

ABSTRACT

Chinese proverbs are recognized as one of the branches of Chinese verbal literature. Because of their attractive and beautiful sentence structures that have deep underlying meanings, its usage is synonymous and significant to the Chinese society.

There are various types of Chinese proverbs such as *chengyu*, *suyu*, *yanyu*, *guanyongyu*, *xiehouyu* and *geyan*. These proverbs are categorized under *shuyu*. In this research, the researcher takes account of their origin, functions and the various categories of Chinese proverbs to better understand the topic. In addition, the research is focused on the creation of the proverbs, which comprised 50 *chengyu* that are related to nature's phenomenon. The researcher also seeks to analyze aspects of the Chinese social culture, that are embedded in *chengyu* from a semiotic viewpoint through deciphering signs and meanings established in *chengyu*, through comparison of two linguistic stages, which are semantic and pragmatic.

From the research, it is found that *chengyu* is very unique and encompassed a value system that serves as a pillar of life to the Chinese society. Within *chengyu* holds the finest thoughts that are results of life's experience and the acute observations of the Chinese towards their natural surroundings. It portrays various philosophies, teachings

and depicts the exceptional thinking of the Chinese society presented with subtlety and effectiveness. Furthermore, its purpose is to educate through means of advices, sarcasms, teachings and reminders.

The research is important and plays a fundamental role because it is hoped that it will provide a better picture and understanding for the readers in their appreciation of the use of the language and the ethos of the Chinese society. Furthermore, it serves to maintain the richness of Chinese culture society. This effort will provide opportunities for the current and future younger generation to appreciate and respect this valuable heritage of the Chinese culture.