

## Abstract

The two variables for second language acquisition were investigated: the similarity of the first language and the new language, and L1 proficiency. Forty-nine subjects were learned 20 French words which were either associated with Chinese or English in study session, and taking part in picture recognition task in test session. The reaction time and were recorded. The results showed the mother tongue skills played an important role in new language acquisition. However, similarity between old language and new language did not show any effect in new language acquisition. It indicated the word association method would facilitate L2 acquisition for adult learners and supported the conceptual mediation model, proposed the adult learner in acquiring new language could have conceptual process even the modality in study did not match the modality in test.