

Comparative Analysis Between Chinese Adverbs Zài, Yòu And Indonesian Adverbs Lagi

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ABSTRACT

When learning a second language, it cannot be separated from the grammatical aspect, such is the case with Mandarin. In order to be able to speak Chinese properly and correctly, one needs to learn grammar. When understanding grammar, vocabulary mastery is also important to learn. This research, which has been carried out in the frame of contrastive linguistics and universal grammar, focuses on the distribution of adverbs zai, yau in Chinese and *lagi* in Indonesian. The objects of the research are to describe and compare the distribution of those three adverbs. The data was obtained from Chinese literary such as textbooks, Chinese grammar books, journals, articles. The results show the contrasts between those found in Chinese and Indonesian.

Keywords – comparative analysis, adverbs, zài, yòu, lagi

INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the most fundamental abilities possessed by humans. Various activities undertaken by humans such as working, learning, and playing all require language skills. Through language, humans can communicate with friends, family, teachers, and others. The rapid advancement of technology in the current era of industrial revolution has triggered communication involving various countries. Therefore, we also need to learn some foreign languages to facilitate the communication process.

When studying a language structure, it is important to understand the different types of words. Words are units of language that can stand alone and have an open nature.[1] Among all types of words in Mandarin, this research is interested in researching the usage of adverbs, specifically the words zai and yau, which both have the same function and meaning in Indonesian, which is *lagi*.

Liu [2] in his research stated that the adverbs $z\dot{a}i$ and $y\dot{o}u$, if both of these adverbs are at the same level, have the same meaning. In Indonesian, the words $z\dot{a}i$ and $y\dot{o}u$ have the same meaning, which is 'again', and they function as adverbs to indicate the repetition of an activity. Based on Elisa [3] research conducted by administering a questionnaire containing questions about the usage of the adverbs $z\dot{a}i$ and $y\dot{o}u$ to fifth-grade students at Little Sun School Surabaya, it was found that one of the reasons for the incorrect usage of these adverbs is the complexity of the grammar of $z\dot{a}i$ and $y\dot{o}u$, as well as a lack of comprehensive understanding in using the adverbs $z\dot{a}i$ and $y\dot{o}u$.

This is also supported by research conducted by Lestari [4], which also found that there are many errors in the usage of the adverbs $z\dot{a}i$ and $y\dot{o}u$, caused by several factors such as the influence of one's first language when learning a second language, the complexity of the adverbs $z\dot{a}i$ and $y\dot{o}u$ themselves, incomplete mastery of the theory, etc.

From this research we found many of the student encounter difficulties when learning the adverbs $z \dot{a}i$ and $y \dot{o}u$, resulting in errors in sentence formation. Based on this, this research intends to conduct a comparative analysis among the adverbs $z \dot{a}i$, $y \dot{o}u$, and *lagi*. This research hopes that the results of this research can assist students



who are currently studying Mandarin and reduce the percentage of errors that occur during the learning of the adverbs *zài* and *yòu*.

Problem Statement

Based on the background described above, the researcher intends to conduct research with the problem statement, which is:

- 1 What are the similarities in the usage of the adverbs zài, yòu, and lagi?
- 2 What are the differences in the usage of the adverbs zài, yòu, and lagi?

Research Objectives

Based on the problem statement, the objectives of this research are as follows:

- 1 To determine the similarities in the usage of the adverbs *zài*, *yòu*, and *lagi*.
- 2 To determine the differences in the usage of the adverbs *zài*, *yòu*, and *lagi*.

METHODOLOGY

In this research implements a qualitative descriptive research method to seek, collect, manage, and analyze research data regarding the comparison of the adverbs *zài*, *yòu*, and *lagi*. Therefore, this research will first identify the problems related to students' difficulties in using the adverbs *zài*, *yòu*, and *lagi*. Then, this research will gather theories and supporting data about the usage of these adverbs. The data sources in this study are not obtained from respondents but are collected through documents, including research journals, books, and other relevant sources. Finally, in the last step in this research will analyze the similarities and differences among the adverbs *zài*, *yòu*, and *lagi*, as well as the possible reasons why students, whose native language is Indonesian, make mistakes when using these three words. Subsequently, this research will draw conclusions based on the comparative results of these three words.

