

A Cross-Cultural Comparison of the Topic Structure of Chinese and Indonesian Literature: A Case Study of *The True Story of Ah Q* and *This Earth of Mankind*

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Abstract—Literary works are closely interwoven with the social fabric of their era, mirroring the lived experiences and social issues the general population faces. This study employs a qualitative research method to analyze the content of two works, *The True Story of Ah Q* and *This Earth of Mankind* regarding topic marking and connection, continuity, transformation, and deepening. It then elucidates the similarities and differences in social reality and cultural mentality by investigating the differences in topic selection and expression. The findings indicate that *The True Story of Ah Q* emphasizes the individual's fate, whereas *This Earth of Mankind* prioritizes ethnic group consciousness. The cross-cultural analysis of this study enhances the comprehension of the interconnections between Chinese and Indonesian literature and offers a novel lens for cross-cultural research.

Index Terms—Chinese and Indonesian literature, linguistic feature, topic structure, cross-cultural comparison

I. INTRODUCTION

In the context of globalization, cross-cultural communication is becoming an increasingly prevalent phenomenon. As a significant conduit for cultural transmission, literature plays a pivotal role in facilitating the dissemination and acceptance of cultural norms across linguistic and cultural boundaries. Despite the geographical distance and cultural dissimilarities between China and Indonesia, their literary works exhibit striking resemblance in their exploration of human nature, social issues, and cultural conflicts. As a canonical work of modern Chinese literature, *The True Story of Ah Q* offers a profound insight into the psychological disposition and social reality of the lower-class characters within society. As a representative of modern Indonesian literature, *This Earth of Mankind* also exemplifies the intricacies and diversities of Indonesian society from a distinctive vantage point. A detailed examination of these two works allows for a more nuanced understanding of the similarities and differences between Chinese and Indonesian approaches to literary topic structures, thus facilitating a more profound comprehension of the two languages and their associated cultures.

This paper selects two works, *The True Story of Ah Q* and *This Earth of Mankind* as research objects, taking Chinese and Indonesian as examples, and employs comparative research methods to analyze the topic structures of the two languages. Topic structure is a significant area of linguistic study, primarily concerned with introducing, retaining, modifying, and impacting topics within discourse. From a cross-cultural perspective, this paper considers differences in language levels and then extends the analysis to encompass cultural and social dimensions. It explores how literary works utilize topic structures to convey social criticism and reflection in diverse cultural contexts.

There is a notable divergence between the linguistic systems of Chinese and Indonesian. Chinese civilization has endured for five millennia, during which time its language has become imbued with profound cultural wisdom. In contrast to Chinese, Indonesia employs a concise topic structure, and its grammar system is primarily based on changes in affixes (Candra & Yusup, 2020). In the mid-19th century, the emergence of Indonesian Chinese foreign literature considerably influenced local literature, becoming a pioneering force in Malay literary innovation (Adelina & Suprayogi, 2020). These works engaged with significant political and social issues, including the exposure of social injustice and the portrayal of instances of power abuse. They also depicted love stories between individuals of different ethnicities and explored internal conflicts within the families of young people.

Furthermore, these works depicted the lives and customs of the lower-class population. There are many Indonesian dialects, which is about 200. Chinese comprise approximately 4% of Indonesia's population, forming a minority group.

Hence, Mandarin holds a place in the Indonesian language environment (Tong et al., 2022). The language of Indonesian Chinese literature is mainly Chinese, which is gradually developed under the promotion of the May Fourth Movement, evolving from a language style with strong overseas Chinese characteristics to a localized modern literary expression (Zein et al., 2020). Despite being hindered by anti-China policies, the language of Indonesian Chinese literature is still constantly improving and perfecting. This language combines the traditional characteristics of Chinese, local features of Indonesia, and modern elements (Kuntjara & Chang, 2020; Latupeirissa et al., 2019).

