Perfectionist Behavior and Expressions of Perfectionism reveal useful information about the nature of children and childhood. However, the complex nature of child drawings causes limitations and empirical approaches are very difficult to employ in analysis. Drawing a direct conclusion to make a connection with perfectionism is difficult since perfectionism sub-scores showed differences. Especially, adaptive and maladaptive forms of perfectionism might differ greatly when manifested in children's drawings. Furthermore, sub-categories of perfectionism such as sensitivity to mistakes and compulsiveness are two greatly distinctive traits; they may manifest themselves differently and also contribute to perfectionism. However, self-doubt, lesser degrees of determination, assurance and boldness in drawings may be associated with perfectionism. Larger scale applications of multidimensional perfectionism instruments and then follow-up studies with phenomenological approaches to children's drawings may be helpful to explore perfectionism in drawings. The child's sense of competence in artistic activities may be another factor to consider. Children in this particular age group are at the pre-schematic stage; similar studies on child drawings based on later developmental stages are suggested.

Working on specific details meticulously, focusing on time-consuming details, not being able to see the whole, spending too much time working on certain parts, and starting from detail were described as perfectionism-related characteristics. In the current study, similar tendencies were reported in behavioral observation. However, some children showed opposite manners such as not focusing on detail; not starting from detail; not spending required time working on details. It might also be that self-doubt and less determination caused such a drawing, and also it seems unfinished as expected from perfectionists. Again, it should be noted that adaptive and maladaptive forms of perfectionism might show differing characteristics.

References


