

## THE EFFECTS OF METALINGUISTIC AWARENESS TRAINING OF THE LOW-ACHIEVERS AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

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This study investigated the Chinese metalinguistic awareness in elementary school children. The main purpose is to examine the training effects of metalinguistic awareness on Chinese character recognition ability. Participants in the present study were 24 second graders whose percentile ranks in the “Graded Chinese Characters Reading Test” (Huang, 1998) were lower than 30 percentile rank in the norms. The test materials in the research included: Phonological Awareness Test, Tone Awareness Test, Morpheme Awareness Test, and the Graded Chinese Characters Reading Test. The results of the study were summarized as follows: (1) The main effects of metalinguistic awareness training on phonological and morphological awareness were significant, but the effect on the tonal awareness was not. The results showed that phonological and morphological awareness were found to develop with grade level. (2) Metalinguistic awareness was significantly related to character recognition ability. (3) The results from this study suggest that the metalinguistic awareness training can help children to raise their metalinguistic awareness ability and character recognition ability.

Keywords : Metalinguistic awareness, Training, Low-achievers