

ANALYSIS OF DIFFICULTIES IN 6TH-GRADE STUDENTS OF PRIMARY SCHOOL OF CITRA CEMARA IN LISTENING COMPREHENSION EFFORTS AT YCT LEVEL 3

ANALISIS KESULITAN PADA SISWA KELAS 6 SD CITRA CEMARA DALAM UPAYA PEMAHAMAN LISAN PADA YCT LEVEL 3

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Abstract. Listening comprehension is an essential component of Chinese language education. In addition, Listening comprehension assists students in communicating and comprehending the interlocutor's meaning. This research aimed to determine students' difficulties when answering listening comprehension questions on the YCT test. The research employed qualitative research methods and a descriptive analysis approach. The data and data sources were collected from 38 sixth-grade students using questionnaire and test data collection techniques of Primary School of Citra Cemara academic year 2022/2023. The study's findings indicated that the most common difficulties occurred in parts 3 and 4 of the listening comprehension questions; students frequently selected incorrect answers that did not match the questions. This is predominantly affected by internal factors, such as the student's level of language skills and students' dearth of knowledge of social and cultural backgrounds.

Keywords: Listening Comprehension; YCT; Difficulties

Abstrak. Kemampuan pemahaman lisan merupakan salah satu unsur yang sangat penting dalam pendidikan Bahasa mandarin. Selain itu, pemahaman lisan membantu siswa untuk berkomunikasi dan memahami maksud yang dikatakan oleh lawan bicara. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui jenis kesulitan yang dialami oleh para siswa saat mengerjakan soal pemahaman lisan pada tes YCT. Metode penelitian menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif. Pendekatan penelitian menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif analisis. Data dan sumber data diperoleh dari 38 murid kelas 6 tahun ajaran 2022/2023 SD Citra Cemara, menggunakan teknik pengumpulan data angket dan tes. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian, kesulitan yang banyak terjadi adalah pada soal pemahaman lisan bagian 3 dan bagian 4, para siswa banyak melakukan kesalahan dalam memilih jawaban yang sesuai dengan pertanyaan. Hal ini banyak dipengaruhi oleh faktor internal, yaitu tingkat kemampuan bahasa para siswa dan pengetahuan para siswa terhadap latar belakang sosial dan budaya yang kurang.

Keywords: Pemahaman Lisan; YCT; Kesulitan



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1. INTRODUCTIONS

In daily communication activities, listening is a crucial means of information absorption. Listening comprehension is a crucial component of Chinese language education that must be trained. Listening comprehension aimed to enable students to communicate using the target language. In the book "International Chinese Language Proficiency Standards," 《国际汉语能力标准》 Hanban establishes standards for second- to third-level listening comprehension skills, namely the ability to comprehend brief words or conversations in related to daily life.

The YCT (Youth Chinese Test) is designed for international students still enrolled in school, mainly primary and secondary school students. The YCT is also a benchmark for students who wish to participate in the HSK. The YCT examination comprises four levels and is divided into writing and listening sections. Participants must know 80 vocabulary words for the YCT level 1 test, 150 words (equivalent to HSK 1) for level 2, 300 words (equivalent to HSK 2) for level 3, and 600 words (equivalent to HSK 3) for level 4. (equivalent to HSK 3).

Primary School of Citra Cemara is one of the trilingual schools in Bandung, whose mission is to enable students with foreign language skills, including Mandarin, to compete globally. Mandatory Mandarin classes at the Primary School of Citra Cemara are required for students in grades 1 through 6. Mandarin lessons must be followed by students from grade 1 to grade 6 at the Primary School of Citra Cemara. The used Chinese textbook is 《汉语》. During the 2022-2023 school year, sixth-grade students at the Primary School of Citra Cemara used the 《汉语》 5 textbook, whose vocabulary acquisition is equivalent to YCT level 3; consequently, the author used YCT level 3 to test the listening comprehension skills of sixth-graders.

After reviewing the test results and completing the questionnaires, it can be determined that the students experienced difficulties with listening comprehension questions. Lack of comprehension of vocabulary and the purpose of the questions in the questions offered is an example of a challenge encountered. This is due to several factors that can hinder the maximal listening comprehension of Mandarin.

Therefore, the researcher wishes to analyse the difficulties Primary School of Citra Cemara students experienced with YCT test questions in the listening comprehension section and the contributing factors.

