

## FILM WATCHING, EMPATHY, AND THEORY OF MIND: A CASE STUDY OF AN INDIVIDUAL WITH ASPERGER'S SYNDROME

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### Abstract

This study investigates the effects of film watching on empathic skills and theory of mind. Prior to the study, the participant was administered the Empathic Tendency Scale and the Cambridge Mindreading (CAM) Face-Voice Battery Test. Throughout the study, the participant watched a film with subtitles which was stopped at moments where specifically emotions, thoughts, beliefs, metaphors, blunders, and implications were present. Then the participant and the researcher talked about what the message to the audience was in that particular scene. Next, the researcher and the participant discussed the scene based on their own points of view. Some specific facial expressions, tones of voice, and postures were impersonated. The study findings: The participant had an 11-point increase on the Empathic Tendency Scale. There was also a 1-point score change prior to the CAM test. The change occurred in the emotion recognition dimension. While the participant was unable to earn any points in the second-order false belief tasks in the pretest, earned a full score in the second testing. The study results indicate that film watching has a significant effect on level of empathic skills and on theory of mind.

**Key Words:** Film, Empathy, Theory of Mind, Asperger's Syndrome.