

# CRIMINAL PROFILING IN CRIME INVESTIGATION

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## Abstract

*This article proposes a theoretical and practical approach of the criminal profiling and underlines its importance for the criminal investigation domain. The process by which are indicated the personality characteristics of a crime author, taking into account the analysis of the crime scene, various types of personalities of the perpetrators to criminal activity, the statistical data of similar acts can be called "criminal profiling", although there is no unanimously accepted definition so far.*

**Keywords:** *the psychological profile, criminal profiling, criminal investigation, behavioural characteristics*

The shaping of the psychological profile of the author is an investigation process in criminal prosecution, through which it is tried to examine and to comprehend the personality traits and, implicitly, the behaviour of the crime author in order to indicate the possible person (or its type) responsible for the criminal activity. The method is to be regarded as a help in criminal investigation, with the role of orienting the activities towards the most suitable suspects, to remove the suspicions concerning the suspects not related to the crime and, after the identification of the authors should not be seen as making a composite sketch of the crime author, but mostly as a description of his personality.

The most common definition is Veron Géberth's: "the psychological profile is the result of providing the investigators with specific information about an unknown author who committed a certain crime, process based on the detailed investigation of the crime scene, victimology and known psychophysical theories"<sup>1</sup>, and other authors define profiling" as "a technique for determining the personality and behavioural characteristics of an individual, taking into account his criminal background, various types of personalities of offenders committing similar acts".<sup>2</sup>

In the early 1960s-1970s, the American authorities have given a higher importance to the contribution of psychology and psychiatry to identifying unknown authors who committed severe or less severe acts. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) from US has adopted this new "investigation method" which did not have as result the immediate identification of the crime authors, but did bring an important contribution related to investigation's targeting their faster finding. This method, known in the US as "psychological profiling" ("profiling"), it is an endeavour essentially founded on the expertise, logic, intuition and large knowledge in various domains such as: scientific philosophy, forensic medicine,

criminology technique, sociology, psychology, psychiatry, etc.

The development of the criminal profiling method is due to the profound knowledge of the personality of violent persons. Numerous researches and documentation were made in the prison environment, and important and conclusive information have been obtained. During many years, the authors of many sexual assaults, homicide, fire, destruction, etc. were systematically interviewed. They detailed the reasons about committing various acts for which they were found guilty, about their remorse, the way they choose their victims, their childhood and teenage years, the education they received and their entire life to the moment of committing the act.<sup>3</sup>

These researches and documentation had as purpose the establishment of the National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crimes, whose necessity was proven by obtaining positive results after applying the psychology in solving some criminal cases and the alarming increase (at least in the US) of crimes committed through violence. The establishment of this Center was not the last step done in the process of introducing the author's profile in criminal investigation. At the moment, not only in the US, but in many countries of the world, a greater importance is granted to this field, known by us under the name of "psycho-forensics".

The importance of this method has been witnessed since the 1950s, when into the FBI was created a research and profiling development Center, called Investigative Supportive Unit. It was very helpful creating a large database containing the information obtained by interviewing the convicted criminals, storing at the statistical level, all these deviant behaviours with all the personality traits arising from. From 1976 to 1979, many FBI agents have been known, including the well-known John Douglas and Robert Ressler, have interviewed 36 serial killers with

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<sup>1</sup> Vernon Geberth, Forensic Science University Package: Practical Homicide Investigation, Fourth Edition.

<sup>2</sup> Ressler R., Criminal Profiling from Crime Scene Analysis in Behavioral Sciences and the law, nr.4, 1986, p.401-405.

<sup>3</sup> Lea Winerman, „Criminal profiling: the reality behind the myth", article published on the American Psychology Association, Volume 35, No. 7, July 2004, p. 66. <http://www.apa.org/monitor/julaug04/criminal.aspx>

the purpose to develop theories and categories of various types of criminals.<sup>4</sup>

In 1972s, the Behavioral Science Unit (BSU) was set up within the FBI Academy as a specialized unit in profiling techniques. The specialized unit has developed certain techniques and procedures in behavioural analysis programs.

