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<th>Title</th>
<th>A study on classifier acquisition in Chinese learning</th>
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Introduction

Chinese learners are always unable to distinguish Chinese noun classifiers from measure words, because they only treat classifiers as grammatical components in language. This inappropriately correlation makes it particularly difficult for foreign Chinese learners to master noun classifiers, as the acquisition of classifiers involves semantic understanding and categorization concept from which the classifiers are approached. The aim of this study is to investigate Chinese learners' understanding of noun classifiers as well as that of Chinese-Swedish bilingual children, by conducting two tests to these two groups of noun classifier productions, as well as for future studies on cognitive linguistics.

Participants' background

Adults Group:
- 15 Swedish adults who have learnt Chinese in China or Sweden
- All had acquired or were pursuing professional degrees in various fields
- 13 of them had studied or traveled to China for various lengths of periods
- They were divided into lower level, intermediate level and higher level according to their Chinese proficiency, with 5 speakers in each level.

Children Group:
- 15 Chinese-Swedish bilingual children staying in Stockholm, Sweden
- Aged 6 to 14, and 2 have Chinese parents
- All were born in Sweden except 3, who were born in China but moved to Sweden at very young ages
- All were brought up in bilingual environment; they speak Chinese at home and Swedish at school.
- They took some extra Chinese courses in local Chinese schools in Stockholm.

Methods & Procedures:

- Prepare 30 cards with images of daily objects
- Present the cards to each participant one by one in a fixed order
- Expect the participants to name each object with correct noun classifier in Chinese
- Give enough time for participants to think and rework
- Encourage optional answers
- Followed with a discussion over the errors made
- To let participants understand what correct expressions are
- To provide the author with a more insightful understanding on participants' classifier production

Findings & Discussions

Figure 2 shows that the lower level Swedish speakers have made more progress over the productions of “a drawer” and “a watch” than the higher level speakers, while in Figure 3 the productions of “a shoe” and “a hand” are more advanced than the lower level speakers. Both the “a shoe” and “a hand” are difficult to distinguish between these two similar classifiers, because the way to distinguish them is in common only one in a high level learners. The higher level learners are also found to have improved significantly over the productions of “a shoe” and “a hand.”