



## Comparison of Personality Concepts According to Islam and the West

Jias Mengki<sup>1</sup>, Warul Walidin<sup>2</sup>, Salami Mahmud<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> SD Negeri 41 Lubuk Minturun Padang Education Office

<sup>2,3</sup> State Islamic University Ar-Raniry Banda Aceh, Indonesia

### Article Info

#### Article history:

Received 2023-04-12

Revised mm 2023-06-08

Accepted mm 2023-06-12

#### Keywords:

Psychology

Western personality

Islamic personality

Individualism

### ABSTRACT (10 PT)

Psychology is the science that studies human behavior and mental processes. This field includes the understanding of how humans think, feel, and behave. The method used in analysis and research in the field of literature studies involves critical review and evaluation of works of literature that are relevant to a particular topic or research question. Psychology studies various aspects of human life, including cognitive processes, emotions, motivations, perception, human development, social interaction, and mental disorders. Personality according to Islam is an integrated integration of the workings of aqliyah and nafsiyah based on Islamic beliefs that give birth to actions. Human personality is not formed and influenced by the shape of the body, face and other accessories. Human personality is formed by aqliyah and nafsiyah. Western approaches to personality can vary depending on the point of view used. However, in a general context, the Western approach to personality tends to be individualistic. The general goal in personality psychology is to understand and explain how individuals develop, maintain, and express their unique characteristics as individuals.

*This is an open access article under the CC BY-SA license.*



### Corresponding Author:

Jias Mengki

SD Negeri 41 Lubuk Minturun Padang Education Office

Email: [jiasmengki20@guru.sd.belajar.id](mailto:jiasmengki20@guru.sd.belajar.id)

## INTRODUCTION

Psychology as the study of human development: Developmental psychologists view psychology as the study of human change and growth across the lifespan. They examine how individuals develop their cognition, emotions and behavior from childhood through adulthood. Their focus is on the changes that occur during the life cycle and the factors that influence them. Personality according to Islam is an integrated integration of the way aqliyah and nafsiyah work based on Islamic beliefs that give birth to actions. Human personality is not formed and influenced by the shape of the body, face and other accessories. Human personality is formed by aqliyah and nafsiyah. Western approaches to personality can vary depending on the viewpoint used. However, in a general context, the Western approach to personality tends to be individualistic. (Suriya & Brata, 2002)

## METHOD

The method that the author uses is literature or the approach used in research to collect, review, and analyze literature that is relevant to the topic or research question being studied. The literature method involves searching, selecting, evaluating, and synthesizing relevant literature to gain a comprehensive understanding of the topic being studied.

The general steps involved in the literature method:

1. Identify the topic: Determine the research topic or question you wish to explore in the literature. Literature search: Use various sources such as journal databases, digital libraries, scholarly publications, books and other sources of information to search for relevant literature.
2. Literature selection: Evaluate and select the most relevant and high-quality literature to include in your research. This can involve reading abstracts, summaries, or key sections of the literature.
3. Literature evaluation: Critical analysis of the selected literature to assess its validity, reliability, and relevance to the research topic. Review whether the authors used appropriate research methods, whether the data used were valid, and whether there were any particular biases or weaknesses in the literature.
4. Literature synthesis: Organization and integration of relevant literature in your research. Identify the main findings, trends, or emerging patterns from the literature you reviewed, and produce a comprehensive summary. (Hadna1 et al., n.d.)

## DISCUSSION

In language, personality can be interpreted as a collection of characteristics, attitudes, behaviors, and unique characteristics that distinguish a person from other individuals. (Silahudin, 2018) personality includes various aspects, including the way a person thinks, feels, and acts in various situations. It involves relatively consistent patterns of behavior and characteristics that determine how a person interacts with the world around him. personality is a combination of genetic factors, life experience, and environment that shape individuals over time. These factors include innate temperament, family influences, education, culture, and social interactions. It is important to note that personality is not something static, but can develop and change with life experiences and individual growth. Each individual has a unique and complex personality, so that no two people have the same personality. In language, personality can be defined as a collection of unique characteristics, attitudes, behaviors and traits that distinguish a person from other individuals. (Silahudin, 2018) personality includes various aspects, including the way a person thinks, feels, and acts in various situations. It involves relatively consistent patterns of behavior and characteristics that determine how a person interacts with the world around him. personality is a combination of genetic factors, life experience, and environment that shape individuals over time. These factors include innate temperament, family influences, education, culture, and social interactions. It is important to note that personality is not something static, but can develop and change with life experiences and individual growth. Every individual has a unique and complex personality, so no two people have completely the same personality. Definition Terminologically

