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Predicting Raters' Transparency Judgments of English and Chinese Morphological Constituents using Latent Semantic Analysis

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Abstract

The morphological constituents of English compounds (e.g., “butter” and “fly” for “butterfly”) and two-character Chinese compounds may differ in meaning from the whole word. Subjective differences and ambiguity of transparency make the judgments difficult, and a computational alternative based on a general model may be a way to average across subjective differences. The current study proposes two approaches based on Latent Semantic Analysis (Landauer & Dumais, 1997): Model 1 compares the semantic similarity between a compound word and each of its constituents, and Model 2 derives the dominant meaning of a constituent based on a clustering analysis of morphological family members (e.g., “butterfingers” or “buttermilk” for “butter”). The proposed models successfully predicted participants' transparency ratings, and we recommend that experimenters use Model 1 for English compounds and Model 2 for Chinese compounds, due to raters' morphological processing in different writing systems. The dominance of lexical meaning, semantic transparency, and the average similarity between all pairs within a morphological family are provided, and practical applications for future studies are discussed.

1. Introduction

1.1. English Compounds and Semantic Transparency

A compound word is a word composed of at least two free morphological constituents that refer to a new concept. Compound words with two transparent constituents are defined as TT (transparent-transparent, see Libben, Gibson, Yoon, & Sandra, 2003; Pollatsek & Hyönä, 2005; Frisson, Niswander-Klement, & Pollatsek, 2008) when the whole word meaning can be grasped through its individual constituents, such as “cookbook”. Compound words are regarded as semantically opaque (opaque-opaque, OO), when their meaning cannot be fully derived from its constituents, e.g., “cocktail”. Some compound words are considered partially opaque (opaque-transparent, OT, or transparent-opaque, TO) when the primary

meaning of one of the constituents is related to the meaning of the compound, such as “butterfly” or “staircase”, respectively. There have been several models explaining the access mechanisms of compound words from the mental lexicon (see Frisson et al., 2008, for a review). The *whole-word model* (Butterworth, 1983) proposes that a compound is accessed as a whole so that the transparency of constituents does not influence the processing of a word. The *morphological decomposition model* (Taft, 1981) suggests that readers decompose a compound into its constituents, followed by access to the constituents’ meanings, and then construct the whole-word meaning based on the individual constituents. The *parallel dual-route (process) model* (Baayen, Dijkstra, & Schreuder, 1997) suggests that a whole-word lookup route and a decomposition route compete with each other, implying that semantic transparency possibly plays a role in deciding which route will be used.

The effect of transparency of the constituents in compound words during reading, however, is not as robust as the frequency effect, which has been found to influence gaze fixation time on each constituent (see Rayner 2009, for a review). Pollatsek and Hyönä (2005) manipulated the frequency (i.e., their occurrence in print) of constituents and transparency of Finnish compound words, and they found longer gaze duration (the sum of all fixations made on a word prior to a saccade to another word, see Rayner, 1998; 2009) on low-frequency first constituents of either transparent or opaque compounds as compared to high-frequency first constituents, but the eye-movement measures did not differ between transparent and opaque constituents. They concluded that the identification of both transparent and opaque compound words does not rely on constructing the meaning from the components. In a similar experiment, Frisson et al. (2008) used three types of opaque compound words, OT, TO, and OO, with matched TT and found, consistent with Pollatsek and Hyönä (2005), no significant difference in eye-movement measures due to this transparency manipulation. However, they found longer gaze duration on opaque compounds than on transparent ones when the compounds were presented with a space between the constituents. They therefore suggested that the meaning of English compound words is not constructed from its parts but from the whole word unless readers are forced to process the first and second constituents separately. However, inconsistent results were found in a study by Juhasz (2007) who manipulated the frequency of constituents of transparent and opaque compound words and demonstrated that opaque compounds receive longer gaze duration. She suggested that the decomposition of compound words occurs for both transparent and opaque compounds.

It is also known that morphological family affects semantic transparency (see Feldman, Basnight-Brown, & Pastizzo, 2006). A constituent may consist of one or many morphological family members; for example, the constituent “butter” consists of “butterfly”, “buttercup”, “butterfingers”, “buttermilk”, “butter Scotch”, “butterfat”, among others. Within a morphological family, individual family members may vary in semantic transparency, e.g., the meaning of “butter” is context-sensitive and more transparent in the meaning of “buttermilk” than in the meaning of “butterfly”. Schreuder and Baayen (1997) suggest that upon reading a word, its family members become co-activated, which leads to a larger global activation in the mental lexicon. There have been several studies focusing on the effect of semantic transparency on morphological facilitation (Feldman & Soltano, 1999; Feldman, Soltano, Pastizzo, & Francis, 2004). The general finding is that a more concrete constituent with larger family size (the number of morphological family members) is processed faster and more accurately in lexical decision tasks.

While there are many common characteristics across languages, there are also many differences so that it is unclear if the results found in alphabetical languages could be applied, for example, to the processing of Chinese.

1.2 Chinese Compounds and Semantic Transparency

Approximately 74% of all words in the Chinese language are made up of two characters (Zhou & Marslen-Wilson, 1995), with some words consisting of only one character and others consisting of three or more characters. A Chinese character is a writing unit which has a single syllable and one or more meanings. Most Chinese characters are approximately equal to single morphemes, and therefore the majority of Chinese words can be considered bimorphemic compound words (referred to as compounds). Chinese compounds, similar to English ones, differ in how the meanings of the first and second characters relate to the meaning of the word. Some Chinese compounds are semantically transparent, i.e., both characters are transparently related to the meaning of the whole word. Other words are fully opaque, i.e., the meaning of neither constituent is related to the meaning of the compound, or partially opaque. Table 1 lists some examples of transparent, opaque, and partially opaque Chinese words.

Similar to morphological families in English, a Chinese character, e.g., “馬” (horse), can be shared by its morphological family members, e.g., “馬鞍” (saddle) and “馬虎” (careless), and the meaning of the character and those morphological family members may not be consistent in meaning (see Mok, 2009, for a review). For example, the character “馬” (horse) consists of morphological family members including “馬背” (horse back) and “馬鞍” (saddle), which are semantically related to horse, but others such as “馬虎” (careless), “馬桶” (stool), or “馬來” (Malaysian) are not. The position of a Chinese character within a two-character compound does not provide strong constraints on the activation of whole-word units in general (Taft, Zhu, & Peng, 1999). However, the meaning of some compounds, e.g., “領帶” (necktie), may differ from the ones in which the characters are transposed, e.g., “帶領” (guide). Sometimes a constituent, e.g., “調”, may have different meaning and pronunciation when it locates in the initial (meaning: adjust, pronunciation: tiáo) or final positions (meaning: high or low tone/key, pronunciation: diào).

Unlike English and other alphabetic writing systems, Chinese words are written without spaces in a sequence of characters. The concept of a word is not as clearly defined in Chinese as it is in English, which means that Chinese readers might somewhat disagree where word boundaries are located (see Rayner, Li, & Pollatsek, 2007; Mok, 2009, for reviews). According to the segmentation standard by Huang, K. J. Chen, F. Y. Chen, and Chang (1997) used by the Academia Sinica Balanced Corpus (ASBC; Academia Sinica, 1998), not all characters stand on their own as one-character words.

Studies have investigated how Chinese compound words are accessed in the mental lexicon in different tasks by manipulating frequency (see Zhou, Ye, Cheung, & Chen, 2009, for a review). In a series of experiments with varied whole-word and constituent frequency, Chen T. M. and Chen J. Y. (2006) showed that compound word production in Chinese is not sensitive to morpheme frequency even when all stimuli are semantically transparent, and they suggested that morphological encoding is only minimally involved in the production of Chinese transparent compound words. Consistent results were obtained by Janssen, Bi, and Caramazza (2008), who found that compound word production is determined by the compound's whole-word frequency either in Chinese or in English, and not by its constituent morpheme frequency. Their results support the view that compounds are stored in their full-form. However, inconsistent results were obtained for low-frequent compounds during reading (Yan, Tian, Bai, & Rayner, 2006). These authors investigated the effect of (two-character) compound word and constituent (character) frequency on word processing during reading on eye movements, and they suggested that when a compound is frequent and has been seen quite often in print, it is accessed as a single entity in the mental lexicon of Chinese readers, whereas when it is infrequent, the compound needs to be accessed via the constituents (and hence an effect of character frequency emerges).

For studies manipulating frequency and transparency of Chinese compound words, Hung, Tzeng, and Chen (1993) reported a reliable constituent frequency effect for fully transparent compounds (TT) but not opaque ones (either TO, OT, or OO) in a lexical decision task. They also obtained a significant whole-word frequency effect for both transparent and opaque compounds. They suggest that there exists a whole-word representation for all types of Chinese compounds, even fully transparent ones, but separate morphemic representations in the mental lexicon only exist for transparent compounds. Mok (2009) reported a larger word-superiority effect (WSE) for opaque compounds (either TO, OT, or OO) than for transparent ones in a modified Reicher-Wheeler paradigm, which briefly presents words and letters followed by a mask (see Mok, 2009; Reicher, 1969; Wheeler, 1970). The WSE describes a more accurate recognition when a target character, e.g., “态” (appearance), is in the context of a compound word “态度” (manner), as opposed to the same target being in a position-matched non-word control “态备” (appearance; equipped). They also found a larger WSE for Chinese compounds with high whole-word frequency than for ones with low whole-word frequency. The results imply that all types of Chinese compounds, including TT, have corresponding whole-word entries in the mental lexicon, and the constituents of TT compounds are activated more distinctively than the ones of opaque compounds (OT, TO, and OO).

Taken together, these results show a reliable whole-word frequency effect and indicate that whole-word representations exist in the mental lexicon, even for TT. Fully transparent compounds tend to be accessed via constituents (1) when the compounds are low-frequent during reading (Yan et al. 2006), (2) in lexical decision tasks (Hung et al., 1993), or (3) in a modified Reicher-Wheeler paradigm (Mok, 2009). Although inconsistent results have been found in different tasks, studying semantic transparency is clearly important for understanding morphological processing in Chinese.

2. Estimating Semantic Transparency

2.1 Transparency Rating of English Compounds

Transparency ratings are the most common method to obtain transparency information. For instance, Pollatsek and Hyönä (2005) selected 80 compound words, 40 of which they assumed to be semantically transparent, and the other 40 to be opaque. They asked eight subjects to rate these words regarding their transparency using a 7-point scale (1 for totally transparent and 7 for totally opaque), and the ratings were clearly lower for the supposedly transparent sets than for the supposedly opaque ones. Frisson et al. (2008) asked 40 participants to rate transparency in terms of appropriate categories, either OT, TO, OO, or TT, for each compound. Frisson and colleagues found good agreement between the subjects' choices and the predefined classification.

