

A Brief Report on Screening by Drawings

Takeshi KAITA*

Abstract

This is a brief report presenting some considerations on applying portrait drawing to psychological screening.

Key words: drawing, psychological screening

1. Introduction

There are a lot of projective methods for psychological measurement. These are efficient for extracting clients' personalities. Extraordinary "disordered" behaviors in daily life have been reported. For instance, deteriorating of customs and volition as characteristics of present students are well known. It is manifest that viciousness[1] is one of the main causes of these phenomena. It is as a natural consequence that vicious persons are not able to have self-recognition in those groups. Indeed they are the aobjects of medical treatments, but the younger a person with such disorders the easier to be amended. These require screening methods on psychological measurement without using any words valid for any groups.

Portrait drawing is one of the major techniques in the projective methods which could extract clients' personalities easily. [2] considered the difference between juvenile delinquents and general students, but the data were accumulated before 1974. There were few researches for applying the drawing as screening. At applying the drawing to screening, easy operating is required. There have not been reported on the drawing test operated under free condition: when and where each client wants to and without any inspectors. In this paper, we consider effects under the operating method and some properties on the drawing under the condition to analyze and diagnose present students by actual inspections.

2. Clients and method of operating

Clients were students of a public high school that has a high ratio (more than 99.5%) of students who go on to the next stage of education, around the half to major universities. It might be easily expected before a couple of decades that there are few students whose customs and volition are deteriorated. Total 40 clients, 21 were male and 19 female. Only 1 male client's dominant hand was left. There were not found any double or triple perspectives. There were not also found any drawings of irregular styles except non-whole-body drawings. The drawing range is considered in the following.

Author operated the screening under free condition: the drawing test without any instructions were executed as a homework. Each client wrote his (her) own drawing duration and answers to prepared "traditional" questions down according to given brochure. This operating method might have clients being less tense owing to being alone and the drawing and answering with client's own pace. Consequently, this operating method could extract clients' personalities including their attitudes to this psychological test by comparison with traditional methods. Furthermore, the easiness of this operating method could apply the drawing test to screening.

3. Considerations

3.1. Duration

Average and standard deviation of drawing duration were 555 seconds and 560, respectively. Drawing durations under traditional operating methods are said about 10 minutes. [2] shows that the average and the standard deviation are about 8.5 – 11.6 minutes and 5.4 – 6.5. The number of clients whose absolute value of deviation was greater than 1σ was 5. There was one client whose value was more than 4σ . Others were all in 1σ . Existence of clients who consume more than 60 minutes under traditional methods is widely known.

These are all in the occurable range so that the little difference of the standard deviation might be appropriate. Figure 1 shows the frequency distribution on duration. "Free" operating method might not have any problems

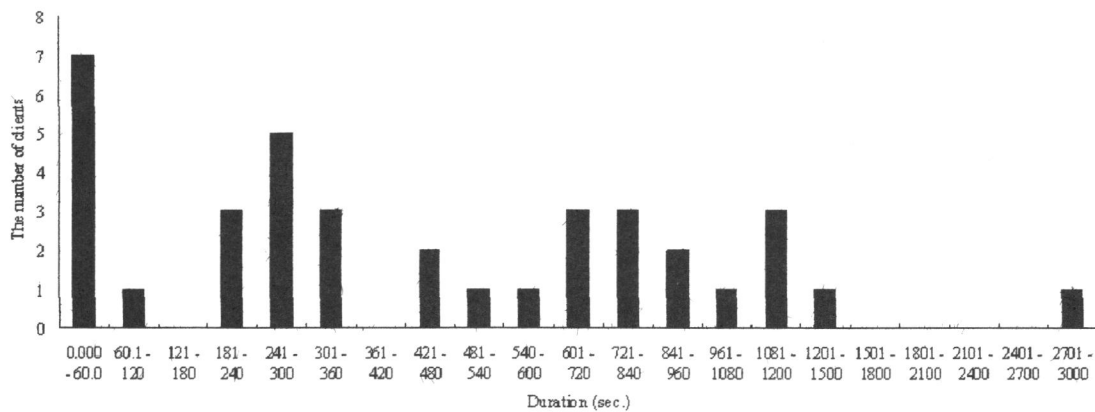


Figure 1: Duration of portrait drawing.

on duration for both executing and analyzing. Instructions on duration before beginning are not be needed for screening.

