

Suggested Corrections to Textbook Entitled: “Mudah Melakukan Percakapan Bahasa Mandarin Sehari-Hari”

Sudono Noto Pradono

Abstract: *The purpose of this paper is to criticize a published book. The writer reviewed a book entitled “Mudah melakukan percakapan Bahasa Mandarin sehari-hari” (“It is easy to speak everyday Chinese”). The writer found many mistakes in this book, which he classified as follows: 1. phonetic, 2. character, 3. diction, and 4. grammar; he focused on the sentences in the conversation part only. Therefore, the mistakes are discussed and the corrections are suggested. The writer hopes that there are no mistakes anymore in published books for learning Chinese in Indonesia.*

Key words: *corrections, mistakes, meaning.*

Introduction

In this era of globalization, China takes an important role in global economy beside the US. As a result, Chinese language has also become more and more important, especially in Indonesia. Many Indonesian people start learning Chinese language; therefore many Chinese books are published to meet the need of the learners. Many Chinese books are usually accompanied with the translation in Indonesian language; the purpose is to make the books easy to understand.

The writer read a book entitled “Mudah melakukan percakapan Bahasa Mandarin sehari-hari” (“It is easy to speak everyday Chinese”). The data of the book are as follows: the title: “Mudah melakukan percakapan Bahasa Mandarin sehari-hari” (“*It is easy to speak everyday Chinese*”) written by Liem A. Wijaya & Leoni A. Wijaya, editor: Agustin Leoni, second edition, published by PT. Tangga Pustaka, Jakarta, 2010, ISBN 979-9051-89-4, 215 pages, plus audio CD. The writer found many mistakes in the book; therefore he would like to suggest corrections to this book. If a beginner learner reads this book, he or she will unconsciously learn a wrong Chinese language. Thus the writer considers that it is very important to do the corrections so that many people will learn correct Chinese language. Some considerable aspects used to analyze the book are elaborated as follows:

a. **Phonetic.**

The phonetic symbols of Standard Chinese in Modern Chinese consist of 21 initials that are consonants beginning a syllable and 38 finals that are vowels or vowels followed by nasal consonants (Li & Li, 1999; Liu, Deng & Liu, 1991).

“The finals have three categories: (1) simple finals which have only a single vowel, e.g. a, o ; (2) multi-finals which have two or three vowels, e.g. ai, ua, iao; (3) nasal finals which consist of one or two vowels and a nasal consonant, e.g. an, üan, eng, iong” (Li & Li, 1999, p. 4).

Kang & Lai (2000) stated that Chinese language has four tones to differentiate meanings of a syllable, for example: 肤 (skin), 服 (clothes), 斧 (axe), 父 (father).

Yip & Rimmington (1998) described the four tones as follows:

First tone : high, level pitch; constant volume.

Second tone : rising quite quickly from middle register and increasing in volume.

Third tone : starting low and falling lower before rising again; louder at the beginning and end than in the middle.

Fourth tone : starting high, falling rapidly in pitch and decreasing in volume.” (Yip & Rimmington, 1998, p. 4)

Kang & Lai (2000) also stated that there is the neutral tone which is without a tone-graph in writing, for example: 妈 妈 (mother), 什 什

么 (what). From these explanations, it is very obvious that the tones

are very crucial in Chinese language, and they cannot be neglected. Therefore, in writing the phonetic of Chinese characters, the tones should also exist, in order that the reader can pronounce the Chinese characters correctly.

b. Character.

Zhang (1999) pointed out that there are two categories of different writing systems in the world, they are phonetic writing systems and semantic writing systems. The Chinese writing system belongs to a semantic one. Each Chinese character has no relationship with its pronunciation, but each character shows a certain meaning. Different characters do not have the same meanings, although the pronunciation is exactly the same. For example: 一 (one), 衣

(clothes), 医 (doctor). These three Chinese characters have exactly

the same pronunciation; however, the writing of these three Chinese characters are totally different, so their meanings are also different. However, according to Liu (2003), there are two groups of languages in the world, they are phonographic and ideographic. Chinese belongs to ideographic, which means that the meaning of a character can be guessed from its written form, but the pronunciation cannot be guessed. Liu (2003) also compared learning English and Chinese. In learning English, the spelling or pronunciation is related to its meaning. In learning Chinese, both the shape of a character and pronunciation must be remembered, besides the shape of the

character must be connected to its meaning. Therefore, mastering Chinese looks more difficult than mastering English. Although Zhang (1999) & Liu (2003) have different terms about the categorization of languages in the world, but what they mean is the same.

c. Diction.

