



Mastery Ability of Chinese Proverbs in Mandarin Language Education Study Program Students

Belinda Vashti¹, Lily Thamrin², Tjen Veronica³

¹²³Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan, Universitas Tanjungpura, Indonesia

Email: belindavashti@student.untan.ac.id¹, lily.thamrin@fkip.untan.ac.id², tjen@fkip.untan.ac.id³

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ABSTRACT

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This is a study that related to the Chinese Proverb which aims to determine the mastery ability and difficulty in using Chinese Proverbs for Language Education and Art Major in Mandarin Language Education Study Program students batch of 2018 FKIP Tanjungpura University. This research is a qualitative research with the total 33 students as respondents. The data in this study were the results of answering the questions test and questionnaires about Chinese Proverbs. The methods of data analysis were using mixed research methods. The research results showed that the mastery ability of Language Education and Art Major in Mandarin Education Language Study Program students batch of 2018 FKIP Tanjungpura University against the Chinese Proverbs were poor, with an average of 52.78%. This showed that they still did not enough understand about the Chinese Proverbs that has been learned. The factors causing the difficulty of using the Chinese Proverbs were lack of basic knowledge, not enough of reading and lack of practice.

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1. Introduction

Language is the most important communication tool for humans, and is a symbol of expression for people to communicate. One way of communicating can use figurative language, for example by using proverbs, parables and other expressions (Thamrin & Suhardi, 2020). Likewise, you can use the proverb. Proverb is a special unit of language. Proverbs are included in one type of idiom. Idioms are the meanings of language units that cannot be traced based on the lexical meaning and the grammatical meaning of the lexemes that make it up (Manaf, 2010). Idioms are meanings that deviate from the conceptual and grammatical meanings of their constituent elements (Sitaresmi, N., & Fasya, 2011)

568

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Based on the characteristics of idioms, it can be divided into six types: proverbs, aphorisms and mottoes, allegorical sayings, colloquial expressions, phrases, and proverbs. Chinese Proverbs are an important part of Mandarin idioms and the core of Mandarin Language and culture. Through the connotation of the proverb, it can reflect the culture of a nation and understand the history of culture, customs, and spiritual views of a nation.

Proverbs are the use of simple words or short sentences to reflect the deep truth of popular words or sentences that are spread in society.(Xianzhuo, 2011).Chinese Proverbs are a beautiful flower of traditional Mandarin folk literature, and an artistic language of unique beauty in form and meaning. Proverbs are always very popular with people because their language is concise, easy to understand, and harmonious(Yanqing, 2015).

The proverb is divided into two parts: about social life and about natural phenomena(Yiling, 2010).

a. Social life

1) Teachings about behavior

No	Chinese Proverb	Indonesian Meaning
1	活到老 学到老	Never stop learning
2	少壮不努力 老大徒伤悲	If you don't work hard when you're young, you'll be miserable when you're old
3	一寸光阴一寸金 寸金难买寸光阴	Must value time
4	人不可貌相 海水不可斗量	Don't see or judge people based on their appearance or physical appearance

2) About marriage and family

No	Chinese Proverb	Indonesian Meaning
1	家和万事兴	If the family is harmonious, anything can be done
2	夫妻一条心 黄土变成金	When husband and wife are of the same mind and goal, all difficulties can be overcome, then life will be prosperous
3	嫁鸡随鸡 嫁狗随狗	Once a woman is married, no matter whether her husband is good or bad, she must follow him and live with him.
4	不是一家人 不进一家门	Refers to people who are destined to be husband and wife

3) General knowledge about life

No	Chinese Proverb	Indonesian Meaning
1	饭后百步走 活到九十九	Take a walk after eating, beneficial for health
2	笑口常开 青春常在	Always maintain a happy and optimistic mood, good for physical health and youthful
3	笑一笑 十年少; 愁一愁 白了头	Smiling often and being happy makes people stay young