Literary works from different countries and backgrounds have their unique topic structures. With the development of the times, comparative studies of cross-cultural literature have received increasing attention from the academic community and become a hot research field. Taking Chinese and Indonesian literature as examples, through in-depth analysis of literary works from different cultural backgrounds, the accuracy of translation and cultural acceptance can be understood (Ma, 2019). Comparing literary classics from different countries can reveal cultural changes, language adaptability, and how to preserve the spirit of the original work in translation (Ma, 2022; Nematullayev, 2024). Whether it is the similarities or differences between literature, their impact on society should not be underestimated.

This paper employs a comparative approach to analyze the literary works of Lu Xun and Pramoedya Ananta Toer. It utilizes their topic structures as entry points to elucidate the nuances of change and to critique and evaluate their respective literary works. Furthermore, it derives values and meanings based on their interconnections and influences. This approach expands literary theory's boundaries and promotes cultural understanding and respect (Wei, 2019). In particular, the analysis of topic structure offers a valuable lens through which to elucidate the fundamental ideas and cultural traits inherent to linguistic works, thereby opening up new avenues for cross-cultural literary inquiry. In terms of research methods, this paper employs qualitative analysis, text reading, linguistic analysis, and cultural criticism. The objective is to interpret the topic structural characteristics of *The True Story of Ah Q* and *This Earth of Mankind* from disparate perspectives and analyze the cultural connotations they contain. This paper aims to analyze the differences and similarities in topic markers, connection methods, continuity, change, and deepening between Chinese and Indonesian languages. It will then analyze the impact of these differences on the expressive effect and cultural dissemination of works. These commonalities emerge not only from the shared emotional experiences of humanity but also from the mutual infiltration and integration of cultures in the context of globalization. A comparative analysis of this kind not only serves to enhance our understanding of literary theory but also provides valuable insights that can inform and facilitate cultural exchange and mutual understanding between the two countries.

II. TOPIC STRUCTURE ANALYSIS OF *THE TRUE STORY OF AH Q*

Lu Xun's famous work *The True Story of Ah Q* is set in the rural society of China from the late Qing Dynasty to the early Republic of China. This literary work portrays Ah Q, an ordinary homeless man whose life experiences are characterized by a blend of comedy, absurdity, and tragedy. Lu Xun's vivid description of Ah Q in his writing is a personal performance and a reflection of the broad masses of farmers in that historical period. Lu Xun uses precise and profound descriptions in his works to depict all aspects of rural Chinese society at that time. The various emotions experienced by Ah Q, as well as the intricate mindsets of the other characters, are vividly depicted, provoking contemplation. The book is a direct commentary on the social landscape of the time and a metaphorical insight into the intricacies of human nature and the challenges and limitations of early capitalism in China.

Of particular note is the defining character of Ah Q's "fantasy victory," which sets the work apart regarding recognition and influence in contemporary Chinese literature. This characteristic symbolizes the tendency of individuals to resort to self-deception and escapism in the face of life obstacles. The phenomenon has attracted much attention and is a valuable case study for exploring individual psychological defense mechanisms and social criticism.

Despite the passage of time, the influence of *The True Story of Ah Q* has not waned, but it has left a deep impression on readers. In 1942, the work was adapted into a film that further consolidated its profound social critique and enhanced its relevance through visual representation. The film version of *The True Story of Ah Q* uses the magic of the screen to bring the vivid characters and scenes written by Lu Xun to a broader audience so that they can enjoy the entertainment and feel the clash of ideas across time and space.

A. Topic Markers and Connection Methods

In Lu Xun's novel *The True Story of Ah Q*, the charm of the Chinese language is fully reflected. By skillfully using the unique syntactic structure of Chinese, such as the flexible arrangement of subject, verb, and object, Lu Xun can construct the level and depth of the topic. In addition, the frequent function words in the paper also play a role in enhancing the expression effect and creating atmosphere, such as "but," "and," "however," "therefore," and "but".

