



**Development of an Elementary-Level Hanzi Writing Practice Book for Education of Chinese Language Program Semarang State University**

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**Keywords**

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**Abstract**

In language learning, especially Chinese Language, writing is one of the four basic skills students must master. In learning to write, students have to require to master writing Hanzi. Writing Hanzi requires repeated practice and training so that students become accustomed to it and can memorize Hanzi writing. Hanzi writing practice books are really needed as supporting media in learning to write Hanzi. This research aims to produce an elementary-level Hanzi writing practice book as a learning medium for students by 1) Describing the results of analyzing learning media needs in the form of a basic-level Hanzi writing practice book. 2) Describe the results of designing a learning media product in the form of an elementary-level Hanzi writing practice book. 3) Describe the results of expert validation regarding learning media in the form of elementary-level Hanzi writing practice books. The learning media in a writing practice book is adapted to learning material, including Hanzi, pinyin, meaning, number of strokes, order of writing the strokes, and columns for writing practice. The research method used in this research is a research and development method with research stages up to the 5th stage, namely : (a) Potential and Problems, (b) Data Collection, (c) Product Design, (d) Design Validation, and (e) Design Revision. The expert validation results stated that this writing exercise book was suitable for trial use.

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## INTRODUCTION

Chinese Language is one of the foreign languages that is very popular recently. This is proven by the increasing number of applicants to the Education of Chinese Language Program at Semarang State University from year to year. Education of Chinese Language Program at Semarang State University is the only study program that provides undergraduate Education of Chinese Language Program in Central Java by providing four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. (Profil Prodi, no date)

In elementary-level writing courses (Chuji Hanyu Xiezuoshang), students are taught to write Hanzi. Hanzi is the script used in writing Chinese. Different from letters, the way Hanzi is written looks more complicated and complex. Hanzi has basic strokes (笔画) and the order of writing the strokes (笔顺), so writing Hanzi must comply with standard writing rules. Apart from the basic strokes and the order of writing strokes, Hanzi also has word-forming parts in compound characters called radicals (偏旁部首). (Tjaturrini et al., 2021) For elementary students, this is one of the causes of difficulty in mastering Hanzi and remembering how to write it. To overcome these difficulties, continuous practice or writing practice is needed so that students become accustomed to it and become more familiar with and can memorize writing Hanzi.

Based on observations in the Chuji Hanyu Xiezuoshang Class of 2022 class, students are given the task of writing Hanzi at each meeting. At least eight Hanzi must be written repeatedly, along with the order of the strokes, the number of strokes, and their meaning. The lecturer asks students to write this assignment with a medium-sized checkered book. However, in practice, the checkered books students use vary in size. Besides, there are no examples of Hanzi that students must write, so students must copy the Hanzi from the textbook into their checkered books. This greatly influences the results of students' writing of Hanzi. After all, writing errors often occur, such as lack of strokes, errors in the order of writing strokes, and imbalances in the shape of the Hanzi, which affect the aesthetics and neatness because the box size is too small or too large. Various box sizes also influence the number of Hanzi written by students. The assignment instructions from the lecturer are to repeat writing Hanzi for ten lines so that the smaller the box size, the more Hanzi that students must write, and the larger the box size, the less Hanzi to write. This shows that it is necessary to develop learning media in the form of writing practice books that follow the learning material contained in the textbook.

Based on the results of the questionnaire obtained from students of the Education of Chinese Language Program Class of 2022, 55.6% of respondents answered that Hanzi was difficult to learn; 5.6% of respondents answered that strokes (笔画) were challenging to learn, 11.1% of respondents answered that the order of writing the strokes (笔顺) was hard to understand, and 83.3% of respondents answered that radicals were challenging to learn. This shows that learning hanzi requires learning media, as 85.2% of respondents said they need a hanzi writing practice book that covers all hanzi elements.