No	Chinese Proverb	Indonesian Meaning
4	冬吃萝卜夏吃姜, 不拗医生开药方	You have to pay attention to good food for health so you don't get sick easily

b. Natural phenomena

1) About agricultural production experience

No	Chinese Proverb	Indonesian Meaning
1	多收少收在肥, 有收无收在水	The water factor determines whether or not there is a harvest, while the fertilizer factor determines the amount of harvest
2	要想吃蔬菜, 浇水要勤快	In growing vegetables, don't just rely on rainwater, but also be diligent and work hard
3	庄稼一枝花, 全靠肥当家	The key to plants growing well lies in human effort.
4	淹不死的白菜, 旱不死的葱	Referring to each plant has a different way of care

2) Meteorological knowledge

No	Chinese Proverb	Indonesian Meaning
1	蚂蚁搬家蛇过道, 大雨不就要来到	Indicates heavy rain will fall
2	天上朵朵云, 下午晒死人	Refers to the weather. If it is cloudy in the morning, it will be hot in the afternoon
3	先下牛毛没大雨, 后下牛毛不晴天	Refers to drizzling rain for a short time then it becomes sunny as if it doesn't rain
4	蜻蜓千百绕低空, 不过三日雨蒙蒙	If many dragonflies fly in the sky, it means it will rain soon

3) Reflecting the characteristics of natural phenomena and Mandarin customs

No	Chinese Proverb	Indonesian Meaning
1	上有天堂, 下有苏杭	Referring to Suzhou and Hangzhou which have beautiful scenery like heaven
2	桂林山水甲天下, 阳朔山水甲桂林	Refers to the best Guilin scenery in the world
3	南甜北咸, 东辣西酸	Refers to the different taste habits of cuisine in each place in China
4	早穿皮袄午穿纱, 围着火炉吃西瓜	Reflecting the drastic temperature changes and differences in some areas of China's Xinjiang in summer



The proverb has several basic characteristics, as follows: (1) Characteristics of nature. Proverbs have general characteristics that summarize everyday life experiences, usually expressed in simple everyday language, which is easy to understand; (2) Functional characteristics. Its grammatical and communicative functions are equivalent to sentences, which are a special form of syntactic units with lexical units; (3) The characteristics of the proverb sentence structure: in the form of single sentences, simple compound sentences, and solid sentences (Guli & Mudu, 2014).

The use of proverbs in language is considered outdated, ancient, convoluted, and generally not used in speech. This is certainly not true. Even proverbs make language more alive and beautiful because the use of language is different from the language that is often used in everyday conversation. Today many people do not know the meaning of a proverb, even though the proverb is one of the wealth of the Indonesian nation that needs to be preserved and preserved. (Judge, N., & Syafrial, 2019).

Chinese Proverb (成语 Chényǔ) often used as a teaching medium. Because proverbs have educational value and are cultural treasures. So that students not only get the moral message contained therein but also get knowledge of Mandarin culture (Veronika & Thamrin, 2021). Likewise with the Chinese Proverb which is also a type of idiom which are included in Mandarin cultural and language assets that must be preserved. Based on this statement, the writer is interested in conducting research on the Chinese Proverb. The author chooses the proverb because there are many studies that examine proverbs, while research on proverbs is still rare. There are still some people who do not know what a proverb is, examples of proverbs, types of proverbs and how to use them. Therefore, the researcher wants to conduct research on the ability to master Chinese Proverbs. The author chose the Mandarin Language Education Study Program because this research has never been done. The objects of research are 2018 students because they have studied Chinese Proverbs listed in courses such as Morphology, Descriptive Reading Comprehension, etc.

2. Method

This research is a literature study research. According to (Xianzhuo, 2011) Literature study refers to books and materials that have historical value or reference value. This study also used test instruments and questionnaires. This type of research is descriptive qualitative. Descriptive research focuses on actual problems as they are when the research takes place (Fanani, 2017). Qualitative research is a research method based on the philosophy of positivism, used to examine the condition of natural objects, (as opposed to an experiment) where the researcher is the key instrument, data collection techniques are carried out by triangulation (combined), data analysis is inductive/qualitative, and qualitative research results emphasize meaning rather than generalization (Sugiyono, 2016).

