



# THE FIVE-FACTOR MODEL OF PERSONALTY AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO FUTURE CONCERN: A STUDY ON LIBYAN COMMUNITY IN MALAYSIA

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## Abstract

People vary considerably in their toward Future issues. Although some individuals view the Future from a purely utilitarian perspective, others are concerned about Future. The present study examines the relationship between personality characteristics and Future concern in a community sample of 1200 Libyan community in Malaysia Reaching an overall number (1200), the study sample was (333) a random sampling technique was used to select the participants. Structural equation modeling revealed Future concern was related to positive relationships emerging with personality characteristics.

**Keywords:** Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, Future concern

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## 1. Introduction

This research finds that optimistic thinking about future enhances the motivation and adequate performance, while pessimistic thinking weakens and dampens the motivation and the effective performance (Bandura, 1997; Heckhausen, 1991; Seligman, 1991; Taylor & Brown, 1988). The Optimistic thinking is linked with strong cognitive and self-regulatory problem solving, with prosocial and helping behavior, with setting high standards and aspirations, and with indicators of mental health, all of these factors are essential for well-being and personal development. Optimistic thinking even hinders the emergence of acute and chronic disease and slows its progress (C. Peterson & Bossio, 1991; Scheier & Carver, 1992). Such beliefs about the future, or expectancy judgments, are conceptualized as self-efficacy expectations (i.e., whether one can perform a specific behavior in its relevant context; Bandura, 1997), as outcome expectations (i.e., whether performing a particular behavior will lead to the desired outcome; Bandura, 1997), as general expectations (i.e., whether a certain event will occur, thereby encompassing both efficacy and outcome expectations; Heckhausen, 1991; Oettingen & Wadden, 1991), or as generalized expectations (i.e., whether the future, in general, will be positive or negative; Scheier & Carver, 1992). Generalized expectations are also indirectly measured through a person's habitual use of causal attributions for past events (Abramson, Seligman, & Teasdale, 1978). When attributions to positive events are more stable and global than attributions to adverse events, expectations are said to be optimistic: Positive events



can be expected to last longer and generalize more across situations than adverse events (C. Peterson & Seligman, 1984). Expectations and performance are reciprocally determined (Bandura, 1978). High expectations of success lead to strong performance, and firm performance leads to high expectations of success. Expectations are thus informed by past experiences and thereby represent a person's performance history (Bandura, 1977, Mischel, 1973; Mischel, Cantor, & Feldman, 1996; Olson, Roese, & Zanna, 1996). Observed performances of others, persuasive messages received by respected others, and experienced levels of arousal during the performance are also known to influence expectations (Bandura, 1997).

For better or for worse, human behavior has an enormous influence on the future. Many of the future challenges are a direct result of human actions, and as such may require behavioral solutions (Oskamp, 2000; Saunders, 2003). In recognition of this fact, many researchers have investigated the social and psychological factors that influence future attitudes and behavior. Much of this study has focused on the role of specific values, beliefs, and norms as predictors of future concern (Dietz, Fitzgerald, & Shwom, 2005; Dietz, Stern, & Guagnano, 1998; Schultz, 2001; Van Lier & Dunlap, 1980) More recently, Future concern has been tested from the perspective of the "Big Five" taxonomy of personality traits, which describes difference in people personality across the five broad dimensions of Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, Neuroticism, and Openness to Experience (Goldberg, 1993). These large trait dimensions can be used in order to predict more specific attitudes and value orientations (McCrae & Costa, 2008; Roccas, Sagiv, Schwartz, & Knafo, 2002).

Two of these traits, Agreeableness, and Openness, have emerged as significant predictors of pro-environmental values (Hirsh & Dolderman, 2007). Those findings are consistent with the theoretical models that relate pro-Future concern attitudes to higher levels of empathy and self-transcendence (Schultz, 2000; Schultz & Zelezny, 1999), which appear to be related to Agreeableness and Openness, respectively. Individuals who are more empathic and less self-focused appear more likely to develop a personal connection with nature, which in turn their pro-Future (Bragg, 1996; Mayer & Frantz, 2004). Indeed, developing such an emotional affinity toward the Future can bolster one's motives for Future concern (Kals, Schumacher, & Montada, 1999).

