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THE PHENOMENON OF THE CRIMINAL’S RETURN TO THE CRIME SCENE:
PSYCHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS
(based on F.M. Dostoevsky’s novel "Crime and Punishment")

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Introduction. The reasons for the return of the criminal to the scene of the crime are analyzed using the plot of F.M. Dostoevsky’s novel "Crime and Punishment", based on the theories of Freudianism and reflexology. The episode in that Rodion Raskolnikov returns to the crime scene became the reason for the author's long years of reflection on the criminal's behavior mechanisms.

The purpose of the study is to conduct a psychological analysis of Raskolnikov’s behavior when he returns to the crime scene through the theories of Z. Freud and A.V. Dulov.

The methodology. The author uses reflexology theories of I.P. Pavlov, V.M. Bekhterev, I.M. Sechenov, A.A. Ukhtomsky, the theory of person’s relations of V.N. Myasishchev, the theory of A.V. Dulov, the theory of Z. Freud, principles of systemacity, unity of consciousness and activity, causality, pleasure-displeasure, content analysis of Dostoevsky’s novel. The author uses empirical observations based from his own practical work in law enforcement.

The main results, scope of application. An analysis of the determinants of the return to the crime scene of the main character of the novel "Crime and Punishment" through the psychoanalysis and reflexology was being undertaken for the first time. Based on the theory of A.V. Dulov about the impact of criminal activity on the increase in the mental stress of the criminal and guided by the theory of Z. Freud on the principle of pleasure-displeasure the author demonstrates on the example of Raskolnikov’s behavior that one of the reasons for the return of the criminal to the crime scene is the need to relieve mental stress determined by the consequences of the crime and getting pleasure from the discharge of an overstrained nervous system. This research is important both for theory and for law enforcement practice. The psychological analysis of criminal behavior outlined in the article will allow employees whose profession is related to solving crimes to look into criminal’s inner world, to predict the consequences of the crime that can be expressed in return of the criminal to the crime scene.

Conclusions. The analysis of Rodion Raskolnikov's criminal behavior shows the psychological and criminological nature of the Dostoevsky's novel. It can be argued that in the active activity of the criminal, after the commission of a crime, there is both a conscious and unconscious search for a mental discharge of an overstressed nervous system.
1. Introduction.

Literary critics, linguists, historians, art historians, cultural scholars, lawyers, teachers have been discussing the work of Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky for 150 years, finding new and new facets in his works, but criminologists and legal psychologists have not yet drawn a parallel between the psychological portraits of the characters of Dostoevsky’s novels and the achievements of modern psychology and criminology in solving the mysteries of the criminal’s psyche from the perspective of socio-cultural reality. [1]

I discovered F.M. Dostoevsky as a criminologist psychologist while working in a penitentiary institution, drawing parallels between real criminals and fictional characters by the author, whom, not for nothing Horst-Jurgen Gerick in the article "Dostoevsky's crime scenes" called a "crime writer" [2].

Then the police practice, and many years of work in educational institutions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, constantly forced me to think about the psychological determinants of criminal behavior, the answers to many of which were found in the works of F.M. Dostoevsky. In the future, the plots from these works were used by me as illustrative material in classes on psychological training of cadets and students of educational institutions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The illustration of the features of the criminal’s behavior and the reasons that encourage him to commit a crime also formed the basis of a collective monograph on the use of psychological knowledge in operational investigative work [3]. Later, when I was already working at the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, meeting my graduates, who by that time had become heads of the Department of Internal Affairs of various levels, I learned from their stories that the classes were not in vain. The result of the methodology of psychological training of police officers developed by us were dozens of detained criminals who behaved in a similar way, one way or another returning to the crime scene. One of the sections of the psychological training developed by us is devoted to the topic of psychological determinants of criminal behavior after a crime has been committed.

The study of the consequences of criminal behavior, in particular the analysis of the psychological determinants of the behavior of a criminal returning to the scene of a crime committed by him, in our opinion, has not yet been sufficiently presented in scientific research to date. For the first time we find an analysis of this phenomenon in the works of the famous Soviet psychiatrist and medical psychologist, researcher of the problems of human abilities and relationships, Vladimir Nikolaevich Myasishchev in 1965[4], and then, in 1975, an outstanding researcher in the field of criminology and forensic psychology Andrey Vasilyevich Dulov considers this problem more extensively and in depth [5].