The object of the research was the students of the 2018 Mandarin Language Education Study Program, FKIP Tanjungpura University, totaling 33 students, consisting of 19 students in class A and 14 students in class B. Researchers collect data from various literacy, then the data is made test questions to be tested on students. The data in this study were written data from textbooks for Morphology, Descriptive Reading Comprehension, Comprehensive Mandarin and Chinese Proverbs dictionary. The material used is taken from a collection of Chinese Proverbs.

Researchers used Google Forms to distribute test questions and questionnaires. There are 24 test questions tested on class 2018 students, divided into 18 multiple choice (PG) questions and 6 essay questions (explaining the meaning of the proverb). Questionnaire questions distributed to students amounted to 7 questions.

The method of data analysis is a mixed study. Mixed research is a research approach that combines qualitative research with quantitative research to complete research (Creswell, 2012). According to Sugiyono (2016), mixed research methods are research methods by combining two qualitative and quantitative research methods in a research activity so that more comprehensive, valid, reliable and objective data will be obtained.



3. Result and Analysis

3.1 Ability to Master Chinese Proverbs

According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary Online(KBBI, Typoonline, 2016)Ability is (1) ability; proficiency; strength; (2) multilingual: the ability to use several languages to communicate. According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary Online(KBBI, Typoonline, 2016)mastery is (1) the process, method, act of controlling or dominating; (2) understanding or ability to use (knowledge, intelligence, etc.).

Mastery of foreign languages is very necessary, especially in an effort to support the learning process according to the scientific field. It is not only the ability to speak English that is necessary to have, but mastery of foreign languages other than English is also very much needed by students, especially in an effort to support the improvement of their knowledge and expertise.(Damayanti & Maharani, 2011). Therefore, learning Mandarin is also very important. In learning Mandarin, students are required to master Mandarin which includes aspects of listening, reading, writing and speaking. In addition to these aspects, it is also necessary to study another language unit, namely the proverb. Mastery of Chinese Proverbs is also very necessary. In addition to increasing knowledge, the proverb also has an important meaning and a message that can be taken. The following is the ability to master Chinese Proverbs for students of the 2018 Mandarin Language Education Study Program, FKIP University, Tanjungpura University.

Types of Proverbs	Mastery (%)
Teachings about behaviour	70.45%
About marriage and family	64.39%
Knowledge of life	43.94%
About agricultural production experience	47.73%
Meteorological knowledge	39.39%
About the characteristics of natural phenomena and Mandarincustoms	50.76%
Average	52.78%



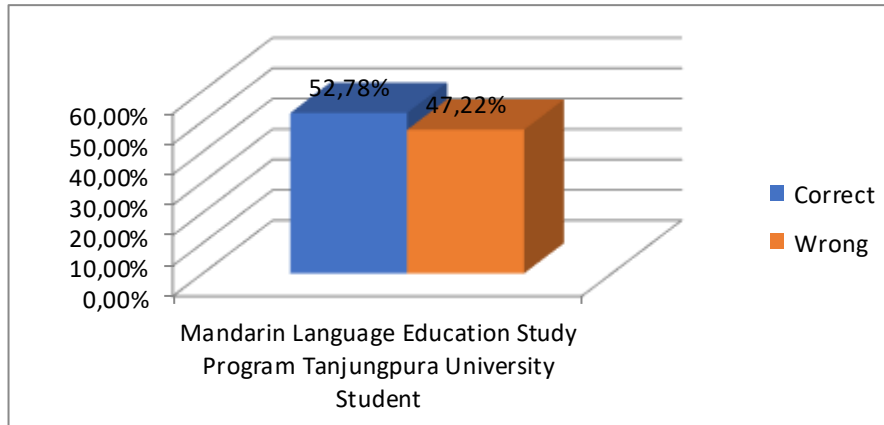


Fig 1. Graph of Chinese Proverb Mastery Ability of Mandarin Language Education Study Program Students
 From the graph above, it is known that the ability to master Chinese Proverbs from test questions for students of the Mandarin Language Education Study Program with a number of respondents as many as 33 students, the percentage exceeds 50%, which is 52.78%. This shows that the students' ability to master Chinese Proverbs from test questions is still not good.

