

Semantic Reality in Forensic Psychology Analysis Context (Review article)

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This article purpose is to highlight methodological issues of modern forensic psychology analysis, to draw attention to multifaceted reality meaning acquiring different forms and manifesting itself in different psychological effects. Independent invariant statements of meaning definition in various psychological concepts are outlined, and its ontological, phenomenological and functional aspects in these concepts are considered. Using general theoretical methods of scientific knowledge, the main differences between cognitive and discursive psychology from theoretical basis point of view of psychological phenomena are distinguished. A number of methodological issues related to the solution of urgent expert tasks of modern forensic psychology analysis are highlighted (taking into account comments of expert practitioners regarding peculiarities of conducting multidisciplinary psychological and linguistic examinations). Referring to expert practice, object and topic of psychological research according to traditional and modern types of forensic psychological evaluations, as well as tasks solved by forensic expert psychologist during interview with polygraph use are defined. A complex of empirical methods used by expert psychologists to highlight specific aspects of semantic reality during expert research is given. Six varieties of dynamic semantic system of an

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individual are distinguished (personal sense, semantic attitude, motive, semantic disposition, semantic construct and personal value), which expert psychologist should take into account when analyzing phenomena and regularities of semantic regulation of human activity and consciousness in legally significant situations.

Keywords: *semantic reality; invariant statements of meaning definition; psychological researches; legally significant situation; forensic psychology analysis.*

Research Problem Formulation

Understanding meaning involves understanding reality in problematic situations, in particular legally significant ones. Within forensic science framework, focused on the maximum use of science and technology achievements, forensic psychology analysis is designed to provide justice with a conclusion with a thorough and comprehensive analysis of psychological aspects of a legally significant situation, namely: establish such specifics of mental person activity (and such their behavior manifestations), *“that have legal significance and cause certain legal consequences”* (paragraph 6.3 of section VI: *Forensic Psychology Analysis of Research guidelines on preparation and appointment of forensic examinations and forensic researches*)¹.

By its essence, forensic psychology analysis, like any other forensic science, is *“research based on specific expertise in the field of science, technology, art, craft, etc., of objects, phenomena and processes with the aim of providing a conclusion on issues that are or*

will be hearing topic” (Article 1 of Law of Ukraine: *On Judicial Examination*)². Given urgent needs of pre-trial investigation bodies and the fact that application of psychological knowledge (while conducting as homogeneous researches as forensic multidisciplinary examinations) involves the specific expertise adaptation to legal proceedings, it is advisable to consider theoretical statements of general psychology, as well as best practices of expert practitioners regarding the outlined issues for understanding methodological issues related to solution of expert tasks appearing to forensic psychology analysis.

Analysis of Essential Researches and Publications

Issue of *searching for meaning* has long been studied in theology, philosophy, and art from the point of view of perceiving and understanding hidden senses (categories of the sacred, after a while in a broader context) and determining what the worthiest human meaning of being consists of. From the beginning of the

-
- 1 Науково-методичні рекомендації з питань підготовки та призначення судових експертів та експертних досліджень : затв. наказом Мініюсту України від 08.10.1998 р. № 53/5 (зі змін. та допов.). URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z0705-98#Text> (date accessed: 31.05.2023).
 - 2 Про судову експертизу : Закон України від 25.02.1994 р. № 4038-XII (зі змін. та допов.). URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/4038-12#Text> (date accessed: 31.05.2023).

XX century, semantic problems were in the center of attention as philosophers (R. Barthes³, L. Wittgenstein⁴, M. Heidegger⁵, E. Husserl⁶, H.-G. Gadamer⁷, J. Derrida⁸, G. Deleuze⁹, M. Mamardashvili¹⁰, J.-P. Sartre¹¹, G. Frege¹², C. Jung¹³, K. Jaspers¹⁴ et al.), and psychiatrists (L. Binswanger¹⁵, V. E. Frankl¹⁶, I. D. Yalom¹⁷ et al.). During the 20th century, the meaning concept evolved from linguistic understanding of

sense of a word = meaning of a word to concept application of *sense* in psychological analysis of categories *activity*, *consciousness* and *personality*, concepts of meaningful individual organization. At the same time, if foreign psychologists considered meaning as a phenomenon of objective reality in the context of meaningful life problems (A. Adler¹⁸, J. Bugental¹⁹, A. Maslow²⁰, R. P. May²¹, V. E. Frankl²²), then most Soviet researchers studied meaning as subjective

