

Abstract

A specific type of false memory, known as memory conjunction errors, has been widely investigated recently. The present study extended the findings to Chinese participants using stimuli in their second language. Sixteen native Cantonese speakers were recruited for the experiment. Participants studied two-syllable English words and later received a recognition test including four types of stimuli: old words (previously studied), conjunction lures (formed by combining the syllables of two studied words), feature lures (one syllable in common with studied words) and completely new words. Participants made more errors to conjuncture lures than to feature lures, but no difference was detected between the false alarm rate of feature lures and that of new words. The present findings provide evidence against the dual-process theory of false memory, however the evidence does not support the representational approach either.