

**Chinese and English Proactive Interference in Immediate Recall in Bilinguals:
The Role of Phonological Coding and Language Dominance
(Work in progress)**

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Previous research show that written English words and Chinese characters require different types of language processing (Hoosain & Osgood, 1983; Cheng, Yung, & Ng, 1988) as alphabetic words are based on spelling-to-sound rules, contrary to Chinese characters. However, the present experiment suggests that English and Chinese are both processed phonetically in immediate memory tasks and memory traces are represented at the phonemic level, which supports the Auto-Associative Neural Network model of short-term memory (Chappel & Humphreys, 1994). The experiment replicates Tehan and Humphreys' (1998) third experiment but with Chinese characters and English words.

Furthermore, the pattern of interference appears to be different for Chinese and English dominant subjects. Particularly, phonological interference is larger for the English dominant group in both Chinese and English tasks. It is suggested that English dominant group used mainly a phonetic coding strategy whilst the Chinese group used a visual/phonetic strategy.

A second study will be carried out to study coding differences between Chinese, mixed and English dominant subjects and the relationship between phonological coding and reading comprehension.