family structure, changes in
socioeconomic status, changes in priority of life), specific travel outcome (i.e., value of travel, timing of travel, and opportunity), facilitators and constraints to travel participation after turning point events, and participation and non-participation in pleasure travel. In the following section, the themes that emerged are presented for each of these categories.

In Figure 4.1, the theory explains that the turning point events are related to participants’ decisions to travel based on what they described. Various turning point events and different patterns of turning point events were described by the first generation Korean immigrants in this study. Turning point events divide into eleven sub-categories, as shown in Table 5. These sub-categories include the following: immigration and move, immigration stabilization, work, marriage, family, death of family member, health problems, accident, leisure and travel, war and military services, and home country’s culture. The turning point events in this study are regarded as important factors and associated with various changes in the participants’ lives and decisions to travel or not.

**Turning Point Events**

Each of the 33 participants described life events that occurred intentionally or unexpectedly, and these turning point events influenced their family’s lives as well as their own. Various purposeful events are related to immigration, immigration stabilization (e.g., obtaining U.S. citizenship, buying a house), work related events (e.g., getting a job, learning a job skill), family related events (e.g., marriage, childbirth), and leisure and travel (e.g., Attending senior related organizations such as the Korean American Senior Association, Korean churches, going a mission trip, and
going a religious trip). Unexpected events include business failure, death of a close family member, health problems, accidents, the Korean War and military services. Each subcategory of turning point events was described in the first research question and presented in Table 4. The interviewees shared one or more turning point event experiences. One interviewee had significant life events from one to eight events throughout the life span. As a result, the interviewees described different patterns of turning point events.

**Different Patterns of Turning Point Events**

The interviewees reported that they had turning point events throughout their life course. These turning point events did not all occur in the same way but had different patterns. Significantly, different patterns of turning point events were found in this study and a total of four different patterns of turning point events were found: 1) single turning point event, 2) interpersonal turning point event, 3) multiple turning point events, and 4) sequential turning point events.

**Single Turning Point Event**

As discussed before, various turning point events affect individual lives. Although most participants reported a single event, one event may substantially impact various life settings. For example, immigration is one of the most important single life events among first generation older Korean immigrants. Immigration influences many aspects of a person’s life, such as language, social network, and transportation systems. Additionally, participants in this study sometimes experienced the same single turning point event, but the consequences of the life event or the
feelings of the event were different. Conner said that retirement was a turning point event, but not a pleasure event because of his financial status and worried about whether or not he could get a part-time job.

I worked for a medicare company for 25 years. I did not make much money, but I got a stable job and worked from 9am to 5pm. I did not make much money, but I got stable job from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. After then, when I was 65, I retired. I tried to have a part-time job after retirement and I couldn’t do physical work, but I could do anything. Now I am 75 years old and it is difficult to earn 1,000 dollars. I earn 1,300 dollar each month from the Medicaid. But nobody wants to support me. I still have financial problem and I do not have enough money to travel to eat seasonal foods in Korea or other good places.

In contrast, Diana mentioned that retirement is her turning point event and considered retirement as a freedom, and she could go anywhere she wanted to. She said, “My two daughters married and left my home. I live alone. [After retirement] free…I am freely able to go anywhere I want to go.”

A single event considerably impact individuals’ life. The interviewees reported the same single event such as immigration, retirement, or the death of close family members, however, the consequences of the single events were various among the interviewees.

Interpersonal Turning Point Event

The participants reported many marriage related events and family related turning point events and were also influenced by their spouse and close family’s life events. When their close family members experienced life events, the participants were easily influenced and also experienced a turning point event related to the family members’ life event (i.e., parenthood, decision to immigrate, move to a new city due
to the spouse’s job offer, retirement, changes in health condition of close family members). Therefore, the pattern is named as interpersonal turning point events because these events are related to close family members and other people around the interviewees. For example, Silvia talked about her turning point event as a caregiver of her sick husband.

I thought that I would have been more comfortable without my husband. When I see him, I try to take care of him more because he is pity. I married at my 18 years old and my husband is 8 years older than me. He is a traditional Korean man who is conservative and stubborn. He always wants me to follow his decisions. He now had a stroke and Alzheimer’s disease. He also received a gallstone operation for the last five years. I did not go to travel at all because of his bad health condition. However, I am busy. I attend KASA, public community center, and church in the morning and take care of my husband for the rest of the day.

Silvia’s husband had Alzheimer’s disease and various other chronic diseases. She has been taking care of her sick husband for four years. Her husband’s life event influenced her life. Even though the participants were in good health, they experienced a turning point event when their spouses had a personal illness. In such cases, females are more likely to marry men who are their elder. In later life, they provide caregiver services for their husbands. A husband’s life events therefore influence changes to the spousal’s life. Therefore, the findings indicated that there were different patterns of turning point events as well as a single significant life event. In addition, the findings had shown that many turning point events are associated with close family members.
Multiple Turning Point Events

Some turning point events occur at the same time. Unlike interpersonal turning point events are related to other people, multiple turning point events mean that different significant events occurred at the same time. Many participants reported a couple of turning point events happening at the same time. For example, Dan had a car accident and had severe injuries and then he needed to rehabilitate his body for months. In Dan’s case, he had two events at the same time: car accident and rehabilitation. Diana decided to retire because she had severe diabetes symptoms such as declined eye sights and obesity. In Diana’s case, she had two events at the same time: retirement and personal illness. Specifically, Karen said that there was a fire accident in her grocery store in Florida, and her store burned to the ground. As a result of the fire accident, she experienced business failure and was forced to move to Georgia.

After I immigrated to Florida, the United States, I started to work as a janitor. I could not speak English at all when I came to Florida. A year later after immigration, I started a grocery store. My son helped me to deal with customer claims in English. He attended the Florida Tech. He spoke English very well. Then my store went out of business after the fire accident. I had to move to Georgia and start working as a cleaner for three years in order to earn business funds.

As another example, Michael had a heart attack and needed heart surgery. His personal illness inspired him to retire and seek new leisure activities in order to maintain a healthier life style.

I worked until I was 70 years old. I got a big heart surgery and could not work anymore. I started to attend the Korea American Senior Association (KASA). […] I was healthy and other people retired at 65, but I worked five years more than others and then retired when I was 70 years old. I was healthy, but suddenly, my heart was not good. […] I don’t have friends so I attend the KASA and met
other older Koreans. I like going fishing. I met some friends going fishing together. In Georgia, fishing is worth trying. I had been a charge of the president of the KASA for two years. At that time, there were not many people in the KASA. When I was the KASA president, I arranged a travel to Korea with twenty KASA members.

The interviewees were more likely to decide to retire when they had personal illnesses, such as heart disease, diabetes, and spinal disks. Another turning point event, immigration, also prompts other turning point events (i.e., work, religion) at the same time.

Sequential Turning Point Events

The last pattern of the turning point events was sequential turning point events. Several turning point events were connected and occurred sequentially. For example, Joyce reported sequential turning point events. Her daughter married a Korean American and moved to Georgia; her other children also immigrated to the United States. A few years later, she lost her husband and lived alone in Korea. She immigrated to the United States in order to live with her grown-up daughter. She had family conflicts with her son-in-law. She decided to learn how to drive in order to be independent; however, she got into a car accident and fought with her son-in-law due to the car accident. She remarried a month after the accident because she did not want to live with her son-in-law.

There are other examples. For instance, the turning point event of divorce is more likely to occur when accompanied by a move to a new city or immigration. Alison talked about the family conflict with her husband and then divorced. After divorce, she had to move to Georgia to live with her first son’s family.
One of the difficult things in my life [a turning point event] was the relationship with my husband... My relatives invited my family to immigrant to Hawaii and had lived in the half of my life…. Now I am 68 years old. The conflict with my husband is my privacy. I do not want to share the specific story, but I divorced and had to leave Hawaii which is my second hometown. I moved to Georgia and now live with my first son’s family.

In addition, as older adults aged, their grown-up children invited their older parents to the U.S. to move in. Immigration and taking care of grandchildren were reported sequentially among female interviewees. For example, Sophie had three turning points: immigration, separation with her husband for a year, and move to Georgia sequentially and said,

I immigrated to Kentucky in 1988. My grown-up child invited my husband and me to live together. I came here [the United States] to take care of my two grandsons. But as soon as the immigration, I fought with my husband and my daughter-in-law got a job in a different state and decided to follow her to take care of two grandsons rather than living together with my husband. I didn’t know how difficult to take care of children. I had two grandsons, but was too tired. A year later, I became reconciled and lived together with my husband in 1989 and then my grown-up children’s family moved to Georgia in 1995. We also moved together. My husband and I traveled good places with Korean friends who we met in Georgia. I much more like to live in the Korean community in Georgia.

Older Korean adults reported several events. These turning points occurred sequentially and each event is related to each other. The combination of these events is unpredictable. However, divorce and moving to other place were sequentially identified.

During the interviews with first generation older Korean immigrants, the principal researcher asked their significant life events throughout the life course. The interviewees shared their life events from one to eight significant life events. One single event such as immigration, retirement, the death of close family members
influenced the interviewees; however, significant life events of close family members, multiple events at the same time, and the following events of a single event (sequential events) also impact the interviewees’ life settings.

General Outcome of Turning Point Events

Based on the interviewees’ descriptions, four outcomes of turning point events emerged. These outcomes corresponded with participants’ experiences following turning point events, and include changes of transitional role, changes in family structure, changes in socio-economic status, and changes in priority in life.

Changes of Transitional Role

The findings indicated that most purposeful turning point events which were planned significant life events such as immigration, marriage, starting a business, or retirement are associated with transitional roles. Transitional role means primary role at certain life stages. For example, female participants talked specifically about their caregiver roles in relation to family. Family related roles which many female participants reported were marriage, giving birth, marriage of grown-up children, grown-up children got a job and left home, and care of grandchildren. Many participants experienced life stages such as marriage, having children, and retirement. As they experienced these developmental events, their transitional roles changed. Katherine, for example, described many changes to her transitional role as she experienced various turning point events in her life. She commented,

My husband died at his 49. At that time, I was 47. I was so afraid if my children dropped out their school and…I needed to do something. I had five children. My
first son was an occupation soldier and my second daughter was in American. So I went to America to live with my daughter and earn money to support financially for my other children in Korea. My daughter ran a wig store in Georgia and had good business. Now she owns four wig stores.

She was a housewife and a mother of five children, and then after the loss of her husband, she became the head of her household and had the responsibility of supporting her five children by herself. She was one of many widows who became increasingly devoted to their children after spousal death.

Many female interviewees in later life serve as caregiver to a sick husband, grown-up children, or grandchildren. Silvia has been caring for her sick husband for four years. Over the past four years, her husband has suffered from Alzheimer’s disease, gallstones, and a stroke. During the interview she emphasized the importance of exercise and healthy lifestyle as she takes care of her sick husband. She said, “Even though my husband is sick, I try to take a walk for an hour near the park, go to the KASA, and attend church.” She focuses on her caregiving role and maintaining a good health condition especially after her husband’s illness.

Changes in Family Structure

Changes in family structure resulted from various family related turning point events, such as the loss of a spouse, divorce, remarriage, marriage of grown-up children, and grown-up children’s move from their parent’s house. Many female participants reported that the death of their spouse was a turning point event. Before the event, they were housewives and took care of their young children. After the events, they became the head of the household and needed to earn money for their
children. Like Katharine, Brandy talked about the changes of her role and family structure after the loss of her spouse.

My life changed when my husband died. I was 44 years old. After my husband died, well…no body helped me. I had five daughters. Who can I say how much I am sad? I was a housewife as I spent my husband’s salary. I had to earn money to pay my children’s college tuition fees and food.…

Pamela was one of the female participants who mentioned that divorce was a turning point, and she described its impact on her family structure. She commented, “I divorced my husband and well…I thought that my children would be happy when their father was out of sight… My sister invited me to the United States.” After the divorce, her three children grew up without their father, and Pamela became the head of her family. In contrast, Joyce lost her husband and later remarried in the United States. Her children already have their own family. She was talking specifically about her new life after remarriage, such as moving to a new house, going hiking every weekend, and joining a hiking club with her spouse. She commented, “He gave me so much strength and he tried to make me feel better.”

Diana, who lost her husband and came to the U.S. with two daughters, described the changes she experienced,

My second daughter attended an elementary school in America… My first daughter, who came here at the age of 19, went back to Korea….she married and lives in Korea. Because my second daughter had attended American schools for a long time, she fell in love with an American guy and then married. She is in Michigan now. I could not meet her very often.

In some cultures it is the tradition that the first-born son supports his parents in their old age. Three generations of family—grandparents, parents, and
grandchildren—often live together. Many older female participants live with their
grown-up children and take care of their grandchildren because their grown-up
children are dual incomers. Pamela commented,

I am taking care of four grandchildren. […] My son and daughter-in-law are
busy. They go for work in the morning and came back home in evening. I have
been taking care of my grandchildren for 10 years.

