Methods of forensic psychological expert examination

Abstract: It is analyzed approaches of the jurisprudents to the main kinds of system's classification of the methods of practical expert activity.

The knowledge of a core of the methods of forensic psychological expert examination is mandatory for investigator, inquiry officer, prosecutor, judge and lawyer during establishing of the truth in criminal proceedings.

Keywords: forensic psychological expertise; system of the methods; expert activity; object of examination.

There are described three main kinds of classification of the methods of practical expert activity in juridical science, which developed by A.I. Winberg, A.R. Shlyakhov, T.V. Averyanova, E.R. Rossinskaya and E.N. Kholopova.

According to A.I. Winberg and A.R. Shlyakhova, the system of the expert activity methods consists of four elements, to which they relate: common method of materialistic dialectics, common cognitive methods (observance, experiment, planning, measurement, description, modeling and others), partial instrumental and other secondary technical methods (expert methods) [6, p. 11-14; 28, p. 14-19].

T.V. Averyanova determines the following as the elements of the system of expert's investigation methods: universal method (materialistic dialectics), common methods (observance, modeling, historical method, measurement, description, experiment, planning), and partial scientific and special methods [1, p. 49-54].

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On classification of E.R. Rossinskaya the system of the methods of expert investigation consists of logical, common scientific, common expert and partial expert methods [20, p. 71-78].

According to E.N. Kholopova, the system of the methods of forensic psychological expert examination (hereinafter, the FPEE) consists of universal dialectic method, common psychological, the methods of expert diagnostics and special expert methods [26, p. 90].

The common psychological methods of investigation in expert activity are: psychological diagnostics, modeling, forecasting, methods of influence [26, p. 91-92].

Under psychological diagnostics is understood the testing with purpose of information receiving about person and assessment of mental state of patients [4, p. 169; 8, p. 76; 15, p. 51-52].

S.I. Kudryavtsev relates the following methods to the main kinds of the methods of psychological diagnostics: methods of measurement of functional indicators; methods of observation and self-observation; proxy metric methods; subjective-evaluative; and associative ones [15, p. 32-33].

According to M.V. Kostitssky, the following are related to the methods of forensic psychological expert examination: observation, analysis, interviewing, projective, teaching experiment, research of cognitive processes, experiment, independent characteristics, structural method, and also conversation, interrogation, using of psycho-diagnostic tests [14, p. 61-79].

In opinion of V.V. Melnik and V.V. Yarovenko, all main methods of psychology can be included in the FPEE, as, in principle, the methods of common and special branches of psychology and the methods of the FPEE are not distinguished each other [16, p. 40-47].

Yu.V. Chufarovsky asserts about existence of the methods of psychological analysis of criminal case, psychoanalysis and testing [27, p. 91-109].

Depending on the methods and objects of investigation, directness of the works and scientific interests dozens various methods are described by O.D. Sitkovskaya,

L.P. Konyshev, M.M. Kochenov, F.S. Safuanov, G.P. Trifonova, E.N. Kholopova, A.V. Moschenko, S.I. Vostrikov, R.G. Ashkenzi, A.S. Barinov, I.A. Buzhanidze, M.V. Kostitssky, A.S. Epishev, S.R. Osipov, I.F. Sushkov, S.S. Aliyev and other scientists [12, p. 77; 5, p. 161-163; 22, p. 137-155; 21, p. 56-63; 25, p. 78-80; 26, p. 104-108; 18, p. 149; 7, p. 96-97; 3, p. 79-80; 4, p. 101-102; 10, p. 96-97; 19, p. 99-101; 24, p. 77-79].

The method of observation is more prevalent under scientific research. According to assertion of S.S. Aliyev, who is based on the researching results of M.V. Kostitssky and V.L. Vasilyev, the observation is much productive in common for observant conditions, without expert's interference in course of event [2, p. 99-101]. For registration of the observation results might be used technical instruments such as audio and video recording, filming [5, p. 200-201].

In addition, in opinion of number of scientists, the observation method has deficiencies as an expert needs to wait appearance of interesting his situation, has no an opportunity qualitative analyzing of collected data [9, p. 118; 13, p. 98-99].

As to the method of self-observation, it consists in observation of person for his/her activity, mentally significant facts of life, inner life, mental state etc., but it contains the errors caused with subjective factors.

Direct conversation is one of the much productive methods of person researching, under which is possible a direct contact to the person.

In opinion of A.V. Moschenko, conversation allows forming thought models of the situations, necessary expert examinations for determination of sustainability of the motives and other subjective states of interlocutor [18, p. 117].

Information received with help of conversation is studied by an expertpsychologist in phonetic, logically-semantic, mimic and pantomimic, and emotional targets.

As rule, the method of interviewing is applied at the beginning of research for receiving of orienting information, forming of the working hypothesis and concretization of data, obtained with other methods [5, p. 200; 9, p. 174].

The method of questioning consists in receiving of psychological information through special questionnaire, containing the matters in certain consequence and interconnection. Presently, under conducting of the FPEE is used formalized biographic questionnaire [17, p. 100]

The method of generalization of independent characteristics abuts to biographic one, an essence of which consists in collection of data on personality from various not depending on each other sources.

As rule, the criminal cases, characteristics, investigative and court records etc. are these sources.

We should note that among the experimental diagnostic methods in the FPEE the structural method for establishing of special and professional abilities developed by D. Forsalt and tested by A.I. Gubinsky in the USSR. The method's core consists in that man's activity is described in few levels of the objectives' decision in dependence on their spatial and temporal correlation [23, p. 101-102].

According to E.N. Kholopova, the psycho-diagnostic methods are the following: measurement at the base of information given by examinee about him; measurement through weakly structured stimulating material, which is added by examinee while designing his personality. The methods of products activity analysis and experimental are related to proxy metrical ones [26, p. 113-114].

Methods among existing, which are adapted to conditions of the objectives decision on investigation of specific, singular object are related by E.N. Kholopova to the special methods of the FPEE [26, p. 116-117].

Core knowledge of considered methods of forensic psychological expert examination is mandatory for investigator, inquirer, prosecutor, court and lawyer as common and final purpose of them is to establish the truth in criminal proceedings.

Absence of similar knowledge excludes opportunity of evaluation of the expertpsychologists reports, which was confirmed with results of investigation made by us.

As for the expert-psychologists, then it seems as necessity to study them to modern methods, about which we are talking above, such as point-counter analysis, assessment and review of the online-questioning results, pre-active situational analysis of criminal behaviour, background analysis of criminal situations, dispersive analysis of random personal's characteristics, ranging method of representative criminal actions and many others [29, p. 53-61; 30, p. 119-122; 31, p. 126-149; 32, p. 251-265; 33, p. 91-127; 34, p. 643-647; 35, p. 97-100].

There is necessary constant source of scientific information for that, trips for studying the Azerbaijani specialists in advanced psychological schools of the developed countries, publishing appropriate scientific methodic books etc.

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