Abstract

Language was an important factor in Theory of Mind (ToM) development, specifically in False Belief (Astington & Baird, 2005). Researchers referred to particular components of language (de Villiers & de Villiers, 2000) to determine its role on ToM development by, but there are fewer attempts exploring its relationship with particular structures of ToM, i.e. mental concepts and their relationships. The current study investigates 3-year-olds and 5-year-olds' understanding of Thinking and False Belief by employing thought bubbles (Wellman, 1996) in videos, while using language to predict performance on the tasks respectively. Both study 1 and 2 showed that language predicts False Belief but not Thinking. How language facilitates the formation of mental state concepts into representation is discussed.