

With all the development of sophisticated forensics methods and technical equipment, human testimony remains an important source of information for courts. The quality of witnesses' testimony can have a deep impact on the forensic process, including the decisions reached by the court - whether a guilty individual is convicted, and an innocent person set free. The present project is connected with this problem. It is about interrogative suggestibility, concerning the influence of suggestive questions on the testimony, and the tendency by the witnesses to change their answers as the result of negative feedback communicated by the interrogator, concerning the quality of the testimony.

In the present project various kinds of interrogative suggestibility will be researched. For example, it may be that the witness testifies according to suggestions because these suggestions changed his/her memory. It also may be that the witness does not remember information relevant to a question but he/she assumes that it "could be" the way the question suggests (fills gaps in memory with suggestions). It is even possible that the witness is sure what he saw yet still gives incorrect answers; this is called conformity.

In the planned research it will be verified whether various kinds of interrogative suggestibility are connected with: general quality of memory, influenceability, anxiety, self-esteem, warning against suggestions, self-confidence, and mindfulness. In the future, results of this research may contribute to constructing methods allowing for making witnesses resistant to suggestions, and therefore making them testify more accurately.