According to Tarigan (Lestari H., 2018), writing represents part of the unity of language expression. Writing includes indirect communication activities that can be used to express other

people's thoughts, ideas, feelings, and desires in writing. Writing Hanzi requires repeated practice, so Hanzi writing practice books are needed as supporting media for students in learning Hanzi. Practice books are included in the learning media category in the form of print media, which is one of the learning media that can be a tool to improve student learning outcomes, provide direct learning experiences, and simplify the learning process. (Astuti, 2018)

Two crucial elements are interrelated in the learning process: teaching methods and learning media. The choice of teaching method will influence the appropriate type of learning media. Learning media are teaching aids that affect the climate, conditions, and learning environment organized and created by the teacher. (Gafur, in (Dr. Ani Cahyadi, 2019) Dr. Ani Cahyadi concluded that media is anything that can be used as an intermediary in the interaction process between teachers and students, noting that this media can simplify or make the learning process more effective.

Based on the background above, this research chose a learning media for a Hanzi writing practice book that is appropriate to the learning material and includes all elements of Hanzi, which contain Hanzi, pinyin, meaning, number of strokes, the order of writing the strokes and columns for writing practice. With a writing practice book, students can directly practice writing repeatedly so that the book can become a supporting medium in learning Hanzi according to students' needs.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The research method used in this research is the research and development method. According to Sugiyono (Sugiyono, 2015), research and development methods are used to produce products and test the effectiveness of these products. This research aims to develop a learning media product as an elementary Hanzi writing practice book to support Hanzi learning in the Chuji Hanyu Xiezu Shang course. Based on Sugiyono's theory (Sugiyono, 2015), there are ten stages of research steps. However, this research will be carried out up to the 5th stage, namely: (a) Potential and Problems, (b) Data Collection, (c) Product Design, (d) Design Validation, and (e) Design Revision.

The data collection techniques used in this research are observation, questionnaire, and documentation. Observation is an empirical scientific activity based on field facts and texts through five-sense experiences without manipulation. (Hasanah, 2017) Through observation, the observer can find out directly about the existence of the object or event he is observing so that the information obtained through observation can be more optimal. (Pujaastawa, 2016) The observation technique in this research was carried out through direct observation during the learning process. According to Suharsimi Arikunto (Mania, 2008), a questionnaire is a list of questions that must be filled in by respondents so that they can find out their opinions, personal circumstances, experiences, knowledge, or attitudes. The questionnaire distributed in this research aims to determine students' responses to learning to write Hanzi in the Chuji Hanyu Xiezu Shang course.

Based on the opinion of Suharsimi Arikunto in (Muqorrobin, 2010), data collection instruments are tools chosen and used by researchers to carry out data collection activities so that these activities are systematic and easy. The instruments in this research are observation sheets, questionnaire sheets, and textbook documentation of the learning materials used.

The subjects of this research were students of the Education of Chinese Language Program Semarang State University Class of 2022, a total of 39 people, consisting of 3 male students and 36 female students.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **RESULTS OF NEEDS ANALYSIS**

#### 1. Observation Results

Based on the results of observations in the Chuji Hanyu Xiezu Shang course Class of 2022, it was found that learning in the Chuji Hanyu Xiezu Shang course could be said to have not been optimal because no Hanzi writing practice book for elementary students is appropriate to the learning material and includes all elements of Hanzi. So far, students have been practicing writing in their checkered books with various column sizes, and there are no examples of Hanzi. This makes students sometimes confused when writing Hanzi and have difficulty understanding the correct order of writing Hanzi, so errors often occur in writing Hanzi, such as lack of strokes, errors in the order of writing strokes, and an imbalance in the shape of Hanzi which affects the aesthetics and neatness because the column size is too small or too big.

#### 2. Questionnaire Results

Based on the results of a questionnaire distributed to 3 male students and 36 female students in the Class of 2022 Education of Chinese Language Program, it was found that 11.5% of students felt that learning to write Hanzi in the first semester was very difficult and 46.2% felt it was difficult. As many as 80.8% of students stated that they learned to write Hanzi not only from what the lecturer gave them. Also, 76.9% of students will look for it from other sources if they don't know the order of writing Hanzi. Regarding learning media, as many as 50% of students stated that the learning media used was not enough, and 100% of students agreed that there was supporting media in the form of books for practicing writing Hanzi, which completely covered all elements of Hanzi, namely consisting of bishua, bishun, pinyin, Hanzi, meaning, number of strokes along with columns for writing practice accompanied by broken lines as supporting lines, columns for pinyin and increasingly smaller column sizes.

