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## TRAIT PROFILE OF SUSPECTS (INVOLVED AND NOT INVOLVED IN COMMITTING A CRIME) PASSING POLYGRAPH TESTING

*The article analyzes the expediency and importance of constructing trait profiles of individuals during a polygraph examination and ascertaining their involvement in the commission of a crime. Since the lie detection screening concerning the involvement of individuals cannot always provide a definite and reliable conclusion, there is a need to build trait profiles of the individuals involved and not involved in committing a crime. A thorough analysis of dominant personality characteristics, the combination of reactions obtained through polygraph examinations and fixed nonverbal manifestations of a person during the polygraph examination make it possible to conclude that the suspect is involved or not involved in the commission of a crime. Only in this case the analysis of suspect's profile can make the most accurate and true conclusion. The results of the conducted research prove that the persons involved in committing crimes have the highest indices according to the reactive aggression scale. The suspects who are not involved in committing crimes, in contrast to those involved, have high indices on the irritability scale, which indicates the presence of emotional instability and the tendency to an affective response to avoid tension. High indices according to the emotional lability scale were revealed in both groups, but somewhat predominated among those involved in crimes. It is worth noting that the persons involved in committing crimes, in contrast to those uninvolved, are more constrained, unsure of themselves, rarely show caution in making contacts with others. In the persons not involved in the commission of crimes, breathing disturbances, gastric distress and sleep disturbances can be observed. They have difficulty concentrating, are anxious, which is accompanied by various emotional reactions – shame, anger, guilt, fear.*

**Keywords:** *polygraph, polygraph examination, involved person, pure of crime, crime, personality, trait profile.*

### Introduction

For the efficiency of criminal intelligence, psychophysiological research with the help of a polygraph is often used to verify the veracity of testimony of those involved and not involved to committing unlawful acts and crimes. Such a kind of research is the basis of examining a person by special methods with simultaneous fixation and registration of psychophysiological reactions with the help of technical means. Typically, in a polygraph examination, psychological stimuli are used, involving certain kinds of verbal aggravators, questions, subjects, photographs, etc. Accordingly, the set of reactions of those involved and not involved into the commission of a certain type of crime enables to describe the criminal activity of the person reliably and more thoroughly or to confirm the involvement of suspects.

Accordingly, the study of the totality of emotional, verbal and behavioral reactions of persons involved and not involved into the commission of a crime during a polygraph examination makes it possible to describe the

specifics of the structure of their personalities and, accordingly, analyze the motives for committing the crime.

Investigation of persons using a polygraph within the framework of operational intelligence makes it possible to detect lies, obtain additional or hidden information related to the direction or object of the investigation, and also undoubtedly accelerates the course and direction of the investigation, and also provides an objective and rapid assessment of the reliability of the information provided by the suspect; can reveal hidden signs of abuses and other factors.

Therefore, the study of the suspects' trait profiles helps to make decisions of criminal-legal, criminal-procedural nature (in qualifying unlawful actions, choosing a preventive measure, determining the penal measure, taking into account the nature of the crime, etc.).

Also, the analysis of the peculiarities of certain personal qualities of the suspects gives the opportunity to choose the best tactical decisions, tactical combinations and means of influencing them in different investigative situations.

Despite a great number of works on the issue, there are no studies concerning the peculiarities of personal qualities manifestation by the persons involved and those who are not involved in committing a crime during lie detection screening, which proves the necessity and relevance of the research.

#### **Aim and Tasks**

The research is aimed at constructing and presenting a trait profile of suspects (involved and uninvolved) during lie detection screening (polygraph testing).

Research tasks involve describing the specificity of the set of reactions (cognitive, communicative, emotional and behavioral) of persons undergoing a polygraph examination, as well as a comparative analysis of a trait profile of a suspected (involved and not involved in the commission of crimes).

#### **Research Methods**

In the study, we applied FPI (The Freiburger Persönlichkeitsinventar) and Personal Crisis Profile. The adapted version of FPI has 12 scales: masculinity-femininity, emotional lability, extroversion-introversion, openness, shyness, reactive aggressiveness, emotional balance, sociability, irritability, depressiveness, spontaneous aggressiveness, neuroticism.