2.2 Transparency Rating of Chinese Compounds

In Mok (2009), the semantic transparency judgments were made in two passes, one by an experimenter and five trained participants' analysis based on dictionary definition, and the other by 30 naïve participants. A 6-point scale rating, where 1 is opaque and 6 is transparent, was used for both passes. In general, a constituent was classified as transparent if the rating was greater than 3.5, and as opaque if the rating was smaller than 3.5.

2.3 Subjective Differences and Ambiguity of Transparency

Unfortunately, estimates of semantic transparency are often subjective and vary strongly across raters. Mok (2009) pointed out that response biases in transparency judgments may be due to (1) a subject's understanding of the meaning of stimuli being different from dictionary definition, (2) the meaning of a compound is not dissociated from its constituents,

or (3) a subject not clearly knowing the meaning of the presented materials. Furthermore, the subjective difference may also be caused by the instructions for transparency judgments, e.g., by dictionary definition or not, which may have great influence on the ratings since the concept of a word is not clearly defined for Chinese readers. For a constituent with multiple inconsistent meanings, raters may make subjective decisions leading to inconsistent results.

Sometimes even the meaning of transparent compounds cannot be unambiguously determined from the meanings of their constituents (see Frisson et al., 2008). Inhoff et al. (2008) indicated that a semantic relationship often exists between an opaque lexeme and its compound, for example, even though “jailbird” typically refers to a person rather than an animal, it can convey useful semantic information, such as being caged or wishing to fly free. This subjectivity and variability also occurs in characters of Chinese compounds. A general model may be a way to average across subjective differences.

3. Models to Predict Transparency using LSA

This study proposes models using Latent Semantic Analysis (LSA) for predicting raters’ transparency judgments. LSA is a method to determine the semantic similarity of words and sets of words by statistical computations applied to a text corpus (Landauer & Dumais, 1997; Landauer, McNamara, Dennis, & Kintsch, 2007). Typically, terms are words, and a term-to-document co-occurrence matrix is established from a corpus. Then a mathematical method, singular value decomposition (SVD), is used to reduce the dimensions of the original matrix (see Martin & Berry, 2007). The meaning of each term is represented as a *vector* in *semantic space*. One can compute the semantic similarity values for any two terms in a given language using the LSA cosine value, which ranges between -1 and 1 , but rarely goes below 0 because the matrix is made up of word counts, which are strictly positive. Since only very small negative numbers occur in the left singular matrix, the dot product (and the cosine) tends to have a lower bound close to zero. In the semantic space “general reading up to 1st year college” (abbreviated as SP-E) and 300 dimensions used in the current study, randomly chosen pairs of words have a mean of 0.03 and a standard deviation of approximately 0.08 (see Landauer et al., 2007). An LSA web site is freely available (<http://lsa.colorado.edu/>, accessed September, 2010; see Dennis, 2007).

LSA has been used to investigate morphological decomposition; for example, Rastle, Davis, Marslen-Wilson and Tyler (2000) investigated morphologically complex words with semantically transparent embedded stems (e.g., “depart” vs. “departure”) and opaque embedded stems (e.g., “apart” vs. “apartment”). Similarly, Diependaele, Dunabeitia, Morris and Keuleers (2011) used LSA to estimate transparency between full words and constituent-embedded stems, which yields “viewer” vs. “view” as being highly transparent and “corner” vs. “corn” as highly opaque.

Since the LSA-based method may be able to estimate transparency of English compounds, it could possibly be applied to Chinese two-character words in a similar manner. Following the principle of creating semantic spaces (Quesada, 2007), our previous studies (Wang, Pomplun, Ko, Chen, & Rayner, 2010; Chen, Wang, & Ko, 2009) built an LSA semantic space of Chinese (abbreviated as SP-C) from ASBC, which contains approximately 5 million words (or 7.6 million characters). Texts in ASBC were collected from different topics. Word segmentation was performed manually according to the standard by Huang et al. (1997). For representatives of words in the corpus, words that occurred less than 4 times per 5 million were excluded in SP-C. Most of the excluded words were proper names and technical nouns. A 49021×40463 term-to-document co-occurrence matrix was then established. SP-C has been shown to successfully estimate word predictability (see Wang et al., 2010) and word association in Chinese (see Chen, et al., 2009).

However, LSA was merely developed as a tool in morphological decomposition studies to validate human transparency judgments, instead of a model based on the theoretical foundation that can be strongly predictive and correlated with transparency judgments. Furthermore, LSA has not yet been tested for two-constituent compound words in English or Chinese, which raises the question whether the cross-linguistic comparison could be made in the same manner. Therefore, we adopted the idea of comparing the meaning of a compound and each of its constituents to Model 1. We also proposed a Model 2 based on the theoretical foundation of morphological family members, and this model may explain how a rater accomplishes semantic judgment tasks. Furthermore, it is necessary to evaluate the discrimination performance of the proposed models for human transparency ratings. We evaluated how LSA estimates transparency using the English compound materials in Frisson et al. (2008), the Chinese compounds in Mok (2009), and transparency rating conducted in the present study. The objectives of building general models are to develop a research method to average across subjective differences and to allow a linkage between the theoretical foundation and technical understanding of LSA for transparency judgments.

3.1. Model 1: Whole Word vs. Each of its Constituents

One proposed idea of modeling how transparency judgment is done by raters is to compute the LSA cosine values between the compound word and each of its constituents. The parameters of Model 1 include: the *semantic space*, number of *dimensions*, and *comparison type*. For example, using SP-E, 300 dimensions, and “term-to-term” comparison, the LSA cosine value between “staircase” and “stair” is 0.57 while the one between “staircase” and “case” is 0.07. Since the constituent “stair” and the compound word “staircase” result in a clearly higher cosine value, “stair” is considered semantically transparent, while “case” is considered opaque.

To accomplish the comparisons of Model 1, the compound words are required to have their constituents occur in the semantic space on their own, which becomes a constraint of Model 1. The term-to-document matrix of SP-C uses the unit of words, which may be single- or multi-character words. Within the 49,021 words available in SP-C, 31,637 are two-character words, and for 3,921 out of these two-character words, either the first or second characters are not stand-alone words occurring more than 3 times in the corpus. That is, 12% of the compound word cases were unavailable in the Model 1 computations.

3.2. Model 2: Whole Word vs. Dominant Meaning of Each of Its Constituents

A possible solution for the constraint in Model 1 is proposed in Model 2, which assumes that a rater accesses the *dominant meaning* of a constituent from its morphological family. Chinese compounds sharing common constituent morphemes were consistently found to facilitate each other (Zhou, Marslen-Wilson, Taft, & Shu, 1999). It is also known in English that morphologically related words in the mental lexicon are linked in meaning, and a morpheme shared by more morphological family members allows a more rapid activation of a word's meaning and therefore faster responses in word recognition tasks (see Bybee, 1988; Feldman, et al., 2006). Therefore, Model 2 takes the polysemy of a constituent into account and may be well-adapted to morphological processing models. Furthermore, Model 2 overcomes the limitation of Model 1 that some characters do not exist as one-character words, which is especially useful for Chinese.

The first step of Model 2 is to obtain the dominant meaning of the constituent from its morphological family members that a rater would possibly activate. We computed the LSA cosine values of the pairs in the morphological family members as a distance function. Using a hierarchical clustering algorithm and a given threshold, we classified these morphological family members into *semantic clusters*. Subsequently, a cluster - with the

largest family size, or the highest sum of word frequency (occurrence in corpus) when multiple clusters obtained the same family size - was considered the dominant meaning. An example of the transparency of constituent “butter” in “butterfly” is determined as follows. The morphological family members “butter”, “butterfly”, “buttercup”, “butterfingers”, “buttermilk”, “butterscotch”, and “butterfat” are activated; the LSA cosine values among them are shown in Table 2. The semantic similarities, although in high-dimensional space, can be visualized by multi-dimensional scaling (MDS) in two dimensions, as shown in Figure 1a. According to the distance measure by LSA and the agglomerative hierarchical clustering algorithm (implemented in Matlab, The MathWorks, Inc., Natick, MA), “butter”, “buttercup”, “buttermilk”, “butterscotch”, and “butterfat” are in one cluster, and “butterfly” and “butterfingers” are in their own clusters. We applied “term-to-document” comparison (each word in the ‘document’ is represented as a vector and weighted according to its frequency in corpus, and the ‘document’ is the vector addition of the weighted vectors) between the compound (e.g., “butterfly”) and the dominant meaning cluster (e.g., the string “butter buttercup buttermilk butterscotch butterfat”) to compute the LSA cosine value (in this example, 0.04). Similarly, the LSA cosine values between the Chinese character “馬” (horse) and its morphological family members are presented in Table 3, and the MDS result is illustrated in Figure 1b. “馬” (horse), “馬背” (horse back), “馬鞍” (saddle), and “馬車” (carriage) are grouped in one cluster, “馬來” (Malaysian) and “馬國” (Malaysia) form another one, while “馬虎” (careless), “馬桶” (stool), and “馬腳” (a clue of) are in their own clusters.

The parameters in Model 2 include: *semantic space*, *number of dimensions*, *comparison type*, *morphological family definition*, *threshold* and *distance function* of the clustering algorithm, and *dominant meaning definition* (by family size or by frequency). The definition of morphological family for a constituent is considered *position-specific*, e.g., the morphological family of “butter” in “butterfly” are words starting with “butter” as a constituent. The selection of a threshold in a clustering algorithm is related to the distance function as well as the LSA values in a given semantic space. A low threshold may generate too many clusters, while a high threshold may group unrelated members in one cluster.

The access of the dominant meaning of a constituent may be different between English and Chinese compounds. There are clear word boundaries in the English writing system, and constituents in English compounds are usually stand-alone words. However, the concept of a word is not clearly defined in Chinese, and it is possible that Chinese readers derive the meaning of a character implicitly from its morphological family. Therefore, due to the cross-linguistic difference, the settings of model parameters may differ between the English and Chinese languages.

4. Model Evaluation

We evaluated Models 1 and 2 based on three datasets: English compounds using the materials of Frisson et al. (2008), Chinese compounds in Mok (2009), and a transparency rating procedure conducted in the present study. To represent semantic similarity, we report the descriptive statistics and distribution of the LSA cosine values computed by Model 1 (*M1*) and by Model 2 (*M2*) as major measures, and average LSA cosine values between all pairs within a morphological family (*Co*, henceforth referred to as *consistency*) as a supportive measure. A non-parametric test was performed using Mann-Whitney U tests. Since the models attempt to map the LSA cosine values (a continuous variable) on dichotomous transparency results (either O or T), we performed a receiver operating characteristic (ROC, Green & Swets, 1966) analysis, which plots the hit rate on the y-axis as a function of the false-alarm rate on the x-axis. The discriminatory ability of a model is reflected in the area under the ROC curve (AUC), which typically ranges from 0.5 (chance level) to 1 (perfect performance).

