Korean Grammar in Discourse and Interaction

Materials for Advanced / Heritage Korean

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Center for Advanced Language Proficiency Education and Research

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Unit 1:

Completive Aspect Markers

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Funding: This project was funded by the U.S. Department of Education as part of a Title VI grant to the Center for Advanced Level Language Proficiency Education and Research at the Pennsylvania State University (2002-2006). However, the contents of do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and one should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

Produced by
Center for Advanced Language Proficiency Education and Research
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Preface

Completive aspect markers

This workbook unit has been designed to supplement current resources on Korean grammar. Its primary purpose is to demonstrate and explain aspects of Korean grammar from a discourse-pragmatic perspective and is intended for teachers/learners of Korean as well as for anyone interested in Korean discourse analysis. By "discourse-pragmatic" we mean that we appeal to a large database or corpus of naturally occurring language (discourse) produced in spoken, written, and hybrid (e.g., electronic communication) modes to analyze in depth the interactional/cognitive meanings and functions (pragmatics) of the particular grammatical forms that we investigate. Because we work with numerous occurrences of the same form as it emerges across a variety of contexts and across the three discourse modes, we are able locate crucial patterns with respect to how, when, and for what purpose the form is used in those contexts. We then determine an "underlying meaning" of the target form based on the patterns discovered, which may serve as a means to better understand and explain the pragmatic functions of the selected features of Korean grammar.

The exercises and grammatical explanations in this workbook unit focus on the two completive aspect markers V 아/어 버리다 vs. V고 말다 as well as the compound construction V 아/어 -버리고말다. Advanced level and heritage learners (and teachers as well) report difficulties in pinpointing precisely how these three constructions differ—particularly in terms of meaning. That is, these grammatical constructions appear to be similar from the point of view of semantics and pragmatics, and while advanced/heritage learners tend to have enough linguistic and cultural knowledge to recognize the degree to which these forms overlap in meaning and function, they tend to be unable to systematically articulate how the forms differ and why. Even more challenging is the next step: to intentionally select one form over the other in order to express a particular communicative intent.

The explanations and exercises in this workbook have been designed to reflect actual patterns of the target forms within discourse. They are intended to guide you to both inductively and deductively focus on such patterns and to ultimately uncover the conceptual schemata that underlie each form. Once you succeed in pinpointing and articulating the conceptual schemata, you can then learn to disambiguate the target forms on the basis of their conceptual meaning and also to produce these forms in your own discourse in pragmatically appropriate ways.

We hope that you find this workbook useful. We would be pleased to receive your feedback on our exercises and explanations via e-mail.

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Introduction:

AUXILIARY VERBS: V-아/어 버리다 AND V-고 말다

BOTH OF THESE AUXILIARY VERBS EXPRESS SEEMINGLY SIMILAR NOTIONS

- They are both grammatically OPTIONAL (that is, the speaker or writer can choose to add the auxiliaries only for emphasis, but they are not required in order to make the sentences grammatical)
- They both focus on the endpoint or outcome of an event
- They both express some aspect of the speaker's/writer's stance with respect to that outcome

(1) a. 우리 강아지가 죽었다. 'My puppy died' (neutral)

b. 우리 강아지가 죽어 버렸다. 'My puppy died' (emphatic)

c. 우리 강아지가 죽고 말았다. 'My puppy died' (more emphatic)

The (a) sentence without any auxiliary verb is **neutral**. It tells us only that the speaker's/writer's puppy died, and expresses no particular attitude on the part of the speaker/writer.

The (b) and (c) sentences are emphatic. They indicate some aspect of the speaker's attitude—e.g., regret, relief, sadness, disappointment, surprise. Between the (b) and (c) sentences, (c) expresses a stronger attitudinal stance or expresses more emphasis than (b).

Let's begin the discussion with the V-아/어 버리다 construction by first examining 버리다 as it occurs as a main verb.

버리다 as a verb means "to throw away" or "to spoil," we can see both meanings in (2) and (3), respectively.

버리다 **as a main verb:**

(2) 나는 연구실에 있던 오래된 책을 다 버렸다. 버리다: THROW AWAY

I threw away all of my old books that I have in my office.