In Europe, in 1933s, Interpol established a crime analysis unit called ANALYTICAL CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT (ACIU), a unit that assesses the nature and size of various criminal activities, including serial killers or organized crime groups, introducing structures, techniques and methods for carrying out a complex analysis of the criminal phenomenon.

Even though the FBI's approach has gained **public interest, some psychologists have doubted** its scientific knowledge. Robert Ressler, John Douglas and other FBI agents did not have studies in the field, so the psychologists who studied their theories and researches did find methodological mistakes. Some psychologists developed their own researches in criminal profiling field and have develop new approaches, concept, classification systems.<sup>5</sup>

The modern profiling did build a strong foundation on the researches from criminology, psychology, psychiatry and forensic fields.

### General Considerations

Criminal profiling is operating with the personality concept - a multidisciplinary construct. The personality concept<sup>6</sup> incorporates the essence of the human as subject and object of the historical-social process, a system of biological, psychological and social attributes, behavioural, temperamental, character structures, personal values related to social values which a person can have. Any person having intellectual, affective, volitive, character and temperamental peculiarities, being different and being similar at the same time to his peers, presents himself also as a unique personality, organized according to his genetics and environment influences.

Criminal profiling implies in the whole concept the given idea, taking into account a particular case, the law of the judicial investigation. „The research of the

personality of an unknown offender, even though takes in consideration concept models, psychology elaborates in order to define and determine its profile, however makes use of particular schemes, accepted in the special sciences field.”<sup>7</sup> Thereby, in the process of drawing the profile, it is tried to define the offender's personality traits, the elements related to motivation, skills, preparation and behavioural - criminal orientation. The need of a large research of the criminal personality it is conditioned by both law's tasks: discovering, researching, punishing the crimes and orienting the activity towards crime prevention; and the contemporary general-human orientation toward humanism, social relationship harmonisation, annihilation of distorted factors which are provoking interpersonal and intergroup conflicts.

A contemporary research of the criminal profile involved in a crime is referred to a series of aspects. No doubt that the law research of the offender's personality, which identifies it with crime and is oriented towards its four components - crime's subject, its objective and subjective causes, shall not offer sufficient material for the full understanding of both, criminal personality, and the concrete person and the actions provoking the criminal case. It is required a dynamic treatment, which takes in consideration the genesis and the affirmation of the most productive personality, which are capable of other sciences - psychology, sociology criminology. The analysis of the personality under these sciences offers knowledge which allows the comprehension of all the aspect of the deviant behaviour.

Criminal profiling is a complex and complicated activity. In the psychological profile of any human being involved in crime, shall blend both positive qualities, as well those which shall characterize the occurrence of a certain social group - criminals. The psychical qualities of any human cannot fatally decide his antisocial role of offender. There are however some psychical peculiarities like social factors, which shall determine the psychological profile and behavioural orientation. When we talk about the offender's personality's, these are to be analysed.

Some authors, researching on the criminal formation process<sup>8</sup>, mentioned the role of psychological and physiological peculiarities - of the

<sup>4</sup> Lea Winerman, „Criminal profiling: the reality behind the myth”, article published on the American Psychology Association, Volume 35, No. 7, July 2004, p. 66.

<http://www.apa.org/monitor/julaug04/criminal.aspx>

<sup>5</sup> Lea Winerman, „Criminal profiling: the reality behind the myth”, article published on the American Psychology Association, Volume 35, No. 7, July 2004, p. 66.

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<sup>6</sup> Personality is a wide-spread term which sense it is known to the common language. The majority uses the word to refer to a complex of characteristics defining the way in which a person sees and acts in the world - something similar to the combined processes of thinking and behavioural. In psychology, it could be determined as emotional, cognitive, and behavioural unique traits of each individual, learned and evolved through expertise and relatively consistency throughout time.

Is is unlikely to find a consent between psychologists related to personality's nature. There is no unique perspective over which all researchers could agree. It is difficult to find an agreement for sole personality definition, but mostly related to its characteristics. Rather than looking for a convergence, the psychologists belonging to various schools, did advance theories and definitions of personality which they sustained and defend with great passion and belief.