4.1 English Compounds in Frisson et al. (2008)

4.1.1 Method

Stimuli: For English compounds, we re-analyzed the materials in Frisson et al. (2008), which included 10 OO, 14 OT, 10 TO, and 34 TT compounds (i.e., 44 opaque and 92 transparent constituents). The proportion of subjects' choices agreeing with the predefined classification was 65% for OO, 71% for OT, 65% for TO, and 86% for TT. Moreover, the proportion of subjects classifying at least one of the constituents as opaque for the predefined opaque words was very high: 95% for OO, 93% for OT and 95% for TO.

Analysis: For the computations in Models 1 and 2, 40 opaque and 84 transparent constituents were available using SP-E and 300 dimensions. The “term-to-term” comparison was used in Model 1 and “term-to-document” was used in Model 2. For Model 2, we defined morphological family as the compounds sharing the same constituents in the same position. For the agglomerative hierarchical clustering algorithm, a distance function and a threshold are used to decide which morphological family members should be combined. The distance function between pairs of morphological family members was set to one minus the absolute value of the LSA cosine value, and the threshold was set to 0.8. The dominant meaning was defined as the cluster with the highest sum of frequencies. The details are reported in Appendix A.

4.1.2 Results and Discussions

Descriptive Statistics: We found that *MI* of transparent constituents (mean: 0.29, standard deviation: 0.21) were significantly higher than *MI* of opaque ones (mean: 0.07, standard deviation: 0.09), $U = 430.50$, $N_1 = 40$, $N_2 = 84$, $p < .001$. The results were consistent in *M2* - higher cosine values were obtained for transparent constituents (mean: 0.31, standard deviation: 0.26) than for opaque constituents (mean: 0.05, standard deviation: 0.16), $U = 564.00$, $N_1 = 40$, $N_2 = 84$, $p < .001$. *Co* was found to be higher for transparent constituents (mean: 0.21, standard deviation: 0.14) than for opaque constituents (mean: 0.17, standard deviation: 0.13), $U = 1442$, $N_1 = 44$, $N_2 = 92$, $p < .01$. The distribution of LSA cosine values of transparent and opaque constituents computed by Models 1 and 2 is shown in Figures 2a and 2b.

ROC: Figure 3a illustrates the ROC curves for Models 1 and 2, and the AUCs are 0.87 and 0.83, respectively. An ‘optimal’ cut-off point in the ROC curve, defined as the shortest Euclidian distance to the point (0, 1) (perfect performance, i.e., false-alarm rate of 0 and hit rate of 1), can be used to find a LSA cosine value that performs a good separation between opaque and transparent constituents. The optimal cut-off point of Model 1 is at a hit rate of 0.74 and a false-alarm rate of 0.10 when the threshold of the LSA cosine value is set to 0.135. The optimal cutoff point for Model 2 is at a hit rate of 0.80 and a false-alarm rate of 0.20, where the threshold of the LSA cosine value is 0.085.

Model 1 showed a higher hit rate than Model 2 for all false-alarm rates except those between 0.2 and 0.4. Both models perform good prediction of human transparency judgments, and Model 1 has slightly better performance than Model 2. The overall results suggest that LSA successfully captures the transparency conditions in the materials of Frisson et al. (2008).

4.2 Chinese Compounds in Mok (2009)

One hundred and ninety compounds were divided into two sub-datasets: high frequent items and low frequent items. Each sub-dataset contained half of the compounds. The agreement between two passes (one by dictionary definition and the other by subject rating) was high (Cohen's kappa = 0.83), and low-frequent items (Cohen's kappa = 0.87) obtained higher

agreement than high-frequent items (Cohen's kappa = 0.78). The compounds in Mok (2009) were presented in simplified script, and they were converted into traditional script in SP-C. The details are listed in Appendix B.

4.2.1 Method

Stimuli for High-frequent Items: The final classification included 21 TT, 21 TO, 22 OT, and 31 OO, resulting in 85 transparent and 105 opaque constituents. Due to the different segmentation standards applied to the Mok (2009) study in SP-C, the compound “幻灯” (slideshow, as “幻灯” in traditional script) was converted into “幻灯機 (slideshow machine) 幻灯片 (slides)”, “忘年” (old age) was converted into “忘年之交” (an old friend), “开交” (to conclude (impossible) to finish, as “開交” in traditional script) was converted into “不可開交” (to conclude impossible to finish). Model 1 evaluated 80 out of 85 transparent and 100 out of 105 opaque constituents. Model 2 overcame the limitation of non-stand-alone characters in Model 1, resulting in 85 out of 85 transparent and 103 out of 105 opaque constituents being available for its evaluation.

Stimuli for Low-frequent Items: There were 23 TT, 24 TO, 26 OT, and 22 OO, which contain 96 transparent and 94 opaque items. There were minor differences in usage between simplified and traditional scripts, and “穷蛋” (pauper, as “窮蛋” in traditional script) was converted into “窮光蛋” (pauper). Five out of 95 compounds (“站队”, “逃奔”, “环打”, “洋灰”, and “白事”) are not used in traditional script. The limitation of SP-C is that only words occurring at least 4 times in the ASBC corpus are included, resulting in 20 out of 95 words being excluded from computation. There were 64 out of 96 transparent and 69 out of 94 opaque items available in Model 1, and 64 out of 96 transparent items and 71 out of 94 opaque items were available in Model 2.

Analysis: The model parameters were set as follows: SP-C was used for the computations in Models 1 and 2. The “term-to-term” comparison was used in Model 1 and the “term-to-document” was used in Model 2 except that “幻灯機 幻灯片” used “document-to-term” in Model 1 and “document-to-document” in Model 2. For the clustering algorithm in Model 2, the threshold setting was 0.5, and the dominant meaning was defined as the cluster with the largest family and the highest sum of frequencies if the family sizes of multiple clusters were the same.

4.2.2. Results and Discussions

Descriptive Statistics for High-frequent Items: We found that *M1* of transparent constituents (mean: 0.22, standard deviation: 0.19) were significantly higher than the ones of opaque words (mean: 0.12, standard deviation: 0.10), $U = 2741.50$, $N_1 = 80$, $N_2 = 100$, $p < .001$. Again, *M2* of transparent constituents (mean: 0.34, standard deviation: 0.37) obtained higher LSA cosine values than opaque constituents (mean: 0.15, standard deviation: 0.30), $U = 2779.50$, $N_1 = 85$, $N_2 = 103$, $p < .001$. For *Co* of high-frequent items, consistent with English constituents, transparent constituents (mean: 0.12, standard deviation: 0.07) yielded higher values than opaque constituents (mean: 0.09, standard deviation: 0.04), $U = 3047.5$, $N_1 = 83$, $N_2 = 104$, $p < .01$.

ROC for High-frequent Items: Figure 3b illustrates the ROC curves for Models 1 and 2, and the AUCs are 0.66 and 0.68, respectively. These ROC curves show that Model 2 generated more false alarm cases in the beginning of the curve than Model 1, which were caused by the “O responses to T” cases. Nevertheless, Model 2 overall slightly outperformed Model 1. The distribution of LSA cosine values of transparent and opaque constituents computed by Models 1 and 2 are shown in Figures 4a and 4b.

Mis-classified Item Analysis for High-frequent Items: There were a few opaque items with high LSA cosine values and also a few transparent items with low LSA values in Figure 4b, we selected a cut-off point of 0.4 of the LSA cosine value and summarized the constituent frequency, family size, and consistency in Table 4. A one-way ANOVA for the four transparency conditions (T responses to T, T responses to O, O responses to T, and O responses to O) indicated a significant overall effect of condition on the consistency $F(3; 183) = 11.94, p < .001$. Post-hoc tests using Bonferroni adjusted p-values revealed that consistency in the condition of T responses to T was higher compared to each of the other conditions (all $ps < .01$). None of the other comparisons were significant (all $ps > .37$). A one-way ANOVA revealed a marginal difference in frequency across the four conditions, $F(3; 186) = 2.41, p = .07$. The frequency of O responses to T (mean: 63) was numerically lower than other conditions but the difference did not reach significance in the Bonferroni corrected post-hoc tests, (all $ps > .30$). These results suggest that when the consistency of constituents was high, the prediction for transparent constituents tends to be more accurate. Constituent frequency might be a possible reason for the misclassification of Model 2 in high frequent items (see Figure 4b), since Model 2 defines dominant meaning as the cluster with higher family size and frequency. We suggest that the polysemy and frequency of constituents may affect model predictions.

Descriptive Statistics for Low-frequent Items: We found that transparent constituents (mean: 0.16, standard deviation: 0.13) obtained higher *M1* than opaque ones (mean: 0.08, standard deviation: 0.08), $U = 1335, N_1 = 66, N_2 = 103, p < .001$, and transparent constituents (mean: 0.11, standard deviation: 0.20) obtained higher *M2* than opaque ones (mean: 0.02, standard deviation: 0.07), $U = 1335, N_1 = 66, N_2 = 103, p < .01$. For *Co*, transparent constituents (mean: 0.10, standard deviation: 0.04) showed marginally higher values than opaque ones (mean: 0.09, standard deviation: 0.03), $U = 3689, N_1 = 93, N_2 = 94, p = .06$.

ROC for Low-frequent Items

Low-frequent Items: The AUCs of the ROC curves for Models 1 and 2 were 0.70 and 0.64, respectively (see Figure 3c), which may be caused by subjects accessing the meaning of a constituent via its stand-alone form, rather than via its morphological family. The distribution of LSA cosine values of transparent and opaque constituents computed by Model 1 and 2 are shown in Figures 4c and 4d.

Discussions: In general, the models showed less predictive power for the Mok (2009) materials than for the Frisson (2008) materials. Nevertheless, both Models 1 and 2 demonstrated considerable discrimination performance and may represent how experimenters performed transparency judgments by dictionary definition or how naïve raters activated meanings from morphological family members. Model 1 represents the meaning of a constituent when it is stand-alone, which may be closer to its dictionary definition than it is in Model 2. On the other hand, Model 2 represents the dominant meaning (defined as higher family size and frequency) derived from its morphological family members, and Model 2 may be closer to a subject's rating than Model 1 when the stimuli are high-frequent.

4.3. Transparency Rating in the Present Study

We found that model prediction may be affected by the procedures of transparency rating, e.g., the two passes (one by dictionary definition and the other by subject rating) in the study by Mok (2009). It is also important to notice that the transparency rating in Mok (2009) is somewhat different from the one in Frisson et al. (2008), who asked participants to categorize a word into either OT, TO, OO, or TT. Following Frisson et al. (2008), we

performed a rating study, which required participants to respond either T or O for each constituent when the compounds were presented.

