

How Do Martian Words
Affect Language and Culture in Taiwan?
火星文是否會對台灣的語言和文化造成影響?

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Abstract

Nowadays, the Internet is a way to connect people's life. When the Internet is going to be more and more popular in the young generation, a subculture is using frequently on the Internet. The subculture is combining missing words and poor grammar. Generally speaking, Martian words is kind of Internet language that people use for swift typing. They abbreviated long term words and replaced by numbers or symbols. In Taiwan, some parents are worry about their children who are used the Martian Words will affect Chinese ability. So some people are opposed to use Martian Words and think that we should forbid the subculture. We want to understand what opinion does the public thought about the Martian Words in Taiwan. We put our questionnaire on the Internet, and we invited 200 participants in Taiwan to fulfill this task. All we know, Martian words were just a new culture, not to take it too seriously. You may either choose to use it or not.

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Introduction

Statement of Problem

The influence of Martian Words has used increasingly day by day in Taiwan, and lots of young generation are mostly occupied by the Martian words when communicate with each others. Especially be used widely on the Internet and replace some national characters of our language (Mandarin Chinese) in Taiwan. Particularly used by teenagers, which might make them ignoring how important their own culture and Mandarin Chinese education are gradually.

According to the free online encyclopedia-Wikipedia (2006), “Martian Language is a term to describe words beyond common knowledge in the Chinese speaking cyberspace”. It does not really mean the words from Mars. Those words are actually from the Internet, there are often said “Martian Words” just because they are not loanwords of common language such as English or Japanese.

The Martian words make language and characters simplifictive. It is becoming popular on account of the Internet culture has becoming prevailed. Owing to the high speed development of the Internet; chatting on the Internet is also blend with the culture of oral language. For young generation, conversation with fast and convenient tool is the priority. They could add some phonetic symbol acronym or English letters when chatting through Internet that make their conversation become more interesting

and efficient.

However, the influence of Martian words is not merely in the conversation of the network, but has already spread into our culture and became a new developing language. It was even shown up in Chinese section of Taiwanese National College Entrance Examination in 2006.

Perhaps, Martian Words have brought different enjoyment to the dialogue of our daily life perhaps but is the Martian Words over-used good or bad for our children? What influence will be on our culture or education system? Should the Martian Words exist in our society continually? We will not only study the impact on using the Martian words in Taiwanese education system and culture, but also search the pluses and minuses of the Martian words itself. Hopefully we will make the Taiwanese citizens to see this event in a different standpoint.

Purpose of Study

The goal of this study will be to explore how Martian words affect young generation in language and culture development. Many people might not have good impressions of Martian Words using when they hear it, but if it is really negative in every part? That is our main purpose we want to search for. Meanwhile, this study will use a survey study design as the method of research. It is hoped that exploration of our literature search through the library, Internet and news would lead to better

understanding about do Martian Words really affect young generation in language, culture, what are Taiwanese opinions about Martian Words, and search for any possible affection of Martian words might happen in the future.

Literature Review

According to the free online encyclopedia-Wikipedia (2006) stated that in Taiwan society, another explanation for Martian Words is people who type misspelling words and make unutterable sentences. After that, Martian Words become a current sub-culture in language in young generation of Taiwan. It combines varied languages with symbols. Arguably, Martian Words do not have exact definition. It is used not only on the internet but also daily lives (see Appendix A). As a general rule, sentences which we can not discriminate immediately and understand are called “Martian Words.” Another kind of Martian Words only exist in Taiwan. Taiwanese call them “Abbreviated Phonetic Notation Writing (Zhuyin)”. Abbreviated phonetic notation writing is using vowels or consonants from phonetic symbol substitute for words. Taiwanese phonetic symbols also have 5 tones to express different intonations. For example, C: onomatopoeia, sound like Chinese “shi”. I: onomatopoeia, sounds like Chinese “ai”↑: Hieroglyph means “up”. E: onomatopoeia, means in Mandarin “she/he”. On the other hand, certain words we use on the internet are often perturbed words, for example, the term *leet* itself is often written *l33t*, or *l337*. In the

alphabet-used countries, such as UK and United States, people who typed these words might want to send messages to each other and hide from the website administrator, or try to be nerdy and fun in the chat rooms. They replaced the letters by symbols and numbers. This kind of new language is frequently referred to “Leetspeak (Leet)” in alphabet-used countries.

According to Mindy (2004) stated, “Reputed to have been originally created and used by computer hackers and online gamers, leet moved into the Internet mainstream.” We can also see from the wikipedia article of Leet (2006), Leet can be defined as the perturbation or modification of written text. Leet words are expressed in hundreds of ways, using a dizzying array of substitutions and combinations. Nearly all characters are formed as phonemes and symbols, but any given word can be interpreted in many different ways.

From the web-site “Learnleetspeak”, we have found that there are certain rules of Leet using.

- 1) Numbers and symbols replace the letters that they resemble; for example, the replacement might be “8” for “B”, “9” for “G”.
- 2) Letters can be substituted for other letters that sound alike, for example, “S “ for a plural word with the letter “Z”, letter “X” replacing the letter “C” or “K”.
- 3) Mistakes are left uncorrected, for example, typed "teh" instead of "the".

In a book named *Original of Written Language*, Greg (2006) stated that, "Leet can be applied to many languages and character sets." Wikipedia (2006) also mentioned that it is also important for us to note that Leet itself is not solely based upon one language or character set. Greek, Russian, Chinese, and other languages have been subjected to the Leet variety. Greg. (2006) also stated that as it incorporates new vocabulary and morphemes, the cipher was originally based upon English and the Latin alphabet, the set of transliterations and corruptions increases. While it may be referred to as a "cipher," a "dialect," or a "language," leet does not fit squarely into any of these categories.

According to the Wikipedia Article-Leet (2006), the exclusive nature of enciphering text in communities drove this evolution. Additionally, in online communities where certain text was forbidden (such as swearing), newer, more clever ciphers had to create to prevent software limitations from hindering communication. As such, it may be said that Leet is used as a means to defeat regular expression in written communication in the internet communities. The exclusivity of Leet has been reduced. As Leet has become popular in the common Internet vernacular, users might use leet in their discussion. The process of using Leet for humor, combined with its highly flexible and dynamic nature, causes it to metamorphose into further derivations of its original cipher. Therefore, as Leet evolves, its vocabulary expands, and new

expressions begin to emerge and solidify from older constructs. Arguably, one of the first practical uses of Leet was on the BBSs of the late 1980s. On public BBS (Bulletin Board System), administrators would frequently search for illegal or otherwise undesirable material and remove it. For the young generations in Taiwan, Martian Words could be some kind of new culture defeats the old internet culture.

Tzeng (2004) stated that, we can not inhibit by a strong hand and unnecessary to sub-culture of young generation. In the further it will have a new culture taken it over. She considered that the negative influence is that using Martian Words might increase the difficulty of recognize words and meanings. People are using Martian Words unchecked spreading, so more and more Martian Words using counterculture web-sites are appeared. In worldwide and free internet community, to forbid the development of words and symbols is not easy. Another comment by Chen (2004) stated that, we can not stop the sub-culture grows but we can lead them to the right way. He also said the more we forbid, the more they rebound. We should teach them use Martian Words properly but not too overabundant.

According to Liberty times (2005) stated Martian Words are used by several junior high school students in Taiwan; they are mostly replaced by similar sounds of English letters, numbers, or symbols. The Microsoft article (2006) stated that Leet continued to evolve in this fashion, so when the new terms were picked up by

administrators, they were quickly replaced. Leet should be noted that many forms of Leet writing are not faster to type than their regular English counterparts. Like other hacker slang, enjoys a looser grammar than normal English. The loose grammar, just like loose spelling, encodes some level of emphasis, and ironic. An increasingly common characteristic of Leet is changing its grammatical usage to be seriously incorrect.

