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Forensic-linguistic and religious expertise in the investigation of crimes committed by members of youth informal groups (associations) of extremist orientation

Судово-лінгвістична та релігійозна експертиза при розслідуванні злочинів, учинених членами молодіжних неформальних груп (об'єднань) екстремістської спрямованості

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Abstract

The article explores the unique challenges of conducting forensic-linguistic and religious expertise during the investigation of crimes committed by members of youth informal groups (associations) with extremist leanings. It outlines the specific investigative practices for these types of crimes. The research aims to analyze forensic-linguistic and religious expertise in investigating crimes perpetrated by members of these groups. The importance of these types of expertise is underscored by the rising number of extremism cases among young people, which necessitates innovative identification and prevention methods. Linguistic analysis can reveal underlying meanings and manipulative language tools, crucial for effective crime investigation and maintaining justice and societal safety. As extremist crimes often transcend international

Анотація

У статті досліджуються унікальні проблеми проведення судово-лінгвістичної та релігійозна експертизи під час розслідування злочинів, учинених учасниками молодіжних неформальних груп (об'єднань) екстремістського спрямування. У ньому викладено конкретну практику розслідування цих видів злочинів. Дослідження спрямоване на аналіз судово-лінгвістичної та релігійозна експертизи у розслідуванні злочинів, учинених членами цих груп.

Важливість цих видів експертизи підкреслюється зростанням кількості випадків екстремізму серед молоді, що вимагає інноваційних методів виявлення та запобігання. Лінгвістичний аналіз може виявити глибинні значення та маніпулятивні мовні засоби, що має вирішальне значення для

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borders, it is vital to develop adaptable research methods for different cultural and social contexts.

The study employs scientific methods such as observation, analysis, synthesis, comparison, generalization, and extrapolation. It reviews scientific literature on youth groups, anti-extremism, crime investigation, forensics, and religious studies, alongside examining investigation materials from crimes committed by youth extremist groups.

Promising avenues for future research include analyzing forensic examinations conducted during the investigation of crimes committed by youth informal groups with extremist orientations. This could enhance understanding and provide better strategies for tackling extremism in various contexts.

Keywords: forensic linguistic examination, religious examination, investigation, crime, youth, informal group.

Introduction

In recent times, the world has experienced surges in violent extremism, claiming the lives of numerous innocent individuals. These extremist ideologies, whether rooted in religion, ethnicity, or politics, advocate for the dominance of a specific group while opposing a more inclusive and tolerant society. This presents two interconnected challenges for modern societies: the escalation and cross-border proliferation of violent extremism, and the management of increasingly diverse and multicultural populations. Addressing violent extremism requires immediate interventions to safeguard people and assets, but preventing its spread necessitates a broader perspective that goes beyond strict security measures to address the underlying developmental factors contributing to the phenomenon.

The application of special knowledge during the investigation of crimes committed by members of youth informal groups (associations) of extremist orientation is an extremely necessary condition for obtaining evidentiary information and establishing the objective truth. One of the forms of application of special knowledge in the

ефективного розслідування злочинів і підтримки справедливості та соціальної безпеки. Оскільки екстремістські злочини часто виходять за межі міжнародних кордонів, життєво важливо розробити адаптивні методи дослідження для різних культурних і соціальних контекстів.

Дослідження використовує такі наукові методи, як спостереження, аналіз, синтез, порівняння, узагальнення та екстраполяція. Він оглядає наукову літературу з питань молодіжних груп, боротьби з екстремізмом, розслідування злочинів, криміналістики та релігієзнавства, а також аналізує матеріали розслідування злочинів, скоєних молодіжними екстремістськими групами.

Перспективним напрямком подальших досліджень є аналіз судово-медичних експертиз, проведених під час розслідування злочинів, вчинених молодіжними неформальними групами екстремістської орієнтації. Це могло б покращити розуміння та забезпечити кращі стратегії для боротьби з екстремізмом у різних контекстах.