Ah Q's name, this repeated cultural symbol, not only constitutes the central thread of the whole paper but also becomes a key literary symbol, guiding the reader to follow the protagonist's fate and experience a series of social changes. It is not only a symbol of Ah Q's awakening of self-consciousness but also clear evidence of his gradual decline in social status and confusion of identity.

Lu Xun uses Ah Q's words and behaviors to reveal the subtle changes in his inner world. His complex relationships with Master Zhao, Little D, and other characters in Wei Zhuang skillfully expand and deepen the theme. These complex relationships reveal the multifaceted nature of humanity and social contradictions and conflicts (Huan, 2023).

B. Topic Continuity

In Lu Xun's *The True Story of Ah Q*, the character Ah Q connects the topic and plot of the entire book. Every appearance of Ah Q, whether it is his naivety, self-consolation, or tragic experiences, leads to sharp criticism of the traditional system (Tania & Stephen, 2023). Through Ah Q's life trajectory, Lu Xun reveals the phenomena of class rigidity and moral imbalance that existed in Chinese society from the late Qing Dynasty to the Republic of China. Through the skillful use of Chinese narrative techniques, the plot is ingeniously woven, with internal coherence and smooth emotional transfer, allowing the topic to delve deeper into Ah Q's story, like a small stream gathering into a river and sea, and gradually presenting a grander social picture. This narrative technique highlights the close interaction between individuals and society, allowing readers to perceive the rhythm of historical changes in Ah Q's life scenes.

To sum up, *The True Story of Ah Q* has become a classic not only because it profoundly reveals various problems in a specific historical period but also because of the depth and logic of its narration. The work emphasizes the continuity of the topic and profoundly explores the analysis of the core problem, which makes the whole story full of space for thinking. This attention to detail and careful consideration of big questions make *The True Story of Ah Q* more persuasive and influential.

C. Topic Changing and Deepening

The protagonist, Ah Q, is carefully portrayed as a bridge for the evolution of the topic in *The True Story of Ah Q*. The elements of the topic include his life experiences, escape, resistance, and self-consolation. By revealing Ah Q's inner world, Lu Xun illuminates the living conditions of the people at the bottom of the feudal society and their psychological responses under challenging situations. The topic change is not a straightforward switch but a step-by-step transition from the external expression of individual behavior to a profound criticism of social structures. It is a good reflection of Lu Xun's profound insight into the nature of humans and society. Like a multi-prism, Ah Q's complicated psychological state reflects the common difficulties and grievances of that era and social injustice, contradictions, and conflicts.

In the process of artistic creation, the transformation and deepening of topics play a decisive role, demonstrating the author's skills of words and unique insights into multiculturalism (Zheng et al., 2019). In Chinese, implicit associative phrases and innovative sentence structures are often used to change topics, emphasizing seamless logical integration.

III. TOPIC STRUCTURE ANALYSIS OF *THIS EARTH OF MANKIND*

This Earth of Mankind (Bumi Manusia), the masterpiece of Indonesian literary giant Pramoedya Ananta Toer, is the opening work of his famous "Buru Quartet," which first appeared in 1980 (Sulaeman & Koh, 2023). The historical picture of this novel unfolds during the colonial era in Indonesia, revealing through the eyes of the protagonist, Minke, the living conditions and resistance of the Indonesian people under the iron hooves of the Netherlands at that time. The work cleverly interweaves personal fate and grand historical processes, narrating touching growth and love and profoundly analyzing the diverse landscape of Indonesian society and the emergence of national consciousness.

