
The relationship between semantic joke and idiom comprehension in adolescents with autism spectrum disorder

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Abstract

Research has shown individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) demonstrate lower performance on humor tasks. This study examined semantic joke comprehension among adolescents with ASD and its possible relationship to vocabulary size, theory of mind (ToM), and idiom comprehension. Results revealed that adolescents with ASD were less accurate than their controls. Age and idiom comprehension contributed significantly to semantic joke comprehension among both groups. Adolescents with ASD show difficulties in semantic joke comprehension that is based on incongruity resolution, possibly because of deficits in holding two alternative interpretations and selecting the relevant one.

Keywords: autism, humor, semantic joke, idiom, theory of mind

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