<sup>7</sup> Tudorel Butoi, „Tratat universitar de psihologie judiciară”, Publishing House Phobos, Bucharest, 2003, p. 125.

<sup>8</sup> Nicolae Mitrofan, Voicu Zdrenghea, Tudorel Butoi, „Psihologie judiciară”, Publishing House Șansă, Bucharest 1992, p. 162.

psychical, behavioural, character type system, and social factors, mostly of those which shall determine the socialising process of the individual. In the circle of the subjective causes of a crime, the author marks his thinking and consciousness, dominated by certain representations, contradictory to those general-humans, social orientation as result of needs, interests and motivation with an antisocial character. It is obvious the orientation of the research of the offender's personality in order to appoint the correlation between social and biological, this process being analysed only through its dynamic: "within the process of social development, personality formation"<sup>9</sup>.

Criminal profiling offers information to all law agents which are conducting the criminal investigation. It is a fact that in the criminal investigation, a simple profile cannot lead to the exact identification of the offender. However, criminal profiling can eliminate an important part of variants, restricting enough the suspects circle. More data offers the criminal profile and more efficient will be the criminal investigation.

Criminal profiling was defined as "a collection of clues"<sup>10</sup>, "an educated try to offer specific information related to a certain type of suspect"<sup>11</sup> and as a biographic sketch of behavioural models and possible tendencies arising from these<sup>12</sup>

Some authors have confirmed related to criminal profiling that it is especially useful when the offender suffers of a form of psychopathology. The FBI defines criminal profiling as being that identification technique of the major personality traits and behavioural characteristics of an individual, starting from the crime analyse. The investigator's ability consists in recognising the dynamic of the scene and its correlation to various criminal figures which committed similar crimes.

Criminal profiling is based on the principle that any author of a crime, independently of the committed crime, will act on a "values set" basis. These values or "signatures", are same way personalised as handwriting and once identified, they can be used to help

investigators in the physical identification of the criminal<sup>13</sup>.

## Scientific methods of drawing up the criminal profiling

### A. FBI's method: the investigation of the crime scene<sup>14</sup>

The original method used by FBI, was performed by the FBI agents Howard Teten and Pat Mullany and involves the first overall impression on the mental status of the criminal based on the overall observation of the crime scene.

Later, in 1979s and 1983s, following a study based on the interviewing of the sentenced criminals, FBI agents, Douglas John and Ressler Robert have updated the process of the profiling in the current approach: analysis of the crime scene. The importance of researching the crime scene, its urgent nature and irreplaceable as well as its wealth of samples that can be gathered (not just physical evidence, but also psychological) have been understood by the forensics long time before the official development of the FBI method. This takes place in six steps<sup>15</sup>:

- The collection and evaluation of the primary data (Profiling Imputus)- in this step, particularly important, whose achieving depends the whole investigation and its results, where all the information regarding the case are gathered: the photos of the crime scene and of the victims, the autopsy results and of the analysis of the samples founded at the crime scene and all the other information that can be relevant in shaping a precise picture of what happened before, in the middle and after murder.

- Templates of data systematisation (Decision Process Models) – the second step involves all of the information assembling collected into a logical, coherent pattern of the preceding stage. As a result of data systematisation can be determined the crime.

- The systematic interpretation of the criminal activity (Crime Assessment), is the time of

<sup>9</sup> Jenkins, P., „Using murder: The social construction of serial homicide”. New York: Aldine de Gruyter, 1994, p. 142.

<sup>10</sup> Nicolae Mitrofan, Voicu Zdrenghea, Tudorel Butoi, „Psihologie judiciară”, Publishing House Șansă, Bucharest 1992, p. 163.

<sup>11</sup> Vernon Geberth, Forensic Science University Package: Practical Homicide Investigation, Fourth Edition, 2008, p. 164.

<sup>12</sup> Idem, p. 165.

<sup>13</sup> Jenkins, P., „Using murder: The social construction of serial homicide”. New York: Aldine de Gruyter, 1994, p. 146.

