

# Unconscious Psychic and Criminal Activity

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## Abstract

The article emphasizes the influence of unconscious psychic on criminal behavior, its importance for explanation and prevention criminal activity and rehabilitation offenders. Main theories of unconscious psychic, psychological types of behavior and its content are examined in the research. Also the influence of unconscious psychic on serial crimes, serial offenders and the issue of relationship between the environment and genotype are analyzed, some type of preventive measures are considered as a multimodal-economic (parents' and family support) early corrective intervention with pedagogic and psycho-corrective measures, psychotherapy, hypnosis and others.

**Keywords:** criminal activity, genotype, motivation, psychotherapy, rehabilitation, unconscious psychic

## Introduction

Unconscious psychic includes the processes that proceed in the depth of human psychic and influence the human behavior, lead it but is not reflected in human consciousness and is not the content of the consciousness but their realization cannot be excluded at all. Considering the unconscious psychic processes is important for criminology, particularly for prognostication, prevention of criminal action and rationalization of the real essence of crime, for correction of criminal action. Unconscious psychical processes influence not only on particular illegal action and its motivation but also plays important role in rehabilitation of particular offender and in avoiding of new offence.

## Types of Behavior and their Relation with Unconscious Psychic

According to the place of unconscious psychic processes in determination of human behavior there are 3 types of behavior: willful, impulsive and habitual. Willful behavior is preceded by analysis of situation, selection of means for achieving the aim, formation of decision and realization. Impulsive behavior is performed abruptly, on the basis of very first requirement; it does not consider any results of behavior. Habitual behavior is realized as the stereotype of behavior formed on the basis of multiple repetitions when the certain way of behavior turns into requirement. Motivation of habitual and impulsive rests on the lower levels of dispositional system of person. In such case the human directly behaviors on the basis of urgent requirements and does not consider the results and significance of his/her behavior. Just impulsive and habitual behaviors reveal the unconscious psychic apparently. That is why we would like to emphasize on their general characterization.

I. Imedadze admits that the impulsive behavior is caused by the impulse of urgent requirements that are actual at the moment, the task for subject is to meet his/her own urgent requirements as soon as possible, he/she does not consider the outcomes of his/her behavior and future perspectives, does not evaluate whether his/her behavior complies with the other mo-

tives and values. He/she is interested only in the fragments of environment that are directly connected to meeting of his/her urgent requirements. The analysis of impulsive behavior show that the specifications of subjective factor fully determine the specification of objective factors of mood. (Imedadze I., 1991, p.191)

Though the impulsive behavior proceeds with the dominated influence of unconscious it does not mean that the consciousness does not participate in impulsive behavior. The quality of conscience is surely limited in this case but the subject perceives not his/her complete but only the parts of it that are directed to meeting the requirement impulse though at that time the social and legal norms as well as negative outcomes are ignored. The factual part of impulsive behavior is more or less reflected in conscience. We believe that the human whose conscience or will are not seriously diseased, can lead his/her impulses with great effort and can subject his/her behavior to the legal requirements.

Unconscious psychic processes are also explicit in habitual behavior. The psychophysical content of habitual behavior is the dynamic stereotype originated from multiple repetitions of actions. Habitual behaviors are preconditioned by domination of fixed mood fulfilling of which requirement and inclination for subject. They are the complex social - psychological units the basis of which includes certain requirement of behavior formed due to the circumstantial influence and multiple fulfilling of them. Unlike impulsive requirement in the motivation of certain habitual behavior the stage of decision making can be distinguished but the behavior versions are not evaluated then and standard decision is taken mechanically, without the appropriate analysis of situation. The type of habitual criminal is distinguished in criminology. Habitual criminal is a person who commits one and the same crime for many times. The influence of habit over committing of crime is of great criminological importance. It is urgent for making prognosis of professional, recidivist, juvenile offence and for avoiding them. (Zelinsky A.F., 1986, pp. 90-95). I would like to discuss the issue according to the following example of habitual crime:

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the person convicted for many times for theft entered the shop for shopping. After he bought all the necessary products and was going to leave the shop he suddenly noticed that the shop assistant was busy with serving the other customer. He took a pack of cheap cigarettes from the counter and put it into his bag although he had bought several packs of expensive cigarettes. He was arrested when leaving the shop. He could not explain the reason for such a behavior more so that he stated that he did not smoke the cheap cigarette of that brand that he tried to steal. It is good example of unconscious fixed mood. The person could not subdue the unconscious impulse that played the main role in behaving this way. The particular situation (the shop assistant was busy with speaking with the other and was not attentive) activated the unconscious impulse that on its side revealed in illegal action.

