COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF SYNTAX AND SEMANTICS SERING WITH JINGCHANG

Analisis Komparatif Sintaksis dan Semantik Sering dan Jingchang

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Abstract

The learning of a foreign language cannot be separated from an understanding of the structure and characteristics of that language, especially in terms of understanding grammar. This research aims to analyze the syntactic and semantic differences between the Indonesian word sering and the Mandarin word 经常 jingchang. The research method used in this writing is a qualitative method involving an analysis of two linguistic corpora, namely the Indonesian corpus and the Center for Chinese Linguistics PKU corpus. Based on the corpus data analysis, the results are as follows: 1. Sentence patterns and relationships between sentences in the Indonesian word sering can be used in declarative and interrogative sentence patterns; In sentence position, sering can be used in the middle of a sentence with the condition of use after verbs/adjectives that function as predicates. In informal usage, it can also be used at the beginning of a sentence, but not at the end of a sentence. In terms of synonym usage, the word sering can be used with action verbs, desires, existence, commands, decisions, and with adjectives indicating attitudes and feelings, but cannot be paired with adjectives indicating distance, form, and taste. 2. In terms of meaning, both the Indonesian word sering and the Mandarin word 经常 jingchang have the meaning of frequency and high intensity.

INTRODUCTION

An essential role is played by the examination of linguistic aspects in understanding the complexities of language systems, providing insights into the subtle details that influence communication.

The Indonesian word *sering* and its Mandarin equivalent 经常 Jingchang have attracted attention in this context due to their versatile usage and interpretation. Although these language expressions are rich, there is a limited amount of research dedicated to their syntactic and semantic analysis in scholarly literature and reference materials.

As linguistic experts have explored the meanings of these words separately, a significant disparity becomes apparent when it comes to a thorough comparison between the two languages, especially in terms of word associations and definitions. This study aims to fill this gap by exploring the complex elements of word order and semantics, aiming to uncover the unique syntactic and semantic characteristics inherent in *sering* in Indonesian and 经常 Jingchang in Mandarin.

Language systems interact at various levels, and the acquisition of Chinese characters, vocabulary, and grammar is often influenced by each other. Chinese competence can only progress when learners have well-developed Chinese characters, vocabulary, and grammar. (Chai & Bao, 2023). Within the realm of education, several significant obstacles arise, particularly about the management of classrooms, the methods employed in teaching, and the varied requirements and skill levels of Chinese students, which are of utmost importance (Pan et al., 2023).

Through comparison, differences between the two intended languages can be identified. Indonesian belongs to the Austronesian language family, while Mandarin belongs to the Sino-Tibetan language family. This results in several differences in word structure. According to (Rusiyono & Nurfadi, 2018), in their study on "mini projects" where Chinese students used Indonesian, the most common errors were related to letter usage and subject errors.

In terms of syntactic form, there is also a significant difference between the Mandarin word jingchang and the Indonesian word sering, which can be duplicated, for example: *sering-sering*. Shiyuan et al., (2019) stated in their research that reduplicated words convey the meaning of "increased quantity," reflecting the momentum or degree according to the nature of the word.

Therefore, the duplication of *sering-sering*, with its dual meaning, serves as a basis to conclude that the difference between the two words *sering* and *jingchang* is not limited to the meaning alone but also extends to the syntactic analysis of the words.

Moeliono & Indonesia (2017) stated that from a syntactic perspective, the adverb *sering* is placed before the word it describes (e.g., sering mogok). Semantically, *sering* functions as a frequent adverb, indicating a frequency-related meaning regarding the occurrence of the action described by the adverb (e.g., mereka sering mengabaikan tanggung jawabnya). Additionally, according to Nusarini (2017), *sering* can also be an adverb describing a meaning related to limitation. According to the KBBI (Indonesian Dictionary) online, *sering* carries the meaning of often; frequently.

Chinese is an agglutinative language that does not have morphological alterations and the categorization of Chinese adverbs is challenging since they encompass various semantic components of a sentence, such as modality, aspect, and the speaker's subjective opinion. (Sahertian, 2023; Xu et al., 2015)

In Mandarin, the word jingchang syntactically carries the meanings of advice (忠告 zhonggao) or suggestion (建议 jianyi). In usage within a sentence, the adverb jingchang
carries the meaning of being unrelated (离散) and denotes repetitive actions (Haiqing, 2006; Huayong, 2005).