<sup>14</sup> A school case in this sense, is Râmăru killer's profile analysed by Univ. Prof. PhD Tudorel BUTOI and by Alina TĂNASE in the article Profiler. In „the Eagle” operation – Analysing the case Râmăru (father and son) from the psychological perspective:

“A young man in his mid20s (insane courage - “youthful arrogance”, correlated with the ages of the victims).

Disturbingly often (prolific criminal, whose timeless attacks don't follow a pattern), so it's probably about a psycho criminal, with a compulsive behaviour, the crimes being lived as a way of achieving satisfaction.

The free of remorse psychopath, believing that the victim had received what deserves (this results from the way in which he left the bodies).

Victims: young women (sexual moving body –sexual psychopath) over which he was going into the night, in their own homes (by forcing the window, break-in – Freud: rape), from the basement (the underground in Freud's psychoanalysis – the symbol of early childhood, so probably once abused, where the inability to have normal relations with the young women that he was murdering of, attachment disorder in the early childhood– violence against women: the need of killing them, not necessarily to rape them, so the need of absolute control).

Weather: strong storm, heavy rain, which means nature's “help”, specific “Wolf Man” through surprising attacks and for easier hide, because otherwise he wouldn't be able to approach the women.

Cowardice (the shyness is the result of particular neurotic tendencies; they may have the source, typical, in early childhood education by the hyper authoritarian families) because he has to attack them over night, on a weather he can hide, while they're sleeping, without the possibility to defend themselves. This means a lack of self-confidence in order to have normal relationships.”

<sup>15</sup> Nicolae Mitrofan, Voicu Zdrenghea, Tudorel Butoi, „Psihologie judiciară”, Publishing House Șansă, Bucharest 1992, p. 162.

reconstitution of the events and of the criminal behaviour of the author as well as the victim. Are intended to understand the role each participant had (victim and perpetrator) in what happened.

- Establishing the criminal profile - There shall be a characteristics list of the possible author of the crime, list that could target: a range of age, the sex, ethnicity, some particular physical traits (like a deformity, or a specific disease), the weight, the height, occupation, level of education and culture, behavioural symptoms, possible speech defects, matters concerning author's relations to other people. Data serve to determining identification process, detention of the suspect and the establishment of appropriate questioning methods of the suspect.

- The Investigation. Being realised the author's profile, it is surrendered to criminal Courts. Ideally would be that the profile to point direction that focuses the efforts of the investigators and to narrow the circle of the suspects. The Profile can suffer changes, unless doesn't lead to any suspect or if appear new evidence, the profile is reconsidering in order to incorporate new evidence.

- The Apprehension. In this stage are compared the characteristics of the suspect to the original profile prior identified therefore. In many cases, this comparison or verification can't be realised because of the missing author of the crime.

At the bottom of the FBI's method there is the dichotomy of the organised - disorganised offender<sup>16</sup>, according to which are classified the crime scenes. An organised crime scene shows the attentive planning and control from the offender's side when he commits the murder; this thing makes reference to educated individuals with social competences, which are able to maintain harmonious relationships with people around. At the opposite end there is a disorganised crime scene, which indicates the lack of control and capacity to take intelligent decisions. The disorganised criminal is not

trying to cover his tracks, presuming an individual which has either a lower level of intelligence, or uses drugs or alcohol regularly.

This classification seems reasonable, but at an attentive analysis it can be seen that the crime scenes often have organised, as well disorganised characteristics.

Despite critiques, the FBI's method to analyse the crime scene remains one of the most taught methods worldwide at the moment.

### **B. CANTER'S METHOD: investigation psychology<sup>17</sup>**

David Cantor's method is based on statistics: starting from the offenders' population database, the typologies shall be defined (offenders groups) and the crimes with unknown authors are compared with those from the typologies. This procedure follows the similarity and has as result a list with the probable characteristics of the unknown author. The difference between the FBI's and Canter's method consists that the last one updates its database.

The model elaborated by Canter, named the model of the five factors, is based on five aspects of the interaction between the victim and the perpetrator; these are the following:

- The interpersonal coherence is represented by the assumption that the offenders will relate with their victims the same way they do with every day persons. Another assumption is that the victim symbolises a very important person from the offender's life.