D' Angelo (1980) suggested that in writing, the problem of choosing between two or more words should be faced and determined. The problem in Chinese vocabulary is that many words are semantically similar, but the use is different. Yang & Jia (2005) compared 1718 pairs of words in their book, they analyzed the similarities, differences, and collocation between a pair of words. For example: “摆” means “put; arrange; place; set in order”, while

“放” means “put; place; lay” (Yang & Jia, 2005, p. 30). “咖啡里放不放糖?” (Is sugar put in the coffee or not?) (Yang & Jia, 2005, p. 30), one cannot say “咖啡里摆不摆糖?”.

From this example, it is obvious that the collocation of “糖”

(sugar) is “放”, but not “摆”. It means that there is collocation between Verb and Object, besides it shows that collocation is very important in making a correct sentence. On the other hand, Li & Cheng (1990) stated that there is collocation between Verbs and Complements of result. For example: “卖.”(sell) and “完”

”(“finish; complete; be over; be through” (Chinese-English Dictionary (CED), 1998, p. 1271)) become “卖完” (sold out). Therefore,

choosing the right word to put in a sentence needs careful consideration, and have to consult a dictionary and other books.

d. Grammar.

A sentence is formed by words or phrases placed according to definite grammatical rules to express a complete idea and a definite tone with definite intonation. In related discourse, there is an end between each two sentences showed by a full stop in writing (Li & Cheng, 1990).

“Based on structure, sentences can be divided into two types: subject-predicate sentences and non-subject-predicate sentences. Subject-predicate sentences are sentences formed with subject-predicate constructions. Non-subject-predicate sentences are formed with structures other than subject-predicate constructions. Based on function, sentences can be divided into four types: declarative, imperative, interrogative and exclamatory” (Guo, 2000, pp. 97 & 99).

The focus of grammatical item of Chinese language in this article is the verb-object phrase. Li & Cheng (1990) stated that a verb-object (V-O) phrase is the phrase in which the constituents have V-O relationship and the order of the constituents cannot be changed, the verb is always put before the object. The verb in this phrase is a transitive verb. For example: “吃 饭” (“吃” is the verb and “饭” is the object).

Another grammatical item of Chinese language that is the focus in this article is the preposition, especially the preposition “跟”. Li & Cheng (1990) stated that a word which is placed before a noun or a pronoun to make a prepositional phrase showing time, place, direction, object, reason, manner, the passive, comparison, or exclusion is called preposition. “跟” belongs to preposition which indicates object. According to CED (1998) there are three meanings of “跟” as preposition, they are elaborated as follows:

1. (used to indicate accompaniment, relationship, involvement, etc) with.
For example: 这件事跟他没有关系。(It has nothing to do with him).
zhe jian shi gen ta mei you guan xi
2. (used to introduce the recipient of an action).
For example: 我有几句话跟你讲。(There is something I want to talk to you about).
wo you ji ju hua gen ni jiang
3. (used to show comparison).
For example: 跟去年相比, 产量增加了百分之十。(Output has increased by 10 % over last year).” (CED, 1998, p. 406)
gen qu nian xiang bi, chan liang zeng jia le bai fen zhi shi

Methodology

The book that the writer reviewed consists of three parts: explanation and grammar, dictionary, and conversation. The writer focused on the conversation part; he wrote each wrong sentence and classified mistakes based on 1. phonetic, 2. character, 3. diction, and 4. grammar.

Findings and Discussion

There are some mistakes that the writer found in the book. The mistakes are elaborated as follows:

1. Phonetic.

All the Chinese characters in the conversation part are accompanied with the phonetic symbols below the Chinese characters; however, there are no tones in all the texts. The tones should be written because Chinese language has four basic tones and a neutral tone. For example: “你好” should be written “你好”.

