A Dissertation

Entitled

Detecting Deception – The Role of Forensics in Determining Facts

By Allan Nalder
Abstract

Telling a so-called white lie may turn out to be helpful at times. It may soothe the social features, so to say. However, when white lies are being used to cover a murder plot, or perhaps keeping information regarding terrorist cells, other individuals, as well as the rest of the society are also affected. Detecting lies and deception at times stump even the most experienced judges, police officers, custom officials, as well as other forensic experts. According to research, even FBI agents, the Drug Enforcement Agency, and the CIA often find it challenging to tell professional liars from those who are telling the truth.

Chapter One

Introduction

According to a study conducted recently, there were 253 separate instances of people who were studied according to their response. It revealed an accuracy of about 53, which is not really better compared to flipping a coin (DePaulo, 2006). Spotting the possible leaks can be quite tough in this regard. Lie detector tests, or polygraph tests, are generally based according to the detection of autonomic reactions. Therefore, they are often considered as unreliable. (Martin and Spencer, 2007). This is the reason why forensic psychologists have continued to work towards cataloging certain clues to deception, including body language, facial expressions, as well as linguistics, as a way to potentially hook dishonesty. Out of the study conducted, psychologists have developed new tools for detections including software which can potentially analyze expressions on the face, as well as styles of writing.

Detection Training

Law enforcement experts are also being trained in this regard. Qualified psychologists teach certain aspects in forensic psychology, such as those that foster interviewing skills to everybody involved in this aspect of the society, including airport security guards, and even highly qualified counter terrorism officials. This also includes educating
foreign service officers, police interrogators, and those that are members of the FBI, CIA, as well as other federal agencies.

**Deception Cues**

Forensic psychology also covers matters involving lie detection, especially when they are used on certain cases. While the appearance of a person involved may turn out to be deceiving, they may also help. As a matter of fact, there are possible deception predictors. This is because there is a link between speaking a lie and the increase of the size of the pupil. This serves as an indicator of concentration and tension. Also, liars tend to be more nervous compared to those who are telling the truth. As a result, they have higher pitches. At the same time, liars also have the tendency to press their lips together when they tell a lie. When these liars are extremely motivated, such as when the stakes are generally higher, they seem unnaturally still, often making less eye contact together with listeners.

Facial expressions are not the only clues that are available. There are also so-called micro-expressions that can only appear less in a split second. Such expressions can reveal emotions that are meant to be concealed, including guilt or anger. Also, emotional signs are not consistently tantamount to guilty feelings. This is often shown by the fact that an innocent person may still look guilty and apprehensive. In line with this, this study will focus on determining proof that concedes the use of lie detectors as a way to interpret honesty.

**References**
