

Abstract

At present, there are mainly two models competing to account for the initial ambiguity resolution in reading comprehension. They are the garden-path model (Frazier and Rayner, 1982) and the interactive model (Crain and Steedman, 1985). Both have empirical evidence, and thus, a debate between them. In the present study, the potential influence of semantic information was examined. By manipulating only the semantic variable, direct comparison between plausible and implausible sentences could be made. Similarly, to further investigate the contextual effect on parsing, context relevant to the subject or the object were presented to compare their impact on sentence processing. Results showed a significant interaction effect between Context and Segment. It was suggested that context played a more prominent role than plausibility (rationality) in initial ambiguity resolution in reading Chinese sentences.