3 clients did not write his (her) own duration down. This phenomenon is yielded by the operating method. This is one of the effectiveness of this operating method to extract clients' attitudes to psychological test easily. In traditional operating methods, various records including durations are made by inspectors. In the "free" operating method, however, analyzer can guess whether the duration-unwritten is careless mistake or not by analyzing client's drawing and answerings.

9 clients' durations were in the range traditionally required careful analysis on morbidity.

Some examples of which drawing duration were shorter than 40 seconds are shown below.

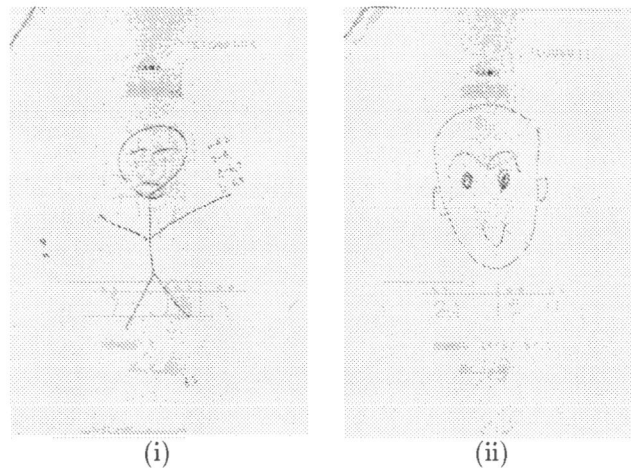


Figure 2: Examples of which drawn duration is shorter than 40 seconds.

Figure 2(i) was drawn in about 20 seconds by male client. This client did not explain theme of the drawing. Many of the client's answers were "I do not know," and almost of others were only one word. The outline of client's answers was as follows: "The drawn is a male. Age of the drawn is as same as I. I do not know who the drawn is. He is happy and also healthy." This duration is not adequate to the drawn and answers.

Figure 2(ii) was in about 12 seconds by female. The outline of client's answers was shown in the following, the client did not answer except these at all. "The drawn is male. He is two years younger than I. I do not know who the drawn is." This duration is not also appropriate.

Next, other examples of which drawing duration were longer than 10 minutes are shown.

Figure 3(i) was in about 13 minutes by female. The outline of client's answers was as follows: "I do not know the drawn's name and age, even male or female. I had thought a common persons during my drawing. The drawn has been standing and are also going to. The drawn does not think anything. I think that cloudy

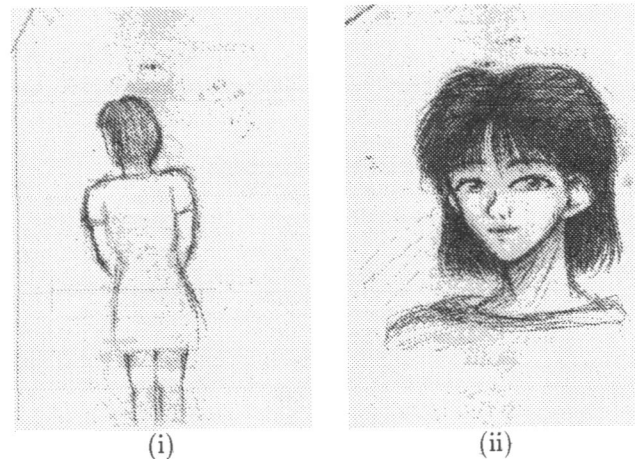


Figure 3: Examples of which drawn duration is longer than 10 minutes.

weather might be suitable. The drawn reminds me an unknown person. Arms and hands of the drawn are similar to what those "Dora-e-mon" has." This duration is not suitable for the drawn and answers.

