

Abstract

The present study was aimed at investigating the development of unitizational awareness of elementary students in learning to read Chinese. It was a replicate study of Chung (2002) with an extended target of subjects. Five tests were administered to 241 Hong Kong students from elementary grade one to grade six. Results indicated that the second and third graders have already developed the unitizational awareness at the character level and students gradually develop the unitizational awareness of word level from grade two to grade six. In addition, the unitizational awareness at the character level and word level were correlated significantly with the word recognition performances. The pattern of development was consistent with the unitizational model proposed by Ng (2003).

