

Abstract

The processing of English grammar structures in reading English sentences was investigated using an eye-monitoring technique. 14 Chinese-English bilinguals and 14 native English speakers participated in the study. The critical word in each of the 80 sentences was manipulated, which includes four different grammatical aspects. Only tense words and singular/plural nouns were of interest in the study. Participants were asked to judge whether or not the sentences were grammatically correct. Main effects of group and grammar structure were found. Chinese-English bilinguals fixated more on the English words than native English speakers. Also, participants fixated more on tense words than singular/plural nouns. An interaction effect of group and grammar structure was found in the study that may imply that Chinese-English bilinguals pay less attention to singular/plural nouns than tense verbs.