(3) 나는 평생 그 약을 먹어서 위장을 버렸다. 버리다: RUIN OR SPOIL
I have taken that medicine all through my life and it has ruined my stomach.

As a main verb, then, 'throw away' or 'ruin/spoil' implies that the object that is thrown away or ruined is COMPLETELY THROWN AWAY or COMLETELY RUINED.

When 버리다 is used as an auxiliary verb, it tends to frequently occur with main verbs which also encode something that happens completely, like "forget" (잊다) or "lose" (잃다) That is, when someone forgets something or loses something, it is completely forgotten or completely lost. Examples (4) and (5) are typical of this use of V-아/어 버리다

(4) 제가 깜빡 잊어버렸어요.
I just forgot it.

(5) 도서관에서 우산을 잃어버렸다.
I lost my umbrella in the library.

In (6), we see that V-아/어 버리다 is used with the main verb 없어지다 "to be gone/"to disappear."

(6) 우리가 시장을 보는데, 금새 애가 없어져 버렸어요.
While we looked around the market, she was suddenly gone.

Here, the speaker is indicating that she couldn't find her mother at the market. She looked around, but she was gone—completely gone. The auxiliary construction V-아/어 버리다 underscores that notion of being COMPLETELY gone.

What about (7)? In (7a) we have a sentence without the auxiliary construction; in (7b) the sentence contains the auxiliary.

(7) a. 한 시간만에 색깔이 변하죠?
The color changes in an hour, right?

b. 한 시간만 지나도 색깔이 변해 버리죠?
The color changes in even less than an hour, right?

(7a) is non-specific with respect to the degree of change that takes place within a period of time. The color is only partially changed. It simply indicates that the color (of a sliced apple stored in the refrigerator changes). In (7b), the speaker is expressing emphatic stance, indicating that the color COMPLETELY changes. Even if the change is **NOT <u>LITERALLY</u>** COMPLETE, the speaker might express it this way just for emphasis.

Let's do the same with (8a) and (8b):

(8) a. 같은 날짜에 보관을 한 건데, 이렇게 됐어요.

b. 같은 날짜에 보관을 한 건데, 이렇게 돼 버렸어요.
This is the one that has been stored from the same date (as the other) but it has turned like this.

How is (8a) different from (8b)? _____

a._____

b._____

Now, have a look at (9) through (12), and think about the meanings of each sentence without the V-아/어 버리다 construction (the a. versions) and with the V-아/어 버리다 construction (the b. versions).

(9) a. 책을 뺏어가 가지고 전부 다 이렇게 불살랐다.

b. 책을 뺏어가 가지고 전부 다 이렇게 불살라 버렸다.
(They) took all (his) books and burnt them.

What is the difference between the a. and b. versions?

a._____

b._____

(10) a. 그는 떨어지는 낙엽을 빗자루로 쓸었다.

b. 그는 떨어지는 낙엽을 빗자루로 쓸어 버렸다.
He swept up the fallen leaves with a brush.

What is the difference between the a. and b. versions?

a._____

b._____

(11) a. 그 애의 도시락을 먼저 다 먹는 거예요. 체육시간에.

b. 그 애의 도시락을 먼저 다 먹어 버리는 거예요. 체육시간에.
They eat up his lunch. I mean in the P.E class

What is the difference between the a. and b. versions?

a._____

b._____

(12) a. 지금 말할 게 하나도 없어요. 다 말했어요.

b. 지금 말할 게 하나도 없어요. 다 말해 버렸거든요.
I don't have anything to tell. I told you everything.

What is the difference between the a. and b. versions?

a._____

b._____

So far, so good. The patterns in (6) through (12) are all pretty similar. The 7 versions all express an emphatic stance on the TOTAL COMPLETION of the action denoted by the verb. Now, let's have a look at number (13).

(13) 카이는 장미 한 송이를 더 꺾어 버렸습니다.
Kay pulled off one more rose.

Here, we get a sense that Kay tried very hard to pull off the additional rose. So, with the added V-아/어 버리다 construction here, what it emphasizes is the subject's STRONG INTENTION. She pulled off the rose **once and for all, and completely.**

In (14), we find the auxiliary occurring with the main verb 쓰러지다 "to slip/to fall."

