

PERSONALITY AS AN EXPLANATORY BASIS IN THE ANALYSIS OF VICTIM BEHAVIOR

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The article examines the problem of explaining the phenomenon of victim behavior through the prism of the personality approach. The authors substantiate the thesis that victim behavior cannot be explained solely by situational factors, since its prerequisites are rooted in the system of individual psychological traits of a person. It is shown that the long-standing "person-situation" debate in psychological science has not only methodological but also conceptual significance: the discovery of the fundamental attribution error does not negate the existence of stable dispositions that determine consistent behavioral patterns across various life contexts. The victim personality is viewed as an integral, hierarchically organized self-regulating system that integrates psychodynamic, socially conditioned, and reflexive-semantic (self-concept) components. Such a systemic structure ensures the stability and recurrence of behavioral reactions that, in critical situations, may manifest as victim-like. It is established that personal characteristics emotional vulnerability, low self-regulation, distorted self-perception, and inadequate situation assessment are key factors contributing to the formation of victim tendencies, while situational factors serve as catalysts that activate existing personality dispositions. The article analyzes major theoretical approaches to the study of personality as well as positions of domestic psychological schools that interpret personality as an active subject of activity, a system of attitudes, or a socio-historically determined integrity. Generalization of these approaches allowed the authors to define personality as a dynamic self-regulating system that ensures behavioral consistency and stability and forms cognitive-emotional prerequisites for victim activity. The feasibility of the systemic approach in studying the phenomenon of the victim personality is substantiated, as it enables the integration of the micro-level of psychodynamic processes with the macro-level of socio-behavioral structures. The authors emphasize that adequate understanding of the victim's personality is possible only when it is analyzed as an integral system in which traits, states, attitudes, values, and self-regulation mechanisms are interrelated.

Key words: personality, victim behavior, victim personality, dispositional factors, self-regulation, cognitive representations, systemic approach, adaptation, emotional stability.

Велічко Ганна. Особистість як пояснювальна підстава при аналізі віктимної поведінки

У статті розглянуто проблему пояснення феномену віктимної поведінки крізь призму особистісного підходу. Автори обґрунтовують тезу про те, що віктимна поведінка не може бути пояснена виключно ситуативними чинниками, оскільки її передумови закладені в системі індивідуально-психологічних властивостей людини. Показано, що дискусія «особистість – ситуація», яка триває у психологічній науці понад півстоліття, має не лише методологічний, а й концептуальний характер, адже виявлення фундаментальної помилки атрибуції не скасовує існування стабільних диспозицій, які зумовлюють стійкі моделі поведінки індивіда в різних життєвих контекстах. Віктимна особистість розглядається як цілісна, ієрархічно організована саморегульована система, що інтегрує психодинамічні, соціально обумовлені та рефлексивно-смыслові (Я-концептуальні) компоненти. Така системна структура забезпечує сталість і повторюваність поведінкових реакцій, які в критичних ситуаціях можуть виявлятися як віктимні. Визначено, що саме особистісні характеристики емоційна вразливість, низький рівень саморегуляції, спотворене самосприйняття, неадекватна оцінка ситуації виступають ключовими чинниками, які сприяють формуванню віктимних схильностей. Ситуативні фактори, у свою чергу, виконують роль каталізаторів, які актуалізують наявні особистісні диспозиції. Проаналізовано основні наукові підходи до вивчення особистості, а також позиції вітчизняних психологічних шкіл, що трактують особистість як суб'єкта діяльності, систему ставлень або соціально-історично детерміновану цілісність. Узагальнення цих підходів дозволило авторам визначити особистість як динамічну саморегульовану систему, що забезпечує послідовність і стійкість поведінки, а також формує когнітивно-емоційні передумови віктимної активності. Обґрунтовано доцільність системного підходу у вивченні феномену віктимної особистості, який дозволяє поєднати мікрорівень психодинамічних процесів із макрорівнем соціально-поведінкових структур. Автори підкреслюють, що адекватне розуміння особистості жертви можливе лише за умови її аналізу як цілісної системи, в якій взаємопов'язані властивості, стани, установки, цінності та способи саморегуляції.

Ключові слова: особистість, віктимна поведінка, віктимна особистість, диспозиційні чинники, саморегуляція, когнітивні репрезентації, системний підхід, адаптація, емоційна стійкість.

Introduction. Analysis of scientific literature on the problem of victimization showed that the category of victim personality has not yet been defined in modern psychology. The victim of violence is studied in the context of her behavior before and at the time of committing a crime. This aspect is reflected in both the typology of victims, presented by various authors, and the study of the psychological properties of victims of violence that manifest themselves in a crime situation.

Victimology has been dealing with the problem of the victim and her behavior for over fifty years. However, disputes and disagreements retain their original sharpness.

