

Abstract

The study examined the interrelationship among strategic lie-telling, white lie-telling, second-order false belief, interpretive ToM, complementation and politeness in seventy-six children in three age groups with mean age P1 (6.8 years old), P3 (8.7 years old), P5 (11 years old). Results showed that strategic lie-telling was associated with complementation while second-order false belief was marginally correlated with complementation. It is believed that complementation and strategic lie-telling share more underlying principles as they are more explicitly articulated, in which their relation was specifically shown in the hierarchal regression. Politeness was correlated with interpretive ToM in a form of partial correlation, where age, verbal ability and non-verbal intelligence were controlled. Though clear correlations were not drawn in the present study, it opened a new era for further investigation between theory of mind and different language components, especially for children's ability of complementation and politeness.