- 3 Barthes R. Elements of Semiology. N. Y., 1968. 112 p. URL: https://monoskop.org/images/2/2c/Barthes_Roland_Elements_of_Semiology_1977.pdf (date accessed: 31.05.2023).
- 4 Вітгенштайн Л. Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus; Філософські дослідження / пер. з нім. Є. Поповича. Київ, 1995. 311 с. URL: https://web.archive.org/web/20161020042846/http://shron.chtyvo.org.ua/Wittgenstein_Ludwig/Filosofski_doslidzhennia.pdf (date accessed: 31.05.2023).
- 5 Гайдеггер М. Буття в околі речей / Возняк Т. Тексти та переклади. Харків, 1998. С. 332—345. URL: <https://www.ji.lviv.ua/ji-library/Vozniak/text-i-perekl/kn3-heid2.htm> (date accessed: 31.05.2023).
- 6 Гуссерль Е. Ідеї чистої феноменології і феноменологічної філософії. Книга перша. Загальний вступ до чистої феноменології / пер. з нім. і комент. В. Кебуладзе. Харків, 2020. 348 с.
- 7 Гадамер Г.-Г. Істина і метод. Т. 1 : Герменевтика I: Основи філософської герменевтики / пер. з нім. О. Мокровольського. Київ, 2000. 464 с. URL: https://shron3.chtyvo.org.ua/Gadamer_Hans-Georg/Istyna_i_metod_t1.pdf (date accessed: 31.05.2023).
- 8 Derrida J. La Dissémination. Paris, 1972. 411 с.
- 9 Deleuze G. The Logic of Sense. Columbia University Press ed., 1990. 393 p.
- 10 Мамардашвили М. К. Формы и содержание мышления : автореф. дис. ... д-ра филос. наук. Тбилиси, 1970. 48 с.
- 11 Сартр Ж.-П. Буття і ніщо (фрагменти) / пер. В. Ляха // Сучасна зарубіжна філософія. Течії і напрями : хрестоматія. Київ, 1996. С. 112—182. URL: https://www.academia.edu/37046100/%D0%96%D0%B0%D0%BD_%D0%9F%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%8C_%D0%A1%D0%B0%D1%80%D1%82%D1%80_%D0%91%D1%83%D1%82%D1%82%D1%8F_%D1%96_%D0%BD%D1%96%D1%89%D0%BE_%D1%84%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B3%D0%BC%D0%B5%D0%BD%D1%82%D0%B8_%D0%BF%D0%B5%D1%80_%D0%92%D1%96%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%B%D1%96%D0%B9_%D0%9B%D1%8F%D1%85_ (date accessed: 31.05.2023).
- 12 Frege G. Schriften zur Logik und Sprachphilosophie: Aus dem Nachlass. Hamburg, 2001. 217 s.
- 13 Юнг К. Г. Архетипи і колективне несвідоме / пер. з нім. К. Котюк ; наук. ред. О. Фешовець. Львів, 2018. 608 с.
- 14 Ясперс К. Про сенс історії (фрагменти) / пер. А. Гордієнка // Сучасна зарубіжна філософія С. 183—210.
- 15 Binswanger L. Grundformen und Erkenntnis Menschlichen Daseins. Zürich, 1942. 342 s.
- 16 Франкл В. Е. Людина в пошуках справжнього сенсу. Психолог у концтаборі / пер. О. Замойської. Харків, 2016. 160 с.
- 17 Yalom I. D. Existential Psychotherapy. Basic Books, 1980. 544 p.
- 18 Adler A. The Science of Living. Hardcover, 1930. 264 p.
- 19 Bugental J. F. T. Intimate Journeys: Stories from Life-Changing Therapy. Jossey-Bass, 1990. 335 p.
- 20 Maslow A. H. Motivation and Personality (First ed.). N. Y., 1954. 411 p.
- 21 May R. The Discovery of Being. W. W. Norton & Company, 2015. 224 p.
- 22 Франкл В. Е. Op. cit.

personal characteristics reflecting process of human interaction with reality (L. Vygotsky²³, D. Leontiev²⁴, A. Leontiev²⁵, S. Rubinstein²⁶). New ideas from the outlined issues were produced by G. Kelly²⁷ (psychology of personal constructs), H. R. Harré²⁸ (ethnogenic approach within the framework of discursive psychology), Yu. T. Dzhenclin²⁹ (phenomenological psychotherapy), J. R. Nuttin³⁰ (theories of behavioral dynamics), Dzh. Shotter and K. J. Gergen³¹ (social ecology) and others. Since meaning is a special psychological reality, ignoring or limiting it (e.g., emotions), it is impossible to understand the peculiarities of the mental activity of an individual (its cognitive schemes, patterns of significance, matrix of beliefs, etc.) and their influence on consciousness and behavior of a person in a legally significant situation, we consider it expedient to consider in detail best practices of scientists and expert practitioners on outlined issues.

Article Purpose

Consider theoretical and practical aspects of psychological analysis of semantic reality in legally significant situation

to comprehend methodological issues associated with solving forensic issues facing forensic psychology analysis.

Research methods

In order to achieve this goal, general theoretical methods of scientific cognition were used: empirical (observation, comparison, measurement, experiment), theoretical (ascension from the abstract to the concrete, idealization, formalization, axiomatic method), as well as theoretical and empirical research (abstraction, analysis and synthesis, induction and deduction, modeling, etc.).