A. Topic Markers and Connection Methods

In the Indonesian language work *This Earth of Mankind*, the construction and advancement of topics mainly rely on clear word order and specific connectors. These words act as a compass, guiding the reader through the sea of text and accurately grasping the main lines and details of the story. Classic words, like "yang" and "dimana," are often used to summarize the main idea and establish the narrative context. "Dimana" not only indicates the event's location but also conveys the protagonist's emotional state and the surrounding environment's atmosphere. The connectives "karena" (cause) and "sehingga" (effect) are also distinctive. Simple word use can exhibit complex logical networks. Reasonable use of these words can not only point out the root cause of taking specific actions but also intuitively show the resulting results to provide more intuitive and verifiable logical evidence for connecting topics. This way of connecting dramatically enhances the credibility and persuadability of the narrative, enabling the reader to grasp the author's concepts more effectively and fully understand the motivations and influences driving each storyline. Because of the inherent characteristics of this language structure, Indonesian literary works put special emphasis on stating facts and establishing causal links when conducting topic tagging.

Compared to other languages, Indonesian emphasizes the structure and coherence of the storytelling process, and the narrative style tends to be linear and direct. This emphasis does not imply a lack of diversity or intricacies of depiction but rather highlights the focus of Indonesian works on narrative progression and discrimination rather than excessive attention to minute details. In essence, *This Earth of Mankind* provides a coherent and systematic framework of topics through its unique grammatical composition, which sets it apart from many other Indonesian literature works of similar nature.

B. Topic Continuity

In Indonesia's rich and diverse cultural background, Pramoedya Ananta Toer's *This Earth of Mankind* constructs a three-dimensional topic network through multiple interwoven plot clues. Each short story is like a cross-section of society, revealing the diversity of Indonesian society (Farhana & Aflahah, 2019). The topics are harmonious and diverse, reflecting both individual life and collective memory, and this narrative is deeply rooted in the essence of Indonesian

language and culture, with subtle interweaving of clues and elaborate plot layout to show the depth of the narrative (Jin et al., 2023). Moreover, such narrative traditions demonstrate a deep insight into social structures and historical changes, allowing readers to explore the complexities of Indonesian society from multiple perspectives.

This Earth of Mankind pursues breadth, which requires a wide range of topics. It pays attention to the topic's continuous themes and emphasizes a keen capture of ever-changing dynamics. In short, it has unique interpretation results of topic continuity.

C. Topic Changing and Deepening

Pramoedya Ananta Toer's *This Earth of Mankind* adopts a multi-dimensional narrative strategy in which the characters weave their way around the topic to create a vivid panorama of Indonesian society. The author expands and deepens the topic during the process, gaining profound insights into human nature and describing human emotions in detail. By constantly changing the narrative perspective, society's diversity and complex structure are fully displayed, allowing readers to not only focus on individual experiences but also understand the overall changes in society. This topic change and depth endow the text with profound connotations and a sense of hierarchy, further revealing social history's intricate and complex evolution.

Indonesians tend to use explicit sentence connections and oral communication between characters to advance stories, and their narrative strategy appears more transparent. The difference with Chinese is a vivid portrayal of cultural context and narrative tradition, which reveals the diversity of syntactic structure.

IV. CROSS-CULTURAL COMPARISON

Although *The True Story of Ah Q* and *This Earth of Mankind* originated from different eras and geographical environments, they both hold a pivotal position in the field of literature (Ma, 2019). These two works touch upon universal human nature and social issues by depicting individual life trajectories. Its deeply ingrained topics, multidimensional character shaping, and novel narrative techniques lead readers to contemplate the historical context and values of their respective cultural environments. In interdisciplinary analysis, these two works are often used as comparative cases to reveal the uniqueness of the literature of the two countries, as well as the historical, social, and cultural differences reflected behind these differences.