Regarding its relationship with other words, jingchang can be combined with the negative word "不 (not)," for example: "坚持打太极拳以后, 安娜不经常感冒了 (Jiānchí dǎ tàijí quán yǐhòu, ānnà bù jīngcháng gǎnmào le - After persistently practicing Tai Chi, Anna does not often catch a cold). However, it cannot be combined with verbs with only one syllable, for example: *这种现象很 (常 / 经常)见, 不要大惊小怪 (Zhè zhǒng xiànxiàng hěn (cháng/ *jīngcháng) jiàn, bùyào dàjīngxiǎoguà - This phenomenon is very (often/*often) observed, don't be surprised) (Xin & Ruoyun, 2013). However, this contradicts Mengxian (2016) that said "jingchang" can be used with both one-syllable and two-syllable verbs.

Example: 这种事情这里 (经常/常常) 有。Zhè zhǒng shìqíng zhèlǐ (jīngcháng/chángcháng) yǒu (Hal semacam ini (sering/sering) terjadi di sini). Yisheng (2018) in the approach with corpus linguistic studies, states that the word "经常开展 Jingcháng kāizhǎn (often carried out), 经常使用 Jingcháng shǐyòng (often used), 经常教育 Jingcháng jiàoyù (often educated), these words can all be partial phrases that function as various syntactic components.

At the same time, Lingyun (2018) argues that jingchang can be combined with state auxiliary words (时态助词), for example: "着 (sedang)" - "他心中经常的燃着一把毒火 Tā xīnzhōng jīngcháng de ránzhe yī bǎ dú huǒ. (There is always a poisonous fire burning in his heart.) and can be used with indicators that have passed, are present, but not with those that will come.

Example:
(X) 我经常要去图书馆看书
* Wǒ jīngcháng yào qù túshū guǎn kànshū
(?) (Saya sering akan pergi ke perpustakaan untuk membaca).

When examining the disparities in translations, one mostly observes the presence of certain deficiencies, such as There is a lack of consensus in translating terminology. The utilization of distinct lexemes to translate the identical term in various works of writers, and occasionally, even within the works of the same author (Ziymukhammedov & Mustafaeva, 2023).

Regarding the differences between the adverbs sering and jingchang, (Jureynolds, 2018) stated that in terms of word meaning, the similarities and differences between the uses of 经常 & sering are as follows:

Example:
(1) Mereka sering bertengkar. In terms of differences, "sering," "sering kali," "kerap kali," "acap kali," and "biasanya" indicate that an action is done frequently, while "kerap kali" and "acap kali" suggest repeated actions.
(2) Ia (sering/seringkali/kerap kali/acap kali/biasanya) datang kemari untuk makan siang.
= 他经常来到这儿吃午饭。Tā jīngcháng lái dào zhèr chī wǔfàn
(3) Pada saat hari raya, anak-anak (kerap kali/acap kali) pergi ke pantai bermain.
= 每逢节假日，孩子们经常去海滩游玩。Měi féng jiéjiārì, háizǐmen jīngcháng qù hǎitān yóuwán.

Therefore, it can be concluded that jingchang can also be interpreted as often/often/often or usually. In comparing the use of jingchang and shichang, (Chen & Dexin,
stated that the use of *jingchang* is more subjective than *shichan*. In conclusion, the use of the adverbs *sering* and *jingchang* has not only been studied in terms of semantic and syntactic concepts but also in the comparison of the two types of adverbs in both syntactic and semantic studies. However, previous research has been limited to studying the use of single words without a detailed comparison between the two languages.

**METHODS**

This research is a qualitative descriptive study. The data in the study consist of: corpus compilation, selection criteria, thematic analysis, pattern recognition and comparative analysis.

Corpus Compilation: The first step requires gathering a linguistic corpus that consists of phrases that notably use the Indonesian word *sering* and its Mandarin equivalent, *经常 Jingchang*. The corpus serves as the main data source for the qualitative descriptive investigation.

