

## THE INCEPTION OF CRIMINALISTICS

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15723684>

**Shoxjaxon Xashimov Bobirovich**

*PhD student at Andijan State institute of foreign languages*

### Annotation

This article explores the origins, evolution, and methodologies of Criminalistics, highlighting its interdisciplinary nature and growing connection with linguistics. The field of Criminalistics, traditionally focused on the scientific investigation and identification of physical evidence from crime scenes, has increasingly incorporated linguistic approaches to enhance the understanding of criminal behavior, criminal investigation methods, and the interpretation of evidence. The article discusses the historical development of Criminalistics, from the foundational work of Edmond Locard and Hans Gross to the significant contributions made by criminologists, legal scholars, and linguists. It underscores the pivotal role of linguistic analysis in modern forensic science, particularly in identifying traces of criminal activities through language, speech, and written expressions, and how these methods contribute to more precise investigations and legal proceedings. Additionally, the article draws connections between Criminalistics and criminology, emphasizing the collaborative nature of these disciplines in understanding and preventing crime.

### Key words

Criminalistics, Forensic Science, Linguistics, Crime Investigation, Edmond Locard, Hans Gross, Criminology, Forensic Linguistics, Crime Traces, Legal Expertise, Social Function of Crime, Criminological Theories

Criminalistics is a field dedicated to uncovering, investigating, and preventing crimes, which is closely linked with numerous disciplines. It has increasingly relied on linguistic achievements in contemporary research. The ability to identify crime traces through words, speech, and written expressions has further strengthened the connection between Criminalistics and linguistics. Linguist V.V. Vinogradov stated, "Language is the window to thought," meaning that a person's way of thinking, their inner world, and potential intentions are revealed through language.

Criminalistics can be defined as the application of scientific methods in collecting, identifying, and comparing physical evidence that results from criminal or unlawful activities. It also involves reconstructing events through the evaluation

of physical evidence and crime scenes. This term encompasses all areas related to crime and has evolved over time to generally refer to the use of scientific methods in criminal investigations. Although Criminalistics is a branch of judicial expertise, the terms 'Criminalistics' and 'judicial expertise' are sometimes used interchangeably, causing confusion. However, judicial expertise encompasses various scientific fields, including medicine, toxicology, anthropology, entomology, engineering, dentistry, and, of course, Criminalistics.

From a linguistic perspective, Criminalistics is difficult to define precisely or limit because it is interpreted differently across various regions or countries. For instance, the American Forensic Association defines Criminalistics as "a profession and scientific discipline focused on applying physical and natural sciences to the legal field for the identification, identification, individualization, and evaluation of physical evidence." The California Forensic Association offers a slightly different definition, describing it as the "scientific analysis, investigation, interpretation, and presentation of physical evidence in court."

Historically, Criminalistics has used language and speech units since its early stages. In the 19th century, the famous French criminologist Edmond Locard formulated the key principle of Criminalistics (Locard's Exchange Principle) as: "The criminal always leaves a trace at the crime scene." These traces can be material, but they can also take linguistic forms, such as threatening letters, anonymous communications, or counterfeit documents.

The field of Criminalistics, having developed well before Austrian jurist Hans Gross's time, saw the first significant and well-documented uses of scientific principles in legal applications beginning in the mid-19th century. The famous English author Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes novels became the first fictional reference for Criminalistics. Furthermore, Hans Gross is credited with recognizing Criminalistics as a standalone lexeme and discipline, publishing his book *\*Handbuch für Untersuchungsrichter als System der Kriminalistik\** in 1899. The legal scholar identified the phenomena studied in Criminalistics and, as a new scientific field, defined it as the "science of truth regarding criminal law," focusing on crime commission methods, investigations, and detection. Later, French anthropologist Alphonse Bertillon, Scottish specialist Henry Faulds, English scholar Francis Galton, and English commissioner Edward Henry all contributed to solidifying Criminalistics. Additionally, Swiss criminologist Rodolphe-Archibald Reiss made significant contributions to forensic photography.

The modern era of Criminalistics began with French criminologist Edmond Locard and some of his disciples, including Swedish criminologist Harry Söderman. In the United States, forensic scientist Paul Kirk's work strengthened

Criminalistics's position in judicial expertise. Criminalistics emerged as a field requiring knowledge of natural and physical sciences to resolve many specific tasks in crime investigations. Early attempts to apply technical methods in crime investigations were made, leading to terms like "scientific police," "technical police," and "criminal techniques," depending on the country. Even today, the term "forensic techniques" is used similarly in some countries, referring to the technical methods, tactical tools, and procedures employed to collect, search, record, and examine evidence.

