

Abstract

Written Chinese has a lot of important and unique properties and is probably the most widely used written language on earth (Chen, 1992). However, most reading research, however, has been conducted on European languages with alphabetic writing systems, and only a relatively small amount has involved the Chinese language. How do readers comprehend written Chinese?

This paper presents an experiment through which I studied whether garden path theory or interactive model is more appropriate to account for the syntactic processing in Chinese comprehension. Moreover, I also used this experiment to study whether context has effect on the syntactic processing in Chinese comprehension, too. The result of this experiment supports the claim that syntactic processing is affected by semantic information as predicted by the interactive model.