Main Content Presentation

According to current legislation of Ukraine, forensic psychology analysis is appointed in the case when specific expertise in the field of psychology is required to resolve certain issues that are essential for criminal proceedings (civil, economic, administrative cases). The list of questions posed to forensic psychologist is quite wide. Taking into account the type of forensic psychology analysis, psychologist conducts research on:

- 23 Выготский Л. С. Психология развития человека. Москва, 2005. 1136 с. (Библиотека всемирной психологии).
- 24 Леонтьев Д. А. Психология смысла: природа, строение и динамика смысловой реальности. 2-е изд., испр. Москва, 2003. 487 с.
- 25 Леонтьев А. Н. Потребности, мотивы и сознание. *Мотивы и сознание в поведении человека*: тез. сообщ. XVIII Междунар. конгр. психол. Симп. 13. Москва, 1966. С. 5—20.
- 26 Рубинштейн С. Л. Бытие и сознание. Москва, 1957. 328 с.
- 27 Kelly G. A. A Theory of Personality. *The Psychology of Personal Constructs*. W. W. Norton & Company, 1963. 202 p.
- 28 Harré H. Rom. Social Being: A Theory for Social Psychology. Oxford, 1979. 438 p. ; Harré R., Clarke D. D., de Carlo N. Motives and Mechanisms: An Introduction to the Psychology of Action. London, 1985. 174 p.
- 29 Gendlin E. T. Experiencing and the Creation of Meaning: A Philosophical and Psychological Approach to the Subjective. Northwestern University Press, 1997. 302 p.
- 30 Nuttin J. Psychoanalysis and Personality. A Dynamic Theory of Normal Personality: Transl. N. Y., 1953. 310 p.
- 31 Shotter J., Gergen K. J. Social Construction: Knowledge, Self, Others, and Continuing the Conversation. *Annals of the International Communication Association*. 1994. Vol. 17. Is. 1 : Communication Yearbook 17. Pp. 3—33. DOI: [10.1080/23808985.1994.11678873](https://doi.org/10.1080/23808985.1994.11678873) (date accessed: 31.05.2023).

- individual psychological characteristics and leading qualities of the individual;
 - ability of witness or victim to correctly perceive circumstances that are relevant to the case and provide correct (adequate) evidence about;
 - ability measures of accused to understand nature of actions committed and their consequences; existence or absence of an emotional state in examinee at the time of the illegal actions, which significantly affected his consciousness and behavior;
 - ability of juvenile suspect (accused) to fully understand the meaning of his actions and manage them;
 - ability assessment of mentally healthy victim to understand the nature and significance of the actions of accused (assessment of ability to resist him (in rape cases);
 - establishing mental state of person who committed suicide (posthumous forensic psychology analysis);
 - social and psychological characteristics of criminal group members;
 - determination of peculiarities of a person's perception of the actual side of events and situation real content considered in the case (examination on the issues of causing psychological influence);
 - judicial protection of civil rights and interests of a person (in cases of compensation for moral damage);
 - establishing degree of understanding by a person of the content of agreements concluded by him/her, his/her ability to make informed decisions; detection of non-pathological mental anomalies in a capable person interfering with adequate reality reflection (in cases of invalidation of an agreement concluded by a capable person);
 - establishing child's psychological compatibility with each of the parents, guardians, adoptive parents; determining capabilities of specific persons to provide the most favorable upbringing for the child's development (in cases of eliminating obstacles to communication with the child and establishing the procedure for participation in its upbringing);
 - specifics of communicative activity of the person recorded in the video;
 - psychological specifics of information content and its orientation (during multidisciplinary psychological and linguistic research);
 - survey using a special technical means: polygraph (to obtain approximate information on significant events and certain actions)³², etc.
- The research object of forensic psychologist according to traditional subject types of forensic psychology analyses is a person as a person (examinee) and a set of information sources reflecting information about mental activity of this person in legally significant circumstances ³³. Given definition of personality as a phenomenon

32 Науково-методичні рекомендації URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z0705-98#Text> (date accessed: 31.05.2023).

33 Єгорова Т. М., Єгоров В. В. Дискусійні питання щодо об'єкта та предмета судової психологічної експертизи. *Актуальні питання судової експертизи і криміналістики* : зб. мат-лів Міжнар. наук.-практ. конф., присвяч. 150-річ. з дня народж. Засл. проф. М. С. Бокаріуса (Харків, 18—19.04.2019). Харків, 2019. С. 428—430.

of social development, a concrete living person with consciousness and self-awareness³⁴ (subject of *“conscious productive activity and social behavior of an individual with a socially conditioned system of higher mental properties that is formed and manifests itself in self-changing activity, communication, mediates, regulates the interaction of a person with environment”*³⁵), expertology analysis of cases involving living persons, as well as post-mortem examinations, involves highlighting the content of value-meaning field of the individual as a complex psychological phenomenon that is a connecting link between consciousness and activity.

Within the framework of multidisciplinary psychological and linguistic examinations, object of psychological research is information content (and not mental examinee activity) and sources of information about specifics of communicative situation which they are attached to³⁶. According to this species of forensic science, psychological specifics of information content as a communicative unit are subject to expert evaluation that always has its own sense and orientation. It is competence of forensic psychologist to determine the psychological components of information content sense and its semantic orientation.

Consequently, expert analysis of all research objects without exception

within the framework of forensic psychology analyses involves highlighting psychological aspects of semantic reality in a legally significant situation.