The controversial issue of using Martian Words also spread in Chinese section of Taiwanese National College Entrance Examination (NCEE) in 2006. According The China Post (2006) stated that the topics almost related to Confucius and Mencius, the two greatest sages propagating Confucianism in Chinese culture, continued to play an important role in the Chinese test. But the students also found signs like "::_>_<::" and "3Q Orz" in the exam for Chinese ability. Only avid Internet surfers know that by Martian Words, the former means "crying" (resembled by tear drops on both sides and mouth in the middle). "3Q Orz" literally means "Thank you very, very much" (3Q has to be pronounced with Taiwanese dialect with the sound like "thank you." But "Orz" cannot be pronounced because it only resembles a person facing left and kneeling on ground to show the utmost appreciation. By this incident, the National Alliance of Parents Organization in Taiwan-NAPO (2006) blamed for the College Entrance Examination Center in Taiwan, they said, it is unacceptable that College Entrance

Examination Center (CEEC) in Taiwan just especially emphasis the education on metropolis. It is obviously showed that CEEC is know nothing about our current society, could it be said that they don't know there are many students couldn't afford a computer who live in remote districts? Could it be also said that they don't know students study hard for the exam and reducing to contact with these kinds of computer slang? NAPO (2006) also stated that please do not mislead students into the wrong direction while they learn Mandarin Chinese. Further more, The China Post also stated that, some critics said, this is especially unfair for students from poor families who cannot afford expensive computer equipment and don't have much time to spend on the Internet. Even students who have PCs and spent time on Internet for study but did not waste time on chat rooms cannot recognize what these signs actually mean. But some cram school teachers were not really surprised by the topics about the "Martian Words" because they already reminded students attending their cram classes of the possibility of encountering such topics. Yet the teachers also expressed sympathy for students from low-income families because they can never understand such "Martian Words" unless they own a PC and spent a lot of time on the Internet chat rooms.

Do large amount of people have knowledge for Martian Words? We found a statistic about it. According to an investigate of Martian Words user for high school students by three junior high school students in Kaohsiung Municipal Kuo-Chang Junior High School (2005) found that there are 80% junior high school students have used Martian Words before graduated from elementary school or when they entered in junior high school. It means junior high school students are the main population of using Martian Words and decreased when they in senior high school.

Recently, there is a new book named Denshaotoko about Martian Words have been published by Crown Culture Corporation. Chen (2006) stated that, “Denshaotoko – a Japanese novel, published by Crown Culture Corporation might be the first book which put in punctuation signs and Martian Words used on net chatting.” Lu (2005) said, “The book, Denshaotoko shows the real situations and the way that people chatting on the BBS. It will not complete and insatiable if we don’t put the original things on net chatting.”

However, at this Internet century, language and signs that people using in net chatting are call the Martian Words in Taiwan. This kind of new culture is now also influenced the traditional writings and creations, such as novels, movies and conversations. Also, through the interaction on the Internet, Martian Words are easy to understand by every people from the different races or countries. In this way,

people are fast to deliver the message and information by not to make every words or phrases correctly. According to Wikipedia (2006), “On the positive way, it saves time and also full of humor and fun. But on the negative way, some of people think that Martian Words’ structure and phrases are incomplete. That makes it become a bad, barnyard language, and was thoughts as a language, which will debase our culture caliber.” Whatever, Crown Culture Corporation had did a survey for Taiwan readers. It shows that people at the age among 15 to 25 years old are the main group that buys books about Martian Words. It makes many writers started to write with their creations by the new culture style-Martian Words. On the other hand, Martian Words are also used in dactylology. Lin, (a translator of dactylology) (2006) said, “Politicians’ names are too difficult to translate in dactylology way. So, they just act the characteristic of them instead of act every phrases of their names.” In this way, it seems that Martian Words have been influenced lots of things. It might be affect everything in our lives actually. All language characters are based on a long exist culture. Nobody can predict when the Martian Words will be gone and even to define it.

Method

Research Design

This study used a survey as its research design (see Appendixes B and C). A fixed-alternative survey was used because we could understand what opinions the Taiwan publics have about the Martian Words. There are 18 elementary questions that we provided in the questionnaire.

Participants

The participants were 200 people in Taiwan on the Internet. Approximately 50% of the participants were female and 47% were male. One percent were under 12 years old, 4% were between the ages of 12 to 15, 15% were between the ages of 16 to 19, 75.5% were between the ages of 20 to 25, and 4.5% were over the ages of 26 among them. Furthermore, 1% participants have educational level of elementary school, 4 % participants have level of junior high school, 10% participants have level of senior high school, 78.5% participants have level of college, and 6.5% have level of graduated school.

Setting

The research took place on the Internet. All of the participants only can filled out the surveys on a website named “my3q.com”. “my3q.com” is a website which offering free tool for creating questionnaires online and with different version of

languages such as Chinese, English, Japanese etc.... Participants were needed follow few simple steps then filled the questionnaires out. Researcher can create different types of questionnaires on the website.

Data Collection

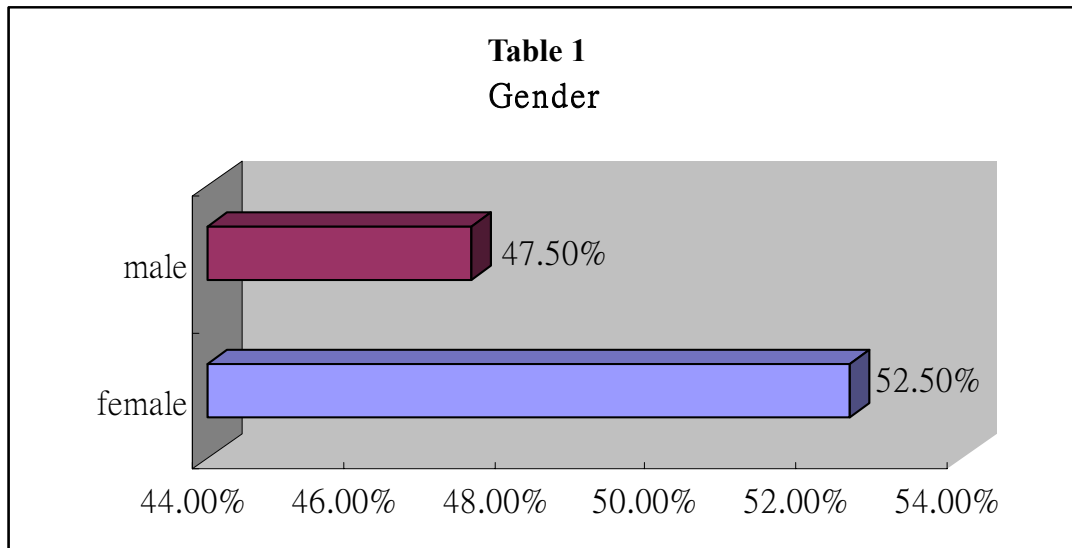
First, before we gave the survey, we needed to analyzed, discussed and chosen what questions had to put down in order to found out the Taiwan Publics idea for the Martian Words in detail. Second, we entered our questions to the website step by step. Finally, participants just filled out the surveys within 5 minutes by used their computer.

