

The Effect of Levels of Processing on Learning Derived Meanings of Polysemous Words

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This paper aims to examine the effectiveness of various ways for learners of the Japanese language to acquire the unknown meanings of known words for which prototypical meanings have been acquired. For this purpose, we conducted an experiment with thirty native Korean speakers learning Japanese.

The participants were divided into three groups: treatment group 1, treatment group 2, and the control group. Treatment group 1 was given target words in sentences with four optional meanings, and was instructed to infer and choose the most appropriate meaning. Treatment group 2 was given target words in sentences with the correct derived meanings in their L1 (Korean) and instructed to memorize them. Each group took a pre-test and post-test .

The difference in scores between the pre- and post-tests were analyzed. The results reveal that both treatment groups show significant differences between pre- and post-tests.

This suggests that both inference of meaning in a multiple-choice format and being provided with the meaning in an L1 are effective methods for learning the unknown derived meanings of polysemous words. However, of the two, it is not clear which method is more effective.

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