

## BETWEEN ENGLISH AND MANDARIN: A CONTRASTIVE STUDY OF INTERROGATIVE SENTENCES AMONG INDONESIAN TEXTBOOKS

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**ABSTRACT** Indonesian students in senior high school in the language program found it difficult to make both English interrogative sentences and Mandarin interrogative sentences. To assist the English and Mandarin teachers in overcoming the problem, a contrastive study of both English and Mandarin interrogative sentences needs to be investigated. Hence, this article purposes to reveal the similarities and differences between English and Mandarin interrogative sentences found in Indonesian textbooks used by teachers. Qualitative descriptive research was used by describing both similarities and differences. The result generates several similarities and differences in interrogative sentences between English and Mandarin. Both languages are similar because they both have five kinds of interrogative sentences which have the same meaning and required similar answers. Among five types of interrogative sentences in English or Mandarin, some of them use several predicates and object simultaneously in one question. The use of the auxiliary verb in English and Mandarin's interrogative sentence is dissimilar. In English interrogative sentences, auxiliary verbs are used accord with the tenses used, while in Mandarin they are not. Besides, auxiliary verbs in English interrogative sentences must precede the subject, but in Mandarin, they are at the end of the sentence.

**Keywords:** contrastive study, interrogative sentence, English, Mandarin

### INTRODUCTION

Language is needed in daily conversation to express feelings and actions. People can not communicate without Language as a tool of communication, communication is very important in human life, making interaction and all sorts of activities in the community will not be smooth without Language. Similarly, through language, the culture of a nation can be shaped, nurtured, developed, and handed down to the following. The Language there was used as a means to convey ideas, thoughts, passions, and desires to others. The point is that humans can express ideas, thoughts of cravings, and desires to others by using the Language so that it is understandable to everyone and will continue to evolve following the development of science.

English is the international language derived from the Germanic Language family. People from diverse backgrounds geography, religion, and culture, use English to communicate with each other. Indonesian society in general now can use English to communicate. As a foreign language, learners learn English syntax is complex. Zahro (2018) stated that learners' Syntactic mastery of a second language (L2) or foreign language is much more complex including English and Mandarin.

In addition, Mandarin or Putonghua is the most widely used language in China. Mandarin is the Official Language of the People's Republic of China (PRC) that comes from clumps of Sino-Tibetan. At present, the Chinese Language became one of the Languages used for very rapid growth in Indonesia after English. Therefore, the Indonesian people are very interested in not only knowing but also learning the Mandarin language. The existence of Mandarin has also been recognized in the world internationally and as one of the official languages used by the United Nations.

Mandarin comes from the Qing Dynasty founded by the Manchu. In ancient times (Qing Dynasty), the Mandarin Language was only spoken by officials (official=*daren* 大人; Manchu officials= *man daren* 满大人). Therefore foreigners call this Language an official language of the Manchu (*man daren* 满大人), which was better known as Mandarin. (Kristina, et. Al., 2014)

Both English and Mandarin are studied by students in the language program of Indonesian senior high school as the mandatory language to master. Both also have similar and

different sentence formations. have an interrogative sentence that implies a question to obtain the answer from the parties asked including interrogative sentences. A preliminary study showed that students in language programs found it difficult to make an interrogative sentence both in English and Mandarin. In general, the characteristics of the interrogative sentence are using rising intonation in spoken language, the question words, and the question mark at the end of the sentence. But the difference is still unknown. The study to reveal the difference is known as contrastive linguistics analysis.

Contrastive linguistics is a study that examines the language differences and inequalities between two languages or more (Tarigan, 1987:226). Thus, the differences and similarities between the two languages, both in grammar or other aspects of linguistics can be examined and learned especially for those who want to learn a particular language. There is a linguistic problem that contrastive analysis cannot reveal, that is the difficulties from incomplete learning, or inadequate understanding, of the structure of the second or foreign language. The contrastive analysis assumes that the main causes or even the sole cause of difficulty and error in learning a second or foreign language are interference from the learner's native or other languages they learned. It has been shown, however, that a large proportion of learner's errors is the result of interference from previously taught second language material. Indonesian learners who learn English and Mandarin found those difficulties based on the previous study.