In the future, a number of authors (Chufarovskiy Yu.V. [6], Ratinov A.R. [7], Antonyan Yu.M., Enikeev M.I. [8]) We also considered the consequences of criminal behavior in our research, but in our opinion, insufficient attention was paid to the phenomenon of the criminal returning to the crime scene.

The analysis of the determinants of the return to the crime scene of the main character of the novel "Crime and Punishment", from the standpoint of the theory of psychoanalysis and reflexology, is carried out for the first time.

The theoretical basis of the study was the theory of reflexology of I.P. Pavlov, V.M. Bekhterev, I. M. Sechenov, A.A. Ukhтомsky, the theory of personality relations of V.N. Myasishchev, the theory of S. Freud, principles of consistency, unity of consciousness and activity, causality, principles of pleasure-displeasure, content analysis of the works of F.M. Dostoevsky. The empirical basis for writing the article was the personal ten-year experience of practical work in law enforcement agencies, as well as the method of monitoring the results of the use of psychological knowledge in solving crimes by graduates of universities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in whose professional training, for twenty years, the author of the article took part.

It should be noted that in criminology and legal psychology, the question has long been discussed – why does the criminal return to the crime scene? It is proposed to consider the reasons for the criminal’s return to the crime scene in relation to the determinants of criminal behavior that leave traces in the criminal’s personality. For example, V.N. Myasishchev was convinced that a committed crime always generates mental changes in the criminal’s personality. [4; 9]. A.V. Dulov, expanding V.N. Myasishchev’s concept with the theory of reflexology [10; 11, ch. 48, 51; 12; 13 p. 38], writes: “In order to understand the specificity of the criminal’s mental states after the commission of a crime, it is necessary first of all to find out the usual totality of them after the completion of any activity. The implementation of functions in the activity is accompanied by various states, which reflect the attitude of the subject in it” [5, p. 228]. Considering the behavior of the criminal after the commission of the crime, A.V. Dulov notes that the most common reason for a criminal to return to the crime scene is the desire to make sure that they have not left evidence, as well as to obtain information about the progress of the investigation of the crime committed by him [5, pp. 228-235]. There is also an opinion that criminals with a perverted psyche return to the crime scene, who enjoy the memory of the criminal event that occurred. It is this position that F.M. describes. Dostoevsky in the monologue of a very interesting character, the only one in the novel "Crime and Punishment" who does not have a surname, is the investigator Porfiry Petrovich, who throughout the novel leads a psychological duel with Raskolnikov. At their third meeting, Porfiry Petrovich explains the reason for the criminal's return to the apartment of the interest-taker he killed: "... in a half-delirium, to remember this bell goes, it took to experience the cold of the spinal cord again...”[1] (p. 271), noting the sensations that Raskolnikov experienced when he returned to the apartment of the interest-taker and enjoyed the sound of the entrance bell, remembering the crime that happened the day before.

So what is the reason for the psychological mechanism that forces the criminal to return to the scene of his crime? We can find the answer to this question in F.M. Dostoevsky's novel itself, although his idea, laid down in the plots about Rodion Raskolnikov's return to the crime scene, has not yet been subjected to a deep psychological analysis, and this despite the fact that the writer twice points out this phenomenon to us in the novel. At the beginning, the novel tells how Raskolnikov unknowingly comes to the apartment of the murdered interest-payer and rings the bell for a long time, getting some pleasure from its sound, activating with these sounds the events on the day of the murder in memory. And then the writer reintroduces into the plot a description of Raskolnikov’s feelings, who, as it were, returns to the scene of the crime, but already in a dream. As you know, in a dream, a person's consciousness is turned off, according to modern psychologists, our unconscious is not burdened with the reflective work of consciousness, and his unconscious determinants are actualized in a person. In a dream Raskolnikov reliving the feelings that he experienced during the commission of the murder, unknowingly returning to the scene of the crime.