4.3.1 Method

Stimuli: We selected 80 bisyllabic words (two characters in written form) in traditional script, given that SP-C is built on a traditional script corpus. Seventy-seven out of the 80 words were compound words, and the others were composed of foreign word translation based on pronunciation. The materials were selected from those used by C. Y. Lee (2005), P. J. Lee (2007), and Tsai (1994). There were 83 out of 89 transparent and 49 out of 53 opaque constituents available for evaluating Model 1. All 89 transparent and 53 opaque constituents were available to Model 2, since Model 2 overcomes the constraint of Model 1 that some constituents are stand-alone and therefore unavailable in SP-C. The detailed results are shown in Appendix C.

Participants: Those compounds were rated by eleven students who completed a college degree in Taiwan. All participants were native speakers of Chinese (traditional script).

Analysis: The measure of human rating of each constituent was calculated as the probability with which participants responded T to the constituent, e.g., 0.91 for 10 out of 11 participants responding T. The characters with probabilities greater than or equal to 0.6 were categorized as transparent, while the ones with probabilities less than or equal to 0.4 were considered as opaque. The means and standard deviations of the human ratings were 0.85 and 0.13, respectively, for transparent characters and 0.11 and 0.11 for opaque characters. All other settings for Model 1 and 2 are identical to section 4.2.1.

4.3.2 Results and Discussions

Descriptive Statistics: For *M1*, transparent constituents (mean: 0.23, standard deviation: 0.16) were higher than opaque constituents (mean: 0.08, standard deviation: 0.08), $U = 841$, $p < .001$. Similarly, transparent constituents (mean: 0.36, standard deviation: 0.27) obtained higher *M2* than opaque ones (mean: 0.07, standard deviation: 0.18), $U = 655.5$, $p < .001$. The results also reveal that *Co* is higher for transparent constituents (mean: 0.15, standard deviation: 0.10) than for opaque ones (mean: 0.09, standard deviation: 0.04), $U = 1268.5$, $p < .001$.

Correlations: The Spearman rank correlations (a non-parametric test) between human rating probability and Model 1 and between human rating probability and Model 2 were 0.50 and 0.58, respectively, $ps < .001$.

ROC: Figure 3d illustrates the results of the ROC analysis, and the AUCs for Models 1 and 2 were 0.80 and 0.86, respectively. Both Models 1 and 2 are predictive to the results of human transparent judgments, and Model 2 numerically obtained higher AUC and correlation than Model 1. As mentioned above, the concept of a word is not as clearly defined in Chinese as in English, and Chinese readers might learn the polysemy of characters implicitly from polymorphemic words. Therefore, Model 2 may in general be a better approach than Model 1 to predict transparency ratings for constituents of Chinese compounds.

5. General Discussion

The most important outcome of the current study is the proposed computational approach of using LSA to estimate semantic transparency and consistency measures, which may benefit psycholinguistic studies as a research method.

5.1 A Research Method for Psycholinguistic Studies

5.1.1 The Effect of Semantic Transparency and Consistency in Chinese

Reading—The results, such as semantic transparency and consistency estimations, could be adapted to further Chinese reading research. There are some unpublished studies addressing semantic transparency of two-character Chinese words (Lee, C. Y., 1995; Lee, P. J., 2007). Lee, C. Y. (1995) found opposite results by manipulating word frequency, character frequency, and word transparency in a lexical decision task. She found that RTs of opaque words were shorter than those of transparent words, and the character frequency effects were only significant in transparent words. These results suggest that opaque words tend to be stored as a whole unit while the constituents of transparent words are represented separately in the mental lexicon. Moreover, Lee, P. J. (2007) used eye tracking to investigate how word frequency, word transparency, and character frequency influence eye-movement measures during reading. The study found shorter first fixation and gaze duration for opaque words as compared to transparent words. Character frequency effects were found in transparent words (also known as compositional words) in first-pass measures; low-frequency characters were fixated longer. These eye-movement results were consistent with findings by Lee (1995), but contrasted with the results of the English compound-word study by Frisson et al. (2008) that eye-movement measures did not differ between opaque words and their transparent controls. Since these studies are from non-peer reviewed work and details of the works are restricted, we suggest applying the proposed transparency and consistency measures in further studies to examine the relationship between the continuous cosine values and genuinely continuous data such as fixation durations or lexical decision latencies, in order to address the open questions about semantic transparency.

5.1.2 Transparency of Semantic Radicals of Chinese Characters—In Chinese character orthography, the most common structure is a semantic-phonetic compound character which is composed of a semantic radical on the left and a phonetic radical on the right (see Yan, Zhou, Shu, & Kliegl, 2012). Generally, a semantic radical represents the meaning of the whole character while the phonetic radical provides roughly the pronunciation. Some radicals can be stand-alone characters but others cannot. Similar to constituents of English and Chinese compound words, the meaning of a semantic radical may or may not be semantically related to the whole character. Radical semantic transparency refers to how a semantic radical semantically relates to the meaning of its semantic-phonetic compound character. For example, the semantic radical “馬” (horse) in the character “驢” (donkey) is considered semantically transparent, while the semantic radical “氵” (water) in the character “法” (law) is opaque. Furthermore, the meaning of a semantic radical might differ from its meaning when it is a stand-alone character, e.g., “貝” (shell) was used as currency in ancient China, and therefore many characters with this radical are related to “money”, e.g., “賺” (earn money), “賒” (loan money), which are not semantically related to “shell” in contemporary Chinese.

The semantic transparency of radicals has been found to affect sub-lexical processing (see Yan et al., 2012, for a review). Adult readers were found to be able to process characters with transparent radicals more efficiently than those with opaque radicals in semantic categorization and lexical decision tasks (Hsiao, Shillcock, & Lavidor, 2007; Chen & Weekes, 2004). Shu and Anderson (1997) instructed 292 Chinese children in the first, third, or fifth grade to produce a two-character word from four candidate characters with different semantic radicals but the same phonetic radicals. They found that children performed better when the semantic radicals of the target characters were transparent. Using the proposed Model 1 in this context would be problematic since nearly 50% of all semantic radicals are not one-character stand-alone words. We therefore suggest adopting Model 2 to compute the semantic transparency and consistency of semantic radicals.

5.1.3 Language Development—The transparency and consistency measures computed by the proposed methods can also be beneficial for educational purposes. Chen, Hao, Geva, Zhu and Shu (2009) suggested that Chinese children’s abilities of vocabulary acquisition and character reading were related to how well they can construct a new compound word from familiar morphemes. The results of the present study might provide useful guidance for designing teaching materials, e.g., to first teach children characters with high consistency or larger morphological family size as general rules to construct new compounds, and then teach opaque compounds at the whole-word level.

5.1.4 Implications for Raters’ Morphological Processing—For the parameters (4) to (6), there are many issues, such as: should constituent position be included in the morphological family? Should the size of morphological families be limited? For the constituents with low consistency, which meaning is activated by a rater? What is the optimal threshold for a given semantic space? Recent work by Crepaldi, Rastle, and Lupker (2012) has demonstrated evidence for position-independent representations of the constituent morphemes of compounds. Furthermore, it seems possible that position-independent constituents would improve the measurement of transparency in Model 2 by adding extra compounds with common meanings. For example, Model 2 is not presently able to compute a cosine measure for the constituent “nail” in “nailbrush”, but presumably this would be possible if it were to consider the “nail” in “fingernail” or “toenail”, where nail occurs in a different position. To address these issues, more empirical work is required. From the results in the present study, it appears that the way in which transparency judgments were carried out affects model parameter settings. We imply that the meaning activated by a human rater during transparency judgments may be individually different, and each rater might have a different threshold for the “cut-off” of opacity.

5.2 Limitations and Future Work

5.2.1 Limitation of Chinese Corpus—The SP-C used in the current study was built using traditional script, and it is important to test the compatibility between the traditional and simplified scripts. From the materials in Mok (2009) using simplified script, all high-frequent items except one (due to segmentation standard) were covered in SP-C, but 5 out of 95 low-frequent items were not used in traditional scripts. Furthermore, 10% of simplified characters map to multiple (two to four) traditional characters, which increases the morphological or semantic ambiguity (see Tsai, Kliegl, & Yan, 2012). The ambiguity caused by one-to-many mappings between simplified and traditional scripts could be further studied using semantic spaces based on simplified and traditional Chinese corpora.

The current limitations of the proposed method in Chinese might be the relatively small corpus size, which is due to the fact that there are no spaces between words in the Chinese writing system, and an automatic word segmentation algorithm is required. Hong and Huang (2006) introduced the Chinese Gigaword Corpus containing 1.1 billion Chinese characters, including 700 million traditional characters from Taiwan’s Central News Agency and 400 million simplified characters from China’s Xinhua News Agency (all simplified characters were converted into traditional characters). Automatic and partially manual word segmentation were carried out, and the accuracy is estimated to be above 95%. Cai and Brysbaert (2010) published SUBTLEX-CH based on a corpus (47 million characters) of film and television subtitles, and they suggested that SUBTLEX-CH is a good estimate of daily language exposure and captures much of the variance in word processing efficiency. It is possible that Chinese semantic spaces could be established based on those larger corpora.

5.2.2 Semantic Similarity Measure for Computing Transparency—There are other computational alternatives of semantic similarity. Since LSA requires document

information, i.e., a set of words that relate to the same topic, a corpus without specific document information (such as a corpus from film subtitles) may turn to the hyperspace analog to language (HAL; Burgess & Lund, 2000; Lund & Burgess, 1996). Similar to LSA, HAL is a Semantic Space Model, but HAL moves an *n*-word window, serving as a document, along a text corpus. An alternative approach, BEAGLE (Jones & Mewhort, 2007), incorporates word order information on top of LSA. Since order information is important for some constituents, BEAGLE might be adopted to compute semantic similarities within the morphological family of a constituent (such as in the examples shown in Tables 2 and 3). Furthermore, Maki, McKinley, and Thompson (2004) provided semantic distance norms derived from WordNet (Fellbaum, 1998; see also Miller, 1999), and they found that these semantic distance measures closely resembled featural similarity and were distinct from LSA. This measure may be suitable for detecting semantic transparency with regard to the exocentric interpretation, such as *shape* information between “seahorse” and “horse,” which is inaccessible by LSA (LSA cosine value for the example: 0.01). Therefore, we suggest that the WordNet-based measure could be integrated into semantic space models to account for a broader range of transparency interpretations.

5.2.3 Model Parameters and Performance—The model parameters in the present study include: (1) semantic space, (2) number of dimensions, (3) comparison type in Models 1 and 2, (4) definition of morphological family (position-specific or position-free), (5) definition of dominant meaning, and (6) distance function and threshold of clustering algorithm. A single set of parameter values were used for each dataset reported in this paper, and these values were estimated arbitrarily. The optimization issues of LSA have been studied in Lifchitz, Jhean-Larose, and Denhière (2009) regarding optimal tuning of lemmatization, stop-word list, term weighting, pseudodocuments, and normalization of document vectors (see also Shaoul & Westbury, 2010). It is also possible to combine multiple models, for example, by regression analysis or AdaBoost (Freund & Schapire, 1997; see also Bishop, 2006), to improve the model performance.