Based on the problem above, the need for examining English and Mandarin as both foreign languages for Indonesian learners is inevitably an important investigation. Contrastive analyses between English and Mandarin are expected to result in possible contrasts between both languages illustrated. The paper aims to compare English and Mandarin interrogative sentences. The result of this study is expected to be beneficial for the English and Mandarin teachers, especially in the language program of senior high school to overcome interference problems that can occur between learning both languages.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Interrogative Sentence

An interrogative sentence is a sentence that asks something. In other words, it is a question. An interrogative sentence always ends with a question mark which makes it easy to find. Along with the other types of sentences like declarative and exclamatory sentences, interrogative sentences make up the common parts of conversations. By using interrogative sentences, speakers can do a lot of different things like getting information, making requests or suggestions, etc. Among many types of grammar, the one that is considered quite problematic in question, especially interrogative sentences. English interrogative sentence is quite problematic, the interrogative sentence of Mandarin is followed the basic word order subject-verb-object. This article is expected to be able to compare interrogative sentences in English and Mandarin

### Interrogative Sentence in English

There are several types of sentences asked in English. In general, the question sentence is formed by placing auxiliary verbs, such as *can, will, shall, may, should, could, might, is, am, are, do, does, have, has, and had* to precede the subject of the sentence. According to Azar (2016), there are five types of Interrogative sentences in English. That is Yes/No question, WH question, negative question, alternative question, and affirmative question.

#### 1) Yes/No Question

Yes/No Question is an interrogative sentence that can be answered with yes or no that usually begins with auxiliary verbs.

#### 2) WH Question

WH Question is an interrogative sentence that required to use of wh-words and is answered with yes or no. The wh-words are *when, where, why, how, who, whom, whose, what, and which*.

### 3) Negative Question

The purpose of using this sentence is to state intent or attitude. This sentence has a similarity with the yes/no question because it only requires a yes/no answer but is presented in a negative question. However, the difference with the yes/no question is to use the negation word “not” after the auxiliary.

### 4) Alternative Question

An alternative question is an interrogative sentence that offers an alternative to the person being asked. This question should be answered by choosing the alternatives offered. This interrogative sentence is often so-called the “or” question because it always uses the word “or”. This type of question also uses auxiliary verbs placed in front of the subject

### 5) Affirmation Question

An affirmation question is used to ask the listener to agree with his or her opinion.

## Interrogative Sentence in Mandarin

### 1) 是非疑问句 (*Shi Fei Yi Wen Ju*)

Using particle interrogative words like 吗 (*ma*) 吧 (*ba*) 好吗 (*hao ma*) 行吗 (*xing ma*) 可以吗 (*ke yi ma*) 对吗 (*dui ma*) placed at the end of the sentence.

### 2) 特指问句 (*Te Zhi Wen Ju*)

Using words 哪儿 (*na er*) 什么 (*shen me*) and 怎么 (*zen me*) as an interrogative word.

### 3) 证反问句 (*Zheng Fan Wen Ju*)

Using 不 (*bu*) and 没 (*mei*) on every question in this sentence is like a word 是不是 (*shi bu shi*) 对不对 (*dui bu dui*) 好不好 (*hao bu hao*) 行不行 (*xing bu xing*) and 有没有 (*you mei you*).

### 4) 选择问句 (*Xuan Ze Wen Ju*)

Using word 还是 (*hai shi*) which aims to ask a choice and can also be inserted as a question word in this type of sentence.

### 5) 反问句 (*Fan Wen Ju*)

Using question word 哪儿啊 (*na er...a*) and 是不吗 (*bu shi...ma*)

## Contrastive Analysis

Contrastive analysis is used to compare two or more synchronous languages to find differences. In linguistics, contrastive analysis can be in the form of a comparison of certain elements which are seen from the differences between two or more languages as the comparison object. The study of contrastive analysis with mother tongue and second or foreign language can be found in many studies intended to describe differences in the rule between the two languages.

The contrastive analysis can deal with two important aspects, the linguistic and psycholinguistics aspects. Linguistic aspects related to the issue of the comparison of the two languages. In this case, two important considerations are needed to make (1) what will be compared, and (2) how they are compared. The procedures of contrastive analysis in syntax are comparing the grammatical form of two languages to identify their differences. The differences between the two languages are analyzed and can be used as a foundation to predict language learning difficulties or problems faced in learning second or foreign languages

## METHODS

### Research Design

Qualitative research presents the data and research in the form of qualitative description. Analysis of this type is done with words to describe the conclusion, so the qualitative study obtains the descriptive data either spoken or written. Qualitative research focuses on examining how deep the researcher’s knowledge of the interaction among concepts is examined. Descriptive qualitative research is designed to obtain information concerning the status of phenomena and it is directed to determine a situation. The purpose of this study is to describe two components of language. They are the English and Mandarin interrogative sentences. The purpose of descriptive qualitative research is more descriptive than predictive to understand a research object in-depth. Therefore, this study employed a contrastive study of English and Mandarin to describe the comparison of the interrogative sentence of both languages.

