

SUGGESTED CORRECTIONS TO TEXTBOOK ENTITLED: “JURUS SAKTI TAKLUKKAN BAHASA MANDARIN TANPA KURSUS; TANPA GURU”

Sudono Noto Pradono
NSC Surabaya Polytechnic
sudono32@yahoo.com

Abstract

The purpose of this article is to suggest corrections to a published book. The writer has analyzed the book entitled “Jurus Sakti Taklukkan Bahasa Mandarin Tanpa Kursus; Tanpa Perlu Guru” (“Magic Ways to Conquer Mandarin without a Course; no Teacher Required”) by marking the mistakes, and then has classified the mistakes based on 1) phonetics, and 2) characters. The mistakes are discussed and the corrections are suggested. It seems that “you can’t judge a book by its cover” is true. The readers’ first impression is usually the title on the cover of the book, and this first impression could be wrong because the content of the book has many mistakes. If the book does not give a correct model of Mandarin language, how the readers can learn Mandarin language well.

Keywords: mistakes, corrections, phonetics, characters.

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, many Chinese books are available in bookstores. There are many kinds of Chinese books – Chinese books for children, Chinese books for beginners, Chinese books for traveling and so on. The cover of Chinese books is usually well-designed, and the important thing is the titles of the Chinese books. The titles of Chinese books are made so attractive that people want to buy the books. One of the Chinese books available in the bookstores is “Jurus Sakti Taklukkan Bahasa Mandarin Tanpa Kursus; Tanpa Perlu Guru” (“Magic Ways to Conquer Mandarin without a Course; no Teacher Required”). At that time, the writer was very interested in this book because the title was very interesting. Therefore, the writer bought this book.

The data of the book are as follows: a) the title is “Jurus Sakti Taklukkan Bahasa Mandarin Tanpa Kursus; Tanpa Perlu Guru” (“Magic Ways to Conquer Mandarin without a Course; no Teacher Required”); b) the writer is Muryani J. Semita and Tee Han Hok; c) the editor is A.S. Sudjatna; d) the edition is the first edition, 2014; e) the publisher is Saufa, Yogyakarta; f) ISBN: 9786022554660; g) the total pages are 304 pages.

Unfortunately, after reading this Chinese book carefully, the writer has found many mistakes in the book; therefore he would like to suggest corrections to this Chinese book. If people read this book, they will not study Chinese language well because this Chinese book that they read has many mistakes. Therefore, the purpose of this article is to

suggest corrections to a published book.

LITERATURE REVIEW

According to Liu (2004: 8), a syllable in the common speech of modern Chinese usually consists of an initial, which is a consonant beginning the syllable, and a final which constitutes the rest of the syllable. For example, in the syllable “píng”, “p” is the initial and “ing” is the final. A syllable can stand without an initial, such as “yě”, but all syllables must have a final. In the common speech of modern Chinese, there are altogether 21 initials and 38 finals.

Liu (2004: 9) states that Chinese is a tonal language in which the tones convey differences in meaning. For example: 八 “bā” (eight), 拔 “bá” (pull out; pull up), 靶 “bǎ” (target), 爸 “bà” (father). In common speech there are four basic tones, represented respectively by the following tone marks: “(-)” for the first tone, “(´)” for the second tone, “(ˇ)” for the third tone, and “(˘)” for the fourth tone. Liu (2004 : 20) also states that in the common speech of modern Chinese, there are a number of syllables which are unstressed and are pronounced in a “weak” tone. This is known as the neutral tone and is indicated by the absence of a tone mark. For example: 吗 “ma” (particle used at the end of a question).

Yin and Rohsenow (1994 : 149-151) state that most characters have only one pronunciation, while a relatively small number have two or more pronunciations. The phenomenon of one character having

different pronunciations is called polyphony. For example:

- 1) one character with two pronunciations, that is “行”.

