

任务型教学法下兼顾形式与意义对英语学习者口语表现的影响

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EFFECTS OF FOCUS ON FORM ON CHINESE EFL LEARNERS'
ORAL PERFORMANCE IN TASK-BASED LANGUAGE LEARNING

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ABSTRACT

Of late, focus on form (FonF) has regained a number of researchers' interest. Recent studies suggest that FonF has a positive effect on the ESL learners' language proficiency. However, few have investigated how FonF is integrated into instruction and what effect it has on the young EFL learners' grammatical knowledge and their oral performance about the copula *be*. This study investigated the effects of focus on meaning and form (FonMF) on grammatical knowledge and the use of the copula *be*. The participants of the study were 60 Chinese primary-school students. The study employed both a quantitative and a qualitative method to compare the effects of two treatments on the young EFL learners' oral performance: FonMF and FonM. The FonMF treatment consisted of meaning-oriented plus focus-on-form activities, while the FonM treatment consisted of meaning-oriented activities. The treatments covered three one-and-a-half hour periods in each of two consecutive weekends. The effects of the two treatments were measured through a pretest, a posttest and a delayed posttest. The test consisted of a grammatical knowledge test to examine the participants' explicit knowledge about the copula *be* and an oral production test to examine the participants' ability to use the copula *be*. Questionnaires and interviews were conducted on each participant immediately after the posttest to gain qualitative data to supplement the findings of the tests. A delayed posttest was conducted three weeks later.

Three major findings were evident. First, the FonMF treatment group demonstrated a comparatively strong, positive effect. The FonM group also experienced a gain in the

copula be, however this increase was significantly smaller than gains observed for the FonMF group. Second, the FonMF group retained these gains while the FonM group did not retain significant gains. The third finding was that the participants held positive attitudes and comments on the experience of the FonMF treatment. The findings identified the effectiveness of the design of FonMF in this study in a laboratory setting. Further research is needed to examine the effects of this design in a wider range of EFL settings.

Keywords: Focus on meaning and form ; focus on meaning ; oral performance



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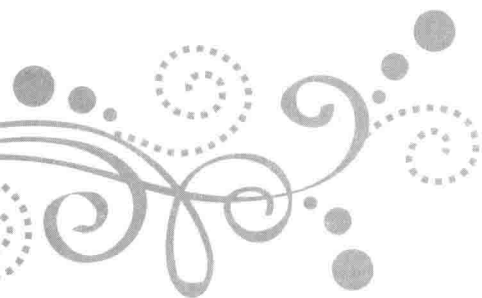
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

FonF.....	Focus on form
FonFs.....	Focus on forms
FonMF.....	Focus on meaning and form
FonM.....	Focus on meaning
GKT.....	Grammatical knowledge test
OPT.....	Oral production test
EFL.....	English as a Foreign Language
L2.....	Second Language