Selection Criteria: Stringent criteria are utilized to choose phrases that exemplify a wide range of contexts and applications of the target terms. The objective is to encompass a wide spectrum of syntactic and semantic subtleties that are inherent in the expressions of *sering* and *jingchang*.

Thematic analysis is the key method used to examine the gathered data. This approach entails the identification of repetitive patterns, themes, and intrinsic structures present within the phrases. The emphasis is placed on comprehending the wider framework in which these adverbs are utilized.

Pattern recognition involves identifying recurring patterns and analyzing their frequency and consistency throughout the corpus. This stage entails identifying similarities and differences in the syntactic structures and semantic contexts of sentences that include the words *sering* and *jingchang*.

Comparative Analysis: The study includes a comparative aspect, comparing the syntactic and semantic characteristics of *sering* in Indonesian with *经常 Jingchang* in Mandarin. The purpose of this comparative perspective is to emphasize resemblances, disparities, and language-specific subtleties.

Finally, the research provides an overview of the syntactic conditions of the adverbs *sering* and *jingchang*, as well as their semantic behavior.

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1. Corpus Compilation
2. Selection Criteria
3. Thematic Analysis
4. Pattern Recognition
5. Comparative Analysis

![Figure 1](https://auth.sketchengine.eu)

Figure 1. Analysis Data’s Roadmap

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1 Sumber: https://auth.sketchengine.eu
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the research on the linguistic corpus, it was found that the use of the words *sering* and *jingchang* is more related to differences in syntactic analysis (sentence types, positions in sentences, and word counterparts). Here is an analysis of these two adverbs.

**Analysis of the Adverb "Sering"**

The adverb *sering* is a frequent adverb, signifying that it is used repeatedly. However, there is still a specific distribution in terms of position and word counterparts.

1. **Syntactic Analysis of the Adverb "Sering"**

   Based on the research on the linguistic corpus, it was found that the syntactic function of the adverb *sering* can be applied to most verbs. In this context, verbs mainly serve as the predicate function. Examples:

   (4) Dia juga mahir atletik dan berenang, serta *sering* meraih penghargaan.

   \[
   \text{S} \quad \text{ket.} \quad \text{P} \quad \text{O} \quad \text{ket} \quad \text{P} \quad \text{O}
   \]

   (5) Dia *sering* pula membuka buku pemberian Satoru Renjo.

   In the corpus data, it is observed that the word *sering* is used in conjunction with social-related words (1528 occurrences), health-related words (1283 occurrences), and literary-related words (660 occurrences). This indicates that the use of the word *sering* is quite prevalent within the community. Furthermore, based on the relationships between words, it can be concluded that most instances where *sering* is used are in conjunction with the word *kali* (2553 occurrences), where *kali* serves as a quantifier. This is followed by the verbs *disebut* (mentioned) with 1590 occurrences and *‘terjadi’* (occurs) with 1847 occurrences.

   **Table 1.** Comparison of Correlation in the Usage of the Word ‘Sering’ on Predicates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Frequency Usage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kali</td>
<td>2553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Disebut</td>
<td>1590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Terjadi</td>
<td>1847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Digunakan</td>
<td>1068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Muncul</td>
<td>524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Dipakai</td>
<td>378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mendengar</td>
<td>412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mengalami</td>
<td>386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Dijumpai</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Dianggap</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   ![Figure 2. Distribution of Syntax for the Adverb 'Sering' ²](https://auth.sketchengine.eu)

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² Sumber: https://auth.sketchengine.eu
"In sentence structure, *sering* can be used in the middle of a sentence, if it comes after a verb/adjective serving as the predicate. In informal usage, it can also be placed at the beginning of a sentence but cannot be used at the end of a sentence. Additionally, it can stand alone when responding to an informal question (Example 6).

(6) A: (Kamu) sering tidak ke perpustakan?
B: Sering

"In word pairing, the word *sering* can be used with verbs indicating actions, desires, existence, and decisions, as well as with adjectives indicating attitudes and feelings. However, it cannot be paired with adjectives indicating distance, form, and taste.