Instrument and Data Collection

The primary instrument supporting the analysis of the comparison of the adverbs zai, you, and lagi is the comparative studies. This research will gather various data and theories through a literature review, which involves collecting data related to the adverbs zai, you, and lagi from various sources such as books, journals, articles, the internet, etc. Subsequently, this research will conduct a study to identify the similarities and differences in the usage of the adverbs zai, you, and lagi, as well as the possible reasons why students, whose native language is Indonesian, make mistakes when using these three words.

DISCUSSION

A. Similarities Usage of The Adverbs zài and yòu

Below are some of the similarities between the words *zài* and *yòu* that this research has found, including:

- 1. Having the function of indicating that the activity occurs in large quantities and is constant.[5], [6] Example:
 - (1) *W*ǒ zàisān xiàng tāmen jiěshì, tāmenI again and again toward they explain they cái xiàngxìn wǒ. just believe I

'I explained it to them again and again before they believed me.'

(2) *Tā* y*ī* c*ì* y*òu* y*ī* c*ì* xiàng he one NUMCL again one NUMCL toward w*ŏ* shu*ō*: "W*ŏ* x*i*huān n*ĭ*". I speak I like you



'He said to me again and again: "I like you".'

In examples (1) and (2), the adverbs $z \dot{a}i$ and $y \dot{o}u$ are used to indicate a recurring or repetitive action. In sentence (1), the word $z \dot{a}i$ describes that the action of $ji \dot{e}shi$ 'to explain' is repeatedly performed by the subject $w \dot{o}$ 'I'. Likewise, in sentence (2), the subject $t\bar{a}$ 'he' repeatedly says $W \dot{o} x i h u \ddot{a} n n i$ 'I like you' to the object $w \dot{o}$ 'I'.

- 2. It serves the function of indicating whether the activity will occur in the future or has not yet occurred. Example:
 - (3) Wõ juédé yī nián shíjiān tài duăn le, wõ I think one year time too short PART¹ I xiăng zài xué yī nián. want again learn one year

'I think one year is too short and I want to study for another year.'

(4) *Míngtiān* yòu shì xīngqīrì le, wŏmen tomorrow again be Sunday PART we yòu kĕyĭ qù jiāowài yóuwán le. again can go countryside play PART

'Tomorrow is Sunday again, and we can go to the countryside again.'

In examples (3) and (4), the adverbs zai and yau share a common function, which is to indicate an activity that will happen in the future. In sentence (3), the word zai conveys that the subject waau 'I' intends to study again in the upcoming year. In sentence (4), it describes Sunday and an activity that wamu 'we' do regularly, making it appropriate to use yau. When the adverb yau is used to express future actions, it typically applies to recurring activities like events on a calendar, school schedules, etc.

- 3. It serves the function of indicating that the activity happened in the past or has already occurred. [7] Example:
 - (5) *Sān nián qián wǒ qù kàn le tā yí* three year ago I go see PART he one *cì, dāngshí tā de shēnghuó hěn jiānkǔ*, NUMCL then he AUX life very hard *guò le yí nián zài kàn tā shí* ver PART one year again see he time *jìng wánquán rèn bù chū tā lái* unexpectedly totally recognize not out he to *le*. PART

'I went to see him three years ago, and his life was very difficult at that time, and when I saw him again a year later, I didn't recognize him at all.'

(6) *Tā zuótiān méiyŏu lái shàngkè, jīntiān yòu* he yesterday no come class today again *méi lái.* no come

'He didn't come to class yesterday and didn't come today.'