- The time and the crime scene can provide information about the offender's mobility, contributing to determining his probable residence. Since the time and place are chosen by the perpetrator, they can give information related to his personal life and schedule.

- Criminal characteristics allow the analyst to refine the classifications on offenders groups and to offer a profile with the most probable traits which can

<sup>16</sup> Continuing the case presented above, we can notice the dichotomy Organised-Disorganised

Organised:

- from the geographical profile it can be determined that he crosses the city to attack his victims, proving a great mobility (he kills in both center of the city, a maximum risk area, and in the neighbourhood close to suburbs) [subsequently it was shown that he was an ITB driver, so we knew quite well all the city areas].

- the victims belong to a very obvious pattern: young women in their 20s, alone, on their way home during the night or living in buildings basements.

- cured aspect ( the military boots are freshly painted).

- does not know the victims (they are strangers especially targeted to fit in his victimisation profile), being able to easily manifest his sadism and brutality.

- he is coming in the criminal area with the crime weapon and does not leave it there; this and the fact that the victims are brutally attacked prove the premeditation and the tendency of a ruthless "hunter" which "is hunting his prey" in his best advantage (his tracks are covered by the nature and the biological human cycle (sleep or night, when the visibility is low and the vigilance is attenuated) ensure him a minimum defence reaction of the victims.

- leaves physical evidence at the crime scene, but these do not help to identification. From here we can conclude that it might be either a very brave primary offender, which overestimates his ability to hide, or we talk about a very agile offender, which, without being identified, "experimented" through multiple crimes (probably burglaries, robberies) until he shaped an operating mode which he considers valid.

Disorganised:

- leaves boots and digital tracks at the crime scene (this should be interpreted with caution because the fingerprint technique was a new science at that time, so its utility in the investigations could not be known to the wide public, especially at the end of the war).

- does not lure the victims in his comfort zone (inadequate from a social and probably sexual point of view)

- the corps is left at the crime scene (the crime discovery is prevented only by the locked door from the inside; does non make any effort to hide the corps o make identification difficult)

- the crime scene is pretty "dirty" (blood and brain particles, scattered on the walls)

<sup>17</sup> Tudorel Butoi, „Tratat universitar de psihologie judiciara", Publishing House Phobos, Bucharest, 2003, p. 54.

characterize a certain offender.

- Criminal Career is referred to the possibility of the existence of other criminal activities and the type of these activities.

- Forensic Awareness is referred to the elements which prove that an offender knows the investigation and samples collecting techniques. Such elements can be wearing gloves, using condoms or removing any object which may have the perpetrator's fingerprint or blood.

Since this method uses statistic means in order to elaborate the offender's profile, similar criticism can be brought like to the FBI's method, especially because the typologies can not be applied in other environment but in the one where the initial data were collected (in the case of Canter's model, in Great Britain).

### C. Turvey's METHOD: Behavioural Evidence Analysis

Starting from the observation that the crime authors lie most of the times when they talk about how they committed the crime, Truvey Brent elaborated a profiling method where the most objective evidence related to what happened in a crime is the reconstruction of the criminal behaviour. Behavioral Evidence Analysis covers four steps<sup>18</sup>:

- Equivocal Forensic Analysis. The term equivocal refers that the interpretation of the samples can lead to more meanings and the purpose of this step is to evaluating which is the most probable meaning of the evidences. The sources of Equivocal Analysis and interpretation are the following: photos, registrations, sketches of the crime scene, investigators records, material evidences found, autopsy records and its photos, witnesses' statements, the map of the victim before the death, the victim's past etc.

- Establishing the victim's profile (Victimology). In this step is established a very precise portrait of the victim's profile. The answer about why, how, where and when a certain victim was chosen can say a lot about the perpetrator. One of the victim's characteristics taken in consideration is the measures (height, weight); so, if it can be established that the victim could be moved, there is a series of conclusions to understand the power and the physical conformation of the perpetrator.

