

Deceptiveness of Contents

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Keywords: evasion, deception, relevance.

The idea that evasion is a deceptive strategy is quite commonplace in the literature on deception (cf. for example, Bradac, 1983; Hopper and Bell, 1984; Ekman, 1985; Bradac et al., 1986; Metts, 1989; Gibbons et al., 1992; Knapp and Vangelisti, 1992; Ng and Bradac, 1993). It is founded on the fact that evasive messages are a means of avoiding telling the truth, or, in other words, withholding a piece of truthful and relevant information.¹

In this paper I am going to examine the very claim of the deceptiveness of evasion. I want to answer the question of whether evasive utterances would, if they can, be considered, without any reservations, a type of deceptive communication.

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Keywords: self-repair; storytelling; Alcoholics Anonymous; mutual help; moral work; ethnomethodological conversation analysis of monological talk.