

- It is hard to test anxiety in relation to EWT without causing anxiety – It can be argued researchers taking the necessary precautions to ensure as limited harm as possible

No Simple Conclusion

- Yuille and Cutshall study involved a violent real life crime whereas Johnson and Scott study didn't involve any violence
- Halford and Milne (2005) – Victims of violent crimes were more accurate in their recall of a crime scene than victims of non-violent crimes
- Shows no simple rule about effect of anxiety on accuracy of EWT – Conclusions may not be able to be generalised

THE COGNITIVE INTERVIEW – AO1

Cognitive Interview – A method of interviewing eyewitnesses to help them receive accurate memories

- Developed by Geiselman Et. Al. (1984)
- Procedure designed for the use of police interviews making them more effective
- Eyewitness is encouraged to mentally recreate the context that existed at the time of the crime
- There are four main components to cognitive interview:

Report Everything

- Witnesses are encouraged to include every single detail of the event even if it may be irrelevant or the witness doesn't feel confident about it
- The aim of this is to make memories more accessible as they need appropriate contextual and emotional cues to retrieve memories
- Recollection of small details from many different witnesses may be used to eventually piece together a clearer picture of event

"Even little details may be important. Please try to recall as much as much as you can, even if it doesn't seem relevant"

Reinstate the Context

- Witnesses should mentally return to the original crime scene and imagine the environment and their emotions
- This is related to context dependent forgetting
- Mentally recreate both the physical and psychological environment – Can provide appropriate contextual and emotional cues

"Think back to that day. What had you been doing? What was the weather like? How do you feel? Picture the scene in your mind"

Changing the Order

- Events should be recalled in a different chronological order to the original sequence
- This prevents people reporting their expectations of how the events may have happened rather than the actual events – Removes schemas
- Prevents dishonesty by reversing the untruthful account

“This may be difficult but try to report events in reverse order. Start at the last thing you remember seeing then work backwards to the beginning”

Changing Perspective

- Recall the incident from other people's perspective
- Ask witnesses how the incident would have appeared to someone on the opposite side of the road or from the perpetrators view
- This disrupts the effect of expectations and schemas on recall
- The schema you have for a particular setting generates expectations of what happened

“Imagine you were watching events from the opposite side of the road. What do you think you would have seen if you were standing there?”

EVALUATION OF THE COGNITIVE INTERVIEW – AO3**Support Evidence for the Cognitive Interview**

- Geiselman Et. Al. – Compared the effectiveness of the cognitive interview with that of the standard police interview
- Average number of correct statements produced by eyewitnesses was 41.1 using the cognitive interview compared to 29.4 using the standard police interview
- However, it is important to note that participants in this study were all students who watched police training videos of violent crimes – Can be criticised in terms for its unrepresentativeness and artificiality
- Kohnken Et. Al. (1999) – Meta-analysis of data from 53 studies – Found 34% more information correctly remembered in cognitive interview compared to standard interviewing techniques

The Enhanced Cognitive Interview

- Developed by Fisher Et. Al. (1987) – Some additional elements of the cognitive interview to focus on the social dynamics of the interaction
- The interviewer needs to know when to establish eye contact and when to relinquish

- Includes ideas such as reducing eyewitness anxiety by minimising distractions and getting the witness to speak slowly asking open ended questions

Quality vs Quantity

- Cognitive interview is designed to enhance the quantity (amount) of correct recall without compromising the quality (amount of correct recall as a percentage of total recall)
- Kohnken Et. Al. (1999) – 81% increase in correct information using cognitive interview but 61% increase in incorrect information using enhanced cognitive interview (false positives) compared to standard interview
- Police need to treat all information from cognitive interview with caution. It doesn't guarantee accuracy

Problems with Cognitive Interview in Practice

- Police officers suggest cognitive interview requires more time than is available
- Instead police officers prefer to use deliberate strategies aimed to limit an eyewitness' report to minimum amount of information officers feel is necessary
- Cognitive interview requires more training that most police officers don't have – In reality may not be able to be put into practice

Individual Differences

- Cognitive Interview may be especially useful when interviewing older witnesses
- Negative stereotypes about older adults' memory can make older witnesses overly cautious about reporting incorrect information however cognitive interview can overcome these differences
- Mello and Fowler (1996) compared older and younger adults' memory of a simulated crime using cognitive interview and standard interview
- Cognitive interview produced more information than the standard interview – Cognitive interview significantly greater for older individuals than younger ones