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CATEGORIZATION OF INFORMATION-PROCESSING STRATEGIES IN SCHIZOPHRENICS

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There have been inconsistent results and interpretations about the research of information processing in schizophrenics. Three factors most likely related to this phenomenon are: (1) ignorance of the heterogeneity of schizophrenia; (2) invalid inference of information-processing disturbance in schizophrenia from single experiment in the previous researches; (3) insufficient researches on the information-processing strategies in schizophrenics. This research, based on the theory of automatic processing, was aimed to detect different categories on information-processing strategies in schizophrenics as well as to validate such categorization. The methodology on convergent operation and individual analysis were used. In experiments 1 and 2, three groups of schizophrenics ($N = 125$) were obtained by differentiation of normal or deficit automatic processing in Stroop Color Naming Task. The first group had the normal automatic processing strategy, 26 schizophrenics included. The second had deficit automatic processing strategy, 28 schizophrenics included. The third group were distracted by irrelevant stimuli during information processing, 40 schizophrenics fallen into this group. The other 31 schizophrenics could not be classified into any group. In experiment 3, the "single word matching task" of semantic priming paradigm was applied to test the validity of the categorization of the three groups. The result validated the findings of the three different categories in schizophrenics' information-processing strategies.

Keywords: schizophrenia, deficiency of information processing, automatic processing