

Mechanisms of Evaluating the Verbal Discourse

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"Those who have eyes with which to see and ears for hearing can be convinced that no mortal can keep a secret. If the mouth is silent, he will speak with his fingers; Betrayal emerges through every pore of its being."
(Freud, S., 1959, p.94)

INTRODUCTION

Police-specific investigative activity, the need to prevent terrorist attacks, intelligence are just some of the areas where the detection of similar behavior is of particular interest.

Without specialized tools, specialists can only generate hypotheses. There are no actual, verbal or non-verbal indicators of lies.

The need to detect lies has put researchers in the position of building different tools, observation grids or even theories able to capture different behaviors specific to simulated behavior.

Some scholars focus on non-verbal aspects, in the idea of surprise, to highlight specific emotions that transcend both body (Joe Navaro, for example) and face (Paul Ekman is the principal researcher in this field) when a person is lying.

These are theories that put the emotions at the forefront of the premise that while a person is lying, he experiences more intense emotions (fear, shame, joy, depending on the context), to the extent that the stake is great and the person realizes this.

However, in some situations the cognitive effort is higher (Vrij, 2012). This is due to the fact that the people who deceive need to build credible, logical stories and monitor them to be consistent in assertions over time. They also have to be careful not to let go of it and to offer unnecessarily new investigators' clues. Liars, aware that they can betray themselves, are more likely to follow the interlocutor's reactions to see if they have caught or are suspicious (Buller & Burgoon, 1996) of their statements.

VERBAL AND NONVERBAL BEHAVIOR AND LIE DETECTION

All these factors are reflected not only in nonverbal and verbal behavior. Below we will look at the verbal indicators involved in the lie and we will see through some eloquent case studies to what extent they can be highlighted with the Tropes program.

The speech of a liar has the following characteristics:

- presents several negative formulations, including formulations indicating the aversion to an object, person or opinion such as denial, insult, or expressing negative emotions - this was surprised by the studies of Bond & collaborators (2005), DePaulo, Rosenthal Et al. (1982b), Knapp et al. (1974), Newman et al. (2003), Zhou et al. (2004b), Burgoon et al. (1996b, study 1 and 2);

- involves more general items, generalizing terms - see studies by Cody et al. (1984, 1989), Knapp et al. (1974);

- the responses of people who are lying tend to be short-haired, probably in the notion of not offering opportunities to be trapped - see his studies: Cody & O'Hair (1983), Knapp et al.,

(1974)), and Cody & O'Hair (1983) , Kraut (1978), Mehrabian (1971), Ebesu & Miller (1994);

- the use of group references (ours, us) or other references (themselves, of them), in order to avoid taking responsibility personally;

- relativistic constructions (such as: I think it might);

- lexical diversity would be lower - see his studies: Burgoon & Qin (2006), Knapp et al. (1974), Zhou et al. (2004a). There are also authors who claim that the lexical diversity is greater in the liars discourse - see Dulaney (1982), Colwell et al. (2002);

- the amount of details offered by liars is lower. On the other hand, the statements of the sincere people are rich in descriptions that refer to place, time, people, objects and specific events. This is one of the criteria for assessing the validity of statements in EVD or Statement Validity Assessment, SVA, one of the most commonly used verbal verbal evaluation tools developed by Kohnken & Steller, which have integrated various research into the field. The tool is presented in Aldert Vrij's book, *Detection of Lies and Simulated Behavior. Dilemmas and opportunities*;

- the inadequacy of language or knowledge. If, for example, the statement is coined with terms of specialty or inappropriate for the age and/ or preparation of the person making the statement, we can suspect the influence of others in preparing the discourse;

- the speech of people who report events that have not lived (imagined) contain terms that suggest cognitive operations, reasoning, thoughts (Must have been dressed thick that evening because it was cold), unlike the discourse of those who tell the events lived by them that contain sensory information (see, hear, smell, taste, touch);

- it is unlikely that a person hiding the truth will directly deny accusations (I did not ...) - A SCA criterion (Scientific Content Analysis (SCAN), designed by Avioam Sapir,

a polygraphist). The underlying principle of this tool is that according to which the memory of a real experience differs as quality and content from that based on invention and fantasy (Smith, 2001);

- ambiguous expression can be a lying indicator (he, she, omitting the pronouncement of the surname). On the other hand, the use of pronouns like myself, mine, he, can signify commitment;

SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF THE MATERIAL NAMED “LYING AND MISLEADING IN DISCOURSE”, FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF SWEDISH AUTHOR ANDREAS STOKKE

First and foremost, one of the research stages consisted in the implementation into the “Tropes” semantic analysis program of databases extracted from the specialized article with the main subject that the distinction between lying and misleading while not lying is sensitive to discourse structure.

The main objective was to undergo an analysis of the common point of “a two worlds collide” moment, by underlining that lying is seen as a special case requiring assertion of disbelieved information and clarify the semantics area that is related to the specific domain. Also, it may occur different aspects of linguistic meaning different perspectives various units.

We chose an article published by Andreas Stokke, in 2016, whose main features are to analyze the controversy surrounding whether an utterance is a lie or is merely misleading sometimes depends on the topic of conversation, represented by so-called questions under discussion.

