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Morphological encoding of Mandarin Chinese: evidence from Chinese disyllabic compound words

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Jiaqi Wang

Morphological Encoding of Mandarin Chinese



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Evidence from Chinese Disyllabic Compound Words

The central research question of this dissertation is how Mandarin compound words are represented and processed at the level of lexical selection during language production. Specifically, it examines whether compound words are stored in the mental lexicon in a decomposed or holistic manner. If decomposition occurs during production, at what level does it take place? To explore the representation of Mandarin compound words during lexical selection, this dissertation tests two primary hypotheses: the morphological decomposition hypothesis and the full-listing hypothesis. The former posits that compound words are represented in the mental lexicon in terms of their constituent morphemes, which play a role in lexical retrieval. In contrast, the latter asserts that compound words are stored as whole units, denying the involvement of constituent morphemes in lexical retrieval.

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