

Neighborhood Characteristics and Phonetic-sound Correspondence of Chinese Characters

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The phonetics of Chinese characters has the aspects of pronounceable and validity which constituent three types of phonetic-sound correspondence and the consistency level in terms of neighborhood characteristics. Most studies have figured out that the impact of these aspects on naming performance is constrained by character/word frequency. This study manipulated the ratio of summed frequency of friends and summed frequency of enemies in consideration of the distribution of summed frequency of friends across character frequency. Experiment 1 showed the consistency effects caused by homophonous and the regularity effects caused by non-homophonous changed with the amount of summed frequency of friends. And the size of regularity effect is larger than that of consistency effect in general. In Experiment 2, the strict control of neighborhood characteristics eliminated the interaction of consistency effects and character frequency. However, the magnitude of homophonous was larger than that of heterophonous. These results show that the interactions of character frequency and orthography to phonology correspondence are the various impact of neighborhood characteristic across phonetic-sound correspondences. The final section discussed the importance of distinguishing the phonetic types in studying the impact of neighborhood characteristic.

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