In psychology, the concept of *meaning* belongs to the most significant analytical concepts, besides, range of theoretical approaches to it is extremely wide. According to the exact definition of O. M. Leontiev, *“problem of meaning... is the last analytical concept that crowns the general doctrine of the psyche, just as the concept of personality crowns the entire system of psychology”*³⁷.

At the current stage of psychology development, idea of meaning is determined by a significant number of concepts, constructs, functional systems, processes and fields of experience and scientists consider semantic reality (as a special kind of reality) from standpoint of parts, process and the whole. For example, M. B. Karlsen characterizes meaning as *“process and ideal, structure and sequence, possibility and limitation, achievement and intention, noun and verb, which are formed and transformed during all stages of an adult’s life”*³⁸. In general, this concept contains almost everything: *“Meaning as a noun contains elements of constructions, word systems, cognitive schemes, belief matrices, orienting mechanisms, patterns of significance. <...> Predicative qualities of meaning — process, movement, growth,*

34 Шапар В. Б. Сучасний тлумачний психологічний словник. Харків, 2005. С. 305. URL: https://library.udpu.edu.ua/library_files/427530.pdf (date accessed: 31.05.2023).

35 Словник психологічних термінів / НФаУ : офіц. сайт. URL: <https://nuph.edu.ua/slovník-psihologichnih-terminiv/> (date accessed: 31.05.2023).

36 Секераж Т. Н. Новые направления психологических исследований в судебной психологической экспертизе. Актуальні питання судової експертизи і криміналістики : зб. мат-лів міжнар. наук.-практ. конф.-полілогу (Харків, 15–16.04.2021). Харків, 2021. С. 251–252. URL: https://www.hniise.gov.ua/uploads/files/public-folder/2021_tezy_konferencija%20in%20print5.pdf (date accessed: 31.05.2023).

37 Леонтьев А. Н. Op. cit.

38 Carlsen M. B. Meaning-Making: Therapeutic Processes in Adult Development. N. Y. : Norton, 1988. 264 p.

intention, evolution of personal synergies, growth and development “from – to”. <...> Therefore, “sense” is simultaneously meaning and understanding, intention and intending, being and existence” ³⁹. The main sense characteristic is the source indication.

It is traditional for forensic psychological examination (both in relation to living persons and postmortem examinations) to research on case files and documents attached to (medical documentation, expert conclusions, interrogation protocols, creative products of an examinee person, etc.) as a set of sources of information about peculiarities of mental activity subject in a legally significant situation. Forensic psychological examination is prescribed for a mentally healthy person: human being who is able to be aware of and regulate their own actions, as well as in case of detection of a decrease in a mentally healthy person's ability to be aware of and regulate their own behavior in a legally significant situation (if such detection is of temporary or situational nature, due to influence of external and/or internal factors): then forensic psychologist should find out actual ability of the subject to conscious self-regulation of activity (reflecting measure of potential ability to consciously regulate one's own activity in specific circumstances depending on the dynamic (emotional) state, correspondence of intellectual and personal resources for situation (task) requirements.

Personal understanding of his own actions is a reflection of both objective (external to him) and subjective (own) characteristics. Since forensic psychology analysis should find out whether a person

understands dependence of his actions on the goal and the reasons (motives) that make him commit these actions, as well as consequences that his actions can lead to, we set the task to determine whether a person understands the sense of his actions (according to O. M. Leontiev) ⁴⁰.

Analyzing and systematizing interpretations of the *sense* concept of in historical context makes possible to state that in philosophy and the linguistic sciences (where the concept of *meaning* was not used as a synonym for *meaning*), it had two most common invariant characteristics:

- 1) contextuality (sense of something is determined by correlation with a wider context);
- 2) intentionality (sense of something indicates the purpose, target orientation or direction of movement).

Based on these two main characteristics, sense of something is defined as the place and role (purpose) in a more general structure ⁴¹.

Psychologists distinguish invariant provisions of the sense definition repeated in different psychological concepts independently of each other:

- Sense link with significance (meaning) for the subject of certain objects, phenomena, actions and events, as well as its individual uniqueness;
- sense conditionality of the object or the action of its (its) place in a wider context;
- relationship between the subject and the world as a sense determinant;
- needs, motives and intentions of the subject as a sense source;

³⁹ Carlsen M. B. Op. cit.

⁴⁰ Леонтьев А. Н. Указ. соч.

⁴¹ Ibid.

- dependence of sense on cognitive processes of information processing and image building;
- conditionality of senses by unique experience and biography of the subject (with an emphasis on affective experiences of early childhood);
- special role of the subject's activity in generating meanings;
- sociocultural determination of meanings, when the decisive role in generation of senses is given to learning and self-learning;
- influence of other people on generation of senses (valences) in the form of an order, prohibition or example.

Opinions of different authors about nature of sense influence on consciousness and activity differ less: some believe that behavior is determined by the senses of situations, objects and phenomena, others that no activity is possible without meaning at all (lack of meaning causes disease), still others note influence of sense on the course of cognitive processes, and still others associate personal ability to self-determination with senses.

Among the views of various authors on internal structure and dynamics of senses, it is difficult to single out general provisions, with exception of situational variability idea of sense and its dependence on current subject state, as well as emphasizing that sense cannot

always be conceptually represented, it is not always conscious and not always clearly expressed by available means ⁴².