In examples (5) and (6), the adverbs zai and yau share a common function, which is to indicate an activity that happened in the past. In sentence (5), the time context is not focused on the present but rather on the time phrase san nián qián 'three years ago', and the situation in yí nián 'one year 'is unpredictable, as evidenced by the sentence wánquán rèn bù chū tā lái le 'didn't recognize him at all', where the subject wǒ 'I' appears surprised by the significant changes in the subject tā 'he'. When the adverb zài is used to express activities or actions in the past, it typically applies to contexts of unexpected or non-regular occurrences. Similarly, in sentence (6), the use of the adverb yàu conveys the meaning that yesterday tā 'he' didn't come to class," emphasizing the past occurrence of the action of not coming to class.

- 4. It serves the function of expanding the scope by providing additional information. Example:
 - (7) *Wŏ de fángjiān li yŏu guìzi, chuángwèi*,I AUX room in have cupboard bed *kōngtiáo, zài jiù shì wŏ de zhuōzi.* air conditioning again it be I AUX desk

¹ List of Abbreviations: 1, 2, 3 = 1st, 2nd, 3rd person; ACT = active; ADV = adverbs; AUX = auxiliary; MOD = modal; MOOD PART = mood particle; NUMCL = number classifier; PART = particle; PASS = passive; PREP = preposition; SG = singular



'My room has a cupboard, a bed, an air conditioner, and then my desk.'

(8) *Chúle jiǎngjīn, yòu fā le yī bù* except bonus again issued PART one NUMCL *bǐjìběn diànnǎo*. notebook computer

'In addition to the bonus, another laptop was issued.'

In examples (7) and (8), the adverbs zai and yau share a common function, which is to expand the scope of discussion by providing additional information. In sentence (7), the word zai offers additional information that, in addition to the wardrobe, bed, and AC in the subject $w\delta de fangjian$ 'my room', there is also another item, which is a table. In sentence (8), the context implies that besides receiving a cash gift, there was also another gift received, namely a laptop.

5. It serves the function of indicating sequential actions or events. Example:

(9) *Wŏmen xiān zuò shùxué kè de zuòyè* we first do math course AUX homework *zài qù diànyĭngyuàn*.again go cinema

'We do our homework in math class first and then go to the cinema.'

(10) Zuótiān tā gāng cóng Shànghǎi huí lái, yesterday he just from Shanghai come back míngtiān yòu yào qù Xī'ān. tomorrow again want go Xi'an

'Yesterday he just came back from Shanghai, and tomorrow he will go to Xi'an.'

In examples (9) and (10), the adverbs $z \dot{a}i$ and $y \dot{o}u$ share a common function, which is to describe sequential actions or events. In sentence (9), it states that $w \check{o}men$ 'we' will first do homework and then go to the cinema. In sentence (10), it explains that $t\bar{a}$ 'he' just returned from Shanghai yesterday and will go to Xi'an again tomorrow.

B. Similarities Usage of The Adverb zài and lagi

This research has found a similarity between the Chinese adverb *zài* and the Indonesian adverb *lagi*, which is that both can be used before verbs with the contextual meanings of "adding an action" and "more." [8] Example:

(11) *Zhè ge cài zài fàng shàng diănr cōng,* this NUMCL dish ADV put on little onion *jiù gèng xiāng le.* MOD more fragrant PART

'Add a little green onion to this dish, and it will be even more fragrant.'

(12) "Adit, tunggu sebentar lagi!" name wait awhile again

'Adit, please wait a moment!'

In examples (11) and (12), the adverb $z \dot{a}i$ and lagi serve a similar function, which is to be placed before verbs to convey the meaning of "adding". Sentence (11) indicates that adding a bit of onion can enhance smell of the dish, while sentence (12) has the contextual meaning of requesting additional time to wait.

C. Similarities Usage of The Adverb "you" and "lagi"

Below are some similarities between the Chinese adverb $y \partial u$ and the Indonesian adverb *lagi* that this research has discovered, including:

- 1. Serving the function of emphasizing the preceding word or sentence. Examples:
 - (13) Mèimei yòu búshì xiǎohái, yòng buzháo younger sister again not child use no guǎn de nàme yán. manage AUX that strict



'My sister is not a child, so she doesn't need to be so strict.'

