

## Abstract

Addressed to the criticism of using forced-choice response paradigm (Russell 1994), the ability to recognize the six basic facial expressions of emotion was compared among groups under the 6-label forced-choice condition (below as 6-option condition), 6-label plus “cannot decide” condition (below as 7-option condition) and 20-label plus “cannot decide” condition (below as 21-option condition) in Hong Kong. Photographs from Ekman and Friesen (1976) consisted six basic emotions were used as testing stimuli to perform recognition task. Results showed that all emotions were recognized above chance level under all three response paradigms. Thus revealed that the using of forced-choice response format as instrument in emotion research would not necessarily lead to an overestimation of emotion-recognition. Results also indicated that Chinese subjects in addition to the confusion between fear and surprise, they were also confused between anger and disgust under all response conditions. Its implications with respect to cultural influences on recognition of facial expression of emotion were discussed.