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An Interpretation of Behavioral Traits of Criminal Motivation

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Abstract

The criminal motivation acquisition is a characteristic of behavioral and environmental factors in the process of criminal motivation, and one of organic components in the structure of criminal motivation. The discussion of behavior traits of criminal motivation includes three aspects: behavioral factors, mechanisms and components. The basic constitutional dimensions and factors are derived from classical conditioning, operant conditioning and observational learning (social learning) and frustration reaction, which are embodied in criminal inducement, criminal object, criminal habit and other specific components of criminal motivation through reinforcement, punishment and self-reinforcement and other formation mechanisms.

Key words: Criminal motivation; Criminal object; Criminal inducement; Criminal habit

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INTRODUCTION

Criminal motivation is an inner cause or a psychological strength stimulating and promoting the perpetrator to

implement criminal behavior, which explores a core issue of what the psychological reasons are for the perpetrators implementing criminal behavior. Animal and human motivations have acquisition mechanisms and components, but most theories indicate that, in human behavior, acquisition motivation accounts for a greater proportion. In the exploration of acquisition motivation, the status of behaviorism is the most prominent. The main contribution of behaviorism is to examine how the behavior is acquired. That is, several types of learning not only affect the formation of motivation, but also affect the means of expression of motivation in behavior. These types of learning, including classical conditioning, operant conditioning and observational learning (social learning), have investigated means of formation and expression of human motivation and criminal motivation, behavior model from different points of view.

1. FACTORS AND MECHANISMS OF CRIMINAL MOTIVATION ACQUISITION

For the meaning of explanation of criminal motivation, classical conditioning may be also embodied in suppression and reconstruction conditioned reflex of vanishing and correction of criminal motivation. In most cases, classical conditioning modes formed by criminal motivation are unconscious and passive. However, we can artificially design and disturb to vanish or transform criminal motivation. The formation of criminal motivation and reaction of criminal behavior is the results of multiple matching of the negative stimulus (conditioned stimulus) and unconditioned stimulus (positive inner experience and "valuable behavior response tendency". On the one hand, we can predict the occurrence or change of individual behavior according to the stimulus situation and its changes; on the other hand, we can also design and arrange a particular stimulus situation to change its original tendency of criminal motivation.

The classical conditioning proposes that behavior is induced by a specific stimulus (learning predictable things), different from which, operant conditioning considers that the probability of behavior is determined by reinforcement or punishment offered after operant behavior, i.e. learning of behavioral outcomes. Operant behavior is spontaneous for organic entity, which can describe the behavior of its features based on its environmental results. Neo-behaviorism represented by Skinner has carried out a systematic research on the behavioral model caused by its reinforcement, which considers that the reinforcement is a means and measure to improve reaction probability. The reinforcement is a force to increase behaviors and an indispensable factor to shape behavior and maintain behavioral intensity; and it can be divided into positive reinforcement and negative reinforcement. Punishment is a technique for reducing the probability of behavioral response; punishment object refers to any kind of stimulus. When it is accompanied by a certain reaction, it can reduce the subsequent probability after such reaction. Punishment can also be divided into positive punishment and negative punishment. Accordingly, reinforcement and punishment are an important variable and specific mechanism to form or curb criminal motivation.

Neo-behaviorism represented by Bandura and social learning theory with a core concept of observational learning have discussed the acting force of direct experience, indirect experience and biological factors in the behavior. This theory can explain the power acquired, inspired, maintained and regulated from aggressive behavior of people, while criminal behavior is a typical extreme performance of aggressive behavior.

2. COMPONENTS OF CRIMINAL MOTIVATION ACQUISITION

The acquisition components of criminal motivation are directly embodied as behavioral intention components of criminal motivation. The behavioral intention component of criminal motivation is a specific dynamic factor of behavioral tendency of criminal motivation, mainly including three aspects, i.e. criminal inducement, orientation of criminal objective and criminal behavioral habit.