#### 3. Documentation Results

Based on the results of textbook documentation, namely from the books "Developing Chinese-Elementary Reading and Writing Course" and "Intensive Elementary Chinese Course-a Comprehensive Book I", there are 187 vocabulary words used for writing practice in this Hanzi writing practice book.

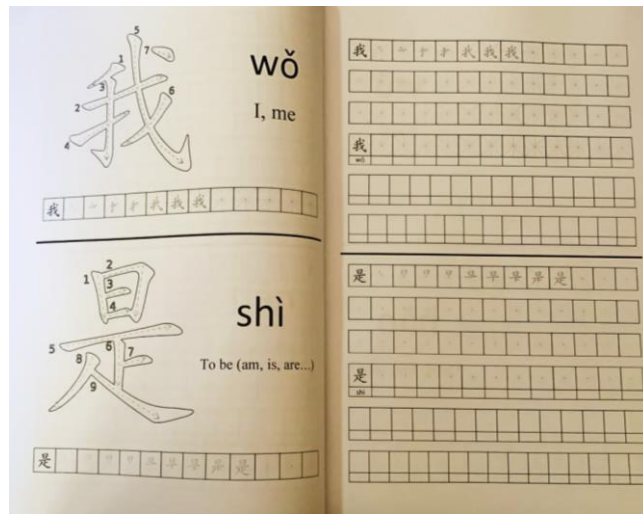
## **PRODUCT DESIGN RESULTS**

This Hanzi writing practice book consists of 15 chapters. Chapters 1 to 8 are used for the first meeting up to the mid-semester exam, while chapters 9 to 15 are used for the 9th meeting up to the final semester exam.

Figure 2 Book Cover



Figure 1 Book Contents



The book contains two parts, namely, the left part and the right part. On the left (figure 3), there are two large hanzi. On the hanzi, some numbers indicate the order of the strokes and the number of strokes. Apart from that, there is also the pinyin and meaning on the right side of the hanzi and the writing order below the hanzi. These two hanzi are hanzi, which students must practice writing repeatedly on the right side of the book.

Figure 3 The Left Part

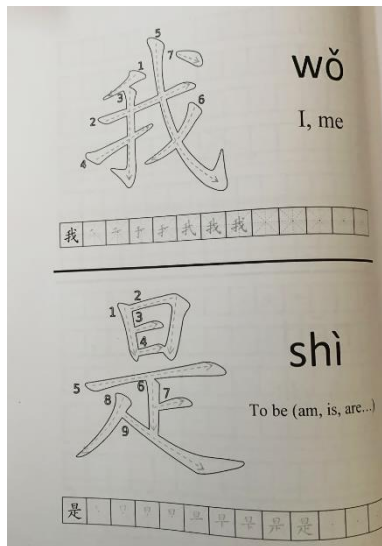
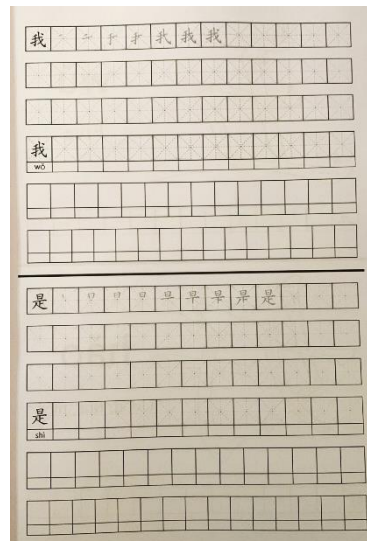


Figure 4 The Right Part



On the right part (figure 4) are 12 rows containing columns divided into two parts, upper and lower, according to the Hanzi on the left. The first line has a vague writing order to make it easier for students to imitate writing Hanzi. The first to fourth lines have broken lines as supporting lines to make it easier for students to write Hanzi so that the writing is neater, more aesthetic, and follows the rules.