In terms, personality refers to the collection of psychological, behavioral, and emotional characteristics that distinguish an individual from other people. Personality includes various aspects, such as mindsets, attitudes, preferences, tendencies, and individual reactions to the environment and situations. Several personality theories suggest that personality is formed

through the interaction between genetic and environmental factors. There are also theories that classify personality into certain types, such as extroverted and introverted personality types or through more complex models, such as the five-factor model (Big Five) which includes personality dimensions such as extroversion, emotional satiation, adjustment self-esteem, rigor, and openness to experience. It is important to note that personality is complex and can develop over time. People can change several aspects of their personality through experience, learning, and efforts to develop themselves. (Hadi, n.d.)

- a. Carl Gustav Jung dalam Abdul Mujib, mendefinisikan, kepribadian adalah integrasi dari ego, ketidaksadaran pribadi dan ketidaksadaran kolektif yang melahirkan tingkah laku.
- b. George Herbert dalam Lawrence A. Perwin, mendefinisikan kepribadian ialah tingkah laku pada manusia yang berkembang melalui perkembangan diri. Perkembangan kepribadian dalam diri seseorang telah berlangsung seumur hidup, menurutnya manusia akan berkembang dengan secara bertahap melalui interaksi dengan anggota masyarakat.
- c. Eysenck dalam Lawrence A. Perwin, mendefinisikan kepribadian sebagai keseluruhan pola perilaku, baik yang aktual maupun yang potensial dari organisme yang ditentukan oleh pembawaan dan lingkungan.

## 1. The Concept of Personality According to Islamic Views

The concept of personality in Islam is based on the Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad SAW. Islam views humans as beings who have spiritual and physical dimensions, and have the potential to achieve spiritual perfection. Personality in Islam includes the moral, ethical, and behavioral aspects expected of a Muslim. (Rianie, 2015)

Here are some important concepts regarding personality in Islam:

1. Fitrah: Islam teaches that every individual is born in a state of nature, that is, with good instincts and awareness of the existence of God. However, environmental factors and negative influences can change this nature. Therefore, the purpose of a Muslim's life is to restore and improve his fitrah through the practice of true religion.
2. Taqwa: Taqwa is an important concept in Islam that refers to piety and piety to Allah. Taqwa involves maintaining a good relationship with Allah and carrying out His commands with a sincere and responsible heart. Taqwa also involves staying away from sin and refraining from unwanted behavior.
3. Morals: Islam encourages its people to have noble morals. Good morals include qualities such as honesty, fairness, patience, generosity, and compassion. The Prophet Muhammad is considered the perfect example of morality, and Muslims are encouraged to emulate his character.
4. Ihsan: Ihsan refers to the highest level of worship to Allah. Ihsan involves the awareness that Allah always sees and hears everything that is done by the individual. By practicing ihsan, a Muslim is expected to do everything as well as possible, both in worship and in relationships with fellow human beings.
5. Tawakal: Tawakal is complete trust in Allah and relying on Him in all matters. A Muslim is expected to try earnestly, but in the end leave the results to Allah's will. Tawakal teaches

humility, patience, and accepts all of God's provisions gracefully.

Personality in Islam does not only cover the individual's relationship with Allah, but also the relationship with fellow human beings and the environment. A Muslim is expected to behave well, be a just leader, try to create peace, respect the rights of others, and maintain a balance between worldly life and the afterlife. It is important to note that the concept of personality in Islam has many dimensions and is closely related to religious practice, morality and ethics. This concept aims to guide Muslims in living life with integrity, achieving inner peace, and serving Allah and fellow human beings.

## **2. Elements Forming Personality According to Islam**

According to Islamic teachings, there are several elements that play a role in the formation of one's personality. Here are some of these elements (Supriadi, Tholkhah & Jaenuddin (2023):