Data Analysis

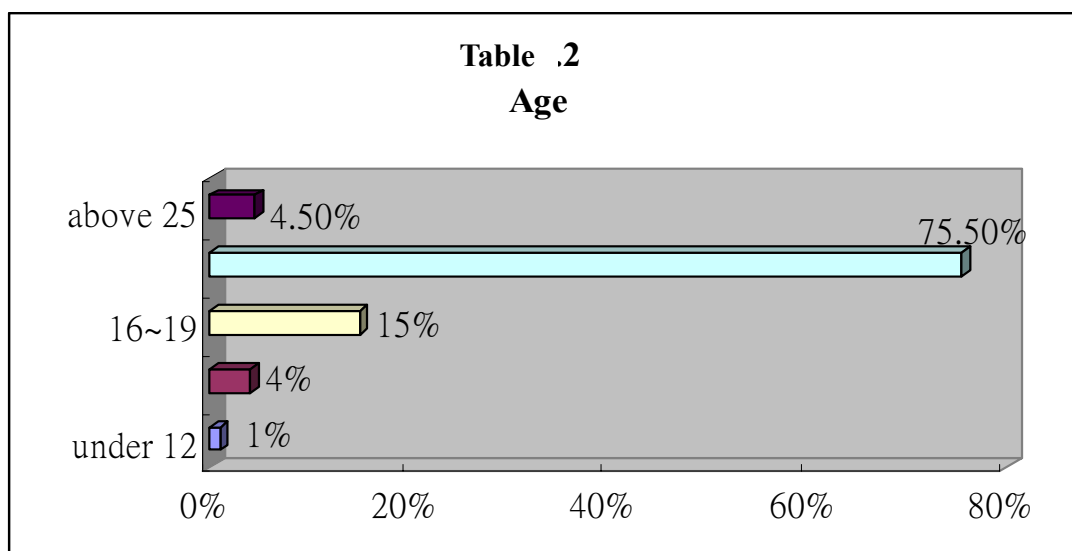
We analyzed the results of the survey and calculated the percentages of participants' responses for each question. Then we compared and contrasted the percentages in order to understand our participants and their point of views toward the questions related to our topic.

Results

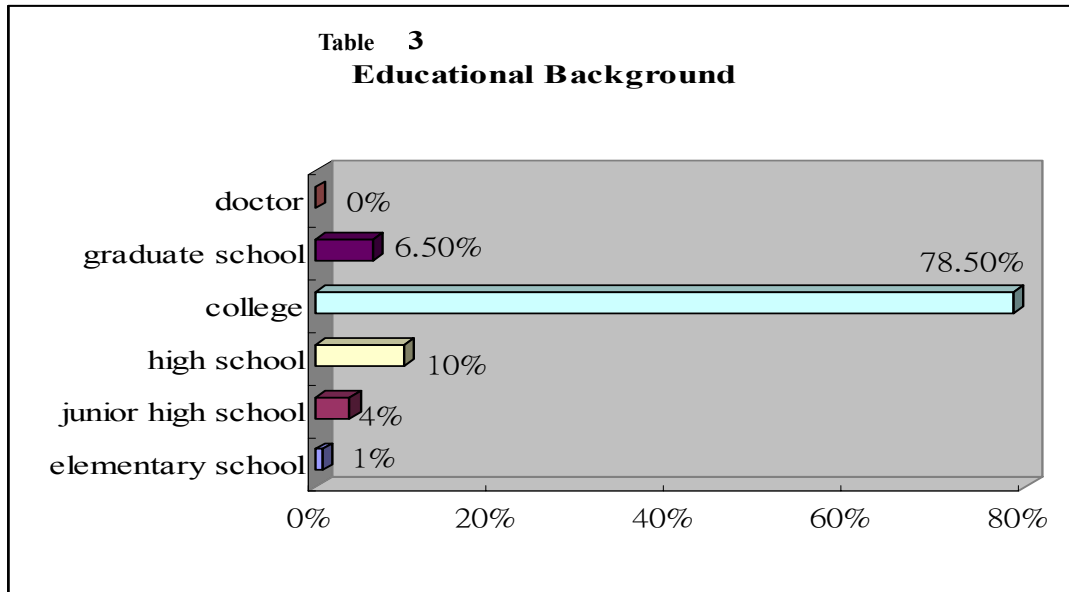
We have 105 females and 95 males involved with our survey, the percentage of female are 52.5% and males are 47.5%.



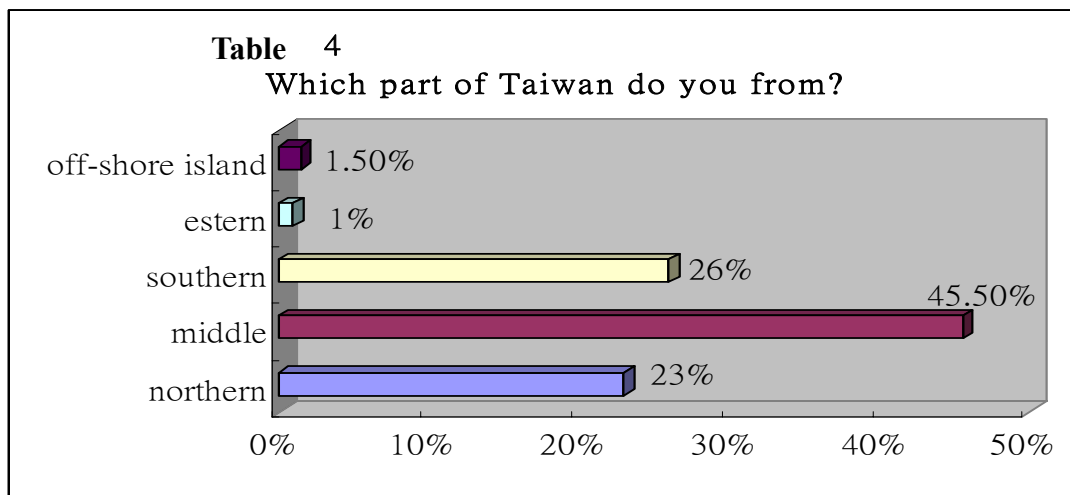
We have overwhelming (75.5%) participants are at the age of 20 to 25, 16 to 19 takes 15% in this question, above 25 takes 4.5%, 12 to 15 takes 4%, and only 1% for under age of 12.



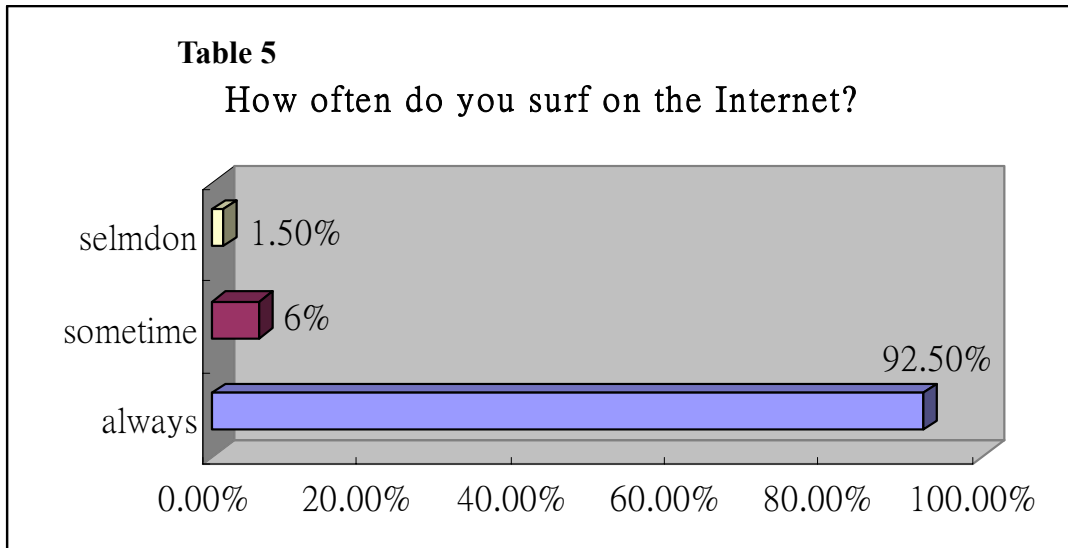
There are 78.5% of our participants of the question *educational background* are college-graduate, 10% have high school diploma, 6.5% have graduate school diploma, 4% of participants are still junior high school students, and only 1% are elementary school students. There are no doctors in our survey.



