Abstract

In my thesis I focus on psychological profiling of an offender which is one of relatively new and rapidly developing methods of investigation. In its modern form it was developed in United States in early 70´s and it is currently used more and more frequently. Therefore new possibilities of its use are still developed. The method that was originally used basically just to create the profile of an unknown perpetrator, is now used much more broadly.

I chose it as a topic of my thesis primarily for its multidisciplinary nature, the breadth of its application possibilities and openness to new knowledge and theories. Not quite irrelevant reason was also a certain controversy that acompannies this technique.

The purpose of my thesis is an attempt at comprehensive and sober perspective, organizing current knowledge and exploring how can psychological profiling help in linking crimes in series.

I divided the work into three chapters. The first chapter deals with the general characteristics of psychological profiling, particularly the definition of the term, historical roots and development of the method, its objectives, purposes and suitable situations for its use.

The second chapter focuses on issues of methodology of psychological profiling, both generally and in terms of different approaches. I also try to describe and analyze the basic procedures that are used most often in profiling including their therotical background. These methods are classical profiling, geographical profiling and forensic psycholinguistics.

In the last, the third chapter, I examine the possibility of using psychological profiling for linking crimes in series. I try to analyze general issues of linking crimes, illustrate basic theoretical background of both, common psychology and psychological profiling in this area, and describe the process of linking crimes. Special part of this chapter is dedicated to databe system called ViCLAS, which is important tool and source of informations used by investigators to linking crimes and which could be very helpful for searching serial crimes committed on the territory of different countries.

Conclusions of my thesis shows that from psychological profiling can not be expected certain conclusions nor wholly accurate identification of offenders, but it has

great potential, especially in linking serial crimes. It also shows some problems and imperfection of this method and point out that it is still necessary to continue further development.