

# *Reading Easy and Difficult Texts in English and Chinese: Strategy Use by Native Speakers of Chinese*

Xiwu Feng

*City University of New York*

Kouider Mokhtari

*Oklahoma State University*

*The Chinese University Press*

*In this study, twenty adult native speakers of Chinese read and verbally reported their thinking processes while reading easy and difficult expository texts in English and Chinese. The subjects' think-aloud reports were collected as evidence of the strategies they used and subsequently analyzed to ascertain whether there were any differences in strategy use when the subjects read passages of differing difficulty in English and Chinese. Although all subjects demonstrated awareness of a variety of reading strategies, the pattern of strategy use in their think-aloud reports suggested that where differences existed, strategies were used more frequently when reading in English than in Chinese, and more frequently for difficult texts than for easy texts. These findings are discussed in the context of current research which has used verbal reports as a source of insights into first and second language reading.*