

Q Critically analyze biological theories of criminality.

Answer: Introduction

"Criminals are born criminals with fate of criminals"
(- Cesare Lombroso)

Biological theories refer criminals are born criminals. In fact, several biological theories explain the same terminology. Despite, criticism of their theories are possible.

2. What does biological theories refer about criminals?

"A man is born as a criminal with several biological characteristics."

(- Cesare Lombroso)

Biological theories refer criminals are born criminals and many

characteristics of criminals agree with biological theories of criminals. Therefore criminals are born criminals.

3. What are biological theories?

Following are biological theories:

Biological Theories

1 → Lombroso Theory

2 → William Sheldon Theory

3 → The Super Male Theory

a) Cesare Lombroso

- Father of Criminology

Cesare Lombroso, an Italian psychologist defined:

"Criminals inherit traits of criminality."

Criminals are inherited criminals. He observed prisoners in Italy prison and extended work of

Causes of criminality.

"A man with five personal signs of biological features is criminal."

ANA

"A woman with three signs is criminal."

Signs of criminality

- ↳ high eyebrows
- ↳ thick lips
- ↳ narrow chin
- ↳ large ears
- ↳ small chin etc

Therefore, Cesare Lombroso said that a criminal must possess above features.

2) Further Explanation of Theory of Lombroso.
Lombroso theory detail is as below:

- **Criminal Anthropologist**

A man is criminal when he inherits physically criminality. He can be a cause of major crime.

e.g. assault, murder, robbery etc.

- **Activist Anomalies**

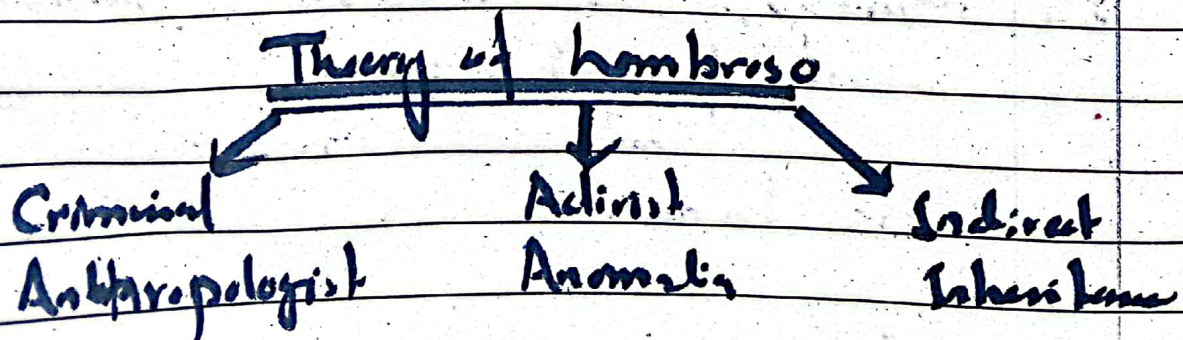
A man is born criminal. In fact, criminality is in his nature.

e.g. theft, stealing, fighting etc.

- **Indirect inheritance**

A man learns criminality from his parents indirectly.

e.g. parents are all - indirect inheritance or when parents drink alcohol.



b) Willam Sheldon Theory
(1898 - 1977 A.D.)

Willam Sheldon, an American psychologist, examined body structure of animals.

According to Willam Sheldon, criminal can be described as:

"A man possess one of three body shapes"

(body view, biological determinism, 2013)

Three body structure of a man

i) Ectomorph:

A man with ectomorph structure is flat and soft body possessing. Therefore, he is not a criminal.
e.g. flat and soft body

ii) Endomorph:

A man with endomorph structure is thin and fragile. In fact, such a man is

not a criminal.
e.g. thin and fragile body

iii) Mesomorphy :-

Mesomorphy body structure
Possessing man is a criminal.
Because, it has a muscular
and powerful body. Hence,
it is a criminal born.
e.g. muscular and hard body

c) The Super Male Theory: XXY
chromosome Theory.

The super male theory
explains, "a man with extra
(Y) chromosome is born criminal."

e.g. Patricia observed.

one hundred and ninety eight
(198) criminals in the
Scottish prisons and
found about 3.5%
of criminals possess
(Y) chromosome.

(= XXY chromosome theory)

Therefore, the super male theory

tells criminals are born criminals.

4- Criticism on biological theory

Following is criticism on biological theories:

a) Not all criminals possess personal features

According to Lombroso, criminals possess certain features. But, unfortunately, all criminals do not possess features:

"Criminals only possess 40% of features."

(- Italian prisoner, Lombroso work)

Therefore, criminals can not be completely defined on the basis of features.

b) Body structure is linked with criminality?

William Sheldon told muscular body possessing is a criminal. In this respect, he declared ectomorph and endomorph body structured non-criminals. Therefore, body structure ectomorph can also be a criminal and endomorph, too.

- c) Disorder of Y chromosome
The Super Male Theory, Y chromosome is responsible for criminality. However, person not possessing Y chromosome can be criminals.

5- Conclusion

"Criminality can be in genes."

(Biological Theory of Lombroso)

Biological Theory focus on biological terms and regard them criminal possessing

characteristics. Several theories including Lombroso and William Sheldon explain criminals are born criminals.

However, criticism is also made on biological theories of criminality.