2.1 Criminal Inducement

Criminal inducement can be also called as of criminal inducement motivation, which is an object and situational stimulus that the perpetrators try to obtain and avoid. It is a core concept of criminal inducement theory, emphasizing the effect of external inducement on stimulation and sustain of criminal motivation. For the criminal motivation, criminal inducement is a stimulus or object that can cause criminal motivation. Its effect

is directly embodied as criminal temptation. Criminal inducement can be physical, such as the property of others; criminal inducement can also be spiritual, such as praise of perpetrators. Although the criminal inducement and criminal motivation of the perpetrator's inner drive respectively belong to internal forces and external factors, they are closely related to each other: Criminal inducement is a counterpart directed by criminal motivation of inner drive in the environment. Criminal motivation of inner drive is a basis to generate criminal inducement; both of them are interdependent, jointly acting on satisfaction of the needs of perpetrators. Just as what Hull proposes in the drive-inducement theory: With repeat reduction in the drive, the organism forms a habit, namely, the habit possesses a dynamic property of behavior: $\text{behavior} = \text{drive} \times \text{habit}$ (later modified as $\text{behavior} = \text{drive} \times \text{inducement} \times \text{habit}$). In most cases, criminal inducement refers to positive inducement, namely stimulants that can meet the needs of perpetrators and then perpetrators head for, pursue and accept it, such as money, beauty, status, fame, etc.. Under certain circumstances, criminal inducement also refers to negative inducement, namely stimulants that impede the needs of perpetrators, and then perpetrators expel and avoid it, such as compunction, revolt of the victim and confrontation of bystanders. In criminal motivation, the role of criminal inducement is mainly embodied as:

Criminal inducement is an information carrier of criminal motivation: criminal inducement is an intermediary between criminal preliminary situation and criminal behavior. The anticipated stimulus can cause direct power, and inducement motivation leads to criminal behavior. If the criminal object can affect behavior before realization, the organism can certainly expect the availability of the object to a certain extent. The predictability of such an object is convenient for criminal inducement to become information signal required by activities that are possessed by criminal motivation: criminal result or criminal experience can be subjectively foreseeable from criminal inducement.

Criminal inducement is an emotional generator of criminal motivation: the motivation of criminal inducement is an important contributing factor of criminal behavior; there is a close link between motivation of criminal inducement and emotional reaction of the perpetrator. When there is an criminal object or positive stimulus occurs (or subjective anticipation occurs), the perpetrator is often accompanied with hope and excitement, which will greatly promote the real power of criminal motivation; when criminal object is missing or negative stimulus occurs, the perpetrator is often accompanied with disappointment or fear, which is often not conducive to realization of the criminal motivation.

Criminal inducement is an energizer of criminal motivation: even under the role of criminal motivation

mainly with an interior driving force, criminal inducement can often greatly enhance the power of criminal motivation, and improve persistence of criminal behavior. In some crimes with weaker criminal motivation with an interior driving force, such as opportunistic crime, situational crime, if there is no positive criminal inducement, criminal behavior tends to be inhibited or suspended; of course, criminal stimulants have different inducement values. Only inducement matters with medium and above medium temptation have a larger function of criminal motivation. In some crimes with stronger criminal motivation with an interior driving force, such as abnormal sexual perpetrators or violent perpetrators, under the drive by strong instinct sexual motivation, it often leads to continuously implement sex crimes and violent crimes. For another example, for premeditated crimes, the perpetrators tend to be actively looking for criminal inducement or make up a situation that is suitable for committing a crime, so as to successfully implement criminal behavior.

2.2 Orientation of Criminal Object

Criminal object is a specific object oriented by results (criminal object) and criminal object that criminal behavior wants to achieve. For example, murder and the victim in murder crimes and possessed properties and specific properties in robbery crimes are criminal objects in the research of criminal motivation; they all play a dynamic role in orientation of behavioral objects for crimes.