It can be read as “háng”, such as 银行 “yínháng” (bank), 行列 “hángliè” (ranks), 同行 “tóngháng” (of the same trade or occupation), or it can be read as “xíng”, such as 流行 “liúxíng” (popular), 行走 “xíngzǒu” (to walk), 同行 “tóngxíng” (to walk together).

- 2) one character with three pronunciations, that is “强”.

First, it can be read as “qiáng”, such as 强大 “qiángdà” (powerful), 强盛 “qiángshèng” (mighty). Second, it can be read as “qiǎng”, such as 勉强 “miǎn qiǎng” (reluctantly), 强词夺理 “qiǎngcíduólǐ” (sophistry). Third, it can also be read as “jiàng”, such as 倔强 “juéjiàng” (stubborn), 强嘴 “jiàngzuǐ” (reply defiantly).

- 3) one character with four pronunciations, that is “差”.

First, it can be read as “chà”, such as 差不多 “chàbùduō” (almost). Second, it can be read as “chā”, such as 差别 “chābié” (difference), 差错 “chācuò” (error), 相差

“xiāngchā” (differ). Third, it can be read as “chāi”, such as 出差 “chūchāi” (away on assignment), 差遣 “chāiqiǎn” (assign). Fourth, it can also be read as “cī”, such as 参差不齐 “cēncī bù qí” (uneven; not uniform).

Zhang (1999: 1) argues about the characters of Chinese language. He states that every Chinese character has its pronunciation but its written form does not show it. Instead, every Chinese character shows the semantics. Different forms show different meanings even when the pronunciation is actually the same. For example: 八 “bā” (eight); 扒 “bā” (hold on); 疤 “bā” (scar). These three Chinese characters have the same pronunciation, but they have different forms, so their meanings are also different.

METHODOLOGY

There are 19 lessons in “Jurus Sakti Taklukkan Bahasa Mandarin Tanpa Kursus; Tanpa Perlu Guru” (“Magic Ways to Conquer Mandarin without a Course; no Teacher Required”). The writer has analyzed the book by marking the mistakes, and then has classified the mistakes based on 1). phonetics, and 2). characters. After that, the writer discusses the mistakes and the corrections.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The mistakes that the writer has found in “Jurus Sakti Taklukkan Bahasa Mandarin Tanpa Kursus; Tanpa Perlu Guru” (“Magic Ways to Conquer Mandarin without a Course;

no Teacher Required”) are elaborated as follows:

Phonetics.

Page 27

*早上好!

Zǎoshàng hǎo!

Selamat pagi!

Good morning!

The phonetic of character “上” is written “shàng” (in the fourth tone). It should be written “shang” (in the neutral tone). Based on Chinese English Dictionary (CED) (1998 : 1570), 早上 “zǎoshang” means “(early) morning”, while 早上好 “zǎoshang hǎo” means “good morning.” There is no 早上 “zǎoshàng” in the dictionary. Therefore, it should be written as follows:

早上好!

Zǎoshang hǎo!

Page 41

*认识您, 非常高兴。

Rènshí nín, fēicháng gāoxìng.

Senang berkenalan dengan Anda.

Nice to meet you.

The phonetic of character “识” is written “shí” (in the second tone). It should be written “shi” (in the neutral tone). Based on CED (1998 : 1030), 认识 “rènshi” means “know; understand; recognize.” There is no 认识 “rènshí” in the dictionary. Therefore, it should be written as follows:

认识您, 非常高兴。

Rènshi nín, fēicháng gāoxìng.

Page 47

*我自我介绍一下儿

Wǒ zìwǒ jièshào yīxià.

Saya perkenalkan diri saya.

I introduce myself.

Cheung (1994: 61) states that when 一 “yī” is used all by itself or when it stands at the end of a sequence, it is pronounced in the first tone. However, when 一 “yī” is followed by a fourth tone syllable, it is pronounced in the second tone (“yí”). Therefore, it should be written as follows:

我自我介绍一下儿

Wǒ zìwǒ jièshào yíxià.

