

## TERMINOLOGICAL TENDENCIES IN SCENES OF CRIME TECHNIQUE

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**Summary.** Forensic science uses its unique terminology. Is this terminology changing and what are the directions of changes? The diagnostic analyze of head-words in literature shows, that that forensic science terminology indeed changes itself and the tendencies are leading to creation of shorter and more pragmatic names. It is possible to assume, that the number of such names is going to grow, because of its usefulness in theory and practice.

**Keywords:** criminalistics, forensic science, terminology.

## INTRODUCTION

Forensic science, as almost all other branches of science, uses its unique terminology. This terminology is in great part adopted from other sciences, but on the other side is also original, deriving from forensic science itself. Is it changing and what are the directions of changes? The following hypotheses can be the answer for this question:

- *The forensic science terminology obviously is subjected to changes.*
- *The tendencies in terminology are leading to the process of simplification*
- *and enlargement of the scope of understanding of the particular name.*

The analyze was focused on Polish textbooks of scenes of crime technique and forensic science<sup>1</sup>. It was assumed, that they represent the forensic science knowledge, which is disseminated and applied in other countries and its level is enough detailed. The main attention was put on scenes of crime technique, as this is the area of forensic science, which is developing much faster than the scenes of crime tactics, limited to methods of undercover work. The names, chosen for analyze, are

<sup>1</sup> In Polish forensic science literature there are not many textbooks concerning only scenes of crime technique. The great number of literature presents the whole forensic science.

the best to show the tendencies of changes in scenes of crime technique. Names are simply the terms to definite someone or something.

## DESCRIPTION

The earlier forensic science studies<sup>2</sup> use only such single-word names as follows: dactyloscopy<sup>3</sup>, cheiroscopy<sup>4</sup>, podoscopy<sup>5</sup> and poroscopy<sup>6</sup>.

The classic names of the areas of forensic science interest, presented in 1949 in “Forensic Science” by Lewenberg, following the Szawer and Winberg, are as follows:

<sup>2</sup> For example: *Skrypt wykładowców służby śledczej*, Słupsk 1947; *Kryminalistyka. Na podstawie B.M. Szawera, A.I. Winberga* (edited by B.Lewenberg, L.Schaff), Warszawa 1949, ss. 512; P. Horoszowski, *Śledcze oględziny miejsca*, Warszawa 1959, ss.746; *Ślady. Metodyka ujawniania i zabezpieczania śladów oraz pobierania materiału porównawczego*, joint study, Warszawa 1967.

<sup>3</sup> The term dactyloscopy was created as one of the first and can be deemed to be one of the earliest. Its first use was in 1849 by Argentinian journalist Francisco Latzina.

<sup>4</sup> Cheiroscopy derives from Greek name *cheir* – the hand + *skopèo* = to see, to look.

<sup>5</sup> Podoscopy derives from Greek name *podòs* = the leg + *skopèo* = to see, to look.

<sup>6</sup> Poroscopy derives from Greek name *poros* = passage, opening, fissure + *skopèo* = to see, to look.

- traces of instrument of crime, however separately traces of instrument of burglary
- traces of fingers
- traces of foot
- traces of animal legs
- traces of vehicle
- traces of teeth
- traces of blood
- traces of use of fire-arm.

These names were understood literary, what means that they indicated only this designate, which was symbolized by the name. The traces of fingers signified exactly the knowledge about traces of finger, mainly the way they emerge and the way of its protection. The biological base of fingerprint ridges and the rules of identification were the matter of dactyloscopy. The traces of teeth are exactly and only information about traces of teeth.

In seventies in Polish forensic science are occurring single-word names, which contain all forensic science characteristics of trace, composed of more and more elements. Temporally, as a rule, this characteristic contains:

- general theoretical information on trace (structure, elements, origin, classification, mechanism of emergence, possibilities of identification);
- localization on incident scene;
- rules and methods of exposition;
- methods of technical and process preservation;
- kinds and ways of collection of comparative material;
- order of research;
- possibilities of trace study;
- concluding on base of trace;
- other information, specific for particular kind of trace.

Single-word names, as for example dactyloscopy, derive mainly from Greek language, but there are of course some exceptions. The obligatory part of the word is *-scopy* (*skopèo = to look, to see*).

In this way the following names were created:

- *mechanoscopy* – deriving from Greek word *mechane* = device; focused on traces of all mechanic activities;
- *traceology* – deriving from French word *trace* = trace, much common than lately created *traceoscopy* focused, opposite to literary meaning, on traces of movement of people, animals or means of transport;
- *cheiloscopy* – deriving from Greek word *hejlos* = lips, presenting the issues of traces of lips;
- *conchoscopy* – deriving from Greek word *kònchè* = shell and *otoscopy*, focused on analyses of traces of ear;
- *phonoscopy* – deriving from Greek word *phonos* = sound, interested in issues of magnetic recording of sound;
- *gantiskopia* (Polish name, lack of English one) - deriving from Greek word *gandi* = gloves, concentrated on traces of gloves;

- lately *genoskopia* (Polish name, lack of English one), concentrated on genetic identification.

