



Spanish copula selection with adjectives at age three

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Abstract

Previous comprehension studies using Picture Matching Tasks (PMT) have shown that, by the age of four, Spanish-speaking children have acquired the semantics of *estar* being able to calculate the implicature that a property introduced with *estar* does not hold independent of time as well as displaying some ability to integrate discourse information about properties that change in the course of a story. This study extends that line of research to children under the age of four. Thirty-eight monolingual Spanish-speaking children were tested in two PMTs. The results show that at age three children differ from older children in their interpretation of the copulas suggesting that the distinction between *ser* and *estar* with adjectives emerges between the ages of three and four.

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