- The neuroticism scale shows the level of personality neuroticism: emotional instability, anxiety, low self-esteem, vegetative disorders.

- The spontaneous aggression scale indicates a lack of social agreeableness, inadequate self-control and impulsivity, as well as an increased level of psychopathy, which creates the prerequisites for impulsive behavior (aggressive, impulsive, contentious).

- The depression scale shows signs of a depressive syndrome in behavior, emotional states, in relation to oneself and to the social environment.

- The irritability scale manifests a tendency to unstable emotional states.

- The sociability scale shows the expressed need for communication and constant readiness for it.

- The emotional balance scale indicates person's resistance to stress.

- The reactive aggressiveness scale characterizes the presence of signs of psychopathy, characterized by an aggressive attitude towards social environment and expressed desire for domination (egocentric, authoritarian, distrustful, dominant).

- The shyness scale indicates the presence of anxiety, uncertainty, resulting in difficulties in making social contacts (shy, confused).

- The openness scale can help in assessing the reliability of the results and to some extent correct the conclusion.

- The extroversion-introversion scale implies that high indices correspond to the expressed extroverted personality, and low – the pronounced introverted character traits.

- The emotional lability scale determines the state of

maladaptation, anxiety, severe disorientation of behavior, and also instability of emotional states, which is manifested in frequent mood swings, increased excitability, irritability, lack of self-regulation.

- The masculinity-femininity scale implies that high indices indicate mental processes typical for men, and low – for women.

Another research method applied in the study was focused on determining a trait profile of a person experiencing crisis (Malkina-Pykh, 2005). The Personal Crisis Profile gives an opportunity to evaluate the indicators in 6 units (unit I - general condition; unit II - functional problems (vegetative system dysfunction, heart disorders, respiratory disturbance, gastric distress, sleep disturbance); unit III - complications of cognitive-analytical activity (difficulty concentrating, perceptual problem, cognitive disorder, memory impairment); IV block - emotional response disturbances (anxiety, generalized emotional reactions (anger, shame, guilt), flattened affect, increased affection; unit V - depressive mood; unit VI – changes in behavior and activities (escaping from problems, being caught up in problems; having troubles in performing duties or housework).

The study involved 20 people, of which 10 suspects were involved in the commission of crimes and 10 people were not involved. Involvement-noninvolvement was identified on the basis of polygraph examination results analysis.

#### **Research Results**

The analysis and interpretation of personal qualities of those involved or not involved in the commission of criminal acts are of particular importance within the framework of the polygraph examination. Thus, polygraph testing involves recording changes in human psychophysiological reactions such as blood pressure, pulse rate, depth and respiration rate, skin-galvanic reactions, muscle tension levels, and indicators of brain activity (Kovalchuk, 2001).

According to the results of the above mentioned indicators, the polygraph examiner can make conclusions concerning the perception of the suspect, identify the risks, and, based on the information received, develop his/her own strategy of behavior towards the individual.

At the time, certain problems in conducting forensic research with the use of a polygraph have been identified: above all, it is the imperfection of equipment, which is often used by polygraph examiners, the high dependence of the quality of conducting research on the qualifications of the polygraph examiner, a great number of factors that cast doubt on the truth of the conclusion made by the polygraph examiner (Landel, 2016).

Therefore, a special significance within the framework of the polygraph examination is the non-instrumental detection of information through the verbal and non-verbal channels of the individual. The recording of gestures, voice, facial expressions, language markers, including the manifestations of the autonomic nervous system, help in making a conclusion of the reliability of

information provided by the person and, accordingly, the level of his/her involvement – non-involvement in the commission of a crime.

The content of this analysis is based on the understanding of the laws of presentation of true and false information, its concealment. Due to the analysis of verbal and nonverbal manifestations being checked using stimuli-questions, the polygraph examiner concludes about the truthfulness or inaccuracy of a certain statement.

According to the results of the analysis of a free narrative and a special interview, the polygraph examiner receives additional information about the person's involvement in the investigated event, his or her attitude to the specified fact, and other important data for the reliable conclusion. Non-verbal channels serve as an indicator of hidden individual and social characteristics of a person (Tsentrav, 2012).

