

Abstract

This study investigated the associations between language codes and memory performance. Cantonese-English bilinguals were asked to remember information in three language codes and answer questions related to the information. Results indicated that English proficiency plays a role to mediate the language-code-specific memory effects in bilinguals. For bilinguals with higher English proficiency levels, while no significant result revealed the pattern of encoding specificity in three language codes, the combination of language codes during encoding and retrieval affects their memory performance. For bilinguals with lower English proficiency levels, this effect was not shown. Reasons behind this result and the degree of language-code-specific memory effects in different language codes were discussed.