2. Character.

In this section, the writer focuses on corrections of characters.

Page 114: Conversation between Pelayan (Waiter) & Pelanggan (Customer).

Pelayan : . . . , 你还想身么 ?
nǐ hái xiǎng shēn me

The correct sentence should be:

Pelayan : . . . , 你还想什么 ?
nǐ hái xiǎng shén me

Pelayan: ..., ada lagi yang Anda inginkan?

Waiter: ..., do you want anything else?

This phrase “身么” does not exist in Chinese language, it should

be “什么”.

Page 164: Conversation between Widia and Tuan Wang (Mr. Wang).

Widia : 我一定努力公作。
wǒ yí dìng nǔ lì gōng zuò

The correct sentence should be:

Widia : 我一定努力工作。
wǒ yí dìng nǔ lì gōng zuò

Widia: Saya pasti rajin bekerja.

Widia: I certainly work diligently.

This phrase “公作” does not exist in Chinese language, it

should be “工作”.

Page 181: Conversation between April and Ino.

Ino : . . . , 所以不要到。
suǒ yǐ bú yào dào

Ino: ..., jadi jangan telat ya.

Ino: ..., so don't be late.

The correct sentence and its translation should be:

Ino : . . . , 所以不要迟到。
suǒ yǐ bú yào chí dào

Ino: ..., jadi jangan terlambat ya.

Ino: ..., so don't be late.

There is a lack of one character “迟” in the sentence. “迟 到”
chí chí dào
means “be (or come, arrive) late” (CED, 1998, p. 163). “telat” (late) is not a standard Indonesian language, it should be “terlambat”.

3. Diction.

In this section, the writer focuses on corrections of dictions.

Page 80: Conversation between Meri and Nick.

Meri : 我 听 , 你 当 英 语 老 师 了 ?
wǒ tīng nǐ dāng yīng yǔ lǎo shī le

The correct sentence should be:

Meri : 我 听 说 , 你 当 英 语 老 师 了 ?
wǒ tīng shuō nǐ dāng yīng yǔ lǎo shī le

Meri: Saya dengar kamu bekerja sebagai guru bahasa Inggris?

Meri: I heard, you work as an English teacher?

Here “听” means “listen; hear” (CED, 1998, p. 1230), while “听
tīng
说” means “be told; hear of” (CED, 1998, p. 1231). Since Meri
shuō

does not directly hear from Nick but she may have heard it from someone else, so it should use “听说”.
tīng shuō

Page 83: Conversation between Licka and Shane.

Licka : 你 穿 那 个 西 服 看 起 来 很 豪 华 。
nǐ chuān nà ge xī fú kàn qǐ lái hěn háo huá

Licka: Kamu terlihat mewah dengan jas itu.

Licka: You look luxurious with that coat.

The correct sentence and its translation should be:

Licka : 你 穿 那 个 西 服 看 起 来 很 漂 亮 。
nǐ chuān nà ge xī fú kàn qǐ lai hěn piào liang

Licka: Kamu terlihat tampan dengan jas itu.

Licka: You look handsome in that coat.

“豪华” means “luxurious; sumptuous; splendid” (CED, 1998, p.
háo huá

472), while “漂亮” means “handsome; good-looking; pretty;
piào liang

beautiful” (CED, 1998, p. 923). “豪华” is usually used for
háo huá

buildings, facilities or decorations.

Page 86: Conversation between Vita and Jack.

Vita : 不 忘 记 , 你 跟 女 朋 友 到 来 。 Ok。
bú wàng jì nǐ gēn nǚ péng you dào lái

Vita: Jangan lupa, datang dengan pacarmu. Ok.

Vita: Don't forget to come with your girlfriend. Ok.

The correct sentence and its translation should be:

Vita : 别 忘 记 , 跟 你 的 女 朋 友 一 起 来 。 Ok。
bié wàng jì gēn nǐ de nǚ péng you yì qǐ lái

Vita: Jangan lupa, datang bersama dengan pacarmu. Ok.