(14) *Rasa sakit di gigi saya sudah tidak* sense pain PREP teeth I already no *ter-tahan lagi*. PASS-stuck anymore

'The pain in my tooth is unbearable now.'

In examples (13) and (14), adverb $y \partial u$ and lagi share a similar function of emphasizing the sentence that comes before them. In sentence (13), $y \partial u$ emphasizes that the subject *mèimei* "younger sister" is no longer a child, while in sentence (14), *lagi* emphasizes that the toothache felt by *saya* 'I' is unbearable.

- 2. Serving the function of explaining the presence of two situations or conditions that are the same and occurring simultaneously. Examples:
 - (15) Women de jiàoshì yòu ānjìng yòu gānjìng. we AUX classroom and quiet and clean

'Our classrooms are quiet and clean.'

(16) *"Ibu, lihat! Koper yang di-jual di* mother look suitcase which PASS-sell PREP *toko itu, kecil lagi mahal*". shop that small yet expensive

'Mother, look! The suitcase being sold in that store is small yet expensive.'

In examples (15) and (16), the adverb $y \partial u$ and *lagi* serve a similar function of connecting adjectives that indicate an equal level and occur simultaneously. The phrases with $y \partial u$ and *lagi* in the examples above convey the meaning of "not only" ... "but also" or "and," "as well as", "also".

D. Similarities Usage of The Adverb" zài", "yòu" and Word "lagi"

The similarity between the adverbs $z \dot{a}i$, $y \dot{o}u$, and *lagi* that this research has found is that they all have the same function in a sentence, which is to indicate or state a recurring action. Examples:

(17) Jīntiān dìdì qù kàn tā le, dìdì míngtiān today brother go see he PART brother tomorrow

xiǎng zài qù.want again go

'My brother went to see him today, and my brother wants to go again tomorrow.'

(18) Tā zuótiān lái le, jīntiān yòu lái le.he yesterday come PART today again come PART

'He came yesterday and again today.'

(19) Saya ber-harap besok kalian datang lagi. I ACT-hope tomorrow you come again

'I hope you come again tomorrow.'

In examples (17), (18), and (19), it can be seen that the similarity in the use of the adverbs $z \dot{a}i$, $y \dot{o}u$, and *lagi* serves the same function in a sentence, which is used to express that a particular activity or condition happens repeatedly. Sentence (17) has the context that the subject di di 'younger brother' will meet $t\bar{a}$ 'he' again tomorrow. Sentence (18) has the context that the subject $t\bar{a}$ 'he' will come back again tomorrow. Sentence (19) indicates that the subject *saya* 'I' hopes that *kalian* 'you' will come back tomorrow.

E. Differences Usage of The Adverb zài, yòu, and lagi

1. The adverbs *zài* and *lagi* have the function of indicating something "more," while the adverb *yòu* does not have this function.



Referring to the example Zhè ge cài zài fàng shàng diănr cōng, jiù gèng xiāng le. 'Add a little green onion to

this dish, and it will be even more fragrant.' and *Adit, Tunggu sebentar lagi*! 'Adit, please wait a moment!', it can be observed that only the word zai and the word *lagi* carry the meaning of "adding" or "more," and therefore, the word yau cannot be used in these sentences.

2. The adverb *zài*, when followed by a negatively expressed sentence, carries the implied meaning of "no matter how... still..." [9] whereas the adverb *yòu* and *lagi* do not have this function.

Referring to the example:

(20) *Gēge zài* shuō dìdi yĕ bù Elder brother ADV speak younger brother also no tīng. listen

'No matter how the elder brother said, the younger brother still didn't want to listen.'

it can be understood that only the word $z \dot{a} i$ can create the context of meaning "no matter how... still..." whereas, the word $y \dot{o} u$ and lag i cannot be used in sentences with that specific context.

