Abstract

Language switch costs in Chinese-English bilinguals were investigated in contexts with different Chinese and English word proportion. Also, the effect of L2 proficiency was examined to review previous models and research on bilinguals' language switching performance. 72 Chinese-English bilinguals were recruited for a between subject experiment. They were instructed to perform a semantic categorization task, in which they were required to identify whether a given target word would fit into a given wordlist which represented a semantic category. The target words were either in Chinese or English. There were three types of word lists that were of different Chinese and English word proportion. Results confirmed that switch costs decreased as the proportion of Chinese words decreased. The findings supported that L2 proficiency is one of the factors determining the language switch performance.