**A lie or not a lie, that is the question.**

**Trying to take arms against a sea of conceptual troubles: Methodological and theoretical issues in linguistic approaches to lie detection.**

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**Abstract**

In spite of the obvious relevance of linguistically given testimony in legal processes (§1), the state of veracity evaluation is widely felt to be unsatisfactory. Starting out from a discussion of the very concept of lying (§2), the paper discusses the range of popular psychological test procedures that include linguistic components and then focuses on methodological issues attendant on the use of individual linguistic diagnostic “cues” to either truth or lies (§3), Finally, the paper zeroes in (§4) on discussing in some detail a sample case from witness interviews in cases of sexual assault, using the discussion to exemplify the notion of the genre in establishing baseline concepts and, more generally, the central relevance of an interactionist pragmatic approach in meaning making in this type of very specific forensic context (§5).