Criminal inducement and criminal object are closely related, but without corresponding relations; the object must possess a criminal inducement value, while the inducement is not necessarily the object. The inducement is a valuable matter or event, but people do not pursue all things with inducement value. Generally speaking, the inducement for an inducement value that is beyond the medium could not become a criminal object.

Criminal object drives psychological attention and the center of behavioral intention of perpetrators to direct at a specific object, which is attracted by expected results of behavior and a particular object, so that the criminal object has its significance in criminal motivation.

The theory of object considers that, the setting of object (high and low levels of object) affects the performance of motivation behavior. With the increase of difficulty in object, the behavioral performance will also increase. In other words, the greater difficulty in selecting objects by people is, the better the behavioral performance will be, and despite the likelihood of successfully achieving the object is reduced. (Lock, 1968) In criminal motivation, the majority of criminal objects are intrinsic and conscious (present in direct intentional crimes in the Criminal Law), while only a minority of criminal object is extrinsic and unconscious (some parts present in indirect intentional and negligent crimes).

The formation process of criminal object consists of two important aspects, namely, selection of criminal object and investment in criminal object. The selection of criminal object refers to the actual object that the perpetrator tries to obtain (result and specific object) and level they want to achieve. It is not only affected by the type, strength and level of individual needs, but also restrained by reward and punishment for individual's previous behavior and observational behavior. Meanwhile, the selection of criminal object is also affected by criminal experience and technology of perpetrators and capacity to bear criminal pressure. The so-called "the skilled are bold" is also a true portrayal of perpetrators' mentality in the selection of criminal object. The criminal object selected by the majority of recidivism and habitual criminal organization is often higher than before, exerting their intensified criminal desire and subjective culpability.

The investment in criminal object is an extent that the perpetrator makes efforts to achieve criminal object. It is manifested as subjective will and enthusiasm of perpetrators on corresponding criminal behaviors. On the one hand, the level of selection of criminal object is proportional to criminal object: selection of high object leads to high investment in object, and high investment in object drives the realization of object. The selection of high criminal object does not necessarily lead to the achievement of criminal object, but the criminal motivation of the perpetrator may be more likely in a high level and possess aggression and confrontation. On the other hand, difficulty and obstacles, and objective or subjective risks in the investment in criminal object are important factors of restriction. When the investment in criminal object is experienced by the perpetrators that it is gradually progressed to criminal object (progressive enhancement of object), the investment in criminal object will be greatly enhanced. This situation becomes more crazy and obviously with facilitation of perpetrators' mood.

2.3 Criminal Behavioral Habit

With repeated effect relations ("effect rate") and enhancement of reward and punishment, a more reliable relation may be built between criminal stimulus, criminal situation and criminal behavior and criminal result. The most typical power of criminal motivation is crime dynamic stereotype, (also called as "criminal impetus"), namely, automatic and habitual reaction system formed by certain stimulation, situation or behavioral outcome of the perpetrator's cerebral cortex. Its formation is a result of conscious selection, processing and reaction on various related stimuli based on the perpetrator's experience and emotional experience, so as to achieve automatic and habitual degree after many times. When the relevant stimulus appears again, the perpetrator may produce habitual criminal motivation and criminal behavior, making it difficult to suppress.

As the performance of stimulus and response, behavioral outcome and behavioral enhancement, criminal life experience of the perpetrator has become an important impetus for their further crimes. In the current wave of crimes all around the country, many criminal cases (especially major and important cases) are those who have had experience of crimes or participated in some events. It also explains a real state of criminal motivation for the criminal behavioral habit. Japanese criminologist Yoshimasu Osamuotto has combined with the age of the perpetrator, recommitting and its interval and criminal direction to divide repeated crimes into premature perpetrators and tardive perpetrators, homogeneous perpetrators and multi-directional perpetrators, one-time perpetrators and persistent perpetrators and other types of perpetrators, and investigate different intensity and harmfulness of re-criminal motivation.

