

# The Effect of Embedded Lies on the Verbal Quality of Statements and Implications for Credibility Assessment

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## Propositions of the thesis

### **The Effect of Embedded Lies on the Verbal Quality of Statements and Implications for Credibility Assessment**

1. In some contexts, liars strategically maintain consistency regarding the quality of information provided between truths and lies within their statements. (*This thesis*)
2. Verbal credibility assessment tools based on certain details may be robust against the embedding of lies. (*This thesis*)
3. Embedded lies cannot be exploited by within-statement verbal baselining. (*This thesis*)
4. The most common verbal deception strategy amongst self-reported good liars is embedding lies into truthful stories. (*This thesis*)
5. “The absence of evidence is not evidence of absence.” (*Martin Rees*)
6. “We must look for consistency, where there is a want of it, we must suspect deception.” (*Arthur Conan Doyle*)
7. Police and legal practitioners can benefit from knowledge regarding the strategies used by liars and potential interference with the diagnostic accuracy of verbal credibility assessment tools.
8. “All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make the better.” (*Ralph Waldo Emerson*)

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Maastricht, June 2020