The present study proposes a method to average across the subjective differences and transparency ambiguity. Corroborating evidence from two different languages was presented by testing the stimuli used in prior compound word studies (Frisson et al., 2008; Mok, 2009) as well as in the present study. The results show a good prediction (AUCs > 0.8) for the English compounds of Frisson et al. (2008) and the rating of Chinese data in the present study, and reasonable predictive performance for the Chinese compounds from Mok (2009). Semantic consistency is found to be higher in transparent constituents than in opaque ones in all the materials of our evaluations. The results may be beneficial to psycholinguistic studies.

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Appendix A. Re-analysis of transparency conditions in Frisson et al. (2008) using LSA. For the current and the following appendix, ST is semantic transparency. FS is number of morphological family size, Co is semantic consistency, M1 and M2 are the LSA cosine values calculated by Models 1 and 2, respectively

ST	Compounds	Initial Constituent					Final Constituent				
		C1	FS	Co	M1	M2	C2	FS	Co	M1	M2
OO	honeymoon	honey	9	0.12	0.03	−0.07	moon	8	0.08	0.01	−0.07
	hamstring	ham	26	0.06	−0.01	−0.07	string	5	0.30	0.02	0.02
	blockbuster	block	11	0.13	0.01	0.00	buster	3	0.04	0.01	0.01
	pocketbook	pocket	5	0.31	0.38	0.22	book	10	0.20	0.04	−0.02
	cocktail	cock	16	0.08	0.04	−0.03	tail	8	0.05	−0.04	0.08
	network	net	4	0.07	0.01	−0.03	work	30	0.08	0.08	−0.06
	jackpot	jack	13	0.07	0.1	0.08	pot	11	0.08	0.01	0.01
	deadline	dead	8	0.11	−0.01	−0.05	line	60	0.08	0.13	0.11
	pineapple	pine	6	0.25	0.11	0.03	apple	6	0.11	0.28	0.41
	flapjack	flap	4	0.46	0.09	0.01	jack	15	0.07	0	−0.04

ST	Compounds	C1	Initial Constituent				C2	Final Constituent			
			FS	Co	M1	M2		FS	Co	M1	M2
OT	godchild	god	17	0.15	N/A	N/A	child	6	0.11	N/A	N/A
	buckwheat	buck	15	0.11	0.14	0.01	wheat	3	0.05	0.37	0.33
	crowbar	crow	13	0.12	0.01	0.06	bar	9	0.15	0.23	0.25
	ragweed	rag	11	0.13	0	0.01	weed	4	0.12	0.41	0.33
	restroom	rest	37	0.11	0.11	0.12	room	31	0.24	0.17	0.12
	ladybug	lady	5	0.26	0.04	-0.06	bug	3	0.26	0.44	0.51
	peanut	pea	6	0.19	0.11	0.74	nut	7	0.14	0.13	0.61
	sandalwood	sandal	3	0.13	0.02	-0.01	wood	32	0.07	0.09	0.09
	horseradish	horse	15	0.31	0.06	0.02	radish	3	0.23	0.09	0.11
	horseplay	horse	15	0.31	0.06	0.01	play	7	0.15	0.04	-0.03
	trenchcoat	trench	3	0.28	N/A	N/A	coat	5	0.17	N/A	N/A
	dragonfly	dragon	4	0.29	0.12	0.09	fly	10	0.14	0.43	0.57
	peppermint	pepper	6	0.19	0.26	0.40	mint	4	0.22	0.33	0.54
	butterfly	butter	9	0.09	0.04	-0.04	fly	10	0.14	0.27	0.41
TO	chatterbox	chatter	6	0.11	0.06	0.02	box	11	0.11	-0.07	-0.12
	lumberjack	lumber	3	0.18	0.17	0.16	jack	15	0.07	0.05	-0.01
	nightmare	night	17	0.18	0.32	0.20	mare	2	0.79	0.11	0.01
	staircase	stair	6	0.34	0.57	0.69	case	8	0.20	0.07	0.00
	litterbug	litter	4	0.21	N/A	N/A	bug	9	0.09	N/A	N/A
	gingersnap	ginger	3	0.16	N/A	N/A	snap	8	0.14	N/A	N/A
	sideburns	side	26	0.17	0.05	-0.05	burns	3	0.07	0.01	-0.01
	warhead	war	68	0.09	0.1	0.08	head	20	0.09	-0.02	-0.02
	doughnut	dough	3	0.39	0.31	0.53	nut	7	0.14	0.13	0.35
	heirloom	heir	4	0.33	0.17	0.07	loom	3	0.14	0.13	-0.06
TT	moonlight	moon	7	0.10	0.46	0.48	light	24	0.14	0.25	0.23
	toothache	tooth	8	0.32	0.85	0.85	ache	4	0.11	0.14	0.09
	dishwasher	dish	9	0.14	0.52	0.67	washer	2	0.44	0.44	0.80
	barnyard	barn	11	0.07	0.71	0.63	yard	14	0.12	0.34	0.14
	cookbook	cook	12	0.21	0.16	0.11	book	10	0.20	0.34	0.33
	farmland	farm	13	0.39	0.55	0.57	land	77	0.08	0.67	0.40
	haystack	hay	13	0.06	0.43	0.60	stack	6	0.14	0.2	0.38
	rainfall	rain	17	0.29	0.68	0.66	fall	12	0.08	0.17	0.40
	honeybee	honey	9	0.12	0.67	0.73	bee	3	0.57	0.82	0.84
	paintbrush	paint	20	0.15	0.22	0.21	brush	4	0.21	0.33	0.35
	snowball	snow	14	0.51	0.65	0.62	ball	10	0.24	0.03	-0.02
	gingerbread	ginger	3	0.16	0.2	0.39	bread	2	0.32	0.32	0.30
	nailbrush	nail	4	0.57	N/A	N/A	brush	4	0.21	N/A	N/A
	teacup	tea	47	0.12	0.21	0.09	cup	4	0.25	0.13	0.00
	songbook	song	2	0.89	0.1	0.10	book	10	0.20	0.33	0.28

ST	Compounds	Initial Constituent					Final Constituent				
		C1	FS	Co	M1	M2	C2	FS	Co	M1	M2
	firewood	fire	23	0.14	0.31	0.26	wood	32	0.07	0.53	0.54
	pillbox	pill	11	0.07	-0.03	-0.04	box	11	0.11	0.11	0.12
	toothpaste	tooth	8	0.32	0.41	0.55	paste	6	0.21	0.42	0.72
	meatball	meat	4	0.17	0.22	0.21	ball	10	0.24	0.01	-0.05
	gunshot	gun	15	0.13	0.13	0.08	shot	5	0.10	0.22	0.29
	raincoat	rain	17	0.29	0.39	0.37	coat	5	0.17	0.36	0.45
	flowerpot	flower	8	0.27	0.12	0.10	pot	11	0.08	0.04	-0.14
	clothesline	clothes	4	0.32	0.15	0.01	line	60	0.08	0.26	0.18
	rattlesnake	rattle	4	0.34	0.39	0.71	snake	5	0.42	0.58	0.57
	lumberyard	lumber	3	0.18	0.18	0.13	yard	14	0.12	0.23	0.10
	rainstorm	rain	17	0.29	0.57	0.54	storm	5	0.23	0.42	0.47
	headache	head	37	0.10	0.19	0.16	ache	4	0.11	0.25	0.87
	woodshed	wood	23	0.12	0.1	0.05	shed	2	0.04	0.27	0.20
	sandcastle	sand	22	0.12	N/A	N/A	castle	2	0.14	N/A	N/A
	mousetrap	mouse	4	0.23	0.03	0.02	trap	4	0.08	0.19	0.15
	hairbrush	hair	16	0.26	0.11	0.11	brush	4	0.21	0.06	0.04
	chessboard	chess	2	0.59	0.59	0.68	board	23	0.12	0.07	0.05
	pocketknife	pocket	5	0.31	0.09	-0.05	knife	4	0.28	0.23	0.18
	mailbag	mail	7	0.39	0.72	0.70	bag	4	0.25	0.2	0.21

Appendix B. Re-analysis of the materials in Mok (2009). For the current and the following appendix, WF represents high (H) or low (ST) frequent items. SP-C is the traditional-script conversion of compounds in SP-C. WF and FreqS are the counts of whole words and constituents in ASBC (5 million words), where FreqS is counted for one-character words and does not include occurrences in other multi-character words

		Compound		Initial Constituent						Final Constituent				
WF	ST	Word	SP-C	WF	FreqS	FS	Co	M1	M2	FreqS	FS	Co	M1	M2
H	TT	奴隶	奴隸	52	6	6	0.13	0.26	0.96	8	3	0.08	0.06	0.96
		座谈	座談	95	965	9	0.08	−0.03	−0.05	934	32	0.07	0.14	0.07
		统治	統治	299	20	17	0.11	0.38	0.20	200	23	0.08	0.29	0.18

WF	ST	Word	Compound		Initial Constituent						Final Constituent				
			SP-C		WF	FreqS	FS	Co	M1	M2	FreqS	FS	Co	M1	M2
		冬季	冬季		132	117	11	0.16	0.66	0.78	316	16	0.16	0.29	0.85
		校长	校長		769	1375	28	0.21	0.66	0.75	1220	87	0.07	0.03	0.12
		纪录	紀錄		366	0	11	0.06	N/A	0.95	32	20	0.09	0.06	0.15
		晚饭	晚飯		56	180	19	0.10	0.33	0.32	280	16	0.39	0.77	0.78
		形状	形狀		113	82	20	0.12	0.40	0.14	42	27	0.09	0.17	0.28
		震荡	震盪		76	32	16	0.10	0.02	0.02	7	12	0.07	0.04	0.97
		优良	優良		154	19	26	0.09	0.15	0.31	25	14	0.05	0.06	0.11
		真理	真理		191	1809	32	0.10	0.18	0.93	100	65	0.06	0.14	0.03
		装饰	裝飾		80	203	29	0.08	0.11	0.39	22	18	0.14	0.26	0.26
		解剖	解剖		47	139	38	0.07	0.09	0.00	0	1	N/A	N/A	0.98
		保护	保護		893	74	42	0.08	0.19	0.04	52	22	0.09	0.36	0.01
		包含	包含		345	117	24	0.06	0.03	0.23	189	6	0.14	0.21	0.93
		反抗	反抗		100	444	51	0.08	0.38	0.01	119	5	0.18	0.00	0.16
		收获	收穫		153	359	52	0.06	0.17	-0.02	0	1	N/A	N/A	0.93
		文艺	文藝		83	685	62	0.07	0.12	0.46	17	25	0.09	0.18	0.10
		光线	光線		120	355	47	0.09	0.78	0.81	364	67	0.08	0.06	-0.02