Ключові слова: судово-лінгвістична експертиза, релігієзнавча експертиза, розслідування, злочин, молодь, неформальна група.

investigation of criminal proceedings of the specified category is forensic examination.

Expertise in criminal proceedings, in which members of youth informal groups (associations) of extremist orientation are suspected, as a general rule, can be divided into two groups: general (typical) and special. The first group should include scientific and expert studies that are inherent in the investigation of crimes in which harm is caused to the life and health of a person: forensic-medical, forensic-psychiatric, forensic-biological, separate forensic (traceological, ballistic, dactyloscopic, handwriting) and some other examinations. The second group, in particular, should include forensic-linguistic and religious expertise (Larkin, 2019).

It is the specificity of forensic-linguistic and religious studies that allows us to establish the motivational component of crimes, the nature of ideas, and views that united young people in an informal group of extremist orientation.

The subject is the study of forensic-linguistic and religious expertise in the investigation of crimes

committed by members of youth informal groups of extremist orientation, namely the study of speech and religious aspects that are important for establishing the facts, circumstances, and motives of the crime, as well as for the identification and confirmation of the guilt of suspects.

The task of scientific research in the field of forensic-linguistic and religious expertise in the investigation of crimes committed by members of youth informal groups of extremist orientation is:

1. Analysis of crimes committed by youth groups to identify general trends that may indicate specific methods of activity and motivation.
2. Study of the peculiarities of forensic-linguistic and religious expertise in the investigation of crimes committed by members of youth informal groups (associations) of extremist orientation.
3. Identification of problematic issues of conducting forensic-linguistic and religious expertise in the investigation of crimes committed by members of youth informal groups (associations) of extremist orientation and search for solutions.

These tasks will help not only to understand the nature and spread of extremism among young people but also to develop strategies and measures to counter this phenomenon in society.

Regarding the use of specific terms, we note that definitions of concepts are provided in the text.

Theoretical framework or literature review

During the study of forensic-linguistic and religious expertise in the investigation of crimes committed by members of youth informal groups (associations) of extremist orientation, the works of the following scientists were studied:

Gora (2013) drew attention to problematic issues of special linguistic knowledge in the judiciary of Ukraine. It was remarked that the publication of their methods and their discussion by the scientific community is important from the point of view of verifying the reliability of experts' conclusions. Conducting forensic examinations only since knowledge in the field of science, technology, art, or craft without reference to published methodological works in the field of forensic research may raise doubts about the reliability of the results obtained. Understanding the parties of criminal proceedings the basics of

the methodology of conducting and the tactics of appointing forensic experts is important not only for the correct assessment of the conclusions of experts conducted at the initiative of the prosecution parties but also for identifying their own initiative in appointing an expert according to an agreement or submitting a petition to the investigating judge for the appointment of an expert.

The subject of Khavarivskyi's (2012) research was the state examination of religious studies in Ukraine. The author concluded that Ukraine currently does not have a legal mechanism for the examination of religious organizations. The prospects for the functioning of the Institute of Religious Expertise in Ukraine under such circumstances can only be characterized by declarativeness and ineffectiveness. In this regard, the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine must initiate the development and adoption of a corresponding by-law, for example, the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On State Religious Expertise". With this act, it is necessary to approve the detailed procedure for conducting the state religious examination and the provisions of the Expert Council on this matter. It is worth predicting that organizational and logistical support of the activities of the Expert Council will be carried out by the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine. Some experts believe that it is more correct to use the term "state religious examination", which emphasizes the state nature of such examination and makes it clear that the state body in matters of religion is the only competent body for conducting such examinations (even though "religious examination" may also be conducted by scientific institutions, public organizations, etc.). The procedure of the state religious examination in Ukraine (if it is enshrined in the law) can become an effective administrative tool to fight against the illegal activities of certain religious organizations. It is also worth considering the possibility of creating a register of religious trends, movements, and currents, about which religious examinations were conducted.

