Actividad Preliminar

Tercer Parcial

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*Method of criminology*

Being an interdisciplinary science and the complexity characteristic of the object, criminology is a synthesis of individual and social aspects (of human freedom and conditioning the surrounding world); in general, the method of criminology can only be multiple (as is its object) or combined (T. Mendoza, 1970).

While it is a social science, it uses sociological methods, such as statistics, monographic research, social survey, case studies, ecological studies, etc. As it is an experimental science, it is worth observing individuals and facts, proceeding by way of induction. It also uses methods other concurrent synthesis in criminological sciences, such as anthropology, psychology and psychoanalysis, among others.

In short, they are reducible to two main groups: statistical methods (used in global research and groups) and individual methods (used in the investigation of specific offender: personality studies, for example).

The deductive method is derived from a comprehensive study of the crime scene and the evidence left there, that evidence is both physical (all the remains found by forensic and crime scene) and psychological (the acts of the perpetrator). Victimology becomes an essential role here: "The more one knows the victim, the more he knows the criminal," wrote Holmes and Holmes. The drawback of this system is that it is slow and laborious. Holmes and Holmes put the following example of a profile produced by the combination of systems:

An elderly woman was killed by blows, at home. The murderer was at home when she returned at night, after leaving with two friends .

This suggests that perhaps the spying was before, or who knew his habits .

When she was undressing in her bedroom with the lights off, the murderer came from behind and hit her in the head to kill her. From the crime scene it was learned that the assailant had been in the victim's home some time before , as there was a bottle of wine open and half consumed in the lobby , something that did not fit the old woman, a clean woman scrupulous . The murderer had time and enough to get the bottle in the pantry , uncork and drink it in part tranquility. In addition, photos of the victim and his grandchildren were in the bedroom had been placed upside down , suggesting an attempt to minimize his empathy for the victim.

This crime scene is the combination of inductive and deductive approach. The use knowledge of criminology on the personality of offenders can deduce relevant aspects of the psychology of the murderer. But equally, you can gain valuable information by inductive knowledge of other cases in which elderly women have been killed. For example, given the absence of sexual motivation is more likely that the aggressor previously knew the victim, who was a family member or someone involved in any way in your life.

The latter is part of the inductive method, because the assertion comes from the comparative study of crime scenes where the victims are elderly women. However, there could be also deduced that the murderer knew the ways of the victim, since he entered the house when she was not and calmly waited crouched in his room until he arrived.

Therefore, the portion of the profile that ensures that the victim and the assailant were related could be either an inductive conclusion (the elderly victims are killed most likely by known when there is no sexual motive) and inferential (acts that took place in crime scene). The characteristic of the deductive method is the previous description of the movements of the murderer: the rigorous analysis of the crime scene allows to deduce the behavior performed in it. Although this mixed approach is favored, it tends to put the emphasis on deductive perspective: comparisons with statistical averages or typologies drawn from studies of other crimes must always be secondary to the correct interpretation of behaviors that can be deducted in the crime scene.