		Compound		Initial Constituent						Final Constituent				
WF	ST	Word	SP-C	WF	FreqS	FS	Co	M1	M2	FreqS	FS	Co	M1	M2
		对待	對待	129	13944	47	0.06	0.33	0.03	294	19	0.10	0.21	0.03
		电动	電動	123	166	57	0.09	0.04	−0.05	474	92	0.08	0.17	0.30
H	OO	矛盾	矛盾	282	26	3	0.05	0.07	0.93	19	4	0.03	0.04	0.93
		伙计	夥計	4	29	4	0.12	0.12	0.06	184	22	0.09	0.02	−0.05
		封建	封建	31	184	14	0.05	0.07	0.01	415	32	0.13	0.33	0.17
		东西	東西	1726	344	50	0.07	0.13	0.04	382	23	0.06	0.13	−0.07
		营养	營養	160	26	18	0.07	0.01	−0.08	268	31	0.10	0.20	0.09
		影响	影響	1291	46	22	0.17	0.02	0.00	127	10	0.11	0.01	−0.02
		条件	條件	1044	1724	13	0.07	0.07	0.03	1651	27	0.09	0.06	−0.02
		田径	田徑	94	148	12	0.12	−0.02	−0.03	8	15	0.07	−0.05	−0.03
		抽象	抽象	117	216	28	0.07	N/A	N/A	80	22	0.09	N/A	N/A
		积极	積極	919	47	17	0.07	0.11	0.90	1195	9	0.12	0.26	−0.02
		客观	客觀	214	47	27	0.08	0.07	−0.02	164	28	0.09	0.18	0.85
		简直	簡直	223	17	27	0.09	0.20	−0.02	323	14	0.11	0.42	0.02
		客气	客氣	125	47	27	0.08	0.15	0.10	491	96	0.08	0.26	−0.02
		先生	先生	2423	2465	31	0.06	0.08	0.07	619	99	0.06	0.07	−0.01

WF	ST	Word	Compound		WF	FreqS	Initial Constituent				FreqS	Final Constituent			
			SP-C				FS	Co	M1	M2		FS	Co	M1	M2
		走狗	走狗		8	1955	47	0.11	-0.03	-0.03	387	10	0.17	0.06	0.05
		方针	方針		74	216	25	0.06	0.21	-0.01	129	8	0.05	0.02	0.01
		难道	難道		291	1430	44	0.09	0.19	0.03	733	99	0.07	0.26	0.15
		感冒	感冒		70	126	32	0.13	0.09	0.04	86	5	0.06	0.22	0.13
		神经	神經		184	350	65	0.09	0.04	-0.03	1232	33	0.07	0.09	-0.06
		活该	活該		11	627	23	0.06	0.09	0.00	3380	3	0.09	0.05	0.04
		马虎	馬虎		13	342	38	0.07	-0.02	-0.05	197	7	0.21	0.02	0.00
		本领	本領		53	3462	34	0.08	0.06	0.03	165	19	0.08	0.21	0.05
		体会	體會		240	177	40	0.09	0.08	0.00	14066	77	0.08	0.27	0.00
		行李	行李		77	345	55	0.07	0.28	0.13	620	5	0.04	0.00	-0.04
		手段	手段		237	1476	40	0.09	0.08	0.02	1174	24	0.08	0.09	0.08
		分寸	分寸		17	1100	99	0.06	0.30	-0.02	69	4	0.02	0.04	-0.03
		花生	花生		28	623	72	0.10	0.17	0.13	619	99	0.06	0.09	0.01
		出息	出息		9	863	102	0.07	0.13	0.01	17	25	0.08	0.00	-0.07
		发明	發明		166	162	81	0.06	0.08	0.00	162	59	0.06	0.04	0.05
		老婆	老婆		113	1062	99	0.08	0.22	0.04	7	11	0.14	0.20	0.30

WF	ST	Compound		Initial Constituent						Final Constituent				
		Word	SP-C	WF	FreqS	FS	Co	M1	M2	FreqS	FS	Co	M1	M2
		无聊	無聊	143	2519	109	0.08	0.17	0.06	88	4	0.25	0.31	0.91
H	TO	态度	態度	1067	7	3	0.07	0.01	0.91	679	71	0.08	-0.04	-0.10
		摔跤	摔跤	8	79	10	0.15	0.19	0.14	12	2	0.03	0.03	0.00
		或者	或者	1074	8317	6	0.18	0.18	0.06	7221	36	0.06	0.14	-0.01
		晓得	曉得	197	5	4	0.08	0.17	0.85	5969	71	0.07	0.22	0.01
		熊猫	熊貓	240	156	9	0.23	0.05	-0.02	147	7	0.12	0.24	0.16
		坏蛋	壞蛋	12	339	9	0.12	0.13	0.06	118	11	0.11	0.12	0.05
		介绍	介紹	627	0	9	0.06	N/A	0.93	0	1	N/A	N/A	0.93
		徒弟	徒弟	21	27	9	0.06	0.03	0.01	30	16	0.12	0.11	0.10
		似乎	似乎	1078	278	4	0.41	0.46	0.17	41	9	0.14	0.10	0.18
		尾巴	尾巴	116	62	12	0.21	0.66	0.82	15	15	0.07	0.19	0.97
		责备	責備	33	37	10	0.11	0.16	0.07	69	29	0.08	0.02	-0.02
		场合	場合	146	1615	11	0.12	0.09	0.03	100	45	0.08	0.13	-0.01
		突然	突然	627	46	13	0.10	0.36	0.06	99	87	0.10	0.13	0.25
		字眼	字眼	54	1060	25	0.18	0.27	0.24	635	37	0.08	0.10	0.00
		如果	如果	5336	3142	22	0.08	0.11	0.91	35	23	0.08	0.06	0.06

WF	ST	Word	Compound		WF	FreqS	Initial Constituent				Final Constituent				
			SP-C				FS	Co	M1	M2	FreqS	FS	Co	M1	M2
		领袖	領袖		216	165	32	0.06	0.05	0.14	6	7	0.09	0.01	0.94
		奇迹	奇跡		23	62	26	0.08	0.15	-0.04	13	19	0.10	0.08	0.07
		指头	指頭		22	472	38	0.08	0.19	0.01	834	141	0.07	0.27	0.04
		主席	主席		412	67	71	0.06	0.03	-0.02	49	13	0.10	0.18	0.24
		正经	正經		15	2573	52	0.06	0.06	0.00	1232	32	0.07	0.02	0.06
		平等	平等		295	88	63	0.07	0.20	0.20	8070	27	0.08	0.15	0.05
H	OT	昆虫	昆蟲		137	0	2	0.00	N/A	0.97	87	13	0.27	0.51	0.83
		仔细	仔細		374	8	3	0.14	0.20	0.90	143	9	0.15	0.24	0.90
		漆黑	漆黑		27	30	5	0.12	0.00	-0.07	415	17	0.11	0.25	-0.02
		跟前	跟前		19	3539	12	0.07	0.16	0.08	2944	27	0.08	0.10	0.15
		陆续	陸續		352	47	13	0.08	0.24	0.90	39	14	0.10	0.15	0.01
		幻灯	幻燈機 幻燈片		38	8	9	0.11	0.10	0.05	142	17	0.09	0.00	0.00
		卫星	衛星		274	0	10	0.06	N/A	0.02	117	38	0.18	0.30	0.62
		汽车	汽車		470	6	7	0.06	0.31	0.97	985	60	0.20	0.74	0.83
		轮船	輪船		29	65	17	0.06	0.12	0.06	468	31	0.16	0.53	0.46
		肥皂	肥皂		38	53	10	0.13	0.17	0.09	0	2	0.43	N/A	0.96

		Compound		Initial Constituent						Final Constituent				
WF	ST	Word	SP-C	WF	FreqS	FS	Co	M1	M2	FreqS	FS	Co	M1	M2
		太阳	太陽	429	2893	27	0.07	0.13	0.04	43	24	0.06	0.11	0.06
		目标	目標	1227	34	12	0.09	−0.01	0.06	21	21	0.10	0.04	0.03
		吃苦	吃苦	30	2636	28	0.15	0.21	0.15	310	21	0.15	0.36	0.07
		麻烦	麻煩	164	18	14	0.06	0.10	0.88	54	4	0.19	0.24	0.88
		以及	以及	2511	13172	27	0.12	0.27	0.03	13758	29	0.09	0.23	0.08
		方便	方便	621	216	25	0.06	0.10	0.14	2723	14	0.11	0.16	0.83
		投降	投降	53	127	42	0.06	0.00	−0.06	67	8	0.10	0.11	−0.01
		毛病	毛病	106	297	20	0.07	0.13	0.08	358	25	0.18	0.34	0.25
		血汗	血汗	22	207	31	0.12	0.06	0.00	61	8	0.15	0.07	0.01
		清早	清早	13	153	77	0.08	0.12	0.07	694	19	0.08	0.18	0.07
		老师	老師	2871	1062	99	0.08	0.04	0.01	129	39	0.08	0.53	0.80
		打听	打聽	52	1448	94	0.07	0.11	0.00	1833	18	0.12	0.18	0.01
L	TT	雇用	雇用	0	13	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	3045	102	0.07	N/A	N/A
		站队	站隊	0	740	12	0.08	N/A	N/A	284	45	0.11	N/A	N/A
		侵扰	侵擾	11	16	11	0.12	0.07	0.01	11	11	0.10	0.10	0.16
		触犯	觸犯	24	35	19	0.05	0.02	−0.09	168	16	0.12	0.39	0.16

WF	ST	Word	Compound	WF	FreqS	Initial Constituent				FreqS	Final Constituent			
			SP-C			FS	Co	M1	M2		FS	Co	M1	M2
		查询	查詢	242	109	30	0.10	0.19	-0.02	18	10	0.12	0.08	0.01
		试卷	試卷	7	283	26	0.07	0.17	0.25	83	7	0.08	0.18	-0.01
		丰盛	豐盛	38	32	17	0.11	0.20	0.16	70	12	0.09	0.28	0.02
		逃奔	逃奔	0	90	24	0.11	N/A	N/A	45	5	0.13	N/A	N/A
		环打	環打	0	104	22	0.07	N/A	N/A	1448	42	0.11	N/A	N/A
		远程	遠程	26	760	41	0.07	0.16	0.08	72	41	0.07	-0.01	0.00
		尽兴	盡興	28	177	17	0.09	0.19	0.01	19	28	0.06	0.12	0.00
		短枪	短槍	0	383	27	0.07	N/A	N/A	136	12	0.18	N/A	N/A
		见闻	見聞	31	1682	22	0.08	0.05	0.00	131	15	0.09	0.07	0.06
		衣裤	衣褲	8	57	17	0.15	0.19	0.14	4	5	0.22	0.13	0.01
		古稀	古稀	0	263	46	0.11	N/A	N/A	27	4	0.06	N/A	N/A
		引证	引證	5	92	33	0.06	0.08	0.00	21	30	0.07	0.06	0.05
		后援	後援	12	7752	55	0.06	0.11	-0.07	9	11	0.09	-0.02	0.73
		石料	石料	0	78	41	0.10	N/A	N/A	30	37	0.08	N/A	N/A
		火攻	火攻	0	238	42	0.09	N/A	N/A	77	13	0.16	N/A	N/A
		分身	分身	3	1100	99	0.06	N/A	N/A	1398	78	0.07	N/A	N/A