- Crime Scene Characteristics are referring to the crime scene traits, determined by the perpetrator's decision related to the victim, the place and its meaning for him. In this stage, the crime scene is related to other similar crime scenes and it is determined the way how to approach the victim. These information can lead to the same perpetrator.

- Offender Characteristics are the behavioural or personality traits shown after the above steps. The profile reached is not final, it has to be analysed permanently along with the new shown evidences and denied older information. Offender Characteristics can

refer to: physical conformation, gender, professional status, the presence of remorse and guilt feeling, the criminal background, the abilities and skills level, the aggressiveness level, offender's residence referred to the crime scene, his medical background, the marital status, the race etc.

Since the analysis of the behavioural samples does not use to a referral group which base a profile is created, Petherick (2006) considers this method as being the biggest transcultural application. The method considers all the physical evidences, the offender's behaviour and the victim's characteristics, which lead together at the perpetrator's profile. The critiques brought to this method refer at its time frame, to the need of a great professional preparation and the dependency of the quality of the final result with the quantity of information to which the profiler has access.

### Geographic profiling

Profiling or geographic profiling is a management information system and at the same time an investigation methodology which is evaluating the series of the crime scenes in order to determine the most probable area where the perpetrator lives.

This technique may apply in serial crimes, rapes, burglaries, fires and planting bombs. At the base of the technique there is the Brentingham (Webb, 2006) model, according to which all people have an "activity space" dependent on the area where we live, work and relax and this activity space is producing a distinct pattern of travelling throughout the city; applying this model to the criminal activity we can understand that an offender must know a certain area before committing the crimes. The crime scene is determined by the intersection of the travel route with that area.

By geographical profiling are predicted the most probable places where the offender lives, works, relates or the most probable routes which he is following, the data referred to the time, distance and movement towards and from the crime scene are analysed to obtain a three-dimensional model called risk surface.

The risk surface contains the most probable places where the offender can be found and helps the investigators to focusing their effort onto the areas where he is active.

Geographic profiling methodology presumes a series of procedures<sup>19</sup>:

- File's examination: witnesses statements, autopsy record, psychological profile (if any);
- Crime scene inspection;
- Discussion with the investigators;
- Crime scenes visits (if any possibility);
- Local statistics analysis referred to criminality and demographic data;
- Study of the roads and transportation routes;
- Global analysis of these data and completion of

<sup>18</sup> Tudorel Butoi, „Tratat universitar de psihologie judiciară”, Publishing House Phobos, Bucharest, 2003, p. 56-58.

<sup>19</sup> Univ. Prof. Phd Tudorel Badea Butoi, „Psihologie judiciară. Tratat Universitar, Publishing House Solaris Print, Bucharest, 2009, p. 153.

the record.

Often, profiling techniques are gathered as one and same method, with a single set of procedures and practised by persons with the same type of preparation.

It is obvious though that these techniques are different as well as the professional preparations of persons applying them. The FBI's method presumes the comparison of an offender's behaviour to those criminals which the profiler has met in the past and to groups/typologies established throughout studying similar crimes and criminals.

The investigation psychology is based on the environmental psychology and the analysis of the situational elements (place, time, offender's experience at a certain moment), making recourse to statistics also. The behavioural samples analysis does not utilize statistics, but leans first of all on the reconstruction of the incident, starting from the physical evidence and on psychology and psychiatry in order to interpreting the perpetrator's behaviour. In this technique is more or less visible, the psycho-behavioural signature which can differentiate between two offenders with similar operating mode.

Geographical profiling is a complementary instrument which does not refer to psychological information, but is having as purpose, like the others techniques, the restrain of the searching area of suspects and the shaping of a more accurate direction for the shaping of the investigator effort to put an end to crimes.

### **Logical forms of reasoning in the elaboration of the crime author's profile**

The behavioural and personality analysis of the perpetrator of the crime involves a logical approach, different according to the arguments type used for the evaluation. Therefore, the arguments, as logics study elements can be divided in two distinct types, according to how their premises are leading to conclusions: inductive and deductive.