(14) 돌에 부딪혀서 자전거가 쓰러져 버렸다.
His bike hits the stone and the bike falls down.

The added meaning in this sentence with the verb 쓰러지다 is that the bike fell down and it was an ACCIDENT. That is, the auxiliary V-아/어 버리다 emphasizes the idea that the bike fell—suddenly and unexpectedly; it was beyond the control of the person riding it. If we were to delete the auxiliary construction, then the sentence would just indicate that the bike fell, but would not underscore the suddenness or accidental nature of the event.

We find a similar reading in (15):

(15) 나는 되는 대로 아무렇게나 대답해 버렸다.
I answered with the first thing that came to me.

In this example, by virtue of the V-아/어 버리다 auxiliary, we can feel that the speaker answered spontaneously, without thinking, just to get it **over and done with.**

So, the "underlying meaning" of V-아/어 버리다 is FINALITY/TOTALITY. As a result of this basic meaning, we find that V-아/어 버리다 expresses **EMPHASIS,** through:

- accidentality
- irreversibility
- an event/change that is beyond control
- getting something **over and done with / once and for all**
- deliberateness

In addition to EMPHASIS, the construction could express feelings like relief, regret, pride, surprise, disappointment, unexpectedness, strong resolve, and so forth.

Let's represent this graphically:

UNDERLYING MEANING OF V-아/어 버리다	Pragmatically implicates→	SECONDARY MEANING	Pragmatically implicates→	EMOTIONAL OR SUBJECTIVE OVERTONES
FINALITY w/ TOTALITY		**EMPHASIS** Accidentality Irreversibility An event/change beyond control Deliberateness		Relief Regret Pride Surprise Disappointment Unexpectedness Strong Resolve (Other types of feelings)

[Figure 1]

Now, we'll move to, V-고 말다, and we'll see just how the construction differs from V-아/어 버리다 and why.

말다 **as a main verb:**

말다 as a main verb means "to stop/cease/give up doing something" as in (16) and (17):

(16) 이번에는 참고하려고 <전쟁과 평화>라는 책을 샀는데, 너무 지루해서 네쪽인가 읽다 말았다. 말다: STOP
This time I bought War and Peace and I read about four pages. However, I stopped reading it because it is very boring.

(17) 초인종을 누르려다가 말고, 누르려다가 말고. 수완, 결심을 못한다.
말다: GIVE UP
Swuwan tried, but gave up pushing the door bell. She couldn't make up her mind.

What is interesting here is that the meaning of 말다 as a main verb actually means to "**not complete something**" or to "**not see something through to completion**."
And already we see a very sharp contrast with the meaning of 버리다 as a main verb. That is, 말다 encodes an ultimate NON-COMPLETION of an action, whereas 버리다 encodes an ultimate TOTAL COMPLETION. Even more interesting, though, is the fact that, despite the clear inherent differences in main verb meanings, as an auxiliary, V-고 말다 appears to be very similar to V-아/어 버리다 in both meaning and function.

Let's have a look at example (18), excerpted from the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale "The Red Shoes" (빨간 구두)

(18) 그 다음 주일엔 성찬식이 있었습니다. 집에서 나서기 전에 카렌은 검은 구두를 내려다 보고, 다시 빨간 구두에 눈길을 주었어요. 카렌은 빨간 구두에서 눈을 뗄 수가 없어 한참을 망설이다가 기어이 빨간 구두를 신고 말았습니다.
The next Sunday was communion, and Karen looked at the black shoes before she went out of her house, and she looked at the red ones again. Then, unable to take her eyes off of the red ones, she hesitated and finally put the red ones on.

Note in this example that Karen, the protagonist of the story, is torn between wearing the red shoes—which she knows would be inappropriate for church—and the black shoes, the ones that she is expected to wear. She is tempted ever so strongly to wear the red shoes, looks at the black shoes, and finally puts the red ones on. Note that the verb 망설이다 'to hesitate' appears with the 다가 construction that signals the stopping of an action and the beginning of a new one.

Example (19) below is similar:

(19) 다이어트하는 동안 라면은 되도록이면 먹지 말아야 하는데 먹고 말았다. 사실 정말 얼마 전부터 라면이 너무너무 먹고 싶었다. 참았었는데 결국 오늘 먹고 말았다.
While on a diet, I should try not to eat ramyen. But I ate it. In fact, I have really really been craving ramyen for a while. Even though I have suppressed my cravings, today I ate ramyen at last.