		Compound		Initial Constituent						Final Constituent				
WF	ST	Word	SP-C	WF	FreqS	FS	Co	M1	M2	FreqS	FS	Co	M1	M2
		中级	中級	37	12231	121	0.05	0.11	0.26	478	31	0.09	0.13	−0.02
		公议	公議	0	59	98	0.06	N/A	N/A	28	22	0.14	N/A	N/A
		天际	天際	22	5038	85	0.07	0.15	0.37	291	19	0.06	0.18	0.01
L	OO	袖珍	袖珍	4	6	4	0.11	−0.04	0.13	4	6	0.07	−0.02	0.02
		洗尘	洗塵	4	255	21	0.12	0.01	0.03	18	20	0.11	0.06	−0.02
		忘年	忘年之交	5	330	8	0.16	0.07	0.07	10127	61	0.10	0.15	0.03
		端午	端午	5	207	16	0.08	0.06	0.01	17	16	0.19	−0.01	0.06
		造化	造化	10	181	30	0.07	0.12	0.00	47	69	0.06	0.28	−0.06
		垂青	垂青	4	10	11	0.07	0.06	−0.02	80	14	0.04	0.14	−0.16
		烧卖	燒賣	0	167	17	0.10	N/A	N/A	557	15	0.12	N/A	N/A
		便当	便當	118	2723	16	0.08	0.05	−0.01	2486	50	0.10	0.07	0.01
		粉刺	粉刺	13	27	11	0.13	0.18	0.25	73	7	0.06	0.07	0.06
		乌贼	烏賊	4	6	14	0.07	0.01	0.05	56	7	0.13	0.07	0.04
		麻将	麻將	21	18	14	0.06	0.15	−0.10	7858	22	0.09	0.04	0.05
		利落	俐落	25	0	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	117	50	0.08	0.24	0.02
		物色	物色	11	254	21	0.06	0.00	−0.03	174	79	0.12	0.04	0.01

WF	ST	Word	Compound		WF	FreqS	Initial Constituent				Final Constituent				
			SP-C				FS	Co	M1	M2	FreqS	FS	Co	M1	M2
		耳光	耳光		13	119	14	0.08	0.14	0.17	355	74	0.08	0.02	-0.03
		云雨	雲雨		4	137	17	0.09	0.19	0.08	297	24	0.17	0.12	0.05
		木耳	木耳		2	80	47	0.07	N/A	N/A	119	18	0.17	N/A	N/A
		百合	百合		26	404	11	0.05	N/A	0.00	100	45	0.08	0.06	0.03
		红颜	紅顏		3	481	45	0.06	N/A	N/A	13	4	0.06	N/A	N/A
		风流	風流		19	434	59	0.08	0.15	0.10	106	55	0.08	0.21	0.13
		花甲	花甲		1	623	72	0.10	N/A	N/A	95	11	0.05	N/A	N/A
		开交	不可開交		12	1023	114	0.06	0.16	0.06	135	24	0.07	-0.04	0.11
		发指	髮指		2	26	4	0.18	N/A	N/A	472	15	0.10	N/A	N/A
L	TO	蝇头	蠅頭小利		2	5	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	834	141	0.07	N/A	N/A
		赖皮	賴皮		6	40	7	0.10	0.11	0.07	102	35	0.08	0.09	0.00
		辈份	輩份		6	49	5	0.14	0.32	0.10	824	24	0.06	0.04	-0.11
		辞令	辭令		4	21	11	0.08	0.06	0.08	1814	24	0.07	0.08	0.07
		登基	登基		27	38	21	0.07	0.23	-0.02	11	16	0.06	0.26	0.13
		使节	使節		10	4645	14	0.08	0.06	0.01	193	29	0.06	0.00	-0.04
		紧凑	緊湊		18	109	21	0.09	0.05	-0.05	41	3	0.01	0.00	-0.04

WF	ST	Word	Compound		WF	FreqS	Initial Constituent				Final Constituent				
			SP-C				FS	Co	M1	M2	FreqS	FS	Co	M1	M2
		溜达	溜達		0	22	6	0.11	N/A	N/A	748	38	0.06	N/A	N/A
		拜堂	拜堂		3	111	14	0.08	N/A	N/A	78	26	0.08	N/A	N/A
		问津	問津		8	2103	24	0.09	0.00	0.01	4	10	0.04	0.02	0.11
		饱和	飽和		35	51	8	0.07	0.01	0.09	13585	35	0.06	0.12	0.04
		穷蛋	窮光蛋		7	143	5	0.20	0.38	0.29	118	11	0.11	0.17	0.11
		牙床	牙床		5	58	12	0.31	0.31	0.56	254	16	0.08	0.07	0.03
		眉宇	眉宇		5	53	11	0.15	0.14	0.06	0	7	0.05	N/A	-0.06
		败北	敗北		14	123	14	0.15	0.57	0.72	379	17	0.10	-0.01	0.01
		私房	私房		1	33	27	0.06	N/A	N/A	178	34	0.08	N/A	N/A
		劳顿	勞頓		1	16	18	0.17	N/A	N/A	144	24	0.09	N/A	N/A
		悲切	悲切		0	42	16	0.19	N/A	N/A	78	18	0.11	N/A	N/A
		书香	書香		33	1600	38	0.17	0.55	0.61	100	24	0.11	0.11	0.04
		名声	名聲		33	2263	53	0.07	0.06	0.01	480	72	0.12	0.03	-0.04
		安顿	安頓		20	48	50	0.06	0.12	-0.03	144	24	0.09	0.03	-0.03
		同窗	同窗		5	950	47	0.07	0.02	0.31	219	10	0.08	0.03	-0.03
		外快	外快		9	1781	91	0.06	0.12	-0.01	1192	18	0.10	0.17	0.12

		Compound		Initial Constituent						Final Constituent				
WF	ST	Word	SP-C	WF	FreqS	FS	Co	M1	M2	FreqS	FS	Co	M1	M2
		水母	水母	11	1445	98	0.11	0.06	0.06	86	18	0.09	0.06	-0.15
L	OT	盲肠	盲腸	5	26	9	0.14	-0.05	-0.06	13	8	0.15	0.18	-0.02
		径自	逕自	11	38	4	0.20	0.04	-0.02	1580	18	0.09	0.15	0.10
		仓促	倉促	16	9	8	0.06	0.03	0.06	22	9	0.08	0.00	0.06
		午夜	午夜	52	17	10	0.15	0.13	0.12	374	24	0.12	0.31	0.10
		掌故	掌故	8	46	12	0.07	-0.02	-0.05	684	16	0.08	0.07	0.05
		寻常	尋常	28	120	13	0.12	0.23	-0.03	2022	22	0.13	0.16	0.07
		笔挺	筆挺	3	380	21	0.12	N/A	N/A	109	2	0.08	N/A	N/A
		格言	格言	11	57	12	0.06	0.13	-0.01	1568	44	0.07	0.24	0.05
		软片	軟片	43	105	13	0.05	0.02	-0.05	987	53	0.09	0.05	0.07
		处女	處女	13	913	21	0.10	0.00	0.02	790	44	0.10	0.43	0.03
		脚本	腳本	20	442	19	0.11	0.02	0.00	3462	40	0.06	0.09	-0.01
		云雀	雲雀	3	137	17	0.09	N/A	N/A	6	5	0.20	N/A	N/A
		比邻	比鄰	11	2475	26	0.07	0.03	-0.02	18	8	0.10	0.16	-0.01
		马步	馬步	2	342	38	0.07	N/A	NA	567	30	0.08	N/A	NA
		放晴	放晴	4	1033	54	0.07	0.09	-0.01	33	7	0.06	0.29	0.25

		Compound		Initial Constituent						Final Constituent				
WF	ST	Word	SP-C	WF	FreqS	FS	Co	M1	M2	FreqS	FS	Co	M1	M2
		洋灰	洋灰	0	12	16	0.07	N/A	N/A	73	6	0.07	N/A	N/A
		起诉	起訴	33	1158	48	0.06	0.02	0.02	8	13	0.16	0.33	0.89
		可取	可取	12	8508	46	0.08	0.06	-0.03	361	42	0.07	0.08	0.02
		海报	海報	141	625	76	0.16	0.02	-0.03	335	47	0.07	0.22	-0.04
		当今	當今	96	2486	47	0.08	0.09	0.01	471	8	0.24	0.24	0.13
		正法	正法	1	2573	52	0.06	N/A	N/A	754	86	0.07	N/A	N/A
		成语	成語	50	1284	65	0.06	0.24	0.00	108	54	0.09	0.22	0.05
		气质	氣質	153	491	36	0.08	0.06	-0.01	120	48	0.08	0.17	0.14
		风尘	風塵	10	434	59	0.08	0.20	0.06	18	20	0.11	0.07	-0.04
		白事	白事	0	596	53	0.07	N/A	N/A	4008	106	0.06	N/A	N/A
		打滚	打滾	26	1448	94	0.07	0.25	0.16	41	5	0.14	0.32	0.19

Appendix C. Eighty compounds selected in the present study. Rate is the proportion of responses from 11 raters who responded T

Compound				Glossary		Initial Constituent				
ST	Word	WF	Word	Initial	Final	Rate	FreqS	FS	Co	M
T	T	筆鋒	5 writing style	pen	cutting edge	0.64	509	12	0.14	0.
T	T	預約	67 reserve	in advance	appointment	0.64	179	52	0.11	0.

		Compound			Glossary		Initial Constituent				
ST		Word	WF	Word	Initial	Final	Rate	FreqS	FS	Co	M
T	T	夜市	68	night market	night	market	0.82	516	14	0.19	0.
T	T	末期	70	last phase	last	phase	0.91	128	7	0.13	0.
T	T	見面	204	meet	see	face	0.91	1464	12	0.10	0.
T	T	實話	54	truth	true	word	0.82	1287	30	0.09	0.
T	T	補救	49	redeem	mend	save	1.00	139	12	0.09	0.
T	T	毆打	43	beat up	beat up	hit	0.91	5	1	N/A	0.
T	T	歉意	24	apology	apology	opinion/wish	1.00	52	2	0.07	0.
T	T	窮苦	20	poverty-stricken	poor	bitter	1.00	154	3	0.37	0.
T	T	羞怯	14	shy	shame/shy	fear/timid	1.00	76	4	0.11	0.
T	T	乾燥	62	dry	dry	dry	1.00	297	11	0.12	0.
T	T	開門	61	open a door	open	door	0.64	2248	144	0.07	0.
T	T	起點	59	starting point	start	point	0.73	3046	29	0.07	0.
T	T	擴散	41	spread	expend	loose/leisurely	0.91	72	8	0.13	0.
T	T	帳篷	38	tent	tent/account	fluffy	0.64	57	8	0.10	0.
T	T	跑步	35	run	run	step	1.00	573	13	0.19	0.
T	T	邪惡	29	evil	evil	wickedness	1.00	28	2	0.20	0.