However, there were different family structures among the participants. For
example, Diana no longer lives with her daughters, and she lives alone and said,

My brother graduated from Korea University…He came to America with a big
American dream and then invited our family. But I had my family, husband…I
stayed in Korea. After my husband died, I raised my two daughters by myself. I
waited for my children growing in Korea and then immigrated to the U.S. When
my first daughter entered a college and my second daughter entered a middle
school…My second daughter went to elementary school in America…but later,
my first daughter went back to Korea…she married and still lived in Korea. My
second daughter attended American schools and married an American guy. She
is in Michigan now. I could not meet her very often. There were many changes
after her children’s marriage. I no longer live my daughters. […] Because the
second daughter came to the U.S. at her early age, I felt that she was different
from other Korean females.

One of her daughters lives in South Korea and another in the United States. The latter
daughter married an American man. Because her daughter moved to the U.S. at an
early age, Diana felt that she appeared to be different from other Korean females.
Therefore, Diana understood that her daughter did not follow the Korean tradition and
support her old parents.

Changes of family structure represent the impact of turning point events.
These events appeared to influence female interviewees, in particular, as they reported
more family related turning point events than the males. Many male interviewees described work-related turning point events such as business success, business failure, or retirement. Therefore, older female interviewees influenced family related events such as taking care of grandchildren and caregiving of sick husbands. They had more family obligations in later life than male interviewees.

Changes in Socio-Economic Status

Many Korean immigrants had their own reasons for immigrating to the United States. Participants indicated an increased income and improved youth education as the most important factors for immigration. Cameron, a retired obstetrician, came to America in order to support family in Korea. For her, immigration was a purposeful life event. Compared to her potential salary earned in 1960s Korea, she could earn a higher income in an American hospital and help her siblings to attend schools in Korea.

Some immigrant workers shared how they worked in the past, accomplished their business success, and acquired immigration stabilization in the United States. Emily, who is a retired grocery store owner, described immigration stabilization and business success,

My husband is diligent and has good relationship with business partners who are willing to provide goods and items for our grocery store. My husband is good at speaking English. His business partners trust us and help us support food and grocery products. We did not have much money to pay all products, but the partners wait for us selling them and paying checks. For example, a partner provided products valued $100,000 with a contract to pay money within two years, we sold the products and paid money within 8 months.
Buying a house is also identified as a turning point event. For example, Diana shared that she lost her husband and worked hard to support her children. She commented,

I bought a house in 1985. I did not want to have free time because I think about my misery. I got two or three jobs at once after immigration because I did not want to think about my difficult life and dead husband. I was so sad that I almost lost the will to live. As working hard after immigration, I decided to buy a house for my later life. I thought I could live comfortably in my old age at my house

After buying a house, she felt relieved because she became financially stable. She also started a new leisure activity: planting vegetables in her yard of her house. Diana said, “I never lived in a country side [in the past]. When I came here [Georgia], I live in my house with a large backyard and then I started to plant various vegetables except for grains.”

Not all participants were successful in their business or accumulated enough money to maintain a comfortable lifestyle in their later years. Turning point events, such as business failure, personal illness, and/or accidents were associated with low financial status. Jennifer talked about her business failure and that she felt angry and did not tell her children right away because they might worry about the situation. She stated,

I ran a small motel. My business partner did me out of a large sum of money. I lost a lot of money, but tried to forget about my business failure. If I keep thinking about the failure, I would get sick in my mind. I had rather give it up.

Peter also said that his business failure resulted in serious financial problems and forced him to close his store, rush to sell his house, and move to a rental house. Thus, changes to socio-economic status following turning point events greatly impacted participants’ behaviors and travel behaviors.
Changes in Priority of Life

The findings indicated that there are changes in the priority of life. Many older Korean immigrants talked about how personal illness influenced or redirected their priorities in life. The types of personal illness identified from the participants varied and included, among others, arthritis, heart disease, diabetes, brain tumor, cancers, high blood pressure, depression, and other chronic disease. Michael said that his heart attack and heart operation influenced his life plan, and he joined the Korean American Senior Association in an effort to enjoy life and socialize with other people at the Korean senior center.

Linda, who is a 64 year-old female and came to the U.S. in 2002 for her youngest child’s education, was committed to taking care of her children. As a devoted mother turned empty nester, Linda regarded herself as her own first priority in life. She described her empty nester period as a “time for my personal growth and my precious time to learn and see things I love.”

Dan talked about his car accident and how he struggled to rehabilitate his body and survive financial distress during the two year period of unemployment that resulted from his car accident. Dan felt that he lost many things. He lost his job and income and spent lots of money on rehabilitation. Right after the car accident, he only focused on his recovery, and then he decided to immigrate to the United States. He described the situation, “I decided to live for myself and wanted to leave Korea and restart my life again in the United States.” He talked about how his car accident changed his priority of life.

Some participants described their goals for work after immigration. A substantial amount of time during their days was occupied by work. Alan immigrated...
to Georgia in 1991. He started a small business and worked day and night. He talked about how he focused on his job for a decade and avoided other things. Many participants reported their changed goal after immigration, business opening, or employment in the United States.

The interviewees experienced several turning point events. These events influenced their life settings. Based on their shared life stories, general outcomes of turning point events were identified as changes in transitional role, family structure, socio-economic status, and the priority in life. These general outcomes of turning point events are fundamental changes of travel styles among first generation Korean immigrants since they experience significant life events.

Specific Travel Outcome of Turning Point Events

The development of this theory is about understanding how the participants changed their travel styles after various turning point events occurred in their life span. The findings indicated three change components after turning point events: value of travel, timing of travel, and opportunity to travel. The three specific travel outcomes of turning point events appear to play an important role as facilitators and constraints to travel participation among first generation Korean immigrants.

Value of Travel

The findings indicated that turning point events trigger changes of value of travel participation. The interviewees shared positively and negatively changed value of travel after certain turning point events. For example, Jennifer talked about her travel experience. She did not travel at all right after immigration to the United States. After
her second turning point event, business stabilization, she started to travel around the famous places of the United States, such as the Rocky Mountains and said,

I want to go traveling as many as possible before I die. I want to see as many as possible. As far as financially possible, I want to travel more

Diana also mentioned that she thought that she did not have time to travel, but only focused on work and support for her two daughters before retirement. One of her turning point events, retirement changed her value of travel positively, she felt free to go anywhere and at any time that she wished. Moreover, at that time, she was overweight and her doctor recommended her to control her diet due to her diabetes symptoms. She used to cook and overeat at home. She considered that traveling would be a good means to control her weight by walking around for a long time at travel destinations and eating fresh fruits and vegetables which she did not like before. New cultures and new foods she had not seen before at travel destinations facilitated her to walk and try new foods during her traveling and having healthy food while traveling also helped her to lose her weight rather than eating mainly breads and meats. She commented,

The symptoms of my diabetes got worse. I used to eat fat meats and rice much more than I needed. Doctors recommended going on a diet for better health. I traveled to Korea to see my daughter in Korea. In addition, while I was traveling, I bought fresh fruits and vegetables in grocery stores and have them at hotel or while I walked around travel attractions. I cooked more and ate more food at home. By traveling for months, I could eat limited food and take more fresh food and walk for hours so that I was able to lose my weight.
As Diana changed her value of travel positively after retirement and personal illness, Michael also talked specifically about the situation of positively changed value of travel as well as leisure activities after his heart operation. He said,

I had a heart surgery in 2005 and retired at my 70 years old, and then I enjoy my life and started volunteer work in KASA. I also worked for KASA as a president. I also guided a travel to Korea with almost 20 KASA members to Korea.

Joe talked about his travel experience after retirement. Like other immigrants, he also did not travel at all for years. After he was in early 60s, he was curious about America (which became his country now). After retirement, his value of travel was positively changed and he visited many famous places in the United States.

Positive value of travel is an important factor in travel motivation. Diana noted that travel refreshes her and broadens her experience. She also thought that when she travels, her mind gets wider, accepts different things, and understands people whose opinions differ from her own. She reflected that her mind expanded as she viewed sites like the Grand Canyon. Many interviewees also praised rich nature resources in Colorado, Denver, and Alaska.

Positive value of travel is not only related to internal motivations to travel, but also related to enhancing family relationships through travel experience. Alice and Mary talked about traveling with grandchildren. Mary commented,

I live with my daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren. I cannot go (travel) further so we went to Disney land in Florida for my grandchildren. I was happy and had fun while I watched my grandchildren playing in Disney land.

Mary and Alice did not prefer to spend a lot of money on pleasure travel in this economic recession, but they liked visiting famous amusement parks with their
grandchildren and watching them play during family travels. Many female interviewees reported that their primary role was taking care of her grandchildren and educating Korean language and cultures to them. As a result, the interviewees enjoyed their travels with grandchildren because they have good time with grandchildren during travels.

However, many participants in this study talked about how turning point events negatively impacted their value regarding travel participation. Most of the interviewees mentioned immigration as one of the turning point events. They also shared a negative value of travel on account of language barriers, transportation problems, and work-related struggles. As a result of immigration, they found themselves in the process of adapting to their new environment in the United States.

Specifically, many interviewees shared their changed jobs, work hours, and changed priorities of life goals after immigration. For example, Diana commented that

I worked from 9am to 5pm and then worked from 6pm to 3am. After working like that, I used to sleep in the subway. Sometimes, when I woke up, it was almost time to go to work in the morning.

Dexter also spent most of his time on work and said, “I worked from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. I needed to wake up all days and nights.” Alan was a public officer in Korea, but quit the job and immigrated to the United States. He started a grocery store and worked almost every day. The interviewees’ priority of life goal right after immigration was settling down in the new environment. As they spent most of their time on work, they focused on work. As a result, the interviewees had the negative value of travel right after immigration.
The very older Korean interviewee group, who were born in 1930s and experienced the Korean War and witnessed the poor condition of the country after the war, did not place a high value of travel experience. For example, Belle said,

In 1950, Korea was in ruins after the Korean War. People only knew about doing farm work. For 50 years lots of things changed in Korea. 50 years ago, everything was in ruins and most people were very poor and did not have any food.

Belle emphasized that she was educated to be a good mother who takes care of children and supports her husband. She never planned for pleasure travel. However, her values on family rank high. She travelled with her family members when her grown-up children asked her to but she refuses to travel with friends or church members.

As one of specific travel outcomes of turning point events, changed value of travel either positively or negatively after a turning point event is identified. Positive value of travel appeared to facilitate the interviewees’ travel participation. Negative value of travel constrained their travel participation. However, even though some interviewees had negative value of travel after a turning point event, they participated in traveling for their important other values such as having good time with grandchildren, family members, or friends.

Timing of Travel

The participants indicated timing as an influential factor in their travel decisions. Timing of travel is not only about having free time of each individual, but also having right timing to travel with others. Timing is also related to changed value on travel and opportunity to travel. The findings also suggest that there are positive timing of
travel and negative timing of travel. Positive timing of travel was the period after retirement, immigration stabilization, business success, and recovery from personal illness. Many participants described various travel experiences such as visiting Korea, a mission trip to Israel or other countries, an intergenerational travel or travelling to famous places in the United States. Retirement of the spouse [husband] and moving of the grown-up children from the participant’s house also influenced the travel behavior of the housewife. As Linda became an empty nester, she had more time to travel. Linda commented,

Timing was just right. I immigrated to the U.S.A. because my husband was retired and my youngest daughter wanted to enter an American University. I have no grandchild yet and my husband is retired so I travel a lot. I feel like I have a lot of fun and relaxing time in the period of my life

The period after immigration stabilization and business success was also good timing for travel. The participants felt that they adapted to the new environment and became financially stable. Emily, a 78 year-old female, described her religious trip to Israel as her first travel experience after her immigration. She and her husband profited from business and attended a Korean church every weekend since their immigration; they immigrated to the United States in their 50s. The couple thought that it was the right timing of travel with church members and pastors. They had enough money to travel and were healthy enough to walk for hours in Israel. Emily said, “I went to the Israel trip in my early 60s, I would not go there again because I feel easily tired now.”

The period after recovery from personal illness was also good timing of travel. For some, their value of travel was positively changed as they became healthier after medical treatments. These participants decided to enjoy their lives and experience
things as they liked. The findings indicate that positive timing of travel is related to a
good health condition and a low level of responsibility related to transitional roles,
such as work and family/caregiving. On the other hand, negative timing is related to
heavy workloads, the process of adaptation after immigration, many responsibilities,
multiple transitional roles after the loss of a spouse or family-related event (i.e.,
caregiving), poor health condition after severe personal illness (e.g., cancer, brain
tumor), and historical events (i.e., the Korean War). Some comments made by older
adults in their early 80s described the impact of the Korean War. The period after the
Korean War is negative timing for pleasure travel. However, the duration of the war’s
impact varies, and childhood experience appeared to influence the decision for
pleasure travel in later life. The cohort who experienced negative timing, such as the
Korean War also had different travel behaviors compared to younger older adults who
experienced the rapidly growing Korean economy in the 1960 and 1970s.

