

Abstract

The current study reports an experiment investigating the effect of culture on Theory of Mind.

In the experiment, Forty-two participants (21 males; 21 females) were randomly assigned into three cultural priming conditions, the American culture priming condition, the Chinese culture priming condition, and the Neutral priming condition. Participants in the American culture priming condition reliably made more errors when interpreting instructions according to the director's perspective than their counterparts in other cultural priming conditions.

Participants in the Chinese culture priming condition made no errors when interpreting the intention of the director. The findings suggest that the ability to reason about other's mental states not only can be used strategically, but also influenced by one's cultural frame being activated.

Keywords: Theory of Mind, Perspective-taking, Culture, Priming, Experimental evidence,

Adults.