Azhniuk (2017, 2016) investigated the issue of linguistic expertise. It was concluded that linguistic expertise and linguistic expert practice are now actively researching and developing new, accessible technologies for using linguistic knowledge in the field of law. At the same time, the potential scope of their application is constantly expanding. The linguist's argumentation often becomes a powerful tool to strengthen the legal position of the legal practitioner. Linguistics can offer new, non-

standard approaches to solving legal problems. Practice shows that the conclusion of a linguistic examination often resolves controversial issues in the field of justice.

Linguistic expertise in law enforcement became the object of research by Sudak (2015). It was concluded that the legislator did not establish unified special legal norms that would determine the order of appointment and the specifics of conducting forensic linguistic examinations. Our proposed method is aimed at optimizing the work of linguist experts, as it allows building a logical chain of actions that leads to obtaining a rational result of the examination in the form of a perfect conclusion.

Boyarov (2017) investigated some issues of questioning witnesses in criminal proceedings about extremist activities. Chernyavskiy (2010) investigated the theoretical and practical foundations of financial fraud investigation methodology.

Kolosok (2014) analyzed the requirements for a religious expert in the field of scientific expertise. It was concluded that, at the moment, there are no clearly defined legal norms regulating the conduct of religious studies examinations in Ukraine. It is not established in which cases such examinations are appointed, who carries them out, exactly how they are carried out, what are the objects of the examination and what are the requirements for experts' conclusions. It has been established that experts in this field cannot be public organizations, persons who have connections with religious organizations, civil servants, priests, or theologians. A religious expert who conducts religious examinations must have a higher academic education, a scientific degree in the field of religious studies, experience in participating in interdisciplinary research, and professional competence. Unfortunately, the legislation does not establish specific requirements for the qualification of such experts. Therefore, it is necessary to create conditions for the specialized training of future religious experts.

Tytarenko (2013) investigated the methodological features of religious expertise as a mechanism for regulating social relations. It is concluded that the development and institutionalization of analysis, forecasting based on expertise and management of the religious situation depends on the following factors: overcoming the gap that persists between academic science and practical religious studies;

an increase in the level of "demand" of the government and other subjects of the religious situation for expert-analytical products of this kind; development of a culture of strategic thinking of the political and managerial elite in decision-making in the field of issues related to the religious life of Ukrainian society.

Garasimov, Dufenyuk, and Zakharova (2019) analyzed the methodology for investigating certain types of crimes. Moreover, Didkivska (2020) drew attention to the peculiarities of criminal proceedings in crimes committed by minors from socially disadvantaged families. In her work, Shcherbyna (2023) carried out an analysis of the characteristics of a criminal who is a member of a youth informal group (association). During the research, a number of characteristic features inherent in the participants of informal youth groups (associations) were identified: they create their own system of values and ideology, which is characterized by nihilism, conflict and denial of generally accepted ethical, cultural, moral and legal norms in society; when a person is involved in an informal association, a complete change in his worldview is observed; participants are characterized by unmotivated, increased cruelty and uncontrolled aggression; may commit criminal offenses spontaneously or organized; the number of participants can range from a few to thousands of people; most participants abuse alcohol, narcotic substances, may have other types of addiction, e.g. gambling; they usually have a low level of income and a low level of intelligence; may have common features of speech (slang), clothing, appearance (hairstyle, make-up, tattoo, etc.) or leave certain "ritual" or "ritual" signs at the scene of a criminal offense (Satanists, skinheads).

Additionally, Babakin (2022) considered operational investigative monitoring of the operational situation in combating crimes committed by young people. Based on the above, it was concluded that the process of operative and investigative monitoring in combating crimes committed by young people includes several successive stages. First, the collection and study of general information about the criminogenic environment in which young people function is carried out. Then information about the criminological situation and specific objects of operational attention is revealed. Next, a search for information about these objects in a criminally active and criminogenic environment is conducted to identify trends in the development of crime among young people. Then a search is made for investigative information on specific criminal offenses and

persons who may commit them. After that, the collection and assessment of information about forces and means is carried out. The next stage is the identification of factors affecting the operational situation, after which a set of general and operational search measures is developed to improve the process of searching, obtaining, and verifying information. However, the issues raised are not yet final and require further separate research or scientific study.

