Effective Interviewing and Interrogation Techniques – Third Edition,
by Nathan J. Gordon and William L. Fleisher,
Academic Press 2011

In 2011 Academic Press published the third edition of a book written by Nathan J. Gordon (Director of the Academy for Scientific Investigative Training) and William L. Fleisher (Director of Keystone Intelligence Network) entitled *Effective Interviewing and Interrogation Techniques*.
The book presents information on non-instrumental and instrumental lie detection.

In fact, only the final section of the book, consisting of two chapters (Instrumental detection of deception, pp. 297–312 and The search for truth. Future instrumentation, pp. 313–324), is devoted to instrumental lie detection.

This section contains basically course book information on routine polygraph examinations based on the observation of physiological emotion correlates registered in routine polygraph examinations and also information on physiological emotion correlates other than those routinely used that may prove useful in instrumental lie detection, which encompass eyeball movements, body temperature changes, and changes in the function-related currents in the brain that can be observed in EEG recordings.

Yet the major part of the book, consisting of chapters from 1 to 20 (pp. 1–297) is devoted to instrumental lie detection.

Science has long known the diagnostic value of routine polygraph examinations quite well; it has been thoroughly examined and described in scientific literature (see e.g. S. Abrams: Polygraph validity and reliability: a review, *Journal of Forensic Sciences* 1973, 18, 4, pp. 313–326, Widacki J., Horvath F., An experimental investigation of the relative validity and utility of the polygraph examination and three other common methods of criminal identification, *Journal of Forensic Sciences* 1978, 23, 3, pp. 596–601), and also in numerous reports, notably the Report of the American Polygraph Association (2011).

The diagnostic value of a polygraph examination is not lesser than that of other identification methods used generally for investigation purposes. That is why polygraph examination may be used not only in investigations but also as circumstantial evidence in proceedings before the court; a practice accepted among others in Poland and many other countries.

The situation of non-instrumental lie detection is entirely different: its diagnostic value is incomparably lower than that of a polygraph examination, for which reason its practical application is currently highly doubtful. Unfortunately, referring to these questions, the authors of the book ignored a wealth of scientific achievements, especially hailing from Europe.

The book suffers from the failure to use seminal works of fundamental authors, including Aldert Vrij, Paul Ekman, and the recently deceased Udo Undeutsch.

The accuracy of non-instrumental methods of lie detection achieved so far (52%, slightly above the statistical probability), proves that results obtained in this way are not random (vulnerable to chance), yet at the same time the error level (close to 50%) disallows practical use of such methods of lie detection. Nonetheless, with the current advancement of knowledge, this is more than doubtful, and certainly does not allow using this method as evidence in court, and may even question its applicability in the process of investigation. Moreover, a mistaken interpretation of verbal and/or behavioural symptoms may lead the interrogator astray, resulting in an incorrect assessments of the interviewee's credibility.

Nonetheless, even as low number of correct results as so far achieved by non-instrumental lie detection, yet exceeding the statistical probability (50%), proves that further studies are justified. Possibly, accounting for the personality of the interrogated and keen on a complex array of verbal and/or behavioural symptoms, yet not of universal nature, but ones typical of people with specific personality types will greatly help to increase the diagnostic value of such non-instrumental methods of lie detection, which will allow their more extensive and better use for investigation purposes and in placement and job interviews.

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