

ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is better understanding how children think about the world and what they know about how it goes there. The ambition of the research is to find meanings that children attach to the death.

One of the prerequisites of research is the assumption that images of death can not be asked directly without causing undesirable reduction of potentially rich answers. For this reason, Thematic Apperception test was elected as a tool and the children told stories to a pre-selected board.

Eleven children, at the age from nine to ten collaborated on the research. All of them attended, or just completed 3rd class in Prague's elementary schools.

The research showed that in the stories of children who would still not reach the stage of abstract intellectual operations already appear phenomena such as paradox, the cycle of life, psychological causes as the reason of death, or the idea that memories of the deceased man is a "being with him "and can be a relief.

So it seems that the time when developmental psychology theory replace the concrete to the abstract for some other, better reflect reality is not so far.

KEYWORDS

conception of death, childhood, narrative approach, TAT, thematic analysis of the story