In the fourth to sixth rows, there is an additional column for pinyin at the bottom, and this is intended so that students not only memorize the hanzi writing but can also remember the pinyin and hanzi tones. The size of the columns in the first to sixth rows gets smaller and smaller, besides that in the fifth and sixth rows the broken lines are also eliminated. This is intended so students can become more proficient in writing the Hanzi.

The Hanzi contained in this practice book is based on the vocabulary in the learning material in the first semester, which comes from the Chuji Hanyu Xiezu Shang course book entitled "Developing Chinese-Elementary Reading and Writing Course" and Chuji Hanyu Zonghe Shang entitled "Intensive Elementary Chinese Course -a Comprehensive Book I". This is intended so that the material in this practice book follows the learning material being taught to students in the first semester. In this way, this practice book can support students in more easily mastering the material in that semester.

This practice book focuses on developing students' abilities in writing Hanzi. With this writing practice book, it is hoped that students can directly practice writing repeatedly so that their skills in writing Hanzi can improve.

#### **EXPERT VALIDATION RESULTS**

Based on the results of data analysis obtained through the validation process of the Hanzi writing practice book product by the material validator, it is known that the book format is suitable for use. This can be seen from the clarity of the division of chapters and material, space/layout arrangement, type and size of letters, column size, and number of columns for writing practice, which is very good.

Meanwhile, the material validator assesses that the material in the practice book has been prepared systematically and is following learning material at the elementary level. Preparing and selecting material is crucial because it can create student activity in teaching and learning activities. As Mayer (MAYER, 2009) said, selecting and organizing material and combining previously studied material is essential for creating active learning.

In this writing practice book, there is Hanzi along with an explanation of how to write it, namely by providing the direction of writing the strokes, number of strokes, writing order, pinyin, and meaning, and based on the validator's assessment of the material, everything is appropriate and correct. Thus, students can easily practice writing Hanzi by looking at the available examples in more detail and accuracy. Ease of using media is one of the criteria in determining learning media. Arsyad stated this (Azhar Arsyad, 1997).

The expert validation questionnaire sheet has ten statements, all of which received a score on a scale of 5, which means very good. This indicates that this Hanzi writing practice book is suitable as a supporting medium for learning to write.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Between Bugis wedding culture and Han wedding culture, it is quite clear that wedding traditions or customs have more differences than similarities. The similarities appear only in the traditions performed before the wedding day and a little in the meaning of the wedding. The two tribes from two

different countries still have the same meaning in carrying out their traditions. The diversity of traditions owned by the two tribes in this marriage tradition both from similarities and differences refers to a great meaning and is oriented towards the harmony of a relationship. The product developed from this research and development is media in the form of a Hanzi writing practice book to support learning to write for the Chuji Hanyu Xiezu Shang course. The material in this book is taken from the books entitled "Developing Chinese-Elementary Reading and Writing Course" and "Intensive Elementary Chinese Course-a Comprehensive Book I".

The material in this book is in the form of Hanzi, which must be practiced repeatedly in the hope that students can memorize how to write it correctly, along with the pinyin and its meaning. This Hanzi writing practice book consists of 15 chapters. Apart from Hanzi, this book includes pinyin, meaning, writing order, number and direction of strokes, and a column for writing practice. In this way, students can practice writing more quickly because there are examples and detailed writing guides.

The design of this practice book is that there are two parts, namely, the left part and the right part. On the left are two large Hanzi and the number and direction of strokes, pinyin, meaning, and writing order. Meanwhile, on the right, some columns are used to practice imitating Hanzi writing.

Based on the results of expert validation, this Hanzi writing practice book was declared suitable for trial use without revision. This can be seen from the validator's assessment, which states that the division of chapters and material is obvious; space arrangement/layout, type and size of letters, size and number of columns are perfect; the direction of writing the strokes, the number of strokes, the order of writing the Hanzi are all exact; the suitability and accuracy between Hanzi, pinyin, and meaning are excellent; and the suitability of Hanzi with elementary level learning material is also excellent.

This practice book focuses on developing students' abilities in writing Hanzi. With this writing practice book, it is hoped that students can directly practice writing repeatedly to improve their skills in writing Hanzi.

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