ABSTRACT

A longitudinal study tracked the children from two age groups (7-8 and 9-10 years of age; N=121) over twelve months and examined their ability to perform two different tasks of pictorial ambiguity and personal taste in the domain of interpretive theory of mind. It also measured their evaluation of three different types of intentionally false and true statements as lies and truth. Results revealed many children performed better in pictorial ambiguity task than in personal taste problem, it marked a distinction between two different principles under the same domain. Second, many children performed better in representative theory of mind than in interpretive theory of mind. Third, children aged seven to ten years old generally evaluated prosocial lie-telling as negative behaviors in regardless of motives or intentions. We found that children's moral judgement of lie- and truth-telling was greatly influenced by honesty. These findings support a slow track toward an interpretive theory of mind of the knowing process is a gradual developmental process which is very likely continuous through adolescence and probably early adulthood (Carpendale & Chandler, 1996).