## 2. The problem of the Study

The study problem is limited to identify the relationship of the five major factors of personality to Future concern achievement among a sample of the Libyan community in Malaysia, and the problem can be identified in the following questions:

2.1 Is there a significant positive correlation between personality and its factors?

2.2 Is there a significant positive correlation between personality and Future concern?

## 3. Objectives of the Study

This study aimed to examine the correlation between the five major factors of personality and Future concern. Thus, the study attempted to achieve the following specific objectives:

3.1 Examine the relationship among the five major factors of personality.

3.2. To investigate the correlation between the five major factors of personality and Future concern.

## 4. Hypotheses:

To accomplish the objectives of the current study, the researcher set the following hypotheses:

**Hypotheses 4.1:** There is a significant positive correlation between Personality and its factors.

**Hypotheses 4.2:** There is a significant positive correlation between Personality and Future concern.

## 5. Method

### 5.1 Population and Sampling Design

This study is concerned with testing a examine correlation between the five major factors of personality and Future concern. Therefore, the population of the current study consists of the Libyan community in Malaysia;



we got the information of the Libyan community in Malaysia, their names and locations as well as there from the (embassy of Libya in Kuala Lumpur-Malaysia). The study population were an overall number (1200), the study sample was (333) who were chosen using a random sampling technique.

### 5.2 The analytic technique:

The Structural equation of modeling was used to precisely model the sources of error in the dataset. That was used in order to provide more accurate estimates of the relationships between the variables of interest. The suitability of the measurement model was measured using the following statistics and indices: Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ), the ratio of the (Chi-square) to the degrees of freedom (DF), Goodness of fit index (CFI), Root mean square residual and Root Mean Squared Error (RMSEA). Chi-square/df values less than or equals 3 indicates a good model fit, and between 2.0 and 5.0 is acceptable level (Schumacker and Lomax, 2010).

## 6. Finding and discussions

### 6.1. The Modified of Big Five Personality Factors (SEM-BFPF)

Figure (1) shows the results of the (SEM-AMOS) for the proposed model for measuring (BFPF), it is evident that the model is free of the illogical correlation since it reaches or exceeds the integer (1). This also indicates that there are not any problems with the (SEM-AMOS) used for testing the validity of this model that comprises five factors. As seen in Figure (1), the indicators of agreement between the model and the data exceeded the T-value, thus, implying that there is not disagreement between (BFPF), and the data of the sample since the value of the Chi-Square was (1339.921) and the degree of freedom was (549), and the level of significance was ( $P=0.000$ ), In addition, we can see that the normative Chi-Square (Chi-Square /degrees of freedom) was (2.441) being below than (5), and the value of relative strength index (CFI) was (0.902) high than (0.90). The results also show that the value of the index (Rmse) error square was (0.066) less than (0.080).

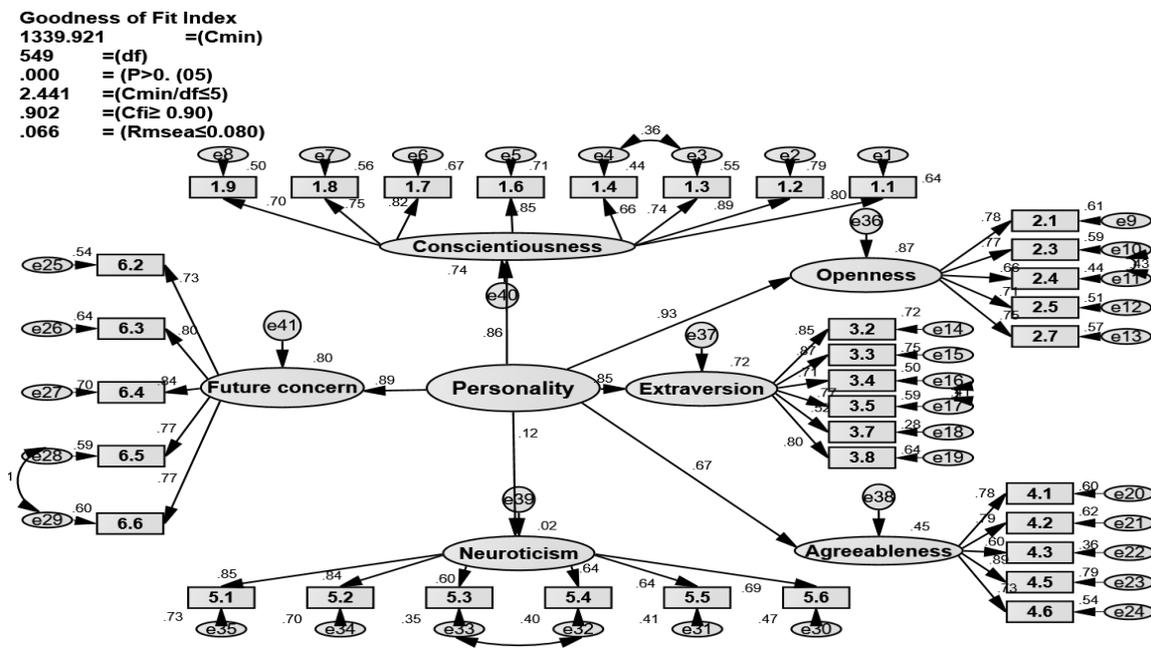


Figure 1: The Five-Factor Model of Personality and its Relationship to Future concern

