



Attitude to life and death of adolescents, committed homicide acts

People differ from other living beings on the Earth by realizing the finiteness of their existence and the inevitability of death. The ideas of temporariness of the physical existence, in its turn, make a person think about questions: "how do I live?" and what is the goal of my life?". Each generation, each person has his own answer to these eternal questions.

In these terms it is interesting to study attitudes to life and death of murderers, the people, committing homicide acts. One of the few scientist who examined attitudes to death was the representative of anthropological lead in criminal psychology Enrico Ferri(1888). He described the anthropological type of a murderer, who is characterized by mental (or moral) insensitivity that reveals itself in indifferent attitude to victim's sufferings and death, to friends and accomplices, and at least to his own sufferings and death.

This problem is analyzed in details in E. Fromm's conception (1994). In the framework of his theory, he discerns necrophilia, it means the desire to make life controlled, mechanic, necrotic. It is contrasted with biophilia- love to everything alive. E. Fromm suggested that necrophilia as a phenomenon of psychological pathology is inevitable consequence of development delay, of soul "inability" and a result of inutile life. In his opinion if the person "...permanently feels his alienation and inutility, the only way to muffle this insupportable feeling of alienation and inutility and some "vital impotence" is self-affirmation at all costs, even if it is barbaric destruction of life..." [6]. According to E. Fromm murderers fall into this category.

The influence of E Fromm's concepts are clearly traced in modern conception of criminologists. Thus, for instance U.M.Antonyan (1997) distinguishes among other causes of muder necrophilia. He states that "murder is life denying and disgust to it, this is the complete embodiment of hatred, but it is very often addressless hatred, general hatred, hatred towards everyone, and how it is strong depends on how the person experiencing it or social system are alienated from constructive values." [1, p. 84].

E.G. Samovitchev (2002) supposes that the problem of ontological bases, their life status are not reflected in the conscious of the majority of people. At the same time the author believes that criminals-murderers represent such a category of people who doubt their own right of existence and prove it by killing other people. This ontological status of personality acquires a great motivating potential: "Murder...has its subjective motivation, whose depth sense doesn't consist in achievement of concrete practical result, but in the overcoming of "unnatural" life attitude" [3, p. 59].

It is necessary to note that in scientific literature the death attitude is examined on theoretical level. That's why A.A. Bakanova's research about convicted criminals' at-



titude to death conducted is of great interest. [2]. However her sample included convicted criminals for major offence and other crimes.

We have made an empirical research with the goal to study life and death attitudes of juvenile offenders, committing homicide acts (premeditated murder- art. 105 CC of RF, heavy physical damage, entailing death- art. 111 part 4 of CC of RF).

As a control group we have studied 45 adolescents, convicted for mercenary crimes: theft-art.158 part 2&3 of CC of RF.

We set up the hypothesis that juvenile offenders, committing homicide acts, will have the specific attitude to life and death. In the course of our research we have studied the attitudes to life and death of different adolescent groups and affective components, typical to their relation to life and death.

The data received let us make the following conclusions. First of all, juvenile offenders, committing homicide acts, reliably differ from adolescents, convicted for mercenary crimes, by the contents of their thoughts about life and by a lower level of life satisfaction. Secondly, attitudes to death of adolescents, committed major offence, in contradictory way combine the ideas about "eternal life" and a high level of tanatological anxiety.

The Literature

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