Focusing their attention on the behavior of victims, researchers do not sufficiently consider its carrier – the personality. As already noted, the victim personality is defined in the context of her behavior in a situation of violence. Considering the psychology of the victim's behavior, modern researchers question the concept of "victim personality"

in connection with the idea of situational (rather than personal) conditioning of human behavior. Аналіз останніх досліджень і публікацій.

Recently, the issue of the stability (transituationality) of human behavior has been intensively discussed. Polar points of view are expressed about the determination of human behavior by stable characterological features, on the one hand [1]. The discussion on the topic of "personality-situation" concerns mainly methodological issues, and the problem itself is not only empirical, but also conceptual in nature (J. Caprara, D. Servon) [10]. These discussions are based not only on different theoretical platforms of their participants, but also on the results of experimental studies. It has been established, for example, that there is a so-called fundamental attribution error, which consists in overestimating the transituationality of behavior and underestimating the situational factors that influence it. Based on this fact, some scientists reach radical conclusions about the absence of personal conditioning of human behavior. However, such an approach is overly radical and poorly substantiated.

Hundreds of empirical studies, both in classical and modern personality psychology, confirm that transituationality, the stability of behavior, exists in objective reality (and is not just one of the theoretical approaches). For example, D.J.Behm and A.Allen, by collecting data from different people in different situations using different methods, managed to demonstrate significant personality stability [2]. Note that the number of people who regularly find themselves in a situation of violence is relatively small. And the more a person's actions deviate from the typical actions of most people (and this is what victim behavior is), the more likely it is that they are driven by internal personal factors – internal dispositions.

We share an approach that explains human behavior with personal factors, while situational factors play the role of a modulator (determining the variability of the manifestation of personal factors).

According to the concept of social conditioning of victim behavior, the concept of "personality" has a special place here. Personality occupies a central place in the causal chain: social causes of crimes – personality of the criminal – criminal behavior [5]. Numerous experimental studies confirm the existence of a psychological reality that corresponds to the concept of "criminal (delinquent) personality". Given that modern researchers have supplemented this chain with another component – the victim, one cannot but recognize the existence of such a psychological reality as "victim personality".

At the same time, the importance of situational factors is recognized: it is no coincidence that such a concept as a "criminogenic situation" has entered the professional language of specialists, that is, a situation that, due to its factual content, contributes to the commission of a crime. However, in any case, the personal factor remains one of the most important, because victim behavior is preceded by the reflection of this objective situation by the subject. Objectively, the same situation leads one person to become a victim of violence, and another – not. According

to the principle of psychological determinism, all external manifestations are refracted through the internal conditions of the personality, which is the regulator of behavior and relationships.

The purpose of the article is to theoretically substantiate the concept of victim personality and determine its role as a key explanatory basis in understanding the mechanisms of victim behavior formation.

Materials and methods. We used theoretical analysis/synthesis, systematization, and generalization of information on victimhood and victim behavior, defining personality as the basis for the formation of victim activity.

Research results. Literary sources indicate that a person's behavior is governed by the situation he perceives, and into which a person brings, as it were, the "sediment" of his entire individual history, forming the so-called cognitive representations. The personality itself "lays" the prerequisites for those situations in which he finds himself. Victims whose behavior in the pre-criminal situation and directly in the situations of crimes was aggressive, passive, uncritical, "got" into them already as owners of certain victim tendencies. These tendencies do not come from nothing. If an individual in the process of personality formation acquires increased victim potentials, then this creates a real possibility of dangerous developments for him, although these events may occur in the distant future. In other words, the foundations of a victimological situation are laid, which includes the totality of circumstances of personality formation with increased victim potentials, the specific life situation of the crime and the circumstances that developed after its commission, in which individual victimhood is directly realized, considered as a single causally connected process [7].

It should be noted that the theoretical position associated with the exaggeration of the role of situational factors and the underestimation of personal characteristics and their influence on behavior can lead to particularly negative consequences in the case of victim behavior. The emphasis on considering situational factors as the main causes, determinants (rather than modulators) of victim behavior leads to an increase in victimization and the declaration of learned helplessness.

The problem of the existence of the "victim's personality" as a category was formulated by D. Riveman in 1988. He believed that "since causing harm by a crime is possible in principle for absolutely every person, but is realized for a relatively small percentage of people, it should probably be recognized that there are certain personal qualities that create a greater than average vulnerability of this particular individual. In other words, a person may possess a certain combination of social and psychological qualities, which to a certain extent can cause negative (in other cases positive) and at the same time dangerous behavior for him, that is, bring him closer to the role of the victim, put in place an element of the situation that, by impulse or in some other way, contributes to the commission of a crime. These qualities can manifest themselves in behavior that necessarily goes beyond the framework of objectively neutral. Victims are characterized by both a set of qualities that determine

active intervention in the situation, as a result of which they suffered, and passive behavior, which also led to a negative result. In such behavior, the socio-psychological qualities of the victim are realized. But if this is so, then we can conclude that the very concept of "victim's personality" has the right to exist, because it reflects the objective state of affairs" [8].

