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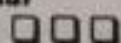
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The Eyewitness Suggestibility Effect and Source-Attribution

Gyanesh

Gyanesh Kumar Tiwari, Ph.D.*

The present study attempted to scrutinize the effects of suggestibility, emotional arousal and types of detail on the source-monitoring of witnessed details. Forty adolescents (twenty males and twenty females) aged fifteen to seventeen years served as the subjects in the experiment. Two levels of emotional arousal i.e., low and high, were induced in the subjects with the help of two video-clipped events and their accuracy of sourcing the central and peripheral details were assessed under consistent and misleading post-event information conditions. The results demonstrate that types of post-event information significantly affected the subjects' accuracy of sourcing the details of witnessed events. Subjects working under consistent post-event information condition showed higher source accuracy as compared to those who did the same under misleading condition. In addition, emotional arousal and types of detail also affected the amount of correct source-attribution. It was observed that recall accuracy was higher under low emotional arousal and for central details as compared to high emotional arousal and peripheral details.

Keywords: *Eyewitness memory, Suggestibility, Source-monitoring, Emotional arousal, Types of detail.*

As an event is received, collected and registered by an observer, the subsequent information supplied by various source may alter the original trace. If such post-event information is inconsistent with the event witnessed earlier, it may complicate the recollection of the original event. This phenomenon is known as the 'misinformation effect' or "suggestibility effect" (Loftus & Hoffman, 1989). Studies pursuing the phenomenon have concluded that such a misinformation materially alter the recollections of originally witnessed event (Lindsay, 1990; Loftus, Donders, Hoffman, & Schooler, 1989; Loftus, Miller & Burns; 1978; McCloskey & Zaragoza, 1985; Schacter, 2001).

In their first effort to explain Suggestibility or misinformation effect, Loftus and her associates (Loftus, 1977, 1979a, 1979b, Loftus Donders, Hoffman & Schooler, 1989; Loftus &

* Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, M.L.K.P.G. College, Balrampur, U.P.