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Jerzy Konieczny

*Badania poligraficzne. Podręcznik dla zawodowców
[Polygraph examination. Handbook for professionals],*

Wydawnictwa Akademickie i Profesjonalne,

Warszawa 2009, pp. 221.

The book by Jerzy Konieczny is the first Polish monographic work devoted to polygraph examinations, published in Poland in the last more than 20 years. It is the author's conscious decision not to deal with the history of polygraph examination, its psychophysiological grounds, and the questions of its diagnostic value. Nor does he describe the practice of applying polygraph examination in various countries, nor consider its legal admissibility, both in investigations and in human resources examination (including pre-employment). The author assumes that these questions are either known or indifferent to the reader. A fact emphasised in the book subtitle: *Handbook for professionals*. Thus, it is a book addressed primarily to those who perform polygraph testing. It is for them that the author presents contemporary techniques of performing polygraph examinations. It is worth reminding that the major interest in the subject in Poland in the late 1970s and early 1980s – which brought about numerous experimental works and case studies as well as descriptions of practices and analyses of the results – was followed by a complete stasis. The lack of appropriate empirical studies, the lack of analyses of practices, severing the contacts with the world science resulted in a regression in the level of the tests performed. These performed for investigation purposes in Poland still used the

Reid technique, sometimes modified in absolutely free and non-standardised ways. Moreover, various modifications of the Guilty Knowledge Test (GKT) technique began to be used quite uncritically and without any standardisation, moreover, resorting to the displaying of various objects or photographs during the test to the examinee, frequently without the understanding of the essence of this examination. Moreover, suggestive pre-examination and other interviews were conducted in a manner disrupting the course of the examination that followed.

Jerzy Konieczny's book presents current techniques of polygraph examination that are generally unknown in Poland. It summons up what the pre-examination interview is to be based on and what it is to serve, how to built test questions, what they should serve, and how to arrange the questions into a test. Moreover, the book discusses both the basic examination techniques: detection of deception (both in the relevant-irrelevant Keeler technique, and in the control question technique) and techniques of detecting concealed information (GKT, CIT). It also shows the differences between the techniques and points at the criteria which allow choosing the appropriate one to be used for the examination in specific circumstances.

It is from this book that the Polish reader may learn for the first time about Backster techniques (Backster Zone Comparison Technique) including Federal Zone Comparison Test and Utah Zone Comparison Technique. For the first time in Polish literature, the author presents Counterintelligence Scope Polygraph Test and the test for Espionage and Sabotage. Besides these, he discusses – also for the first time in Polish literature – the Cullen-Bradley Control Questions Test.

The author devotes much attention to the process of diagnosis in polygraphic examinations, discussing the basic methods in this scope (the quality i.e. global, numerical, and computer methods). A question separate from diagnosing is the one concerning providing opinion (on the grounds of the diagnosis), that is writing the opinion for the party commissioning the examination.

The author also considers that technical problems connected to the use of polygraph in criminal cases, in human resources (staff) examinations, and also in examination of sex offenders. These considerations are based both on the latest world literature and on the author's personal experience.

The book ends in a chapter devoted to the problems of quality of examination and methods of testing that quality.

Generally, the book is a true compendium of knowledge for a contemporary polygrapher.

I believe that its readership may and should be far broader. Primarily, all those who commission polygraph testing and want to use their results should become familiar with the book. Moreover, it should be a compulsory reading for all those who want to speak about the legal admissibility of using such examinations and allowing practical conclusions from their results.

It goes without saying that, as the author assumed, the book is a handbook for professionals. Let us add: an extremely valuable one.

It is my reviewer's duty to add that this book has no match in European literature.

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