

CONTENT OF CRIMINAL SUBCULTURE

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***Abstract.** Being objective reality existing criminal subculture (prison) occupies its place in the system of social values determined.*

Studying criminal subculture (prison) helps us to understand the internal regularities, then criminal world lives, to appreciate it and the changes in the internal affairs of the case study crime.

It is believed that in the beginning, criminal subculture emerged in closed prisons, then to răspîndii outside their so comprising a minor part of the population, primarily comprised the minors this difficult pedagogical point of view. What would later compose the core contingent of convicts mayors. They can be manifested by the group escapes, leaving home, vagrancy (for minors).

Criminal subculture blocks and perverts actions of teachers and peer education, destroy interpersonal relationships and collective, replacing them with those circular pledge in any way justifies and promotes criminal behavior and criminal lifestyle.

Being an objective reality that exist, criminal subculture (prison) occupies its place in the system of social values determined.

Studying the criminal subculture (prison) can help us to understand the internal regularities, in which lives criminal world, to appreciate changes that occurred and to study the internal problems of cause crime.

It is believed that in the beginning, criminal subculture emerged in closed prisons, then spreaded outside them, comprising in this way a part of the minor population, primarily comprised the difficult minors from the pedagogical point of view. Which would later compose the core contingent of mayor sentenced. They can be manifested by the group escapes, leaving home, vagrancy (for minors).

Criminal subculture blocks and perverts **educational activities of teachers** and **entourage**, destroy interpersonal and collective relationships, replacing them with those circular bail that in a way justifies and promotes criminal behavior and criminal lifestyle.

Criminal subculture, like any other culture as its core has an aggressive character. She enters in the official culture, destroying it, devaluing or diminishing its value and norms, imposing her new rules, attribute (slang, tattoos, oaths, formal unwritten nature)¹.

Knowing the criminal subculture (prisons) allows deep penetration in the lawfulness mechanism of its manifestation in the prisoners environment and choosing effective ways to prevent felons criminalization.

For example, criminal slang is constantly developed. It should be noted that criminal slang (prison) spreads quickly in the minors environment. The cause is in its expression and mystery etc.. Many words and combinations of words long time ago and stable have found their way into everyday communication and is no longer considered criminal slang.

A special role have “vows” among juvenile delinquents, where whether performance or nonperformance is strictly supervised.

Conventional “vows” can be divided into the following groups:

General “Vows”, when the person swears to follow the criminal rules and traditions, does not enter in the active components, does not possess any interactions or to cooperate with law enforcement;

- Particular “Vows” who vowed must respect in a specific case, for example to return a duty;
- Control “Vows”, when in response to the accusation that is brought to the act or infringement, “the accused” “swears” on his honor and status that he didn't committ violations of rules and informal rules.

Currently, underworld is structured into criminal groups which supervise the so-called “illegal business” – drug addiction, prostitution, arms sales, occupies the role of security guards (called “**crișă**”).

The main factor in reciprocal criminalization of criminal groups is criminal subculture.

For its determination they are used other terms such as: “second life”, “**associated subculture**”.

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¹ В.Ф. Пирожков. «Криминальная психология». Изд. Ось-89, М. 1998. p. 123.

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Criminal subculture blocks and perverted actions of teachers and peer education, destroy relationships intercollective replacing collectivist relations with circular bail relationship, justifies and promotes criminal behavior and criminal lifestyles.

Criminal subculture, as well as any other culture as its core has an aggressive nature. She enters the official culture, destroy it, devalue its value and its rules, it imposes its rules attribute. It is well known that the carrier of culture is language. If we take as our example infirmation in romanian language at the moment it is pretty much influenced by criminal slang that communicates both minors and majors cit.

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It is quite important to emphasize, that this criminalization primarily is reflected upon rising generation as part of society that is more sensitive by age peculiarities and linguistic innovations.

Bearers of criminal subculture are criminal groups, personally - recidivists. They accumulate, through the prisons, a criminal stable experience, "criminal rules", following to convey to others. Here we can talk about three mechanisms of crime reproduction.

First – custom, when recidivist felon of a number experienced mature take under patronage a single individual.

The second mechanism through criminalization of the entire population, familiarizing with the criminal language, taught it to think through criminal categories.

The third is the psychological mechanism - through criminal group, which strengthens the criminal subculture with its norms and values that allow its long existence.

We can highlight the fourth way of disseminating criminal subculture, when gang leaders select especially talented in order to prepare them for criminal activities or future leaders of underworld.

Thus, criminal subculture means all the material and spiritual values, which regulates and orders the activity of criminal communities, that determines their existence and ability, activity and mobility, continuity of criminal generations.

The base of criminal subculture is contained in values, norms, traditions, different foreign rituals of civil society, factors that connect killers in groups. Its social damage is reduced to that, it socialize the personality and is a powerful mechanism in crime reproduction.

