

ABSTRACT

This research aims at investigating the importance of onset, rime and tone in recognition of spoken monosyllabic words in Cantonese. We have conducted 4 auditory-auditory lexical decision priming experiments and recruited a total of 160 university students as participants. In Experiments 1, 2, and 3, participants were presented with word and nonword primes, constructed by altering one of the three sub-syllabic features, onset, rime, or tone, and made lexical decisions on word or nonword targets. Experiment 4 used the same task except that only nonword primes were presented, which were derived by altering two sub-syllabic features. All four experiments showed clear priming effects of nonword primes on word targets. The results supported that any one sub-syllabic feature sufficed to facilitate word recognition, and they had comparable contribution to word recognition. This suggested that the difference between the importance of segmental information and that of tone information in lexical activation might be negligible. The results also showed that in words, lexical activation could not take place in the absence of any one feature. On one hand, the present study revealed the significance of sub-syllabic features on lexical activation. On the other hand, it also acknowledged the dominance of lexicality over sub-syllabic features. Finally, by comparing the predictions of the four major spoken word recognition models on the results of our experiments, we suggested that the TRACE model (McClelland & Elman, 1986) was the best-fit model of the present findings.

論文摘要

本研究旨在探討聲母、韻母與聲調於識別口語粵語單音節詞之重要性。我們進行了四個聽覺詞彙判斷啟動實驗，並徵募了一共 160 位大學生為參與者。在實驗一、二及三，參與者會聆聽字或非字的啟動詞，所聆聽的啟動詞乃是由改變字的其中一種音節成分，即聲母、韻母或聲調而成。參與者於聆聽啟動詞之後，會聆聽字或非字的目標詞，然後對目標詞作出詞彙判斷。實驗四採用同樣的任務，然而其中的啟動詞只有非字，並且這些非字乃是由改變兩種音節成分而成。四個實驗清楚顯示非字的啟動詞對字的目標詞的啟動效應。實驗結果支持任何一種音節成分足已幫助詞語識別，並且三者對詞語識別有相若的貢獻，這也證明了切分信息及聲調信息對詞語激活，可能並無顯著的分別。結果亦顯示在缺乏任何一種音節成分的單字的情況下，詞語激活不可能發生。本研究一方面顯露出音節成分對詞語激活的重要性，另一方面承認詞彙狀態比音節成分的優越性。最後，我們比較了四個重要的口語字詞識別模型對本實驗結果的預測，我們認為 McClelland 及 Elman 於 1986 年提出的 TRACE 模型最能解釋本實驗的結果。