In view of the conceptual provisions of the theory of *felt meaning* of Yu. T. Dzhenclin, American philosopher, psychologist and psychotherapist, sense cannot be calculated and recounted: it should be encountered, discovered, felt, listened to and enabled to appear ⁴³. Noting that meaning always contains some implicit aspects that are not symbolized at the moment, the researcher traces functioning of non-verbalized meanings that are directly felt in speech, thinking, observation, action, in the work of memory and understanding and comes to the conclusion that relations are decisive between the verbally symbolized *meaning* and *felt sense*, from which meaning is born ⁴⁴. American scientist characterizes experience, which is both opposed to symbolization and related to it, as a pre-conceptual meaning that is directly felt and that can be called incomplete without embodiment in symbolic forms.

Forms where sense can exist are diverse. Western researchers name a number of systems (kinesthetic, visual, auditory, tactile and olfactory sensory systems, symbolic systems) in which meaning can be expressed in the process of interpersonal interaction ⁴⁵. The emphasis placed on each of these forms within the holistic meaning system will vary, but each form will play a role in the individual construction process ⁴⁶.

42 Леонтьев Д. А. Op. cit.

43 Gendlin E. T. Focusing-Oriented Psychotherapy: A Manual of the Experiential Method. N. Y. : Guilford Press, 1998. 317 p.

44 Ibidem. Experiencing

45 Thomas L. Nothing more theoretical than good practice: teaching for self-organized learning // Issues and Approaches in Personal Construct Theory / D. Bannister (Ed.). London etc. : Academic press, 1985. Pp. 233–251.

46 Harré H. Rom. Discursive Psychology and the Boundaries of Sense. *Organization Studies*. 2004. Vol. 25. Is. 8. Pp. 1435–1453. DOI: [10.1177/0170840604046351](https://doi.org/10.1177/0170840604046351) (date accessed: 31.05.2023).

It is known from scientific literature that traditional (cognitive) psychology distinguishes three ontological types of reality: personality (identity), consciousness (intrapsychic field) and actual reality (world external to personality and consciousness). The first two types are a branch of psychological knowledge, the third is a kind of independent criterion for understanding mental phenomena and verifying their interpretations. At the same time, it is assumed that versions of external world in consciousness of individuals: perception, representation, reproduction (description), message arise by themselves, naturally and simply. Discursive psychology questions the legitimacy of such an assumption ⁴⁷. According to some British psychologists, the errors of cognitivists begin with neglecting the very *intelligible* process by which reality is constructed. From discursive positions, context validity of actions, that is, the actual version of what is happening, “*considered as something constructed by the participants in the process of their social practice, therefore the psychologist has no right to legalize any version of reality without studying this practice*” ⁴⁸. Thus, the focus of contemporary psychological issues is the *discourse on the actual*, as well as the ways in which reproduction (description), representations, reports, or versions acquire apparent independence from their subject. This approach can reasonably be applied to study of the first two (properly psychological) reality fields alike personality and consciousness. People

create versions of their personal inner lives as well as factual descriptions of external, public realities. Therefore, taking the side of social constructivism, it is impossible to adhere to traditional differentiated ontology. In addition, this position makes possible to trace the relationship and mutual influence of external and internal realities, since people constantly create such versions of past events that justify their motives or motivate real actions ⁴⁹. Thus, if the cognitive interpretation of the mental is based on perceptual processes and their transformation, then supporters of the discursive approach emphasize the process of representation and investigate the discursive (social-symbolic) basis of psychological phenomena.

H. R. Harré, theorist of discursive psychology notes that actions acquire social content due to their *inclusion* in a wider social context; the sense of individual elements of behavioral chain is determined by their place in this chain. The researcher cites five hierarchical levels of meanings present in social interactions:

- 1) first, lower level is set by the most deliberate action;
- 2) second: implementation of deliberate (with a certain intention) act;
- 3) third: its indirect effect;
- 4) fourth: intentional future act consequences;
- 5) fifth, *hermeneutic* level is associated with going beyond practical effects of the action and acquires meaning only in the plane of analysis of expressive action aspect.

47 Harré H. Rom. Discursive Psychology DOI: 10.1177/0170840604046351 (date accessed: 31.05.2023).

48 Potter J., Edwards D., Wetherell M. A Model of Discourse in Action. *American Behavioral Scientist*. 1993. Vol. 36. No. 3. Pp. 383–401.

49 Harré H. Rom. Discursive Psychology DOI: 10.1177/0170840604046351 (date accessed: 31.05.2023).

It is expressive aspect, and not the practical determining hidden action significance, its no longer social, but personal sense, although the latter cannot exist otherwise than in relation to the system of social meanings⁵⁰. It is personal senses derived from social ones that largely determine uniqueness of the psyche of each individual⁵¹: they are actually metaphorically reworked social semiotic systems. The main determinant of personal meanings is expressive aspect of life path of the individual indicated by the concept of *psychological biography* (according to the definition of H. R. Harré: *moral career*)⁵².

