

Abstract

This study investigated 3-6 years old Chinese children understanding of mind and emotion by examining their understanding that emotions such as happiness and surprise depends on actor's desires and beliefs. This study is replicated Wellman and Banerjee (1991) study, and modifies it to be more familiar with the Chinese culture. The children were asked to identify and explain the actors' emotions. This study demonstrated that Chinese children learn desire-dependent and belief-dependent emotions later than English-speaking children do, but confirmed that Chinese also learned desire prior to belief.