Regarding the key trends that can be seen from the conducted analysis, it is worth emphasizing the following: researchers are developing integrated approaches that combine the methods of linguistics and religious studies to analyze the texts, communications, and symbols used by extremist groups; research aimed at analyzing the ideas, beliefs, and motivations behind the actions of youth extremist groups, particularly through linguistic and religious analysis of their statements, propaganda and literature; research is aimed at developing and improving methodological approaches to forensic-linguistic and religious expertise, including standardization of evaluation procedures and criteria.

In the process of investigating criminal proceedings related to the activities of youth informal groups of extremist orientation, investigators need to use the special knowledge of various experts. This may include the involvement of specialists in the field of psychology, religious studies, and other disciplines in conducting investigative (research) actions. For example, psychologists can be involved in the interrogation of juvenile suspects or witnesses, and religious scholars - in the analysis of literature and texts seized during searches. In addition, during the investigation, it may be useful to involve specialists to conduct an inspection of the scene, question people, search and other actions that require specific knowledge.

Research methodology

In the process of working on the article, the scientific literature devoted to youth informal groups (associations), the fight against extremism, crime investigation, forensics, religious studies, etc. was analyzed. The empirical basis of the study was the materials of the investigation of crimes committed by members of youth informal groups (in particular, extremist orientation).

Note that it is essential to use a variety of scientific methods, which include observation,

analysis, synthesis, comparison, generalization, and extrapolation, for forensic-linguistic and religious expertise in the investigation of crimes committed by members of youth informal groups of extremist orientation. Below is how these methods were applied in the study:

Observation: Observing the activities of the group and its members, including speech and behavioral activity, can help understand the dynamics of their interaction and identify possible extremist tendencies. The use of this method helped to draw conclusions about the specifics of extremist groups and their behavioral features.

Analysis: The analysis of scientific works, texts, communications, and other materials related to forensic linguistic and religious expertise in the investigation of crimes committed by members of youth informal groups of extremist orientation allowed us to understand the peculiarities of this type of expertise, as well as problematic aspects in this context. In addition, the analysis method contributed to the identification of trends regarding the researched issue and problematic aspects of conducting the researched type of examinations.

Synthesis: Compilation of received data and results of analysis to create a comprehensive view of forensic linguistic and religious expertise in the investigation of crimes committed by members of youth informal groups of extremist orientation. This method contributed to comprehensive research and the formation of conclusions.

Comparison: Comparison of the examined types of expertise both among themselves, and research and comparison with other types of expertise allowed to identify of common and distinctive features, as well as to establish patterns and trends.

Generalization: Formulation of general conclusions and assumptions based on the analysis of specific cases and data, which made it possible to conclude the nature of the extremist activity of the group, as well as the specifics of the examination of this crime.

Extrapolation: Using the obtained data to make assumptions about the future trends of the group's development and its impact on society, which can serve as a basis for developing preventive measures and strategies to combat extremism, as well as improving the conduct of examinations.

These methods made it possible to carry out a comprehensive and objective study of the extremist activity of youth groups and led to the development of effective strategies for countering this phenomenon. This method was used to form generalizations about the trends of the researched type of expertise, as well as to identify problems and form hypotheses regarding possible ways to solve such problems.

In the process of research of forensic-linguistic and religious expertise in the investigation of crimes committed by members of youth informal groups of extremist orientation, various tools and resources are used for data collection and analysis. In particular, a variety of data were collected, such as text materials (literature, publications on the Internet), video and audio recordings, as well as court cases and expert opinions. The above-mentioned methods were used to analyze the text materials.

