L

L Scale

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Synonyms

[Lie scale](#)

Definition

One of the original validity scales on the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) and its revisions, the L scale consists of 15 items designed to detect attempts to avoid responding honestly. The items reflect patterns of behavior that are socially desirable but only found in the most conscientious individuals. “True” is the non-elevating response for all items, making the scale also sensitive to systematic response bias. There is good face validity to these items; however, because of their transparency, the scale may not detect more sophisticated attempts to respond dishonestly. Elevations on this scale have been associated with denial and lack of psychological sophistication. In addition to its value in the validation of MMPI data, the clinical neuropsychologist may find value in the L scale in validating information obtained in the clinical interview. Readers are referred to the MMPI entry for a

discussion of limitations of this self-report measure when used with neuropsychological populations (see also Gass 2006; Lezak et al. 2004).

Cross-References

- ▶ [F Minus K Index](#)
- ▶ [F Scale](#)
- ▶ [Fake Bad Scale](#)
- ▶ [Faking Good, Bad](#)
- ▶ [K Scale](#)
- ▶ [MMPI](#)
- ▶ [True Response Inconsistency Scale \(TRIN, MMPI\)](#)
- ▶ [Validity Scales \(MMPI\)](#)
- ▶ [Variable Response Inconsistency Scale \(VRIN, MMPI\)](#)

References and Readings

- Gass, C. (2006). Use of the MMPI-2 in neuropsychological evaluations. In J. Butcher (Ed.), *MMPI-2: A practitioner's guide* (pp. 301–326). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- Graham, J. R. (2005). *MMPI-2: Assessing personality and psychopathology* (pp. 22–25). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Lezak, M. D., Howieson, D. B., Bigler, E. D., & Tranel, D. (2012). *Neuropsychological assessment* (5th ed.). New York: Oxford University Press.