Opportunity to Travel

All of the opportunities to travel involving the interviewees are associated with
travel companions, such as a spouse, family, faith-related organization (e.g., Korean
churches), and senior-related organization (e.g., KASA). The participants’ travel
behaviors were influenced by their companions. The interviewees talked about
positive and negative opportunity to travel related to their spouse, family members,
faith-related organization, and senior-related organization.
The spouse

Joyce lost her ex-husband and then immigrated to the United States. She used to stay at home almost every day because she did not know English or how to drive. After remarrying, she found her husband to be the best travel companion, and she enjoys going hiking near mountains and said,

[After remarrying] my husband led to go hiking near Georgia with other hiking club members in the KASA. I did not go before. Hiking is good for health. I really went to many mountains after I met him. I went hiking almost every weekends now [after remarrying], but I was depressed to be at home every day for three years [after immigration]

Karen also mentioned her husband as her best friend, and they often drive to a casino in North Carolina. Karen used to join a package trip or group travels to western America with other Korean friends, but she did not prefer to join group travels due to several reasons such as inflexible travel schedule, visiting too many travel destinations, going to long distances by a coach, and small conflicts with friends due to travel expenses. She also used to go to Korea to meet her relatives and visit her parents’ grave. Especially, after her son suffered from born cancer from a year ago. She paid all of new born cancer treatments for her son because all medicines for born cancer were not covered by her son’s insurance. She spent all her private retirement savings and depended on her pension. As a result, her husband and she prefer day trips near Georgia by her own car.

When I had a headache or had many worries, I went traveling. After traveling, my head is refreshed. I like going seas and mountains. But I cannot say when I travel. I prefer to travel by car with my husband and can travel anytime when our physical condition is good. My husband and I travel together. I had more troubles when my husband and I traveled with other Korean friends and sometimes argued with them due to travel expenses.
Although a healthy spouse may be the best travel companion, some female interviewees did not have an opportunity to travel on account of caring for a sick husband.

Family

Many older Korean immigrants live with their grown-up children. Traditionally, one of the grown-up children takes on the responsibility for caring for their old parents. Alison, who divorced and moved to her oldest son’s house in Georgia, takes care of her grandchildren. She does not take many opportunities to go on over-night travels with her friends; however, she travels with her grown-up children’s family. They visit famous amusement parks in Florida to amuse the grandchildren. Alison said,

I felt sorry when I spent money to travel to Korea for myself in the economic downturn. My son’s family and I prefer to visit Florida for my grandchildren. I also enjoy watching them playing in the amusement parks.

Linda, Karen, and Peter live with their spouses and enjoy their independent lives without their grown-up children. Because they are in an empty-nester period, they expressed a greater sense of freedom from caregiver roles and freely scheduled their pleasure travel with their spouses.

All of the interviewees do not live in traditional Korean family structures: with three generations (grandparents, parents, and grandchildren) living together. Some participants live alone after the loss of their spouse, and because their grown-up children live in other states. For example, Diana, who is a 75 year-old female, lives alone in her own house. She did not have many opportunities to travel with her
grown-up children, and so she depends on faith-based organizations and senior-related organizations such as KASA.

**Faith-based organization**

Attending a Korean church does not only mean the worship of a God. It holds potential for other purposes. Korean immigrants socialize with other Koreans in their church. Korean churches provide a variety of diverse educational programs, such as Bible study, classes for learning a computer as well as food and health classes, and recreational and travel programs, such as line dances, social group activities, and mission trip programs. Katherine talked about how she visited over 32 countries since her immigration. She helped her daughter, who operated a successful wig store. As her daughter was too busy to travel and visit places with Katherine, she encouraged Katherine to join travel programs involving church members. Katherine’s daughter as well as other participants’ family members considered travel programs offered by the church were safe, cheap, and offered a good opportunity to travel with their parents’ friends and church members. In this way, the participants gained family approval for their travel participation without worrying about their grown-up children’s anxiety or concerns about their old parents who do not speak English fluently and may struggle in an emergency situation while traveling.

Korean churches also attempted to provide travel programs to encourage socialization among church members as a means of deepening their religious faith. Churches provide various religious trips to holy lands, mission trips, and volunteer trips to developing countries. Especially, retired male interviewees (Peter, Dexter, and Howard) or those who will retire soon (Trevor) talked about their passion for helping
people during mission trips. They discussed their life goals for the mission trips and planned to participate in such trips annually. Trevor said,

Our church provides mission trip opportunities and makes 15 people as one team. In the Bible, Baul also traveled around many destinations, shared the words of the God, and did many good things. […] As he traveled, the number of his followers increased and became good church people. That is Baul. I want to live like him for the rest of my life.

Based upon the life stories shared by the participants, faith-based organizations occupied the older Korean immigrants’ daily lives as well as leisure and travel engagements. As the participants and the Korean church built their relationships over a long period of time, participants showed loyalty toward day travels and religious/mission trips offered by the Korean churches.

*Senior related organization*

Another organization for older Korean immigrants that provided opportunities for travel participation among first generation older Korean immigrants was the Korean American Senior Association (KASA). It was very apparent from the interviews that KASA was an important resource for leisure, recreation, and travel engagements among participants regardless of religion. Paul attends KASA every day except for Saturday, Sunday, and Monday when it is closed. He said,

The big problem is not a health condition, but no life goals. Why do I live? In the past, I worked hard for supporting my family. […] Now, I am thinking, what am I doing? I felt I lost the purpose of my life. I come to the KASA and see friends. The hardest day, I cannot endure is every Saturday, Sunday, and Monday….when the KASA closes.
Paul experienced the Korean War and had hard time after the war. As his cohort did not want to spend money for pleasure travels, he also did not have many pleasure travel experiences. However, he participated in fishing trips near Georgia with friends of KASA and on family trips with his grandchildren.

Joyce met her husband in KASA and remarried. Joyce used to be at home before attending KASA. When describing her changed travel behavior after her experience with turning point events, remarriage and attending KASA, Joyce said, “I join a hiking club with her husband. I never go hiking before, but I love going hiking and feel like getting healthier and happier.” She further described how she did not know of any natural resources near Georgia before joining the hiking club at KASA. Participants seem to solidify friendships with other members of these organizations every week. As a result of such friendships, they are more willing to engage in day trips or over-night trips with the members. Michael attended KASA and served as its representative for two years. He said,

When I was in charge of the president of the KASA, there were less than 100 people. Now there are over 350 people attending the KASA. But, you need to think about how many older Korean adults living in Atlanta, there are many people who cannot come here because of transportation.

As Michael said, older Korean immigrants in Georgia, who did not join these senior-related organizations that were designed for older Koreans, may have missed opportunities to engage in travel programs, leisure activities and socialization with other Koreans.

The interviewees described positive opportunities were associated with their family structure and the participation in Korean churches or the KASA. Notably,
these senior-related organizations are not only for travel engagements among older adults, but also for leisure and recreation, socialization, and education. It means that those who live alone without any close family members and do not belong to any senior related organizations appeared to have negative opportunity to travel.

Influence of Turning Point Events on Travel Participation

During the interviews, I investigated how their travel experiences were influenced before and after turning point events. The participants talked about the impact of a turning point event on their travel and whether or not they participated or did not participate in travel before and after the events. The findings show that turning point events are associated with travel motivation and travel constraints. Exploring whether the interviewees participated in travel would be an effective way to understand the impact of the turning point events on their travel behaviors.

Turning Point Events Which Facilitate to Travel

Turning point events which consistently function as influential facilitators for travel among the participants include remarriage, leisure and travel, immigration stabilization and business success. Again, these four significant life events brought general outcomes such as transitional role, family structure, financial status, and priority of life. In addition, such significant life events changed the participants’ values of travel and influenced their decisions for timing of travel. The changes experienced after the four significant life events led to the interviewees’ travel participation. Examples of these four significant life events facilitating travel...
participation were presented previously. For example, after remarrying, female
interviewees had more opportunities to travel with their spouse and visited new places
they did not visit before. Michelle remarried with a European American in her late
40s and then traveled to European countries and Joyce started to go hiking with her
husband.

Many interviewees did not travel right after immigration, however, they
shared their travel experiences after adjusting to their immigration life to the United
States, stabilizing their business or work, and achieving success in business. In
addition, various leisure and travel programs offered by senior-related organizations
such as Korean churches and the KASA facilitated first generation older Korean
immigrants to participate in travel programs.

These four turning point events (i.e., remarriage, leisure and travel,
immigration stabilization and business success) are related to having travel
companions (e.g., spouse, other Korean immigrants) after remarriage or attending
senior-related organizations, settling down fully in the United States, and having
affordable income after business success. The findings of the study suggest the same
significant life event can impact differently on travel behaviors among the
interviewees.

Turning Point Events Which Facilitate
or Constrain Travel

The following five significant life events were identified to either facilitate or
constrain decisions to travel: health problems, retirement, death of close family
members, divorce, and caregiving. These significant life events showed different
consequences according to the interviewees. Even though the interviewees reported personal illness as a turning point event, some participants’ value of travel changed positively as they tried to enjoy traveling and maintain a healthier lifestyle after recovering from personal illness. This may be related to the severity of illness. For example, Brandy underwent two brain tumor surgeries, and Cameron underwent two bladder cancer surgeries. Decisions regarding travel participation were different for each of them. Specifically, Brandy, a 70 year-old female, experienced poor eyesight and found staircases to be a challenging obstacle. Even though Brandy is relatively younger than other participants in this study, after two brain tumor surgeries, she chooses to enjoy leisure activities and attend church more frequently than participating in travel.

Retirement was identified as a golden period for traveling among the participants. However, some turning point events significantly altered the financial status of some participants as they experienced multiple turning point events (e.g., business failure and retirement). Paul said, “I retired at 65 years old and started a small business, but failed soon. I lost 200,000 dollars.” After retirement, some felt discouraged to participate in travel on account of financial difficulty.

The death of close family members is one of the most negative turning point events in an individual’s life. However, it varies how much time one needs to adapt to the new transitional role after the loss of a spouse or child. Basically, participants did not consider traveling right after the loss of close family members. The loss of a spouse or child is an obvious constraint to travel participation. Some participants needed to be the head of their households and support their living children. However, some experienced various changes after such events. Christine, a 72 year-old female,
lived with her daughter’s family after her husband passed away and has been taking
care of her grandchildren. As the daughter’s family traveled during the holiday
seasons, Christine traveled with them. The changed family structure that developed
after the loss of her spouse facilitated her travel participation.

Divorce may either facilitate or constrain travel participation. As the
participants divorced, they may experience a loss of their travel companion and need
to move to a new environment. Alison immigrated to Hawaii and lived there for half
of her life. After her divorce and due to a family conflict, she moved to Georgia and
lives with her oldest son’s family. For years, she felt uncomfortable because of the
poor transportation system in Georgia compared to that in Hawaii. Later, even though
she did not know how to drive, she rode a free shuttle van belonging to KASA and her
church. Following her divorce, Alison does not suffer from family conflict anymore
and takes various opportunities offered by well-developed Korean communities in
Atlanta. She enjoys intergenerational travels with her two sons’ families and
participates in day trips offered by KASA and her church.

It was only female interviewees that talked about caregiving for a sick
husband or grandchildren. The female interviewees adopted the personal
responsibilities attached to a caregiving role and spent a great deal of time with
related tasks. Silvia has been taking care of her sick husband. She described her daily
life as too busy to go traveling. She maintains a regular schedule to ensure a healthy
lifestyle and to avoid burn-out of her caregiving duties. Her aim is to keep herself in a
good health condition, as recommended by her doctor. She attends KASA during
weekdays, exercises for an hour at the YMCA, and attends church every weekend.
Even though she wants to have a good time with friends through traveling, she chooses to enjoy her daily leisure activities rather than over-night travels. She said,

I can’t go traveling because of my sick husband. When I see him, he is so pity [he suffers from Alzheimer’s disease]. I wash him and take care of him. I also do not have money for my pleasure travel because of economic downturns and my husband’s hospitality treatments.

Some female caregivers of grandchildren also do not have much free time to travel with their friends. Instead, as they live with grown-up children and grandchildren, they appeared to have more opportunities to go on family travels. One of the important findings in this study is that the same turning point event can be either a facilitator or a barrier (constraint). In addition, negative and stressful significant life events such as personal illness, death of close family members, and divorce also can be facilitators to travel participation.

Turning Point Events Which Constrain Travel

Four significant life events: work, accidents, the Korean War, and immigration were identified as constraints of travel participation. Participants noted that they did not consider pleasure travel when they started to work or immigrate. They felt that they did not have free time or said the word, 여유가 없다 (Yeoyou-ga-eopda) which means ‘there is no time, money, physical energy’). As mentioned earlier, the Korean War impacted negatively the desire to spend money on pleasure and luxury travels.

Accidents were a negative turning point event which constraint travel. Dan, Billy, and Karen experienced accidents, such as those involving a car or fire. Dan commented that,
My first turning point event in my life was a car accident. This turning point event is my bad luck. After the car accident, I lost my consciousness for six weeks. Doctors said that I should walk on crutches for the rest of my life. I also needed to spend saved money for medical treatments and quit the job. I regularly exercised at sand beach for rehabilitation. I kept saying, I will overcome my disability with my will. I also go to mountains every day. I walked on crutches. Going up on mountain was easier than going down on mountain safely. I sat down and slowly went down on mountain. People sneered at me and said that why do you, a crippled man, come here? Stay at home. But I exercised every day and I don’t need crutches now.

Such accidents are associated with sequential events (i.e., an accident → physical injury and loss of job → rehabilitation for months and financial problems). Therefore, accidents are identified as a barrier to travel participation.

