The Application of the Pleco Application in Learning Chinese During the Pandemic

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Abstract. Many people know that mandarin is the most difficult language in the world and many people do not understand mandarin either from writing or reading inappropriate tones. In Mandarin, 4 tones are used. And there are still many people who have not been able to adjust it . and in this case the author can analyze the advantages and disadvantages of the pleco application compared to other applications in using the mandarin language and the benefits of the pleco application in learning mandarin for mandarin students. The purpose of this study is to describe the advantages and disadvantages of the pleco application compared to using other translation applications and the benefits and uses of the pleco application in learning mandarin. The method used in this study is a quantitative descriptive method. Sources of data in this study are interview and test guidelines. The data were analyzed using the formula for the average value and time NR/WR=∑/N. The results of the analysis show that the pleco application has advantages and disadvantages compared to a text dictionary and has benefits in learning Chinese, while the advantages of the pleco application compared to a text dictionary are that it is more practical, and the disadvantages of the pleco application are word translation in English. The test results show that the pleco application has benefits, the average value obtained using the pleco application is 83,853 with an average time of 19,756 minutes while the value obtained using a text dictionary is 83,195 with an average time of 26 minutes.

Keywords: *Pleco* application; Dictionary translate; Learning Media

1 Introduction

Pleco is one of the results of technological developments that help students in learning Mandarin today. Pleco is a Chinese-English digital dictionary software or English-Chinese which has a variety of features that can be used its users and one of its functions is not only seeking understanding a vocabulary only, but Pleco is also used to search for pīnyīn (sound pronunciation) of a hànzì (character) or vice versa, not only that, Pleco also serves to find the meaning of a language vocabulary Mandarin into English or vice versa. The presence of the pleco very helpful for students who are learning Mandarin. Nowadays, foreign language learning has been found in many universities Indonesian, especially Mandarin. Learn Mandarin in Indonesia is currently a very important need in facing the era of globalization

globalization. Not only in college, at the school level too Mandarin has been included in the curriculum. This shows that Mandarin learning in Indonesia from time to time has experienced This is a significant development and is of great interest to many people.The importance of mastering a foreign language, especially Mandarin in this era globalization is now increasingly felt by the community. Therefore, no few of them learn Mandarin. Even though in Mandarin so in demand, but the difficulty of learning Mandarin is very felt by the Mandarin learner. The reason is, not a few of them who learn Mandarin feel bored and frustrated. According to Ellis (1994) in Rosyidi (2009:17) foreign language learning is a complex process with various complicated phenomenaso it is not surprising that this can mean different things to different people. Whatever the conditions, learning a foreign language starts after someone has its own language tradition that is rooted in his mind so that conditioning is needed to be ready to accept the new tradition of the language studied (Rosyidi, 2009:19). Learning a foreign language is a strenuous and tedious endeavor sometimes it frustrates people. That's because learning the language foreign is an attempt to shape and build the situation and condition new in a person to be able to interact and communicate with foreign language owner. The new conditions he experiences (foreign language) sometimes completely different from the condition of the mother tongue, both at the level of the sound system, syllables, words and word order, and sometimes have similarities to condition of his mother tongue (Rosyidi, 2009:18).The above conditions are the same as what students are currently experiencing Chinese Literature, especially Stambuk 2014 in learning Mandarin. They have to adapt to the conditions of the Chinese language which have a significant difference with Indonesian or mother tongue, Example: the use of the tone (shengdiao) and the character (hanzi) in Chinese, while it is not found in Chinese Indonesia. It's those kinds of differences that make students The Mandarin language must adapt itself to learning Mandarin language.

Therefore, not a few of them feelboredom and difficulty in learning the Mandarin language. To relieve boredom and relieve the feeling of difficulty experienced in learning Mandarin, they do it in various ways. One of them is by taking advantage of current technological developments, namely: by using the media as a tool for them to learn Mandarin language.In the teaching and learning process, the presence of the media has a role which is very important, because in these activities the lack of clarity of the materials used delivered can be helped by presenting the media as an intermediary. Besides Therefore, the complexity of teaching materials that will be delivered to students can be easily easily conveyed through the help of the media. Thus, students are moreeasy to understand the learning materials delivered by the teacher. So that,students will be more stimulated and motivated to learn more good, if the media used strongly supports the interests and desires of students and make it easier for them to learn effectively and efficiently. Learning media is a combination of hardware and software software (Soeparno, 1987: 3 in Rosyidi, 2009: 26). Aim the main use of learning media so that messages or information that communicated can be absorbed as much as possible by students as recipient of information (Soeparno, 1987: 5 in Rosyidi, 2009: 28).One type of media used by Chinese Literature students the 2020 stamp in their learning activities is electronic media, which is a Pleco digital dictionary. An app invented by Michael Love in 2000 was greatly utilized by the Chinese Literature Students with the 2020 registration of the Faculty Cultural Studies, University of North Sumatra in learning Mandarin. The presence of the Pleco application which is equipped with various features is very important help students in teaching and learning activities, be it when studying at school campus or at home.

