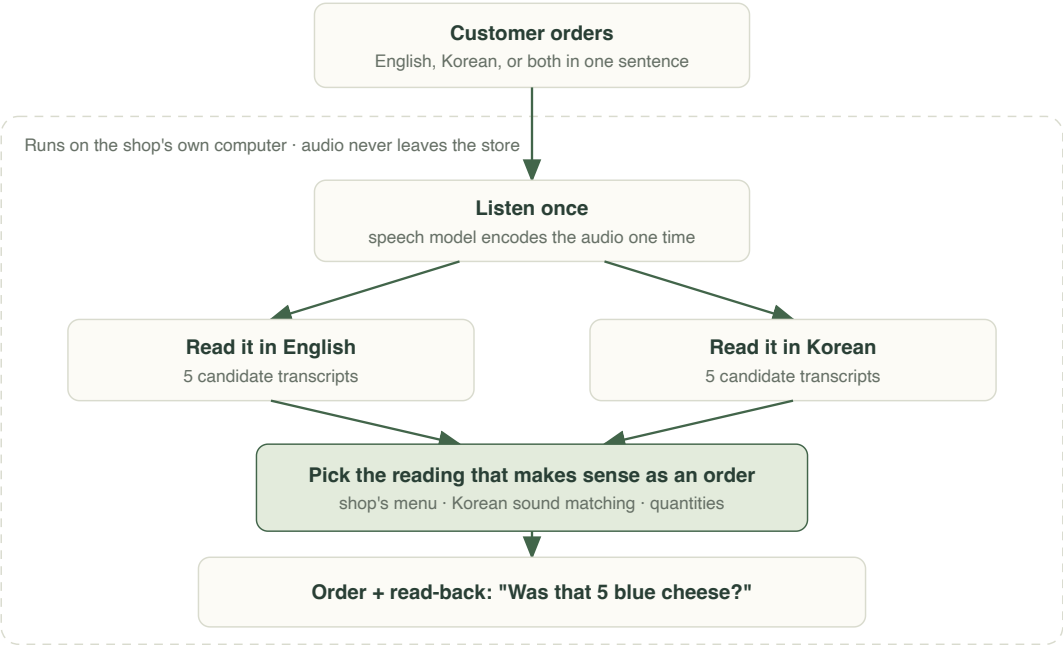
Halmae-do

Garden State Gateway Initiative · gatewaygs.org/halmae-do

Bilingual speech AI that takes orders from customers who speak Korean-accented English, Korean, or both at once. In use at 16 local businesses.

HOW IT WORKS



Hears both languages

English, Korean, or switching mid-sentence: “two bulgogi 그리고 콜라 세 개요.”

Knows the shop’s menu

Korean doesn’t distinguish r/l or b/p/f/v, so “tree white lice” becomes three white rice.

Asks instead of guessing

Reads the order back and confirms only what it is unsure of, in the customer’s language.

Stays in the store

Runs on the shop’s own computer; customer audio never leaves.

RESULTS

Measure	Off-the-shelf	Halmae-do	Tested on
Korean-accented English orders, fully correct	42%	**77%**	31 unseen Korean speakers
Items and quantities right	85%	**95%**	same speakers
Mixed Korean–English orders, fully correct	59%	**80%**	80 held-out orders, synthetic voices

Measured on speakers and orders the system was never tuned on. The mixed-language test uses computer-generated voices; real-customer accuracy is measured with each shop.

Patent pending: U.S. provisional patent application filed October 2026.

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