Is it by chance that F.M. Dostoevsky introduces Raskolnikov's return to the crime scene twice into the plot of the novel? Many researchers of F.M. Dostoevsky's works have proved that there is nothing accidental in his works, there are deep meanings behind each phrase of the characters, which should be worked on not only by literary critics, cultural scientists, but also by criminologists. Moreover, in this case, the writer left us some information in the novel for its in-depth study and reflection on the mythological meanings in the behavior of the fictional hero. [14] Many literary critics [15] when analyzing the novel, the main emphasis was placed on the dualism of crime and punishment, without taking into account the genesis of criminal behavior. Dostoevsky's genius lies in the polyvariance of the storylines, when, when investigating the author's idea, his thoughts, like a diamond, when changing the accent lighting, can play with other colors.


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This is how F.M. Dostoevsky describes Raskolnikov's condition when he wandered into the apartment of the old woman who had been killed by him: "Instead of answering, Raskolnikov got up, went out into the hall, took hold of the bell and pulled. The same bell, the same tinny sound! He pulled a second, a third time; he listened and remembered. The old, painfully terrible, ugly feeling began to come back to him more vividly and vividly, he shuddered with each blow, and it became more and more pleasant to him" (p. 104).

The key phrase in this episode are the words "... nicer and nicer...", which F.M. Dostoevsky describes Raskolnikov's feelings to us. In this case, we are dealing with sensations based on the principle of pleasure (German Lustprinzip), which is one of the regulators of the human mental apparatus, and which is designed to lead the human body to reduce mental stress to a minimum level. Namely, Rodion Raskolnikov was in such a state, of the strongest mental overstrain, after the double murder he committed: «... But all these torments had exhausted him so much that he could barely move. Sweat was coming out of him in drops, his neck was all wet..." (p.56).

3. Application of the theories of S. Freud and A.V. Dulov.

For the first time, the idea of the stimulating effect on the human psyche of mechanisms based on the principles of "pleasure and displeasure" was put forward in 1873 by T. Fechner. Developing the idea of T. Fechner, Sigmund Freud in his work "Beyond the pleasure principle" [17] argues that the phenomenon of the pleasure principle lies in the unconscious desire of a person to avoid negative emotions (displeasure). Everything that contributes, according to Z. Freud, the increase in tension, can be considered as a violation of the normal functioning of the body, and this causes unconscious displeasure in a person and the desire of the psyche to return to a stable psychophysical state. A stable and unstable state of the psyche is precisely regulated by the principles of pleasure and displeasure. From this point of view, F.M. Dostoevsky described Raskolnikov's behavior very accurately precisely after the crime he committed.

A.V. Dulov writes about the consequences of criminal behavior [5], who conducted a comparative analysis of the completion of mental activity, in an ordinary person, and in a criminal. In an ordinary person, according to the scientist, when the goal of his activity is achieved, there is a decline in mental activity. After all, it is well known that any type of activity is aimed at satisfying any human needs that are in an unsatisfied state. It is the dissatisfaction of needs that creates a state of tension, and acts as an incentive to increase the activity of the human psyche, striving to achieve the goal in its activities to satisfy the actualized need and remove the increased tension. Having reached his goal, a person experiences a decrease in tension, peace and contentment come, which, according to T. Fechner, is the realization of the pleasure principle.

A.V. Dulov believes that there is no such decline in criminal activity, due to the criminal's awareness not only of what has been committed (guilt), but also of the consequences of the crime, which is an additional incentive for mental activity and internal tension. Here is what A.V. Dulov writes about this: "One of the specific features of a person's psyche after committing a crime is that mental tension does not subside, but increases. The natural appearance and development of mental stress is caused by a number of factors. First of all, this is due to the perception and emotional impact of the very result of criminal actions" [5, p. 228].