2   Research Methods

Method is an organized and well thought out way to achieve intent (in science, and so on); Systematic way of working to facilitate the implementation of an activity to achieve the desired goal determined (Djadjasudarma, 1993:1). According to MC. Millan and Schumacher in Hadeli 2006:2, research method is a way of collecting and processing data developed to obtain knowledge or answers to problems through reliable or trustworthy procedures. The research method used to collect data inThis research is a quantitative research method and qualitative research. Quantitative research methods are research that only uses instruments and/or playing with numbers only (Suyanto and Sutinah, 2005: 136), while the qualitative research method is a research that intends to understand the phenomenon of what is experienced by the subject research such as behavior, perception, motivation, action, etc., holistically and by means of description in the form of words and language, at a special contexts that are natural and by utilizing various natural methods (Moleong, 2006: 6).In this case the author aims to describe the use of pleco in improving the learning of Mandarin vocabulary for students Chinese Literature 2020 stamp of the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, University of North Sumatra.

3 Results and Discussions

The development of technology today is very influential on the progress of education. Media is one of the results of technological developments that are used to eliminate boredom and relieve the sense of difficulties experienced by students. With the media, the obscurity of teaching materials or subject matter can be helped by presenting the media as an intermediary. In addition, the complexity of teaching materials to be delivered to students can be easily conveyed through the help of the media. Thus, it is easier for students to understand the learning materials delivered by the teacher. Thus, students will be more stimulated and motivated to learn better, if the media used really supports the interests and desires of students and makes it easier for them to learn effectively and efficiently. Pleco is one of the results of current technological developments whose function is to help users learn Mandarin. The Pleco application was first created in May 2001 by Michael Love. The current development of the pleco has also been used by students of Chinese Literature Faculty of Cultural Sciences, University of North Sumatra, especially the Class of 2020. The presence of the pleco is greatly utilized in supporting the development of their Mandarin learning process both in class and in doing assignments at home. Based on research that has been carried out by the author using a qualitative descriptive method to students of Chinese Literature, Cultural Sciences, University of North Sumatra, Class of 2020 who use the Pleco application, it can be concluded that the presence of the Pleco application as a media tool in the learning process of Mandarin helps Chinese Literature students of the Faculty of Science. The culture of the University of North Sumatra, especially the Class of 2020 in learning Mandarin. The informants also do not know and use all the features contained in the pleco, this can be seen in the answers of the informants when the writer asks if they know and understand every feature that is in the pleco. The informants only mentioned a few features, such as handwriting, pinyin finder, OCR (camera), radicals, and voice search. Apart from the features mentioned by the informants, there are still some features that are not known or used by the informants, such as browse entries (a list of words in the dictionary), and the new test. Although the informants did not use all the features contained in the pleco, the informants had felt helped by the existence of the pleco. Not only did they find it helpful, the informants also felt the benefits after using the

pleco as the informants understood the tone better, knew more vocabulary, had better grammar and made it easier to do tasks. The quantitative table shows that the majority of respondents initially knew pleco from lecturers while on qualitative data and informants also answered that informants knew about pleco, namely from lecturers, pleco helped them in learning Mandarin, as well as qualitative data which showed that informants felt helped by the presence of pleco. With the above explanation, the presence of the Pleco as a medium for learning Mandarin helps and is beneficial for Chinese Literature students, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, University of North Sumatra.

3.1 Pleco application advantages and disadvantages

Mandarin is the second international language after English. One of the differences between Chinese and English lies in the way of writing, the alphabet is used in English, while Chinese does not use the alphabet, but uses (read Han4 Zi4) in writing characters. According to the website www.harianinhuaonline.com, more than 100,000 Chinese characters have been included in the Chinese dictionary and that number will increase as the language develops. The website gives an idea that if you can master approximately 2,500 words, it means that you are able to carry out daily conversations in Mandarin fluently. The main problem with Chinese is how to remember these characters, while using a thick dictionary will be very heavy and a burden to carry around and make it difficult to use a dictionary in the form of a book? Furthermore, I will explain that the "Pleco" application is a dictionary application that does not need to hold a thick dictionary and does not burden you, so it doesn't need to be a burden to carry everywhere because this dictionary is already on your smartphone, so it's easy to download via the PlayStore. (for Android users) and AppStore (for iPhone users). In the following I will show the appearance of the "Pleco" application through the PlayStore

