

Research on lie detection methods has had a very long history, but its effects leave much to be desired. In ordinary interactions our chances of successful lie detection are just over 50%. The existence of credible liars (those who are perceived as truthful even when they are lying) adversely affects these statistics. However knowledge of such persons and the lies they make up is limited. The purpose of our project is to find credible liars, to explore their cognitive abilities, to perform a language analysis of lies in face-to-face communication and computer-mediated communication, and to create the first Polish-language lying detection tool.

In our research, we want to gather true and false statements on controversial topics such as the right to abortion or attitudes regarding immigrants. These statements will then be evaluated for veracity. We will then focus on credible liars (people whose lies were considered to be true at an earlier stage). We will examine their intelligence and other cognitive functions such as memory or attention. However we will devote the most attention to linguistic analysis. We want to assess the difference between true and false statements and what characterizes credible lies. In previous studies, it was found that false statements are more abstract, less complex, contain more negatively-marked phrases and less first-person pronouns. Such analyses are yet to be done in Polish though.

We would like our research results to be used as a tool to detect lies spoken both in direct social interactions and those mediated by computer. Knowledge itself of credible lies and liars would be of great value, both to those who deal with lie detection and those who must be proficient liars (eg. for work reasons). In addition to these practical applications, examining differences in cognitive functioning between credible and non-credible liars will increase our knowledge of lying mechanisms, accompanying processes, and shed new light on existing theories of lying.