

Abstract

Examined the basic unit for perception and memory for spoken Cantonese. In forward priming paradigm, 28 undergraduates heard a monosyllabic prime and then a target. Responses to targets with primes sharing consonant and rime were significantly faster than target with primes sharing consonant/rime and tone. It is suggested that syllabic unit was a perceptual unit. In backward priming, another 28 participants heard the targets before the primes. Responses to targets with primes sharing consonant and tone, and consonant/rime and tone was similar in reaction times. It was suggested that both syllabic and subsyllabic units were active in memory.