Fig. 1. Pleco on Playstore

In addition, it is easy to download via Android or Apple smartphones, I will explain the advantages of using the "Pleco" application, namely:
1. Helping you to recognize Chinese characters in both simplified Chinese and traditional Chinese. This application helps with the presence of (Pin1 Yin1), making it easier for you to read the character and is equipped with a voice feature that will help you to hear how the

native speaker pronounces the character. Fitur karakter Mandarin, 拼音 (Pin1 Yin1) dan tombol suara untuk mendengarkan cara pengucapan karakter tersebut.
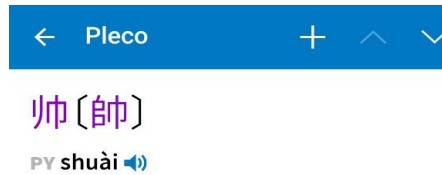

Fig. 2. Pin1 Yin1

2. Makes it easier for you to understand these characters including nouns, verbs, adjectives or adverbs that are equipped with example sentences and how to pronounce these examples. Fitur "Pleco" dilengkapi penjelasan yang lengkap dan contoh kalimat serta cara pengucapannya.
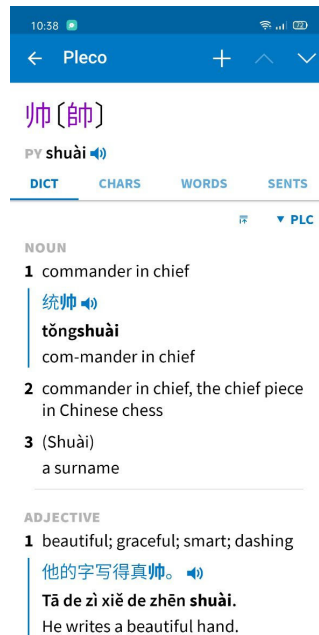

Fig. 3. nouns, verbs, adjectives or adverbs

3. The "Pleco" feature provides an example of a clause in the form of combining 2 (two) or more words, thus creating a new meaning. Example: The main character (Shuai4) means handsome, while (Shuai4 Cai2) means a person who is handsome and has special talents who are very suitable to be a leader. Fitur "Pleco" menunjukkan contoh klausa dari karakter tersebut.

Fig. 4. "Pleco" feature provides an example of a clause in
the form of combining 2 (two) or more words

4. This application can help you to understand examples of proverbs used in Mandarin because in everyday life, native speakers often use proverbs. Example proverb: (Yi1 Wu2 Suo3 You3) means that in this world you are not the only one who can have it (translated into Indonesian). Fitur "Pleco" memberikan contoh peribahasa, cara membaca dan contoh kalimat.
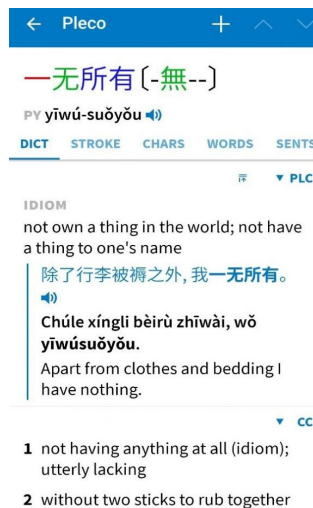

Fig. 5. help you to understand examples of proverbs used in Mandarin

4 Conclusion and Suggestion

4.1 Conclusion

Based on the presentation and analysis of data that has been carried out in accordance with the methodological steps that have been determined and have been implemented, conclusions can be drawn:

1. The presence of the Pleco application as a learning medium or a tool for learning Mandarin for Chinese Literature students, Faculty of Humanities, University of Sumatra Batch 2014 has been quite helpful both in doing assignments at home and studying on campus. Although the Pleco application still has shortcomings. However, informants still use it well.
2. From the results of the research that the author did, the authors concluded that the respondents in this study were quite aware and understood the application of the pleco. This can be seen when the informants explain that the informants know and understand only some of the features of the Pleco, only that the names of the features mentioned by the respondents are not the same as the explanations on the Pleco website.
3. The author can conclude that the pleco application is useful for the learning process of Mandarin Chinese Literature, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, University of Sumatra Force 2020. This can be seen in the answers of the informants who stated that the pleco application was useful in supporting the Mandarin learning process even though the application had several weaknesses. . But that right does not reduce their enthusiasm in using it.

4.2 Suggestions

Based on the results of research and observations that the authors obtained during the research, the authors propose a number of suggestions as follows:

1. Pleco application to increase its features so that the parts learned in Chinese can be learned in the application.
2. The features contained in the Pleco application should not need to be installed before using it, so that users can take advantage of all the features properly.
3. Although the pleco application helps the learning process of Mandarin for Chinese Literature students, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, North Sumatra University, students should not always rely on pleco because practically every word, script, pinyin that is sought should be studied well so that when studying the same thing no need to use pleco anymore.

Based on the author's experience as a user, he often looks for words that have been searched before so that sometimes the author becomes dependent on pleco.

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