



## Contrasting the Usage of Punctuations in Chinese and Indonesian Language

Asmulyati Nahnu<sup>1✉</sup>, Ria Riski Marsuki<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Universitas Negeri Makasar, Indonesia

<sup>2</sup>Universitas Negeri Semarang, Indonesia

### Keywords

*Contrastive analysis,  
Punctuation, Chinese,  
Indonesian Language*

### Abstract

Knowing the punctuation marks in Chinese and Indonesian is very important. Therefore, in order to avoid mistakes or inaccuracies in the use of punctuation marks, this research was conducted to clearly describe the similarities and differences in the use of punctuation marks in Mandarin and Indonesian. This study is a descriptive qualitative research using the literature method and the contrastive analysis method. The results show that of the 12 punctuation marks in this study, there are 7 punctuation marks that have the same form and use, 3 punctuation marks that have different forms with the same use, and there are 2 punctuation marks in Mandarin that are not found in Indonesian.

✉ Corresponding Author:  
E-mail: [asmulyati.nahnu@unm.ac.id](mailto:asmulyati.nahnu@unm.ac.id)

P-ISSN 2528-5734

E-ISSN 2715-1611

## INTRODUCTION

Chinese punctuation is called <sup>biāodiǎn fú hào</sup> 标点符号. Punctuation is one of the most important aspects of writing. Punctuation marks are used in writing by being represented by different symbols, such as a statement sentence ends with a full stop, a question sentence ends with a question mark, an exclamation sentence ends with an exclamation mark. In writing, punctuation marks serve to indicate pauses, structure writing and determine intonation when reading.

The usage of punctuation itself is very important, especially in writing such as in scientific articles, literary works, social media, and others. However, it is not uncommon to find mistakes or inaccurate use of punctuation marks that cause misinterpretation or misunderstanding for the reader.

Asyrofil Hidayah's research (2016) shows that there are five punctuation marks that are most commonly used incorrectly, which are the exclamation mark, parenthesis, ellipsis, colon and dash.

Furthermore, the results of Yunita Ihda Umami's research (2019) found 56.14% of the use of Chinese punctuation marks that were not in accordance with their proper use. One of the factors of error is the lack of intensity of respondents in using Chinese punctuation, especially in Chinese punctuation marks that are not found in Indonesian.

Based on the previous explanation, the author understands that knowledge of punctuation in Chinese and Indonesian is very important. Therefore, in order to avoid mistakes or inaccuracies in the use of punctuation marks, this research was conducted to clearly describe the similarities and differences in the usage of punctuation marks in Chinese and Indonesian. From the results of this study, the author really hopes that readers or learners can understand the proper and correct usage of punctuation in both Chinese and Indonesian, and can be a reference for future research.

## METHODS

This research is a descriptive qualitative research using the literature method and contrastive analysis method, with the aim of clearly describing the results of the research. The object of the research is 12 punctuation marks that are often used in Chinese writing, which are then compared with punctuation marks in Indonesian. The data collection technique used is note-taking technique. Data sources were obtained from books, journals, documents related to the research problem. The data collected were then compared and analyzed so as to obtain results in the form of similarities and differences in the use of punctuation in Chinese and Indonesian.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Punctuation Mark

Punctuation Mark 标点符号	Chinese 汉语	Indonesian 印尼语
Period 句号	。	.
Comma 逗号	,	,
Enumerative comma 顿号	、	(none)
Question mark 问号	?	?

Exclamation mark 叹号	!	!
Ellipsis mark 省略号	……	...
Parentheses 括号	( )	( )
Quotation mark 引号	“ ”	“ ”
Colon 冒号	:	:
Semicolon 分号	;	;
Dash 破折号	——	—
Guillemets 书名号	《 》	(none)

### 1. Period 句号

A period in Chinese is a kind of dot at the end of a sentence, which mainly indicates the declarative tone of a sentence. A period is used to indicate the end of a sentence and is equivalent to a period in Indonesian. It is important to note that the period in Indonesian is a solid dot ".", while a period in Chinese is a small round circle "。".

For example :

wǒ lái zì yìn dù ní xī yà  
我来自印度尼西亚。

*Saya berasal dari Indonesia.*

### 2. Comma 逗号

A comma is a kind of punctuation within a sentence, indicating a general pause within a sentence. The comma in Indonesian is usually used after an incomplete sentence to indicate the need to form a complete sentence with some subsequent sentence components, equivalent to the comma in Chinese. The form of the comma in both Indonesian and Chinese is “,”.