Page 48

*我在找一找工作。

Wǒ zài zhǎoyīzhǎo gōngzuò.

I am looking for a job.

Cheung (1994 : 169) states that the reduplication for monosyllabic verbs has a variant pattern which places a neutral tone numeral 一 “yī” in between. Therefore, the phonetic of the sentence should be written as follows:

我在找一找工作。

Wǒ zài zhǎoyīzhǎo gōngzuò.

Page 62

*是。买一些东西。

Shì. Mǎi yīxiē dōngxī.

Iya. Beli beberapa barang.

Yes. Bought some things.

Cheung (1994: 61) states that when 一 “yī” is used all by itself or when it stands at the end of a sequence, it is pronounced in the first tone. However, when 一 “yī” is followed by a first tone syllable, it becomes a fourth tone syllable (“yì”). Besides that, based on CED (1998: 284), 东西 “dōng xī” means “east and west”, while 东西 “dōng xi” means “thing”. Therefore, it should be written as follows:

是。买一些东西。

Shì. Mǎi yīxiē dōngxī.

Page 80

*今晚你有空吗？

Jīnwǎn nǐ yǒu kōng ma?

Apakah malam ini kamu ada waktu luang?

Do you have spare time tonight?

Based on CED (1998 : 687 & 690), 空 “kōng” (in the first tone) means “1) empty; hollow; void, 2) sky; air, 3) for nothing; in vain,” while 空 “kòng” (in the fourth tone) means “1) leave empty or blank, 2) unoccupied; vacant, 3) empty space, 4) free time; spare time.” The character “空” should be read in the fourth tone (“kòng”) which means “spare time.” Therefore, the correct sentence should be written as follows:

今晚你有空吗？

Jīnwǎn nǐ yǒu kòng ma?

Page 100

*你能不能够给我介绍一位女人？

Nǐ néng bù nénggòu gěi wǒ jièshào yī wèi nǚrén?

Kamu bisa tidak mengenalkan seorang wanita padaku?

Could you introduce a woman for me or not?

First, Cheung (1994: 39) argues that the negative marker “不” becomes unstressed in the affirmative-negative question. So, “不” should be in the neutral tone (“bu”). Second, Cheung (1994: 61) also argues that when 一 “yī” is followed by a fourth tone syllable, it is pronounced in the second tone (“yí”). Third, based on CED (1998: 891), 女人 “nǚrén” means “woman”. There is no “nǚrén” which means “woman” in the dictionary. Therefore, it should be written as follows:

你能不能够给我介绍一位女人？

Nǐ néng bu nénggòu gěi wǒ jièshào yī wèi nǚrén?

Page 132

*我一定告诉他。

Wǒ yídìng gàosù tā.

Saya pasti beri tahu dia

I will certainly tell him.

Based on CED (1998: 397), 告诉

“gàosù” means “file a legal complaint; bring a complaint,” while

告诉 “gàosu” means “tell; let know.”

“诉” should be in the neutral tone.

Therefore, it should be written as follows:

我一定告诉他。

Wǒ yídìng gàosu tā.

2. Characters.

Page 60

*不那么多。

Bú nàme duō.

Tidak begitu tua.

Not too old.

Based on CED (1998 : 303-304 &

720), 多 “duō” means “1) many;

much; more, 2) have (a specified amount) more or too much, 3) have

something in abundance, 4) excessive,” while 老 “lǎo” means “1)

old (not young), 2) old people; a venerable old man, 3) experienced;

veteran, 4) old (not new).” Therefore, the correct sentence should be

written as follows:

不那么老。

Bú nàme lǎo.

Page 76

*你在哪一间大学读书?

Nǐ zài nǎ yī jiān dàxué dúshū?

Kamu kuliah di perguruan tinggi mana?

Which university do you go to?