The author distributed a questionnaire with a total of 7 questions to 33 students of the 2018 Mandarin Language Education Study Program. The data can be seen from the following table.



Diagram 1. Chinese Proverbs Mastery Ability

Based on the results of the analysis of the data calculation on the questionnaire, it can be seen that, after working on the test questions from a total of 33 students, 21 students (63.64%) felt that their mastery of Chinese Proverbs was very poor, as many as 9 students (27.27%) felt good. course, and as many as 3 students (9.09%) felt very good.

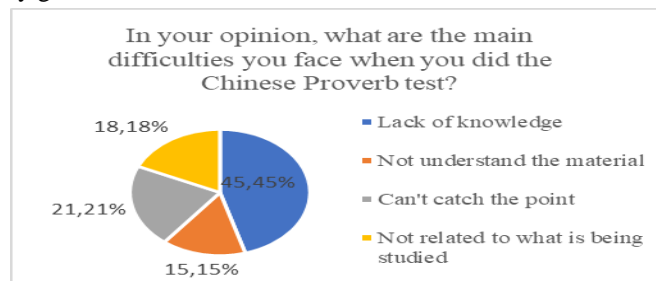


Diagram 2. The Main Difficulties in Doing Chinese Proverb Test Questions

Based on the data recapitulation above, it can be seen that the main difficulty faced in doing the test questions of the Chinese Proverb is that 15 students (45.45%) answered the lack of basic knowledge. Of the 33 students there were 7 students (21.21%) answered that they could not catch the point, there were 6 students (18.18%) answered that it had nothing to do with what had been studied, and there were as many as 5 students (15.15%) answered do not understand the material.

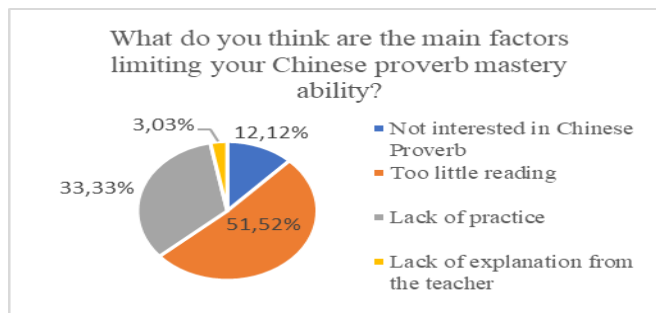


Diagram 3. The Main Factors Limiting Chinese Proverb Mastery Ability

According to students, the main factor limiting their ability to master proverbs, there were 17 students (51.52%) answered that they read too little. A total of 11 students (33.33%) answered the lack of practice, as many as 4 students (12.12%) did not interested in Chinese Proverbs and 1 student (3.03%) felt lack of teacher explanation.

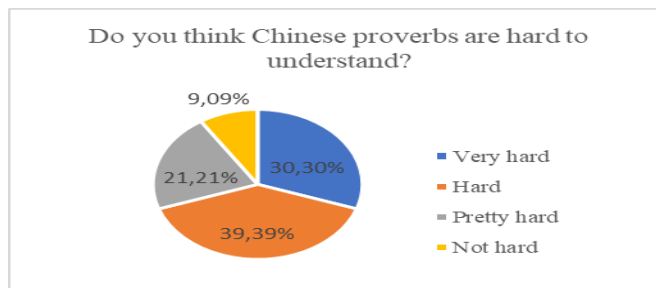


Diagram 4. The Difficulty to Understand the Chinese Proverbs

From a total of 33 students, there were 13 students (39.39%) who found the proverb hard to understand. There were as many as 10 students (30.30%) felt that the proverb was very hard to understand, as many as 7 students (21.21%) answered pretty hard and 3 students (9.09%) felt that the proverb was not hard.