Even though the four significant life events are constraints of travel participation, two turning point events, immigration and work in the United States, appeared to influence the purpose of pleasure travels among first generation older Korean immigrants. The interviewees had a difficult time adapting to their new home country right after immigration. For decades, they heard about famous places in the United States. Many interviewees said that they were curious and wanted to visit such iconic places. They did not travel right after immigration and work because of changed specific travel turning point outcomes (i.e., negative value of travel, negative timing of travel, and lack of opportunities). However, as they increased their knowledge about the United States, they reported that they had a curiosity about their new country.

In addition, as they spent their childhoods in Korea, they preferred to visit their home country to be with their Korean families, attend various family events, and convey the news of families living in the United States. The constraints of immigration sometimes cause a “lag time” effect on the travel behavior of first generation Korean immigrants.
generation older Korean immigrants. Future studies may need to examine this effect in order to understand how the barriers of travel, such as immigration and work in the United States, may influence immigrants’ travel behaviors decades later.

Travel Style of People Who Participate in Travel

Four types of travel styles were consistently found based on the interviews: day trips offered by senior related organizations, travel to Korea, travel to iconic places in the United States, and religion and mission trips.

Day Trips

Day trips offered by senior related organizations (e.g., Korean churches, KASA) were popular among Korean older adults in their late 70s and 80s. Katherine, an 82 year-old retired woman, participated in day trips through her church in an effort to have a good time with her friends. Her pastor encourages her to join these trips. Ever since she had a spinal disc, she stop going on overnight trips. She said,

I don’t go to travel further since I had spinal disc and had lied on bed for six months. My daughter never let me go further, even Korea. Rather, my family in Korea visited me. But I go to day trips of my church to mountains. My friends in church like me and I am also nice to them. They are all my age. Mountain air feels cool and fresh. We talk together during day trips rather than going hiking.

The purposes of day trips are to socialize with close Korean friends who attend the same senior-related organization and to share delicious food together in the outdoors. Most of the day-trip participants focused on the self-control of their bodies. In order to regulate their bodies and maintain a healthy condition, they prefer to visit mountains or lakes near Georgia.
Travel to Korea

The key aims of the participants traveling to Korea were to meet family and relatives living in Korea, attend family events, convey the news of their family members to those in Korea, visit the hometown they lived in their childhood, and to enjoy Korean food. Because they stay at their family’s house, these travelers do not purchase organized travel packages, and the length of their stay in Korea often varies from one to three months. In addition, the frequency of travel to Korea varies according to one’s family presence in Korea. Alan, a 76 year-old retired business man, said,

I visited Korea once in three or four years. I meet my brothers and sisters living in Korea. They are all in Korea. I visited their houses in various cities in Korea. When I go to Korea, I like eating delicious Korea foods. The tastes and cooking styles of restaurants in Korea are different and better [than Korean foods in Atlanta]

Mary, a 73 year-old retired female, visited her daughter’s house once or twice a year. She used to travel to Jeju Island with her daughter. Mary’s daughter drove and organized family travels with Mary. Christine, a 72 year-old housewife, does not have children in Korea, and she immigrated to the United States in 2005. Relatively speaking, she is a newcomer to the United States. She feels that Korea is a very intimate place and said,

I like to live with my daughter’s family rather than living alone in Korea. I saw the Unites States is a nice country to educate grandchildren, but I am a South Korean and I miss Korea. There are brothers and sisters in my hometown. I think my hometown every day.
Unlike Christine, Joe has very few relatives living in Korea, and so he visited Korea twice since he immigrated to the United States in 1985. Joe appeared to adjust to his American life more readily than Christine.

Many participants in this study had lived in Korea for over 20 years. As a result, they perceived Korea as a place to travel independently via various modes of transportation and visit their hometown or family’s house without struggling with language barriers.

*Travel to Iconic Places of the United States*

Many participants talked about their travel adventures to iconic locations in the U.S., such as Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Hollywood, Yellowstone National Park, and the Rocky Mountains, among others. They travelled in search of natural scenery (e.g., seas and mountains, national & states parks). Many participants also talked about the word, “공기가 좋다 (gong-gi-ga-jo-ta)” which means that “the air is so nice” and “공기가 깨끗하다 (gong-gi-ga-kkae-kkeut-ha-da)” which means that “the air is so clean.”

The participants also found travel to be refreshing and pleasurable. Some found it to inspire a broader view of the world and its cultures. Karen said, “When I have headache, I go traveling and my head is refreshed.” Mary said, “My life was very busy as I took care of my children and did work. After retirement, I enjoyed traveling.” She went to places with rich natural resources, such as the Rocky Mountains. She liked seeing different trees, and she said, “The air in the forest was so clean.”
Joe purchased group travel packages from travel agencies and joined group travels with church members. He said, “I was so curious about the United States, other people recommended to travel and said that the famous places are great.”

Michael commented,

After I got a footing in the business, I traveled around the United States. The most memorable travel destination was Alaska when I traveled with my first son who got a job after graduation. Also, I liked Las Vegas….and…Yellow stone national park, Grand Canon, and Hoover dam[…] I traveled more after I became an empty nester…when I was late 50s and 60s.

In order to visit famous landmarks in the United States, many participants purchased organized tour packages, depended on their grown-up children, or joined a travel program offered by senior-related organizations. The benefits of travels offered by organized groups include a reduction in language barriers, an elimination of the need to drive for hours during travel, an opportunity for new experiences, a chance to share a good time with family and friends, and an opportunity to learn about American cultures.

However, according to changes in family structures or values on travel, the travel styles among travel participants vary. For example, Pamela, a 69 year-old female, said, “My view is broadening through traveling. I felt this country is so nice. […] I can say I know the west side of the United States. I traveled around there by car.” After her divorce, Pamela immigrated to the U.S. with her three children. She used to depend on her husband in Korea, but she moved to Georgia and obtained a driver’s license. When she was 54 years old, she travelled around famous places in the Unites States, such as Colorado, the Rocky Mountains, Los Angeles, the Grand Canyon, and so on. As Pamela travelled across the United States by car, she also
interacted with local people whenever she had troubles (e.g., car repairs, need for directions) or to ask about unfamiliar things she encountered over the course of her travels (e.g., names of fish). Her travel style was more independent than other participants who purchased travel packages.

Older female participants, whose primary roles involved caring for grandchildren, talked about their preferences for travelling to Florida, which is known for its Disneyland amusement parks for children. For example, Christine immigrated to the United States in 2005 and moved to Georgia recently. She lived in a community in which few Koreans lived. As a result, she found herself with less opportunity for travel with her friends. Instead, she traveled to iconic places with her daughter’s family during their holidays.

When participants travel with their adult children and grandchildren, many choose to visit Florida because of its weather and various amusement parks for children. Alison said, “I love watching my grandchildren playing in an amusement park like Disneyland.” Mary also talked about her visit to Disneyland and commented, “When I went to Disneyland, my grandchildren were so happy. As I saw them happy, I was also very pleased during the trip.” The older female interviewees serve a primary role as the caregiver of grandchildren because their grown-up children are dual-incomers. Therefore, the older female participants prefer family trips to places that their grandchildren would enjoy.

Most of the participants wanted to tour iconic places in the United States. They appeared to be curious about the country they lived in for decades, but they did not previously have the time or opportunity to travel immediately following
immigration. Travel styles within the United States among the participants in this study.

Religion and Mission Trips

Those who participated in a religious trip to Israel described it as one of their most memorable travels. The reasons were based on an experience of different travel styles, walking to each place in the Bible, learning about history of the religious destinations, and riding camels. Emily went on a religious trip with 30 church members and three pastors, following business stabilization. She said,

I felt to visit all places in the Bible. I rode a camel at 1am. It was the middle of the night in the dessert and continued to move to another destination. I traveled for 15 days…I could ride a camel and then I needed to walk for a long time to reach the destination.

Diana also talked about her religious trip to Israel and said,

The purpose of my religion trip was that even though I have attended the church for decades, I never remembered any places in the Bible. After I visited and saw the places like The Jordan River and several graves with my eyes. It was difficult to walk for a long time, but the meaning of the travel is different. It is a pilgrimage.

Diana also talked about the different feelings that she experienced on her travel to Hawaii and Israel. Her travel to Hawaii was intended for relaxation, comfort, and natural scenery, however, the religious journey was for the purpose of learning religious heritages and related to one of her important leisure activities: attending church.

Male interviewees in particular talked about their mission trips. Dexter, a retired doctor, went on mission trips once or twice a year ever since his value on
mission travel positively changed after his Russian mission trip. Trevor, a 59 year-old travel conductor, participated in a short mission trip for the first time in 2009. After the mission trip, his life goal changed. Trevor is a 59 year-old male and the youngest interviewee in this study. Unlike other participants, he is proficient at searching the internet for information and using social network services. He posted his travel experiences on the church websites and on his own Facebook page. The interviewees engaging in mission trips visit countries which have different cultures and languages from their own, such as Nicaragua, Mexico, Argentina, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Uganda. As the participants share a passion for religion, they place more value on volunteer travels with other church members than other travels. Even though they cannot speak the local language, their anxiety and uncertainty decrease as they travel with Korean church members. Their travel type is an organized trip, but they spent time interacting with the locals. They also have certain goals, such as travel in order to give medical treatment to local people, cut or trim the locals’ hair, and visit destinations.

Non-participation to Travel

There are several reasons not to travel as presented in travel constraints due to negative value of travel, bad timing of travel, lack of opportunity to travel, and general outcomes of turning point events. In addition, there are several reasons not to travel in later life. Helen, an 81 year-old female, does not want to travel at all. She talked about her husband’s Alzheimer’s disease and how her husband got lost after he began living in a nursing home. Additionally, her oldest son’s sudden death in his office influenced her desire to not travel. After the two biggest turning point events in her life, she lost interest in pleasure travels. Moreover, she had a heart operation in
2008. She said, “I sometimes felt sick. My daughter asked me to go a cruise trip, but I said that I cannot go. Sometimes I am really sick, when I even come here (KASA).”

Like Helen, many participants in their 80s talked about non-participation on overnight travels due to various reasons: not interested in traveling, physical problems, mobility issues during travel, loss of self-regulation over their bodies, the need to plan travel according to their body’s condition.

Brandy also talked about her physical constraints due to two brain tumor surgeries. Her eye sight is not clear, and she felt uncomfortable when visiting unfamiliar places. As a result, she lost interest in pleasure travel, but she now focuses on leisure activities, such as attending church, reading the Bible, and praying for her family and friends. Silvia, a 75 year-old female, is in a good health condition, but her husband has Alzheimer’s disease and underwent several surgeries. She did not have time and could not afford to travel because she needed to take care of him. Silvia scheduled regular leisure activities as her doctor encouraged her to do regular exercises.

Connor, a 76 year-old male, could not participate in any travel because of a financial problem. He lives with his wife. Because he does not live with his grown-up children, he did not have a travel opportunity with his grown-up children’s family.

Elderly participants tried to control their body conditions in an effort to alleviate their grown-up children’s concerns and worries. As a result, their value of travel is very low for these interviewees. Other interviewees who have financial problems and hold important roles, such as caregiving, were also identified as non-participants to travel. Even though they did not participate in travel, they participate in various leisure activities, such as gardening, attending senior centers and church,
taking a walk near parks, and watching Korean television programs. I discuss the findings in the future research section of Chapter V.
The purpose of this study was to explore what turning point events occur and how these events influence travel style among first generation older Korean immigrants. The purpose evolved the research question how older adults change their travel style as they go through the life course. The study about how older adults make decisions to travel through their life span need to further our understanding of increasing populations of older adult travelers and continue to develop new ways to help older adults have satisfying travel experiences. Based on the emergent model of the influence of turning point events among first generation Korean immigrants, this chapter summarizes turning point events and general outcomes of turning point events, three specific travel outcomes of turning point events: value of travel, timing of travel, and opportunity to travel, turning point events which facilitate or constrain travel, travel styles and non-participation. Moreover, the following sections were presented in this chapter: theoretical Implications, limitations, recommendations for future research.

Turning Point Events and General Outcomes of Turning Point Events

The study described various turning point events described by first generation older Korean immigrants experience throughout their life span. As outcomes of turning point events, the turning point events were related to developmental, transitional roles (e.g., mother, employee(r), caregiver) and close social ties. It is worth to noting that the participants in this study were born in South Korea and
immigrated to the United States during middle age or in later life. The categories of turning point events include different events which were not reported in the previous studies on turning point events (Cappeliez, Beaupré, & Robitaille, 2008; Lin, Ensel, Lai, 1997). For example, immigration was one of the most significant events. Cultural and historical events, such as the Korean War and a 61st birthday party (환갑: Hwan-gab) were also identified. As suggested by Elder and Giele (2009), this study demonstrated that individuals are influenced by historical and geographical locations, family, and social ties and membership. Therefore, some turning point events also include events which were consistent with previous research, such as family-related events, marriage, work, and health (Cappeliez, Beaupré, & Robitaille, 2008; Elder and Giele, 2009; Lin, Ensel, Lai, 1997). Some unique events were also identified on account of ethnicity, historical and cultural cohorts, and community membership.

