
Tracking conversational referents with false belief social N400

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Abstract

A series of studies showed that the semantic system may be sensitive to the language comprehension of social partners (the social N400). Additional studies suggested that the semantic system may be carrying out mentalistic computations. Our study used a referent violation paradigm with adults to see if semantic false beliefs are tracked on the type or token level. Data gathering is still ongoing, but preliminary visualizations show that adults produced a social N400 for labels correctly describing objects but referring to distinct object tokens for an observer, lending support to the idea that the semantic system is contributing to mentalization.

Keywords: theory of mind, N400, semantics

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