

Abstract

The language-specific hypothesis and the stage of second language(L₂) acquisition hypothesis were re-examined. In performing a semantic categorization task of presenting Chinese/English words briefly in the visual half fields (VHF), participants demonstrated a right visual field (RVF) advantage over the left in terms of correct rate and reaction time, as shown by most previous VHF studies. However, no interaction effect between language and VHF was detected in all conditions, nor did the difference between Chinese and English laterality indices approach significant level. Results argued against the language-specific hypothesis, which predicts differential lateralization patterns between the two languages. In addition, no significant correlations were obtained between degree of lateralization and language proficiency, the stage of acquisition hypothesis is also questioned.