Vita: Don't forget to come together with your girlfriend. Ok.

It is more appropriate to use “别” instead of “不”, because “别” means “(used in giving commands or advice) don't; had better not” (CED, 1998, p. 75), while “不” means “(used before verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs; never before 有) not; won't; not want to” (CED, 1998, p. 89). “你跟女朋友到来” is not correct, because “到来” means “arrival; advent” (CED, 1998, p. 249). It should use “来” which means “come” (CED, 1998, p. 711) instead of “到来”. “跟” means “(used to indicate accompaniment, relationship, involvement, etc) with” (CED, 1998, p. 406), while “你的女朋友” means “your girlfriend”. “一起” means “together; in company” (CED, 1998, p. 1468). It is not necessary to write like this “你跟你的女朋友一起来”, because “你” which means “you” (CED, 1998, p. 876) is already understood based on the context.

Page 88: Conversation between Nest and Fika.

Nest : Fika, 看看 ! 我有 James Blunt 最新的
kàn kan wǒ yǒu zui xīn de
册页。你 知 道 什 么 ? 。 。 。
cè yè nǐ zhī dào shén me

Nest: Fika, lihat ini! Saya mendapatkan album terbaru James Blunt. Kamu tahu, tidak? ...

Nest: Fika, look! I got James Blunt's new album. Do you know or not? ...

First, “有” means “have; possess” (CED, 1998, p. 1523) , while “得到” means “get; obtain; gain; receive” (CED, 1998, p. 252).

However, based on the context the usage of “有” is already right, so the Indonesian translation should be “mempunyai (have)”. Second, “册页” means “an album of painting or calligraphy” (CED, 1998, p. 119), while James Blunt is a singer; therefore the usage of “册页” in this sentence is wrong. It should be “专辑” which means “album

(a collection of pieces of music that have been recorded on one record, CD or cassette) (Hornby, 2004, p. 39). Third, the translation of “Kamu tahu, tidak? (Do you know or not?)” should be “你知不知道?”
 nǐ zhī bu zhī dao
 ?”, while the translation of “你知道什么?”
 nǐ zhī dao shén me
 apa? (what do you know?)”. The correct sentence and its translation should be:

Nest : Fika, 看看! 我有 James Blunt 最新的专
 kàn kan wǒ yǒu zuì xīn de zhuān
 辑。你知不知道?。。。
 jí nǐ zhī bu zhī dao

Nest: Fika, lihat ini! Saya mempunyai album terbaru James Blunt. Kamu tahu, tidak? ...

Nest: Fika, look! I have James Blunt's new album. Do you know or not? ...

Page 89: Conversation between Nest and Fika.

Nest : 他的声音比 CD 或磁带的是一样的
 tā de shēng yīn bǐ CD huò cí dài de shì yí yàng de
 精彩。
 jīng cǎi

*Nest: Suaranya sangat luar biasa seperti di CD dan kasetnya.

*Nest: His voice is as brilliant as his CD and cassette.

The correct sentence and its translation should be:

Nest : 他的声音象 CD 和磁带的是一样好
 tā de shēng yīn xiàng CD hé cí dài de shì yí yàng hǎo
 听的。
 tīng de

Nest: Suaranya sangat merdu seperti di CD dan kasetnya.

Nest: His voice is as pleasant to hear as his CD and cassette.

First, “比”
 bǐ is used to indicate the difference in property or degree of

two persons or two things (Li & Cheng, 1990, p. 551); however, in this sentence “比”
 bǐ is used to show the equal comparison. To express

the equal comparison “象”
 xiàng should be used to indicate the

resemblance of two things (Li & Cheng, 1990, p. 579). Second, “或”
 huò

” means “or; either...or...” (CED, 1998, p. 540), while “和”
 hé means

“and” (CED, 1998, p. 481). If “CD dan kasetnya (his CD and cassette)” is used, “和”
 hé should be used instead of “或”
 huò. Third,

“精彩”
 jīng cǎi means “(used for performance, exhibition, speech, article)

brilliant; splendid; wonderful” (CED, 1998, p. 633); therefore, the usage of “精彩”
 jīng cǎi is not appropriate in this sentence, because

“精彩” is not related to his voice (James Blunt’s voice). It should be “好听” which means “pleasant to hear” (CED, 1998, p. 475).

