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Understanding Children's Philosophical and Non-Philosophical Questions and Answers (3-4 years old, 6-7 years old and 9-10 years old)

The aim of this study is to analyze children's questions and answers in three age groups. The methodology uses qualitative paradigm. Data collection was conducted by in-depth interviews with children and their parents, in which the participants were selected purposefully and in accordance with the principles of maximum variation sampling. To analyze data, deductive content analysis with the approach of descriptive-interpretive was utilized. The unit of analysis was each Children's questions and answers. Results showed that children pose miscellaneous questions in many fields of human sciences; however, they mostly ask religious questions. Philosophy was also one of the first five areas about which children asked. Children's philosophical questions in three age groups were categorized in the areas of ontology, philosophy of religion and axiology. The study of children's answers indicated that children were more independent in asking than answering. In their answers they paid high attention to being true or false and the score of answering. The more grown up, the more accurate and sophisticated questions children pose. Regarding gender no significant differences were seen between girls and boys and the girls' and boys' questions and answers in the 9-10 age groups were more similar. In the 3-4 age group girls were better than boys at giving accurate answers and rhetoric, while in the 6-7 age group boys were better than girls at giving accurate answers and rhetoric using more explanations and were more familiar with the questioned concepts and subjects.

Keywords: Philosophy, Questions, Philosophical questions, Non Philosophical questions, children.

