

Abstract

This study investigated the effect of social orientation and group size uncertainty under a sequential (Seq) and a self-determined sequential (Slf) protocol of play. In Slf, participants can choose when to make their decisions, which is a more ecologically valid protocol than Seq. It was found that the social orientation did not influence request behavior under both protocols of play. Replication previous findings, we found a position effect that participants in early positions requested more than those in late positions in both protocols. Groups utilized the resource pool better under Seq than Slf, and when group size was uncertain (varying uniformly between three and seven persons) than certain (fixed at five persons). However, the mechanisms underlying the group size uncertainty effect differed between Seq and Slf. Under Seq, fixed group size resulted in a larger mean individual request. Under Slf, a fixed group size induced more persons to make requests in the first position, but had negligible effects on mean individual requests relative to a variable group size.