

Název diplomové práce v anglickém jazyce, abstrakt v anglickém jazyce a 3 klíčová slova v anglickém jazyce

Psychological profiling of an offender

Abstract

This thesis discusses psychological profiling, which is classified as an alternative method of criminal investigation. This method is mainly used in serious crimes cases where conventional investigative procedures fail. Based on the information obtained at the crime scene, the profiler tries to create as accurate portrait of the unknown offender as possible. Such portrait is known as a psychological profile of the offender and serves primarily to narrow the pool of suspects and point investigators in the right direction. The aim of this thesis is to provide a comprehensive overview of the psychological profiling method including its shortcomings and to evaluate the contribution of this method to investigation. The thesis is divided into a total of four chapters.

The first chapter explains the concept of psychological profiling itself, provides definitions and general characteristic of the term. Then is described the historical development of this method, abroad and in the Czech Republic. Afterwards I define crimes suitable for criminal profiling and in the end of the chapter I deal with the role of profiling expert.

The second chapter is devoted to the well-known approaches to profiling - the FBI method, behavioral analysis, geographical profiling and investigative psychology - and their specifics. I briefly mention origins of each approach, its best-known exponents and the theoretical background on which each approach is based. All approaches are critically evaluated and their advantages and disadvantages are outlined.

In the third chapter I try to present the use of this method in practice on the example of two real psychological profiles and I also point out the differences between psychological profiles created using the FBI approach and those based on investigative psychology approach.

The last section of this thesis focuses on the misuse of the profile as well as the ethical issues associated with this method. Using some examples, I highlight the most common mistakes that occur during the process of profiling and describe how to avoid them. The final of the last chapter includes critical assessment of psychological profiling and outlines the direction of the future development of psychological profiling.

Key words: psychological profiling, behavioral analysis, offender