

Language Processing in Bilinguals — A Tachistoscopic Study *

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The present study aimed to find out visual field differences in processing of Kannada and English language by normal adult bilinguals.

10 concrete 4 lettered nouns and 10 bisyllabic 2 lettered concrete nouns were chosen in English and Kannada respectively 40 word pairs were made 20 in each language so that each word appeared in each visual field twice. The presentation was bilateral with a central digit. Subjects reported the digit first and the words later. The exposure duration was 40 m.sec.

An "accuracy" paradigm was adopted for analysis. Responses were categorized into accurate, substitution and omission groups. A 2 X 2 X 2 factor analysis

revealed that visual field and language effect are significant for this group of bilinguals at the 0.05 level.

Subjects identified more words correctly in LVF than RVF. Subjects also identified more words in Kannada, their mother-tongue than in English.

Results are interpreted in terms of directional scanning hypothesis which suggests a LVF advantage for bilateral presentation in languages that read from left to right and in conjunction with this hypothesis, the right hemisphere's ability to recognize concrete as against abstract words is seen as contributing to the enhanced LVF effect in Kannada-English bilinguals.

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