What do you notice that (18) and (19) have in common with respect to the events being described and what the subject is feeling? The first issue to consider is whether or not Karen in (18) and the speaker in (19) actually wanted the outcome to occur in the way that it did. Do you get a sense that they wanted the event to happen? Why or why not? In the space below, write everything that you notice in this regard that gives you this impression regarding the commonalities in situation between (18) and (19).

_____

_____

_____

_____

Now, let's look at two more examples:

(20) 비비는 순간 다른 친구들도 자기가 가진 진주 목걸이를 가지면 어쩌나 하는 생각에 "숲에서 주운 거야."하고 그만 거짓말을 하고 말았다.

"I found it in a forest" Pipi wound up telling a lie because she was afraid that her other friends also would have the pearl necklace she had.

(21) 쨍그랑!' 접시는 바닥에 부딪혀 산산조각이 났고 때마침 엄마가 그 모습을 보고 말았다.

'Crash!' The plate hit the floor and broke into pieces and just at that time Mom saw this happen.

In (20), did Pipi tell her lie easily? Or, was it **a struggle** for her—vacillating between telling the truth, which she knew was the right thing to do, and telling a lie to protect herself in some way? Do you get a sense that she actually wanted the lie to come out or that she would have preferred to tell the truth, but told the lie in spite of herself?

_____

_____

_____

_____

How about (21)? Did the speaker want his mother to see the plate broken? Is he expressing his **internal psychological struggle** with the idea that his mother witnessed something that was serious and unexpected occur and he would have wanted the outcome to have been very different than it actually was.

_____

_____

_____

_____

In (18) – (21), we see that the subjects are all dealing with some kind of PSYCHOLOGICAL STRUGGLE. The struggle could be a RESISTANCE TO TEMPTATION (e.g., putting on inappropriate shoes—like in (18), eating ramyen noodles—like in (19) and telling a lie—like in (20)), or a STRONG DESIRE on the part of the speaker for a particular outcome NOT TO HAPPEN, which also becomes an INTERNAL STRUGGLE (e.g., the boy's mother witnessing the plate being broken—like in (21).

Note that these examples are all in the past tense—and that so far, the feelings involved are all negative, because they involve resisting temptation or an attempt or desire to avoid an outcome that the subject did not want to happen, BUT IT HAPPENED ANYWAY, IN SPITE OF THE SUBJECT'S EFFORT TO AVOID THAT OUTCOME.

BUT, V-고 말다 constructions are not necessarily only negative. They could have positive overtones as well. This is especially true when the events denote a FUTURE TIME. In this case, the STRUGGLE is an ANTICIPATED STRUGGLE, and future events marked with V-고 말다 signal a VERY STRONG COMMITMENT OR RESOLVE ON THE PART OF THE SPEAKER TO ACCOMPLISH HIS OR HER FUTURE GOAL.

This type of attitude is noted in (22).

(22) 세상 앞에 당당하게 설 수 있는 사람이 되겠다고, 꼭 그렇게 되고 말겠다고.
I decided to become a person who would be able to face the world bravely, without fail to become like that.

In (22), note that the sentence also includes the emphatic adverbial 꼭, "without fail."