All presented names were created by analogy to terms created earlier. Consequently it was clear that it is much easier to use one name to call wider scope of knowledge focused on one issue. Also such short names, without any changes, can absorb new elements occurring in forensic science characteristic of trace. The meaning of particular names can be on one hand *sensu stricte*, or on the other *sensu largo*. *Dactyloscopy*<sup>7</sup> is the best example of this fact.

The scope of forensic science characteristic of trace is subject to escalation, because of:

- bigger interest in theory of trace;
- occurring of new categories of traces;
- adaptation of numerous methods of studies, coming from other sciences;
- creation of new forensic science methods of studies;
- enlargement of scope of studies on trace;
- more efficient proof - meaning of traces.

One of the tendencies of changes is occurring of the new categories of crimes. For example computer crimes, which were not known some years ago, are already defined in Criminal Code. The era of computers created new traces and new carriers of traces. The other important factor is adaptation of research methods. Experiments and work on DNA led to adaptation of genetic research methods in forensic science identification of individual.

Short, single-word names are very useful and its helpfulness is evident as they were easily adopted in theory and practice<sup>8</sup>.

## CONCLUSIONS

Hypothesis stated above are possible to confirm. Forensic science terminology is changing and the tendencies of changes are leading to short, pragmatic names. Their signification can include more and more actual issues and also these, which will occur in the future. It is possible to assume, that the number of such names is going to grow, because there are still some disciplines in forensic science, which have no name.

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<sup>7</sup> Dactyloscopy is commonly understood as a discipline focused on fingerprints. For forensic science experts it means only all questions concerning fingerprints of hands.

<sup>8</sup> Some of single-word names are even abbreviated. In practice, for example, the action of collecting fingerprints is not called “dactyloscopy”, but “dactyloscoping”.

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## KRIMINALISTIKOS TECHNIKOS TERMINIJOS TENDENCIJOS

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### Santrauka

Kriminalistikoje vartojama specifinė terminija. Klausimas, ar ši terminija keičiasi ir kokios yra jos kitimo tendenci-

jos, yra šio straipsnio nagrinėjimo objektas. Kriminalistikos terminija daugeliu atveju paimta iš kitų mokslų, nors nemaža terminų dalis yra originalūs – kriminalistikos.

Straipsnio autorė mano, kad kriminalistikos terminija keičiasi – terminai paprastinami.

Autorė analizuoja Lenkijoje išleistų kriminalistikos ir kriminalistikos technikos vadovėlių terminiją. Tyrimo atspirties tašku buvo pirmieji kriminalistikos vadovėliai, kuriuose perimta A. Vinbergo ir B. Šarerio terminija (įrankių pėdsakai, pirštų pėdsakai, šaunamojo ginklo panaudojimo pėdsakai ir kt.). Šie terminai turėjo tiesioginę prasmę. Jeigu buvo kalbama apie pirštų pėdsakus, tai buvo žinios apie jų susidarymą ir fiksavimą. Biologiniai papiliarinių raštų klausimai, identifikacijos problemos jau priklausė daktiloskopijai.

Tik XX a. 8 dešimtmetyje keičiasi pėdsako turinio ir jo charakteristikos suvokimas. Su pėdsako charakteristika jau siejamos bendros teorinės žinios, lokalizacijos, suradimo, techninio ir procesinio įtvirtinimo, pavyzdžių paėmimo, tyrimo ir kiti klausimai.

Kriminalistikos moksle vis aiškesnė tendencija kurti ir vartoti vieno žodžio terminus ir sąvokas (mechanoskopija, daktiloskopija, fonoskopija ir kt.).

Visi šie terminai buvo kuriami pagal analogiją, dažniausiai vartojant graikų kalbos pagrindą (pvz., seniai nusistovėjęs terminas „daktiloskopija“).

Plečiasi kriminalistinis pėdsako apibūdinimas, nes vis labiau domimasi pėdsako teorijos problemomis, atsiranda nauji nusikaltimai ir naujos tyrimo metodikos, didėja įrodomoji pėdsakų reikšmė ir pan.

Apibendrinama straipsnio autorė rašo, jog galima teigti, kad iškelta hipotezė pasitvirtino. Kriminalistikos terminija keičiasi, ryškėja tendencijos vartoti trumpus, pragmatiškus terminus.

**Pagrindinės sąvokos:** kriminalistikos technika, terminija.