### Data and Data Sources

The data used in the research are interrogative sentences in English and Mandarin. In this research, the researcher takes the data as data sources from several books, papers, words and sentences, and the internet written in English and Mandarin. Some English books used are *Understanding and Using English Grammar (Fifth edition)*, *English books K13 revised edition (2014)*, and *Oxford learners pocket Dictionary (Fourth edition)*. Additionally, Mandarin books which have relation to the adverb of time material are: *Bahasa Mandarin 10 Class for Senior High School*, *会话 Conversation 1 Member of Jawa Pos ITC centre*, *Otodidak Belajar Bahasa Mandarin (2011)*, *Modul Bahasa Mandarin*, and *Kamus Bahasa Mandarin*.

### Data Collection Techniques

To collect data the researcher reads some English and Mandarin books and other relevant texts. Therefore, the technique used in this study is an observation by reading text. The data collection techniques were conducted as follows: 1) reading some book or text several times to observe the word formation in English and Mandarin, 2) studying the sentences to find the suitable data, 3) writing down the data found and, 4) Coding the data.

### Data Analysis Techniques

The data were analyzed through contrastive analysis to find the similarities and the differences in interrogative sentences between English and Mandarin. Contrastive analysis is a procedure of comparison of the languages to identify the differences between both languages in terms of their interrogative sentences. The researcher tries to find out the similarities and the differences between English and Mandarin interrogative sentences by contrasting the two languages through certain categories. The category is similar to the types of interrogative sentences found in both languages as described in the results and discussions.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the result of research on interrogative sentences in English and Mandarin, the researcher found similarities and differences in both foreign languages. It was found by the researcher that there are five types of queries in English and Mandarin language where the purpose and meaning of the use are the same the five types of interrogative sentence is:

Table 1. The comparison between Types of Interrogative sentences (IS) in English and Mandarin

English		Mandarin	
Types of IS	Example		
Yes/No Question	Do you go to school today?	是非疑问句(Shi Fei Yi Wen Ju)	你今天去学校吗? Ni jintian qu xuexiao ma?
WH Question	Who can answer that question?	特指问句(TeZhi Wen Ju)	谁能回答那个问题? Shuinenghui da nageventi?
Negative question	Isn't he your class monitor?	证反问句(Zheng Fan Wen Ju)	他是不是你们的班长? Ta shibushinimen de banzhang?

Alternative questions	<i>Are you going to school or the airport?</i>	选择问句(XuanZe Wen Ju)	你去学校还是去机场? <i>Ni quxuexiaohaishi qijichang?</i>
Tag question	<i>You like tea, don't you?</i>	反问句(Fan Wen Ju)	你是不是喜欢喝茶吗? <i>Ni shibushixihuan he cha ma?</i>

Based on the result of the above research, the similarities and differences of interrogative sentences in English and mandarin accord with the five types above. The comparison of both types of interrogative sentences in English and mandarin is discussed in the next section respectively.

**Yes/No Question or 是非问句 (Shifei Wen Ju)**

In Mandarin four characteristics include the type of this question. To see the similarities and differences between interrogative sentences in English and mandarin, especially in yes/no questions, below is the comparison between both sentences.

Table 2. Types of Mandarin Yes-No Questions

No	Yes-No Question Examples			
1	你 Ni	是 Shi	老师 Laoshi	吗? ma?
	Subject	particle	Object	Interrogative word
	Are you a teacher?			
2	你 Ni	是 Shi	老师 Laoshi	
	Subject	Particle	Object	
	You a teacher?			
3	我们 Women	听 Ting	音乐 Yin yue	好吗? Hao ma?
	We	Listen	Music	What?
	Subject	predicate	Object	Interrogative word
	How about we listen to music?			
4	他 Ta	明天 Mingtian	回国 Huiguo	吧? Ba
	He	Tomorrow	Back to country	Does?
	Subject	Time signal	Object	Interrogative word
	Does he back to the country tomorrow			

Four characteristics of Mandarine Yes-No questions are as the following:

1. The question with 吗 (ma) as an interrogative word  
 This type of question placed an interrogative word 吗 (ma) at the end of the sentence and ended with a question mark. The response to this question is about the uncertain answer.
2. The question with 好吗 hao ma / 行吗 xing ma / 可以吗 ke yi ma / 对吗 dui ma interrogative words  
 The answers given to this question accord with a refusal.
3. The question with an interrogative tone  
 This type of question does not require "吗" (ma), but simply uses the interrogative tone and ends with the question mark.
4. The question with (吧ba).  
 The characteristic of this question is ending a sentence with (吧ba) followed by a question mark. This type of question is used if the answer given is a definite answer.