One of the assumptions in this study was that the relationship between turning point events and travel styles would be complex because the turning point events are related to close social ties, different gender roles, and unpredictable events. The findings in this study demonstrated different patterns of turning point events for each participant. According to Elder and Giele (2009), key concepts of the life course perspective involve trajectories, transitions, and turning points. A turning point is a point or a time at which an event occurs, and transition is associated with developmental roles: marriage, work, and retirement. All turning point events categorized above are related to these three key concepts. In addition, the different patterns of turning point events can be involved in trajectories. Teruya and Hser (2010) defined trajectories as “interdependent sequences of events in different life domains (p.2)”. George (2009) defined trajectories as intraindividual change that involves a
process of “understanding intraindividual change by examining its relationship to social and historical context” (p.164). Consistent with previous research on turning point events (Bengtson, Elder, & Putney, 2005; Elder & Giele, 2009), first generation Korean older adults experienced turning point events related to their family, institutions (e.g., work, senior center), and cultural and historical events.

Through a comparative analysis (Glaser & Strauss, 1967; Strauss & Corbin, 1998; Corbin & Strauss, 2008) of this study, the participants looked back on their lives and shared various changes that occurred after turning point events. General outcomes of turning point events were these four changes: changes of transitional role, changes in family structure, changes in socio-economic status, and changes in priorities in life.

First of all, Giele (1998) explained that multiple transitional roles (e.g., maintaining several responsibilities as a wife and husband, parents, and a worker) are associated with events such as marriage, giving birth, getting a job. The finding that turning point events changed transitional roles was consistent with past research. Although there are variations among the participants in terms of the number of children and family living together in their household, some turning point events, such as giving birth, caregiving, the loss of spouse, divorce and remarriage changed their family structures.

The second change involved family structure. Traditional Korean families had an extended-family structure, meaning that grandparents, parents, and grandchildren live together in a single household (Oh, 2011; Thomas, 2008). In the past, the oldest son tended to take care of his older parents in his house. There seem to be various changes in modern society and/or in Korea immigrants’ communities. Many older
parents live independently rather than with their grown-up children. Some grown-up children in this study have their own families rather than take care of their older parents. In the United States, some live in a different state than their parents or near their parents’ house. Moreover, older parents tend to choose a grown-up child who they want to live with regardless of gender or birth order.

Turning point events, such as divorce, the loss of a spouse, and remarriage are also associated with changes in family structure as well as changes in socio-economic status. Consistent with Gray, Vaus, Qu, and Stanton (2011)’s study on the long-term impact of divorce on one’s well-being in later life, divorce involves various changes, including the loss of a support network, a lower level of income and overall change in financial circumstances, especially in older age. In contrast, remarriage is associated with better financial well-being.

Historical and cultural events, such as the Korean War, were also related to changes in socio-economic status. The participants recalled that they should give up their schooling due to the Korean War, and they were evacuated from their hometown to Busan, located in the southern part of South Korea. The impact of turning point events on socio-economic states were also associated with various events, such as business failure, accidents, health problems, the loss of a spouse, and divorce.

Finally, the fourth change was changes in the priority of the life. The participants reported new life goals and new attitudes after turning point events. McAdams, Josselson, and Lieblich, (2001) argue that people create life narratives that consist of a beginning of life events, adaptation, strategies, and goals. Accumulated life stories change personal identity, and motivations reflected personal attempts to achieve personal goals over time. In addition, people reconstruct a sense of self that
integrates their beliefs, values or ideology (Hooker & McAdams, 2003; McAdams, Josselson, & Lieblich, 2001).

**Specific Travel Outcomes of Turning Point Events**

This study particularly focuses on travel behavior changes after turning point events. The major research question was how turning point events influence travel style among first generation older Korean immigrants. In the proposed theory, after turning point events, specific travel outcomes were emerged. They included value of travel, timing of travel, and opportunity to travel.

First, the findings indicated that the participants held either positive or negative values regarding travel participation. What emerged from the findings of this study were not the two categories of value, positive and negative values of travel motivation. The participants appeared to change their value of travel positively or negatively based on their reconstruction of their life priority. Positive values of travel experience were refreshing to oneself, broadening one’s sights, having open-mindedness and understanding different things from one’s thoughts, enjoying natural scenery, exploring the famous places of the United States, and having a good time with family and friends. Negative values of travel were associated with putting more value on work and other important transitional roles, not willing to spend money on pleasure travels due to other daily living expenses, and saving body energy for a sense of control due to health problems.

Second, timing of travel also influenced the participants’ travel participation. Timing is one of the important principles in the life course perspective (Elder & Giele,
According to Bengtson, Elder, and Putney (2005), timing in one’s life course varies individual’s behavior patterns and the antecedents and consequences of life events. However, in previous research on the life course perspective and turning point events, timing refers to the timing of individual development and family life stages as well as historically created opportunities (Bengtson et al., 2005; Elder & Giele, 2009). Consistent with previous research (Bengtson et al., 2005; Elder, 1974; Elder & Giele, 2009), historical timing created different cohorts. Specifically, most of the Korean immigrants in this study were born between the years 1930 and 1950 and experienced rapid economic, political, and cultural changes between the years 1950 and 1970. According to a study on the colonial origins of Korea’s Market Economy of Cha (2000), Korea became a colony of Japan in 1910 and was liberated from Japanese colonial rule in 1945. The first immigrants experienced a series of political shocks in Korea in the 1940s and 1950s, including the Second World War, Independence of Korea, political division, and the Korean War. Many houses, factories, and social infrastructures were damaged due to the Korean War. Korea recovered from its poor economic situation within a relatively short period of time. Economic growth rapidly increased in Korea. It brought dramatic change during the post-War period. In 1960-1970, one of the important contributions to labor force increase was an influx of female workers. In addition, effective government intervention plays an important role in fast economic growth and recovery from the Korean War in Korea. However, those born in between the years of 1930 and 1940, insisted that individual freedom was based on genuine democracy in the 1960s (Cha, 2000).

What emerged in this study of interviewees, however, was a primary focus on travel behavior and ‘positive or negative timing of travel’ in the life span. For
example, the period after retirement, immigration stabilization, business success, and recovery from personal illness were indicated as positive timing of travel, while the loss of a spouse or various family related events (i.e., caregiving), a poor health condition after severe personal illness (e.g., cancer, brain tumor), and historical events (i.e., the Korean War) were negative timing of travel. The findings suggest that positive timing of travel is related to financial stabilization, full adjustment to one’s environment, good health condition, and a low level of responsibilities involving transitional roles, such as work and a family-caretaking role.

Third, opportunity to travel is associated with travel companions, such as a spouse, family, faith-related organizations (e.g., Korean churches), and senior-related organization (e.g., KASA). The opportunities to travel were more likely to increase when the participants live with their spouse, when the spouse is in good health condition, when close family members live together in a household or within a close distance, when the participants attend faith-based organizations, such as Korean churches, or when they have access to senior-related organizations. The findings may highlight that more travel participations are associated with the social support of close family and friends. Kim, Dattilo, and Heo (2011) pointed out that older Asian immigrants were more willing to engage in leisure activities and experienced an increased psychological well-being when they participated in those activities with friends. In addition, the participants in this study reported the importance of senior-related organizations in their daily lives. Except for their family members, faith-based organizations and senior-related organizations play an important role in expanding one’s social network and cultivating social skills, involving in various leisure, recreational, and travel programs.
In fact, previous research also indicated that older Asian immigrants have various challenges, such as language barriers, limited social networks, difficulties of adaptation, transportation problems, and underutilization of community resources (Hwang & Ting, 2008; Kim, Dattilo, & Heo, 2011). Further studies are needed to explore the differences of travel behaviors between older adults who are aware of travel opportunities through their social connections (i.e., spouse, family, and organizations) and those who are unaware of these opportunities.

Turning Point Events Which Facilitate or Constrain Travel

An intriguing theme emerged from the interview that goes beyond the major research question about the influence of turning point events on travel style. This is the role of turning point events which may either facilitate or constrain travel. Moreover, even though the same turning point event was reported from the participants, the consequences after turning point events were different and the impact of travel participation also varied. For example, these five turning point events were identified to either facilitate or constrain travel: health problems, retirement, the death of close family members, divorce, and caregiving. Even though the participants had a personal illness, the matter of participation and non-participation depended on the interviewees’ value of travel, health recovery, and changed general outcomes of turning point events (i.e., changes of transitional role, changes in family structure, changes in socio-economic status, and changes in the priority of life).

The findings of the retrospective interviews explored a turning point event’s role as a facilitator or constraint which influences the participation and non-
participation to travel. Previous research on life events, such as retirement and widowhood, identified changes and continuities of leisure repertories, and the relationship between them changed patterns of leisure activities after retirement and widowhood as well as well-being and life satisfaction among older adults (Janke, Nimrod & Kleiber, 2008; Nimrod, 2008). Similarly, the findings of this study also suggest that turning point events were related to changed motivation for travel participation or non-participation. Further studies on other turning point events, such as health problems, divorce, and caregiving which have not been explored with regard to the changed patterns of travel activities, may be needed.

As suggested by McGuire and Norman (2005) and Kleiber, McGuire, Aybar-Damali and Norman (2008), negative events may carry benefits as the participants attempt to deal with the negative events and redirect a positive attitude toward life, leisure and travel participation. However, participants who had severe a personal illness or physical operation and financial problems were less likely to participate in travel. Instead, they sought various leisure activities (e.g., attending churches or KASA, watching TV, gardening, or taking a walk in a near park). It should be noted that turning point events across life stages may be related to heterogeneous older adults’ motivation and decision making.

**Travel Styles of Those Who Participate in Travel**

Based on previous travel experiences of the participants narrated during the interviews, four types of travel styles were consistently found: day trips offered by senior-related organizations, travel to Korea, travel to iconic places in the United States, and religion and mission trips. These four travel styles are formed based on the
participants’ motivation, preference, and life styles. In these findings, emotional attachment, such as nostalgia for a previous home country (South Korea) and curiosity for their present country (the United States) are relevant to the participants’ motivation and decision making process after immigration. Many participants purchased organized group travel packages during their travels in the United States, but they preferred to travel independently in South Korea. In addition, while the older adults traveled with their grown-up children, they traveled with their own family members rather than joined in an organized travel.

Four categorized travel roles: the drifter, the explorer, the individual mass tourist, and the organized mass tourist, as suggested by Cohen (1972), are useful categories for predicting tourists’ different activity preferences and types of independent or organized trip (Keng & Cheng, 1999; Mo, Havitz, & Howard, 1994). However, the participants in this study did not belong to one category and chose different types of travel styles based on travel destinations and travel companions. In addition, according to the participants, belonging to organizations and in close relation with family members influenced their travel opportunities and the contents of their trips.

Research on tourists’ decision-making and travel styles is useful and suggests a multi-dimensional approach, such as a focus on the month and year, travel purpose, length of each trip, number of overnight destinations, main transportation and accommodation types used, and the number of accompanying travelers, and preference of novel or familiar cultures (Foo, McGuigan, & Yiannakis, 2004; Gibson & Yiannakis, 2002; Jiang, Havitz, O’Brien, 2000; Keng & Cheng, 1999; Mo, Havitz, & Howard, 1994; Oppermann, 1995). However, this study suggests that turning point
events in life would be undeniably useful factors for understanding the complex social, historical, and environmental dimensions of tourist behavior. In the future, an increased understanding of the participants’ decision-making process for travel makes the turning point event approach valuable and involves a close exploration of the relationship between these events and travel styles.

Non-participation to Travel

The findings present various travel constraints which restrict travel participation. Four turning point events, which lead not to participation to travel, were work, accidents, the Korean War, and immigration. In addition, even though five turning point events such as health problems, retirement, the death of close family members, divorce, and caregiving either facilitate or constrain travel, these five turning point events were also identified as travel constraints to first generation Korean immigrants.

These findings are consistent with previous research by McGuire (1986), Norman (1995), Nyaupane, McCabe, and Andereck (2008), and Um and Crompton (1992), travel constraints such as lack of time, work commitments, work is main priority, family commitments, difficulty of travel planning due to language barriers were related to two turning points, work and immigration. Health problems and accidents constrained travel participation due to lack of mobility and lack of energy. Various accidents resulted in mobility issue, long term rehabilitation, financial problems, and move to another city. As a result, unlike individuals’ health problems, individuals after accidents did not plan to travel. The Korean War was also identified as a turning point event which constrains travel participation. The poverty, the
changed priority of life goal, the lack of education about travel experience, and lack of infrastructure for travel and travel opportunity after the Korean War may explain why the first generation Korean immigrants did not participate in travel and have negative value of travel after the war.

The death of close family members, divorce, and caregiving which are interpersonal turning point events were travel constraints. In consistent with Norman (1995) and Nyaupane, McCabe, and Andereck (2008), these events appeared to be related to decrease in income and lack of companions to travel after the loss of spouse. Family caregivers who take care of the spouse who become ill were constrained to travel by lack of time, financial limitation, caregiving commitments, and anticipating emotional worry and concern during travel (Gladwell, & Bedini, 2004).

Leisure constraints researchers have suggested that constraints may prohibit travel participation, but may be negotiable (Jackson, 2005; Jackson, Crawford, & Godbey, 1993; Samdahl & Jekubovich, 1997). Negative significant life events such as health problems, the loss of the spouse or close family members, and divorce may be negotiable travel constraints based on social and financial resources and awareness of travel opportunities. However, travel constraints related to these significant life events such as work, immigration, the Korean War, various accidents were identified as critical barriers to participation in travel.