Starting to consider the issue of the legitimacy of the existence of a "victim personality", first of all, there is a need to define the concept of personality itself. Psychological science is distinguished by a variety of concepts and approaches to the study of personality. This is due to the multifaceted manifestations of personality and the contradictions of human behavior.

In foreign psychology, such directions in the study of personality as behavioral, psychodynamic, social-cognitive, humanistic, and dispositional predominate. Studying the same phenomenon, each direction distinguishes its priorities.

Thus, from the point of view of the behavioral direction, whose representatives are D. Watson, E. Tolman, B. Skinner, and others, a person's personality is only a set of forms and models of behavior determined by the influence of the environment (B. Skinner), or a system of internal processes that intervene between the stimulus and reactions and determine behavior.

Representatives of the psychodynamic direction, such as S. Freud, K. Jung pointed to the structural content of personality and derived personal activity from its instinctive nature. Personality is understood by them as a dynamic configuration of processes that are in endless conflict.

The dispositional direction (G. Allport, R. Cattell, G. Eysenck) emphasizes the existence of stable personality traits, knowing which we can predict a person's behavior. Personality is an internal dynamic organization of psychophysiological systems that forms patterns of behavior, thinking and emotions characteristic of a given person (G. Allport).

Representatives of the social-cognitive direction (A. Bandura and D. Rotter) understand the mental functioning of the individual as a continuous interaction of three interrelated factors: the physical and social environment, cognitive and affective systems and human behavior. Each of these factors influences the other, and in different contexts there is a different influence. The importance of a person's ability to adapt and self-regulate is emphasized. One of the main places in this theory is occupied by the concept of human self-efficacy – the proposition that a person can learn to control the events that affect his life.

Nowadays, among Western psychologists, the humanistic direction is intensively developing, the foundations of which are laid in the works of K. Rogers and A. Maslow. According to this approach, the individual is an active creator of his own life, who has the freedom to choose and develop a lifestyle. A person is inherent in higher aspirations, such as self-actualization, the search for identity and autonomy, the desire for beauty and the potential for self-regulated and effective functioning.

Domestic psychology is distinguished by no less number of directions and schools engaged in the study of personality. In some scientific schools, personality is considered in connection with the analysis of its activity. This issue

is addressed in the works of researchers who define personality as a special social quality that a person acquires in society, in the aggregate of relationships in which they are involved. In other scientific schools, the central place is occupied by the socio-historical conditioning and transformation of personality. Others focus on the study of the psychological relationships of personality [3]. They define personality as the highest integrative characteristic of a person, characterized primarily as a system of a person's attitudes toward the surrounding reality. At the same time, attitudes are active, conscious, holistic, selective, based on experience, and connected to various aspects of reality. They integrate personality traits, ensuring the integrity, stability, depth, and consistency of human behavior. Scientists study personality in relation to its communication or attitude. In particular, they consider attitude to be the main characteristic of personality. It expresses a person's readiness for activity, determines their orientation and selectivity of behavior, and as a dynamic state contains both a moment of motivation and a moment of orientation [6].

The direction that studies personality from the perspective of its adaptation, which is an important aspect of human functioning in a constantly changing social environment, is currently developing quite actively.

In general, it can be noted that in modern psychological literature there are many theories and approaches to the study of personality. However, if we generalize the definitions of the concept of "personality" that exist within the framework of various psychological theories and schools, we can say that personality is defined as a synthesis of all the characteristics of an individual into a unique structure that is determined and changes as a result of adaptation to a constantly changing environment, a certain core, an integrating principle that binds together the various mental processes of the individual and adds the necessary consistency and stability to his behavior.

In our study, we will understand personality as a complex holistic self-regulating system that provides human behavior with the necessary consistency and stability. The study will also take into account the initial methodological principles that are taken as the basis for most approaches to formulating a psychological definition of what personality is. One of them is that personality represents "some unique unity, some integrity." Another principle is that personality is recognized as a higher integrating authority that controls mental processes.

It is a well-known fundamental proposition for the development of psychology that the mental, which exists in the form of processes, states and properties, acts as a regulator of human behavior [4]. It is personality traits that determine an individual's behavior. The mental processes and mental characteristics of an individual are in fact inextricably linked. On the one hand, all mental processes in their specific course depend on the characteristics and features of the personality, which in their full content and actual course depend not only on activity, but also on the characteristics of the personality itself, on its receptivity and vulnerability, etc. on the other hand, each type of mental process, performing its role in the life of the personality, in the process of activity, becomes part of its properties [9].

