

The Antecedents of Criminal Behavior: An Exploratory Reflection

Yitong Han¹, Jiaying Yu², Tianshunxin Zhou^{3,*}

¹ School of International Department of Northeast Yucai School, Shenyang, China

² School of Beijing New Oriental Foreign Language School at Yangzhou, Yangzhou, China

³ School of China World Academy, Changshu, China

* Corresponding Author Email: zhoutianshunxin@cwacs.cn

Abstract. The study of serial murder is a very important part of criminal psychology, and in order to help the development of the current society, we need to fully understand the psychological process of serial killers to prevent more tragedies from happening. yet there is a lot of literature that studies the psychology of murderers, but it is not explicitly comprehensive enough to analyze serial killings because of the killers' personalities, family education and genetics. In order to overcome the shortcomings of the current literature, our group studied 14 articles and used the literature analysis method to summarize and analyze. This paper deeply studies the three reasons that lead to the occurrence of serial killers. Through the research, it is found that the three reasons can lead people to become murderers. For this reason, we separately explain why the three reasons can lead murderers to have bad thoughts and finally rely on the pleasure of killing. At the same time, this paper makes people better understand psychopathy, paving the way for more in-depth research in the future and paying attention to the psychology of people around.

Keywords: Family education, criminal psychology, trauma, genes.

1. Introduction

On a stormy night, a friend of mine sent me a video of a 27-year-old unsolved murder case in China, the Nanjing University dismemberment case. The killer brutally disposed of the body to trick me into losing sleep, t. It reminds me of all the villains that I have seen in movies and TV shows (such as Harry Quinn and Voldemort). I don't know if you have ever wondered why villains kill, what causes their crimes, or why sociopaths have a stronger desire to kill than we do. Anyway, I am curious about these questions, so in order to get the answers to these questions, we looked up a lot of information on Google and other sites after writing this article. After reviewing a large amount of data, we have divided the causes into the following categories: family environment, genetic defects, personal personality, and given the possible consequences and ways to identify and prevent them [1-3]. We do this by researching, collecting examples, and analyzing them. We collect examples from both reality and fantasy. We read their background stories, and to find out why they do those evil things.

2. Method

We searched through Google Scholar and CNKI Scholar, and that was where most of our databases came from. In a literature search, type in terms related to criminal psychology: "murderer," "serial killer," "psychopath," "genes," and "family of origin." We read a lot of materials and literature in related fields, made a summary, and finally came up with our own opinions. Moreover, we also set up some inclusion criteria. Among the literature, there are vague explanations, insufficient explanations of psychological analysis, no clear list of their own views, and inaccurate analysis of genes. These literatures are not included in our literature reference. At the same time, we also read a lot of news about serial murderers, which are formal cases. We summed up their behaviors, murder motives, and childhood experiences, combined our existing knowledge of criminal psychology, and added our own thoughts to come up with this paper.

3. Literature Review

3.1. What is Criminal Behavior

Criminal psychology, as its name suggests, is the study of the mind of criminals, so what is the practical significance of studying this discipline? The general task is to analyze the behavior of the offender towards the victim, the marks left at the scene of the crime, and other information to infer who the offender is and what kind of experience casts a shadow on the offender [3]. This is an important clue for the police to find the criminal. It can give the police the direction of the case can also help the police to catch the criminal faster [4, 5]. Moreover, all of this is based on knowledge of criminal psychology. Criminal behavior refers to the behavior of a lawbreaker, which leads to and includes the commission of an illicit act. Criminal behavior, particularly violent and antisocial behavior, is considered to be a major social problem with complex causes [6-8]. It is known that a myriad of environmental, social, and psychological factors are associated with an increased risk of convictions for this type of criminality.

3.2. Causes of Criminal Behavior

3.2.1 Personality

There are many theories about personality. One of them, which is Eysenck's biosocial personality theory, offers additional insights into the aspects of crime of psychology [9]. It suggests that. The presence of certain personality traits has more to do with crime and those who commit it. Personality traits are stable characteristics of a person that remain consistent over time when in different social contexts. Many researchers believe that criminals have specific personality traits that make it easier for them to carry out their criminal activities [8, 10, 11]. There are also some psychologists who believe that some criminals possess antisocial personality disorders and that they exhibit criminal personalities. This criminal personality contains a set of personality traits, and these personality traits contained herein are more inclined toward criminal behavior. When scientists were studying the relationship between criminal behavior and personality, they hypothesized two different types of personalities, which were the under-control and over-control personalities, which means people with insufficient self-control and people with excessive self-control, respectively. It has been argued that those with these personalities will develop two different personalities in their immediate environment, which will drive them to antisocial aggression. One researcher named Magargee hypothesized that a high level of inhibition would prevent over-controlled people from displaying their anger on a regular basis. The relationship between criminal behaviour and personality also implicates extraversion, neuroticism, and psychosis. With regard to neuroticism, the characteristics that make up neuroticism include anxiety, depression, guilt, low self-esteem, irrationality, shyness, moodiness, and emotionality. People with neuroticism are more likely to feel anxious in public social settings and often experience low self-esteem and guilt. These people will display irrational and emotional behaviors, and emotions override reason, which can lead to more aggressive and impulsive behaviors. Over time, the characteristics that makeup neuroticism become more pronounced. Regarding extroversion, extroverts tend to come across as talkative, friendly, and livelier [12]. They are confident and will dominate social situations. Among the researchers' experimental samples, they found that younger samples were more likely to be extroverted, as the effects of extroversion on people faded over time. People characterized by psychosis tend to be very self-centered and do not emphasize the needs of others. They are very impulsive, and they also come across as very cold and impersonal.