The findings suggested that the particular constraints which restrict travel participation were various. The consequences of these travel constraints after certain turning point events were different according to general outcomes of turning point events and positive and negative specific travel outcomes of turning point events. The
findings also suggested that travel constraints may change as individuals experience different turning point events through the life span.

From Turning Points to Travel Style

Each of the interviewees in this study experienced at least one turning point event in life that is linked with their decision for travel participation. Originally, I believed that a turning point event in an individual’s life may be a motive that would change one’s general behavior as well as travel behavior. In the findings, however, the participants seemed to experience not only a single turning point event at a time, but also interpersonal, multiple, and sequential events. They were also in different situations and dealt with their significant life events in relation to various factors (e.g., changes of transitional role, changes of family structure, changes of socio-economic status, and changes of priorities in life) which are general outcomes of turning point events emerged from the interviewees.

The model suggests changed travel behaviors after turning point events in terms of three specific travel outcomes of turning point events (i.e., value of travel, timing of travel, and opportunity to travel) which become facilitating or constraining factors that lead to travel participation or non-participation. Turning point events which facilitate travel are remarriage, leisure and travel, immigration stabilization, and a home country’s culture. Turning point events which constrain travel are work, accident and physical injury, war, immigration, and death of close family members. However, there are significant life events which either facilitate or constrain travel participation, such as health problems, retirement, widowhood, and divorce. Negative life events such as health problems (i.e., personal illness), widowhood, and divorce
are known as constraints to travel, but could lead to travel participation later because of general outcomes of turning point events and specific travel outcomes of turning point events. Four different types of travel styles were emerged: day trips, travel to Korea, travel to iconic places of the United States, religious and mission trips.

The researcher rechecked the interview transcripts after interviews and travel styles before and after each turning point event and for changes of their travel styles as a part of member-check. The participants indicated whether or not traveling before or after turning point events were an obvious clue to explain changes in their travel behavior due to significant life events. Through the member check, the interviewees agreed that their stories were accurately reconstructed as they remembered presenting them to the researcher. There are different cases whereby older Korean immigrants had the same turning point events, but they did not have the same outcomes or make the same decisions for travel participation. The same turning point events can influence someone either positively or negatively with regard to travel participation. The theory that suggested is based on the data collected from the first generation older Korean immigrants who shared their turning point events and their travel experience and who were asked to consider the influence of turning point events in their lives in relation to travel decisions. Even though there are various other influential factors associated with travel participation, the focus of this study is the relationship between turning point events and travel style. The theory is an attempt to explain travel styles among first generation older Korean immigrants, as demonstrated by the participants. The theory would be the first study to present influential turning point events in lives among older minority immigrants. Future studies could be necessary to verify this one and to suggest further insight to the theory found in this study.
The theory was developed based on the participants’ shared episodes about their turning point events and travel experiences. I felt that further record of three participants needs to be presented as examples as they share their life stories about turning point events and travel styles.

**Theoretical Implications**

The findings of this study contribute to our understanding of the relationship between turning point events and travel styles among first generation Korean immigrants living in the United States. The study also expands our understanding of the life course perspective of turning points (Elder, 1974, 1996; Elder, & Giele, 2009) because it explores the impacts of turning point events on travel behavior. The life course perspective provides a holistic understanding of life events and its effect on travel participation. A theory were emerged from the interviewees and suggested that there were several personal, social, and organizational changes after turning point events and that these outcomes after turning point events played a critical role as a facilitator or a constraint for travel participation.

This study suggests one of the general outcomes of turning point events, change in family structure in the same line of a life cycle perspective (Collins & Tisdell, 2002a; Lin & Lehto, 2006). The findings demonstrated a life course perspective with turning point events and provided a more integrated approach to studying travel decision making, facilitators, and constraints. This study also explains complex and multiple factors that may facilitate or constrain travel participation. The study on the relationship between turning point events and travel style may be helpful for understanding heterogeneous older adults' travel behaviors and changes in travel
behaviors related to various outcomes in conjunction with the aftermath of turning point events.

The travel styles among the participants showed simple travel behaviors, and their choices of travel appeared to be more influenced by family, friends, and organizations that they belong to rather than their own personality or preferred activities during travel (Foo, McGuigan, & Yiannakis, 2004; Gibson & Yiannakis, 2002; Jiang, Havitz, O’Brien, 2000; Keng & Cheng, 1999; Mo, Havitz, & Howard, 1994). Throughout the life stages, some participants changed their travel behaviors in order to meet their changed life goals and values. However, their choices to travel are closely associated with leisure and organizations for which they are members. Further studies are needed on the relationship between leisure involvement in daily life and travel decisions.

Limitations

There are several limitations to this study. First, the findings of this study cannot be generalized due to the purposive sampling. In addition, participants all were recruited from one urban area and attended life-long schools for first generation Korean seniors. As a result, Korean older Americans who do not attend these organizations were not included in the study because these people were not easy to reach for interview. Most of the Korean immigrants in this study were born between the years 1930 and 1950. These people have experienced rapid economic, political, and cultural changes. As a result, the limitation lies in the transferability of their experiences. This study only includes a unique cohort.
Moreover, all interviews were conducted voluntarily. Volunteers in this study may be more interested in travels and be confident in sharing their life experiences. It is difficult to differentiate between interview participants and non-participants. Older Korean females were more likely to refuse an interview because they were not skilled conversationalists or felt shameful about the idea of sharing their own private life history, such as turning point events.

Second, the interviewees were recruited in three life-long schools for first generation older Korean immigrants. Of the three life-long schools, two schools offering senior programs were faith-based organization (i.e., church). Even though older adults can participate in the senior programs regardless of their religion, the findings of the present study included religious turning point events and travel styles related to a certain religion. As the findings suggested that travel styles of older adults were influenced by external opportunities offered by organizations, more studies should be conducted in different research sites.

Third, limitation is that older Korean immigrants retrospectively recalled their lives. Recall bias may occur when older adults recalled significant life events and travel experiences that occurred throughout their life course. Interviewees appeared to clearly remember their turning point life events because they are accustomed to talking about these significant life events with their family members and friends. However, they may not be able to describe every activity and destination they visited in the past during the interview. Even though the study did not analyze all of the travel experiences of the participants, their most memorable travel experiences and general travel styles throughout their life spans were included in the interviews. While the retrospective technique resulted in findings that provide the patterns of travel styles
among the participants, it is important that future research on the relationship between turning point events and travel styles among older adults respect longitudinal samples.

Fourth, this study focused on all turning point events identified from the interviewees rather than focusing on one particular turning point events. This study suggested a theory of the influence of turning point events among first generation Korean immigrants and found various outcomes of turning point events. However, these findings of this study may limit to closely understand the influence of one particular turning point events on travel behavior.

**Recommendations for Future Research**

This study provides a theory that attempts to explain the complex nature of turning point events in life and the impacts of turning point events on travel among first generation older Korean immigrants. The influence of significant life events on travel behavior provides a potentially fruitful area of investigation that may enhance our understanding of why and how older adults decide to travel and how they form travel styles.

This study of turning point events in the life course perspective opens up an understudied topic in travel and tourism. However, future studies should examine the theory that emerged from the participants in this study, examines other populations in order to demonstrate the transferability of the theory suggested in this study. This study recruited only first generation older Korean immigrants. Future studies need to conduct research with other populations, such as Korean immigrants at a different life stage, second generation immigrants, immigrants in different areas of the United States, or other ethnic groups. These studies involving other populations would
inspire a deeper understanding of the relationship between turning point events and travel behaviors because it would compare travel experiences among different groups who had different historical and cultural experiences.

Future research should use other methodologies in order to examine turning point events and actual travel behaviors. This study used a retrospective interview technique. Even though the retrospective interview proved useful for identifying the past experience of the participants, there were still limitations to this method for capturing accurate memories of participants’ past experiences. Future research may need to interview longitudinally or apply for other technologies (e.g., computer software) or methods (e.g., diary studies). As suggested above, further research on turning point events is necessary in order to further uncover the complex and diverse underlying influential factors on travels that follow turning point events.

In order to get a more complete understanding of the relationship between turning point events and travel style, more research needs to explore each turning point event identified in this study. This study examined general turning point events throughout the life span and found specific travel outcomes of turning point events related to travel behavior and general outcomes of turning point events such as financial status, family structure, and transitional roles. Future study may validate whether each turning point event also brought various changes that emerged in this study.
APPENDICES
Appendix A

Interview Consent Form and Research Site Form

Interview Consent Form

The Relationship between Turning Points and Travel Styles:
A Study of the First Generation Older Korean Americans

Young-joo Ahn, Dr. Fran McGuire, and Dr. William Norman from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management at the Clemson University are inviting you to take part in a research study. The research study is for the dissertation of Young-joo Ahn, a Ph.D. student at Clemson University. The purpose of this research is to explore the relationship between turning point events and travel styles among older adults and understand the influence of turning point events on travel styles of older adults. In this study, the first generation older Korean adults will be examined.

We appreciate you participating in the interview. It will take you about an hour and half or two hours to be in this study. Through your participation, we hope to understand the significant events which alter your attitudes toward your life and the influence of turning points on travel styles among older Korean Americans.

Do not hesitate to ask any questions about the study before or during the interview that you are participating. In this research, your name will not be shown with the research findings in any way, and your identity as participant will be known only to the researchers. We do not know of any risks or discomforts to you associated with this study. You have the right to discontinue your participation at any time.

Please sign your consent with full knowledge of the nature and purpose of the procedures. In advance, we thank you for your interest in this interview. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Young-joo Ahn at 217-722-1844. If you have any questions about your rights as a participant in this study, please contact the Clemson University Office of Research Compliance at 864-656-6460 or toll-free at 866-297-3071.

We appreciate your willingness to consider our request and thank you in advance for your help in this research.

Consent

I have read this form and have been allowed to ask any questions I might have. I agree to take part in this study.

Participant’s signature: _____________________________ Date: _________________
인터뷰 동의서

인생의 전환점과 여행의 관계: 일세대 재미교포 노인들의 대한 연구

클램슨대학에 파크, 레크레이션, 관광 매니지먼트과에 있는 안영주학생과 프란 맥과이어교수와 윌리엄 노먼 교수가 이번 리서치 연구에 여러분을 초대합니다. 이번 연구는 클램슨 대학에 박사과정으로 있는 안영주학생의 박사학위논문입니다. 이 연구의 목적은 인생의 전환점이 있는 일들이 무엇이며 이런 전환점과 여행스타일의 관계를 알아보고자 하며, 인생의 전환점이 여행스타일에 미치는 영향을 알아보고자 합니다. 이 논문에서는 일세대 재미교포 노인분들이 연구에 참여하게 됩니다.

우선 인터뷰에 참여해주신 여러분께 감사의 말씀드립니다. 이 인터뷰는 한시간 반에서 두시간 정도 소요될 것입니다. 여러분들의 인터뷰 참여를 통해서 저희는 여러분의 삶의 변화를 일으켰던 중요한 일들이 알아보고 그 일들이 일세대 재미교포 노인분들의 여행스타일에 어떻게 영향을 미치게 되었는가를 연구하고자 합니다.

인터뷰 전이나 인터뷰 도중에 어떠한 질문이 있으시다면 주저하지 마시고 물어보실 수 있습니다. 이번 연구에서는 인터뷰에 참여하신 여러분들의 이름이나 인적사항은 어떤 식으로든 전혀 포함되지 않으며, 여러분의 인적사항은 이번 연구에 참여한 세명의 연구자들만 알고 있습니다. 이번연구에 관련된 어떠한 위협사항이나 불편사항에 대해서는 알려진 바가 없습니다. 여러분은 언제라도 인터뷰를 그만두실 수 있는 권리가 있습니다.

이번 연구에 대한 관련된 자세한 사항과 함께 인터뷰 절차와 연구목적을 보다 인지하시고 나면, 동의서의 사인을 부탁드립니다. 우선, 여러분의 인터뷰참여에 관심을 주셔서 감사합니다. 만약 어떠한 질문이라도 있으시다면, 이번 연구자인 안영주학생에게 연락을 주십시오.


동의

이 동의서를 읽었으며 인터뷰에서 받게되는 질문에 대답할 것입니다. 나는 이번 연구에 참여할 것을 동의합니다.

참여자 서명: ________________________ 날짜: __________
Research Site Letters

Young-joo Ahn, Dr. Fran McGuire, and Dr. William Norman from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management at the Clemson University are inviting you to take part in a research study. The research study is for the dissertation of Young-joo Ahn, a Ph.D. student at Clemson University. This study is about the relationship between turning points and travel styles. In addition, it is a study of the first generation Korean Americans. The purpose of this research is to explore the relationship between turning point events and travel styles among older adults and understand the influence of turning point events on travel styles of older adults. In this study, the first generation older Korean adults will be examined.

At least 30 people will be recruited for this study. Any participation in this study is voluntary and may be stopped at any time with no penalty. There are no risks associated with participation of this interview. All information you provide us will be strictly confidential. The interviewer will record the interview for transcription. The interview will take a hour and a half or two hours.