Mental properties of a person are defined as the highest integration of all phenomena of a person's mental development (mental states and processes, needs, psychophysiological functions). Psychological properties seem to penetrate both the social and biological qualities of a person, connecting them in a certain way [9]. At the same time, in the process of development, mental properties are somehow connected with each other and form complex structures.

We consider it necessary to study personality properties in a complex, relying on a systematic approach to their analysis. This seems to be especially important when studying a victim personality.

The ideas of a systems approach in psychology are not new. A systems approach is an important methodological principle, when the psyche (a person, personality, processes or phenomena) is considered as a whole, consisting of elements grouped into a necessary and sufficient number of subsystems with comprehensive connections between them, and is not reduced to a simple set of its elements.

The concept of "system" is defined as a set of elements that are in relationships and connections with each other, which form a certain integrity, unity. The following general characteristics of the "system" appear in a wide variety of systems studies:

1. integrity – the irreducibility of any system to the sum of the parts that form it, and the indeterminability of its properties as a whole from any part of the system;

2. structurality – the connections and relationships of the elements of the system are arranged in a certain structure, which determines the behavior of the system as a whole;

3. the relationship of the system with the environment, which can be "closed" (such that does not change the environment and the system) or "open" (such that transforms the environment and the system) in nature;

4. hierarchy – each component of the system can be considered as a system that includes another system, that is, each component of the system can be both an element (subsystem) of this system and itself contain another system;

5. multiplicity of description – each system, being a complex object, in principle cannot be reduced to just one picture, one reflection, which implies the coexistence of many of its reflections for a complete description of the system.

Systemic ideas are particularly noticeable in various concepts of personality. Most personality researchers argue that an adequate understanding of personality can only be achieved by studying the person as a whole. G. Allport views personality as an open system that interacts with reality. Most existing trends in personality theories, such as psychoanalysis, organismic theories, K. Lewin's dynamic concept of personality, G. Murray's psychology, A. Maslow's theory of self-actualization, Maslow's theory of self-actualization, G. Allport's concept of personality, and others seek to represent personality as a holistic object and view personality as a system.

Based on the above, we define the victim personality as a complex holistic hierarchically organized self-regula-

ting system. The hierarchy in its organization is represented by three different-level substructures. The first substructure is represented by psychodynamic properties that reflect the individual level of functioning and reflects the basic, formal-dynamic properties of the personality. The second substructure reflects the set of socially conditioned personality properties formed in the process of a person's functioning in society. The third substructure, which includes the features of the self-concept and reflects the victim personality's own subjective meanings, such as attitudes and attitudes towards himself.

If the fact of the separation of the first two substructures is undeniable, then the choice of the third substructure requires justification. Attitude in general and towards oneself, in particular, is a leading factor and manifestation of subjectivity. Subjectivity manifests itself in behavior as the presence of a certain line of it. Attitude is both an evaluative and an instructional phenomenon of the psyche, in fact it is a form of anticipatory reflection of reality or, in fact, reverse afferentation [11]. In the context of victimological research, it is important to note the following: if a person inadequately evaluates himself, his actions, this prevents an objective understanding of the situation and reduces the effectiveness of the individual's behavior in this situation.

We believe that the integrative properties in the structure of the victim personality will manifest themselves as properties related to the peculiarities of adaptation and self-regulation, and these mechanisms will be different depending on the mode of the situation. We assume that in a critical situation the victim personality will be characterized by inadequate, inappropriate and impulsive behavior, while in everyday life it will show a tendency to stable behavioral stereotypes.

Conclusions. As a result of the theoretical analysis, it is substantiated that the victim behavior of a person has a complex multi-level determination, in which the leading role belongs to personal factors. It is determined that the concept of "victim personality" has the right to scientific existence, since it reflects the objective reality of the presence of individual psychological properties that increase a person's vulnerability to situations of violence or harm. It has been found that a systemic approach to the study of personality makes it possible to explain the stability and consistency of an individual's behavioral reactions, as well as to integrate psychodynamic, social-cognitive, and semantic-value characteristics into a single structure. The victim personality is interpreted as a holistic self-regulating system, hierarchically organized at three levels: individual, socially conditioned, and reflexive-semantic. It is this structure that determines a person's tendency to repetitive patterns of maladaptive, risky, or passive behavior in critical circumstances. Taking into account personal dispositions of emotional vulnerability, features of self-regulation, and inadequate self-perception opens up opportunities for a deeper understanding of the causes of victim behavior and the creation of effective psychological strategies for its prevention.

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Дата першого надходження рукопису до видання: 27.10.2025

Дата прийнятого до друку рукопису після рецензування: 25.11.2025

Дата публікації: 30.12.2025