Factors that characterize criminal subculture are:

- Hostile, tough expression to generally accepted norms and contents of the criminal subculture;
- Internal connection with criminal traditions;
- Hidden character from those who do not know;
- The presence of a whole set of attributes that govern in the group consciousness;
- Violation of the person rights, which is expressing in hanging and harsh treatment, cynical about “foreign”, infidels and the defenseless;
- Lack of a sense of compassion for people, including “his” close people;
- Lack of honesty and double hanging towards “foreigners”;
- Parasitism, the exploitation of the “bottom”, mocking them;
- No appreciation for results of human labor, which is expressed by vandalism;
- Failure of owners rights, expressed by stealing;
- Stimulation of cynical attachment against women and sexual depravity;
- Stimulation of despicable reasons and forms of social behaviour;
- The presence of a broad field of action and opportunities for self-assessment and compensation of failures occurred in the society;
- Criminal activity, which includes the risk, extreme situations, false romantic etc.;
- Removal of all moral limitations.

Unlike nedelicvente social groups, in criminal groups the social psychological stratification

strengthens through the social obloquy. This means that the status, role and functions of the person in the group is reflected in signs, attributes, materials and location models of the individual in space, occupied in criminal group, so, in the criminal communities persist “distinguishing marks” which “reading”, you can accurately determine the status and what the person is presenting.

Means of social stigma in criminal communities are:

- Tattoos, which with inscriptions, drawings, conventional signs, abbreviations reflects criminal experience of a human, its authority level, demands and expectations;
- Nicknames depending on how well they sound, the position they occupy, it can be judged on the position of the person in the criminal community;
- The system of material attributes, which are assigned worn clothes, personal property, etc.

Criminal subculture, representing itself a criminal culture of underworld, along with the crime growth, stratifying into several subsystems (thieves subculture, prison, swindler, prostitutes, shadow) contrary to official culture.

The level of criminal subculture formation, its influence on people and personalities can be diverse. It may occur as individual items unrelated, may have a certain formation (“laws” they have a role in the regulation of individual and group behavior), and finally she can dominate in certain place (district, school, sector, neighborhood, etc.). thus completely subjecting its influence both to the criminal contingent and citizens that are not delinquent.

Analyzing the empirical signs of criminal subculture, we can assess that for determining criminal subculture formation is required the presence of the following criteria:

- The presence in the institution (city, district, sector, neighborhood etc.) of groups that have conflicts between each other;
- Rough stratification with people division into the “foreigners” and “his people” on “his own” dividing them into castes;
- Presence of privileges for “elite” and various taboos;
- Spread rituals novices “recording” (“прописка”).

Analyzing signs that characterize the attitude towards those with less opportunities, lower castes “miserable” consider the following features such as:

- The appearance “lorns” (“отверженных” (“неприкасаемых”)).
- Mark (obloquy) of material goods that must be used only by those “miserable people”.
- Submission of “the bottom” to pay various taxes and extortion.
- Spreading special methods of descending status: homosexuality, implementation of various dirty work etc.
- The spread of disease or injury simulation among the “bottom”.

Would also ask our vision and a determination or assessment or attitude of some characteristic signs towards the regime and educational work in prisons which in turn is likely of the following characteristics:

- Violation of detention regime in group and group disobedience.
- Group escape, leaving home, vagrancy (for minors).
- Avoiding “authorities” to work.
- Manifestation of vandalism.
- Signs that characterize leisure methods.
- Spreading mahazard games.
- Spreading methods of prison leisure, prison lyrics so on.
- Use in group of drugs and toxic substance etc.

Also, in this context would be required judgment or finding of signs that characterize ways of communication, knowledge and dangerous links such as:

- Nickname spreading as a means of stigmatization.
- Tattoo spreading as a communication system through signs, recognizing those who are “his people” and stigmatization.
- Spreading the criminal slang and other communication methods accepted by the criminal environment.

Criminal subculture includes forces and subjective human possibilities achievable in criminal activity (knowledge, professional criminal skills, ethical visions, esthetic requirements, forms and methods of enrichment, methods of conflict resolution, leadership with criminal communities, privileges for “elite” etc.).

All these are reflected, first of all, in the “philosophy” of the criminal world, which justify offenses, rejection of guilt and responsibility for crimes.

The transition to a market economy fostered in the criminal environment the idea of fast enrichment, neglect of economic interests of other people, that gave an eruption of committed crimes for financial interest.

Criminal subculture is based on defects consciousness of law, among which we can highlight the ignorance and misinformation of legal norms, social-legal infantilism, social-legal negativity and cynicism. However, legal consciousness defects worsen moral conscience ignoring moral principles that are generally accepted.

