

Word Class Effect on Visual Asymmetry *

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Research on the visual asymmetries for word class (abstracts concrete norms) have been done in alphabetic and ideographic script, *i.e.*, English and Kanji respectively. The general finding has been that the RVF/LH shows an advantage over the LVF in processing the abstract norms. The LVH/RH processes the concrete norms. This study aimed to (1) Test if there is a RVF/LH advantage for abstract words, (2) Test if there is a LVF/RH advantage for concrete words, for Kannada.

20 (10 males and 10 females) Kannada speaking subjects were randomly selected after they passed the criteria of selection. A 3 channel Tachistoscope (Gerbrand G1132 7-3B-2) was used. A word list of 15 abstract and concrete words was constructed. 15 pairs of abstract and concrete words were randomly made. Each word appeared once in each visual field. The stimulus card consisted of a

digit in the centre and an abstract and concrete word in the two visual fields. The card size, the distance of the words from the centre and the size of the letters were based on the measurements given by Hines (1967).

The sequence in each trial consisted of a 900 m.sec. exposure of a cross followed by a 40 m.sec. exposure of the stimulus card and finally a 100 m.sec. exposure of a blank card. The subjects were asked to report the digit and then the words in any order.

The scores of each subject in the LVF and RVF for abstract and concrete words were tabulated. The t-test was applied on the data to test the visual field difference/advantage. The results show no visual field differences for the words used. The implication and suggestions for further research in this area have been discussed.

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