

Criminal profiling

Abstract

The purpose of my thesis is to analyse criminal profiling, one of the disciplines of forensic psychology used by law enforcement authorities in their effort to capture offender of a crime. The reason for my research is my interest in the criminal law in general, mainly in the psychological aspects of work of law enforcement authorities with individual offenders.

The thesis is composed of three chapters, each of them dealing with different aspects of criminal profiling. Chapter One is introductory and defines basic terminology of criminal profiling and the essence of criminal profiling in general. The chapter is subdivided into five parts, which deals with the term of criminal profiling, its development, particular delicts suitable for profiling, the manner of creating a profile and its efficiency in the criminal proceedings in Czech Republic.

Chapter Two examines the best known approaches to criminal profiling, its methods and typology. The chapter consists of five parts. Part One focuses on the different approaches to criminal profiling. Part Two investigates the deductive and inductive methods of criminal profiling. Part Three addresses the issue of the best known computer databases used in criminal profiling, ViCLAS and VICAP. Part Four focuses on geographic profiling, a method closely related to criminal profiling and part Five addresses the most familiar typology of offenders and delicts, the organized and disorganized one.

Chapter Three looks at the limits and possibilities of criminal profiling. Discusses the efficiency of the methods of criminal profiling in the effort of law enforcement authorities to capture the offender and addresses particular aspects of the probability that the drawn up profile would correspond with the reality.

The conclusion of my thesis is that in my opinion the discipline of criminal profiling is very helpful tool in the everyday's effort of criminalists to carry out the law, capture the offender and stand him for a trial. But it is important to remember that it is only one of the subsidiary methods next to the traditional criminal approaches and can't be relied on solely. Criminal profiling is a subject to many errors and mistakes, which can occur during the process of the creation of criminal profile. It can be used as the

check-up of results of investigation or as a clue to focus the investigation in the right direction.