The similarities and differences between the yes/no question in English and Mandarin can be compared below.

Table 3. The Comparison between English and Mandarin Yes-No Questions

	English				Mandarin			
1	Are	You	A	Student?	你	是	学生	吗?



					Ni	Shi	xuesheng	Ma?
	Aux.	Subject	Vocal	object	subject	Particle	Object	Interrogative word
2	Does	She	speak	English?	他 ta	说 shuo	英语 Yingyu	吗? Ma?
	Aux.	Subject	predicate	Object	subject	Predicate	object	Interrogative word

It can be seen from the above comparisons that the second example is the same. The answers to both second examples are "yes" and "no. In contrast, the differences found were as follows. First, the auxiliary verb in an English question is always placed at the beginning of the sentence, is preceded by the subject, and functions as an interrogative word. The auxiliary verbs used in English yes/no questions are different. It is affected by any action on the question. If the question does not contain an action, then the auxiliary verb used is "is, am, are". The second difference is the question word particles used in Mandarin are 吗 (ma) 对吗 (dui ma), and 可以吗 (keyi ma) at the end of the sentence. Third, the difference found was in the arrangement pattern between English and Mandarin.

#### WH Question or 特指问句 (tezhi wen ju)

This type of interrogative sentence also has similarities to the previous Question, that sentence requires particles and terminated the symbol '?'. There are some things to note when using this question, among others, are:

- 1) Particle 吗 (ma) cannot be used in this type of question and sentence.
- 2) Particles 哪儿/什么 and 怎么 (naer/shen me/zen me) can only be used in this type of question.
- 3) Other particles like 啊 or 呢 (a or ne) can be used at the end of the sentence asked. Both of these particles is aiming to form tone interrogative.
- 4) Particle 呢 (ne) can not be used at the end of a sentence.
- 5) Placement of pronouns can be placed on the subject, predicate, and object as if the pronoun is functioning to ask something.

Table 4. The Function of wh-words in English

wh-words	The Function
Who	to ask about those that served as the subject of the sentence.
What	to ask about an inanimate object that serves as the subject or object of a sentence.
Where	to ask about the place.
When	to ask about the time.
Whom	to ask about those that served as the object of the sentence.
Whose	to inquire about ownership.
Which	inquire about two or more alternatives that can be selected by the person who asked.
Why	to ask the reason.
How	to ask the way or manner

Similar to the yes/no question, the English wh-question also always uses the auxiliary verb that is placed before the subject of the sentence, unless the sentence with the word question and asked about the subject as in "who". The following are the comparisons of wh-questions in English and Mandarin.

Table 5. The Comparison of wh-questions in English and Mandarin

Example Interrogative Sentence
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English					Mandarin				
Whom	Did	You	See?		你	看		谁?	
Interrogative word	Aux.	Subject	Predicate		subject	predicate		Interrogative word	
Where	Do	you	go?		你	要	去	那人?	
Interrogative word	Aux.	subject	predicate		Subject	Adjective	Predicate	Interrogative sentence	
How	Did	You	Come	To school?	你	坐	什么	来	学校?
Interrogative word	Aux.	Subject	predicate	object	subject	Verb	Interrogative word	verb	Object

First, the auxiliary verb in English remained placed after wh-words. While in Mandarin, interrogative particles like 吗 (ma), 对吗 (dui ma), and 可以吗 (keyi ma) can not be used. Second, the wh-word used in English consist of nine words: who, what, where, whom, whose, which, why, when, and how, while the wh-words used in Mandarin are three: namely哪儿... 啊 (naer ... a), 什么 (shen me), and 怎样 (zen me yang). The third difference is the placement of wh-words. In English, wh-words are always placed at the beginning of the sentence, while in Mandarin, the wh-words can be placed in the subject, predicate, and object. Fourth, the sentence pattern is different in English and Mandarin. The fifth difference is the usage of the predicate and the object in more than one question in a sentence in Mandarin.