Figure 3(ii) was in about 19'53" by female. The outline of client's answers was as follows: "The drawn is female, one year younger than I. I had thought my friend during my drawing. She is not in moving motion. She thinks only what she is now a model of drawing. I do not know what she feels. I might idealize upon the drawn. I remind having received her assistance. She is healthy because she looks well. She might be happy but I do not know why. I envy her: she is beautiful. I have inferiority complex. I think that fine weather might be suitable. She reminds me myself: in the beginning I drew myself but later the drawing object changed anyone else before I knew. She desires her peace, she is actually tired. She wears a T shirt. She is sitting with her arms folded. I received her assistance, it is true that I and she often quarrelled but I think that she is my best friend." Appropriateness of the duration might not be rejected.

3.2. Location of drawing on drawing sheet

Table 1 shows locations of client's portraits on drawing sheets. The rates of clients who drew leftward were

Table 1: Location of portrait on the test sheet.

	male	female	total
Leftward	0.429	0.278	0.359
Facing the fronts	0.429	0.444	0.436
Rightward	0.143	0.000	0.0769
Backward	0.000	0.167	0.0769

around double of the data in [2]. Facing the fronts were around a half. Rightward 10 times higher. [2] reported that the rates of backward drawn by male clients were greater than 0.0210, but this time any male clients did not. The rates upon female clients in [2] were under 0.0400. Irrespective of psychological meanings on the directions, the differences between the data of this inspection and those of [2], psychologically well known "evasion" expression, reveal the difference of characters of present students in comparison with those before about three decades: deteriorating of present students' customs and volition. It is also detected that more than half of the clients have the tendency of escape. These show the tendency of wrongdoing or mental disorder having been growing up in these decades.

3.3. Hostility

Two clients, whose dominant hands were right, drew the opposite direction compared to the expected by psychological inspections. This rate of hostility impulse might be adequate in their ages. A client did not respond at all. This is also an instance of that detection "hostility."

3.4. Drawing range

Any client was not instructed on the range of portrait to be drawn. Table 2 shows the drawn range and its rates. Traditional methods require drawing whole body. If there needs whole body drawing, instructions to

Table 2: Drawn range.

	male	female	total
Whole body	0.238	0.389	0.308
From a knee to a top	0.143	0.0556	0.103
Like a bust	0.0952	0.0556	0.0769
From a shoulder to a top	0.143	0.222	0.179
From a neck to a top	0.0476	0.167	0.103
Whole face	0.190	0.111	0.154
A part of face	0.143	0.000	0.0769

draw whole body before drawing should be presented. might insist that the drawing range has some meanings.

3.5. Miscellaneous

0.400 of clients did not have any abnormal blanks. Comical-drawing was 0.450, among these only 0.111 did not have any abnormal blanks. This might be yielded by stability under stereo-type drawing. Especially, a skeleton with abnormal blanks also existed. A cylindrical also was.

Space-constriction was only 0.100. Another abnormal "face" drawing existed in which paper-choppings were. This drawing (Figure 4) was leftward, comical drawing with abnormal blank in the upper part of the sheet, by only around 1 minute. This phenomenon might not be seen so often even in the clinical cases. This client

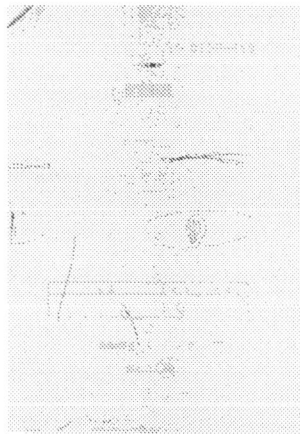


Figure 4: An example.

(male) answered as follows: "The drawn is a passing unknown twenty-year-old man returning to his own house from walking with a dog. He looks like being tired but might be happy because he likes dogs. I wish he goes somewhere else and do not be reminded anything. He looks like being unhappy because he would walk slowly. I think that he is a common man because he is walking. I think fine weather is suitable for this drawing. He desires to play with dogs (but this client did not answer the reason.) I strongly wishes him to set the dog right." The client's answers to further questions revealed that the position of his father in his mind was firmly established and the client had powerless feeling to almost everything. His needs for protection and security were also confirmed. This space-constriction shows the client's aggression with hostility feeling based upon strong frustration owing to his restricted environment.