Page 89: Conversation between Nest and Fika.

Fika : 我爱James Blunt 特大多, 。。。
wǒ ài James Blunt tè dà duō

Fika: Saya suka James Blunt juga, ...

Fika: I like James Blunt too, ...

“特大” means “especially big; the most” (CED, 1998, p. 1208),
tè dà

while “多” means “many; much; more” (CED, 1998, p. 303). These
duō

two phrases are not in line with the translation, i.e. Fika says “I like James Blunt too, Actually “saya suka James Blunt juga” can also be said “saya juga suka James Blunt; therefore, “也” which means
yě

“also; too; as well; either” (CED, 1998, p. 1456) should be used. The correct sentence and its translation should be:

Fika : 我也爱 James Blunt, 。。。
wǒ yě ài

Fika: Saya juga suka James Blunt, ...

Fika: I like James Blunt too, ...

Page 96: Conversation between George and Rachel.

*Rachel : 你几岁了?
nǐ jǐ suì le

The correct question should be:

Rachel : 你多大了?
nǐ duō dà le

Rachel: Berapa umurmu?

Rachel: How old are you?

George : 二十岁。
èr shí suì

George: Dua puluh tahun.

George: Twenty.

To ask someone’s age, this form “你几岁了?” does not exist in
nǐ jǐ suì le

Chinese language. To ask children’s age below 10 years old, the form “你几岁了?” is usually used. When asking someone’s age who is
nǐ jǐ suì le

about at the same age with the speaker, the form “你多大了?” is
nǐ duō dà le

usually used.

Page 105: Conversation between Petugas (Shop assistant) and Ibu (Madam).

Petugas : 小姐, 我很抱歉。小型的大衣,
xiǎo jiě wǒ hěn bào qiàn xiǎo xíng de dà yī
我们只有绿色。但是中等大小的, 我
wǒ men zhǐ yǒu lǜ sè dàn shì zhōng děng dà xiǎo de wǒ
们有黑颜色。
men yǒu hēi yán sè

The correct sentence should be:

Petugas : 太太, 我很抱歉。小号的大衣, 我
tài tai wǒ hěn bào qiàn xiǎo hào de dà yī wǒ
们只有绿色的。但是中号的, 我们有
men zhǐ yǒu lǜ sè de dàn shì zhōng hào de wǒ men yǒu
黑色的。
hēi sè de

Petugas: Maaf Bu untuk ukuran kecil kami hanya mempunyai warna hijau, tapi untuk ukuran medium kami mempunyai warna hitam.

Shop assistant: I'm sorry madam, we only have green color for the small size, but we have black color for the medium size.

First, “小姐” means “a young (unmarried) lady; Miss” (CED, 1998, p. 1369), while “太太” means “Mrs.; madam” (CED, 1998, p. 1194). If “小姐” is used, the translation then should be “nona (miss)”. If “太太” is used, the translation is already correct.

Second, “小型” means “small-size; small-scale; miniature” (CED, 1998, p. 1372); “中等” means “medium; moderate; middling” (CED, 1998, p. 1634); “大小” means “size” (CED, 1998, p. 229). However, these phrases are not appropriate in this context, because the context of the sentence is talking about the size of “大衣” (overcoat). “小号 (small (S))、中号 (medium (M))、大号 (large (L))” which are used to describe one size in a range of sizes of clothes, food, product used in the house, etc (Hornby, 2004, p. 1653) are more appropriate to use in this sentence. Third, the phrase of “黑颜色” is too excessive; “黑色” which means “black (colour)” (CED, 1998, p. 486) is usually used. Finally, at the end of the sentence should be added “的” to make “绿色的, 黑色的” as the object.

Ibu (Madam) replies to the sentence above by saying:

Ibu : 噢, 很 哀 怜。
ō hěn āi lián

The correct sentence should be:

Ibu : 噢, 很 可 惜。
ō hěn kě xī

Ibu: Oh sayang sekali.

