

Preschool children's irony comprehension

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Irony is an intriguing phenomenon. It is widely employed not only in literature as a literary device, but also permeates everyday conversations. Irony always involves an opposition, a contradiction between what is said and what is meant. Thus the comprehension of irony is a complex cognitive process, where a range of individual differences are at work. In general, children appear to have difficulties with the comprehension of irony. According to Peterson et al. (2012), acquiring this competence signals a major milestone in the development of their cognitive skills. My presentation capitalises on preschool children's irony comprehension. First, the most prominent models and the major components of irony comprehension are introduced. Additionally, recent experiments conducted within this field are presented. Finally, a small-scale pilot-study assessing the impact of parents' attitudes towards irony on the quality of children's irony comprehension is reported on.

Peterson, C. C., Wellman, H. M., & Slaughter, V. (2012): The mind behind the message: Advancing theory-of-mind scales for typically developing children, and those with deafness, autism, or Asperger syndrome. *Child Development* 83, 469–485. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-8624.2011.01728.x>.