D. O. Leontiev in the *Sense Psychology. Nature, structure and dynamics of semantic reality* fundamental research paper describes three planes of semantic reality and, accordingly, three aspects of sense: ontological, phenomenological, and functional ones. Being in unity with each other, they correspond to three fundamental general psychological categories: personality, consciousness, activity. The researcher understands the sense as a relationship between subject and object (phenomenon), determined by the object place (phenomenon) in the subject life, distinguished by this object (phenomenon) in the image of the world and embodied in personal structures that regulate the subject's behavior in relation to this object (phenomenon). Given the conceptual positions of the author, experimental research can be directed to two of the three facets of sense to their phenomenological or

substrate (regulatory) aspect. In the first case, the research subject is semantic connections in the image, worldview, subjective semantics, images in the broad sense of the word. In the second, regulatory influence of certain individual features of the semantic field or semantic attitudes induced in the experimental situation on processes of practical and cognitive activity, on solution of specific and more general tasks, up to the impact on the subject life path in general. At the same time, similar researches become researches on semantic reality if during consideration of independent and mediated variables, their ontological aspect is taken into account, in other words, their place in the structure of life relationships⁵³.

Modern practice of conducting forensic psychology analyses indicates that in order to cover specific aspects of semantic reality (in accordance with the tasks set), a set of complementary empirical methods should be used: bibliographic, conversation, observation, experiment, surveys, tests (including psychometric, projective and semi-projective, etc.), analysis of the documents provided, study of activity products, as well as psychosemantic, phenomenological, expert evaluation, etc.

Thus, forensic psychology analysis by traditional subject types covers a huge range of tasks, which solution allows pre-trial investigation bodies of and the court to take into account peculiarities of mental individual activity (and their impact on consciousness and behavior of the person)

50 Harré H. Rom. Personal Meanings: Semantic Relations of the Fourth Kind // Personal meanings : the first Guy's Hospital symposium on the individual frame of reference / E. Shepherd, J. Watson (Eds.). Chichester etc. : Wiley, 1982. Pp. 9–22.

51 Ibidem. Personal Being: A Theory for Individual Psychology. Oxford : Blackwell, 1983. P. 281.

52 Ibidem. Social Being Pp. 33–34.

53 Леонтьев Д. А. Op. cit.

in a legally significant situation. Regarding coverage of various aspects of semantic reality during the forensic psychology analysis by the latest subject types (as part of a multidisciplinary forensic psychological and linguistic examination, survey using polygraph), we should note the following.

The analysis of expert practice indicates that psychological research on informational content within the framework of multidisciplinary forensic psychology analyses and linguistic examinations has a specific topic and research methods that differ from traditional ones. Considering the fact that informational content is a communicative unit that always has its own sense and direction, messages contained in are subject to expert analysis and not psychological qualities and states of the author. *Topic of forensic psychology analysis on information content* is establishment by forensic expert using specific expertise and practical skills in the field of psychology of factual data regarding psychological specifics of information content (in particular, its orientation) that

has legal significance and certain legal consequences⁵⁴. It is worth noting that in the Register of methods of conducting forensic examinations⁵⁵, which procedure is approved by the order of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine⁵⁶, currently, there is no proven method of conducting such a specific type of forensic psychology analysis and there is no single methodical approach to solving expert tasks in this direction. According to T. M. Yehorova, the topic of a multidisciplinary forensic psychology analysis should be “*set of factual data established by integrating scientific knowledge in linguistics and psychology regarding the specifics, functions of an information message as a communicative act and the potential of its impact on recipients*”⁵⁷. At the same time, in research papers of some foreign forensic researchers⁵⁸, whose object of study is informational content, it is stated that competence of forensic psychologists in this subject type does not include establishment of real or potential influence on addressee, since speculative assumptions about whether he is capable (incapable) of the text to influence addressee and how exactly are

54 Секреж Т. Н. Психологическое исследование информационных материалов: становление нового вида судебной психологической экспертизы и новой экспертной специальности. *Теория и практика судебной экспертизы*. 2019. Т. 14. № 1. С. 35—43. DOI: 10.30764/1819-2785-2019-14-1-35-43 (дата звернення 22.07.2022).

55 Реєстр методик проведення судових експертиз / Офіц. сайт Мін'юсту України. URL: <https://rmpse.minjust.gov.ua> (date accessed: 30.05.2023).

56 Порядок ведення Реєстру методик проведення судових експертиз : затв. наказом Мін'юсту від 02.10.2008 р. № 1666/5 (зі змін. та допов.). URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z0924-08#Text> (date accessed: 30.05.2023).

57 Сгорова Т. Актуальні питання експертного психологічного дослідження у кримінальних провадженнях щодо злочинів проти інформаційної безпеки України. *Актуальні питання судової експертизи та криміналістики* : зб. мат-лів міжнар. наук.-практ. конф. із нагоди ювілеїв видат. учен.: 95-річ. від дня народж. Л. Ю. Ароцкера («Ароцкерівські читання») і 105-річ. від дня народж. М. В. Салтєвського (Харків, 19.05.2023). Харків, 2023. С. 123. URL: [https://www.hniise.gov.ua/uploads/files/public-folder/2023_tezy_konference28_compressed_compressed_compressed%20\(1\)-1-180.pdf](https://www.hniise.gov.ua/uploads/files/public-folder/2023_tezy_konference28_compressed_compressed_compressed%20(1)-1-180.pdf) (date accessed: 30.05.2023).