3.2.2 Family Environment

For a long time, many researchers have been curious about the link between criminal behavior and family environment, and many believe that the involvement of young people in criminal activities is somehow related to their family of origin environment, probably because of the tragic experiences they suffered during their childhood or because their family members have harmed them mentally or

physically, which stimulates their desire to commit crimes and makes them commit criminal behavior. Numerous scientific studies have demonstrated a positive correlation between family factors such as delinquency, parental abuse, insufficient family support, parental neglect, and harsh parenting or family practices [13-15]. Harsh parenting is considered to be one of the components of child abuse, but it is not all about harsh parenting, which refers to things like corporal punishment, embarrassing children in front of others, being made fun of, and so on. Experiments have proved that harsh physical education has a greater relationship with the formation of anti-social behavior in adolescents later in life. Moreover, recent studies have shown that adolescents in families with high levels of hostility and low levels of love and affection are more likely to develop criminal behavior. Recent studies have confirmed that punitive behavior by parents increases the likelihood of future delinquency and that many juvenile delinquent behaviors are due to lack of parental supervision, conflict with parents, low material standards, and low parental tolerance so that many juvenile delinquent behaviors are due to instability in the family [16]. It has also been experimentally proven that the death of a parent or the divorce of a parent also greatly influences whether or not a juvenile will commit a criminal act. Some researchers have analyzed and concluded that children raised in single-parent families face a higher prevalence of delinquency.

3.2.3 Genetic Factor

There is no denying that external factors play an essential role in the formation of antisocial personality, but genes are also an important factor. Do you know about hyperandrogenic syndrome? This is a male-only condition reported by a group of people led by Sandberg in 1961 [17]. We all know that a normal male has an XY chromosome, but a person with hyperandrogenic syndrome has an XYY chromosome, which means they are different. Genetic differences make them stronger than normal, but they also take away their intelligence and good temper. They are more irritable than normal people and are more likely to do violent things, such as overkill. This is why we think that people with hyperandrogenic syndrome are naturally antisocial [18, 19]. Usually, it is because the father has a chromosomal problem. And unfortunately, there is no method to cure this kind of disease yet. This is a typical example of how genes affect the forming of antisocial personality. There is a survey that shows drinking can affect the forming of antisocial personality, too. This survey was made by Mark Bleuler, Winokur, and Reich. All the information they get is divided into two charts in the following [20]. According to the chart, we can see that although not every antisocial personality person drinks, there are a lot of people who are sociopaths.

4. Implications and Conclusion Organization of the Text

Therefore, from the perspective of criminal psychology, most serial murderers have the same psychological activities. If we understand their criminal motives and action targets, the police and the police can find and prevent the next crime of serial murderers faster and play an extremely crucial role in solving the case. In the future, we should pay attention to the psychological education of children who are genetically predisposed to murder. When they just show their antisocial personality or have a certain tendency to anger, parents and teachers should provide them with corresponding psychological counseling, such as taking them to see a psychologist or telling them about some wrong behaviors from a young age so that they can form a correct world view and let them know that becoming a serial killer is against morality. Furthermore, train them to discipline themselves from an early age so they do not go off the wrong path when they grow up. We hope that parents can pay more attention to their children's education to reduce the number of serial killers caused by family problems. Parents absolutely avoid the occurrence of domestic violence. Parents should also learn to control their emotions in front of the child, not appear in front of the child because they cannot control their anger and throw things, and verbally beat and scold the child. The local government and police should also take legal or moral measures to punish these domestic violence incidents severely. There is no more tolerance for ex-offenders, severe warnings, and supervision for learning how to deal with their children properly. At the same time, it is necessary to promote the correct family education so

that the correct concept is deeply rooted in people's hearts, so that parents realize the importance of family education, pay attention to the moral education of children, so that children are aware of what is right and what is against morality. For those who are stimulated to become murderers, there are still ways to prevent this from happening.

Author Contribution

All the authors contributed equally, and their names were listed in alphabetical order.

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