



Sketching as a Technique to Eliciting Information and Cues to Deceit in Interpreter-Based Interviews

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We tested the effect of sketching while providing a narrative on eliciting information, eliciting cues to deceit, and lie detection in interpreter-absent and interpreter-present interviews. A total of 204 participants from the USA (Hispanic participants only), Russia, and the Republic of Korea were interviewed in their native language by native interviewers or by a British interviewer through an interpreter. Truth-tellers discussed a trip they had made; liars fabricated a story about such a trip. Half of the participants were instructed to sketch while narrating; the other half received no instruction. Sketching resulted in more details provided. It also elicited cues to deceit: complications and new details differentiated truth-tellers from liars in the Sketching-present condition only. Liars and truth-tellers were more correctly classified in the Sketching-present than in the Sketching-absent condition. More complications and more common-knowledge details were reported without than with an interpreter.

General Audience Summary

We tested the effect of sketching while providing a narrative on obtaining information from truth-tellers and liars in interpreter-absent and interpreter-present interviews. We hypothesized that sketching while narrating would lead to more new information than just narrating, particularly in truth-tellers. Sketching while narrating helps truth-tellers to remember better and to report better what they remember. Liars may be unable to include as many details as truth-tellers because they lack the imagination to fabricate these details or are unwilling to say much out of fear that this will give leads to investigators that they are lying. In the experiment, 204 participants from the USA (Hispanic participants only), Russia, and the Republic of Korea were interviewed in their native language by native interviewers or by a British interviewer through an interpreter. Truth-tellers discussed a trip they had made during the last twelve months; liars fabricated a story about such a trip. Half of the participants were invited to sketch while narrating, whereas the other half of the participants were not requested to sketch. As predicted, sketching resulted in more new information, particularly amongst truth-tellers. The presence of an interpreter did not affect these results.

Keywords: Interpreter, Drawing, Non-native speakers, Information gathering, Deception

Verbal differences between truth-tellers and liars are often small (DePaulo et al., 2003; Hartwig & Bond, 2011). Researchers therefore started to devise theory-based methods to elicit or enhance verbal differences between truth-tellers and liars (Vrij & Granhag, 2012, 2014). The general approach is to exploit differences between truth-tellers and liars in how they report activities or events and then to develop methods to magnify those differences (Granhag & Hartwig, 2015; Vrij, Fisher, & Blank, 2017).

A typical finding in deception research is that truth-tellers provide more detail than liars (Amado, Arce, & Fariña, 2015; Masip, Sporer, Garrido, & Herrero, 2005; Oberlander et al., 2016). Liars lack the imagination and skills to convey the amount of detail that truth-tellers convey (Vrij, 2008), or are reluctant to provide many details out of fear that such details may provide leads for investigators to check (Nahari, Vrij, & Fisher, 2014a). One theory-based method to capitalize on this difference is to encourage interviewees to provide more information. Truth-tellers should take advantage of this and generate more information, whereas liars will be unable or reluctant to provide the same amount of additional information. In the current experiment, we examined the effect of the request to sketch while discussing an event on truth-tellers' and liars' narratives. Drawing a sketch while narrating has been shown to increase the amount of information generated amongst truth-tellers (Dando, Wilcock, & Milne, 2009; Leins, Fisher, Pludwinsky, Robertson, & Mueller, 2014; Mattison, Dando, & Ormerod, 2015). Sketches have also been used in deception research (e.g., Leins, Fisher, & Vrij, 2012; Leins, Fisher, Vrij, Leal, & Mann,

2011; Roos af Hjelmsäter, Öhman, Granhag, & Vrij, 2014; Vrij et al., 2010) but in those deception studies the interviewees did not speak while sketching, as they did in the current experiment.

Sketching while narrating may elicit additional information in truth-tellers for several reasons. First, sketching serves to reinstate context, which itself enhances recall (the encoding specificity principle; Thomson & Tulving, 1970; Tulving & Thomson, 1973). Second, sketching, a visual output, is more compatible with visually experienced events. In alignment with the Cognitive Interview principle of *code compatible output* (Fisher & Geiselman, 1992), this should facilitate recalling visual or spatial information. Third, sketching probably slows down the output process, which would then afford the interviewee more time to think about the event. More time for retrieval is likely to enhance recall. Fourth, sketching implies a subtle request for more precise information than a verbal response. That is, when drawing a sketch, one must locate the sketched person or object in a specific location (i.e., put the person or object in a specific location in a room), a fact that might not be included in a verbal response (e.g., "Joe was there"—but not indicating where Joe was; Vrij, Mann, Leal, & Fisher, 2012).

In the present experiment truth-tellers and liars first answered some general questions about an event followed by a final, more specific, question. When answering the final question some participants were asked to draw a sketch and others were not. A request to sketch may enhance differences between truth-tellers and liars in terms of details, particularly new details not yet mentioned before. Truth-tellers' memory of the event is likely

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