### Negative Questions or 证反问句(zheng fan wen ju)

Mandarin predicate of the negative questions is using two interrogative particles: 不 (bu) and 是不是 (shibushi). In addition to the two particles, three particles can also be used i.e. particles 好不好 (haobuhao), 行不行 (xingbuxing), and 对不对 (dui bu dui). There are a few criteria for negative questions in Mandarin as follows.

1. The verb with particle should be placed after the subject.
2. Particle 吗 (ma) should not be used in this type of question and sentence.
3. Adverbs/extra words should not be used in a sentence this question. This is caused by the double verbs as the interrogative words.
4. Particles 呢 (ne), and 啊 (a) can be used to emphasize interrogative intonation.
5. Particle 是不是 (shibushi) can be used in all sentences because the particles described questions and are placed after the subject or at the beginning of the sentence.

The comparison of negative questions between English and Mandarin can be seen in Table 6 below.

Table 6. The Comparison of Negative Questions between English and Mandarin

	English				Mandarin				
1	Doesn't	She	live	In the dormitory?	他 ta	是不是 Shi bushi	住 zhu	在 Zai	宿舍? sushe
	Aux.	Not	Subj	Predicate	object	Inter. word	object	Inter.W	object
2	Don't	You	hungry?		你	是不是	肚子	饿?	
	Aux.+not	subject	Adjective		subject	Interrogative word	object	Adjective	
3	Don't	You	Go	To school	你 ni	是不是 Shi bushi	去 qu	学校? Xuexiao	
	Aux.+not	subject	predicate	Object	subject	Interrogative word	predicate	Object	

Based on the three negative questions above, it was found similarities and differences between negative questions in English and Mandarin. First, both of them are negative questions

required to be responded to by "Yes" and "No" by adding negation by “not” in English and the word 没 (mai)不 (bu) in Mandarin. Meanwhile, the difference is that in Mandarin, the negative question can be formed by another particle like 是不是 (shibushi) and 有没有 (you mei you).

**Alternative Questions or 选择文句(xuanze wen ju)**

It is found that alternative questions in Mandarin have some special aspects in making alternative questions as below.

1. The conjunction 还是 (haishi) is used in the alternative questions between two options and can be edged by words or phrases.
2. The answers given must be one of the options from the questions given.
3. The use of a question mark is placed at the end of the sentence since the tone produced by the conjunction is monotonous.

In addition to the special aspects of alternative questions in Mandarin, this type of question also has aspects that must be considered as the following.

- a. Particle 是 (shi) can be placed before asking the first choice, and should not be placed behind particles 还是 (haishi) because it can cause the wrong meaning, as in 他是你哥哥还是你弟弟(ta shinigegehaishinididi).
- b. The answers to alternative questions in Mandarin require the listeners to choose an option that can be either approval or denial.

Table 7. The Example of Alternative Questions in Mandarin

你	买	这本书	还是	那本书
Ni	Mai	Zhe ben shu	Haishi	Na ben shu
You	Buy	This book	Or	That book
Subject	Predicate	Object	conjunction	object
Which books do you want to buy? This book or that book?				

Based on the question above, the answer can be four options as below.

- 1) 都买 *doumai*, to answer that he bought the book.
- 2) 都不买 *doubumai*, to answer that he does not buy the book.
- 3) As with the other question, the sentence particle 吗 (*ma*) should not be used in this type of question because conjunction 还是 (*haishi*) functions to ask a choice.
- 4) Particle 呢 (*ne*) or 啊 (*a*) can be put at the end of a sentence that generates interrogative intonation.

The comparison of alternative questions between English and Mandarin can be seen in Table 8 below.

Table 8. The comparison of alternative questions between English and Mandarin

	你	喜欢	喝	咖啡	还是	茶?	
1	Ni	Xihuan	He	Kafei	haishi	cha?	
	Subject	adjective	predicate	Object	Conjunction	Object	
	What	Do	You	Like,	Coffee	or	Tea?
	Wh-word	Aux.	subject	adjective	Object	conjunction	Object
2	陈老师	讲	还是	林老师		讲?	
	Chenlaoshi	Jiang	Haishi	Lin laoshi		Jiang?	
	Subject	Predicate	Conjunction	Subject		predicate	
	Who	Speaks		Mr. Chen	or	Mr.Jiang?	
	Wh-word	Predicate		Subject	Conjunction	Subject	
3	Do	You	Watch	Television	Or	Listen To	Music?
	Aux.	Subject	predicate	object	Conjunction	predicate	object

Based on the comparison above, the similarity found are 1) both English and Mandarin contain options in the alternative questions, 2) both languages use predicate and object in more than one, and 3) both languages users may use interrogative words such as in English, wh-words or auxiliary words can be used, while in Mandarin, the word 是 (haishi) can be used. On



the other hand, differences are found in the use of interrogative words. auxiliary verbs and particles. In English, the auxiliary verbs must be placed in the front of the alternative question, while in Mandarin, the word particles in Mandarin alternative question should not be used.