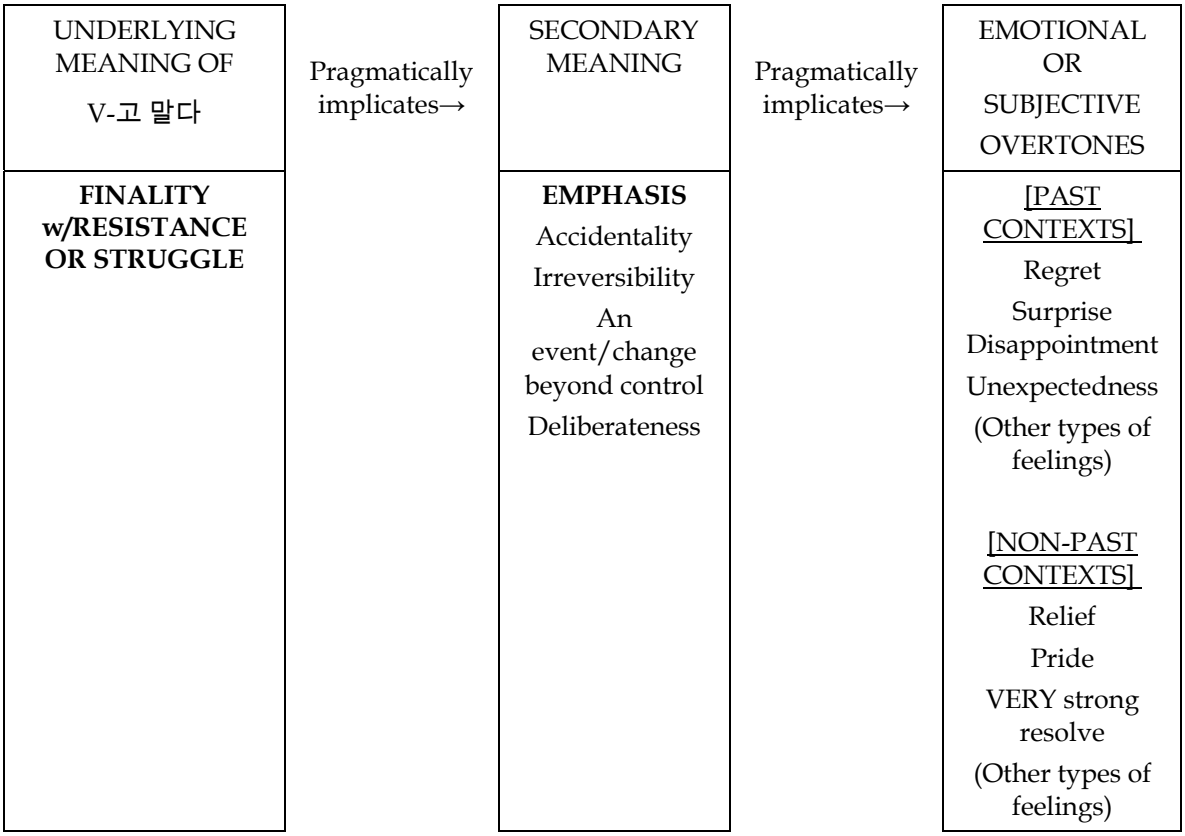
The underlying meaning of the construction V-고 말다 is shown below:

The "underlying meaning" of V-고 말다is **FINALITY WITH RESISTANCE OR STRUGGLE**. As a result of this basic meaning, we find that V-고 말다 expresses **EMPHASIS**, through:

- accidentality
- irreversibility
- an event/change that is beyond control
- deliberateness

In addition to EMPHASIS, the construction could express feelings like relief, regret, pride, disappointment, surprise, unexpectedness, and so forth. However, in contrast with V-아/어 버리다, which can express an entire range of emotional overtone in past or non-past contexts, V-고 말다 expresses regret, surprise, disappointment, and/or unexpectedness in the past, and relief, pride, and/or VERY strong resolve in non-past contexts. In the case of V-고 말다 used in non-past contexts, the impression of the speaker's/writer's resolve sounds strong because s/he is projecting the struggle or resistance associated with the particular event before it actually takes place.

We can represent this graphically as follows:



[Figure 2]

Now, let's recap and compare the meanings for V-아/어 버리다 and V-고 말다:

- V-아/어 버리다:

  The event is characterized by the speaker or writer as happening FINALLY and COMPLETELY (the FINAL AND COMPLETE occurrence of the event or change can be literal or emphatic)

  Examples:

  someone **forgets** or **loses** something COMPLETELY, AND IT'S GONE
  something or someone **change**s COMPLETELY
  something or someone **disappears or leaves** COMPLETELY
  someone **says or tells** EVERYTHING
  something or someone **falls down, gets broken, loses balance** COMPLETELY

  AS A RESULT, THE EVENT SOUNDS AS IF IT IS: AN ACCIDENT or A STRONG INTENTION and the speaker/writer expresses an attitude or emotional stance of: regret, relief, pride, disappointment, surprise, unexpectedness, strong resolve, or other types of feelings.