Compound				Glossary			Initial Constituent				
ST	Word	WF	Word	Initial	Final	Rate	FreqS	FS	Co	M	
T	T	進來	190	come in	move forward	come	0.91	1691	60	0.09	0.
T	T	球場	167	ball court	ball	court	0.82	1141	15	0.38	0.
T	T	地形	142	terrain	earth	shape	0.82	4773	46	0.10	0.
T	T	產量	114	production	produce	quantity	0.91	644	16	0.11	0.
T	T	貝殼	59	shell	shellfish	shell	0.91	280	6	0.07	0.
T	T	射箭	45	shoot an arrow	shoot	arrow	0.82	284	8	0.16	0.
T	T	吊橋	20	drawbridge	hang	bridge	0.64	49	1	N/A	0.
T	T	診療	8	diagnosis	diagnose	medical care	1.00	30	3	0.43	N
T	T	笑臉	33	smiling face	smile	face	1.00	694	11	0.23	0.
T	T	鳴叫	16	cry of insects or birds	cry of insects or birds	(of animals) to call	1.00	81	6	0.29	0.
T	T	花季	10	flowering season	flower	season	0.73	1901	35	0.14	0.
T	T	旱災	10	drought	drought	disaster	1.00	24	1	N/A	0.
T	T	陰涼	5	shady and cool	moon/hidden/negative	cool	0.73	137	18	0.13	0.
T	O	智商	15	IQ	intelligence	commerce	0.91	177	11	0.11	0.
T	O	啟迪	15	inspire	open	progress	0.82	124	11	0.07	0.
T	O	字母	36	letter	character	mother	0.82	1553	18	0.18	0.

		Compound				Glossary		Initial Constituent			
ST		Word	WF	Word	Initial	Final	Rate	FreqS	FS	Co	M
T	O	質地	30	texture	quality/substance	earth	0.91	359	10	0.08	0.
T	O	婉約	7	graceful	gentle	appointment	0.82	21	2	0.04	N
T	O	同樣	742	equal	same	appearance/type	1.00	2330	35	0.08	0.
T	O	水面	66	water surface	water	surface	0.82	2919	61	0.14	0.
O	T	垂死	21	almost dead	hanging	dead	0.09	126	3	0.06	0.
O	T	追悼	11	commemorate	chase	mourn	0.36	224	23	0.10	0.
O	T	宿命	26	predestination	lodge	life	0.27	40	3	0.05	0.
O	T	會計	97	accounting	meet/be good at/association	calculation	0.18	4776	21	0.11	0.
O	T	主意	79	idea	master	meaing	0.18	1508	45	0.07	0.
O	T	開水	39	boiled water	open	water	0.18	2248	144	0.07	0.
O	T	松鼠	23	squirrel	pine	mouse	0.18	130	4	0.07	0.
O	T	充飢	8	alleviate one's hunger	fill/full	hungry	0.36	352	11	0.14	0.
O	T	腹案	11	a plan in one's mind	belly	plan/case/file/table	0.27	95	5	0.17	0.
O	O	和尚	169	monk	peace	yet	0.00	5193	14	0.08	0.
O	O	便當	118	lunch box	convenient	think/equal/appropriate	0.18	969	10	0.13	0.
O	O	道地	33	genuine	way/speak	earth/ground	0.00	2287	36	0.12	0.

Compound			Glossary				Initial Constituent				
ST	Word	WF	Word	Initial	Final	Rate	FreqS	FS	Co	M	
O	O	打點	21	get ready	hit	point	0.09	1441	63	0.09	-0.
O	O	杯葛	27	boycott	cup	a Chinese surname	0.00	202	4	0.27	0.
O	O	沙拉	22	salad	sand	pull	0.00	367	15	0.14	0.
O	O	員外	13	rich landlord	member	outside	0.00	444	5	0.09	0.
O	O	滑稽	13	funny	slippery/smooth	check/examine	0.09	193	10	0.10	0.
O	O	休克	11	shock	rest	subdue/gram	0.09	284	9	0.11	-0.
O	O	張羅	11	prepare	spread/sheet	net/gross	0.18	1026	18	0.05	0.
O	O	摩登	10	modern	rub/touch	mount/publish	0.09	293	2	0.06	N
O	O	行頭	10	costume/wardrobe	go/carry out/conduct	head	0.18	1952	32	0.08	0.
O	O	郎中	7	physician	young man	middle/inside	0.36	234	2	0.17	-0.
O	O	壽司	5	sushi	age	in charge of	0.00	76	3	0.04	0.
O	O	將就	5	put up with	general	nearby/engage	0.09	1427	5	0.19	0.
O	O	凱旋	16	triumphant return	victorious/name	revolve/rotate	0.18	73	4	0.03	N
T	.	無能	59	incompetent	without	capability/energy	0.73	1191	69	0.11	0.
T	.	進度	155	progress	advance	degree	0.64	1691	60	0.09	0.
T	.	好處	305	benefit	good	place	0.91	5553	40	0.11	0.

ST	Compound			Initial	Glossary	Final	Initial Constituent				M
	Word	WF	Word				Rate	FreqS	FS	Co	
T .	美學	84	aesthetics	beauty		learn/knowledge	1.00	1730	40	0.08	0.
T .	住所	25	residence	living		place/that which	1.00	1025	13	0.20	0.
T .	旅社	18	hotel	traveling		organization	0.73	311	13	0.18	0.
O .	調皮	26	mischievous	mix/adjust		skin/fur/naughty	0.00	391	28	0.08	0.
O .	生氣	283	angry/vital	produce/birth		gas/air/anger	0.00	5444	40	0.09	0.
O .	姑息	5	over-tolerate	aunt		rest	0.09	298	4	0.08	0.
. T	部長	196	minister	part/military unit		person in charge/grow	0.55	1663	26	0.12	0.
. T	呆帳	23	bed debt	slow-witted/stay		account	0.45	83	3	0.15	0.
. T	茶杯	31	tea cup/cup	tea		cup	0.55	193	17	0.51	0.
. T	飯碗	20	rice bowl/job	rice		bowl	0.55	313	12	0.30	0.
. T	理想	450	ideal	reason/logic/manage		think	0.45	1078	17	0.12	0.
. O	夥計	4	buddy/waiter	partner/plenty		calculation/idea	0.55	57	2	0.05	0.
. O	沈著	11	composed/calm	sink/heavy		a move/step	0.45	26	14	0.09	0.
. .	狼狽	11	embarrassed	wolf		a kind of wolf	0.55	149	1	N/A	0.

^a Bisyllabic words (two characters in written form).

Figure 1.

The MDS result for an example of semantic relationships for (a) “butter” and its morphological family and (b) “馬” (horse) and its morphological family. The x and y axes represent dimensions 1 and 2, respectively, of the abstract, two-dimensional Euclidean output space of the MDS algorithm.

(a) Model 1

(b) Model 2

Figure 2.
The distributions of LSA cosine values of opaque (O) and transparent (T) constituents computed by (a) Model 1 and (b) Model 2 for the materials in Frisson et al. (2008).

Figure 3.
ROC analysis of Model 1 and Model 2.

Figure 4. The distributions of LSA cosine values of opaque (O) and transparent (T) constituents of (a) high-frequent items by Model 1, (b) high-frequent items by Model 2, (c) low-frequent items by Model 1, and (d) low-frequent items by Model 2 in the materials in Mok (2009). (e) and (f) are the materials in the present study, which were predicted by Models 1 and 2, respectively.

Table 1

Examples of transparent, opaque, and partially opaque Chinese words

Transparency	Whole Word	First Character	Second Character
TT	球場 (ball court)	球 (ball)	場 (court)
OO	壽司 (sushi)	壽 (age)	司 (to be in charge of)
TO	智商 (I.Q.)	智 (Intelligent)	商 (commerce)
OT	追悼 (commemorate)	追 (chase)	追 (mourn)

The LSA cosine values among “butter”, “butterfly”, “buttercup”, “butterfingers”, “buttermilk”, “butterscotch”, and “butterfat”. The frequency for each word in the British National Corpus (BNC, per 100 million words) is shown in parentheses.

Table 2

	butter	-fly	-cup	-fingers	-milk	-scotch	-fat
butter (2085)	1						
butterfly (630)	0.04	1					
buttercup (24)	0.09	0.09	1				
butterfingers (3)	0	-0.1	-0.1	1			
buttermilk (13)	0.44	-0	0.12	0.01	1		
butterscotch (7)	0.45	0.05	-0	0.02	0.35	1	
butterfat (39)	0.12	-0	0.04	0	0.11	0.16	1

The LSA cosine values between the character “馬” (horse) and its morphological family members. The meaning and frequency (per 5 million words) in ASBC for each word are shown in parentheses.

Table 3

	馬	馬背	馬鞍	馬車	馬虎	馬桶	馬腳	馬來	馬國
馬	1								
(horse, 342)									
馬背	0.83	1							
(horse back, 14)									
馬鞍	0.74	0.74	1						
(saddle, 4)									
馬車	0.17	0.07	0.03	1					
(carriage, 37)									
馬虎	-0.02	-0.04	-0.01	-0.04	1				
(careless, 13)									
馬桶	-0.05	-0.04	-0.03	0.01	0.10	1			
(stool, 23)									
馬腳	0.00	0.04	-0.05	0.01	0.13	0.02	1		
(a clue of, 4)									
馬來	0.08	0.06	0.04	0.04	0.00	-0.09	-0.03	1	
(Malaysian, 11)									

馬	馬背	馬鞍	馬車	馬虎	馬桶	馬腳	馬來	馬國
0.03	-0.01	-0.03	0.03	0.01	-0.04	0.02	0.15	1
(Malaysia, 12)								

The constituent frequency, family size, and consistency when a cut-off point of 0.4 of the LSA cosine was selected in the high-frequency items in Mok (2009).

Table 4

	<u>Constituent Frequency</u>		<u>Family Size</u>		<u>Consistency</u>	
	Mean	Std	Mean	Std	Mean	Std
T response to T	389	698	24.64	19.72	0.14	0.09
T response to O	1245	313	27.95	19.97	0.09	0.03
O response to T	63	98	14.58	19.42	0.10	0.05
O response to O	1180	2425	37.53	31.50	0.08	0.03