1. Faith (belief): strong faith or belief in Allah SWT and His teachings is one of the main elements in the formation of personality according to Islam. Solid beliefs will form strong moral values and direct individuals to behave well.
2. Knowledge: good knowledge and understanding of Islamic teachings as well as general knowledge is very important in shaping personality. By having good knowledge, individuals can understand their duties and responsibilities as servants of Allah and behave according to Islamic values.
3. Good deeds (good deeds): Good deeds or good deeds done based on Islamic teachings will form a good personality. Doing good deeds such as praying, zakat, fasting, and doing good deeds to others is an integral part in the formation of personality according to Islam.
4. Noble character: Having noble character or good character is an important element in the formation of personality according to Islam. Islam encourages its people to have noble qualities such as honesty, patience, justice, generosity and compassion.
5. Self-control: Islam teaches the importance of self-control, including controlling negative emotions, passions and behavior. The ability to control oneself properly is an important element in forming a personality that is favored by Allah SWT.
6. Ihsan: Ihsan is a concept in Islam that teaches people to do good and act with kindness in all aspects of life. Ihsan includes sincerity in worshiping Allah and treating fellow human beings well.
7. Taqwa: taqwa refers to awareness and fear of Allah SWT which encourages a person to stay away from sinful acts and try to always be on the straight path. Having high taqwa is an important element in forming a pious personality according to Islamic teachings. It is important to note that personality formation is an ongoing process and can be influenced by various factors. In addition to the elements above, factors such as environment, education, life experience, and social interactions can also influence the formation of one's personality according to an Islamic perspective.

Shaykh Taqiyuddin an-Nabhani's view of the concept of Islamic personality, according to the author, is in accordance with what has been explained in the Qur'an and hadith. As Allah SWT says: "Indeed, regarding the creation of the heavens and the earth, and the change of day and night, there are signs of Allah's greatness for those who deceive their minds. Namely, those who always remember Allah when standing, sitting and lying down and thinking about the creation of the heavens and the earth (while declaring): "My Lord, was it not in vain that You created all this. Glory to You, so save us from the punishment of hell." (TQS. Ali-Imran: 190-191) Allah's Word above shows that the position of humans as noble creatures is due to their reason, that is, when the reason given by Allah is used correctly in accordance with Islamic beliefs and is always bound and submissive to Allah SWT. Thus, humans can be noble when using their minds in accordance with the provisions of the Islamic faith. But on the contrary, when humans do not use their minds properly according to Islamic beliefs, humans will become despicable. As explained in the Al-Qur'an letter Al-A'raf verse: 179, as follows: ﴿وَلَقَدْ ذَرَأْنَا لِجَهَنَّمَ كَثِيرًا مِّنَ الْجِنِّ وَالْإِنسِ لَهُمْ قُلُوبٌ لَا يَفْقَهُونَ بِهَا وَلَهُمْ أَعْيُنٌ لَا يُبْصِرُونَ بِهَا وَلَهُمْ أُذُنٌ لَا يَسْمَعُونَ﴾

It means:

And indeed, We will fill Hell with many from among the jinn and humans. They have hearts, but they do not use them to understand (the verses of Allah) and they have eyes (but) they do not use them to see (signs of Allah's power), and they have ears (but) they do not use them to hear (the verses of Allah). They are like livestock, even more astray. They are the ones who are heedless. (al-A'raf verse: 179)

### 3. Definition of Personality According to Western Scientists

In the western context, there are several personality concepts that have been developed by psychologists. Here are some of the more common personality concepts in the West:

1. Freudian Theory of Personality: Sigmund Freud is one of the most important figures in psychology who developed the theory of personality. According to Freud, personality consists of three main structures, namely the id, ego, and superego. The id represents primitive desires and instincts, the ego acts as a regulator of reality, and the superego represents internal moral standards and values. (Helmy, 2018.)
2. Jungian Theory of Personality: Carl Jung was a Swiss psychologist who developed a theory of personality that involved concepts such as archetypes and the collective unconscious. He divided personality into three main aspects, namely ego, personal unconscious, and collective unconscious.
3. Five Factor Model (Big Five): This model describes human personality based on five main personality factors, namely emotional stability, extroversion, openness to experience, politeness, and resilience. This model is widely known because it can describe individual variations in each personality factor. Humanistic Personality Theory: The humanistic approach emphasizes the potential of individuals to grow and develop.
4. According to Carl Rogers, a healthy personality develops through a process of self-actualization and is defined by the need to achieve personal potential and a meaningful life. Behavioristic Personality Theory: The behavioristic approach emphasizes observable behavior. According to this theory, personality is formed through learning and interaction with the environment. External factors and past experiences play an important role in

shaping behavior and personality.