- V-고 말다:

  The event is characterized by the speaker or writer as happening FINALLY and WITH AN IMPLIED OR EXPLICIT STRUGGLE (PSYCHOLOGICAL OR PHYSICAL). <u>IN SPITE OF</u> A DESIRE OR ATTEMPT TO AVOID THAT OUTCOME, IT HAPPENS ANYWAY

  Examples:

  someone **gives into a temptation** to do something that he or she really didn't want to do. (past tense use)
  an outcome happens that the speaker **has tried to or desperately wanted to avoid**. (past tense use)

an outcome happens that the speaker **seriously expected to be the exact opposite of how the outcome actually happened.** (past tense use)
someone expresses a very strong commitment to do something, knowing **that the accomplishment of that task will involve a serious** struggle, **but commits himself or herself to doing it anyway.** (non-past use)

COMBINING THE TWO AUXILIARIES IN ONE SENTENCE:

Sometimes, these two auxiliaries combine and are used together. In this case, the underlying meaning of the FIRST auxiliary is the one that emphasizes the main verb, and the underlying meaning of the SECOND auxiliary emphasizes the combination.
Note: It is much more common for the verbs to combine such that 버리다 **is the first auxiliary and** 말다 **is the second auxiliary, as in (23):**

-아/어 버리-고 말다

(23) 담뱃값이 또 인상되어 그는 아예 담배를 끊어 버리고 말겠다고 결심했다.
As the cigarette price has risen again, he decided to quit smoking completely.

Here, what is emphasized **first** is the idea of COMPLETELY QUITTING SMOKING (끊어 + 버리다), and then, the action of quitting smoking completely is framed as a very difficult one—that is **QUITTING COMPLETELY** involves both **physical and psychological struggle** (끊어 버리 + 고 말다).

NOW, LET'S TRY AND PUT EVERYTHING TOGETHER:

The following sentences contain instances of bare main verbs (i.e., without either auxiliary) as well as occurrences of V-아/어 버리다, V-고 말다, and V-아/어 버리고 말다 In the blank line provided under each sentence, indicate first whether the sentence has a neutral tone or an emphatic tone. If the tone is emphatic, explain what you think is being emphasized and why:

(24) 쨍그랑!' 접시는 바닥에 부딪혀 산산조각이 났고 때마침 엄마가 그 모습을 보았다.
'Crash!' The plate hit the floor and broke into pieces and just at that time Mom saw this happen.

Neutral / emphatic: _____

_____

(25) 그렇게 모든 그림을 다 본 거 같은데, Raphael의 전시관은 지나치고 말았다.

Even though it seemed that I had looked at all the paintings, I happened to pass by the wing (of the art gallery) that housed Raphael's paintings.

Neutral / emphatic: _____

_____

(26) 지난번 올랐을 때는 남대봉이라는 표지석을 보았는데 이번에는 그만 지나쳐 버리고 말았다.

Last time, when I climbed, I saw the sign saying Namtaypong, but this time I passed right by it.

Neutral / emphatic: _____

_____

(27) 혼낼 때면, 하는 말마다 다 따라 하는 통에 꾸중을 하다가도 웃어 버린다

When my kid's been scolded, he just does what I say. That's why I laugh while I reprimand him.

Neutral / emphatic: _____

_____

(28) 철이는 동생의 턱없는 거짓말에 어이가 없어 웃고 말았다.

Cheli laughed in blank dismay because of his brother's whopping lie.

Neutral / emphatic: _____

_____

Compose your own sentences with each of the following: 2 sentences for each and try to be creative and original. – Be sure that the context for each sentence fits the auxiliary construction that are using.

(29) 1. V-아/어 버리다

a. _____

b._____

2. V-고 말다

a. _____

b._____

3. V-아/어 버리고 말다

a. _____

b._____

Try and use some of the adverbs in the example sentences that help to underscore the emphasis in each case.

…….

Can you now think of two different scenarios that would illustrate how the b. sentence below is different from the c. sentence?

(30) a. 우리 강아지가 죽었다. 'My puppy died' (neutral)

b. 우리 강아지가 죽어 버렸다. 'My puppy died' (emphatic)

c. 우리 강아지가 죽고 말았다. 'My puppy died' (more emphatic)