

Abstract

Chinese writing system differs much from alphabetic system and serves as a good medium to verify the generalizability of lexical access models for alphabetic systems. Research findings suggested that interactive-activation model is appropriate for Chinese in which stroke, radical, and character play a role in lexical access. Two experiments using the “character decision task” demonstrated the existence of word level and its interactive nature with other levels. Experiment 1 showed that the second character in a word is recognized faster when the initial character is presented beforehand. This effect is affected by the frequency of the word and the association strength between the characters in the word. Experiment 2 showed that word unit interact with semantic level and character level. Its activation can provide facilitation to character level processing. This facilitation is independent from the attentional demand.