

Abstract

Due to ascending popularity of Chinese language and its well-recognized difficulty, the current study aims to investigate print-to-speech consistency effect to gain insight on how adults learning Chinese as a foreign language (CFL) learn reading and writing of traditional Chinese script through Cantonese. Previous studies on consistency effect were conducted with naming or word recognition paradigms whereas this study aims to address this effect with writing production.

Two tasks, delayed copying and dictation, were administered to native and non-native participants to examine their differences in visual-orthographic knowledge and manifestation of consistency effect respectively. The question of whether consistency effect interacts with familiarity to language was also addressed by between-group comparison on dictation data. Data were collected with digital pen tablet so as to examine the fine-grained process of writing production which may not be directly observable from paper-and-pen records. It is hoped that understanding on how CFLs acquire writing skills and its relation with print-to-speech rules could be enhanced. Error patterns would also be analyzed to gain insight to writing development among CFLs.