Various tools and resources can be used in the scientific work of forensic-linguistic and religious expertise in the investigation of crimes committed by members of youth informal groups of extremist orientation. In particular, the use of software tools for the analysis of text materials in order to identify features of speech, lexical and syntactic structures that may indicate radicalization or extremist orientation; use of electronic databases and web resources to access text materials, religious texts, documents and other sources that may be the object of analysis; turning to experts in the field of linguistics, religious studies and other relevant disciplines for consultation and support in understanding complex linguistic and religious aspects; using text corpora to analyze speech features and trends in language use in the context of extremist activities.

To ensure the credibility and reliability of scientific results in forensic-linguistic and religious studies when investigating crimes committed by members of youth informal groups of extremist orientation, a responsible approach and the use of various methods were followed. In particular, strict methodological principles were followed during the collection, analysis and interpretation of data to avoid distortions and false conclusions. All phases of the study, including data collection, analysis methods, and results obtained, were documented in detail for subsequent review and review.

Results and discussion

The legal basis for conducting examinations in criminal proceedings is the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine (Law 4651-VI, 2012).

Forensic linguistic examination is based on the use of knowledge of linguistics and related sciences – psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, ethno psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, pathopsycholinguistics, philosophy of language, etc. Only a person with a higher philological education, preferably with special expert training, has the right to conduct this type of examination.

During the investigation of crimes committed by members of youth informal groups (associations) of extremist orientation, there is a need to appoint and conduct a linguistic examination of speech, which is divided into subtypes: linguistic examination of written speech and linguistic examination of oral speech.

It is generally accepted that the object of research of linguistic examination of written speech is the product of human speech activity reflected in written form.

The objects of expert research can be media reports, materials of public speeches, anonymous letters, posters and inscriptions, etc., and the subject is the semantic orientation of this material since the expert needs to determine and justify whether this material is not aimed at inciting enmity towards of one or another group: racial, religious, etc. Such examinations are conducted by psycholinguists, philologists, and social psychologists who specialize in media research (Gora, 2013).

The messages presented in the text can be presented not only verbally, but also iconically (from the Greek *eikon* - image), that is, by visual means. Thus, in February 2006, Charlie Hebdo reprinted the iconic image of the Prophet Mohammed (they were first published in Denmark in 2005). Since it is forbidden in Islam to schematically depict living beings, French Muslims have taken the weekly to court. But the court sided with the defendant (the editors), who explained that the caricature mocked radical Islamists, not religion in general. In 2011, the editors of Charlie Hebdo announced the publication of a special issue of the weekly, which indicated the invitation of the editor-in-chief to the Prophet Mohammed. This also caused a conflict, and the editor-in-chief of the publication, Stéphane Charbonnier, received 24-

hour police protection. At the same time, only 1.3% of all cartoons in 2005-2015 were devoted to the Muslim theme in the weekly magazine.

In case of availability of information and materials seized during the inspection, search, and other investigative (search) actions: texts (records, program, charter of an informal group, etc.) for research and determination of content orientation (in particular, as a purposeful act of public transmission of certain information in the form of written speech), a linguistic examination of written speech is carried out, which is an important factor in determining the motivation of the actions of persons who committed a crime.

Among the typical questions that are put forward to be resolved by the examination, in particular, the following: Does the presented material contain information that incites actions against a certain race, nation, religion, social group, or individuals as its representatives? Are special language or other means used in the presented materials for the purposeful transmission of shameful characteristics, negative emotional evaluations, negative attitudes, and incitements to actions against a certain race, nation, religion, social group, or individuals as their representatives? Do the speech (visual) means used in the material contain humiliating characteristics; negative emotional evaluations and attitudes towards a certain race, nation, social group, religion, or individuals as its representatives?

As part of the linguistic examination of oral speech, identification and diagnostic studies of a person's oral speech and semantic research of oral speech are carried out. During the identification and diagnostic studies of a person's oral speech, issues related to: the identification of a person based on linguistic signs of oral speech are resolved; determination of the type of expression (spontaneous, unspontaneous speech, text reading, etc.); identification of signs of imitation, native language, etc. in speech (Order No. 53/5, 1998). This type of forensic examination, during the investigation of crimes committed by members of youth informal groups (associations) of an extremist orientation, is also essentially aimed at establishing the motive of the criminal offense through the study of oral statements, both during the direct implementation of the criminal act and before and after it committing. The objects of the linguistic examination of oral speech for the considered type of crime are oral statements (slogans, appeals, threats, insults) that were heard during the commission of the crime and have a

clear form of fixation, in particular: audio recordings, video recordings (Resolution No. 4, 2012).