Referring to the criminal subculture functions, we can assess that all the structural elements of the criminal subculture are closely related, intersecting each other. However, depending on the performed functions they may be classified into the following groups:

- Stratification (norms and rules that determine a person's status in the group and the criminal world, nicknames, tattoos, privileges for “elite”);
- Behavior (“laws”, “punishment” rules of behavior for different categories of caste, traditions, oaths, curses).
- Completion of the criminal community with “frames” and working with novices (“target”, “jokes”, determining spheres and areas of production).
- Recognition of those who are “his own” and “foreign” (tattoos, aliases, criminal slang).
- Maintaining of order in the criminal world, punish the culprit, get rid of unwanted people, stigma, ostracism, “descent”.
- Communication (tattoos, nicknames, vows, criminal slang, “slang mine”).
- Sexual-erotic (erotic as a value, humiliation in the form of sexual perversion, “paraffin”, homosexuality as a descent method of the individual status who violate the rules of criminal subculture etc.).
- Financial-Material (manufacturing and maintaining the means of committing a crime, creation of “common house” (“obșceac”) for mutual aid, renting rooms for brothels etc.).
- The leisure (perverse culture of leisure and entertainment).

Function of specific attitude towards their health - from total indifference to it: drug abuse, drunkenness, self-harm - up to bodybuilding, active gyms in the interest of criminal activity.

Although the attributes classification of criminal subculture is conventional, wearing a work character, but because there aren't others, it allows the modeling of criminal subculture elements for a more detailed investigation.

However, in this context we may deduce the following conclusions:

Criminal subculture (prison) is the aggregate of moral and spiritual values, that regulates and orders the unofficial life in places of detention.

More broadly, the term of criminal subculture (prison) should be understood as all the social psychological characteristics of antisocial behavior of individuals and groups, in a narrow sense - the laws, that characterize the prison community. Structure of criminal subculture (prisons) consists of:

1) subjective human forces and abilities:

- Knowledge, skills, vocational skills and criminal habits, realized in criminal activity;
- "Philosophy" of the criminal world (prison), who deny the guilt and responsibility for the committed crime, which entitles lifestyle caused by criminal ideas;
- the special level of the moral and legal consciousness of the person or group (the base of it is nihilism and moral and legal cynicism), that facilitate illegal behavior;
- esthetic needs, tastes and depraved preferences formed in the gregarious spirit (herd) in the prison;
- Criminal mythology surrounded by the halo of “justice”, “courage”, “ordering” of certain criminals and their actions;
- Relationship psychology within the group and leadership of criminal community.

2) The objective results of criminal community activities (tools and means of committing crimes, material assets obtained by criminal, accumulated funds "obșceac").

Criminal subculture (prison) performs the following functions:

- Stratification, including rules and regulations that determine a person's status in the criminal underworld group;

- Behavior that determines etiquette of underworld representatives “elite”, “the-bottom”, “foreigns” etc.; ritual rules of accepting in criminal community (prison) recognition of “his own” and “foreign”;
- Obloquy and ostracism, mapping and punish of guilty members from criminal communities;
- Communicative (criminal slang, tattoos, signs, etc.).

Thus, the core content of criminal subculture (prisons) can be reduced to the following provisions:

- Low emotional identification to group members;
- Lack of honesty and duplicity against the prison administration and the “foreign”;
- Parasitism and laziness, enriching traditions, rules and criminal laws;
- Blackmail of people, who are in castles “down” in the hierarchy of the group;
- Card games and alcoholism as a means of strengthening the criminal group.

Basic stratification in criminal subculture is a specific element and characteristic to it.

Factors that characterize criminal subculture are:

- Hostile and tough expression towards to generally accepted rules of the criminal subculture and content;
- Internal connection with criminal traditions;
- Hidden character from those who do not know;
- The presence of a whole set of attributes that govern in the consciousness group;

Violation of personal rights, which is expressed in hanging and tough handling and cynical on “foreign”, infidels and those defenseless:

- Lack of a sense of compassion for people, including to “his people”;
- Lack of honesty and double attachment to the “foreigners”;
- Parasitism, the exploitation of the “bottom”, mocking them;
- Don't appreciate results of human labor, which is expressed by vandalism;
- Failure of owners rights expressed by stealing;
- Stimulating cynical attachment against women and sexual depravity;
- Stimulation of base motives and forms of social behavior;
- The presence of a wide field of action and opportunities for self-assessment and compensation of failures occurring in society;
- Criminal activity, which includes the risk, extreme situations etc. false romantic;
- Removal of all moral limitations.

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Criminal slang can be determined as a natural phenomenon, reflecting specific criminal subculture, organization and professionalism of the criminal environment. Fight with criminal slang as the practice shows is less effective or even ineffective. Sanctions are ineffective especially for the use of slang words. The most effective moment in the fight against this phenomenon would be, as it seems, high speech culture of prison collaborators and avoiding the use by them.

Body tattoo is a drawing application, inscriptions, abbreviations etc., through the introduction under the skin of dyestuffs using different devices. Conventional tattoos can be divided into three major groups:

- 1) tattoos with self-confirmation meaning or imitating someone (from the category of significant people for the one who wears the tattoo); this group is specified by the fact that shows the orientation of value of the subject;
- 2) tattoos, linked to any personal or significant events that occurred in the life of the subject (often intimate);
- 3) tattoos, linked to a criminal history or desire of the subject to imitate the person from the crime group(s).

It should be mentioned, that lately tattoo more young people. Adults require to not get tattoos or tattoo in hidden places on the body. One of the reasons for refusal to get a tattoo of adults is undesirable to have an extra special sign.