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Abstract

This study examined the relative importance of children's understanding of

complementary structure, aspect markers and factivity in contributing to their false

belief performance. We invited from local kindergartens children, both male and

female, aged between 48 to 63 months, to participate in the experiment. All children

were natively fluent in Cantonese. They went through a series of tasks measuring their

general language ability, non-verbal IQ, understanding of complementary structure,

aspect markers, and factivity, and their understanding of false belief. Only factivity

predicted significantly the performance in false belief tasks. *Gong2-dai6-wa6* (to lie),

a non-factive, behavioural verb, held a special relationship with false belief.

Explanations for this relationship and suggestions on further cross language

researches are given.