- 3. The adverbs *zài*, *yòu*, and *lagi* have different placements in negative sentences. Examples:
 - (21) Wó yǐjīng fùxí dì shí kè le, I already review section ten lesson PART suǒyǐ jīntiān méiyǒu zài fùxí.

therefore today no again review

'I've already reviewed lesson 10, so I didn't review it again today.'

(22) Zuótiān bàba méiyǒu chī zǎofàn, jīntiān yòu yesterday father no eat breakfast today again

méiyŏu chī zǎofàn. no eat breakfast

'Yesterday my dad didn't have breakfast, and today he didn't have breakfast.'

(23) Hari ini dia tidak makan lagi. Day this he no eat again

'Today he didn't eat again.'

In examples (21), (22), and (23), it can be seen that in negative sentences, the adverb *zài*, *yòu*, and *lagi* have different placements. The word *zài* in sentence (21) should be put after the negative word *méiyǒu* 'no', before the verb *fùxí* 'review'. The word *yòu* in sentence (22) should be put before the negative word *méiyǒu* 'no'. And the word *lagi* in sentence (23) should be put after the negative word *tidak* 'no' and also the verb *makan* 'eat'. However, the word *zài* also has another placement format not shared by *yòu*, as shown in the example below:

(24) Jiějiě zài bu xiǎng tiàowǔ le. sister anymore no want dance PART

My sister doesn't want to dance anymore.

In example (24), it represents another negative sentence format for the adverb $z\dot{a}i$. If the word $z\dot{a}i$ is placed before the negative word (in this example the negative word is $b\dot{u}$ 'no'), it means that the activity will never happen again, whereas if it's placed after the negative word, it means the activity has stopped but might happen again.

At the other case as follows:

(25) Yǔ zài bu tíng, míngtiān de bǐsài jiù rain again no stop tomorrow AUX game will chéng wèntí le. become problem PART

'If the rain doesn't stop, tomorrow's game will be a problem.'



It's important to note that when zài is placed before the negative word bù 'no', and the sentence has two

conditions, in this example is yǔ bu tíng 'the rain doesn't stop' and míngtiān de bǐsài jiù chéng wèntí le 'tomorrow's game will be a problem', it carries an implied meaning of "if".

- 4. The adverb *yòu* has the function of emphasizing a turning point or contradiction, whereas the adverbs *zài* and *lagi* do not have this function.
 - (26) *You jiàn shì xiǎng gàosù nǐ, yòu pà* there NUMCL matter want tell you ADV afraid *nǐ tīng le bù gāoxìng, nǐ xiǎng tīng* you hear PART no happy you want hear *ma*? MOOD PART

'There's something I want to tell you, but I'm afraid you'll be unhappy to hear it, do you want to hear it?'

In the example above, the word $y\partial u$ is used to express contradiction between the verb *xiǎng* 'want' (the first one) and pa 'afraid', instead of *zài*, therefore the translation in English is using 'but', instead of 'again'. Likewise in Indonesian is using the word *tetapi* 'but', instead of *lagi*.

(27) Ada sesuatu yang ingin saya beritahu kepada there matter which want I tell to kamu, tetapi saya khawatir kamu tidak akan you but I worry you no will senang, apakah kamu ingin men-dengar-nya?". happy what you want ACT-hear-3sg

There's something I want to tell you, but I'm afraid you'll be unhappy to hear it, do you want to hear it?

Thus, because of this function, you in the example (26) can be replaced by danshi 'but'.

(28) Yǒu jiàn shì xiǎng gàosù nǐ, **dànshì** pà there NUMCL matter want tell you but afraid nǐ tīng le bù gāoxìng, nǐ xiǎng tīng you hear PART no happy you want hear ma? MOOD PART

'There's something I want to tell you, but I'm afraid you'll be unhappy to hear it, do you want to hear it?'

5. The word *lagi* has the function of indicating ongoing activities, whereas the adverbs *zài* and *yòu* do not have this function.

