

### **Abstract**

Rapid Automatized Naming (RAN) has been shown an effective and reliable predictor of reading outcomes across various languages. However, the underlying cognitive mechanisms of the RAN-reading relationship in cross-language transfer contexts and adult populations remain unclear and even less is known about how L1-L2 orthographic proximity influences such relationship. This study provided insights to the above topics by examining and contrasting the cross-language RAN-reading relationships of 51 Cantonese-English and 84 Japanese-English bilingual young adult participants. Results illustrated that RAN did not predict cross-language reading fluency or accuracy after controlling for RAN performances in the same language, and cross-language relationships between RAN and reading accuracy differed between the Cantonese-speaking and Japanese samples. These findings indicate that cognitive abilities underlying RAN-reading relationships may be universal across languages and orthographic proximity unlikely play a significant role in cross-language RAN-reading relationships.