Madam: Oh it is a pity.

“哀 怜” means “feel compassion for; pity” (CED, 1998, p. 3), this

phrase is used to show sympathy for someone. It is impossible for Ibu (Madam) to show sympathy for Petugas (Shop assistant), because the context is about shopping. “可 惜” which means “it is a pity or it is

too bad” (CED, 1998, p. 682) is more appropriate to replace “哀 怜

” in this sentence.

Petugas (Shop assistant) continues his words by saying:

Petugas : 上 星 期, 我 们 的 棕 色 小 大 衣 的
shàng xīng qī wǒ men de zōng sè xiǎo dà yī de
存 货 廉 售 了。
cún huò lián shòu le

The correct sentence should be:

Petugas : 上 星 期, 我 们 的 棕 色 小 号 大 衣
shàng xīng qī wǒ men de zōng sè xiǎo hào dà yī
的 存 货 卖 完 了。
de cún huò mài wán le

Petugas: Persediaan kami untuk jaket coklat ukuran kecil sudah terjual habis minggu lalu.

Shop assistant: Our stock of small size brown jacket was sold out last week.

“小 大 衣” means “small overcoat”, but “小 号 大 衣”
xiǎo dà yī xiǎo hào dà yī
means “small size overcoat”. “廉” means “low-priced; inexpensive;
lián
cheap” (CED, 1998, p. 748), and “售” means “sell” (CED, 1998,
shòu

p. 1141); therefore, “廉 售” is not appropriate in this sentence.

“卖 完” which means “be sold out” is more appropriate in this

sentence. “卖 完” here is the collocation of verb and complement

of result (Li & Cheng, 1990, p. 292).

Page 106: Conversation between Petugas (Shop assistant) and Ibu (Madam).

Petugas : 大 衣 的 费 用 是 Rp 65.000 (六 万 五
dà yī de fèi yòng shì liù wàn wǔ
) , . . .

The correct sentence should be:

Petugas : 大衣的价钱是 Rp 65.000 (六完五千盾), ...
dà yī de jià qián shì liù wán wǔ qiān dùn

Petugas: Harganya Rp 65.000, ...

Shop assistant: The price of the overcoat is Rp 65.000, ...

The context of this sentence is about buying overcoat. “费用”
fèi yòng

means “cost; expenses” (CED, 1998, p. 347) ; therefore it is not suitable in this sentence. “价钱” which means “price” (CED, 1998, p. 574) is more suitable. In addition, rupiah is “盾” ;

therefore, Rp 65.000 should be translated into “六完五千盾”, although in speaking many people can understand “六完五” is Rp 65.000.
liù wán wǔ qiān dùn liù wán wǔ

Page 111: Conversation between Jude and Bob.

Bob : 你将订购什么午餐?
nǐ jiāng dìng gòu shén me wǔ cān

The correct question should be:

Bob : 你要点什么午餐?
nǐ yào diǎn shén me wǔ cān

Bob: Apa yang akan kamu pesan untuk makan siang?

Bob: What do you want to order for lunch?

“订购” which means “order (goods); place an order for something” (CED, 1998, p. 281) is not used to order food but used to order goods such as furniture. For ordering food, “点” which

means “select; choose; order” (CED, 1998, p. 268) is more suitable. Besides, “要” is usually used in daily conversation, instead of

“将”, although both “要” and “将” have the same meaning in this sentence.
yào jiāng

Page 128: Conversation between Arthur and Direktur (Director).

Arthur : 我二年前, 在三个星旅馆里当了
wǒ èr nián qián zài sān ge xīng lǚ guǎn lǐ dāng le
营销副经理。
yíng xiāo fù jīng lǐ

The correct sentence should be:

Arthur : 我两年前, 在三星级旅馆里当
wǒ liǎng nián qián zài sān xīng jī lǚ guǎn lǐ dāng
了营销副经理。
le yíng xiāo fù jīng lǐ

Arthur: Saya pernah bekerja sebagai asisten manager pemasaran dua tahun lalu di hotel bintang tiga.