Quite often, hate crimes committed by members of various youth informal groups (associations) of extremist orientation are accompanied by offensive statements regarding the race, nationality, religion, gender, or sexual orientation of the victimized person(s). It is oral statements that make it possible to make assumptions about the nature of the criminal offense, the motives of the persons (suspects) involved in the commission, and the type of youth informal group (association).

In addition, we would like to emphasize the need to consider as objects of linguistic examination of speech only sources of information of direct (immediate) origin (printed products, audio and video materials, etc.), because the use of information of indirect origin in the expert research process (for example, protocols of interrogation of the victim, witnesses, etc.).

When investigating manifestations of extremism related to the use of computer networks: forensic examination is often conducted. The main task of the author's examination is the identification of the author of the text. Autorecognition expertise solves identification tasks (regarding the identification of the person of the author of the text), as well as diagnostic tasks (regarding the conditions, peculiarities of text composition, the fact of distortion of signs of written speech, the place of formation of speech skills, native language, education of the author of the document, etc.) (Order No. 53/5, 1998). At the same time, it is impossible to equate the linguistic examination of written communication with the author's examination (Honcharenko, 2010), because they are related as a part and a whole.

Religious expertise in the legal field of Ukraine is not legally established, but special knowledge in this field of knowledge is necessary for researching general issues of religion. In addition, as part of the judicial examination, issues related to Catholicism, new religions, Orthodoxy, Islam, charismaticism, freedom of existence of religious communities, as well as certain religious cults, authoritarian sects, etc. are investigated.

It should be noted that the study of the latest religious currents and trends in Ukraine at the state level was practiced in the late 1990s and early 2000s. In the Information Report of the State Committee of Ukraine for Religious Affairs

for 1998 "On the State and Development Trends of the Religious Situation, State-Church Relations in Ukraine", it was reported that the Committee had introduced a system of studying the processes taking place in the environment of neo-religions, anticipatory orientation towards cults, which have a negative international reputation and are trying to establish themselves in Ukraine. It was also said that the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, on the initiative of the Committee, created a state religious expert council, which will deal with the examination of the religious doctrine of neo-movements and the study of their practice. It was noted that in some cases religious-mystical phraseology, paraphernalia, and practice become a cover for openly antisocial or criminal intentions.

According to the Committee, in 1997, manifestations of Satanism were recorded in Kyiv, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Chernivtsi, Crimea, Lviv, and Poltava regions (Khavarivskiy, 2012).

An essential feature of the religious examination is the establishment of the basis of those social relations that are not regulated by the norms of law and preceded or accompanied by specific actions that lead to an offense. Also, the general regularities of the behavior of a person (group of persons) of a separate creed are clarified from the point of view of religious studies as a science. Thus, answering the question of what religious norms and moral norms a person was guided by, what is the authority system of norms (hierarchy of norms) for him. It is in the examination of religious studies that religion is of interest from the point of view of its influence on human behavior, because "religion is, first of all, a teaching about how a person should manage his life", what is the connection between behavior and religious belief. The religious expert is obliged to evaluate, within the limits of a specific case, the conditions for the organization of civil society and the regime of assistance for individual freedom, from the position of a specific religion (belief), which is important for the case, that is, the relationship of religion to illegal behavior (Maidanevich, 2011).