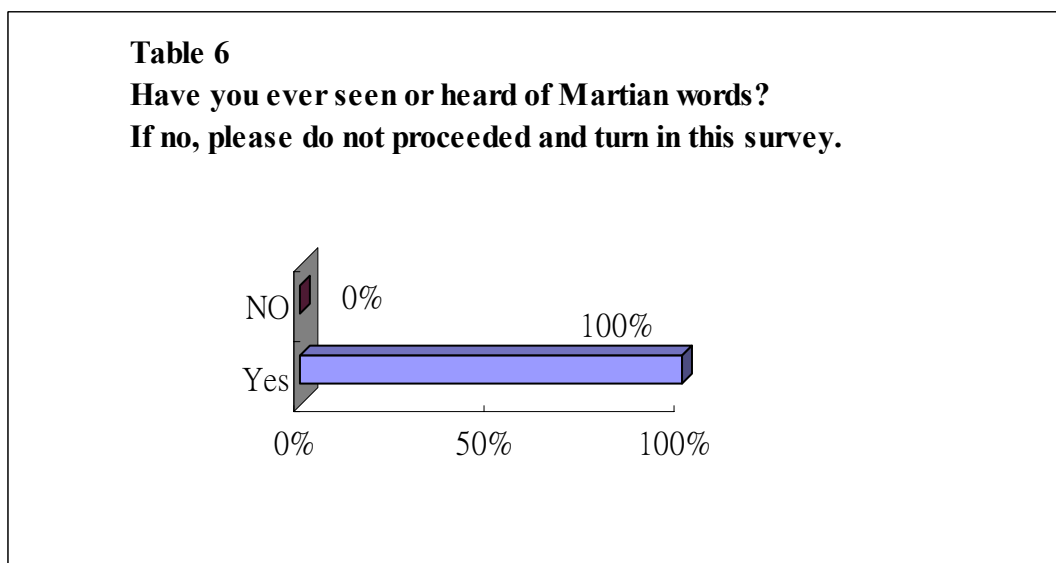
The highest statistics of the question *Which part of Taiwan do you from* is 45.5% respondents from middle of Taiwan, others are 26% from southern Taiwan, 23% from northern Taiwan, 1.5% from off-shore island, and only 1% of respondents are from eastern Taiwan.



In the response to the question *How often do you surf on the Internet*, the overwhelming (92.5%) replied they surf on the internet very often. There are only 6% of respondents answered sometime, others (1.5%) answered seldom.

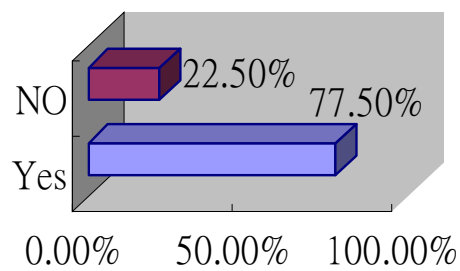


The overwhelming participants answer yes to the question (100%), *Have you ever seen or heard of Martian words?* If no, please do not proceed and turn in this survey? 0% answers no. (See No.6)



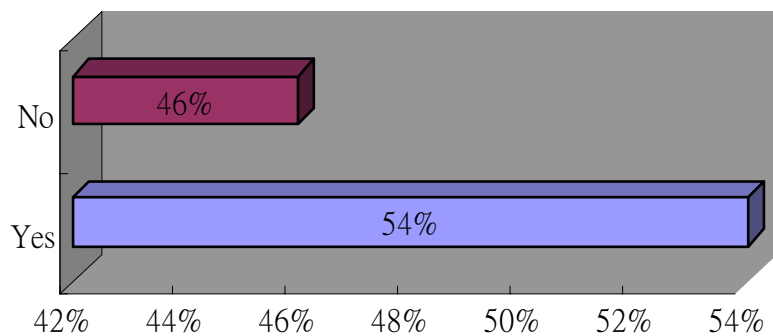
In response to the question *Can you recognize what Martian Words are?* The vast majority participants answered yes (77.5%), while only 22.5% answered no.

Table 7
Can you recognize what Martian Words are?

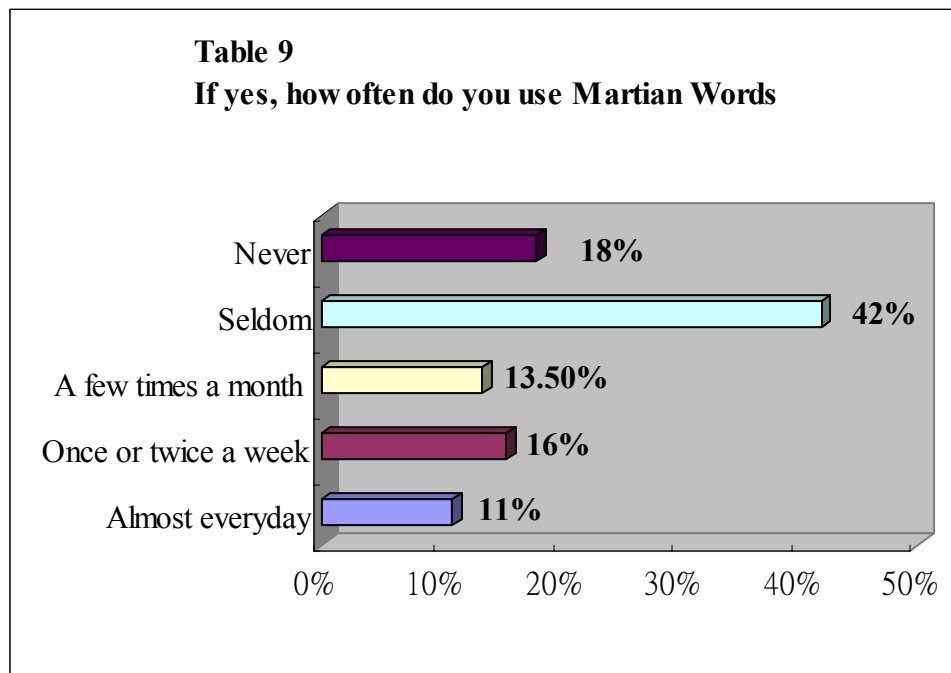


Responses to the question *Do you use Martian words?* were evenly balanced, with 54% answering yes, 46% answering no.

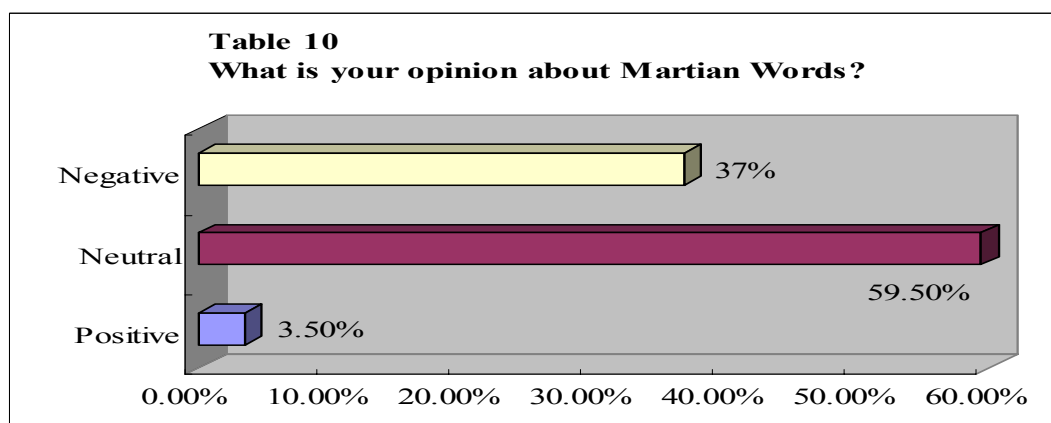
Table 8
Do you use Martian words?