In the speciality literature, the logical forms of reasoning in the shaping of the crime author's profile were divided as inductive and deductive.<sup>20</sup>

The inductive profile presents the following characteristics:

- the premises do not give final solutions for the conclusions, they only offer the support and allow the general way, which even if it's nor correct, is based on the statistical analysis.
- starting from the behaviour and characteristics which many authors who have been studied in the past have, is generalised also for the suspect in the investigates cause, presuming the crime authors have similar motivations in similar situations.
- in order to draw the intended statistics and to

elaborate the inductive profile, the data are collected from three sources: the studies on the population imprisoned; the practical investigators experience, the public sources, media included.

- even if it has the advantage of easiness and speed, the presence of the specialists not being necessary, the inductive profile was criticised because it turns to a limited number of population of known authors, by extending the obtained data from them, to innocent persons.

The deductive profile presents the following characteristics<sup>21</sup>:

- it offers unquestionable grounds for conclusions, having as primary objective the clarification of the relationship between premises and conclusions.
- is the exclusive result of the correct examination of the tracks discovered after the investigation of the crime scene, forensic expertise, followed by the analysis of the crime scene characteristics and those of the victim, so the profile of an individual which could commit the crime with that victim can be deducted, in the proper conditions of that crime scene.

From this prospective, the characteristics and behaviour of the author's crime can be deducted from several information categories, classified as follows:<sup>22</sup>

- material evidences. The forensic psychologist analyses all the samples taken at the crime scene in order to ensure that those are correctly sustaining the peculiarities at the crime;
- the characteristics at the crime scene are determined after a complete evaluation of the material evidences and are individually determined and analysed as developed, in chronological order. This examination can lead to conclusions referred to the motive and purpose of the offender and to his operating mode;

Victim's characteristics. In order to study the victim's characteristics, to create its own profile, is a part of the elaboration of the offender's profile, and involves speciality personnel with the expertise in the crime scene investigation, in interpreting the laboratory analyses and knowledge in the psychology field. The forensic psychologist must establish a unique behaviour of the offender, by crossing from an universal set of characteristics of a suspect to particular characteristics of a certain individual.

There is no exact rule of a certain method in a specific case and the profiling elaboration methods can be adapted by the investigators, according to their needs and specific of the investigation.

### **The future of criminal profiling.**

Criminal profiling has an out-of-court character and not even in the United States is considered as an evidence proof which serves in finding the truth,

<sup>20</sup> Stancu, Emilian, "Criminalistică. Vol. II: Tactica și metodologia criminalistică", București, Publ. House Actami, 1995, p. 43;

<sup>21</sup> Stancu, Emilian, "Criminalistică. Vol. II: Tactica și metodologia criminalistică", București, Publ. House Actami, 1995, p. 47;

<sup>22</sup> Idem 48

however through it, acts with unknown authors could be rapidly solved, the identification and capture of the crime authors allow also a comparative evaluation, and it is natural that in the future this type of investigation shall have a well-earned, efficient and indisputable place.

Criminal profiling as instrument in the criminal investigation begins to enjoy a major interest on both investigators and media. However, even if it became quickly accepted by the wide public (especially because of the movies to consecrate it), a lot of questions related to its applicability and objectivity were arising.

Criminal profiling did not arise to solve the case by itself. It is not a magical instrument or a precise

science. According to the FBI's internal records, it has a 17% success rate. However, criminal profiling had an important role in crime investigation in the US and not only. It is known to be used in at least 11 countries: Great Britain, Sweden, Finland, New Zealand, South Africa, Germany, Canada, Malaysia, Russia, Zimbabwe and Holland<sup>23</sup>. Therefore, despite controversies related to this field, more and more profiling specialists appear every year. This leads to the increasing of the researches number which can only lead to a higher success rate of the predictions.

Therefore it is to be expected that profiling importance increases every year, and in a not so far away future, shall become indispensable in the investigation of crime committed with violence.

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<sup>23</sup> Snook, B., Gendreau, P., Bennell, C., & Taylor, P. (2008). Criminal Profiling. (Cover story). *Skeptic*, 14(2), 42-47. Retrieved March 19, 2009.