Interviews and Interrogations

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Interviews and interrogations are essential parts of a criminal investigation. Law enforcement personnel employ a variety of methods to elicit confessions from identified suspects. Physiological and psychological methods are commonly used to get suspects talking with the hope that they will provide useful information. In this case, law enforcement will be looking out for any information that will give a lead on the missing person.

The Reid technique is one of the most commonly used psychological methods in criminal investigations and interrogations. According to this technique, there is an essential difference between interviews and interrogations. Interviews are used when there is no substantial evidence against a suspect. At this point, law enforcement is yet to incriminate a suspect, and they are generally looking for information that will establish guilt or dismiss the suspect. Interviews are not accusatory, and they are flexible in terms of where they are conducted.

Interrogations, on the other hand, are used when police have substantial evidence on a suspect. They are accusatory, and they are conducted at specific places. Thus, an interrogation forces the suspect to admit to having committed the crime. According to interrogation procedures, suspects are usually reluctant to confess because they are ashamed or they are afraid of the legal repercussions associated with the crime in question. Thus, the Reid technique is employed to create some amount of pressure, deception, manipulation, and persuasion to get the suspect to confess (Inbau et al., 2013).

Reid technique works on the assumption that guilty suspects tend to be more nervous, and their nervousness increases as the interrogation continue. Thus, the work of the police will be to look out for these changes using psychological criteria. This can be achieved by making a confrontation, i.e., making statements that show that the police know the suspect actually committed the crime. After this, the police will develop a theme or a reason that could have motivated the suspect from committing the crime. When the interrogation gets serious, the suspect may be forced to recount the activities building up to the offense. Law enforcement may use deception to get suspects speaking. For example, they can lie about reducing the sentence if the suspect corporates.

Some nonverbal techniques include making eye contact with the suspect to read their mood as well as intimidate them. Also, facial expressions are used to express shock, sincerity, or disappointment (Kulhman, 1980). Verbal communication may include the use of tone variation, an emphasis of certain phrases or words, and inflections.

References

Inbau, F. E., Reid, J. E., Buckley, J. P., & Jayne, B. C. (2013). *Essentials of the Reid technique*. Jones & Bartlett Publishers.

Kulhman, M. S. (1980). Nonverbal communications in interrogations. *FBI L. Enforcement Bull.*, *49*, 6.