**Tag question or 反问句(fan wen ju)**

In Mandarin, a tag question is a question to ask for approval or denial of a state without an answer. The characteristics of this question in Mandarin is using certain particle, like 啊哪儿 (naer ... a) and 是吗 (bushi...ma). The data for tag question examples in Mandarin are as below:

Table 9. Tag Question in Mandarin

Interrogative sentence without answer	Affirmation of meaning
他哪儿不知道啊?	他应该知道.
Ta na r buzhidao a?	Ta yinggaizhidao.
Does he not know?	He should be know.

It is found of ag questions in Mandarin must follow the following rules: 1) particle 哪儿 (naer) and 不是 (bush) should be placed before the emphasis part in which 啊 particle (a) and 吗 (ma) can be placed at end of a sentence, and 2) a word or phrase can be placed between the particle 哪儿。。阿 (naer ... a) and 不是。。吗 (bushi ... ma) as in 您是校长吗? (ninbushixiaozhang ma?) while the word 校长 (xiaozhang) can be placed between the conjunction 不是。。吗 (bushi ... ma). In Mandarin, tag questions can be used in all types of sentences only by adding a question mark placed at the end of the sentence.

Tag question in Mandarin has special uses; 1) when the conjunction 哪儿。阿(naer .. a) is used as a question without an answer, an emphasis on tone conjunction should be done. 2) the preceding use is also applied to the conjunction不是。。吗(bushi ... ma), 3) particle 是 (shi) is used only once when the particle described the verb and the particle pair after 不是 (bushi), 4) the purpose of using of particles不是。。吗 (bushi ... ma) is asked to affirm a question that is given, 5) if particles 不是 (bushi) placed before the subject, then that sentence pattern is subject and predicate.

Below are examples of the comparison of tag questions in English and Mandarin

Table 10. The Comparison of Tag Question in English and Mandarin

English				Mandarin					
You	Like	Tea	Don't You?	你 ni	□不是 Bu shi	喜欢 Xihuan	喝 he	茶 cha	吗? Ma
Subject	Adjective	Object	Aux.+ tag+subject	subject	Interrogative word	adjective	verb	object	Interrogative word
You	Don't	Like	Tea,	Do	You?				
Subject	Aux.+not	Adjective	Object	Aux.	Subject				

The similarities of tag questions found in English and Mandarin are that the tag question existed in both English and Mandarin, and the answers can be "yes" and "no" or other answers of approval or denial. On the contrary, the difference of tag question in English and Mandarin are 1) the use of the English auxiliary verb can be more than once, while in Mandarin, using only two particles, interrogative words i.e. 不是。。吗(bushi...ma) and 哪儿。。啊 (naer ... a), and 2) to make English tag questions, users must follow some rules, while there are no rules to form a tag question in Mandarin.

**CONCLUSION**

After the discussion above, some conclusions about the comparison of interrogative questions between English and Mandarin can be drawn that both English and Mandarin have five types of interrogative questions with the same meaning. Those five types are Yes/No question, wh-question, negative question, alternative question, and affirmative question. In the

Yes-No question of both languages, the answers are the same using "yes" and "no. In addition, for certain types of interrogative sentences, the use of more than one subject, predicate, and object is allowed in both English and Mandarin. On the other hand, the auxiliary verb in an English question is placed at the beginning, is preceded by the subject, and functions as interrogative words, while in Mandarin the particles like 吗 (ma) 呢 (ne) 好吗 (hao ma) 可以吗 (ke yi ma) 对吗 (dui ma) always placed at the end of the sentence. Furthermore, English auxiliary verbs are various and used based on the subject use and the tenses used, but in Mandarin, there is no reliance on the subject or tenses to use certain particles.

Knowing the above result of the study, teachers are expected to take the results of both similarities and differences between interrogative sentences in English and Mandarin especially those who are teaching in the language program of senior high school as a reference to make or use any learning strategies, methods or techniques in an attempt to overcome interference problems that can occur between learning both languages. For future research, the analysis of another issue of word-formation of both languages other than interrogative sentences might be beneficial to further provide a deep understanding of the contrast between English and Mandarin.

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