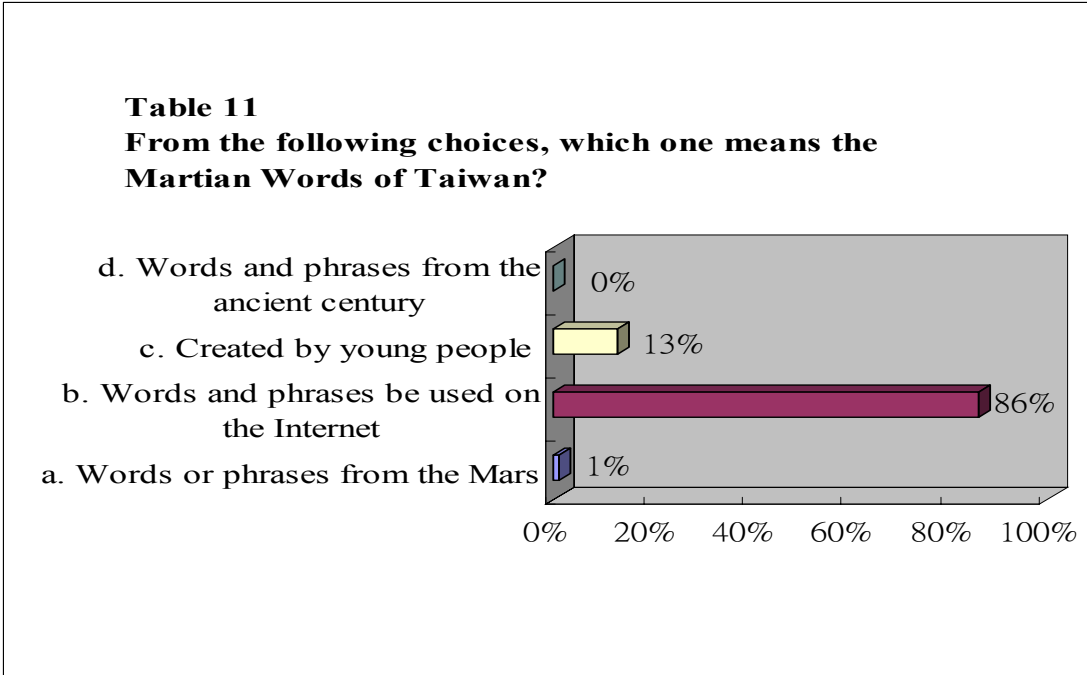
The responses to the question *If yes, how often do you use Martian Words?* varied considerably, with seldom receiving the largest percentage (42%), followed by never (18%), once or twice a week (15.50%), a few times a month (13.50%), and almost everyday (11%).



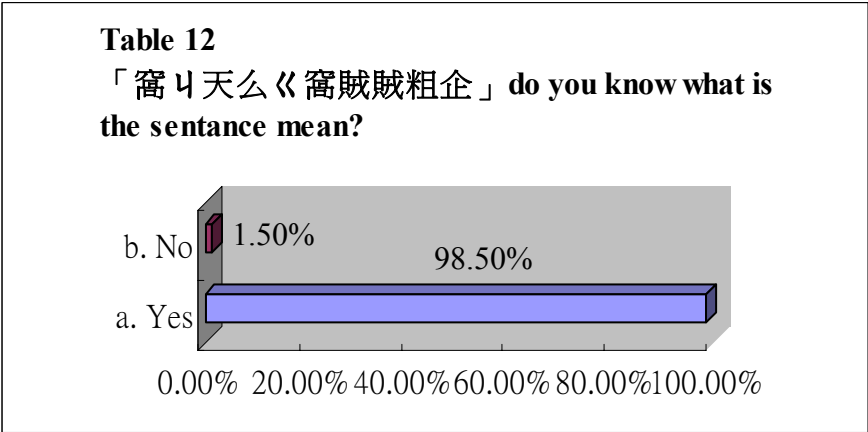
In response to the question *What is your opinion about Martian Words*, the overwhelming (59.5%) replied their opinion is neutral. Thirty -seven percent said their opinion is negative, and three point five percent think it is positive.



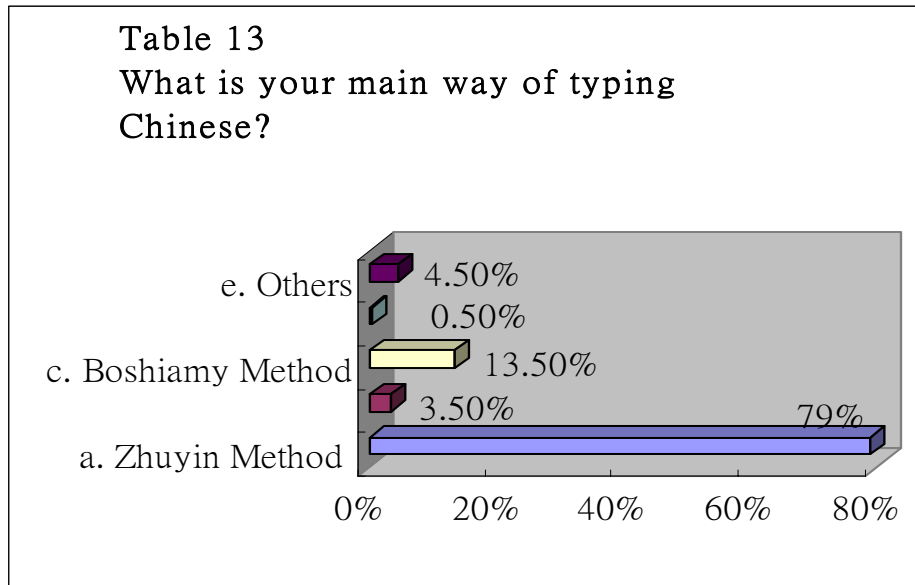
Most of people answered Words or phrases be used on the Internet (86%) *From the following choices, which one means the Martian Words of Taiwan?* Only 13% answered Created by young people, 1% answered Words or phrases from the Mars, and 0% answered Words and phrases from the ancient century.



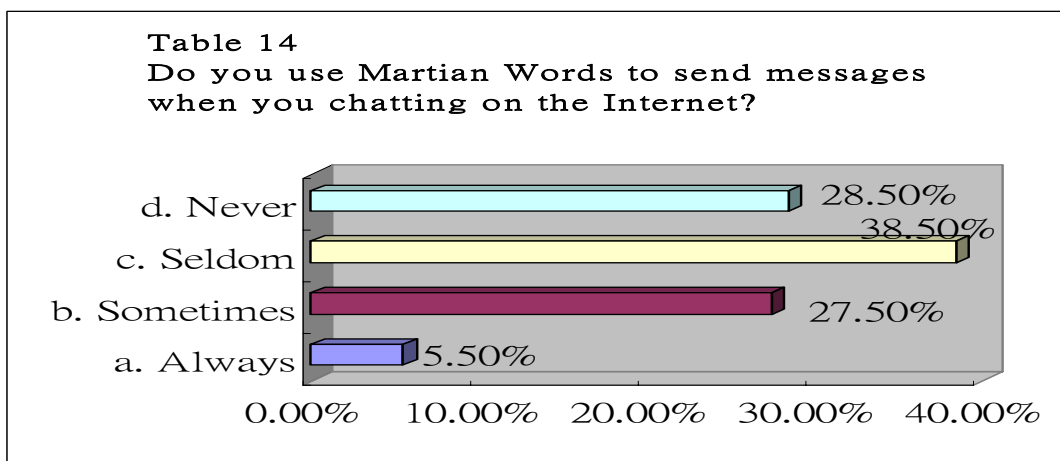
The number of respondents answered No to the question (98.50%), 「窩ㄣ天么」
 «窩賊賊粗企」 do you know what is the sentence mean? Only (1.50%) answered no.
 (See No.12)