I appreciate your willingness to allow us to recruit participants in this study from your organization. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Young-joo Ahn at 217-722-1844.

The name, title, and signature of the authorizing individual

Sang-ho Na, President of Korean American Senior Association, Doraville, GA

Keun J. Ryu, Pastor, New Days Church, Duluth, GA

Jongha Seo, Pastor, the Salvation Army, Doraville, GA
Appendix B

The Clemson University Institutional
Review Board (IRB) Approval

Validation of IRB2011-311: Study of First Generation Korean Americans

Dear Dr. McGuire,

The chair of the Clemson University Institutional Review Board (IRB) validated the protocol identified above using exempt review procedures and a determination was made on September 30, 2011, that the proposed activities involving human participants qualify as Exempt from continuing review under category B2, based on federal regulations 45 CFR 46. You may begin this study.

This exemption is valid for all organizations with a research site letter on file. The IRB will need a copy of the research site letter from the organizations listed on your application before you can collect any data at those sites.

Please remember that the IRB will have to review all changes to this research protocol before initiation. You are obligated to report any unanticipated problems involving risks to subjects, complications, and/or any adverse events to the Office of Research Compliance (ORC) immediately. All team members are required to review the “Responsibilities of Principal Investigators” and the “Responsibilities of Research Team Members” available at http://www.clemson.edu/research/compliance/irb/regulations.html.

We also ask that you notify the ORC when your study is complete or if terminated. Please let us know if you have any questions and use the IRB number and title in all communications regarding this study.

Good luck with your study.

All the best

Nalinee D. Patin
IRB Coordinator
Clemson University
Office of Research Compliance
Institutional Review Board (IRB)
Voice: (864) 656-0636
Fax: (864) 656-4475
E-mail: npatin@clemson.edu
Appendix C

Interview Questions

Research Question 1: What are the turning point events in the lives of older Korean immigrants?

1. Have you ever experienced turning point events in your life?
   
   A turning point event means an event that changed your life significantly or a period or point in time in which you experience a major change in views about yourself.

2. Can you tell us a story of the event?
   
   Checklist: 1) When did the events happen?
   
   2) What happened?

   3) How did you deal with the event?

   4) How did you change because of this turning point event?

3. Why do you think the event was a turning point?

4. What was the lesson of the turning point events?

Research Question 2: What are the current and past travel styles of older Korean immigrants?

5. Can you share your travel experience? (profiling participants’ travel style)
   
   Checklist: 1) Where did you go?

   2) Do you have a particular reason why you choose the travel destination?

   3) Who did you travel with?

   • Why did you travel with (person)?

   • What is the meaning of travel with (person)?

   4) How did you go there?

   • Why did you choose the particular travel mode?
5) When did you travel there?
   - Why did you decide to travel at that time?

6) What did you do during traveling?
   - What was the most memorable thing during traveling?
   - What was the worst thing during traveling?

7) How long did you travel?
   - Why did you travel in the certain period time?

6. How many times do you travel a year?

   Checklist: 1) If you travel many times a year, can you describe your common travel style?
   - Why do you travel many times a year?
   - What is the meaning of traveling to you?
   - How important is going traveling for you?

2) If you travel only a couple of times a year, can you describe the travel experiences?
   - Why do you travel a couple of times a year?
   - What is the meaning of traveling to you?
   - How important is going traveling for you?

3) If you do not travel at all, can you tell me why you do not travel?
   - Why didn’t you travel at all?
   - Do you have any barriers to traveling?
   - What is the meaning of traveling to you?
   - How important is going traveling for you?

Research Question 3: What turning point events influence older Korean immigrants’ travel styles?

7. Do you think your travel style is changed because of (each turning point event)?
Follow-up Questions:

1) If yes, why do you think so?

2) If not, why do you think that your travel style is not changed at all?

3) How did your travel style change?

8. What were the significant changes of your travel style before and after (the participant’s turning point event)?

1) What were the major changes of your travel style?

2) Why do you think you changed your travel style?

3) Is there anything unchanged?

4) Why do you think (the answer) is not changed?

First generation older adults’ information about immigration

1. When did you immigrate to America?

2. Why did you decide to immigrate to America?

3. After immigration, do you like living in America?

4. Why do you like living in America?

5. What are the difficulties or challenges living in America?

6. How did you deal with these difficulties or challenges you experience?

7. What are the significant changes after your immigration from Korea to America?

8. Do you think your travel style is changed after your immigration to America?

1) How has your travel style changed?

2) Why did you change your travel style?

3) If you think your travel style is not changed, why do you think your travel style is the same as you used to travel in Korea?
Appendix D

Demographic Profiles of the Participants

Demographic Profiles of the Participants

**Diana** is a 75 year-old female and came to the U.S. in 1979. She lost her husband in her early 40s. Ten years after her husband’s death, she decided to immigrate to the U.S. in order to start a new life and support her two daughters. Her brother invited Diana, but she is solely responsible for the financial status of her family. Therefore, she faced difficulties upon arriving in the U.S. Finally, she found employment at a restaurant and worked there for decades. She retired in 2004 due to various symptoms related to diabetes.

**Dan** is a 69 year-old man and immigrated to the U.S. in 1983 in an effort to find a better life than in Korea. He is married and has three children. When he was 31 years old, he was seriously wounded in a car accident in Korea. Subsequently, he received rehabilitation treatment for two years. The cost of the treatment drained his financial savings; however he was able to walk by himself after completing the rehabilitation program. Dan immigrated to the U.S. and started a line-dance institute. He dreamed of being a famous instructor who taught health and environment. He is now retired.

**Christine** is a 72 year-old female. She lost her second daughter and husband due to illness in her late 50s. Because she lived alone in Korea, her first daughter invited her to move to the U.S. and live with her in 2005. Christine misses Korea and thinks about her house which she still owns in Korea. She also cannot read, speak, or write
English at all. She feels isolated in the U.S. because she does not have friends near her house. However, she would rather live with her daughter, help with housework, and take care of grandchildren than live alone in Korea.

**Katherine** is an 82 year-old female who came to the U.S. in 1981. Her husband died when Katherine was in her mid 40s; consequently, she immigrated to the U.S. to financially support her family that remained in Korea. Her second daughter managed a wig store, and Katherine worked as a cashier there for decades. Katherine retired in 2000 due to her spinal disks. She is a committed Christian and has attended a senior life-long center for over 10 years.

**Peter** is a 72 year-old male who came to the U.S. in 1975. He is married and has three children. He once operated a grocery store in Los Angeles, but his business failed. He involuntarily retired because his business was sold. As his wife and he age, they suffer from chronic disease. For over ten years, Peter continues to be interested in reading health-related books and learning about acupuncture and oriental medicines. After retirement, he sought another job and passed a transportation exam for a tax drive in Alaska. A few years later, his son started a food business in Georgia and so they moved together.

**Dexter** is a 71 year-old male. He is a retired doctor, but he still owns the hospitals that he founded. He got a job as an intern at a hospital in Boston, U.S. in 1966. He became a professor at a university in Georgia, and he founded his own hospital in Atlanta. He had focused on his work and now has three clinics. In his late 40s, he realized that the important things in his life were not only his career and success, but also his wife and
children. His wife was a committed Christian, and he also became a committed Christian and participates in various church programs.

**Paige** is an 87 year-old female and came to the U.S. in 2007. She divorced and took care of her four children by herself. After her children married and moved out, she continued to live in her house alone for decades. She suddenly felt lonely and decided to move in with her second son who lives in Georgia. Because she does not know English at all, she watches Korean television channels and reads newspapers in Korean. She also prefers to attend KASA whenever it opens in order to see friends.

**Helen** is an 82 year-old female. She lost her husband to Alzheimer’s disease in 2004. She came to Georgia in 1979 with her family. Her daughter, who married an American, invited the rest of her family to the U.S. Helen wanted to live in the U.S. because America’s education system seemed much better than Korea at that time. She did not have a difficult time adjusting to the new environment after immigration. However, her first son died suddenly due to a heart attack in 2006. After his death, she constantly remembers the loss of her child.

**Paul** is an 82 year-old male. His wife and he lived together for 60 years after marriage. Her wife’s brother invited his family to come to the U.S. in 1978. Because he came from North Korea during the Korean War, Seoul and America were not his hometown. He thought that living in a rich country such as America would be better for his family. However, he had a hard time adjusting to the U.S. because he did not speak
English at all and there was no one to help his family financially. He found employment as a construction laborer; he is now retired and lives with his children.

**Brandy** is a 70 year-old female. She lost her husband when she was in her mid 40s. Before the death of her husband, she was a housewife and spent his salary for her family’s living. After his death, she needed to earn money by selling goods at an open market. She was proud of paying her four daughters’ college tuition fees. In 1997, she found that she had brain tumor, but at that time, she refused to have brain tumor surgery because of the lack of medical techniques and facilities in Korea. As her first daughter married an American teacher (who worked at a private English institute in Korea and now lives in Georgia), Brandy came to the U.S. for her brain tumor surgery.

**Alan** is a 76 year-old male and came to the U.S. in 1991 for his son’s education. He was a local civil servant in Korea. In order to immigrate to the U.S., he quit his job and moved all his belongings to the U.S. Because he had enough investment to start a new business, he did not have a hard time adjusting. He started a grocery store. However, the store was burglarized. He subsequently sold the grocery store and started a liquor store in Atlanta. As the sales of the liquor store increased, he became a successful business man and turned his business over to his son. Although Alan is now retired, he continues to help his son at the store twice a week.

**Joyce** is a 67 year-old female and came to the U.S. in 2008. She lost her husband to lung cancer in 2005. Prior to that time she was a housewife. Because she lived alone in Korea following her husband’s death, her children, who immigrated to the U.S.
after marriage, invited her to live with them in Georgia. After immigrating, she had family conflict with her son-in-law; his parents are Korean but he has lived in Germany and the U.S. As the family conflict worsened in 2011, she decided to marry her present husband to avoid living with her son-in-law.

**Alison** is a 68 year-old female. She immigrated to Hawaii in 1981. Her husband’s brother invited her family to Hawaii. She did not have a hard time settling because her relatives helped her family. She considers Hawaii to be her second home. She moved to Georgia in 2009 and, following his divorce, she lives with her first son.

**Belle** is an 81 year-old female and came to the U.S. in 1992. She attended college to be a professor but was forced to stop studying due to the Korean War. She married and became a housewife because her husband was conservative and wanted her to take care of their children at home. After her husband retired, her family moved to the U.S. She lost her husband in 2002.

**Michelle** is a 67 year-old female. She immigrated to Paraguay in 1978. She wanted to immigrate to the U.S., however, she did not receive permission from the U.S. government. Ten years later, her family received a U.S. visa and she moved to New York. She had been economically distressed since her immigration to Paraguay. Even though she hoped that her life got better after moving to New York, her husband did not have the ability to support her family. She got divorced from him and moved to Georgia. She married a European businessman who is now dead. She continues to run her deceased husband’s business.
Michael is a 77 year-old male. He is married. He is a retired mechanic. He came to the U.S. because he got a job as a Japanese interpreter with his company. He also wanted to educate his five children in America because of its education system. Later, he opened an auto shop. He retired in early 2000 because of heart disease. Following heart surgery, he attended KASA and became its president for two years. Since last year, his declining health condition compromised his frequency at KASA.

Teresa is a 78 year-old female. She lost her husband and came to the U.S. in 1998. She lives with her adult children in Georgia. She is interested in decorating her house and educating her grandchildren. She wants to enjoy her free time with her friends; however, she does not have a driver’s license.

Conner is a 76 year-old male who came to the U.S. in 1978. He served in the Allied forces during the Vietnam War. After the war, he could not find a stable job and adapt to his life in Korea. He got a job in the U.S. and moved to Georgia. He worked for the company for thirty years and then retired. He is proud of his U.S. citizenship; he is a dutiful citizen and receives benefits from the U.S. government.

Emily is a 78 year-old female who came to the U.S. in 1986 for her son’s education. Her husband speaks English fluently, and her family started a grocery business in Georgia within three months of their immigration. Aided by their business partners, sales from the store were high. Emily later turned over the store to her son. After retirement, she enjoys attending KASA and visits Korea once a year to meet with her family and relatives.
Karen is a 78 year-old female. She is married and came to the U.S. for her children’s education in 1987. She started a grocery store, but lost her store due to a fire accident. She did not open a new business because of financial deficit, but instead she became a chiropractor. She later retired because of she suffered from arthritic fingers. In 2011, her son was diagnosed with cancer. His medical treatments were not all covered by health insurance. Therefore, she helped him to pay his bills and spent almost all her saved money. She is grateful for his recovery from cancer.

Pamela is a 68 year-old female. She got divorced and decided to immigrate to the U.S. in 1987 to avoid contact with her ex-husband and to provide a better education for her children. She became more independent, learned English, and learned how to drive in the U.S. She started a gas station but was disappointed by its accompanying time commitment: she did not have enough time to have consistent family meals at home. She sold her gas station and focused on taking care of her grandchildren.

