
Abstract

Why do people sometimes take praise as sarcasm?

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The miscommunication triggered by compliments, in which the sender intends to praise but the receiver takes it as sarcasm and irony, not only causes interpersonal problems, but also sometimes undermines our mental health. Although the study of praise and irony has been examined in linguistics, it has not been sufficiently examined in clinical psychology. The purpose of this article is to review studies on the differences in interpretation between senders of compliments and receivers who receive them, focusing especially on the differences in the receivers' ways of receiving them. Previous studies were classified into the following categories: developmental perspective, individual factors, brain functions, and testing the tinge hypothesis. When ironic compliments that do not directly compliment but only mention facts are received as sarcasm, two processes may intervene: interpreting the content of what was said and understanding the sender's intention. In addition, we discussed the effects of miscommunication on mental health, such as taking compliments as sarcasm, from the perspective of understanding clients in clinical situations.

Keywords: praise, irony, literal praise, irony praise, the tinge hypothesis