Similarly on uneasy emotion, drawings of art were drawn by 0.325 of the clients, furthermore 0.308 among these had abnormal blank(s). Many of them were drawn delicately. Another male client drew (Figure 5) neither feet nor any parts of face. This client answered to only a few questions. "The drawn is a man. He is twenty five years old. I was not reminded anyone in the drawing. He is a common man but I do not have this feeling to

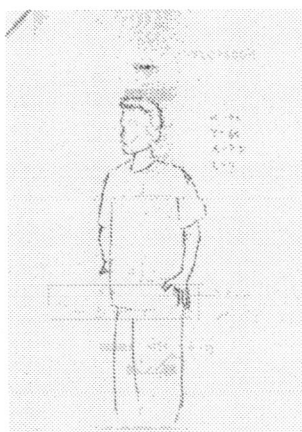


Figure 5: An example.

general men because each person has his (her) own individual character. I think that cloudy weather is suitable to this drawing." The client's answers to further questions were also simple and concrete but with few words. Eyes were not drawn, this might be a severe problem even comparison with general drawing order of parts in the face. This shows the client's limited contact to outside.

The number of clients who drew the opposite direction psychologically supposed from their dominant hands was two. This drawing style generally implies the hostility or inhibition by clients' eagerness to try essentially "difficult" problem. An example is shown in Figure 6. There were some disorders in the client's (male) answers.

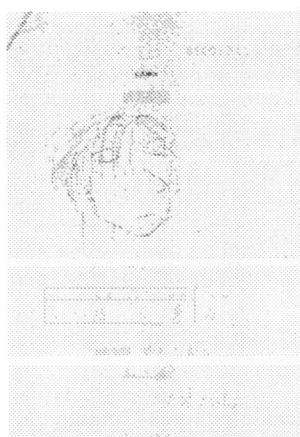


Figure 6: An example.

The client answered as follows: "The drawn person is a passing unknown person. ... A brother of his friend who is fourteen. I was not reminded nobody for him in my drawing, had few attentions to him except quite negative first impression "foolish." He looks like a bore, associated with "baseball" and also a strong man. He is a common man. I do not know who he is. He wears clothes made by denim. I think that he is strange." Severe depression to the past and client's environment, severe powerless feeling, and then difficulty of rapport establishment is easily detected.

Another example is shown in Figure 7. The client answered as follows: "The drawn is a man. (The client answered a concrete name (afterwards A) but did not explain the person here.) He is nineteen years old. I am reminded another man. (The client answered another concrete name (afterwards B).) He rides a horse owing to his occupation. He was trained at jockey course in JRA horse racing school. He lets a horse running at a turf. He thinks about winning. I do not know what he thinks and its reason. He is cool. I am reminded Mr.B. He might be healthy because he participates in races. He might also be happy owing to his success as a jockey. He is cool because he is not haughty in spite of being a son of a genius. I do not have such feelings to general persons. Fine weather is suitable to this drawing. He reminds me his father. (Maybe Mr.A is a father of Mr.B.) He might hope winning, because jockey must hope so. He has jockey-wear on. " The client explained details on Mr.B, Mr.A and other jockeys. He might be a fan of horse races.

The drawing test has further extractability of clients' characters, even positives or negatives, in comparison



Figure 7: An example.

with traditional methods. The drawing test as screening is shown useful to detect various abnormal characters with effectiveness on diagnosis similarly to traditional drawing inspection methods. Analyzing by the drawing test under the free condition, might be useful to many of present students': few of them are eager to make efforts to achieve their own concrete future purposes.

4. Conclusion

Some properties to apply portrait drawing to screening were considered. Showing conditions on duration might not be needed in free conditioned operating, the instruction to draw whole body should be required if it is needed. Growing up the tendency of wrongdoing and mental disorder in these decades were also shown by actual inspections. It is also found experimentally that portrait drawing as screening could detect various abnormal characters similarly to traditional drawing inspection methods with further extrability in comparison with the traditionals.

References

- [1] M. Scott Peck, "People of the lie," Simon & Schuster, 1983.
- [2] M. Takahashi, "Introduction of drawing test," Bunkyo Shoin, 1974.