A. Relationship Between Language Structure and Cultural Background

As a cultural phenomenon, language structure contains both people's thinking patterns and cultural values and historical experiences (Xi et al., 2019). Language is a means of communication and an important carrier of cultural inheritance and expression (Lee & Meng, 2022). Lu Xun uses the refinement and logic of the Chinese language in his book *The True Story of Ah Q* to conduct an in-depth analysis of various problems and characters' psychology in the late Qing of China. Ah Q's "allegorical mental victory" is a self-consolation mechanism in individual psychology and a true reflection of the prevalent escapist mentality in society (Lu, 2024). The expression characteristics of the Chinese language reveal the introspection and reality of the Chinese nation when facing difficulties, as well as its keen insight into social phenomena. In Lu Xun's writings, images such as "braid" and "revolution" are like codes, revealing a specific era's spiritual style and collective subconscious. These symbols carry rich historical lessons and the evolution of national identity. The novel *This Earth of Mankind* explores the multifaceted elements of Indonesian culture and the significance of cultural integration through the vast vocabulary and fluent sentences in Indonesian. The author skillfully exploits the adaptability of language to describe the intricate nuances of the character's emotional landscape and the country's historical context. Among them, the interaction and internal reflection that shape the characters, like dynamic flowing water, show the emotional changes in Indonesian society over a long period and critically analyze its colonial history. Indonesian expressions highlight a deep level of cultural convergence and historical understanding. "Braid" is a synonym for feudal society, but also the previous feudal system of restrictions and the symbol of the necessity of transformation; metaphors such as "Bali" and "colony" reflect the historical path and cultural integration of Indonesia, presenting the identity and cultural conflicts of a nation in historical change. These cultural symbols are indispensable elements in both works, strengthening their symbolic significance and deepening readers' understanding of their respective social histories.

Although the two works are in different languages, they have successfully constructed a rich network of topics through their unique language, showcasing the author's profound insights into human nature and society. This cross-linguistic comparison not only enriches the public's understanding of literary works but also provides a deeper understanding of how language shapes thoughts and expressions.

B. Differences and Similarities in Topic Handling Methods

In *The True Story of Ah Q*, Lu Xun portrays the profound and delicate handling of topics in Chinese by portraying Ah Q as a typical character. As a marginalized figure in society, Ah Q's psychology and behavior are meticulously portrayed by Lu Xun, leading to a series of topics about self-esteem, inferiority, resistance, and compromise. Lu Xun changes the topic through Ah Q's experiences and reactions, thus deepening his criticism of social reality. The narrative style of *The True Story of Ah Q* highlights Chinese expression's coherence and emotional depth. Focusing on the psychological evolution of the character, Ah Q delves into the tension between individuals and groups, ideals, and reality.

In contrast, *This Earth of Mankind* introduces multiple intertwined topics and adopts multiple linear narratives to express the diversity and complexity of society, allowing readers to understand and experience the reality of this society from various aspects so that the work can be more inclusive and profound. It stimulates readers' broader thoughts and discussions. Regarding topic handling, *The True Story of Ah Q* emphasizes using language to explain things' linear logic and profound emotional color. *This Earth of Mankind* presents a non-linear logic and complex structure. It is not only the difference between Indonesian and Chinese languages but also a reflection of the narrative traditions and aesthetic orientations of the Indonesian and Chinese ethnic groups.

Taking the topic structures of *The True Story of Ah Q* and *This Earth of Mankind* as references, there are differences in the narrative structure between the two works, allowing readers to have a more thorough understanding of the distinct personalities of Chinese and Indonesian in literary expression. This topic structure comparison not only enhances insight into the literary forms of the two languages but also provides unique insights for cross-cultural dialogue. The depth of the topic can guide readers to experience the unique charm displayed by different languages in constructing plots, portraying characters, and depicting social phenomena, and thus profoundly appreciate the irreplaceable value of literary creation in enhancing understanding and communication between different cultures.

C. Social Criticism and Cultural Reflection in Literary Works

As the pinnacle of artistic expression, literary works also provide a keen insight into social and cultural phenomena (Huang, 2020). Lu Xun's *The True Story of Ah Q* deeply reveals the feudal dregs of traditional Chinese society, the weakness of national character, and the helpless struggle and numbness of individuals in the face of injustice and unfair treatment through the portrayal of Ah Q. As a classic literary work, *This Earth of Mankind* clearly presents the social life of Indonesia during the turbulent period described in the book. The joys and sorrows of the people in the book depict the hardships of this country, as well as their yearning for freedom and justice. Whether in Chinese or Indonesian, these works serve as a mirror reflecting the current social situation, allowing readers to understand the challenges and contradictions while showcasing the authors' deep reflection and critical spirit on these issues.

