

Abstract

The current study aims to, through behavioural experiments, compare the reading of traditional and simplified Chinese characters, specifically the phono-semantic characters (also known as the phonograms). Previous psycholinguistic studies have confirmed the effects of number of strokes, consistency, frequency, and regularity on recognition. The above values are different for the same characters in the two scripts, yet no studies have been done to compare how these changes would affect reading. It was hoped to use the results to judge the rationale for language reform, yet they were found too inconclusive to justify or deny any claim. Further study direction is discussed.