Liu (2005: 196) states that the measure word for 大学 “dà xué” is

所 “suǒ”. Besides that, Cheung (1994: 61) also states that when 一

“yī” is followed by a third tone syllable, it is pronounced in the fourth tone (“yì”). Therefore, the correct sentence should be written as follows:

你在哪一所大学读书?

Nǐ zài nǎ yì suǒ dàxué dúshū?

Page 90

*我喜欢听音乐、看电影、看书、看足球比赛。

Wǒ xǐhuan tīng yīnyuè, kàn diànshì, kàn shū, kàn zúqiú bǐsài.

Aku suka mendengarkan musik, nonton TV, membaca buku, menonton pertandingan sepak bola.

I like listening to the music, watching TV, reading books, watching football games.

Character 影 in the sentence above should be read “yǐng”, not “shì”.

Based on CED (1998: 271 & 272), 电影 “diànyǐng” means “film; movie; motion picture,” while 电视

“diànshì” means “television; TV”.

Therefore, it should be written as follows:

我喜欢听音乐、看电视、看书、看足球比赛。

Wǒ xǐhuan tīng yīnyuè, kàn diànshì, kàn shū, kàn zúqiú bǐsài.

Page 115

*演习

Yànxí

Pesta

Banquet

Based on CED (1998: 1441-1442), 演习 “yànxí” means “exercise; drill; practice”, while 宴席 “yànxí” means

“banquet; feast.” Therefore, it should be written as follows:

宴席

Yànxí

Yànxí

Page 131

*我一定要好好的工作。

Wǒ yídìng yào hǎohao de gōngzuò.
Saya pasti akan bekerja dengan baik.
I will certainly work well.

Li & Cheng (2003: 267&278) point out that some attributives must be followed by 的 “de”, while some adverbial adjuncts must be followed by 地 “de”. 好好 “hǎohao” is an adverbial adjunct that modifies 工作 “gōngzuò”. Therefore, the correct sentence should be written as follows: 我一定要好好地工作。

Wǒ yídìng yào hǎohao de gōngzuò.

Page 142

*拉烤鸡，还有喝咖啡。

Lā kǎojī, háiyǒu hē kāfēi.

Ayam bakar pedas, juga minum kopi.
Peppery grilled chicken, also drink coffee.

Based on CED (1998 : 707-708 &710), 拉 “lā” means “1) pull; draw; tug; drag, 2) transport by vehicle; haul, 3) move (troops to a place), 4) play (certain musical instruments), 5) drag out; draw out; space out, 6) give (or lend) a helping hand; help, 7) drag in; implicate, 8) draw in; win over; canvass,” while 辣 “là” means “1)peppery; hot, 2) (of smell or taste) burn; bite; sting, 3) vicious; ruthless.” Therefore, the correct sentence should be written as follows: 辣烤鸡，还有喝咖啡。

Là kǎojī, háiyǒu hē kāfēi.

Page 156

*这是您的访卡，您的房间是 1775 号。

Zhè shì nín de fǎngkǎ, nín de fángjiān shì 1775 hào.

Ini kartu kamar Anda, kamar Anda nomor 1775.

This is your room card, your room is 1775.

Based on CED (1998: 336-337), character 访 “fǎng” means “1) visit;

call on, 2)seek by inquiry or search; try to get,” while character 房 “fǎng” means “1) house, 2) room; bedroom.” Therefore, the correct sentence should be written as follows: 这是您的房卡，您的房间是 1775 号。

Zhè shì nín de fángkǎ, nín de fángjiān shì 1775 hào.

Page 172

*对不起，我来完了。

Duìbùqǐ, wǒ lái wán le.

Maaf, saya datang terlambat.

Sorry, I come late.