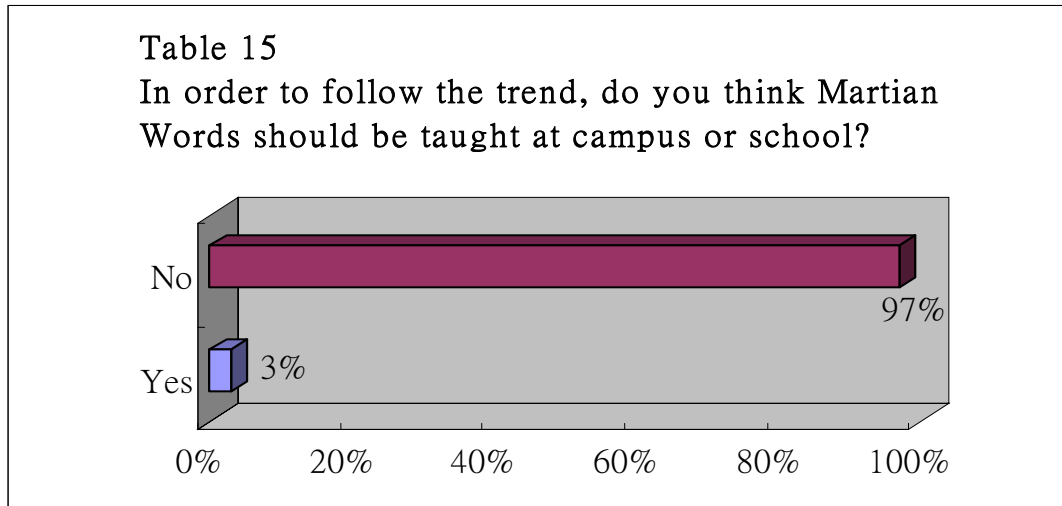
The number of respondents answered Zhuyin Method to the question (79%), *What is your main way of typing Chinese?* Only 13.5% answered Boshiamy Method, 3.5% answered Cangjie Method, 0.5% answered Dayi Method and 4.5% answered others.



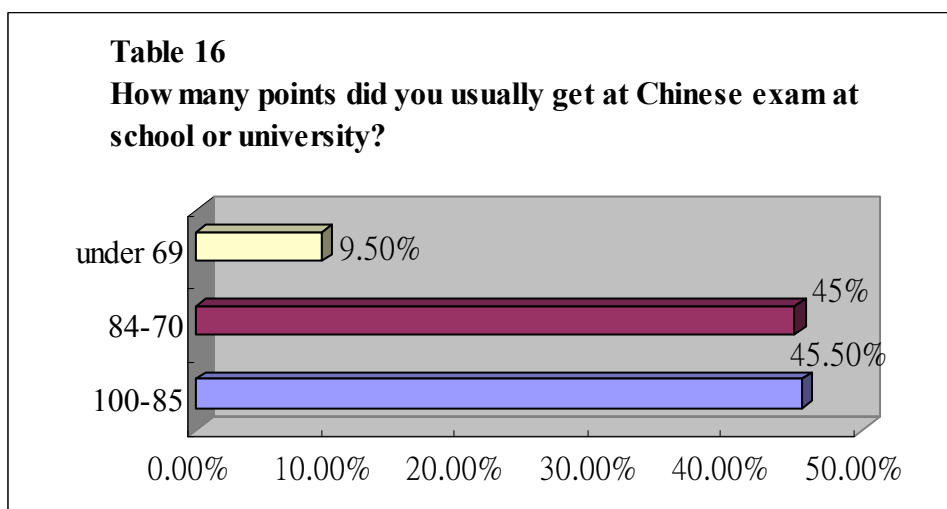
The number of respondents answered Always to the question (5.5%), *Do you use Martian Words to send messages when you chatting on the Internet?* (27.5%) answered Sometimes, (38.5%) answered Seldom, (28.5%) answered Never.



In response to the question In order to follow the trend, do you think Martian Words should be taught at campus or school? The vast of respondents answered yes (97%), only 3% answer no.

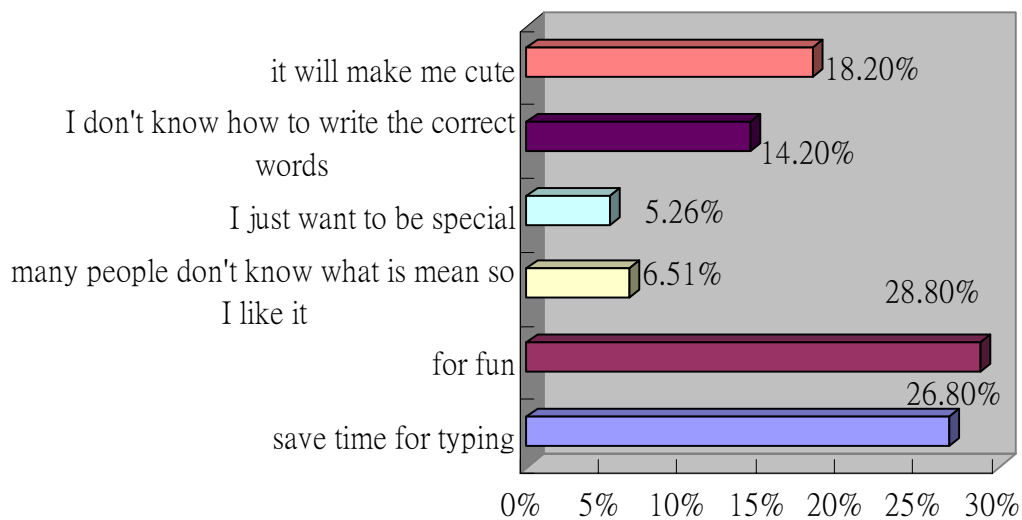


Responses to the question *How many points did you usually get at Chinese exam at school or university?* Were evenly balanced, with 45.5% answering 100-85 points. 45% answering 84-70points, and 9.5% answering less than 69 points.



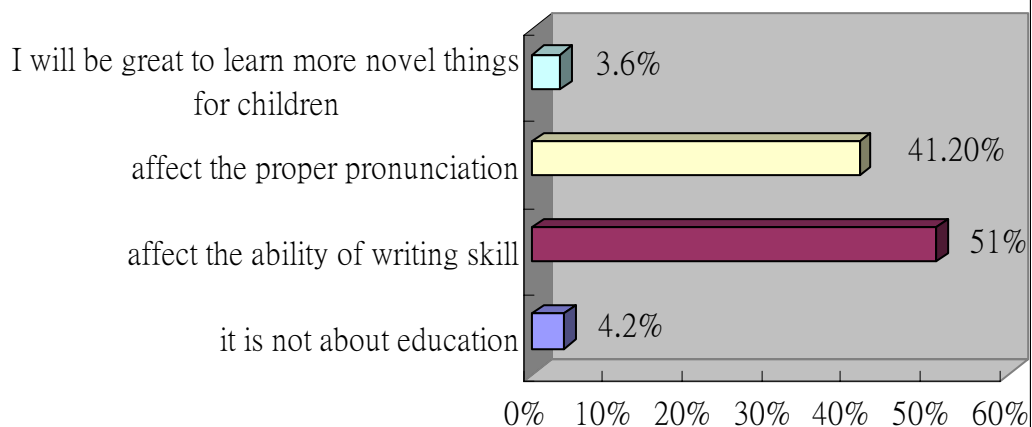
The responses to the question *What are the reasons do you considered people use Martian Words?* varied considerably, for fun the largest percentage (28.8%), followed by save time for typing (26.8%), it will make me cute (18.2%), I don't know how to write the correct words (14.2%), many people don't know what is mean so I like it (6.51%), and I just want to be special (5.26%)

Tabel 17
What are the reasons do you considered people use Martian Words?



The responses to the question *What affection does Martian words using will happened for the elementary school students' education in the future?* varied considerably, affect the ability of writing skill (51%), followed by affect the proper pronunciation (41.2%), it is not about education (4.15%), and I will be great to learn more novel things for children (3.56%).

