

Abstract

According to some studies involving visual search of objects or words, parafoveal vision is a vital component of vision search, and the span of parafoveal vision is longer in horizontal than vertical orientation. Hence it was proposed in this study that a word border can affect the efficiency of visual search in word menus by disturbing the parafoveal vision, and this effect would be stronger in horizontal than vertical menus. In the first two experiments, it was shown that the border could decrease the efficiency of the search, but there were no difference in this effect between menus of the two orientations. A third experiment was carried out to investigate the effect of the border on foveal and parafoveal vision, and it was shown that the border affected parafoveal vision much more than foveal vision.