### 6.2 Testing of the Main Research Hypotheses of the Model



### 6.2.1 There is a correlation between Personality and its factors.

Based on the research model illustrated in Figure (1) and Table (1) showing the output of Amos, this research hypothesis was of statistically significant level since the (C. R) was (13.7248), that was bigger than (1.964), and the value of the significance level (0.000) was lower than (0.05). Also, the path coefficient was (0.86), a decisive direction, which confirms there was a correlation between the Personality and its factor (Conscientiousness). In addition, the second factor also confirmed a correlation between Personality, and it is a factor (Openness). As depicted in Figure (1) of the research model and the output of Amos in Table (1), the impact was statistically significant as the (C. R) value was (12.3550), being higher than (1.964), and the significance level (0.000) was less than (0.05). Furthermore, the path coefficient was (0.93), this can be applied to the other remaining latent factors and their underlying variables in the study. However, the value of this relationship should be at least (0.50). As seen in Figure (1) and Table (1), the saturation or correlation estimates of the factors represented by circles were great; besides that, they exceeded (0.50). These usually are termed factor loadings. In this research. Table (1) describe the (CR) for each relationship between the factors and their variables. The findings display that the value was higher than (1.964) for each relation, which was also statistically significant and the significance level (0.05). Thus, considering the (CR) was higher than (1.964) is an indication of the statistically significant level in which to confirm that there is a relationship between Personality and its factors.

**Table 1: Parameter estimates of the theoretical measurement model**

Latent variables	factors	estimate	S. E.	C. R.	P	Loading	SMC
Personality	Conscientiousness	1.0458	.0762	13.7248	***	.86	.74
Personality	Openness	0.7654	.0653	12.3550	-	.93	.87
Personality	Extraversion	1.0001	.0761	13.1450	***	.85	.72
Personality	Agreeableness	0.8673	.0804	10.7894	***	.67	.45
Personality	Neuroticism	.0824	.0413	1.9939	.0462	.12	.02
Personality	Future concern	1.0151	.0817	12.4250	***	.89	.80

### 6.2.2 There is a correlation between Personality and Future concern.

The second research hypothesis also confirmed a presence of correlation between Personality and Future concern. As depicted in Figure (1) of the research model and the output of Amos in Table (1), the impact was statistically significant as the (C. R) value was (12.4250), is more significant than (1.964), and the significance level (0.000) was less than (0.05). Furthermore, the path coefficient was (0.89), suggesting that there was a positive correlation between Personality and Future concern. Thus, (89%) of the Future concern is attributed or explained by Personality, which is considered as a major influence of the underlying variables since it is higher than (25%).

## 7. Conclusion

The results show that there was a relationship between the Personality and its factor, on another side, there was a relationship between the Personality and Future concern. Furthermore, the results exhibit that the value for each relation is higher than (1.964), which was also statistically significant and at the significance level (0.05). However, considering the (CR) was higher than (1.964), this is an indication of the statistically significant level. Hence, confirming of the relationship between the Personality and its factors. These results support those reported in some previous studies (Heckhausen, 1991; Oettingen & Wadden, 1991; Reed, Kemeny, Taylor, & Visscher, 1999). It was found that overall Relationship between the Personality and Future concern. This particular result agrees with the result obtained by (Bandura, 1977, 1997; Mischel, 1973; Mischel, Cantor, &



Feldman, 1996; Olson, Roese, & Zanna, 1996). Based on these results, it is vital for all policymakers to focus on the Five-Factor Model of Personality. Also, it can be suggested that those policymakers should pay attention to emotional aspects since they positively affect their Future concern.

## 8. Recommendations

The researcher recommends other researchers to; First, conduct further studies about the five major personality factors model and associating it with different the variables and setting a model for the personality dimensions. Second, due to the ability of the five major factors of personality to predict the Future concern, universities have to provide centers for guidance and counseling, hold seminars and workshops to help Arab community develop their personalities and modify their personality traits for increasing their Future achievement.

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