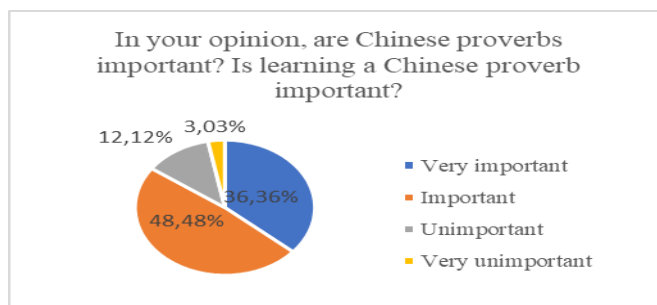


Diagram 5. The Importance of the Chinese Proverbs

Although some students found the proverb difficult, there were as many as 16 students (48.48%) felt that both the proverb itself and studying the proverb were important. In fact, there were 12 students (36.36%) who felt that the proverb was very important. However, as many as 4 students (12.12%) felt the proverb was unimportant and there was 1 student (3.03%) felt the proverb was very unimportant.

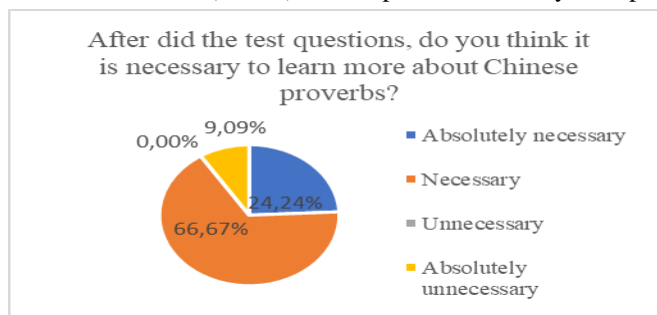


Diagram 6. The Necessary to Learn More about Chinese Proverbs

There are as many as 22 students out of a total of 33 students, which is around 66.67%, answered absolutely necessary to learn more about Chinese Proverbs. A total of 8 students (24.24%) felt it was necessary to learn more about Chinese Proverbs. But there are about 9.09% or as many as 3 students feel that learning Chinese Proverbs were unnecessary.

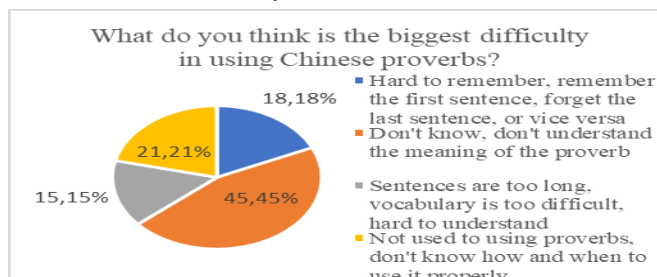


Diagram 7. The Biggest Difficulty in Using Chinese Proverbs

In the biggest difficulty in using the proverb there were 15 students (45.45%) answered that they did not know, and did not understand the meaning of the Chinese Proverb. A total of 7 students (21.21%) are not used to using the proverb and do not know how and when to use it properly. There were 6 students (18.18%) who felt the proverb was hard to remember and as many as 5 students (15.15%) felt the sentence in the proverb was too long, the vocabulary was too difficult and hard to understand.

3.2 Difficulty Using Chinese Proverbs

The Indonesian government issued: the National Education System Law (article 33 paragraph 3 of 2005) "Foreign languages can be used as the language of instruction in certain educational units to support students' foreign language skills". That is one of the most important reasons why we should learn Mandarin in school.