Professor A.V. Dulov defines Criminalistics as a discipline aimed at solving problems encountered in the fight against crime. By studying the nature of crimes, their environment, and their reflection in the human mind, Criminalistics develops methods, tools, and recommendations to investigate, solve, and prevent crimes. It is not the only legal science aimed at combating crime; criminal law, criminology, and criminal procedure also serve this purpose, demonstrating the connection between Criminalistics and these fields.

The connection between criminology and Criminalistics is evident, particularly in the study of crime causes and preventive measures. Criminalistics applies criminological theories and practical materials, and criminology, in turn, relies heavily on Criminalistics knowledge to uncover the causes and conditions leading to specific crimes. Criminalistics also actively participates in developing special methods and technical tools to prevent crimes such as theft, document forgery, and other offenses.

Thus, after the global recognition of Criminalistics, criminology emerged as a new independent discipline distinct from criminal law. The core word of both criminology and Criminalistics, derived from the Latin "crīmen" meaning crime or offense, forms the base lexeme. In Criminalistics, the suffixes derived from Latin – \*al\* (pertaining to), \*ist\* (specialist), and \*ica\* (science, field of study) – denote its scientific and disciplinary nature, while criminology derives its meaning from the Greek suffix "-logy," meaning "study of." Criminology today is the scientific study of the nature, extent, causes, consequences, and prevention of crime. It examines crime both on an individual and social level, drawing from the research of sociologists, psychologists, psychiatrists, social anthropologists, and legal scholars.

Notably, there is a direct relationship between criminology and Criminalistics in the questions of "Why was the crime committed?" and "How was the crime committed?" The first question is answered through criminological research, while the second is addressed by Criminalistics investigations. Canadian scholars V.F. Sacco and L.W. Kennedy define criminology as an interdisciplinary scientific field concerned with understanding factors that motivate crime or prevent it, the

conditions leading to crime, and its consequences for victims, society, and individuals. Criminologists also propose how crimes should be responded to by legal systems.

Criminology was introduced in Europe in 1879 by French anthropologist Topirand, and Italian jurist Raffael Garofalo used the term in his 1885 book *\*Criminologia\**. The need for scientific study of crime emerged as criminal processes and crime-related issues became increasingly important at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. While many saw "crime" as a legal violation of norms, in English, the term had broader meanings, and early Christian writers often used it synonymously with sin.

Criminology and Criminalistics emerged as scientific disciplines in the late 19th century in Europe, although local communities and societies had already confronted crime and deviant behavior long before. However, criminology and Criminalistics, as scientific disciplines, were the product of a new phase shaped by the influence of the scientific revolution. They provided strong tools for understanding crime and studying crime in society.

These perspectives underscore the shift in criminological and forensic thought as European criminologists like Cesare Lombroso viewed crime as a biological anomaly that could be eradicated by identifying and eliminating criminals. In contrast, sociologist Emile Durkheim argued that crime is a normal part of any society and plays an important social function. His theories emphasized the role of crime in defining acceptable behaviors and in providing opportunities for social change and moral re-examination.

Modern criminological approaches now see crime not just as a violation of individual morality but as a complex social process intertwined with inequality, cultural norms, and economic factors. These contemporary theories suggest that crime results from social structures, and not only individual criminal behavior. This view supports the idea that the solution to crime lies not in punishment alone but also in improving social conditions, ensuring economic equality, and fostering cultural inclusiveness.

Today, criminology and Criminalistics are closely integrated. Criminalistics methodologies are expanding beyond technical and physical methods to include social, cultural, and linguistic components. Linguistics is playing a significant role in crime investigation, and the integration of theories from European linguistics, such as structuralism, poststructuralism, functional grammar, and corpus linguistics, is enriching the methodology of Criminalistics.

In conclusion, the field of Criminalistics has undergone a significant transformation, evolving from a discipline primarily concerned with the physical



and technical aspects of crime investigation to one that now integrates a diverse range of scientific methods, including linguistic analysis. As we have seen, the connection between Criminalistics and linguistics is growing stronger, with language serving not only as a medium for communication but also as a powerful tool for identifying and interpreting crime traces. Through the application of forensic linguistics, professionals can now uncover subtle linguistic markers in written and spoken evidence, thus offering more nuanced and reliable insights into criminal activity.