2. METHOD

This study employed a descriptive qualitative method to conduct a difficulty analysis of the results of the YCT level 3 listening comprehension test administered to sixth-grade students in the Primary School of Citra Cemara during the 2022-2023 school year.

3. RESEARCH

3.1 The test findings demonstrated that the Primary School of Citra Cemara sixth-graders had difficulty with YCT level 3 listening comprehension questions, which will be presented in the following manner:

A. The results of the discussion of the first part of the question

Part 1 of the question contains 10 numbers, which requires students to determine whether the picture matches the statement on the recording; if it does, they place a checkmark (✓), but if it does not, they place a cross (x). Part 1 queries were answered incorrectly by 22.9% of test-takers, according to the results of the examination.

B. Discussion results of the second part of the question

Part 2 of the question contains ten numbers and requires students to specify which states in the recording correspond to which image. According to test results, 33.7% of students made mistakes when answering part 2 questions.

C. Results of the discussion of the third part of the question

Part 3 of the questions contains 10 numbers and requires students to determine the correct response to the provided question. According to the examination outcomes, part 3 queries were answered incorrectly by 41.1% of test-takers.

D. Discussion results of the fourth part of the question

Part 4 of the questions contains 5 numbers; in this section, students listen to a simple conversation and ascertain the correct answer. Part 4 queries were answered incorrectly by 40.5% of test-takers, according to the outcomes of the examination.

The test result indicated that most students require assistance in performing parts 3 and 4 questions; they made numerous errors when selecting the correct answer.

3.2 According to the questionnaire results, two factors contribute to students' difficulties with YCT listening comprehension questions: internal and external factors.

A. Internal factors

Internal factors include students' language skills and social knowledge.

- Students' skills language level

The language skills levels of students differ due to a variety of factors. One is the mastery of Mandarin vocabulary by each student; the questionnaire results revealed that 55.3% of students stated they were required to learn or had forgotten letters. There 52.6% of students who responded did not comprehend the question's meaning. These two things are highly related since if students lack vocabulary, they cannot comprehend the meaning of the queries in listening comprehension.

- Students' knowledge of the social and cultural background
Students' knowledge of social and cultural backgrounds could affect their performance in listening skills in Mandarin. The absence of a Mandarin-speaking family milieu could affect students' understanding of social and cultural backgrounds. The questionnaire results demonstrated that 94.7% of students speak Indonesian as their native language, 47.4% have never viewed a Mandarin drama, and 39.5% rarely hear Mandarin songs. The survey findings indicated that most students did not grow up in a Chinese-speaking environment.

B. External factors

The external factors are divided into sound quality and student concentration, making it difficult for students to answer YCT listening comprehension questions.

- Voice quality
Sound quality significantly impacts students' performance on the YCT listening comprehension questions. Therefore, the author queried the students about the sound quality of the YCT recording; 92.1% stated that the sound quality of the YCT recording was clear; on the other hand, 7.9% stated that it was less clear. The questionnaire results indicated that the sound quality of YCT recordings was audible and that students who claimed the sound quality could have been more evident are lack of language skills.
- Students' concentration
Students were required to maintain a high level of focus while conducting the YCT 3 listening comprehension questions. Inattention can prevent students from comprehending the question's meaning. The survey findings indicated that 23.7% of students completed the questions while pondering or otherwise preoccupied, and 73.7% needed to have taken note of essential information when listening.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the study's findings, primary school students in grade 6 of Primary School of Citra Cemara in the academic year of 2022/2023 struggled with listening comprehension test questions on YCT levels 3, parts 3 and 4. This was predominantly affected by internal factors, namely the students' level of language skills and their insufficient knowledge of social and cultural backgrounds.

It can be concluded that to overcome the problems caused by internal factors, students must improve their Chinese language skills by memorising a large amount of Chinese vocabulary and reading Chinese books. In addition, students can watch Mandarin films and listen to Mandarin songs. Thus, students can establish a Mandarin-speaking environment in their homes. According to "International Chinese Teaching Methods and Techniques for Teaching Listening and Speaking" by Hu Bo, students' listening comprehension is proportional to the

amount of language knowledge stored in the brain; the more knowledge stored, the greater the level of comprehension. Students must enhance their vocabulary knowledge to increase their listening Mandarin comprehension skills.

It is suggested that students familiarise themselves with writing important notes or searching for keywords in each question, enhancing their concentration when working on listening comprehension questions to address the issues posed by external factors.

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