### Unconscious Psychic and Serial Crime

Unconscious psychic processes have great influence over committing of serial crimes and over the formation of serial offender. The terms - serial crime, serial offender were established by American criminalists in 70-ies of previous century. Although there is not the common definition for serial crime we may assume in general that serial crime incorporates several repeatable crimes committed by one and the same person i.e. it incorporates the illegal actions that are inclined to repetition.

Serial crime may imply two or more illegal actions which as a rule violate one and the same kindness protected by the criminal law and is characterized with stable repeatability. One of the main characteristics of being serial is just its inclination to repeatability i.e. committing of one crime is necessarily followed by the next crimes. It is very important to be considered in criminological characterization of crime.

The issue of influence of unconscious over committing of serial crime is also evident in the following example: a person having the name - Voroshilov committed several raids over the young women and men that followed with their murder, damage to health, sexual violence. The investigation established that he had relation with a young woman who left him and married the other. It was painless to Voroshilov and he was humiliated. After this fact he revealed unmotivated aggression and brutality toward the women. He committed crime to the people who were in cars near the forests, parks and other places and sexually violated them. He attacked and killed the people, frequently raped women. He explained his behavior with the fact that he killed only dishonored betrayers as he believed that only the people betraying their spouses could have sexual intercourse in the cars and in that way those people violated the moral norms of social behavior. (Dvorkina M., 2003, pp. 138-139).

While analyzing this example it can be pointed out that the psycho traumatic situation that was not adequately evaluated by the criminal preconditioned the formation of his unmotivated aggression toward the women. At the same time his concentration on the cars was preconditioned by the fact that as he stated himself, he had seen his girlfriend in the other man's car for many times. Also after she left him he saw that she was in other man's car and had left him forever. Unconsciously he perceived the people having sexual intercourse in the car as the ones abusing him and tried to revenge that revealed in sexual violation and murder. In that way he tried somehow to compensate the dishonor and abuse he had suffered.

### Unconscious Psychic's Influence on Motivation

Unconscious psychic seriously impacts the motivation of human behavior and illegal behavior among them. Under the influence of unconscious the human chooses the version of behavior that is the mostly appropriate for his mood at the moment. Because of that very frequently while performing the illegal action the person does not realize the actual motive for action. According to psychologists there are so called "pseudo" and real motives. Pseudo motives include the motives by using of which the person tries to explain his/her own behavior, to interpret it while he/she has not realized the real motives of his/her behavior. For example, a young man after having conflict and being abused and humiliated, was going home. On his way home he witnessed the argument of young woman and men and saw that the man hit the woman for several times. He took the piece of iron that was nearby and hit the man for several times. Later he explained that he tried to defend the woman from violation and abusing. But in fact the real motive of his behavior was preconditioned not by the will of depending the woman but by the requirement for compensation of dishonor and abuse he had suffered himself. Just the unconscious psychic processes not clearly realized by the subject in particular case caused his behavior. It is likely that there are two motives in this case. M. Neimark notes that there are cases when the behavior is encouraged by the consciously made decision and by the unconscious requirement as well. None of them can be regarded as lacking the motivational function. Actually the both motives precondition the behavior. Furthermore, these motives are likely to share the "responsibilities". Unconscious provides the results necessary for human and conscious provides emotional relation of person toward his/her behavior. (Neimark M.S., 1968, pp.104-109). Thus, conscious motives here are the kind of shield, protection by which the person tries to explain his/her behavior though the real motive of behavior is absolutely different.

As psychologists and psycho-physiologists admit, in order to establish the exact motive of human behavior (illegal actions among them) it is necessary to analyze human behavior for a long time considering the subjective and objective factors that characterized the person and his/her particular action. Generally the basis for behavior is the requirement and the interests connected to it and reflected in psyche. Two sides of motive are distinguished: essential and dynamic. Essential part is the conscious proving of behavior, that is the conscious presentation of the reasons of behavior, and the dynamic part is the emotional feelings expressed in wills, tendencies, inclination. (Neimark M.S., 1968, p.110). It is experimentally established that often of these parts are realized by the person. Just in such cases we refer the so called motiveless crime without clear motivation. Very often the motivation like these is characteristic for crimes of impulsive, affective person, drunk people, those having the hooligan senses, also the crimes of psychically challenged people, the crimes committed with negligence, etc.