It is also important to take into account personal characteristics and the general psychological profile of a person that manifest personal tendencies and allows to confirm and verify the results of observation, as well as the reliability of the indicators obtained in a polygraph test, in order to find out the full picture of involvement or non-involvement of a person in criminal actions.

According to the FPI method, the following indicators are prevalent among those involved in committing crimes (see Fig. 1):

1) high indicators on the reactive aggressiveness scale in 60% of the subjects, low ones – in 15% of the suspects. That is, there is a high level of psychopathy in the persons involved in committing a crime characterized by an aggressive attitude towards social environment and a pronounced tendency to dominate.

2) high indices of emotional lability in 45% of the subjects, which shows their unstable emotional states,

manifesting in frequent mood swings, increased excitability, annoyance, lack of self-regulation. The low rates were recorded in 10% of the subjects, which is indicative of not only the high stability of the emotional state as such, but also the ability to control oneself.

3) high indices on the openness scale were recorded in 35% of the suspects, low ones – in 10%, which indicates selectivity of communication and caution in making contacts.

4) high scores on the shyness scale are peculiar for 35% of the subjects, which is indicative of self-doubt and slackness.

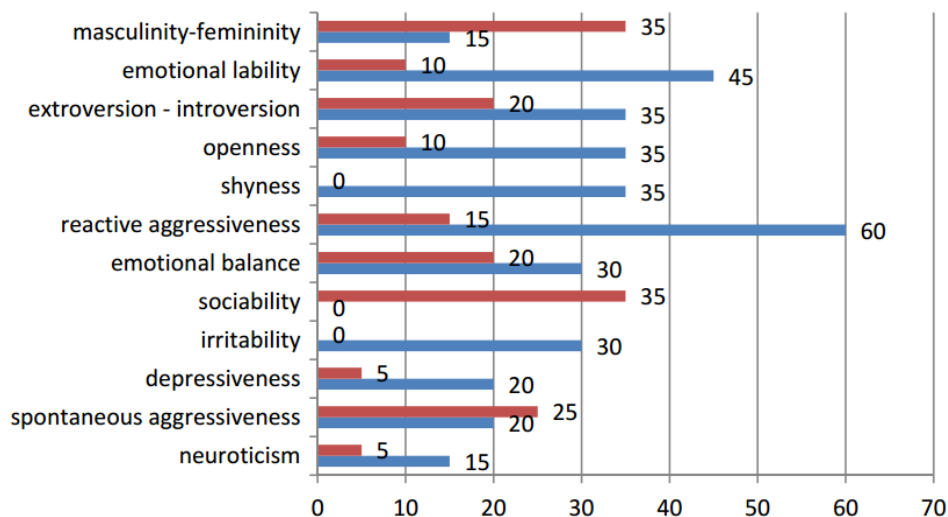
5) high indicators on the irritability scale are characteristic of 30% of the subjects, that is, a person is characterized by emotional stability and is not inclined to affective responses in order to avoid tension.

6) high indices on the emotional balance scale are peculiar for 40% of the subjects, which shows their good stress resistance based on self-confidence, optimism and activity. Low indices are observed in 10% of the subjects who are less inclined to express stress resistance.

7) high indices on the extroversion - introversion scale are found in 40% of the subjects, low – in 10%.

8) high scores on the femininity-masculinity scale are observed in 35% of the subjects, which indicates the male-type mental processes, and low – 15% of the subjects (the female-type mental processes).

It should be noted that the indices of the emotional imbalance, both in those involved and not involved in committing crimes, are characteristics of emotional stress and, accordingly, the severity of irritability, anxiety and aggression, which is caused both by the polygraph examination and general personal qualities.



Note: the red color – the suspects not involved in committing a crime; the blue color - the suspects involved in committing a crime

Figure 1. Analysis of Personal Qualities of Those Involved in Committing Crimes Using FPI

Results of the survey using FPI with the suspects not involved in the commission of a crime (see fig. 2) are as follows:

1) 45% of the subjects have high scores on the spontaneous aggressiveness scale, 25% - low. This shows that the majority of those who are not involved in committing

crimes are characterized by an increased level of psychopathy, which creates conditions for impulsive behavior. The polygraph testing triggers manifestations of spontaneous aggression as the demonstration and protection of oneself by the one who is not involved in the commission of a crime.