The reasons why the criminal's mental activity does not decrease, but on the contrary, increases, should include the presence of an emotional impact on the criminal of the results of the crime itself, especially if the crime is related to murder or other violent actions that can leave only a mentally ill person indifferent. In the process of committing a crime, the criminal, in addition to emotional excitement, also activates mental activity, that is, there is awareness of his actions and their consequences, primarily responsibility for what has been committed, which leads to an increase in general mental tension and, as a consequence, the criminal increases anxiety, which is an integral feature of the criminal personality. The criminal has an unconscious anxiety caused by the expectation of exposure and subsequent punishment. This is especially evident if, with a well-planned crime, new
circumstances have appeared, for example, as in the novel "Crime and Punishment", the appearance of Lisa, for whose murder Raskolnikov was not ready. In this case, the strength of the emotional impact increases, the internal tension increases, which the criminal seeks to relieve with the help of various discharge mechanisms. Discharge is necessary to relieve the tension of the psyche, which itself, at the expense of internal resources, seeks to acquire a stable state.

4. The state of the criminal as a stress requiring discharge.

The state of a criminal during the commission of a crime can be classified as stress (by which we mean a set of nonspecific adaptive (normal) reactions of the body to the effects of various adverse factors–stressors (physical or psychological) that violate its homeostasis), which is aimed at stimulating the sympatho-autonomic nervous system as a protective and adaptive reaction of the body, with the involvement of neurohumoral regulation, in which nerve impulses take a joint part in a single regulatory process. In other words, adrenaline is injected into the blood, which is necessary for actions in extreme situations on the principle of "run away-attack". The doctrine of neurophysiological mechanisms of human mental activity was founded by scientific research by Soviet physiologists V.M. Bekhterev, I.M. Sechenov, I.P. Pavlov and, and then became more deeply investigated by A.A. Ukhtomsky. [10;11;12;13]

In a state of nervous overexcitement, which always accompanies stress, mental changes occur in the criminal – the emotional sphere begins to prevail over the intellectual sphere. In this state, self-control decreases, logical thinking becomes difficult, which is a favorable factor for detectives in solving crimes "hot on the trail". In other words, when a criminal is in an overexcited state, he can make a mistake by giving a "lead" to employees to solve the crime. In the modern tactics of solving crimes "in hot pursuit", it is provided for the preparation of a wanted psychological portrait of the criminal, which includes the alleged "probability of returning to one of the places where the murders were committed" [17] We can also find a description of individual components of modern tactics of crime detection in the novel by F.M. Dostoevsky, in the form of "psychological duels" of the experienced investigator Porfiry Petrovich and Raskolnikov.

Dostoevsky shows us not only the crime, but also the punishment of the criminal, which originates from the growing mental tension in Raskolnikov, which he experienced already at the time of the crime. Reading the novel, we observe how Raskolnikov rushes in search of a discharge of his overstressed nervous system.

What are the ways to relieve mental stress? First of all, the criminal wants to speak out, find an interlocutor with whom he will receive a state of catharsis during the conversation (by which we mean a short-term state of relief and joy that comes after a strong negative experience passes or a serious illness recedes. From ancient Greek, the word κάθαρσις translates as "purification" or "healing").

Dostoevsky in the novel describes Raskolnikov's repeated attempts to speak out, both in the case of a revelation with Sonya and with other characters in the novel: "If they ask, maybe I'll tell them," he thought, approaching the office" (p.60); "I'll go in, get on my knees and that's it I'll tell you...", he thought, entering the fourth floor" (p.60). But Raskolnikov can't talk it out, because in his own psychotype he is an introvert. These are extroverts (by extroversion we mean a complex of personality traits, which is characterized by a tendency to wide, diverse social contacts (sociability, sociability, talkativeness), orientation not to the inner, but to the outside world) they can use communication to switch their mental activity to the outside world. Introverts (by introversion we mean a complex of personality traits, which is inherent in avoiding social contacts (lack of communication, unsociability), the desire for privacy, orientation not to the outside, but to the inner world (feelings, thoughts, images)), among which Raskolnikov can be attributed, have to bring their nervous system to exhaustion, to reset the tension of the psyche. Therefore, introverted criminals, unable to get a discharge through communication (in the form of "talking it out"), are looking for an opportunity to get a discharge due to the newly experienced
emotions associated with the crime. In the novel, this is described as follows: "For some reason, it seemed to him that he would meet everything exactly the same way as he left then, even maybe corpses in the same places on the floor..." [14, p. 104] On a subconscious level, Raskolnikov strives for stronger emotions, unconsciously waiting for the discharge of his overexcitement.