Cameron is a 79 year-old female. When she was young, she traveled to Japan and China with her grandfather. However, due to the wars in Japan, China, and Korea, she evacuated to safe places. Given the opportunity to attend college, she decided to earn a degree as a doctor after seeing dead bodies from the Korean War. She immigrated to the U.S. in 1966 to financially support her family in Korea. She is married and has two children. She retired after she had run an obstetrics and gynecology clinic for decades. She suffers from bladder cancer.
Howard is a 70 year-old male who came to the U.S. in 1973 for his children’s education. He is married. He is a retired writing teacher. He did not have difficult time after immigration because he speaks English very well. He was a teacher in Korea and became a teacher in Georgia. His wife was a nurse in Korea and got a job at a hospital near Georgia. He felt that there seemed to be no major changes following immigration. After retirement, he maintains a busy life teaching seniors at the life-long school.

Linda is a 64 year-old female. She was a teacher and after marriage, she became a housewife. She came to the U.S. in 2002 for her youngest child’s education. In 2002, her husband retired and her youngest child wanted to attend a college in the U.S. In addition, her uncle invited her family to move to the U.S., and after a decade, her family received a U.S. permanent resident visa. After immigration, she faced five years of difficulty as she maintained houses in Korea and America. Five years after immigration, she enjoys her relaxing life in America.

Trevor is a 59 year-old male. He immigrated to Hawaii with his family in his mid-20s. He did not want to come to the U.S. and did not speak any English at that time. He attempted suicide, but failed. He left for Seattle and had a chance to attend a church. He became a committed Christian. He has worked as a travel conductor and has traveled around the U.S.

Gunter is an 83 year-old male. He is married. He came to the U.S. to run a chemical factory with his brother (who became a chemistry expert after studying abroad in the U.S. for years). However, a fire accident at the factory left Gunter with severe skin
wounds. He needed to receive rehabilitation treatments for two years. After the fire accident, he became estranged with his brother and started a grocery store because he did not know chemistry. He is now retired.

Joe is a 78 year-old male. He is married. He came to the U.S. in 1985 because his family members wanted to live in the U.S. and his daughter wanted to study abroad. He got a job at a fabric factory. He felt much better because in the factory, most of the employees were from Korea and he did not worry about speaking English. After retirement, he attends KASA. He is proud of his daughter, who became an ophthalmologist.

Mary is a 73 year-old female and came to the U.S. in 1986. Her family started a restaurant. She cooked at the kitchen and her adult children managed the hall and other tasks. Her children wanted her to marry a man who would take care of her and provide companionship for traveling for the rest of her life. Mary was introduced to a Korean man and they married. Eight years later, she got divorced because of his changed personality.

Jennifer is a 73 year-old female and came to the U.S. in 1985. Her family started a hospitality business. Due to the economy downturn in Georgia, the sales of her business are not good. She is retired, but her children run the inn.
Robert is an 86 year-old male. He is married. He came to the U.S. in 2007 to live together with his grown-up children. He is retired. He is interested in swimming, sport dancing, and badminton. He also enjoys sea fishing.

Silvia is a 74 year-old female. She came to the U.S. because her husband decided to immigrate to the U.S. in 1985. She married a man chosen by her parents, her husband is eight years her senior. He was very conservative and asked her to be obedient, do housework, and take care of their children. Her husband suffered from various diseases, such as stroke, Alzheimer’s disease, and gallstone disease. She has been taking care of her sick husband.

Sophie is a 78 year-old female and married. She came to the U.S. in 1988 in order to help her grown children. She did housework and took care of grandchildren while her grown-up children worked outside the home. After coming to the U.S., she separated from her husband, however, they reconciled a year later and began to live together. She is a good companion to help her husband, who suffers from hearing loss.

Billy is a 73 year-old male and married. He came to the U.S. in 1986 to start his business in New York. His business was successful for years, however, his business failed in 1995. He talked about his religious life. When he was in his 20s, he experienced four sequential accidents which resulted in scars on the left side of his face. He subsequently believed in a cult religion for fifteen years. After his business failure, he became a serious Christian. One of the important things in his life is conveying God’s words in the Bible.
### Appendix E

#### Initial Coding of Turning Point Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Turning Point Events</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 Diana | 1 Widowhood  
2 | Immigration to the US  
3 | Buy a house  
4 | Attending KASA  
6 | Retirement  
7 | Diabetes symptoms getting serious  
8 | diet  
| 2 Dan | 9 Car accident  
10 | Rehabilitation  
11 | Immigration to the US  
12 | 61th birthday  
13 | After reading a book (His life goal was changed)  
| 3 Christine | 14 Her second daughter was died  
15 | Widowhood – Death of her husband  
16 | Immigration to the US  
17 | Her daughter got a job  
| 4 Katherine | 18 Death of her husband  
19 | Immigration to the US  
20 | Spinal Disc  
21 | Attending the senior school  
<p>| 5 Peter | 22 Military Service  |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Reading the Bible</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Immigration to the USA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Business failure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Retired</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Health Problem</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Getting a job-taxi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Alaska – Move to new city</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Mission trips</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Dexter</td>
<td>Work for a hospital in Boston</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Become a professor at the University of Georgia – Job promotion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Religion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Mission trip to Russia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Paige</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>She found that her husband had another woman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Immigration to the US</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Helen</td>
<td>Immigration to the US</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Changed health in close family</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Her first son died</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Her heart operation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Paul</td>
<td>Escape from North Korea to South Korea</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Korean War</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>Immigration to the US</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
<td>Retired/ business failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cannot speak at all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td></td>
<td>Widowhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
<td>Immigration to the US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td></td>
<td>Brain tumor surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Brandy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td></td>
<td>Widowhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
<td>Immigration to the US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td></td>
<td>Brain tumor surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Alan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td>Immigration to the US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td></td>
<td>Business success</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Joyce</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td></td>
<td>Her first daughter’s Marriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td></td>
<td>Her first daughter moved to US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
<td>Widowhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td></td>
<td>Immigration to the US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fight with her son in law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Alison</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td></td>
<td>Car accident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td></td>
<td>remarriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Belle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td></td>
<td>Immigration to US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
<td>Separation/divorce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td></td>
<td>Move to Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Michelle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td></td>
<td>Korean War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td></td>
<td>Move to Busan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td></td>
<td>Immigration to the US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td></td>
<td>Widowhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td></td>
<td>Immigration to Paraguay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td></td>
<td>Immigration to the US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td>Remarriage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Michael</td>
<td>Georgia got a job, immigration to the US</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>Immigration to the US</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>Retirement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>Heart surgery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>KASA volunteering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Teresa</td>
<td>Immigration to the USA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>Military service to Vietnam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>Back to Korea from Vietnam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>Immigration to the US</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>Getting a job (regular job)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>His wife passed away</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>US Citizenship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>Retirement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Emily</td>
<td>Immigration to US</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>Start a grocery store</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>Her store was very successful</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>Immigration to the US</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83</td>
<td>Start business</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84</td>
<td>Business became stable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>Business success</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86</td>
<td>Fire accident</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87</td>
<td>Business failure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>Move to Georgia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chiropractics cleaning and so on (learning job skills)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Retirement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Her son’s born cancer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>She got American citizenship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Pamela</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Divorce</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Immigration to the USA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Start a business (gas station)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Taking care of grandchildren</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Depression</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Start socialization</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lifelong learning centers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Cameron</td>
<td>Travel to japan her grandfather who was a pastor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>625 war</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Got a job in America</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Immigration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marriage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First child</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Giving birth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Start her hospital</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medicaid – poor people came to her</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Retirement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Got bladder cancer-treatment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Linda</td>
<td>Immigration to the US</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>Miss Korea</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Trevor</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>Immigration to the US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>112</td>
<td>Tried Suicide and move to Seattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>113</td>
<td>Attend church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>114</td>
<td>Move to Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>115</td>
<td>Mission trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Gunter</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>Korean War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>117</td>
<td>His brother’s study abroad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>118</td>
<td>Immigration to the US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>119</td>
<td>Explosion of his factory-accident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>120</td>
<td>rehabilitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>121</td>
<td>Start a new business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Joe</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>Immigration to the US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>123</td>
<td>Got a job</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>124</td>
<td>Move to Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>125</td>
<td>Citizenship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>126</td>
<td>Retirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>127</td>
<td>KASA involved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Mary</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>Divorce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>129</td>
<td>Immigration to the US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>130</td>
<td>Remarriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>131</td>
<td>Retirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>132</td>
<td>Divorce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Jennifer</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>Immigration to the US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>134</td>
<td>Motel business</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>135</td>
<td>Business success</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Robert</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>Korean War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>137</td>
<td>Personality was changed – gentle North Korean soldier was ready to shoot</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>138</td>
<td>Immigration to the US</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Silvia</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>Marriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140</td>
<td>Immigration to the US</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>141</td>
<td>Move to Georgia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>142</td>
<td>Her husband is sick</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 Sophie</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>Immigration to the USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>144</td>
<td>Separation with her husband</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>145</td>
<td>Live together with her husband</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>146</td>
<td>Move to Georgia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33 Billy</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>Childhood experience in Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>148</td>
<td>Accidents (four times)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>149</td>
<td>Immigration to the US</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>Business failure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>151</td>
<td>Church-religion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix F

Examples of Three Interviewees

Diana, a 75 year-old female, lost her husband in 1976. The loss of the spouse while in her 40s was her first turning point event. She had a hard time being independent and supporting her two daughters by herself. She decided to immigrate to the United States because her older brother invited her. After immigration, her most important life priority was to support her two daughters and find stabilization in her new country. As she had focused on her work and accumulation of her property, travelling was not considered at all. Turning point events, such as the loss of a spouse or the period right after immigration became constraints to her travel experience. In fact, she was diagnosed diabetes in 1985, but she did not experience serious symptoms. In 2004, she decided to retire from a restaurant job where she worked on account of the serious symptoms she experienced as a result of diabetes. After retirement, she decided to travel around iconic places in the United States. She visited areas such as New York, Chicago, Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon, Los Angeles, and Yellow Stone Park as well as Hawaii. Her most memorable travel was during her early 60s when she was on a mission travel to Israel. She was there for 15 nights and 16 days with her church members and pastors because she believes that religion contributes to her decision not to give up on life but to engage and socialize with other Korean people in church. She also became a member of Korean American Senior Association in 2000 and continues to attend there. This association also helps her to engage in various recreation programs and day trips near Georgia, such as the Smokey Mountains, Helen Georgia, and Buford Dam. Because she did not have many relatives and close family members living in Korea, she did not seem to visit Korea regularly,
but she wanted to look around the famous places in the U.S. because she has lived in the U.S. for decades. Organizations, such as church or KASA, provide more opportunities to travel. Her own value on travel experience, especially her mission trip to Israel and travel to famous American destinations was also changed after retirement. As shown in Figure 1, this is represented in specific travel outcomes of turning point events which influence travel style. Because she traveled with other Korean immigrants, she prefers organized travel styles. She reflected that her travel experience helps her with understanding church sermons after mission trips and becoming more familiar with her new country, America.

Michael, a 77 year-old male, immigrated in 1974 and never traveled until he felt that he became stabilized. He had five children and focused on his children’s academic performance because it was his initial purpose for immigration. His value on travel participation was negative immediately following immigration. His second turning point event was multiple: heart attack and retirement. In 2005, he had a heart operation and closed his own auto shop, retiring in during his 70s. Even though he had a personal illness, after having time to reflect on the turning point events, he redirected his life path to and decided to enjoy his life rather than focus on his children and business. This decision is related to his changed value and the timing of his personal illness: retirement and financial stabilization in the theory. He also joined KASA and had been the president of KASA for two years. He organized two trips to Korea for KASA members who wanted to go there, but he did not have anyone to plan the travel program. His travels were not always organized trips. He travelled with his grown-up children to famous U.S. travel destinations, but they did not purchase organized travel packages because his grown-up children speak English fluently and
gathered information about their travel destinations without the help of a travel package. Since last year, his personal illness became serious. He found it difficult to walk for a long time. As a result, he refused any travel offers from family members and friends. His goal now is to take control of his body throughout his daily routine.

Linda, a 64 year-old female, immigrated to the U.S. ten years ago. She devoted her life to her children. Her life goal was to care for her family as a housewife. After immigration, she did not consider America as a place to live for the rest of her life, and instead, she planned to go back to Korea in the near future. However, her life in the U.S. became stabilized five years after the immigration, and then she considered the house in the U.S. as her home. She also mentioned that the timing was right to change her value on travel experience. Her husband was retired and her youngest daughter attended a university. In her empty nester period, Linda realized that her responsibility as a caregiver was complete. She considered it be the right time for her personal growth, and she found her husband to be the best partner to travel with around the U.S. Even though she is planning to travel to Europe and study the history of European countries, she chose to travel to iconic places in the U.S first with her husband. She participated in both independent and organized trips around the U.S. with her husband. Landa used words like “여유 (Yeo-you)” which means ‘afford, room, or composure’ and “황금기 (Hwang-geum-gi)” which means ‘golden period’ to describe her present life and the period of empty nester. The changed transitional role from a housewife to an empty nester facilitated her leisure activities and travel experience. In addition, her travel style is influenced by the turning point events due to the changed transitional roles.
REFERENCES


Zuckerman, M. (1979). The Zuckerman Form V Sensation-Seeking Scale is a proprietary scale used in this research project with the permission of Dr. Marvin Zuckerman, Department of Psychology, University of Delaware, Newark.