2) high indicators on the irritability scale are peculiar for 60% of the subjects, and low – 10%. This suggests that more than half of the respondents are characterized by emotional instability and an inclination to affective responding in an effort to avoid tension.

3) high scores on the emotional balance scale are characteristic of 40% of the subjects, which indicates good stress resistance based on self-confidence, optimism and activity. Low rates are peculiar for 10% of the subjects which characterizes individuals as those who are less inclined to express resistance to stress.

4) 65% of the subjects have high indices on the reactive aggressiveness scale and 10% have low scores. That is, there is a high level of psychopathy, which is characterized by an aggressive attitude towards the social environment and a marked tendency to dominate.

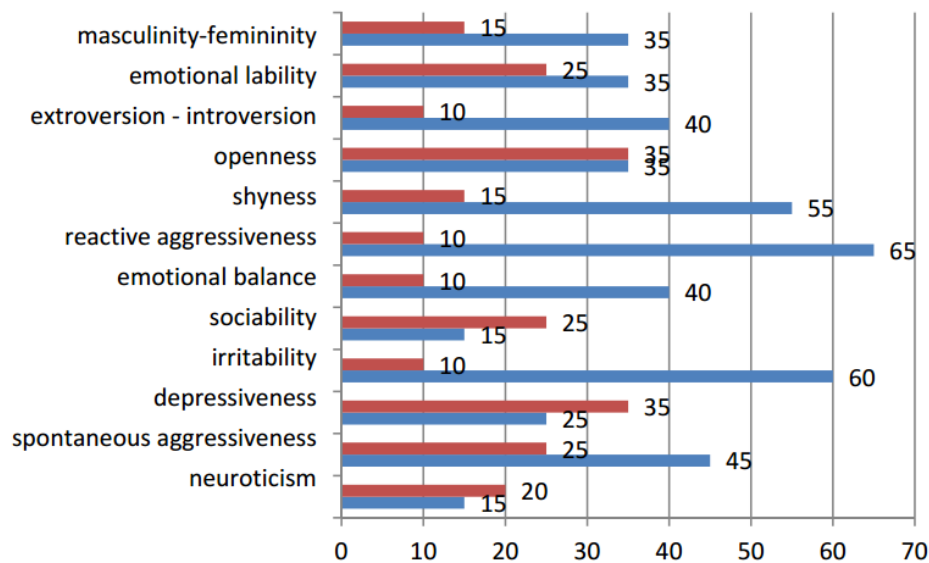
5) high scores on the shyness scale are characteristic of 55% of the subjects, low scores - 15%. These figures show that most of these respondents are characterized by the lack of self-confidence and timidity.

6) 35% of the subjects have high indices on the openness scale, and 35% - low indices. Most of the respondents show selectivity in communication and caution in making contacts.

7) high indices on the extroversion-introversion scale are peculiar for 40% of the subjects, low scores - 10%, which is indicative of their introverted personality type.

8) high indices of emotional lability are expressed in 35% of the subjects, which demonstrates the instability of their emotional states, which manifests itself in frequent mood swings, increased excitability, irritability, lack of self-regulation. The low rates were recorded in 25% of the subjects, which is indicative of the high stability of the emotional states as such, as well as the ability to control oneself.

9) high indices on the femininity-masculinity scale are peculiar for 35% of the subjects, which indicates they male-type mental processes, and low rates – 15% of the subjects – the female-type mental processes.