For example

rú guǒ nǐ qù wǒ jiù qù  
如果你去，我就去。

*Kalau kamu pergi, aku juga pergi.*

### 3. Enumerative Comma 顿号

In Chinese, Enumerative comma is used to indicate a pause between parallel words or after certain sequential words in a paragraph. The form of an enumerative comma is “、”. Indonesian does not have enumerative comma. When indicating a pause in a short parallel word in a sentence, only a comma can be used in Indonesian.

For example :

shū bāo lǐ yǒu shū bǐ qiánbāo hé xiǎojìng zǐ  
书包里有书、笔、钱包和小镜子。

*Di dalam tas ada buku, pena, dompet dan cermin kecil.*

#### 4. Question mark <sup>wèn</sup> ; 问号 <sup>hào</sup>

Question mark 问号 is usually used at the end of a sentence indicating the questioning tone of the sentence (including rhetorical questions and other types of questions). The form of the question mark in both Indonesian and Chinese is "?".

For example:

nǐ chī fàn le ma  
你吃饭了吗?

*Kamu sudah makan ?*

#### 5. Exclamation mark <sup>tàn</sup> ; 叹号 <sup>hào</sup>

The exclamation marks in Indonesian Chinese are usually used in sentences that express exclamation, surprise or command. The form of exclamation mark is "!".

For example :

nǐ kàn zhēn piàoliang ā  
你看, 真漂亮啊!

*Kamu lihat, sungguh indah!*

#### 6. Ellipsis mark <sup>shěng</sup> ; 省略号 <sup>luò hào</sup>

Ellipsis mark is a kind of punctuation indicating the omission of certain content and the interruption of the meaning of the passage. In Indonesian, the ellipsis is expressed by three consecutive dots and is centered at the bottom, like "..."; while in Chinese, the ellipsis is six dots, no more and no less, and is written centered ".....".

For example:

tā qì dé lián shēng shuō : hǎo hǎo suàn wǒ méi shuō .  
她气得连声说: “好,好.....算我没说。”

*Dia berkata, “ baik, baik ... anggap saja aku tidak bicara.”*

#### 7. Parentheses <sup>kuò</sup> ; 括号 <sup>hào</sup>

Botoh in Chinese and Indonesian, parentheses are used to indicate the insertion of additional explanatory, explanatory divisions in a sentence. This inserted division can be a word, phrase or sentence.

For example:

wǒ xiàoyōngyǒu tè jí jiāo shī hán yǐ tuì xiū de rén  
我校拥有特级教师(含已退休的)17人。

*Sekolah kami memiliki 17 guru dengan peringkat terbaik (termasuk yang sudah pensiun).*

Parentheses are also used to mark the numbers and letters that indicate the order.

For example:

shēngchǎnyào sù bāo kuò yuán cái liào shēngchǎn fèi yòng láo dòng lì  
生产要素包括: (1) 原材料、 (2) 生产费用、 (3) 劳动力。

*Faktor produksi menyangkut (a) bahan baku, (b) biaya produksi, dan (c) tenaga kerja.*

## 8. Quotation mark 引号

Quotation marks are a type of punctuation that indicates a direct quote or a component of a passage that needs to be specifically pointed out. Direct quotes may come from the speaker, or they may be taken from a manuscript or other written source. There are two forms of quotation marks, which are double quotation marks “ ” and single quotation marks ‘ ’. The one on the left is a prequotation mark, and the one on the right is a postquotation mark.

For example:

tā wèn lǎo shī qī yuè liú huǒ shì shén me yì sī  
他问：“老师，‘七月流火’是什么意思？”

*Dia bertanya, “Bu guru, apa yang dimaksud dengan ‘Qi Yue Liu Huo’?”*

Quotation marks are also used to indicate words with special meaning, or lesser-known terms, to draw the attention of the reader.

For example :

gē mǎ ěr dà gē cháng bèi rén chēng wéi yīngxióng tā zì jǐ yě bù zhī dào wèi shén me  
戈玛尔大哥常被人称为“英雄”，他自己也不知道为什么。

*Bang Komar sering disebut “pahlawan”, ia sendiri tidak tahu sebabnya.*

## 9. Colon 冒号

A kind of dot within a sentence, indicating a pause in a paragraph that suggests what follows or summarizes the above. A colon is usually used after a word or phrase that needs to be stated or explained.

