

Good morning! My name is Mao WanLi. Today I'm going to talk something about psychology, Piaget's theory.

Here is a video in which a little girl was playing peekaboo with her younger brother. He burst into laughter whenever his sister popped up after hiding beside the cradle.

But how can they laugh ~~at~~ such a stupid game (again and again). One simple explanation is that they find it every funny. It's kind of surprise to find out that a face reappear suddenly, in a nice way. But of course, he's laughing, it is funny. This point of view doesn't give us more information than what video shows. We need a more scientific explanation that can be easily be proved or disproved ~~by some~~ experiments.

Object permanence, a term put forward by Piaget, a psychologist, trying to explain the phenomenon, is the understanding that objects continue to exist even when they cannot be observed. Piaget suggested that babies in early age lacking concept of object permanence ~~understand the world through their motor abilities such as touch, vision taste, and movement.~~ They fail to understand that objects still exist even when the object out of the sight. It's not a bad conjecture. If that is the truth, it can be well explained. We do laugh in a magic show.

Before we call it a theory, we need something more than just some individual belief. This is the experiment, hide-and-seek ~~experiment~~, carried out to validate the conjecture. Here is an six months old infant.

You give the baby an enjoyable toy. Wait there. After a while, grab the toy and hide it behind the paper sheet. Then you watch. He'll get a bit confused and a bit upset but have not intention to search and find it. Any of you who have access to a six-month-old, a sibling or something — do not take one without permission, but if you have access to a six-month-old you can do this yourself. After he gets a litter older, about ten month old or so, he knows the trick and searches for the object and ~~you can then do~~ another experiment. You show the baby something he likes and hind it under a cover. After a few repetitions, you move it over here and cover it. Piaget observed kids still search here. It's like they are not smart enough to figure out it's not there anymore, even if they see it move. This was more evidence that they just don't understand object, and that this thing takes a lot of time and learning to develop.

Firstly, they don't search for hidden objects at all. Then, they commit A-not-B errors. Finally, they learn to search in most recent hiding place. And 'out of sight, out of mind' isn't just an epigram after all.