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Between direct and indirect speech

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Propositions
belonging to the PhD dissertation

BETWEEN DIRECT AND INDIRECT SPEECH
THE ACQUISITION OF PRONOUNS IN REPORTED SPEECH

by

FRANZISKA MARIA KÖDER

1. In natural interactions, children produce more direct than indirect speech reports. However, comprehension experiments show that they find direct speech harder to interpret than indirect speech.
2. Children ignore syntactic, semantic and prosodic direct speech cues and interpret pronouns in direct speech as in indirect speech when the reporting context is highly salient.
3. For children, direct speech reports are easier to interpret in a narrative than in an information transmission context.
4. Children interpret *you* as referring to themselves, even if it is embedded in a direct speech report.
5. Deictic pronouns in a quotation are easier to interpret if the linguistic context explicitly mentions the referent.
6. Children's acquisition of a strict direct–indirect distinction is a long developmental process that is not completed at the age of twelve.
7. Tablets are more fun for children than hand puppets.
8. Denk nicht, sondern schau! 'Don't think, but look!' (Wittgenstein, *Philosophische Untersuchungen*, § 66).