

Psychological profiling of multiple murderers

Abstract

In my diploma thesis, I would like to summarize the basic knowledge of psychological profiling, to find out whether there are certain generally established standards for profiling experts that entitles them to participate in criminal investigations. I want to show that profiling is not just an intuitive procedure, I want to find out the role of psychological profiling in criminal investigations, whether it is important in this process for the profiling expert to know information about the victim of the crime and not only about the offender, to find out what specific information the psychological profile must provide to the investigator to be a useful tool to catch the offender, evaluate its possibilities and limits and outlined its use in the investigation of multiple murders, namely serial murders and last but not least, summarize the successful practical application of psychological profiling in practice.

I divided the thesis into five parts.

In the first part I deal with a summary of basic knowledge about the content of psychological profiling, a brief development of profiling, both abroad and in the Czech Republic and finally I would like to address the lack of legal anchoring of this concept in the Czech Republic.

In the second part I deal with alternative approaches of criminal profiling, both the approach applied by the FBI and the British approach established by David Canter, geographic profiling and last but not least the German approach of Operational Case Analysis.

In the next section I focus on the specific process of creating a psychological profile, the bases and resources that are necessary and which must be available for the profiling expert, to create psychological profiles, what is undoubtedly the content of the psychological profile, in other words, what particulars such a profile must contain in order to be most useful in the investigation, I also deal with the role of the victim and finally mention computer analysis systems, which are very helpful during this procedure.

In the fourth part I try to find out the difference between types of multiple murders, because the general public often confuses these terms, I try to emphasize the need to introduce a new concept of serial mass murder, I focus more specifically on serial murders, I present specific research about the murderers, in which criminal law specialist tried to prove the common characteristics of these multiple offenders, and refuted some of the myths that exist about serial killers. I analyze in detail the case of Russian serial killer Andrei Romanovich Chikatilo in investigating his crimes was also psychological profiling successfully used.

In the final chapter I deal with the limits of profiling and the possibilities that profiling provides, I try to describe the degree of accuracy and reliability of the psychological profile, the specific process in which the profiler tries to link individual crimes based on similar characteristics of acts, that they were committed by one perpetrator, and in conclusion, I also try to outline the possible future development of this investigation tool. I am aware that it is mostly theoretical work in which I mainly use the comparative method and the method of analysis.