The research was based on the introduction of a database made up of passages from the material within the software for semantic analysis "Tropes" that proposes a range of tools for semantic analysis, with which one can obtain answers to questions about the contents of text through a

referential analysis. The analysis also helps create own semantic categories, customized according to the beneficiary's interest, which may include nouns, verbs, adjectives, connectors. In addition, they can be extended using software dictionaries, depending on the strategy of targeted analysis. In order to process the analyzed texts, "Tropes" facilitates the operation level, translated in the delimitation of phrases and sentences; resolving ambiguities presence (depending on the occurrence of words in the text); identification of classes of equivalent words.

The main characteristic parts of the material and the semantic division may be considered main reference points that must be included in the process of this Tropes analysis. In this case, figure no. 1, entitled „Context identification”, shows that the style/ the expression used is argumentative (setting some influence, revealing a point of view), the setting involves the narrator (saying about something, somebody, an action), 136 characteristic parts to the text (it summarizes the most characteristic part of the text) and 28 detected episodes of the analysis (which groups together word occurrences that tend to appear in a remarkable density within the limited portion of a text).

To exemplify, the programme highlighted that there were used phrases beginning with: “*I argue* that whether an utterance is a lie or is merely misleading depends on the topic of conversation”, “*I demonstrate* in this paper, once we look beyond classic cases of this kind, we need discourse-sensitive notions of saying and asserting in order to capture the lying misleading distinction”, “*I present...*”, “*I endorse...*”, “*I propose...*”, that underlines the fact that the writer does not try to impose his own views on the subject and give them an absolute value, but gives the reader the possibility to integrate its interdisciplinary knowledge related to the practice of it. Also, the author includes the pronoun because it allows him to

discuss ways of misleading with the person features of pronouns.

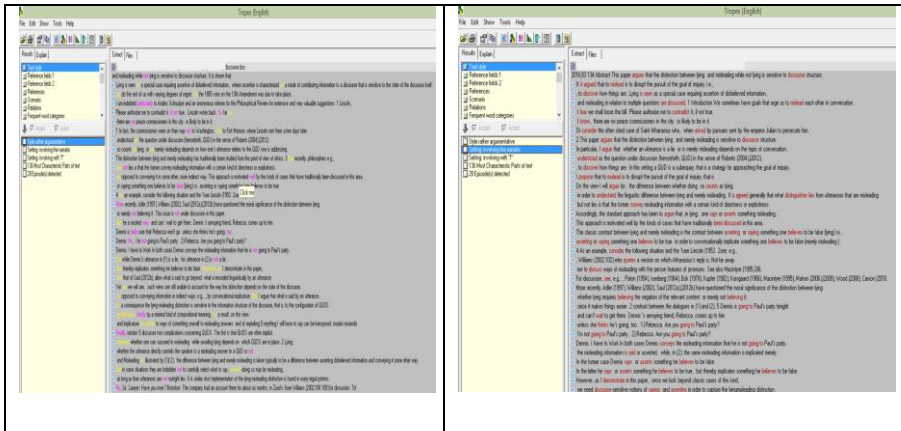


Figure no. 1: Identifying context ¹

In figure no. 2 we can observe the use of the pronoun „I” (23,6%), despite „We” (17,9%). Regarding the fact that the person who deceives does not get involved, there are fewer references to one's own person, while sincere people tend to use the first person when talking about an event.

In the first text, the main word categories used are stative verbs – to represent, to depend, to stay, (36,2%) and reflexive verbs – to be, to have (39,2%).

Those who decide to conceal the truth are aware that the interlocutors monitor them, are attentive to their reactions and strive to control their conduct (Buller & Burgoon, 1996). Therefore, they avoid showing certain behaviors that they believe are specific to liars and on the other hand they seek to behave in such a way as to create the impression of an honest man. This attitude initially leads to behavioral changes.

¹ Figure obtained using the software “Tropes”

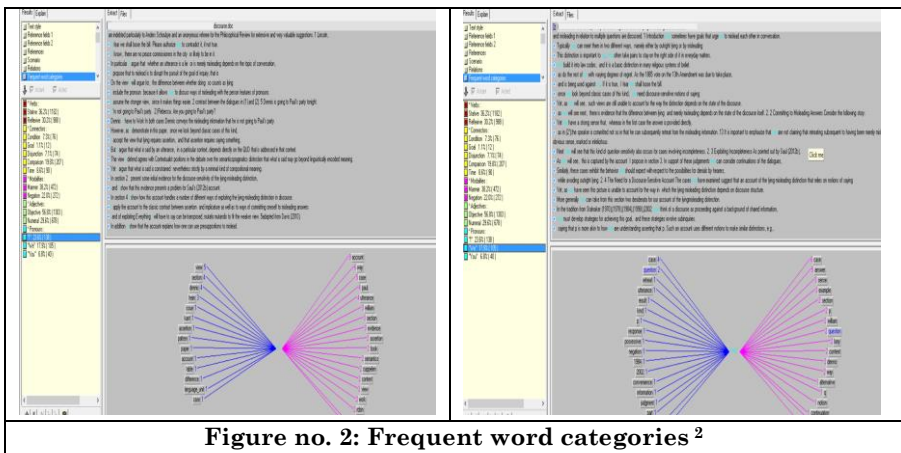


Figure no. 2: Frequent word categories ²

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² Figure obtained using the software “Tropes”

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