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Authors
CHEN, SSU-YU
Wang, Ying-Chien
Liu, Shin Yu
et al.

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Implicit Causality in Chinese Verbs: The Processing of Chinese Causal Verbs

SSU-YU CHEN
National Cheng Kung University, Tainan City, Taiwan

Ying-Chien Wang
National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan

Shin Yu Liu
National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, East Dist, Taiwan

I CHENG WU
National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan

Shu-Ling Peng
National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan

Po-Sheng Huang
National Taiwan University of Science and Technology, Taipei, Taiwan

Jon-Fan Hu
National Cheng Kung University, Tainan City, Taiwan

Abstract

Among the interpersonal verbs, there is a class of causal verbs with implicit causality and implicit consequentiality, which can refer to the cause and effect of an event on the subject or the object of a sentence. The purpose of this study is to investigate whether focus or integration theory is supported by examining the interplay within Chinese causal verb processing. The study collected 36 participants and used an eye tracker in a visual world paradigm to understand the processing of causal verbs. The results indicated that, different from English, the processing of causal verbs in Chinese supported integration theory.