Many difficulties are faced by students when learning English, especially as a foreign language because the language is used in certain conditions and people not in daily activities. (Megawati, 2016). Likewise, there

are many difficulties that students face when learning Mandarin, including Chinese Proverbs, because Chinese Proverbs must be used in certain contexts and conditions or situations.

According to the Chinese Proverb "Knowledge of Life", most of the 2018 class students are wrong in answering this question. The following is an analysis of the difficulty of using it.

1) (Dōng chī luóbo xià chī jiāng, bù lǎo yīshēng kāi yào fāng). This proverb has its own meaning that we must pay attention to good food for health so we don't get sick easily. This proverb talks about consuming foods that are beneficial for health so that the body is always healthy. Only 9 students out of a total of 33 students managed to answer correctly, while the other 24 students answered this question incorrectly. The percentage of mastery is very low, only reaching 27.27%.

In addition, according to the Chinese Proverb "Natural Phenomena", most of the 2018 class students are also wrong in answering this question. The following is an analysis of the difficulty of using it.

2) (Tiān shàng duǒ duǒ yún, xiǎowǔ shài sǐ rén) This saying refers to the weather. It means "If it is cloudy in the morning, it will be scorching hot in the afternoon". For this question out of 33 students only 8 students managed to answer correctly. The percentage of mastery only reached 24.24%. This is because they do not quite understand this type of proverb and the meaning in this proverb.

Based on the results of data analysis on test questions and questionnaires, the authors describe the difficulties experienced by students in using the proverb in Mandarin. The difficulties in using the Chinese Proverb are as follows.

a. Don't know, don't understand the meaning of the Chinese Proverb.

There are several vocabulary words in Chinese Proverbs that students find difficult or even do not know. This causes students to not understand what the overall meaning in the proverbs.

b. Hard to remember.

The sentences in Chinese Proverbs are relatively long (longer than Mandarin idiom which usually only consist of 4 words). Students sometimes remember the first sentence but forget the last sentence or vice versa.

c. Not used to using proverbs.

Students are not used to using proverbs, they don't even know how and when to use them properly. This is because students are not interested in proverbs or in learning proverbs.

The main factors that cause difficulties in using the Chinese Proverb include the following.

a) Lack of basic knowledge

Basic knowledge of what proverbs are, types of proverbs, examples of proverbs and meanings in Chinese Proverbs are the main factors in the ability to master Chinese Proverbs. If students do not have basic knowledge of Chinese Proverbs, students will find it difficult to master and use proverbs.

b) Too little reading.

Reading is an act that requires the cooperation of several skills, such as observing, understanding, and thinking. The quality of a person's reading will affect his intellectual, social, and emotional development. This is because people who read more will get more knowledge and information for their lives compared to people who read less (Rima Annita Sari D., Nursal Hakim, 2019). Many books that present Chinese Proverbs. One of them is in the Morphology course book etc. The more they read, the more students can gain knowledge, including about Mandarin literature and culture which includes proverbs.

c) Lack of practice.

In order to master and understand the use of Chinese Proverbs, it takes practice in reading, writing, listening and speaking. Frequent practice makes students used to using proverbs and increasingly mastering and understanding Chinese Proverbs, like the English sayings "Practice makes perfect".



4. Conclusion

Based on the results of research on the ability to master Chinese Proverbs of students of the 2018 FKIP Mandarin Language Education Study Program, it can be concluded that: (1) From the results of the analysis of test questions, it can be seen that the ability to master Chinese Proverbs by students is not good, only reaching 52,78%. This shows that the students' lack of understanding of the Chinese Proverb. (2) In the analysis of the difficulty of using Chinese Proverbs, it was found that the students of the Mandarin Language Education Study Program did not really master the proverb type "Natural Phenomena". (3) Based on the results of the questionnaire data analysis, it was found that the difficulties in using the Chinese Proverb are not knowing, not understanding the meaning in the Chinese Proverb, difficult to remember the proverb, and not used to using proverbs. The factors causing the difficulty of using the Chinese Proverb are lack of basic knowledge, too little reading and lack of practice.

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