Table 18
What affection does Martian words using will happened for the elementary school students' education in the future?



Discussion

The goal of this study was to understand *Do the Martian Words Will Affect Language and Culture in Taiwan*. It was hoped that a better understanding of the Martian Words affection.

Have you ever seen or heard of Martian words? If no, please do not proceeded and turn in this survey.

There is 100% of participants were answered Yes in this question, because the survey was based on the situation that they must heard or understand what Martian Words are. If they don't know what is Martian Words they have to turn down this survey. Besides, most of people all can read Martian Words because it has become a trend in Taiwan. According to Sina News (2006) stated that through the Internet and cell phone have become diffusive, lots of Martian Words shows up in the message while people are sending it through the Internet or cell phone. On the other hand, many of news had discussed Martian Words before. News is one of the most popular ways to spread information. Nowadays, Martian Word gets more and more popular in Taiwan. We have found a lot of problems and new views in our research. See the list below:

1. The high speed transmission of Martian Word

Martian Words are the well-known thing in Taiwan, and all participants of our

study answered they know what Martian word is about. Why Martian Word can be transmitted so fast in Taiwan? We have found two reasons from our study. First reason is that people will often use the Martian Words to convey information while using the cell-phone and network. People uses Martian Words are multiply increasing while there are only a few people use them at the first place. Another reason is that the Martian Words are often reported in news and newspaper. It makes people more curious and wants to learn about Martian Words, and indirectly encourages using Martian Words more and more frequently.

2. Contradiction problem appearing after studying Martian Word

All participants of our study think they understanding Martian Words very well, but almost their answer of utility rate of Martian Words are “seldom”. We think there is a little contradictory between these two answers of our participants, and we found two possible reasons. The first, everybody has already had negative appraisal on the Martian Words. Martian Words are fast and convenient, but it is also using missing words and poor grammar. We believe that some users of Martian Words are forbid to use them, because their parents have negative opinions of Martian Words. The second, people's understanding of Martian Words is not thorough enough. In our study, 79% participant replied they are using Zhuyin method chatting on the internet, but many people do not understand Zhuyin method that had been one part of the Martian Words.

For example: “ㄇ” is a pronunciation of Zhuyin , but many people do not know “ㄇ” is Martian Words that replace for an interrogative. It is believed that this is one of the main reasons why utility rate of Martian Words is underestimated.

3. The impact of education by Martian Word

In our question *What affection does Martian words using will happened for the elementary school students' education in the future?*, 51% participants answered it will affect the ability of writing skill and 41.2% Participants answered it will affect the proper pronunciation.

Perhaps some people are refused to admit Martian Words, and worry it will endanger Taiwan's education and culture. In fact everybody need not be too anxious about these questions. Languages and Words would progress with increasing constantly. As Martian Words appeared, this is an innovation of speed and efficiency. But the missing words and poor grammar can not connect with our language. Perhaps someday, we define the form and meanings of Martian Words; it will become the most popular and the high-efficiency input method.

Through all these, Martian Words are some how been introduce to almost everyone, and this cause why we got overwhelming participants answer yes to the question.

Can you recognize what Martian Words are?

One reason why 77% of the participants answered yes might be that Martian Words are look differently from Chinese characters. According to Liberty times (2005) stated Martian Words are used by several junior high school students in Taiwan; they are mostly replaced by similar sounds of English letters, numbers, or symbols. 23% of the participants answered no might be that while people type Martian Words in Zhyin will make many different meaning and that makes people can't really understand it. And those people believed that the definitions of Martian words they found from the Internet can not really explain and directly indicate what Martian words really are. Wikipedia (2006) stated that in Taiwan society, another explanation for Martian Words is people who type misspelling words and make unutterable sentences.

Do you use Martian words?

There were evenly balanced to this question, answered yes for 54% of our participants, and 46% answered for no. The possible reasons for our participants who answered yes might be the personal habit and they think use Martian Words is faster and more convenient. The users who use Martian Words are younger than people who do not use Martian Words. According to an investigate of Martian Words user for high school students by three junior high school students in Kaohsiung Municipal Kuo-Chang Junior High School (2005) found that there are 80% junior high school

students have used Martian Words before graduated from elementary school or when they entered in junior high school. It means junior high school students are the main population of using Martian Words and decreased when they in senior high school.

And who answered no might because it may confuse others easily.

If yes, how often do you use Martian Words?

The responses to the question *If yes, how often do you use Martian Words?* varied considerably, with seldom receiving the largest percentage (42%), followed by never (18%), once or twice a week (15.50%), a few times a month (13.50%), and almost everyday (11%).

What is your opinion about Martian Words?

One reason why 59.5% of the participants answered neutral might be that they think Martian Words is a sub-culture of young generation. We do not have to take the sub-culture seriously, and it is universal using on the internet. Chen (2004) stated that, we can not stop the sub-culture grows but we can lead them to the right way. He also said the more we forbid, the more they rebound. We should teach them use Martian Words properly but not too overabundant. Chiu (2006) stated that Martian Words are new Internet culture; we cannot prevent but accept it. That is the reason, which caused the percentage, is so different in this question. But 37% of the participants answered negative might be that they actually know using the Martian Words has no advantage

for them. So they think it is not quite well for using that, but still use it instead of using the correct words. Wikipedia (2006) stated that “On the positive way, it saves time and also full of humor and fun. But on the negative way, some of people think that Martian Words' structure and phrases are incomplete. That makes it become a bad, barnyard language, and was thoughts as a language, which will debase our culture caliber.”

From the following choices, which one means the Martian words of Taiwan?

“Both these questions we have overwhelming majority of the participants answered always yes (*Have you ever seen of heard of Martian words?* 100 %.) And the majority of participants answered words or phrases be used on the Internet (*From the following choices, which one means the Martian words of Taiwan?*). The reasons might be the internet knowledge is common in the young generation, and the network of Taiwan begins to grow vigorously, Zhao (2006) stated. Almost every family has one pc at home. Children are taught to use computers even they are still juveniles, so they are familiar with the internet world. According to our statement of problem (see p.1), we have mentioned that it is becoming popular on account of the Internet culture has becoming prevailed. Wikipedia (2006), “Martian Language is a term to describe words beyond common knowledge in the Chinese speaking cyberspace”. It does not really mean the words from Mars. Those words are actually from the Internet, there

are often said “Martian Words” just because they are not loanwords of common language such as English or Japanese.”

What is your main way of typing Chinese?

Wikipedia (2006), “In Taiwan, there are lots of different way to typing Chinese, one of the most popular way is Zhuyin. People who use Zhuyin in two Method: Zhuyin Method and new Zhuyin Method.” The basic definition of Zhuyin Word and Martian Words (2005), “Most of people use the new one while they are typing Chinese.” But this Method made lots of wrong spelling that makes lots identifying delay, glance time and repeating reading when we read it. That is also become one kind of Martian Words in Taiwan, the Zhuyin Words.” In this question, there seventy nine% of people answered that they use Zhuyin Method. This answer shows that most of people choose Zhuyin Method as their main way of typing Chinese. It means the typing Method that people used would make the possibility of typing the Zhuyin Words higher.

Do you use Martian Words to send messages when you chatting on the Internet?

One reason why 38.5% of the participants answered seldom might be that our participants are university students. In our survey, we discover the group which uses Martian Words is junior high school students. When the students enter in senior high school, they are decreasing to use Martian Words. According to an investigate of

Martian Words user for high school students by three junior high school students in Kaohsiung Municipal Kuo-Chang Junior High School (2005) found that there are 80% junior high school students have used Martian Words before graduated from elementary school or when they entered in junior high school. It means junior high school students are the main population of using Martian Words and decreased when they in senior high school. Lu (2005) said, "The book, Denshaotoko shows the real situations and the way that people chatting on the BBS. It will not complete and insatiable if we don't put the original things on net chatting." The number of respondents answered never (28.5%) and sometimes (27.5), it replied Taiwanese think Martian Words is a informal format to type. According to the free online encyclopedia-Wikipedia (2006) stated that in Taiwan society, another explanation for Martian Words is people who type misspelling make unutterable sentences.

