

## **WHERE AND WHAT: ARE MEMORY FOR ITEM INFORMATION AND LOCATION INFORMATION DISSOCIABLE?**

JANE Y. C. HSU OVID J. L. TZENG DAISY L. HUNG

*National Chung Cheng University, Taiwan*

*and*

*The Salk Institute for the Biological Studies, San Diego*

Two experiments were conducted to explore the nature of location memory by examining the pattern of serial position (SP) effect in a verbal memory paradigm. In Experiment 1, a series of words were presented one at a time in one of four positions randomly assigned. It was found that item recall showed a typical serial position curve with pronounced primacy and recency effects, whereas an essentially flat serial position curve was observed for the memory of the item's presentation location. In Experiment 2, stimulus words were coded in one of four colors and presented serially. The results again showed a typical SP curve for item memory and a flat curve for location memory. Memory for color also produced a flat SP curve and a much poorer performance as compared with that of location memory. The latter result suggests that the flat SP line evidenced for location memory is not due to the floor effect. In sum, the dissociation between memory for “what” and “where” supports a multiple-system view of memory.

**Keywords:** Location memory, Serial position effect, recall.