The work of key figures such as Edmond Locard and Hans Gross has laid the groundwork for the scientific principles that continue to define the field today. Their contributions have shaped Criminalistics into a multidisciplinary science, drawing from fields as varied as toxicology, medicine, and engineering, and now increasingly from linguistic and sociological perspectives. This multidisciplinary approach allows for a deeper understanding of the complexity of criminal behavior, providing new avenues for investigation and prevention.

Furthermore, the relationship between Criminalistics and criminology has become more evident, as both fields work in tandem to understand the causes of crime, its societal impact, and how to prevent it. While criminology delves into the underlying causes and social implications of criminal behavior, Criminalistics focuses on the scientific methods necessary to investigate and solve crimes. Together, these disciplines provide a holistic framework for addressing criminality, making it possible to not only solve crimes more efficiently but also to develop strategies for reducing crime rates in society.

As Criminalistics continues to evolve, it is clear that its methodologies will become more integrated with modern technologies and theories from multiple disciplines, including linguistics, psychology, and sociology. The future of Criminalistics lies in its ability to adapt to new challenges and advancements, ensuring that it remains a vital tool in the ongoing effort to understand and combat crime. Ultimately, the integration of linguistic analysis within the forensic sciences enhances the precision and effectiveness of criminal investigations, ensuring that justice is served more accurately and fairly in the courtroom.

## REFERENCES:

1. Boyd, Neil. *Criminology*. 8th ed., Nelson Education, 2015, pp. 1-23.
2. Coulthard, Malcolm, and Alison Johnson. *An Introduction to Forensic Linguistics: Language in Evidence*. 2nd ed., Routledge, 2010.

3. Durkheim, Émile. *The Rules of Sociological Method*. Translated by W. D. Halls, edited by Steven Lukes, Free Press, 1982.
4. Fairclough, Norman. *Language and Power*. Longman, 1989.
5. Foucault, Michel. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. Translated by Alan Sheridan, Vintage Books, 1977.
6. Garofalo, Raffaele. *Criminology*. Translated by Robert W. Millar, Little, Brown, and Company, 1914.
7. Halliday, M.A.K. *Language as Social Semiotic: The Social Interpretation of Language and Meaning*. Edward Arnold, 1978.
8. Hassan, Shereen, and Dan Lett. *Introduction to Criminology*. 2023, p. 577.
9. Jozef Metenko. *Criminalistics and Criminology – Equalities, Functions, Differences, Methodologies*. 2018, p. 23.
10. Leonard, Robert. "Linguistic Tools for Identifying Authorship." *International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law*, vol. 19, no. 1, 2012, pp. 1–18.
11. Locard, Edmond. *L'enquête criminelle et les méthodes scientifiques*. Lyon, 1920.
12. Merton, Robert K. "Social Structure and Anomie." *American Sociological Review*, vol. 3, no. 5, 1938, pp. 672–682.
13. Merton, Robert K. *Social Theory and Social Structure*. The Free Press, 1968.
14. Saussure, Ferdinand de. *Course in General Linguistics*. Edited by Charles Bally and Albert Sechehaye, translated by Wade Baskin, Philosophical Library, 1959.
15. Sinclair, John. *Corpus, Concordance, Collocation*. Oxford University Press, 1991.
16. Svartvik, Jan. *The Evans Statements: A Case for Forensic Linguistics*. The Evans Inquiry, 1968.
17. Zehr, Howard. *The Little Book of Restorative Justice*. Good Books, 2002.
18. "Kriminalistika." *Mualliflar jamoasi*. O'zbekiston respublikasi adliya vazirligi, Toshkent davlat yuridik universiteti, 2018, p. 6.
19. "Kriminalistika." *Mualliflar jamoasi*. O'zbekiston respublikasi adliya vazirligi, Toshkent davlat yuridik universiteti, 2018, p. 10.
20. Сорокун, П. В., and Журавлева, О. С. *История развития криминалистики в России*. Эпоха науки, 2018.
21. Vinogradov, V.V. *Stilistika. Teoriya poeticheskoy rechi*. Moskva, 1959.