In order to follow the trend, do you think Martian Words should be taught at campus or school?

One reason why vast majority of the participants answered no might be that Martian Words is composed of misspelling words and poor grammar. Most of parents are worry about their children get misunderstanding on Chinese. They considered that the negative influence is that using Martian Words might increase the difficulty of recognize words and meanings. Chiu (2006) stated that Martian Words

are new Internet culture; we cannot prevent but accept it. “Using Martian Words reduces students’ ability of writing and comprehending in Chinese”, Qu (2005) stated, “students tried to behave their writing in Chinese at school, but when they are off school, they still write or type in Martian-way.” And the educational circle thinks that junior high school students are still being in a language-learning epoch, they don’t really recommend that students use this kind of new-type language. In worldwide and free internet community, to forbid the development of words and symbols is not easy.

How many points did you usually get at Chinese exam at school or university?

According to NAPO (2006) stated that Martian Words mislead students in to the wrong direction while they learn Mandarin Chinese, but lots of young generation do not considered that their Chinese ability become weaker than before. There were 45.5% participants considered their Chinese ability is around a hundred to eighty-five points (A+-B+). Most of people answered that their score at Chinese exam were high might because of that Chinese are our mother language. In fact, most of people might do not really have high score in every way at Chinese exam, especially in writing. Zhou (2005) stated that the decrease of students’ ability of mandarin is not just happened in Taiwan, but also the global problem. Jiang (2005) stated that most of students spend less and less of their time on learning, especially about reading. Through this point, we might know that people who answered their score in Chinese

is high might not really know that their ability of read, writing are going lower and lower.

What are the reasons do you considered people use Martian Words?

“We discovered that there were 28.8% of our participants answered for fun, and 26.8% of our participants answered save time of typing. The reasons of these two selections were selected evenly balanced, might because almost everyone has their own pc, and the internet is getting popular these days. Zhao (2006) stated that network make the sub-culture communication more frequently and smoothly.”

What affection does Martian words using will happened for the elementary school students' education in the future?

“There were 51% of our participants answered affect the ability of writing skill, and 41.2% answered affect the proper pronunciation. If they use to type those misspelling make unutterable sentences, some people worry about could affect the ability of writing skill. These two selections were selected by our participants the most. Continuum (2006) stated that spoken language influences of the literature are changing and following by the new era.”

Conclusion

The goal of this study was to understand *How do the Martian Words affect language and culture in Taiwan*. We would like this will offer Taiwan people more

understanding about Martian Words. Through the analyses of the above, we believe that Taiwan people will get more understanding of Martian Words. If we want to understand Martian Words absolutely, it needs other researches to continue studying for this matter. No matter the Martian words are good or bad at the moment. We hope the mankind can use the Martian Words as a kind of good tool in the future. Make it fast, high efficiency, and easy to understand for all human beings. Then Martian Words will become a great benefit for the mankind.

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Appendix A

Martian sentence

For example,

- Normal form: 我 今 天 要 去 學 校。

wo chien tian iao chu shiue shiao

tone (3) (1) (1) (4) (4) (2) (4)

- Martian form: 窩 今 天 么 企 協 校。

Wo chien tian iao chi shie shiao

tone (1) (1) (1) (1) (4) (2) (4)

Explanation: I go to school today.

Abbreviated phonetic notation writing

For example,

- Normal form: 你 吃 飽 了 嗎?

ni ch bao le ma

tone (3) (1) (3) (3) (1)

- Martian form: ㄋ ㄔ ㄅㄠ ㄌ ㄇㄚˊ?

n ch bao l m

tone (1) (1) (3) (1) (1)

Explanation: Are you full yet?

Appendix B

Group 10

Department of applied English in Kun Shan University, Tainan

Questionnaire Topic: Do the Martian Words Will Affect Language and Culture in Taiwan?

1. Gender Male Female
2. Age under 12 12 to 15 16 to 19 20-25 over 26
3. Educational background
 elementary school high school junior high school college
 graduate school Doctor
4. Which parts do you from in Taiwan?
 Northern Middle Southern East Off-shore islands
5. How often do you surf on the Internet? Always sometimes seldom
6. Have you ever seen or heard of Martian words? If **no**, please do not proceeded and turn in this survey.
 Yes No
7. Can you recognize what Martian Words are? Yes No
8. Do you use Martian words? Yes No
9. If yes, how often do you use Martian Words
 Almost everyday Once or twice a week A few times a month
 Seldom Never
10. What is your opinion about Martian Words?
 Positive Neutral Negative
11. From the following choices, which one means the Martian words of Taiwan?
 Words or phrases from the Mars
 Words and phrases be used on the Internet
 Created by young people
 Words and phrases from the ancient century
12. 「窩ㄋ天么ㄍ窩賊賊粗企」 do you know what is the sentence mean?
 Yes No
13. What is your main way of typing Chinese?
 Zhuyin Method Cangjie Method Boshiamy Method Dayi Method
 others
14. Do you use Martian Words to send messages when you chatting on the Internet?

- Always** **Sometimes** **Seldom** **Never**
- 15.** In order to follow the trend, do you think Martian Words should be taught at campus or school? **Yes** **No**
- 16.** How many points did you usually get at Chinese exam at school or university?
 100-85 **84-70** **under 69**
- 17.** What are the reasons do you considered people use Martian Words?
 save time for typing
 for fun
 many people don't know what is mean so I like it
 I just want to be special
 I don't know how to write the correct words
 it will make me cute
- 18.** What affection does Martian words using will happened for the elementary school students' education in the future?
 it is not about education
 affect the ability of writing skill
 affect the proper pronunciation
 I will be great to learn more novel things for children

Appendix C

崑山科技大學應用英語系畢業專題問卷

您認為火星文會對台灣的語言及文化有影響嗎?

1. 你的性別 男 女
2. 你的年齡 12 歲以下 12-15 歲 16-19 歲 20-25 歲 26 歲以上
3. 你的教育程度 國小 國中 高中 大專院校 研究所 博士
4. 您的居住地北 中 南 東 離島
5. 您使用網路的頻率 經常 偶而 不常
6. 您看過或聽過"火星文"嗎*如果答案是否定的請離開此問卷 謝謝 是 否
7. 您本身能分辨火星文 是 否
8. 您曾使用過火星文嗎 是 否
9. 您使用火星文的頻率為下列何者
幾乎每天一星期約一兩次約一個月幾次幾乎沒有完全沒有
10. 當您聽到火星文時，您的反應是正面(支持)沒意見(中立)負面(反對)
11. 下列何者為火星文的解釋
從火星來的文字、語言網路用語小朋友自創出來的古代流傳下來的
12. 「窩ㄌ天么《窩賊賊粗企》，您認為這句話的意思是
窩雞天要個窩賊賊粗氣 我今天要跟我姐姐出去
13. 請問您以何種輸入法作為"主要"中文打字方式注音 倉頡嘸蝦米 大易其他
14. 如果你和別人線上聊天時常會互傳火星文嗎 經常 偶而 幾乎沒有
15. 為因應潮流，您覺得火星文是否應該編入學校課程之一 是 否
16. 請問您在國語科目的成績表現如何 100-85 84-70 69 以下
17. 假如您使用火星文，您覺得最主要的因素是什麼(複選)
節省時間 好玩 搞神秘(因為家長或師長看不懂)喜歡特立獨行 因為

寫不出正確的字所以以火星文代替 爲了裝可愛

18. 由於現在小學生長期使用火星文，您覺得這樣對未來的國家教育有何影響(複選)

沒什麼差別 寫作能力退步 影響國語發音 多接觸也不錯