This social analysis and cultural reflection enhances the depth of literary works and provides valuable references for cross-cultural communication. They broaden people's understanding of the diversity of human experiences and inspire empathy and understanding of social issues in different cultural backgrounds through their unique stories and profound topics. By comparing *The True Story of Ah Q* and *This Earth of Mankind*, it can be seen that despite differences in geography and language, literary works can strongly connect the common emotional bonds of humanity, reveal common human challenges, and respond to these issues in different cultural backgrounds.

Critical analysis plays a crucial role in literary criticism, encouraging humanity to go beyond surface art forms and explore the underlying social and cultural issues contained in the works. Lu Xun's *The True Story of Ah Q* reveals the deep-rooted problems in Chinese feudal society and the weaknesses in national character and exposes the general mentality of helplessness and self-comfort in the face of injustice (Zhao, 2024). *The True Story of Ah Q* reveals the shortcomings of the times through its sharp satire, triggering a profound reflection on social progress. Combining life experiences and historical trends, *This Earth of Mankind* questions the unfairness of rights and the oppression of the state, praises the perseverance and hope of individuals in adversity, inspires readers' longing for justice and fairness through the ups and downs of life, and calls on people to awaken and build a beautiful society where everyone is equal. *This Earth of Mankind* and *The True Story of Ah Q* have broken through pure literature with their unique artistic techniques, becoming important carriers for promoting social transformation and cultural consciousness.

D. Mutual Influence Between Culture and Language

Language is like a mirror, reflecting a country's spiritual outlook and historical accumulation. Moreover, language and culture influence, constrain and promote each other. Through the uniqueness of language, artistic creation conveys narrative and emotions and carries the core of culture and hidden moral perspectives. Cross-cultural interaction and deep understanding are key driving factors for human social progress and cultural prosperity. With the continuous deepening of global trends, the cross-border circulation of artworks has gradually become particularly important and necessary. These measures strengthen the knowledge bridge between various cultures and promote the protection and creation of cultural diversity.

The True Story of Ah Q, with its unique, concise, clear, and logical language, reflects the implicit and pragmatic personality of the Chinese people. Ah Q's iconic phrase, "I will get you!" is a vivid symbol that expresses his sense of frustration and powerlessness, as well as the author's feelings of social injustice and helplessness and acceptance of their own destiny. It is concise and clear but powerful. Moreover, the phrase emphasizes not only the effectiveness and precision of the Chinese language in capturing subtle emotions and dealing with complex social issues but also the attributes of Chinese culture that tend to be subtle, complex, exquisite, and charming.

This Earth of Mankind showcases the breadth and inclusiveness of Indonesian culture and insights into historical changes that draw on the richness and adaptability of the Indonesian language. There is a scene in the book: under the grey sky he stands alone on the banks of the river, remembering the beautiful times that have passed. His heart feels heavy like an invisible burden pressing. This intricate depiction of emotions and establishment of deep symbolic associations in the book underscores the uniqueness of a particular language in capturing subtle emotions.

In contrast, different languages exhibit unique styles when constructing topics, with one language possibly favoring

clear narratives and rigorously structured discourses. At the same time, another adopts a broad vocabulary and rhythmically charged expressions to convey emotions and imagery. This diversity enriches the appearance of literary creation and provides diverse insights for cross-cultural communication. The language difference is not only reflected at the linguistic level but also deeply reflects the differences in communication and expression between the two cultures, each interpreting the rich diversity of human emotions and understanding of the world in a unique way.