58 Кукушкина О. В., Сафонова Ю. А., Секреж Т. Н. Теоретические и методические основы судебной психолого-лингвистической экспертизы текстов по делам, связанным с противодействием экстремизму. Москва, 2011. 326 с.

incorrect. Competence of experts does not include the legal (legal) qualification of the act, establishment of guilt and its forms (intention or carelessness, type of intention), offense motives. While multidisciplinary forensic psychology analyses linguistic examinations, experts do not establish circumstances that are not reflected in researched content (texts, video recordings, etc.) and the communicative situation of its use. Studying informational content, forensic linguist establishes what is specifically said, which meaning component is expressed and by which means of speech, determines expression form, and forensic psychologist, taking into account the description what was said (shown), verified by forensic linguist, establishes psychological specifics of informational content from standpoint of his aimed at forming a social attitude (attitude) to certain events, persons, processes and phenomena in the addressee. The answer to the question: *"Can these attitudes really be formed in the addressee and with what degree of probability?"* does not belong to the research topic. Accordingly, it is inadmissible to conduct any social-psychological experiments with the aim of establishing real influence of certain content on addressee or recommendations for conducting similar experiments⁵⁹.

Among the newest tasks of forensic psychological research is a survey using a special technical means, *polygraph*. In order to obtain indicative information, expert psychologists may conduct surveys using a polygraph on:

- 1) probability degree of information reported by interviewee;
- 2) completeness of information provided by interviewee;
- 3) sources of information received by interviewee;
- 4) representations of interviewee about a certain event;
- 5) other indicative information necessary for construction of versions of investigation of certain events.

Survey using polygraph is carried out only with the written consent of the person who will take the survey⁶⁰.

Tasks solved by forensic psychologist while interview using polygraph are primarily related to determining personal significance of stimuli for the interviewed person (certain word, question, symbol, photo, object, etc.) presented several times in a row special method⁶¹. If the stimulus persistently (non-randomly, i.e., for each of repeated presentations) causes more pronounced physiological reactions (compared to other elements of stimulus series), it is recognized as significant⁶². Since significance of

59 Кукушкина О. В., Сафонова Ю. А., Секераж Т. Н. Оп. cit.

60 Про внесення змін до наказу Міністерства юстиції України від 08 жовтня 1998 року № 53/5 : наказ Мін'юсту України від 27.07.2015 р. № 1350/5. URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z0915-15#n2> (date accessed: 31.05.2023).

61 Харіна Т. Г. Особистісна значимість стимулу як один з ключових показників при формуванні висновку експертного дослідження із застосуванням комп'ютерного поліграфа. *Актуальні питання судової експертології, криміналістики та кримінального процесу* : зб. мат-лів II Міжнар. наук.-практ. конф. (Київ, 19.11.2020). Київ, 2020. С. 618–622. URL: <https://m3rkxutm8pk3eqapl5ynjvb3gjps8uao.cdn-freehost.com.ua/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/5f-d09ad02772c.pdf> (date accessed: 31.05.2023).

62 Довідник поліграфолога (валідні формати тестів та системи бального оцінювання) : довідник / уклад.: В. Шаповалов, Д. Зубовський, Д. Алексеєва-Процюк, О. Гончарова. Київ, 2018. 20 с.

stimuli is calculated comparatively, in the future, forensic expert, using specific expertise and practical skills in the field of psychology, finds out reasons for personal significance of a particular stimulus under examination in relation to a specific event and its components. In particular, comprehensive forensic evaluation of data obtained as a result of research using a polygraph takes place in this way: forensic expert analyzes provided information sources and information obtained during the pre-test interview with the subject; in accordance with special methods formulates questions about specific events and certain actions; interviews a person using a polygraph; conducts a post-test interview with the subject; evaluates meaningful parts of answers and non-verbal expressions; calculates, analyzes and evaluates registered polygraph charts, formulates conclusions.

In American Polygraph Association terminological reference book, *salience* is explained as an increase in the intensity of excitation in the process of psychophysiological research using a polygraph “in accordance with stimuli, since they are related to the subject goals, standards and attitudes”⁶³.

In psychological dictionaries, *significance of signal* as one of the most important psychological characteristics is determined by the ratio of the information contained in it to the meaning of the task solved by the subject⁶⁴. Significance has several levels and is determining factor

in classification of information model elements; besides, personal meanings are always part of a wider system.

O. Yu. Artemieva, founder of psychology of subjective semantics, characterizing the meanings, notes that topic sense for a subject is a trace of activity background of the relationship between them, which is recorded in the attitude to the object, in its *for-subject-being*⁶⁵ The scientist proposed a paradigmatic model of “*movement of meaning through subjective experience layers*” including:

- 1) perceptual world (formed by a system of modal images, ordered objects relative to each other);
- 2) worldview (structured set of attitudes towards objects that are perceived as relevant);
- 3) *world image* in the narrow sense (which is the deepest layer of amodal structures formed while semantic layer processing)⁶⁶.