### Social Environment and Genotype

According to psychologists while correcting the human action not only environmental factors (family, social circle, peers, etc.) but also the genotype (psycho-physiological peculiarities particular human and his/her relationship to the particular social environment. The scientists consider that there are two

main versions of relationship between genotype and environment factors. The first version suggests that the environmental conditions have different influences over the humans according to their genotypes and another suggests that there is a correlation between the genotypic and environmental factors. The issue of relationship between the environment and genotype is a case when in the same environmental conditions the results of environmental influence are different because of the difference among the human genetics. Genotype - environment correlation describes the situations when the humans have different genotype and are influenced by different environments though the environmental influence is not independent from their genotype. As the researches have proved the influence of any of the environmental factors can be evident in cases they influence step by step during a long period of time. Besides, it is important to consider that the environmental factors do not have the direct impact over the human, their influence can become evident much more later, after certain period of time. We should also consider that the different environmental factors may not cause the development of different psychological characters at all, just on the contrary, the different environment can be the basis of the similar psychological characters. For example, the same personal peculiarities of mother may have different influence over children because of their individual peculiarities and vice versa, the different attitude toward children may have the same result. (Egorova N.S., 2004, pp. 23-24, 40-41).

According to psychologists the mood of antisocial behavior forms at the age of childhood in the human. It is known that the mood is the state of psychological inclination toward certain behavior, action about which the human may not be informed until appearing of some provocative situation. The mood formed once can be dormant for some time until its inaction is provoked by the appropriate situation. The influence of subjective and objective factors preconditions the formation of mood in human. In the process of formation of asocial behavior the requirements are transformed and the adverse requirements are formed. Also the consciousness maintains the asocial behavior at the uncontrolled level of automatisms that causes the formation of fixed mood.

From this point of view it is interesting to mention the article by Belicheva. The 16 years old adolescent was a leader of youth criminal group that had committed a number of offences including murder, robbery, and rape. After his psychological expertise it turned out that there was dissonance between his conscious and unconscious regulators. On the one hand he could correctly assess the behavior of his own and of the others and could give the exact assessment about his group members, their honors and deficiencies, he was self-critical, denounced himself for brutality revealed in certain provocative situations. He declared that his brutality was preconditioned by having the sample of his father who was so cruel to the others. One of such memories for him was his father's trying to hang his little brother with scarf. He had repeated this behavior exactly in the same manner when later during robbery he suddenly used the same method for choking the damaged. As the author of the article points out the dissonance between the conscious and unconscious spheres, revealing of brutality evidence the fixed mood that was formed in early childhood and that reveals at the level of unconscious automatisms. (Беличева С. А., 2010)

One of the peculiarities of fixed mood formed at early age 4-5 year is its stability that is based on firmly formed dynamic stereotype. That is why it is so difficult to change the fixed

moods and mostly it is not the subject to correction. For this purpose the psychologists suggest to use the method of inspiration, self-inspiration, auto-training, social-psychological training that are directly concentrated on unconscious sphere and enable the more effective neutralization and blocking of asocial mood and formation of new mood instead of them.

American psychiatrist D. Connor points out that the aggression is absolutely normal and frequent behavior in children. The healthy aspects of aggression facilitate the protection of one's own interests, relationship with the other people, competition in games and successful solving of everyday problems. This implies the so called adaptive aggression that is not intended for damaging the others. As the researches prove this form of aggression is not a problem in case of appropriate corrective intervention and it will disappear itself, as for the non-adaptive aggression that the child expresses at an early age it requires much more serious intervention and attention as far as is distinguished with its stability and duration and it is possible that this kind of aggression will become acuter with growing of person. For example, according to the researches conducted in London, when the subjects included 185 children at the age of 4 and the aggression was revealed in 61% of the children. These children with high level of aggression still revealed the unchanged level of aggression when the research was conducted again at the age of 9-10. According to Farington research 49% of children at the age of 8-10 revealing the non-adaptive aggression retained the same condition at the age of 32. According to the researches it is established that the aggressiveness at early childhood has serious negative impact over the behavior at maturity. (Connor D., 2005, pp.32-33, 46-47).

## Preventive Measures

According to the type of aggressive behavior the preventive measures can be different. For instance, stable aggression in early childhood can be the form of psychopathology and may require psychiatric intervention as well as pharmacological one. Cumulative subtype can be acquired and adaptive response to environment (adaptive aggression) and may require multimodal-economic (parents' and family support) early corrective intervention with pedagogic and psycho-corrective measures. (Connor D., 2005, p. 54).

