

ABSTRACT

While contrasting the two contradictory findings of Wisniewski (1996, 1998) and Gagne (2000, 2002), as well as basing on daily observation that property mapping interpretation of compound words are abundant in Chinese languages, the present study supplements that not only the similarity between modifiers and head nouns, but also the significance of the shared features contributes to the inclination to adopt property mapping to interpret compound words. Experiment 1 shows some evidence in supporting this hypothesis of significance. In addition, this study also shows that merely presenting the property mapping compounds is not sufficient to prime property-mapping interpretation, but the process of comprehending those compounds is, and interpreting one kind of property-mapping can facilitate the comprehension of same type of property mapping combinations. However, results in Experiment 2 shows no boost effect on comprehension time, but a slight boost effect on the choice of the same interpretation strategy as the prim