Arthur: I worked as a marketing assistant manager at a three-star hotel two years ago.

Although the meaning of “二” and “两” are the same, i.e. two;

however, the usage is different. “两” is always used before the measure word “年”, instead of “二” (Li & Cheng, 1990, p. 70).

“三个星旅馆” is the wrong expression; “三星级旅馆” (现代汉语词典, 2007, p. 1521) is usually used to show the classification of a three-star hotel.

Page 139: Conversation between Anna and Tianzhong.

Anna: 阿呀我不知道吃什么好? 那我点一块馄饨和一瓶啤酒, 你呢?
ā ya wǒ bù zhī dào chī shén me hǎo nà wǒ diǎn yí kuài hún tun hé yí píng pǐ jiǔ nǐ ne

The correct question should be:

Anna: 哎呀我不知道吃什么好? 那我点一碗馄饨和一瓶啤酒, 你呢?
āi yā wǒ bù zhī dào chī shén me hǎo nà wǒ diǎn yí wǎn hún tun hé yí píng pǐ jiǔ nǐ ne

Anna: Aduh saya tidak tahu mau makan apa? Saya pesan semangkuk pangsit dan sebotol bir saja, dan kamu?

Anna: Ah I do not know what I want to eat? I order a bowl of dumpling soup and a bottle of beer, and you?

This phrase “阿呀” does not exist in Chinese language, it should be

“哎呀” or “唉呀” to express complaint or to show impatience (CED, 1998, p. 3). “块” here is a measure word which means

“piece; lump” (CED, 1998, p. 699). “块” is not suitable to use in

this sentence, “碗” which means “bowl” (CED, 1998, p. 1275) is more suitable.

Page 141: Conversation between Pelayan (Waiter) and Tianzhong.

Pelayan: 这是你的还钱。
zhè shì nǐ de huán qián

The correct sentence should be:

Pelayan: 这是你的找头。
zhè shì nǐ de zhǎo tóu

Pelayan: Ini kembaliannya.

Waiter: Here is the change.

“还钱” means “give back the money or repay the money”

(CED, 1998, p. 516). Therefore, this phrase is wrong. “找头”

which means “change (from money paid)” (CED, 1998, p. 1593) is more appropriate in this sentence.

4. Grammar.

Page 94: Conversation between George and Rachel.

George : 见面你很高兴。
jiàn miàn nǐ hěn gāo xìng。

The correct sentence should be:

George : 跟你见面很高兴。
gēn nǐ jiàn miàn hěn gāo xìng。

George: Senang bertemu denganmu.

George: Nice to meet you.

“见面” is already V-O structure; therefore, it should be no other object after V-O structure. This sentence is wrong, because in this sentence “你” is also an object. “跟” which means “(used to indicate accompaniment, relationship, involvement, etc) with” (CED, 1998, p.406), “跟” is a preposition to engage in an action together with someone else, often used to introduce the partner(s) or opponent(s) (Li & Cheng, 1990, p.121). “你” means “you”, so

“跟你” means “with you”.

Page 140: Conversation between Anna and Tianzhong.

Tianzhong : 今天我请客你。
jīn tiān wǒ qǐng kè nǐ。

The correct sentence should be:

Tianzhong : 今天我请客。
jīn tiān wǒ qǐng kè。

Tianzhong: Hari ini saya traktir kamu.

Tianzhong: Today I treat you.

“请客” is already V-O structure; therefore, there should be no other object after “请客”. “你” can be deleted, because “你” which means “you” can be understood in the context. If Tianzhong says to Anna: “今天我请客”. It means that Tianzhong treats Anna.

Conclusion

Based on the mistakes, they are ranged as follows: 1. phonetic, 2. diction, 3. character, and 4. grammar. The writer hopes that the Chinese books published in Indonesia will not have any mistakes again, so that the readers can learn a good and standard Chinese language. If I could give a description for a suggestion, the writers of Chinese books in Indonesia

should have a gallon of water before they could pour a glass of water. Besides, the writers should also consult many books and dictionaries. If a Chinese conversation book is published, the book should be in correct Chinese, be easy to learn and be equipped with CD.

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