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## ABSTRACT

Constructing picture book narratives: How psychologists interpret fantasy

FUJIMORI, Yumika / SASAKI, Reiji

*Graduate School of Human-Environment Studies, Kyushu University*

This study aimed to identify how psychologists interpret fantasy after reading a picture book. We conducted exploratory research comparing psychologists' interpretations with those of non-psychologists. Our research questions were as follows: (1) How do psychologists grasp the event and how do they approach it? and (2) Where in the event does the psychologist place himself or herself? The collaborators were psychologists who were considered proficient in fantasy interpretation. We conducted individual semi-structured interviews with five psychologists and six non-psychologists after they read a picture book. Qualitative data analysis revealed three common themes regarding the psychologists' construction of the picture book: raising the level of abstraction to reconstruct events, connecting events over time, and the position of being in the picture book. Comparisons with non-psychologists suggested differences, including a different level of event reconstruction. Our findings suggest that psychologists who are proficient in fantasy do not regard it as fantasy; rather, they reconstitute concrete events with a high level of abstraction and capture them over time with curiosity.

**Key Words:** psychologist, fantasy, interpretation, picture book

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