Inoculate Yourself with a Psematic Defense!

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Abstract. This defines a useful new adjective "psematic" borrowed from Greek for describing lies, misinformation, and disinformation attacks and a specific form of defense which is known to assist in avoiding falling into these attacks. Two ways in which "psematic" defenses can be mounted through specific interesting educational means are presented and discussed.

Keywords: Truth, Lies, Disinformation, Misinformation

1 New Words for Mitigating Lies, Disinformation, and Misinformation in the Media

The vaccine for mitigating lies, disinformation, and misinformation on the Internet and other Media uses the newly coined word "psematic" suggested by my friend Rand Waltzman. Rand is the author of the Cognitive Security series of teachings about how lying schemers successfully scheme [1]. He spent a lifetime in the disinformation 'game,' including stints at DARPA as an AI Director, and is fluent in three languages, English, Swedish, and Greek.

"Psema" means "lie" in Greek. A Psematic Defense is how to inoculate yourself against the liars and schemers in media. Greek is one of mankind's original languages. "Sema" means "plan" in Greek. In English, people "scheme."

"Mendaciology" [2] is the word that I coined for the computational cognitive neuroscience of human lying. That word derives from the Latin word for lie, "mendacio." Another original language. In English, some things people say are "mendacious."

In Mendaciology, a "lie" is anything that anyone calls a lie.

Social media, and media in general, is literally brimming with lies of a destructive fiat kind [3]. Fiat lies are lies for which effective dialogue to dissect the lies is infeasible for any reason whatsoever. Mendaciology says that fiat lies are particularly dangerous when people believe them to be true or excusable.

A "psematic defense" is what Mendaciology teaches us is the only way for everybody in the world to inoculate themselves against particularly destructive fiat lies by

schemers. The vaccine is structured moderated dialogue among people in their natural language to dissect the suspected fiat lies.

2   Psematic Defense by Learning the Schemes

Rand Waltzman [1] explains hundreds of types of historical successfully schemed fiat lies (see Fig. 1). But Mendaciology says he could produce a lot more types [2]. The computational cognitive neuroscience says that the actual number of types of fiat lies is countless and will never end in media.
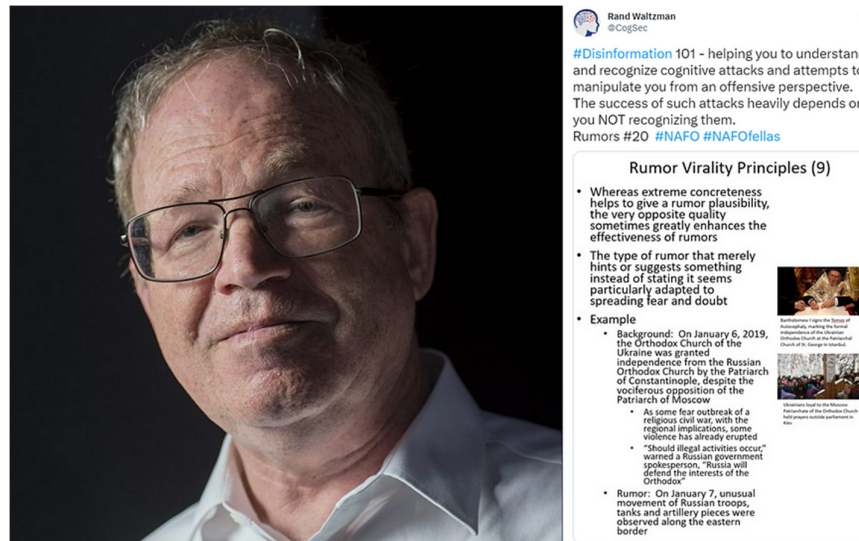

Fig. 1. Rand Waltzman and one of his hundreds of Posts that provide simple brief understandable explanations of the countless possibilities for scheming Lies, Disinformation, and Misinformation in the media.

Psematic inoculation is the only way to contain the psematic damage of lies. As Rand correctly says at the beginning of every one of his examples, you can never hope to curate them out. But Mendaciology says you can best hope to contain their social damage by human dialogue dissecting their potential psematic damage and psematic repair.

3 Psematic Defense by Private Self Education with Other People

There is also a third new word describing the most malicious lies. This word is "coronium." [4]. I borrowed this term from all natural languages, and did not make it up. A hundred years ago this word was historically thought to refer to a chemical element that gave light and heat to our Sun. That element, "coronium," was later proven non-existent in favor of nuclear fission and fusion. Being a word without a referent, I stole the noun for another meaning. The most maliciously scheming lies are fiat lies in the media that have a high "coronium" content because they burn so brightly in the human mind as to hide the true scheming behind them.

The Internet Court of Truth and Lies [5] is a web site where you can freely mount a successful psematic defense against high-coronium fiat lies according to the cognitive science of Mendaciology and its Taxonomy of all psematic types in human natural language [6].

Media lies are familiar to us all. Something in the media bothers you because you think it is a lie. Alternatively, you think something is true, but are curious why other people seem to think is a lie. A psematic defense works here by telling the truth teller what he may need to add or do to address the psematic interpretations.

So you mount a psematic defense to see what other people think about your opinion. You take your psematic defense as a plaintiff in Truthcourt. A few other people, no more than eight, serve as jurors to provide their judgement about what they think about your opinion.

You, and your jurors, learn by interpreting things as truths or lies. You become inoculated to how people might think other people are scheming in the media. A psematic defense is something like Alcoholics Anonymous: The human targets of the lies work out the lies themselves by dissecting their problem with what they might call lies in highly structured dialogue classifying the suspected, fiat, lie.

Mendaciology requires that you bring your opinion as plaintiff in the online court with a written accusation and your proposed verdict that answers exactly eight questions [6]. These eight questions can successfully dissect any lie, or any truth, in any natural spoken language. These verdict questions force the relevant private dialog for a psematic defense among the plaintiff and jurors. The reward is the plaintiff or jurors can post the anonymized log of their private dialogue in whatever media they desire.

Here are the eight verdict questions to wage a psematic defense in this online court:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it the whole truth?
3. Is it nothing but the truth?

4. What is the deceit?
5. Is the deceit intended?
6. What is the motivation behind the deceit?
7. How socially acceptable is the truth or lie?
8. What label could make the truth or lie more socially acceptable?

That's it. A small lesson allowing people to educate themselves about the lie, or possibly disbelieved truth, by seeing what other people think about what they think. The Internet Court of Truth and Lies works amazingly well for learning how other people view things they think are lies or truths.

No need for experts to lecture. In the psematic defense, the plaintiff and the jurors can, and do, bring expert evidence and reasoning from the Internet in supporting their verdicts.

This is how mounting a psematic defense inoculates participants from the scheming lies in the media. They learn through enforced moderated dialogue with other people in dissecting any statement as a taxonomic classification as a truth or lie.

People are good at this. The court anonymously tries fiat lies, not people. Submitting a case takes little time if a case bothers the plaintiff. The trial can be immediate. The trial verdicts are often completed in under ten minutes and published on social media or blogs immediately.

You don't need expert witnesses. You do need experience with the Internet on your phone or computer. It only takes a few minutes to have this psematic dialogue with a few other people about a suspected fiat lie brought to the online court.

A suspected psematic attack is exposed among the participants in enforced moderated dialogue, and all the plaintiff and juror verdicts can be published by any of the participants. People learn by doing.

"Psematic" is, indeed, a useful new adjective. Thank you for the suggestion, Dr. Waltzman.

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