Criminals also use various ways to relieve increasing anxiety and anxiety with the help of alcohol or narcotic drugs. Criminals often use both conversation and intoxicating substances to defuse mental tension.

In addition to the increasing tension from the awareness of the crime committed, the uncertainty factor associated with the lack of information about the progress of the investigation also affects the psyche of the criminal. In this case, the criminal begins to actively help the investigation, striving to be immersed in what is happening, which helps him to eliminate the traces of his crime left by him in time. We also observe this behavior in the behavior of Raskolnikov, who, under the pretext of returning the father's watch pawned by the interest-taker, gets acquainted with the investigator Porfiry Petrovich, who is investigating the murder of an old interest-taker and her sister Lisa. In fact, Raskolnikov has a different goal, namely, to find out how the investigation is progressing and whether he himself is suspected of committing murders.

As practice shows, criminals very often show interest in the course of the investigation and even make attempts to assist the investigation, primarily in order to obtain information about the investigation. This behavior can be called "veiled return to the crime scene."

However, often the criminal acts impulsively, unconsciously, as if he is attracted to the crime scene itself, and this is how Dostoevsky describes it: "He walked and looked at the ground. Suddenly, as if someone had whispered something in his ear. He raised his head and saw that he was standing at that house, at the very gate. He hasn't been here or passed by since that evening. An irresistible and inexplicable desire attracted him" (p. 103).

When it comes to "unexplained desires", we recall Freud and his theory about the unconscious, in which there is a place for theories about dreams. And, as already mentioned, in the plot Dostoevsky describes two returns to the crime scene, in the description of which we see the intensity of emotions that constantly keep Raskolnikov in an overexcited state, and from which he is constantly trying to get rid of, striving to experience the pleasure of reducing mental stress.

Thus, it can be concluded that returning to the scene of the crime should be considered as one of the ways of the criminal to get rid of mental stress through active activity associated with obtaining thrills that help switch the psyche to a brighter emotion, in order to bring the psyche to overstrain, after which there is an inevitable decline in the excitement of the sympathetic nervous system. It is in this way that the criminal, without realizing it, most often tries to remove the tension that has arisen after the crime.

5. Conclusions.

The psychological analysis of Rodion Raskolnikov's criminal behavior carried out in the
article shows the psychological and criminological nature of the novel. Dozens of articles and monographs have been written about the work of F.M. Dostoevsky, but, unfortunately, in modern legal psychology and criminology, the legacy of the great Russian classic has not been given due attention. The novel "Crime and Punishment" illustrates various aspects of criminal behavior: preparation for the commission of a crime, the immediate process of its commission, as well as the consequences of criminal acts in the form of a change in the criminal's personality.

Using the example of Raskolnikov's behavior described in the novel, it can be argued that in the active activity of the criminal, after the commission of a crime, there is both a conscious and unconscious search for a mental discharge of an overstressed nervous system. In order to relieve mental tension and get pleasure from it, the criminal is unconsciously attracted to the crime scene, where he can get a discharge of his overstressed psyche, which is fully explained by the theory of Z. Freud's principles of "pleasure-displeasure". [17]

All this indicates that the novel can be useful for expanding the horizons and forming the professionalism of law enforcement officers. The value of the novel lies in the fact that, studying the theory of legal psychology on the example of the characters and plots described by F.M. According to Dostoevsky, law enforcement officers directly involved in the detection of crimes have the opportunity to look into the inner world of the criminal, which allows for a better understanding of the stages of preparation of the criminal to commit a crime. Using Raskolnikov's example, it is possible to illustrate how changes occur in the mental structure of the criminal's personality, so his behavior changes, which is very important for the practical activities of employees who solve and investigate crimes today. Understanding the inner world of the criminal, the determinants of his behavior will allow you to predict the consequences of the crime and assess the likelihood of the criminal returning to the crime scene.

The psychological analysis of this novel, as well as other works by Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky, the central plot of which were crimes, can become a promising scientific research in the field of legal psychology and criminology, as well as the improvement of the educational process [18] in the system of training specialists involved in the disclosure and investigation of crimes.
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