E. Social Value and Significance of Literary Works

Literary works, as treasures of the human spiritual world, undoubtedly have an indispensable social value and significance in literary research. They use unique artistic techniques, such as Lu Xun's sharp satire in *The True Story of Ah Q*, to expose the dark side of society, allowing readers to see the remnants of feudalism and the weaknesses of national character in Ah Q's image. Lu Xun's writing is a revelation of the old era and a call to the new world. His works inspire people's reflection on the current social situation and drive the wheels of social progress. *This Earth of Mankind* is a masterpiece by Pramoedya Ananta Toer. It profoundly analyzes the historical context of the Indonesian nation, showcases the struggle and resilience of the people in hardship through meticulous narration, and inspires readers to reflect deeply on freedom and equality. This work is not only a witness to history but also like a prism, reflecting the complexity of human nature and inspiring people to move towards a brighter future.

The role of literary works lies in their ability to transcend the boundaries of time and space and deeply explore the profound essence of humanity. *The True Story of Ah Q* is like a magnifying glass, revealing the shortcomings of society and inspiring individuals to move towards a better tomorrow. The topic structure in the author's writing is like a precise tool, penetrating the core of the soul, touching on the fundamental aspects of human nature, and promoting introspection and personal growth. With its broad historical context and deep empathy for humanity, *This Earth of Mankind* portrays the resilience of the Indonesian people in difficult times. The chosen topic documents Indonesia's history and conveys a powerful message of humanity's continued pursuit of freedom and justice, even in the most difficult circumstances. This enduring spirit has translated into a powerful driver that has been passed down through the generations, shaping the collective identity and actions of the Indonesian people. It depicts the indomitable human spirit and testifies to the strength and unwavering determination of individuals and communities in the face of adversity.

Moreover, the social importance of literary works can be found in their ability to have a broad impact, inspire deep thinking, and trigger large-scale social change. The insightful analysis in *The True Story of Ah Q* and the empathy depicted in *This Earth of Mankind* exemplify how literary creations have evolved to mirror the societies they represent. These literary masterpieces have played a key role in enriching humanity's vast cultural trove while bringing complexity and nuance to humanity's collective heritage. Moreover, they provide a valuable perspective and guidance for society toward a future characterized by enlightenment and progress.

These two works of literature have had a broad and lasting impact on readers in China, Indonesia, and across the globe. The social significance of these works is not only a critique of the existing reality; they delve into the emotional realm of the reader and stimulate their inner sense of wisdom. The thematic component embedded in these works prompts a close examination of various social phenomena. At the same time, the underlying idea catalyzes individuals to aspire to a more fulfilling life and strive to build a just and equitable society. These works resemble radiant beacons that illuminate the way forward for humanity, enrich the collective spiritual nature of society, elevate the academic pursuit of academia, provide individuals with deep insights into the dynamics of life and society, and promote a deeper understanding.

V. CONCLUSION

The paper suggests notable differences in how Chinese and Indonesian speakers maintain coherence in their discourse. Chinese language use is characterized by clear sentence structures and direct expressions, facilitating straightforward information transmission. In contrast, Indonesian language use is marked by rich rhetoric and metaphors, which enhance the artistic and suggestive nature of language. This contrast is particularly evident in the handling of the topic in *The True Story of Ah Q* and *This Earth of Mankind*. *The True Story of Ah Q* revolves around Ah Q, elucidating feudal China's social milieu and individual survival struggles. *This Earth of Mankind* focuses on specific issues and social class dynamics in Indonesian society.

The two narrative works offer unique insights into different cultural perspectives and philosophical depths. Through analysis and interpretation, they illustrate the heterogeneity of culture. *The True Story of Ah Q* employs a bold approach to examine the pathological aspects of society, whereas *This Earth of Mankind* delves into the nuances of emotional dynamics in individual and group interactions, reflecting the diversity of moral evaluations and cognitive patterns across cultures.

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