In the acquisition components of criminal motivation, the most prominent component is criminal habitus. This is a criminal psychological characteristic and criminal impetus of pursuing criminal objective and spiritual satisfaction by the perpetrator who tends to commit a crime and repeated crimes for a long time. The vices of the perpetrator with such a criminal impetus which are formed in a long term will be gradually fixed, and transformed into criminal personality and behavioral pattern, so that the perpetrators have turbulent impulsion and special hobby to implement criminal behavior, and repeatedly commit crimes. The specific formation reasons are: committing a crime for many times is successful (continuous positive reinforcement), and without punishment, which has fully realized criminal object and enjoyable experience from criminal activities, resulting in a strong and stable criminal dynamic stereotype, so that the perpetrator can automatically and habitually repeat such criminal behavior. This is a general pattern of the formation of criminal habitus. Moreover, after being punished due to committing a crime, when the perpetrator is unable to adapt to normal social life after specific environmental effects in prison, he may commit a crime as a means of life, and gradually become a recidivist with a particular type of crime in serving a sentence and multiple criminal experiences. This is a special pattern of the formation of criminal habitus. In addition, some abnormal criminal psychology, such as eccentric personality disorder (pyromania, fetishism, pilferage, etc.), sexual perversion, etc. may also induce and lead to a particular type of criminal habitus.

Thus, the behavioral intention component of criminal motivation for the criminal inducement, orientation of criminal objective and criminal behavioral habit as the core is formed and functioned in the basic principle of classical conditioning, operant conditioning and

observational learning (social learning). Among them, the formation mechanism of criminal motivation includes reinforcement, punishment and self-reinforcement. The mechanism of reinforcement is a basic mechanism of behavioral intention of criminal motivation, and also the most central mechanism, which achieves a closely related conditioned response between criminal stimulus situation, criminal behavioral outcome and perpetrator through effect link and positive, negative reinforcement between criminal stimulus situation and criminal behavior (S-R rule), criminal outcome and behavior (R-R rule), perpetrator and criminal behavior (O-R rule), so that the criminal inducement, orientation of criminal object and criminal behavioral habit have a definite motivation function.

Self-reinforcement mechanism is a special type of reinforcement mechanism. It means that, because illegal and criminal activities can meet the needs of perpetrators and expectations of self-value (i.e. intermediary factors in S-O-R link), perpetrators can get self-affirmation, self-reward and praise of criminal members, and then criminal psychology may be further strengthened and then become an impetus of recommitting. This is a reinforcement effect possessed by the perpetrator (or potential perpetrator) due to self-affirmation and self-reward. It can gradually eliminate the counter force possessed by the morality or conscience for the illegal and criminal impetus (i.e., relief of internal control and release of chronic inhibition), so that the criminal motivation of the perpetrators has a greater degree of freedom.

Punishment is a supporting mechanism in the formation of a behavioral intention component of criminal motivation, and it plays a potential bi-directional effect along with the reinforcement mechanism. Generally speaking, the criminal motivation can be hindered for a further formation to a certain extent through the punishment link (positive punishment and negative punishment) and self-punishment between criminal stimulus situation and criminal behavior, behavioral outcome and behavior, perpetrator and criminal behavior. However, the punishment mechanism sometimes may also promote or enhance criminal motivation from reaction direction: failure in realization of criminal motivation, free of anticipated criminal object, or making up for a loss from a further criminal behavior (in this case, the punishment induces a strong motivation of remedy) are likely to promote or enhance the existing level of crime. After being punished, the perpetrators may be further intensified to commit another crime.

CONCLUSION

The behavioral intention component of criminal motivation is closely related to physiological, cognitive

and emotional component, jointly constituting an entire structure of criminal motivation (decomposition of each component is only for the purposes of research and analysis). The reinforcement and punishment mechanism in the dimension of criminal motivation acquisition have a combined action and an interaction effect with the cognitive mechanism (cognitive selection, role identity, attribution mechanism), and they also have a potential and profound link with some mysterious biological mechanisms (nerve mechanism and automatic mechanism of the endocrine) and emotional mechanisms (situational stress mechanism, emotional contagion mechanism).

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