PROBUS Club of Central Edmonton
Newsletter

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Apr 16 Presentation

Nejolla Korris who is the CEO and Founder of InterVeritas International (web page https://www.InterVeritas.com) talked to us about linguistic lie detection. She set out a methodology to follow when diagnosing statements, oral or written. She punctuated her observations with examples. She started by explaining why she selected discussing lie detection for social media, lie detection is more interesting. In my opinion she made a sound decision. Remember "people lie words don't." Her role is analyzing statements to determine areas where more questions need to be asked.

Her first point was to note that people who are interviewing are not often able to analyze the answers during questioning. She will meet with the interviewer outside a session to provide advice. Also, we learned that lying is common, everyone does it. Classic is in response to "how are you doing", regardless of how we feel we say "fine". She noted that we, as parents, teach our kids to lie.

"I never had sexual relations with that woman." A lie or the truth? This illustrates deception through words. It is the truth given his definition of "sexual relations". Her point is that we need to use definition of the term held by speaker, not impose our view or biases on it. later in the testimony Clinton provided his the very narrow definition of the term. In this case, he was telling the truth, so the interviewer needed to get definition of word and perhaps definition for what he actually did.

Her definition of linguistic lie detection is "it is information that the subject is willing to give us in a transcript, or that we ask them what happened without influencing the answer. We can identify what is true, what is not, and what is sensitive".

In a fraud case, she reviewed 1200-page transcript. In it she identified anomalies with his trip to China. While she could not identify what they were, she pointed out areas to ask more questions about the trip. From these questions they learned that he had committed fraud. So, what are triggers, learning what is important to the speaker, using information to deduce if they are lying or deceiving. Again, the key is to prevent the interviewer from making assumptions.

The subject needs to set the tone of the interview. We were presented with an interview of Dick Cheney to illustrate critical element of were the individual changes his use of the language. In the interview he was definitive with each answer until asked about wiretapping. He was deflecting from that truth that the US government was wiretapping regular citizens.

Any response which is not definitive when it could be needs further questioning. When we analyze statements, we want them as first person singular and past tense. Deviances from that pattern may be hiding deception. She illustrated through another interview that the individual was possibly hiding something because they did not include "I" in all the answers.

She went on to describe the use of a title when introducing or speaking about the person is significant. Particularly, if people vary its use. We heard that the use of language can point to the nature of a relationship.

Next, we hear about "declarations", meaning that people create a relationship between them and their crime. E.g. OJ's statement that "If I killed her, it was because I loved her". Interview respond did you kill your wife and Ron Goldman? When he stated, "I never killed two people". To this a questioner should ask "which one did you kill?" She provided another example to illustrate the way language is employed to deflect. In the example, she referred to a car as her car and in relationship to the deed she referred to it as

the car. Also, in this case the culprit used tense to suggest their involvement e.g. she referred to victims in past tense.

Next non-answers are answers. Hillary Clinton, when asked if she planned to run for President, she replied "I have no worries about the future." Meaning it is none of your business. So, what is she hiding? We are wired to believe people not to disbelieve people. This is why we need to remain objective.

We continued to hear examples of when words change and are used by the person to obfuscate responsibility.

It seems to me that elements of her methodology include:
- Focus on the words
- Interviewer will find it difficult to step out of their role during an interview, so they benefit from external advice.
- Must view the words used through the eyes of the speaker. Words mean different things to different people.
- Interviewer must not make assumptions and not impose their views and values
- Watch for changes in tense, inappropriate tense, missing pronoun, inappropriate pronoun, non-answers, and several other changes in language.

The presentation was a fascinating and packed with information. We thank her for it. Let me leave you with a Hungarian proverb she shared with us "Man was given a language with which to speak and words with which to hide his thoughts".

Apr 23 Tour

Justin guided club members on a tour of the Valley Zoo. I have a few pictures from the tour to share with you and some insights on the Zoo. It was a great day for the tour, and we learned that "crepuscular" (appear at dawn and/or dusk) animals may still be outside. The first animals we saw were Canada Geese, there were all around the Zoo. He spoke about the many changes in the zoo. I share the following taken from the website:

"Over the past few years, capital investment from the City of Edmonton has supported the important work of the zoo. We are working hard to create a vibrant new zoo with improved habitats, better opportunities for guests to closely interact with animals, and state-of the-art research and education facilities."

The original Zoo was opened in 1959 as the Edmonton Storyland Zoo. It is now like many other Zoos and if fully accredited. We learned that they have 4 new river otters, but these are not ready to be viewed. They are being taught to swim by their mother.

He spoke about an international organization of zoos that offer accreditation and run a program of sharing animal for the purpose of breading. Accredited Zoos do not display animals taken from the wild, so new animals are quired through this organization from other zoos.

Grevy's Zebra   Lucy   Red Panda   Justin & Blue Tongue Skink

Eurasian Eagle Owl

As we wandered through the Zoo for over an hour and half, Justin shared many nuggets about the Zoo, their programs, and the animals under they care, nuggets such as:
- Tours for children and children's school referred to as "100 voices"
- He explained how the Zebra's don't get along.
- Thay are building up their arctic wolf exhibit by adding a female. She is on site and is being slowly readied to be added to the display area. She came from a French zoo.
- Lucy goes for regular walk around the Zoo...outside her area. She "runs" the place. We saw her in her area enjoying a meal.
- They have a few different birds of prey. Each species in their own enclosure, there are Snowy Owl, Peregrine Falcon, and Eurasian Eagle Owl (the second biggest owl). These owls have unique vocal sound.
- They have a python which is a rescue animal. Rescue animals are another source of zoo animals.
- He pointed out various Turtles and tortoises.
- They have 2 families of Meerkats because three Meerkat boys were not pulling their weight, so mom, the matriarch, kicked them out.

We heard a great deal more about the various animals from tigers to red pandas. It was truly interesting tour. Justin was very knowledgeable and open to questions. We thank him for his time. I have several other pictures, but they are not of good enough quality to share.

Interesting aside:

Some spring sentiments:
- Botany plants lately?
- You're my best bud!
- Buzzing with excitement!
- Everything is blooming again! It is a big re-leaf!
- What in-carnation is happening right now?
- Turning over a new leaf this season!
- A peony for your thoughts.
- Not a daisy goes by without me thinking of you!
- Spring lightning storms are always very striking!
- Seed you later!
- Rooting for you!
- Don't worry, bee happy.
- Herb your enthusiasm.
- You make me daisy!
- Me and my honey #meanttobee
- Don't moss around with me!
- It's party thyme!

Stay healthy and get your garden read for planting