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Influenced to read: male participants from Singapore voice their views

Undeniably, socialisation shapes an individual in all areas of life. The presence of socialisation can also be seen in children's leisure reading practices. In this qualitative study, nine males, between 10 and 11 years old talk about their leisure reading practices based on the influence of perceived social agents (i.e., parents, siblings, peers, and teachers). The three focus group discussions revealed the influential role of perceived social agents in participants' reading practices and in the choice of materials. Being influenced, these participants articulated their opinions on which gender they believe reads the most for leisure purposes, and provided reasons for their views. The study argues that the nature of influence is varied for the participants. Among them, were participants whose leisure reading practices were traditionally influenced (by gendered reading practices) and those who were influenced in an egalitarian manner (by ungendered reading practices). Moreover, there were participants for whom the quality of influence was synthesised, showing a mixture of traditional and egalitarian influences. The research findings assert the view that the participants' leisure reading practices are shaped by social agents.