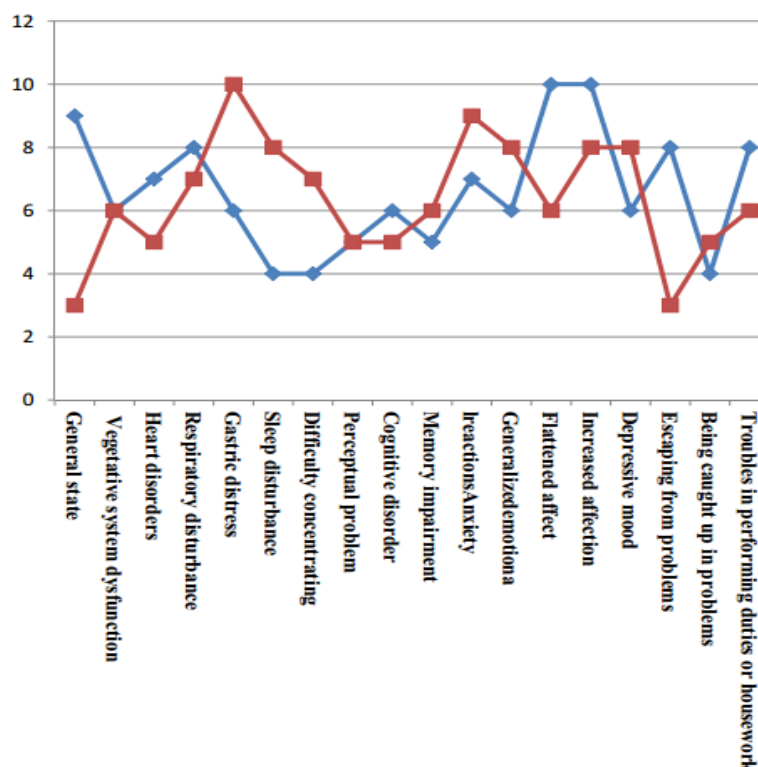


Note: the red color – the suspects not involved in committing a crime; the blue color - the suspects involved in committing a crime

Figure 1. Analysis of Personal Qualities of Those Who are not Involved in Committing Crimes Using FPI

With the help of the Personal Crisis Profile Inventory, trait profiles of those involved and not involved in committing crimes, were created (see Fig. 3)

taking into account that the respondents are experiencing certain crisis situations because of being suspected.



Note: the red color – the suspects not involved in committing a crime; the blue color - the suspects involved in committing a crime

Figure 3. Trait Profile of Those Involved and Not Involved in Committing Crimes

Persons involved in committing crimes have such functional problems as heart and respiratory disorders. This suggests that an individual who hides information, or provides false answers, has an increase in blood pressure and heart rate. We can clearly observe these indicators by analyzing the indicators of polygraph testing results.

The suspects who are not involved in committing crimes have respiratory disorders, gastric distress and sleep disturbance. The sense of anxiety and fear of an innocent person includes the so-called physiological component of anxiety - a signal reaction that consists in the stimulation of the sympathetic nervous system, namely, fast heartbeating, gastrointestinal tract disorders, insomnia, and the like. Such symptoms in innocent persons are most likely due to emotional discomfort, which is directly related to the investigation situation, accompanied by suspicions and accusations.

The persons who are not involved in committing crimes have cognitive-analytical activity dysfunctions, namely, difficulty concentrating in the process of polygraph testing.

The suspects involved in committing crimes have emotional response violations, namely anxiety, flattened affect, increased emotionality. These people become indifferent to themselves, their destiny, the fate of their relatives. Mostly, social emotions and empathy get lost.

Those not involved in committing crimes are characterized by anxiety, generalized emotional reactions (anger, shame, guilt), increased emotionality. This anxiety arises in a situation of uncertain danger and manifests

itself in anticipation of unforeseen troubles. They are worried about being condemned or negatively evaluated by others. They also feel guilty, condemn their actions, behavior and themselves, and this can be accompanied by a sense of regret and a decrease in self-esteem. They also have a depressive mood – low self-esteem, pessimism, apathy, loss of interest, fatigability.

Those involved in committing a crime have changes in behavior and activities as well: attempts to escape from the problem, also they have troubles in performing duties or homework. They try to avoid solving the problem, responsibility for their actions, and therefore try to give false answers to the questions.

#### Discussion

So, summing up the results, it should be noted that those who are involved in committing crimes lack pride, love, shame. They neglect duties and moral standards. Such persons are striving for immediate satisfaction of their desires, not taking into account the circumstances and the wishes of others. They are characterized by maladaptation, anxiety, instability of emotional states, which is manifested in frequent mood swings, increased excitability, irritability, insufficient self-regulation.

The individuals who are not involved in the commission of a crime are more indecisive and unsure of themselves. Such persons avoid risky situations, expecting only troubles in any deal, delay making decisions, etc. In communication they are shy. These individuals have poor self-regulation skills, lack concentration, tend to depressive states.