Based on CED (1998: 299, 1271, 1274), the phonetic of “对不起” is “duìbuqǐ”, character 不 is pronounced in the neutral tone (“bu”). Besides that, character 完 “wán” means “1) intact; whole, 2) run out; use up, 3) finish; complete,” while character 晚 “wǎn” means “1) evening; night, 2) far on in time; late.” Therefore, the correct sentence should be written as follows:

对不起，我来晚了。

Duìbuqǐ, wǒ lái wǎn le.

Page 182

*公车来了，要找手。

Gōngchē lái le, yào zhāoshǒu.

Bus datang, harus melambaikan tangan.

Bus is coming, must wave the hand.

Based on CED (1998 : 1590 & 1592), character 找 “zhǎo” means “1) look for; try to find; seek, 2) want to see; call on; approach,” there is no 找手 “zhǎoshǒu” in the dictionary. On the other hand, 招手 “zhāoshǒu” means “beckon; wave”. Therefore, the correct sentence should be written as follows:

公车来了，要招手。

Gōngchē lái le, yào zhāoshǒu.

Page 204

*有人门铃，请你去开门。

Yǒu rén ménlíng, qǐng nǐ qù kāimén.
Ada orang tekan bel, tolong kamu buka pintu.

Someone presses the doorbell, please open the door.

Based on CED (1998: 11 & 824), 门铃 “ménlíng” means “doorbell”. Therefore the sentence above lacks the word “press”. Character 按 “àn” means “press; push down.” Therefore, the correct sentence should be written as follows:

有人按门铃，请你去开门。

Yǒu rén àn ménlíng, qǐng nǐ qù kāimén.

Page 246

*桔汁多少钱一杯？

Júzhī duōshǎo qián yì bēi?

Jus jeruk berapa harganya segelas?

How much does a glass of orange juice cost?

Based on CED (1998: 650 & 1629), 桔汁 “júzhī” means “orange juice”, there is no 桔治 “júzhì” in the dictionary. Character 治 “zhì” itself means “1) rule; govern; administer;

manage, 2) order; peace.” Besides that, Cheung (1994: 61) also argues that when 一 “yī” is followed by a first tone syllable, it is pronounced in the fourth tone (“yì”). Therefore, the correct sentence should be written as follows:

桔汁多少钱一杯？

Júzhī duōshǎo qián yì bēi?

CONCLUSION

The mistakes in “Jurus Sakti Taklukkan Bahasa Mandarin Tanpa Kursus; Tanpa Perlu Guru” (“Magic Ways to Conquer Mandarin without a Course; no Teacher Required”) can be ranged as follows: 1) phonetics, 2) characters. It seems that “you can’t judge a book by its cover” is true. The readers’ first impression is usually the title on the cover of the book, and this first impression could be wrong because the content of the book has many mistakes. If the book does not give a correct model of Mandarin language, how the readers can learn Mandarin language well.

REFERENCES

- Cheung, Hung-nin Samuel. 1994. *A Practical Chinese Grammar*. Hongkong. The Chinese University Press.
- Li, Dejin & Cheng, Meizhen. 2003. *A Practical Chinese Grammar for Foreigners*. Beijing. Sinolingua.
- Liu, Chuanping. 2005. *A Learner’s Chinese Dictionary: Illustrations of the Usages*. Beijing. Beijing Yuyan Daxue Chubanshe.
- Liu, Xun. 2004. *New Practical Chinese Reader Textbook 1*. Beijing. Beijing Yuyan Daxue Chubanshe.
- Semita, Muryani J. dan Tee, Han Hok. 2014. *Jurus Sakti Taklukkan Bahasa Mandarin Tanpa Kursus; Tanpa Perlu Guru*. Yogyakarta. Saufa.
- Wei, Dongya. 1998. *A Chinese-English Dictionary (Revised Edition)*. Beijing. Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press.
- Yin, Binyong and Rohsenow, John S. 1994. *Modern Chinese Characters*. Beijing. Sinolingua.

Zhang, Pengpeng. 1999. *Rudiments of Chinese Character Writing*. Beijing.
Peking University Press.