



*Michael R. Napier,  
Behavior, Truth and Deception.  
Applying Profiling and Analysis to the Interview Process,  
CRC Press, Boca Raton 2010, pp. 374*

The book is a collective effort. Besides that of Michael R. Napier, it includes work by another eight experts, but the majority of the text was written by Napier, an FBI veteran with nearly 30 years of experience, including practical experience in the position of certified polygrapher.

The very title emphasises the validity of the work for today: after all, criminal profiling and criminal information analysis are among the most rapidly developing fields of forensic science. However, the author(s) do not delve into theories but rather aim to bring the practical aspects of their impressive professional achievements closer. Predominant here are a range of problems concerning sex crime and especially rape, but also paedophilia, stalking, and, more generally, homicide. Yet the main “heroes” of the book are the interview and, to a smaller degree, interrogation, as applied in reference to the categories of crime mentioned above.

The first chapters of the book focus on the discussion of the psychological and tactical questions related to interviewing techniques. The author begins by considering the arguments formulated by people critical of the techniques used by police officers. The methods are attacked for a lack of scientific justification, as yet unestablished validity and reliability, hyper-interpretation

of suspects' behaviour, poor preparation by the police force, excessive oppressiveness leading to false admissions of guilt, and for a number of other reasons. The main line of defence of the author is putting the emphasis on the need to obey ethical standards of the actions one embarks on: "What ethics apply to law enforcement interviewing? The answer is that, at a minimum, officers must know and respect the law and be dedicated to finding the guilty as well as the innocent" (p. 20).

The chapter in which the author presents the "five stars for success" during the interview is highly interesting. The stars include (1) personality traits of the person running the interview, (2) detailed information concerning the investigated crime, (3) ample knowledge concerning the interviewee, (4) practical skills in the art of conducting procedures, and (5) appropriate arrangements of the interview, with the order of their presentation being a reflection on the level of their importance. Thus, what plays a leading role is the talent of the officer, which includes a number of traits; the skill of adapting interview and interrogation techniques to their personality, assuming the position of a truth seeker, patience, perseverance, persistent implementation of every phase of action, preparing the plan of action, highly developed listening skills, flexibility, ability to adjust their own convictions and language to the characteristics of each person interviewed (p. 42) being among them. These questions are expanded in the successive chapters (Indirect Personality Assessment, Interviewer's Verbal Strategies, Nonverbal Communication, Interview and Interrogation Techniques, and others).

The most interesting parts of the book include the chapter on Cultural Considerations for Interviewing, written by B. L. McManus. The author places a clear emphasis on the necessity of accounting for cultural aspects while conducting the interview. The perspective that he considers covers mostly interviews with people hailing from the Middle East, and provides a contrast with suggestions concerning people with Latin American and also Asian roots. Religious references are also considered, with the author perceiving their frequently central role in the establishment and shaping of interpersonal contacts. The basic rule to be applied is as follows: "As an investigator, intelligence collector, or business analyst working in an international setting, you must understand the cultures of the world. Whether dealing with the history and culture of Latin America, the Oriental concept of the self – based on Buddhism, Confucianism, and Feudalism, or the study of Islam, success truly depends on taking the time to study." (p. 262). The matter, however, is never so simple, as "[t]here is no fool-proof recipe; there is always the possibility of unpredictable behaviour." (p. 263).

The issue of polygraphs examinations turns up in a number of places, yet as a rule in a single aspect, namely, in considerations concerning the reaction of a person during the interview to the suggestion of undergoing an examination. Such a proposal is an element of a structured interview and comes as a question: "Would you be willing to take a polygraph exam on what you told me?", Although in a few places, the author provides a modified version of the phrase, namely, "If my supervisor wants you to take a polygraph, are you willing?". Such a shift of the suggestion to undergo a polygraph examination onto the mysterious supervisor is interesting, and builds a certain distance between the interviewer and interviewee on the one hand, and the examination on the other, and it is justified to say that it is aimed at maintaining the image of the "good cop" by the officer. The author recommends asking such questions also in situations when local law forbids the use of polygraphs, and then states that generally both people who tell the truth and perpetrators of crimes agree to the proposal (an observation that remains coherent with the experience of every polygrapher with practical experience in criminal cases). This is why the author believes the following question to be of diagnostic quality, namely "What will the results be when you are asked questions about you committing the crime?" (p. 86). If at that time the interlocutors suggests withdrawing his or her consent, and provides answers ranging from "I have sinus problems and take three Tylenol tabs a day", via "Don't you know those aren't admissible?" and "I will need to check with my attorney", to "I don't really believe in them" (p. 86), this proves the need to keep the interviewee among the suspects. The author suggests using such a strategy, that is asking the two questions quoted above in succession, in every interview conducted (p. 295). Compared to the well-known, earlier constructions of the Behavioural Analysis Interview, this is an original and unorthodox<sup>1</sup> solution.

One cannot, however, disregard the warnings presented by D.E. Zulawski and D.E. Wicklander in reference to the proposal of conducting the examination, and even the declaration about the readiness of the interviewee to undergo polygraphs examinations. If the suspect knows or guesses that the examination cannot take place immediately, just after the discussion concerning his potential consent, then approving the proposal verbally, he or she has little to lose, knowing that in future such consent may always be withdrawn.

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<sup>1</sup> Such questions are missing e.g. from the approaches proposed by E.E. Inbau, J.E. Reid, J.P. Buckley, B.C. Jayne (2004), *Criminal Interrogation and Confessions*, Jones & Barlett Learning, Burlington; D.E. Zulawski, D.E. Wicklander, *Practical Aspects of Interview and Interrogation*, CRC Press, Boca Raton.

Primarily, however, a guilty interviewee may come to believe that the case against him or her is based on fairly poor evidence, and that there are doubts concerning his or her guilt, as otherwise, no one would suggest a polygraph examination.<sup>2</sup>

Let us remain for another while in the realm of information analysis, as presented in the book in question. M.R. Napier makes no reference to the ample literature concerning contemporary criminal analysis, nor does he mention intelligence-led policing, nor discuss any advanced analytical techniques. Instead, he describes an analytical methodology that is feasible and recommended for the officer handling the case, in a way for the officer's own use. It is based on a relatively simple pencil-and-paper exercise composed of three stages. The first is based on the itemisation of the behaviours of the perpetrator of the crime, while committing it. The second is the attribution of explanations (Why was it done?) to these behaviours. Finally, the third covers the conclusions recognised on the grounds of the first two types of data, e.g.: smashing down the door with a kick – the impulsive nature of the perpetrator – the perpetrator is sloppy, is not prepared, and with poor self-control. The author recommends the use of the achievements of forensic sciences, victimology, the classification of an organised or disorganised offender, and other theories. In fact, it would be difficult not to agree with the author that the making of such a list is useful for the officer in charge of the investigation.

Wrapping up, the book covers many their important questions related to the running of criminal investigations. Although, as has been mentioned, it is devoted primarily to the practical aspects of action, it will certainly be an important volume for every reader interested in forensic sciences.

Jerzy Konieczny\*

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<sup>2</sup> D.E. Zulawski, D.E. Wicklander, op. cit., p. 451.

\* jerzykonieczny@wp.pl