

Abstract

Mood-congruent superiority effect in reading and comprehension was investigated in this experiment. Eighteen University students were asked to read different passage types --- happy, neutral and sad under happy, neutral and sad mood, with an MC question followed across different conditions during the music play. Reading time of the whole passage, emotional words in the passage and correct rate were analyzed. Contrary to the previous researches, results did not show mood-congruent superiority effect in reading the whole passage and the correct rate. However, mood-incongruent superiority effect in reading only emotional words in the passage was found, that meant the participants took less time to read the emotional incongruent words but this decrease of time did not affect the understanding of the passage. Inhibitory network theory and inhibitory attentional mechanism can be used to explain this phenomenon as mood inhibited the reading of mood-incongruent materials.