Abstract

Repetition blindness (RB) results when the recall of detection of a repeated item is impaired by the presence of its first occurrence presented in RSVP. This phenomenon was successfully demonstrated using identical Chinese characters (nouns) and identical English words (nouns) in the item-based analysis with error rates as the measurement of RB. However, this repetition blindness effect changed to repetition facilitation when using translation equivalents of the two languages, which are semantically similar and might also be conceptually repeated, though differ on other aspects. Lower error rates and shorter reaction times were observed for the translation equivalents (e.g., cat-貓) compared with a pair of semantically related Chinese and English words (e.g., hen-貓). This might indicate that semantic overlap is not sufficient to produce RB. The results were interpreted as a favor for the token individuation hypothesis and against the type refractoriness hypothesis.