For achieving these aims unconscious psychic can perhaps play a vital role, more precisely, by using the method of psychoanalysis it is possible to reveal the psychical traumas and shift them from unconscious to conscious, it will enable to free from these traumas and to avoid the illegal activities. The aim of psychoanalysis is to assist a human to realize what is the basis for his/her particular action, to enable him/her to overcome the internal discomfort and to harmonize his/her own person, to avoid the vicious tendencies on the basis of activation of the opposite mood, to increase the level of self-evaluation. It will contribute to neutralization of inferiority complex that is sometimes compensated in illegal action. As a result all the abovementioned has positive impact over the defendant and it will contribute to intensifying the sense of responsibility to the law and to keeping the order. By influencing the unconscious psychic it is possible to eradicate the personal characteristics of person that led him/her to the conflict with law and that create the danger of committing a new crime, i.e. it enables changing of the existing fixed psychological mood, destroying of the existing stereotype, changing of hierarchy of personal values,



etc. Without considering of unconscious psychical processes it is impossible to have any serious progress in anti-criminal activity, especially when it is the case of strange crime committed without clear motivation or if it is the case when the offender has psychical anomaly or other psychical disorder that on its side makes unconscious psychical sphere more active. In such cases the committed crimes make the influence of unconscious psychic is more vivid.

From this point of view it is important to continue the active researches and studies to study the already existing experience and practice more deeply. It also necessary to work out the new suggestions and measures that will enable us to be more effective in revealing of secret human intentions and mood about which they are not frequently aware themselves and to fight against them.

Hypnosis can be useful too from this point of view. It is known that when the human is in a hypnotic sleep he/she can be inspired about this or that action that he/or she usually performs after hypnosis. It is also possible to obtain information that he/she does not want to divulge or cannot remember. But at the same time as the specialists note clinical observations have proved that in hypnotic sleep a person maintains control over the hypnotic situation. For example, it is impossible to force a person to perform such actions that are not acceptable for him/her i.e. even in hypnotic sleep the person maintains the freedom of choice - accept the hypnosis or not.

At the same time we should remember that this is the case when the hypnotist and the patient are in normal condition that is not preconditioned by any relationship between them. And if a person is distinguished by the talent of inspiration or has a psychic defect, etc. it is much easier to hypnotize him/her. There have been a lot of cases when the hypnotized person performed this or that action (including criminal one). By using hypnosis it is possible to code the human behavior, to block the memory, to inspire, to make the human disabled, etc. according to some researchers using hypnosis has advantages and disadvantages. Using hypnosis is not 100% warranty that the person will perform the action in a way he/she is inspired. Besides, it is possible to inflict damage by using the hypnosis itself as the psycho-physiological process that will have the negative influence over the psyche and other functional systems of organism; we should also consider the danger of great increasing of negative information in hypnosis as a result of which the negative irritators may become dangerous pathogenic factor not only for the health but for the life too. (Grimak L., 1997, pp. 96-97, 115-116). The hypnosis can be used for avoiding some particular illegal actions; it can be especially effective for the correction of behavior of under-aged people when the particular illegal actions, the mood of asocial behavior will be blocked. But it should also be mentioned that it needs the specially careful attitude and it should be performed by the experienced and professional specialist not to make any mistake.

Thus, hypnosis has advantages and disadvantages but we suggest that using it by professional and honest people will have the positive results not only for anti-criminal (investigation and solving of case) but for preventive actions as well.

As for the preventive measures, prevention should mainly be directed to the childish age when the antisocial mood is formed in person as at this stage it is easier to achieve the positive results and it is possible in more cases. In other cases it requires much more time, energy and funds and is less effective. The approach toward the preventive measures should always

be complex i.e. it is not appropriate to accent some precise action. It is always better to implement the measures in complex, agreed way as correcting of human mood, honors and character is the most difficult and frequently unrealizable task.

## Conclusion

Hence it follows that to struggle against criminality all science data and achievements must be used that can be as positive results as we want to tell in this article. To ascertain influence of unconscious psychic processes to foreseen in the criminal behavior certainly it will be an advanced and important step. Nowadays, unfortunately, there does not happen as is said above. So criminal motivation facts are estimated wrong, as results, not able to manage making prevention measures to estimate and analyze reasons of committed acts exact. There is no doubt that criminality is as a social event so social facts are important but psychics events of offender as person certain making influence on motivation of criminal behavior. As much as their right estimation without analysis on struggled process against criminality can't be improved and fertile. Our article aims at paying attention to unconscious psychics processes and thoroughly studies psychics of the persons who have committed offences profoundly especially when motivation of offence is not clear and it is unusual and obscure. To use available data in the psychology based on them in the case can be an important advancement, namely, foreseen unconscious factors should be ascertained. That will reduce probability of committed offences by persons. This issue is extremely important for struggling against criminal minority. It should be interesting for theoretic as well as practicing lawyers. It is necessary to introduce the explanation of criminal behavior in order to ascertain and foresee regulators of unconscious behavior while ascertaining the motivation.

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