

Abstract

The role of the language comprehension in false belief understanding has been studied in several researches. Most of the researches were conducted in English. Cantonese was used as the medium of instruction in the present research. This implies that difference between syntactic formation in both English and Cantonese have been taken into account for children's language comprehension. This is an attempt to evaluate the generalizability of the relationship between language and false belief to language other than English. Forty Cantonese-speaking children participated in the present research. Their general language ability was measured by Reynell Developmental Language Scales (Cantonese version). Children's false belief understanding was assessed by their performance in the change-in-location task. The result supported the predictions by previous research that general language ability correlates with false belief. Another argument suggested by other researchers that some specific structures in language also predict false belief understanding in children. Results in this research did not support these predictions. Specific grammatical structures in Cantonese do not predict false belief.