

A Study on Vocabulary Learning Strategies Used by Sri Lankan Learners of Chinese Language

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The use of vocabulary learning strategies is a major aspect that determines the success of vocabulary acquisition of a foreign language. The purpose of this study is to discover how Sri Lankan students of Chinese language speak and write the language. The study also intends to examine the nature of and differences in vocabulary acquisition strategies and the frequency of such usage by foreign language learners. In order to collect data, 40 university students were given questionnaires that consists of 25 questions including multiple choice and open-ended questions on vocabulary learning strategies. The findings of this study identified that Sri Lankan students learning Chinese often encounter issues in relation to learning and memorising vocabulary although vocabulary acquisition has been recognised as crucial to learning a foreign language. The findings further demonstrate the differences between effective and ineffective learners. It was discovered that successful students possess a positive attitude and employ a variety of learning strategies. In fact, they use six methods in co-learning – developing an interest in Chinese, listening and reading, learning words in conversations, attempting various

sentence patterns, using a bilingual (electronic) dictionary, reading Chinese novels or watching Chinese movies in their spare time, and studying spellings (pinyin).

Keywords: *effective learner, foreign language learner, ineffective learner, vocabulary learning strategies*