Persons involved in the commission of crimes have such functional problems as violations of cardiac activity and respiratory failure. This suggests that an individual who hides something, or rather gives false answers, has an increase in blood pressure and heart rate. Among those not involved - respiratory failure, functioning of the gastrointestinal tract and sleep disturbance. The sense of anxiety and fear of an innocent person includes the so-called physiological component of anxiety - this is an alarm reaction, which involves stimulation of the sympathetic nervous system, namely, the acceleration of the heart rate, the decrease in the activity of the gastrointestinal tract, insomnia, etc.

### Conclusions

Thus, the research results show that the suspects of both groups have the highest scores on the reactive aggressiveness scale. This means that most of the subjects are characterized by a high level of psychopathy, which is based on aggressive attitudes towards the social environment and the desire to dominate, as well as the predominance of emotional instability and the tendency to react effectively to avoid tensions, mostly in conflict situations.

Those who are not involved in committing a crime, in contrast to those involved, have high indices on the irritability scale, which indicates their emotional instabil-

ity and the tendency to affective react in order to avoid tension in situations causing conflicts.

High scores on the emotional lability scale can be observed in both groups, moreover, they are predominant in the suspects involved in committing crimes. They are characterized by instability of emotional states, which is accompanied in most cases by mood swings, increased excitability, irritability, cannot control themselves. They are more constrained, rarely show caution in making contacts with others, but they seek to have more acquaintances.

In addition, the suspects not involved in committing a crime, have respiratory disturbances, gastric distress, sleep disturbance, and difficulty concentrating. Most likely, these indicators are escalated against the background of polygraph testing. The feeling of anxiety is accompanied by various emotional reactions - shame, anger, guilt, fear.

The persons involved in committing a crime have heart and respiratory disorders. They lose the ability to feel and sympathize. They are capable of expressing only simple reactions and only those feelings that are aimed at satisfying their basic instincts. They try to escape from the problem and responsibility, without seeking for a solution.

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### ОСОБИСТІСНИЙ ПРОФІЛЬ ПІДОЗРЮВАНОВОГО (ПРИЧЕТНОГО -НЕПРИЧЕТНОГО) ПІД ЧАС ПРОХОДЖЕННЯ ПОЛІГРАФОЛОГІЧНОГО ДОСЛІДЖЕННЯ

У статті проаналізовано доцільність і важливість опису особистісного профілю осіб під час проведення дослідження на поліграфі і з'ясування їх причетності до скоєння злочину. Оскільки поліграфічне дослідження щодо причетності осіб не завжди може давати достовірний висновок, виникає необхідність створення психологічного профілю особистості. Ґрунтовний аналіз особистісних характеристик, що є домінуючими у профілі, сукупність реакцій, отриманих за допомогою дослідження на поліграфі та зафіксованих невербальних проявів особи під час проходження поліграфологічного дослідження, дають можливість зробити висновок про причетність до скоєння злочину підозрюваними. Тільки в такому випадку аналізу профілів підозрюваних можна робити найбільш точний та істинний висновок. Результати проведеного дослідження доводять, що в осіб, причетних до скоєння злочину, найвищий показник за шкалою «Реактивна агресивність». У непричетних до злочину осіб, на відміну від причетних, спостерігається високий показник за шкалою «Дратівливість», який вказує про наявність емоційної нестійкості та схильність до афективного реагування з метою уникнення напруженості. Виявлено високі показники за шкалою «Емоційна лабільність» в обох групах, однак дещо переважають в осіб, причетних до злочину. Варто зазначити, що причетні до злочину особи, на відміну від непричетних, є більш скованими, невпевненими у собі, рідко проявляють обережність у встановленні контактів з іншими, проте прагнуть їх розширювати. В осіб, непричетних до скоєння злочину, переважають порушення дихання, порушення функціонування шлунково-кишкового тракту та проблеми зі сном. У них ускладнене функціонування уваги, присутнє відчуття тривоги, яке супроводжується різними емоційними реакціями – сором, гнів, провина, страх.

**Ключові слова:** поліграф, поліграфологічне дослідження, причетна особа, непричетна особа, злочин, особистість, особистісний профіль.

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