

Research Assessment 14

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Podell, Kenneth. "Rey 15 Item ~~Test~~^{Test}". Springer New York, n.d. Web. 02 May 2016.
"Psychology ~~Malingering~~^{Malingering}". Psychology Today, n.d. Web. 02 May 2016.
.Martin, James A. "QUALITATIVE SCORING OF THE REY 15-ITEM MEMORY TEST IN A FORENSIC POPULATION." (n.d.): 1-115. Web.
"Mental Health: Ganser ~~Syndrome~~^{Syndrome}". WebMD, n.d. Web. 02 May 2016.

Analysis:

In one of my previous evidence of learning reports, I mentioned how I would write an assessment on Rey's Fifteen Item Test. The Fifteen Item Test (FIT), is used to identify feigned memory impairment and evaluate the validity of symptoms. In other words, the test is meant to recognize malingering. According to Psychology Today, "Malingering is the purposeful production of falsely or grossly exaggerated complaints with the goal of receiving a reward." Tests such as the FIT have become necessary because malingering has become a common issue in the field of psychology and psychiatry. As a result, Rey's Fifteen Item Test is widely used, although numerous objections to it have been raised regarding its sensitivity and effectiveness.

This test was created in 1964 as a screening measure meant to detect memory malingering by Swiss psychologist, Andre Rey. He is also credited with the development of the Rey-Osterrieth Complex Figure and the Rey Auditory Verbal Learning Test, both of which are widely used in neuropsychological assessments. The psychologist isn't well known, but he was a universal psychologist with various interests. He was interested in clinical, vocational, school, general, and animal psychology as well as neuropsychology. Additionally, although he created numerous psychometric tests, many have not been published. In many countries, mostly francophone countries, Rey is considered a precursor of the current cognitive neuropsychological approach. Interestingly enough, Rey's work greatly influenced the work of well known psychologist Reuven Feuerstein due to the fact that Andre Rey was Feuerstein's mentor.

Such a test is needed because individuals will malingering in order to receive money, insurance settlements, drugs or avoid punishment, work, jury duty, volunteer work or some other kind of service. Oftentimes, individuals will malingering to avoid incarceration. For example, during trial, the defendant may plead not guilty by reason of insanity (or other mental illnesses) even though he does not have a mental disorder. Surprisingly enough, there is a specific name faking mental illness symptoms and psychosis called Ganser Syndrome. According to Web MD, "Ganser syndrome is a type of factitious disorder, a mental illness in which a person deliberately and consciously acts as if he or she has a physical or mental illness when he or she is not really sick. People with Ganser syndrome mimic behavior that is typical of a mental illness, such as schizophrenia."

So how does it work? The FIT assesses an individual's short term memory, or in other words is a measure of immediate span of apprehension. Rey's Fifteen Item Test consists of 15 different items which are arranged in 3 columns and 5 rows. When the test begins, the evaluatee is informed that there are 15 distinct items on the test that need to be memorized during a 10 second exposure period and that they will be expected to copy them onto a blank piece of paper immediately. "Although it is presented as a difficult task, it is actually quite simple because there is redundancy among items that reduces the amount of information to be remembered. Thus, the MFIT relies upon the floor effect strategy for detecting malingering (Rogers et al., 1993), which assumes the naive malingerer will be misled into overplaying their role and choose to perform poorly on this very simple task."

The test is nearly impossible to mess up on accidentally even if the individual suffers from severe amnesia because short term memory is usually well preserved. As a result, malingerers are easily caught because of their tendency to exaggerate cognitive difficulties and mental illness symptoms. I was informed by my mentor that individuals who are malingering will put outrageous items on the reproduction such as plus signs and minus signs when there aren't any on the test. For the following few pages, I will include examples of what a normal test results would look like and what a malingerer's results would look like.

Original Rey's Fifteen Item Test

A

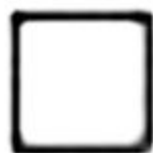
B

C

1

2

3



a

b

c

I

II

III

Normal Results

Malingering's Results