For example:

(29) Jangan berisik, ibu lagi tidur. don't noisy mother ADV sleep

'Don't make noise, mom is sleeping.'

In this sentence the adverb *lagi* indicates that the activity *tidur* 'to slep' is currently in progress.

- 6. In the sentences contains the verbs indicates an ability or willing, the adverb *zài* should be placed after those verb, and the adverb *yòu* should be placed in front of the verb. In Indonesian, the adverb *lagi* should be placed at the end of the sentence. Examples:
 - (30) *Wǒ xiǎng zài chī jiǎozǐ*. I want again eat dumpling

'I want to eat dumplings again.'

(31) Wǒ yòu xiǎng chī jiǎozǐ le. I again want eat dumpling PART

'I want to eat dumplings again.'

(32) Saya ingin membaca buku novel ini lagi. I want ACT-read book novel this again



'I want to read this novel again.'

In the sentence (30), the adverb *zài* is placed after the verb that indicates an ability or willing *xiǎng* 'want', and the semantic pointing of *zài* 'again' refers to the repetition of the action $ch\bar{i}$ 'eat'. On the other hand, the adverb *yòu* 'again' in the sentence (31) is placed before the verb *xiǎng* 'want', and the semantic pointing of *yòu* refers to the repetition of the verb *xiǎng* 'want'. In the Indonesian example (32) contains the verbs indicates an ability or willing *ingin* 'want', and the adverb *lagi* 'again' is placed at the end of the sentence.

Table I Comparison of Chinese Adverbs Zài, Yòu, and Indonesian Adverbs Lagi

Fungtion or meaning	Chinese Adverbs		Indonesian Adverbs
	zài	yòu	lagi
Indicating whether the activity will occur in the future or has not yet occurred	Yes	Yes	Yes
Indicating that the activity happened in the past or has already occurred.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Indicating that the activity occurs in large quantities and is constant.	Yes	Yes	No
Expanding the scope by providing additional information.	Yes	Yes	No
Indicating sequential actions or events.	Yes	Yes	No
The contextual meanings of "adding an action" and "more".	Yes	No	Yes
Emphasizing the preceding word or sentence.	No	Yes	Yes
Explaining the presence of two situations or conditions that are the same and occurring simultaneously.	No	Yes	Yes
Indicating something "more,".	Yes	No	Yes
Carries the implied meaning of "no matter how still".	Yes	No	No
Placements in negative sentences.	Behind the negation words	In front of the negation words	Behind the negation words and the verbs
Emphasizing a turning point or contradiction.	No	Yes	No
Indicating ongoing activities.	No	No	Yes
In the sentences contains the verbs indicates an ability or willing.	Before the verbs	In front of the verbs	At the end of the sentence.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the analysis of the comparison between the adverbs zai, you, and lagi, this research can draw the conclusion that among these three words, they have similarities and differences as follows:

- 1. The words *zài*, *yòu*, and *lagi* have the function of indicating repetition in both the future and the past.
- 2. The words $z \dot{a}i$ and $y \dot{o}u$ can indicate activities with a large quantity, expand the scope, and denote sequential actions.



- 3. The word *zài* and the word *lagi* have a contextual meaning of "adding an action," whereas the word *yòu* does not have this function.
- 4. The word *zài* can indicate something "more" and has an implicit meaning of "no matter how... still..." while the words *yòu* and *lagi* do not have this function.
- 5. The words $y \partial u$ and *lagi* can emphasize the meaning that precedes them, explaining two situations or events that are the same at the same time.
- 6. The word $y \partial u$ can explain two conflicting situations or events happening at the same time and strengthen the point of contrast or contradiction, while the words $z \partial i$ and lagi do not have this function.
- 7. The word *lagi* can indicate ongoing activities.
- 8. The word $z \dot{a} i$ is placed after a verb indicating ability, the word $y \dot{o} u$ is placed before a verb indicating ability, and the word *lagi* has a relatively flexible placement.

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