Abstract

The current study would like to investigate the effectiveness of facial features on the gender classification task. Twenty Chinese university students were participated in a computer-programmed study using the parts/whole paradigm. The results suggested that eyes plus eyebrows and the outline were the most useful features in classifying gender of a face. A response bias towards male was also obtained in this study, meaning that people generally predicted the face to be a male one. The author suggested that when facing ambiguous situation in which the gender of a person someone meet was questionable, try to pay more attention on their eyes and eyebrows and to eliminate the pre-assign male response in the mind, one may fortunately correctly predict the gender of a person.