Abstract

Subtyping studies on Chinese developmental dyslexia are relatively scarce and underexplored in academia. The present study attempted to identify the dyslexic subtypes in Chinese developmental dyslexia using cluster analysis. 86 dyslexic readers were tested for orthographic awareness, phonological awareness, phonological working memory, word reading and reading fluency. The two-stage clustering technique revealed eight dyslexic subtypes—Orthographic awareness deficit, Phonological awareness deficit, Working memory deficit, Orthographic—Phonological awareness deficit, Orthographic awareness—Working memory deficit, Phonological awareness—Working memory deficit, Global deficit and Mild deficit. The study also illustrates the utility of cluster analysis and the technical issues, such as the choice of variables, in classifying dyslexic subtypes and differentiating the dyslexics from the average readers.

Keywords: Developmental dyslexia; Chinese language; Subtyping; Cluster analysis