

BOOK REVIEW

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A Review of Interviewing, An Introduction to Interrogation

REFERENCE: Yeschke, C. L., *Interviewing, An Introduction to Interrogation*, Charles C Thomas, 2600 S. First St., Springfield, IL, 62794-9265, 1987, 172 pp.

In his introductory remarks, the author states that he would like to conduct training seminars on his theories of interviewing as a form of interrogation, and being unable to do so he has put his theories into this book to allow others to teach his theories. I do wish that he had included some form of teaching guide as the major portion of the text is not decipherable as any form of instructional material. Without aid, it would be of little use to the inexperienced student because of the unnecessarily complex manner in which ideas are presented. The experienced interviewer might gain some knowledge from the text but the majority of it would be of little use.

Obviously, the author has spent a great deal of time in attempting to formulate a science involving conducting an interview. He did not apply that time or his experience in relating to the reader just what his theories are and the practical aspects of interviewing and interrogation. Development of the alleged scientific field of "Interviewology" and his subsistence of "Forensiology" are seeming attempts to give a repeatable scientific basis to what is, in reality, an art. By quoting endless sources, as would a college student "padding" a paper to get a required number of words, the author does a disservice to his reader. He presents no new knowledge but combines known material with psychological theories to claim a new science. The material does not support his claims.

What the reader of the book about interviewing would like to learn is how to conduct a successful interview and how to improve on already practiced techniques. Only towards the end of the text does the author address any practical interviewing concerns, specifically Communication (Chapter 9) and Question Formulation (Chapter 10). Even then the material is given insufficient depth to be of much value and is needlessly made complex. Clearly, these are very important areas of concern to anyone conducting an interview and should be the highlight of any text about this subject at hand. Were the author to devote the space to this aspect of the subject as he did with the many lists he has included, yet not explained, then the book would be of some value to any person seeking an insight on how to interview or to interrogate another person.

The book is confusing and the material does not flow in an orderly pattern that a teaching text should. The text should begin with a general pattern, lead to a more narrow interpretation, and then develop specific fine points of the subject to be learned. That is not the case

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here as the first pages present the reader with a chart (polyphasic flow chart) which is never explained in any detail and then finishes the book with the basic topics of what rapport is and the skill of listening. Simple charts or flow charts would be most helpful, as would diagrams of techniques used. None are provided that are of any use to the reader.

I believe a text on how to be an effective interviewer or interrogator would be useful to almost any profession as the tools learned are applicable to a broad segment of the professional population. This is not such a text, and I could not recommend it to anyone seeking any insight into obtaining the skills of a good interviewer.