The main tasks of religious research are: determining whether the organization is really religious; establishing its religious affiliation; defining the range of basic values, socially significant attitudes, and practices; the study of the religious direction itself; determining whether there is a negative attitude towards this religious direction or towards other religions, etc. Such a problematic issue as defining the

boundaries between religious extremism and religious attitudes and views is extremely crucial. For example, the religious examination of the beliefs and practices of the religious organization "Church of Scientology" established that "... Scientology did not avoid the declaration of the construction (transformation of the existing) society, which is common to all religions and even social philosophies (socialism, communism, etc.), based on the principles of justice or divine wisdom, and as for the essence of the creed of the "Great White Brotherhood", according to the expert's conclusions, it "... represents an attempt at an eclectic combination of the provisions of various religions, in particular, Krishnaism, as one of the branches of Hinduism, Christianity, etc. ., to present them as something new, original, and to declare the newly created religion called "Yusmalos" the "epochal religion of the future"..." (Maidanevich, 2011).

As the practice of investigating crimes committed by members of youth informal groups (associations) with an extremist orientation shows, one of the mistakes that complicates and sometimes leads to a dead end in the investigation is a contemptuous attitude to the study of certain special issues (Larkin, Biryukova, Makarenko, Ivanova, & Fedchyniak, 2020), in particular, regarding the appointment and conduct of such rather specific examinations as forensic-linguistic and religious.

Conducting forensic-linguistic and religious expertise in the investigation of crimes committed by youth informal groups of extremist orientation faces several problems, but there are also ways to solve them:

Insufficient legal framework: The lack of clear regulations governing the procedures for conducting such examinations complicates their conduct. **Solution:** Development of special legislative acts that will determine the procedure and criteria for conducting examinations.

The need for qualified experts: High qualifications and competence of experts in linguistics and religious studies are important for the objectivity and reliability of the results. **The way to a solution:** conducting specialized training and supporting scientific activity in these fields.

Objectivity and independence: To ensure the objectivity of the examination, it is necessary that the experts adhere to ethical standards, independent and impartial. **Solution:**

Development of standards of professional ethics for experts and establishment of control mechanisms for their activities.

Ambiguity in defining the objects of examination: It is important to clearly define what exactly is subject to examination to avoid disagreements in the definition of goals and objectives. Solution: Development of specific criteria and methods for determining objects of examination.

The need for further research: The development of this field requires further scientific research aimed at improving the methodology and increasing the effectiveness of forensic examinations.

The ways to solve these problems are the joint work of law enforcement agencies, scientific institutions, and other interested parties to develop and implement the necessary regulatory acts, standards, and methods to ensure the quality and objectivity of forensic examinations.

Here are some examples of forensic-linguistic and religious expertise, which can be carried out during the investigation of crimes committed by members of youth informal groups of extremist orientation:

1. Analysis of radical propaganda materials: Experts can examine religious or ideological texts, correspondence, websites and other materials to determine the presence of elements of radicalization or calls to violence.
2. Linguistic analysis of communication tools: Experts can examine the linguistic features of group members' communication, such as the use of specific vocabulary, stylistics, and syntax, which may indicate their extremist orientation.
3. Analysis of religious texts and symbols: Experts can study religious texts, symbols, and rituals to determine their use and interpretation by group members and their possible influence on their behavior.
4. Psychological state expert report: Psychological experts can conduct an assessment of the mental state and motivation of group members to understand the factors that contributed to their participation in extremist actions.
5. Examining Internet Activity and Social Networks: Experts can analyze a group's online activity, including their social networks and forums, to identify posts,

discussions, and other activities indicative of their extremist activities.

These examples demonstrate the diversity and complexity of forensic-linguistic and religious expertise that can be applied in the investigation of crimes related to youth extremist groups.

Regarding the applied value of the obtained results, this is manifested in several aspects:

1. Improving the effectiveness of crime investigations: Scientific research contributes to the development of analytical methods and tools that facilitate the detection of extremist activities and crimes committed by youth groups. This helps law enforcement agencies fight extremism more effectively.
2. Improvement of judicial processes: Scientific research ensures the objectivity and reliability of expert opinions, which is an important factor for judicial processes and consideration of cases.
3. Development of preventive measures: Research results can be used to develop and implement preventive programs aimed at preventing radicalization and intervention in the activities of extremist groups.
4. Supporting security policy: Scientific research can become the basis for the development and improvement of security policies aimed at preventing extremism and protecting society.