5. Cognitive Personality Theory: This approach emphasizes the role of individual thinking and interpretation in shaping personality. According to this theory, the way individuals perceive and process information will influence their understanding of themselves and the world around them. Please note that these are just some of the personality concepts in Western psychology. There are also other approaches not listed here, as well as variations and further developments of these concepts by psychologists.
6. Personality Forming Elements According to Western Scientists

There are several elements of personality formation according to Western scientists. Although there are various theories about personality, below are some common elements that are often mentioned in the context of personality science: (Shaifudin, 2014)

1. Genetics: Western scientists recognize that genetic factors play an important role in shaping a person's personality. Certain traits tend to be passed on through genetics, and can influence aspects of personality such as levels of extraversion, intelligence, and a tendency to worry.
2. Environment: Environmental factors are also considered important in shaping personality. Life experience, upbringing, social interactions, and culture can influence the development of one's personality. Scientists admit that the interaction between genetic and environmental factors is very complex in shaping personality.
3. Learning theory: Western scientists, such as B.F. Skinner and Albert Bandura, emphasized the role of learning in shaping personality. They argue that people learn certain behaviors and thought patterns through learning experiences, rewards, and punishments. This theory says that a person's personality is influenced by learning experiences obtained from the surrounding environment.
4. Neuroscience: The study of the brain and nervous system also provides insight into the formation of personality. Differences in brain structure and function can contribute to individual personality differences. Several neuroscience studies have shown a correlation between brain activity and certain aspects of personality.
5. Psychological factors: Psychological elements such as motivation, emotions, and self-perception are also considered influential in the formation of personality. Theories such as Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis and Carl Rogers' humanistic psychology highlight the importance of these psychological aspects in understanding human personality. It is important to note that these are just a few of the elements discussed by Western scientists in the context of personality formation. There are different approaches and theories in the study of personality, and there is still debate among scientists about which factors are most influential in shaping human personality. (.Koswara, 2005)

## CONCLUSION

In this paper, a comparison between the concept of personality in Islam and the West has been discussed. This research reveals fundamental differences in understanding and approaches to personality in the two cultures. The following are some conclusions that can be drawn from the comparison:

1. In Islam, personality is seen as a gift from Allah and as a result of the interaction between the soul and the body. The source of personality lies in the nature of man which comes from his creation.
2. In the West, the concept of personality tends to be more related to psychological factors such as genetics, environment, and life experiences. Self-identity is often linked to personal characteristics and individual preferences.
3. In Islam, the main goal of personality is to achieve perfection and success both in this world and in the hereafter. A good personality is reflected in noble character and deep piety.
4. In the West, personality goals often focus on achieving personal satisfaction and material success. Individual freedom and self-actualization are considered as the main goals in personality development.

## REFERENCES

- Aisyah, S., & Afandi, N. K. (2021). Development of Character Education from Western and Islamic Perspectives. *EDUCASIA: Journal of Education, Teaching, and Learning*, 6(2), 145–156. <https://doi.org/10.21462/educasia.v6i2.69>
- Supriadi, Y., Tholkhah, I., & Jaenudin, M. (2023). Konsep Pendidikan Menurut Syekh Taqiyuddin An-Nabhani dan Relevansinya dengan Perkembangan Pendidikan di Era Globalisasi. *Jurnal Dirosah Islamiyah*, 5(1), 134-150.
- Koswara. (2005). *Teori Kepribadian Edisi II*. Bandung: PT. Eresco.
- Hadi, A. (2018). Perbandingan Psikologi Kepribadian Islam dan Barat. *Al-Risalah: Jurnal Studi Agama dan Pemikiran Islam*, 9(2), 63-72.
- Hamali (2018). Kepribadian dalam Teori Sigmound Freud dan Nafsiologi dalam Islam. *Adyan*, 13(2), 285-302.
- Helmy, M. I. (2018). Kepribadian dalam Perspektif Sigmund Freud dan Al-Qur'an: Studi Komparatif. *Nun: Jurnal Studi Alquran Dan Tafsir Di Nusantara*, 4(2), 105-120.
- Rianie, N. (2015). Pendekatan dan Metode Pendidikan Islam (sebuah perbandingan dalam konsep teori pendidikan Islam dan barat). *Management of Education: Jurnal Manajemen Pendidikan Islam*, 1(2).
- Shaifudin, A. (2014). Hakikat Pendidikan dalam Perspektif Islam dan Barat. *El-Wasathiya: Jurnal Studi Agama*, 2(2), 198-223..
- Silahudin, A. (2018). Perbandingan konsep kepribadian menurut barat dan islam. *Al-Fikra: Jurnal Ilmiah Keislaman*, 17(2), 249-278.
- Triandini, E., Jayanatha, S., Indrawan, A., Putra, G. W., & Iswara, B. (2019). Metode systematic literature review untuk identifikasi platform dan metode pengembangan sistem informasi di Indonesia. *Indonesian Journal of Information Systems*, 1(2), 63-77.