Example:"

(7) Kita *sering* pergi ke mall. = Action verbs
(8) Dia *sering ingin* pergi ke mall. = Auxiliary verb desire
(9) Dulu *sering ada* tamu. = Existence verb
(10) Penyebab maag yang paling *sering adalah* telat makan.= Verb decide
(11) Dia *sering nakal* di kelas. = Adjective indicating attitude
(12) Dia *sering cemburu* padaku. = Feeling adjectives
(13) (X) Jaraknya *sering jauh*. = Distance adjective
(14) (X) Bolanya *sering bulat*. = Form adjectives
(15) (X) Hidangan ini sangat *sering pedas*. = Taste adjectives

Based on its usage in a sentence, "sering can be used in declarative sentences (example 16) and interrogative sentences (example 17), but the suffix *-kah* must be added in interrogative sentences. It cannot be used in exclamatory interjection sentences (example 18). Sering can be used in imperative sentences, but it should be added with the suffix *-lah* (example 19).

(16) Masyarakat *sering* mengabaikan hal-hal kecil tersebut, mereka akan sadar pentingnya hidup sehat setelah mereka mengalami sakit.
   (The community *often* overlooks these small things; they will realize the importance of a healthy life after experiencing illness.)
(17) *Seringkah* kamu pergi ke perpustakaan? (Do you *often* go to the library?)
(18) (X) Betapa *sering* indahnya!
(19) *Seringlah* bertanya padanya!

2. Semantic Analysis of the Adverb *Sering*

Based on research with a syntactic approach in linguistic corpus, it was found that the semantic function of the adverb *sering* (often) explains how frequently an action is performed, for example: "I often go to the gym every week." The understanding in this context is that the word *sering* carries a meaning that indicates the frequency or level of habit of an action.

Based on the relationship between the words *sering* + verb, we can conclude that the use of the verb is a verb that contains a meaning that can be reduplicated or repeated and has a high intensity, for example: disebut (mentioned, 1590), terjadi (occurred, 1847), digunakan (used, 1068), muncul (appeared, 524), dipakai (worn, 378). However, it cannot be used with verbs that cannot be combined with words that do not carry a meaning of repetition, for example:

(20) (X) Anjing itu *sering* mati.
(21) (X) Dia *sering* hidup.
Comparison Analysis of Syntax……

Analysis of the Adverb Jingchang (经常)

1. Syntactic Analysis of the Adverb Jingchang (经常)

The use of the Mandarin term "经常" (jingchang) can be combined with action verbs (动作动词), volitional verbs (心理动词), existential verbs (存现动词), but it cannot be paired with decision-making verbs (判断动词), adjectives indicating attitude (态度), adjectives indicating feelings (心理), distance (距离), shape (形状), and taste (味道). For Example:

(22) 我经常去图书馆。Wǒ jīngcháng qù túshū guǎn
= Saya sering pergi ke perpustakaan. = Tindakan
(I often go to the library. = Action)

(23) 他经常想家。Tā jīngcháng xiǎng jiā
= Dia sering merindukann rumah. (He often misses home. = Desire)

(24) 教室里经常有一个白板。Jiàoshì lǐ jīngcháng yǒu yīgè báibǎn
= Di ruang kelas sering ada sebuah papan tulis. = keberadaan
(In the classroom, there is often a whiteboard. = Existence)

(25) 这件事情(*经常/通常)是他们弄的。Zhè jiàn shìqíng (*jīngcháng/tōngcháng)
shi tāmen nòng de
= Itu (*sering/biasanya) dilakukan oleh mereka. = decision-making verbs
(It is (*often/usually) done by them. = Decision-making (*often/usually))

(26) 他经常对我吃醋。Tā jīngcháng duì wǒ chīcù
= Dia sering cemburu padaku. = psikologis
(He often feels jealous of me. = Psychological)

(27) 他在教室里经常很调皮。Tā zài jiàoshì lǐ jīngcháng hěn tiáopí
= Dia sering nakal di kelas. (He is often naughty in class. = Attitude)

(28) 气球经常是圆圆的。Qìqiú jīngcháng shì yuán yuán de
= Balon seringkali berbentuk bulat. (Balloons often have a round shape. = Shape)

(29) 这碗面通常是咸的。Zhè wǎn miàn tōngcháng shì xián de
= Semangkuk mie ini biasanya asin. = rasa (This bowl of noodles is usually salty.
= Taste)

Based on its position in a sentence, the word "经常" (jīngcháng) cannot be placed at the end of a sentence or stand alone in a sentence. If the word is placed at the beginning of a sentence, it indicates a more informal usage or that there is a specific part left unspoken in the sentence.