For example:

diànhuà  
电话 : 08523423412

*Telepon : 08523423412*

## 10. Semicolon 分号

The semicolon is used to indicate pauses between parallel subdivisions within a compound sentence, as well as pauses between the first level clauses of a non-parallel multi-repeated sentence. Like in Chinese, the semicolon in Indonesian is usually used to separate several components of a sentence of equal status. The semicolon is required when listing small sentences, except for the last one.

For example:

běn jī gòu fú wù yuán de zhāo pìn tiáo jiàn bāokuò  
本机构服务员的招聘条件包括:

(1) yǒu yīn ní yǔ guó jī  
(1) 有印尼语国籍;

(2) huò dé xué shì wén píng jí  
(2) 获得学士文凭; 及

(3) shēn tǐ jiàn kāng  
(3) 身体健康。

*Syarat penerimaan pegawai di Lembaga ini adalah :*

- (1) *berkewarganegaraan Indonesia;*
- (2) *berijazah sarjana S-1; dan*
- (3) *berbadan sehat.*

## 11. Dash 破折号

Dash is a kind of punctuation which indicates the comment or additional explanation. A dash is used to emphasize a cognate or other modifying element to make the meaning of a sentence clearer. The dash in Indonesian is "—", while the dash in Chinese is "——" (double the length of Indonesian dash).

For example :

zhè cì chénggōng wǒ men yì zhì rèn wéi zhǐ yào wǒ men yuàn yì nǚ lì fèn dòu jiù néng shí xiàn  
这次成功——我们一致认为——只要我们愿意努力奋斗就能实现。  
*Keberhasilan itu — kita sependapat — dapat dicapai jika kita mau berusaha keras.*

## 12. Guillemets 书名号

In Chinese, Guillemet is a kind of punctuation that indicates the punctuation of book, title, newspaper, document, etc. It is also used for songs, movies, TV series and other literary works closely related to the written medium. The form of guillemets is like double arrows “《 》”. This mark is not used in Indonesian writing. In Indonesian, for writing titles, books, movies, etc., quotation marks are generally used.

For example:

zhōnghuá rén mínggē hé guóguó gē shì yì yǒngjūn jìn xíng qǔ  
中华人民共和国国歌是《义勇军进行曲》。  
*Lagu kebangsaan Republik Rakyat Tiongkok adalah “Mars Para Sukarelawan”.*

## CONCLUSION

Based on the finding and discussion of Contrasting Punctuations in Chinese and Indonesian, it can be concluded that : There are 7 punctuation marks that have the same form and use, which are : 逗号(comma), 问号(question mark), 叹号(exclamation mark), 括号(parentheses), 引号(quotation mark), 冒号(colon) and 分号(semi colon); There are 3 punctuation marks that have different forms with the same use, which are : 句号(Period), 省略号(Ellipsis) and 破折号 (Dash); There are 2 punctuation marks in Chinese that are not found in Indonesian, which are : 顿号(Enumerative Comma) and 书名号 (Guillemets).

## REFERENCES

- Adiningsih, Yulia. 2019. *Tanda Baca Penanda Kalimat dalam Buku Ajar Bahasa Indonesia Sekolah Dasar*. Journal, Tekstual Vol 17 No 2 : 56 – 61.
- Ejaan Bahasa Indonesia Yang Disempurnakan. Ejaan.kemendikbud.go.id. 8 June 2023. <https://ejaan.kemendikbud.go.id/eyd/penggunaan-tanda-baca/tanda-titik/>
- Hidayah, Asyrofil. 2016. *Analisis Kesalahan Penggunaan Tanda Baca Dalam Bahasa Mandarin pada Mahasiswa Semester V Sastra Cina Fakultas Ilmu Budaya Universitas Brawijaya*. Thesis, Universitas Brawijaya
- Mustofa. 2020. *Kesalahan Penggunaan Tanda Baca dalam Makalah Mahasiswa Mata Kuliah Bahasa Indonesia*. Journal, Fikruna Vol 2 No 2 : 26 – 40.
- Yunita Ihda Umami. 2019. *Penggunaan Tanda Baca Bahasa Mandarin Mahasiswa Angkatan 2015 Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Mandarin Universitas Negeri Jakarta*. Thesis, Universitas Negeri Jakarta.
- 中华人民共和国国家标准“标点符号用法”，GB/T 15834—2011
- 唐慧，王辉，陈扬编著.2017.国家级教学成果二等奖系列教材·亚非语言文学国家级特色专业建设点系列教材印度尼西亚语语法. 中国：世界图书广东出版公司.
- 陈香主编. 2012. 新 HSK 辅导教程, 6 级. 北京：高等教育出版社.