Elements of subjective experience semantic layer, which is the main research object in psychology of subjective semantics, she understands as “*traces of activities, fixed as an attitude to objects, objects of manipulation and conditions of these activities*”⁶⁷. The scientist distinguishes between “*preconceptions: figurative traces fixed in modal characteristics (layer of perceptual world), senses: traces within the semantic layer and personal senses: components of the image of the world, elements of the nuclear structures of subjective experience*”⁶⁸. The researcher

63 Крапол Д., Хендлер М. і Штурм Ш. Термінологічний довідник для наукової психофізіологічної детекції неправдивості (ПФД) / пер. О. Назарова, А. Лисенка. 2012. 3-тє вид. 133 с.

64 Словник психологічних термінів URL: <https://nuph.edu.ua/slovnik-psiologichnih-terminiv/> (date accessed: 31.05.2023).

65 Артемьева Е. Ю. Основы психологии субъективной семантики / под ред. И. Б. Ханиной. Москва, 1999. 350 с.

66 Ibid.

67 Ibid.

68 Ibid.

notes the inaccuracy of the sense concept proposed by her to concept of personal meaning according to O. M. Leontiev: *"Additional link of the processed trace of the system is necessary for our "sense" to turn into "personal sense"*⁶⁹.

Summarizing theoretical positions of modern psychological concepts, it can be stated: modern researchers on phenomena and regularities of semantic regulation of human life activities distinguish at least six varieties in the dynamic semantic system of personality: personal sense, semantic attitude, motive, semantic disposition, semantic construct and personal value, noting that phenomenology of semantic regulation of activity and consciousness is exhausted by phenomenological manifestations of personal sense and semantic attitude. At the same time, behind each of these findings in a specific legally significant situation there may be semantic structures of a higher rank: motives of actual activity, semantic dispositions, and semantic constructs (to which forensic psychologist should pay attention while highlighting specifics of structuring of a person's subjective experience).

Conclusions

Based on generalization of best practices of scientists and practitioners, theoretical and practical aspects of highlighting the semantic reality during forensic psychology analysis are determined. The concepts of *sense*, *semantic reality* and their generalized criteria in various psychological concepts are considered. A number of methodological issues related to the solution of urgent expert tasks of forensic psychology analysis are highlighted (taking into account

comments of expert practitioners regarding the peculiarities of conducting multidisciplinary psychological and linguistic examinations). Referring to expert practice, topic and subject of psychological research according to traditional and modern subject types of forensic psychology analyses are defined, tasks solved by forensic psychologist during an interview using polygraph are outlined. Complex of empirical methods that forensic psychologists use to highlight specific aspects of semantic reality during forensic research is given. Six varieties of dynamic semantic system of an individual are distinguished (personal sense, semantic attitude, motive, semantic disposition, semantic construct, and personal value), that forensic psychologist should take into account when analyzing phenomena and patterns of semantic regulation of human activity consciousness in legally significant situations. Considering the complexity and versatility of semantic reality taking on different forms and manifests itself in different psychological effects, the solution of urgent expert tasks of forensic psychological examination requires further in-depth analysis of theories of modern psychology for the effective solution of methodological and practical tasks of expertology.

Смислова реальність у контексті судово-психологічної експертизи (оглядова стаття)

Тетяна Харіна, Оксана Русанова

Мета статті — висвітлити методологічні проблеми сучасної судово-психологічної експертизи, привернути увагу до багатогранності смислової реальності, яка набуває різних форм і виявляється в різних психологічних ефектах. Викладено незалежні одне від

69 Артемьева Е. Ю. Опр. cit.

одного інваріативні положення визначення смислу в різних психологічних концепціях, розглянуто його онтологічні, феноменологічні й діяльнісні аспекти в цих концепціях. За допомогою загально-теоретичних методів наукового пізнання виокремлено основні відмінності когнітивної та дискурсивної психології з погляду теоретичного підґрунтя психологічних феноменів. Висвітлено низку методологічних проблем, пов'язаних із розв'язанням нагальних експертних завдань сучасної судово-психологічної експертизи (із урахуванням зауважень експертів-практиків щодо особливостей проведення комплексних психолого-лінгвістичних експертиз). Посилаючись на експертну практику, визначено об'єкт і предмет психологічного дослідження за традиційними й новітніми видами судово-психологічних експертиз, а також завдання, розв'язувані експертом-психологом під час опитування із застосуванням комп'ютерного поліграфа. Наведено комплекс емпіричних методів, застосовуваних експертами-психологами для висвітлення конкретних аспектів смислової реальності під час проведення експертних досліджень. Виокремлено шість різновидів динамічної смислової системи особистості (особистісний смисл, смислову установку, мотив, смислову диспозицію, смисловий конструкт та особистісну цінність), на які експерт-психолог має зважати, аналізуючи феномени й закономірності смислової регуляції діяльності та свідомості людини в юридично значущих ситуаціях.

Ключові слова: смислова реальність; інваріативні положення визначення смислу; психологічні дослідження; юридично значуща ситуація; судово-психологічна експертиза.

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The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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