

### **Abstract**

The ability to attribute others' emotions could at least be explained in two approaches: Logical deduction based on previous observations or imagination based on previous experiences. The current study aimed to investigate which approach is the key to emotion ascription. While two approaches differ in terms of their respective nature in emotion knowledge, we examine whether remembering observation or experience would support one to ascribe others' emotions via a self-as-source memory paradigm. One study showed that remembrance of self-producing experience positively correlated with emotion ascription, however, the validity of their result is questionable if familiarity and response bias are not disentangled from recollection. One hundred and forty-four adults participated in the self-as-source memory task and the multifaceted empathy task, which measures one's ability to ascribe the emotion of people in affectively charged scenes. A latent-trait regression approach was adopted to calculate the correlation of emotion ascription against the remembrance of experience and merely observational information. In line with our prediction, recollection of self-produced items is distinctively positively correlated with emotion ascription, even when age, gender, and education were controlled. The results supported the notion that the ability to remember an experience in a self-referential manner is important in reading the emotion of others.

*Keywords: episodic simulation, cognitive empathy, source monitoring*