

Abstract

In the light of the differences between the role of conjunctions and prepositions in Chinese and English, the present study aimed at comparing the eye fixation pattern between the Chinese-English bilinguals and the native English speakers in reading. It was predicted that the two groups would perform similarly in conjunctions questions based on the fact that conjunctions were included in both language, while the native would perform better than bilinguals in prepositions questions based on the fact that there is no equivalent prepositions in Chinese. Main effect of grammar type was found at the word prior to the critical word and critical word while carryover effect of main effect of group was found at the word following the critical word. The mentioned results highlighted the importance of language specific properties in the proficiency of the language and so further study the underlying processes related to these properties would be needed.