Therefore, the applied value of research in this area lies in its impact on practical aspects of combating extremism, improving law enforcement and judicial systems, as well as preventing similar events in the future.

Conclusions

Research requires the development of methodologies that would allow systematic and objective analysis of linguistic and religious aspects of extremism among youth groups.

The effectiveness of the examination depends on the qualifications and competence of the experts in linguistics and religious studies, as well as their ability to adhere to ethical standards and independence.

It is important to develop clear legal norms that will determine the procedure for conducting forensic-linguistic and religious examinations, as well as the criteria for appointing and qualifying experts.

It is important that experts adhere to the principles of objectivity, independence and ethics during the examination to guarantee the reliability of the results.

Therefore, the use of a wide range of forensic examinations is a necessary prerequisite for a high-quality and effective investigation of crimes committed by members of youth informal groups (associations) of extremist orientation. Undoubtedly, a special place is occupied by forensic-linguistic and religious expertise, which should provide answers and questions about the specifics of formation, activities of youth informal groups (associations) of extremist orientation and motives of criminal attacks.

The main problems of the research of forensic-linguistic and religious expertise in the investigation of crimes committed by members of youth informal groups of extremist orientation are analyzed, including: methodological challenges (the development of adequate methodologies for carrying out forensic-linguistic and religious expertise in the context of studying extremism among youth groups can be difficult due to the complexity of analyzing linguistic and religious sources); access to data (getting access to relevant linguistic and religious sources, such as textual materials, propaganda materials, literature, requires specific approaches and may face limitations); objectivity of expertise (ensuring the objectivity and independence of expert analysis can be a difficult task, especially in conditions of high social tension and the influence of political factors); identification of extremism (identification of criteria and signs of extremism in linguistic and religious texts, which are the object of research, can be subjective and refuted); ethical issues (researching extremism among youth has ethical aspects, in particular regarding the use of confidential information, ensuring confidentiality and protecting the rights of persons under research. These issues require attention and solutions to achieve quality results in researching extremism among youth groups.

About further scientific research, we consider it necessary to conduct a study of international experience in the linguistic and religious analysis of texts, identify linguistic and symbolic signs of extremist propaganda and ideology, and improve forensic-linguistic and religious expertise in the investigation of crimes committed by members of youth informal groups of extremist orientation.

Regarding the limitations of the study, we consider it necessary to pay attention to the following. Thus, research problems include the peculiarities of the investigated type of crime: crimes committed by youth informal groups with an extremist orientation often include various aspects that require a complex approach to their understanding and analysis. In addition, research requires expert knowledge in the field of forensic linguistics, religious studies, psychology and other disciplines to adequately understand and explain the actions of criminals. Also, obtaining access to materials such as correspondence, websites and other group communications may be difficult due to their confidential nature or technical limitations. The risk is that the results of the study may be subject to subjective interpretation, as they are based on the interpretation of texts, symbols and behavior of group participants.

Future research in this area will have a specific focus on the analysis of crimes committed by members of youth informal groups with extremist ideology. Forensic linguistics will focus on the linguistic aspects of materials found at the scene, such as correspondence, social media posts, etc. A religious examination will examine the influence of religious beliefs on the motivation and behavior of criminals. Given the complexity of interpreting and understanding extremist activity, such studies will require a broad interdisciplinary approach.

As for the practical implications of the obtained results, the results of the examinations can help law enforcement agencies improve their strategies for investigating and countering extremism among youth groups. In addition, the obtained results can be used to develop extremism prevention programs and educational initiatives among young people aimed at preventing radicalization. The obtained results can contribute to the development and implementation of state policies to combat extremism and protect public safety. Finally, understanding the motivations and factors that lead to participation in extremist groups can help design social rehabilitation programs for individuals who have left such groups.

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