(30) (你如果) 经常做了就习惯了。(Nǐ rúguǒ) jīngcháng zuòle jiù xíguānle
= (Jika Kamu) sering melakukannya, Anda akan terbiasa. (If you do it often, you
will get used to it)

(31) 你经常去图书馆吗?Nǐ jīngcháng qù túshū guǎn ma
= Apakah Anda sering pergi ke perpustakaan? (Do you often go to the library?)

(X)经常。= (✔ Sereng. (often)

Based on its usage in a sentence, "经常" (jīngcháng) can be used in declarative sentences (example 32), interrogative sentences (example 33), and can also be used
in exclamatory interjection sentences (example 34). However, "经常" cannot be used in imperative sentences (example 35).

(32) 这是我们经常在科学史著作中见到的理由。
Zhè shì wǒmen jīngcháng zài kēxué shǐ zuòzhù zhōng jiàn dào de lǐyóu.
= Inilah alasan yang sering kita lihat dalam tulisan-tulisan tentang sejarah sains.
(This is the reason that we often see in writings about the history of science.)
"This is the reason that we often see in writings about the history of science."

(33) 您这样的性格会不会经常生气?
Nín zhèyàng de xìnggé huì bù huì jīngcháng shēngqì?
= Dengan kepribadian Anda sepertinya apakah sering marah?
(With a personality like yours, do you often get angry?)

(34) 阿姨会經常给你写信的!
Āyí huì jīngcháng gěi nǐ xiě xìn de!
= Bibi akan sering menyuratimu! (Aunt will often write to you!)

(35) 你经常去那边玩游戏。
Nǐ jīngcháng qù nà biān wán yóuxì
= kamu sering pergi ke sana untuk bermain game (I often go there to play games.)

Analysis of the Comparison between the Adverbs Sering and Jingchang

Based on the differences in syntax and semantics, it can be concluded that both have quite similar relationships in terms of the meaning of the sentence. However, concerning the relationship between words, the most influential factor is the similarity in their usage within a sentence (Table 2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Differences</th>
<th>Sering</th>
<th>Jingchang</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syntax - Distribution of Words</td>
<td>(+) Action verbs, volitional verbs, existential verbs, and decision-making verbs</td>
<td>(+) Action verbs, volitional verbs, existential verbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(+) Adjectives indicating attitude and feelings,</td>
<td>(-) Decision-making verbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(-) Adjectives indicate distance, shape, and taste.</td>
<td>(-) Adjectives indicating attitude, adjectives indicating feelings, distance, shape, and taste.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Syntax - Position</th>
<th>(√) Middle, front; (x) Back</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syntax - Types of Sentences</td>
<td>(√) Declarative sentences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(√) Interrogative sentences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(X) Exclamatory interjection sentences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Imperative sentences, with the suffix (-lah) at the end</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Semantic | 【+frequent】 and 【+ high intensity】
Apart from its everyday usage, the adverb *sering* can also be reduplicated, indicating that its usage is more informal compared to other words.

(30) Silakan *sering-sering* mampir ke sini.
(Please come and visit here often.)

= 请你(常常/(X) 经常) 来。

Qǐng nǐ (chángcháng/(X) jīngcháng) guólái

However, in Mandarin, we can only use the word "常常" as a substitute for the reduplication of *sering-sering*.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the research conducted on both adverbs, it can be concluded that the differences in the usage of the adverbs *sering* and *jingchang* are limited to their respective equivalents. However, in terms of placement and meaning, both words share similarities. Additionally, in the context of informal usage, the adverb *sering* can be reduplicated, while *jingchang* does not have the ability to be reduplicated.

This research can contribute to a broader knowledge of linguistic variation and commonality by presenting a detailed analysis of the differences and similarities between *sering* and *jingchang* in comparative linguistic studies and analyzing the semantic features of *sering* and *jingchang* to uncover commonalities in meaning within their respective language settings. Examine how these adverbs express similar subtle differences in meaning despite their language differences.

**REFERENCES**


