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Conceptualization of Dark Triad Traits of Juvenile Delinquents

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Abstract

The contemporary study intended to examine the relation between Dark Triad traits and delinquent behaviour in juveniles. A Qualitative Methodology was chosen in order to undertake a more in-depth analysis, for which two juvenile delinquents were interviewed. Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis was used for the analysis of the interviews (Smith, 2008). The results indicated that Dark Triad traits (Machiavellianism, Narcissism, Psychopathy) having an impact on the youth for showing delinquent behaviour. The analysis showed that certain factors like antisocial tendencies, lack of remorse, conflicted familial relationships, mistrust towards outer world, manipulative behaviour are seen in the juvenile delinquents. The implications of the study help us to understand in terms of how youth develop the traits that leads them to criminal conduct.

Keywords: Dark Triad Traits (Machiavellianism, Narcissism, Psychopathy), Juvenile Delinquents and Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis

Introduction

The dark personality attribute have acquired most pragmatic consideration during the past years are the Dark Triad, which specifically is an assortment of disposition traits that consisted of narcissism, psychopathy, and Machiavellianism (Paulhus et al., 2002). The traits have been connected to the relations with others and at community level due to the disagreeable acts (LeBreton et al., 2006). Values are stimulating in nature and they are helpful in conceptualizing the causes and ramification of Dark Triad (Roshan, 2000; Maslow, 1954). Values are responsible to give information about the traits that what are driving them. Recent researches showed that the dark traits are linked with ambitious, offensive, self-indulgent values (Birkas., 2015) and also the compromises of ethical principles. The current chapter defines the description, and impression of the three personality dark traits, narcissism, psychopathy, and Machiavellianism. It likewise comprises study's background, and previous researches. Rationale and objectives of the current study is also explained at the end of the chapter.

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1.1 Machiavellianism

A Machiavellian is a manipulative person who is lacking of conventional moral values, distrust in others and self-seeker (Christie &Geis, 1970). The Machiavellianism is varied from other traits in the sense that it is not named based on the clinical or personality disorder specifically (Furnham et al., 2013). Machiavellianism was titled after Nicoolo Machiavelli, who stood the well-known conciliatory oldest official in Florentine Republic who was the writer of book Principle II which was about the ways that how one can be an effective leader no matter what the circumstances are and at what cost. A person having Machiavellian trait should be well-regulated and methodical leader who is proficient to manage his possessions and advantages despite of what the situation is, so, this kind of ruler needs to be empirical, diplomatic, calculated and planned but also shrewd, contemptuous and wicked (Jones & Paulhus, 2008). The framework of Machiavellianism is ambiguous up to some extent and the following features are usually secerned: pessimistic view of the world, diplomatic strategies, lack of morality, and apathy, impulses like controlling his/her actions, destiny, actions etc and amplification of the person (Fehr et al., 1992). Gu et al., (2017) recommended that merely wish for empowerment can be expressively varied since worldwide Machiavellianism. Rauthmann and Will (2011) merged the current information and anticipated a multilateral hypothetical conceptualization. People with this trait showed the self-absorption, agentic manipulations and self-restraint.

The thinking patterns of the people having this trait viewed world in a negative way as doubtful view and other people are suspicious. A Machiavellian may showed low level of regret or guilt and they showed consistent patterns of emotional disconnectedness. The major fragment is Machiavellian performance, which possibly will be distinguished as follows: offensive propensities, multidimensional strategies, self-favorable and aggressive conduct, disconnectedness, taking advantage from others and manipulation of others. Falsification is unique fundamental component of a cunning character, and can be additional examined into further certain actions, such as strategic manipulation, pliable version, dishonest and dishonesty, protection (motive, state-run or personality-related), besides precise Machiavellian tactics like expressive manipulation, ingratiation, persuading, entreaty, bullying, power and authority, or self-reveal. Diverse Machiavellianism conceptualization highlighted the framework of Machiavellianism remains composite but then again it notifies that its difficulty is on a same certain classified degree that could be inflexible to distinguish (Rauthmann & Will, 2011).

1.2 Narcissism

The first part of the Dark Triad is narcissism that includes the amplified feelings of magniloquence or grandiosity, self-obsession, egocentrism, and entitlement (Morf et al., 2001). The word Narcissism comes from the Greek knowledge, the personality of Narcissus, who drenched after falling in love with his own impression in a pond of water. Narcissism tends to obstruct with different form of interpersonal system because others primarily become fatigued of the self-centered, victimized and grandiose impulses of the narcissists (Dawood at el., 2016).

Narcissism was primarily hypothesized as one-dimensional idea but the current proposals postulates that it is a multidimensional (Raskin& Hall, 1979). Two different models of Narcissism exist that are: a three dimensional prototypical recommended by Ackerman et al. (2010) besides two-dimensional template suggested by Back et al. (2013). Ackerman et al., (2010) prototypical undertakes presence of adaptive (Headship/Expert-self-perceived headship capabilities) and maladjusted (Magnificent Self display - egocentricity, narcissism and indecent exposure of oneself; and Prerogative – authorized views and scheming actions) traits of self-love (narcissism). Inside maladjusted narcissism, it is the Power/Exploitiveness that is the mutually harmful surface, though Magnificent Exhibitionism has equally adverse and certain affirmative sides (Ackerman et al. 2011). As this classic was developed on the basis of Narcissistic Personality Inventory (NPI) was the major drawback, a survey form aimed by Raskin and Hall (1979), which was intended to mirror the DSM-III(APA, 1980) diagnostic criteria of narcissistic personality disorder. Besides, NPI is concentrated on the magnificent and emphatic features of narcissism, although the hostile and aggressive characteristics of self-admiration are understated. This reaction was overwhelmed by Narcissistic Admiration and Rivalry Concept (NARC; Back et al., 2013) and presented a novel hypothetical model of narcissism. According to the assumption of NARC model, the essential objective of the narcissist is to uphold the impressive self that can remain accomplished over two policies: self-reinforcing gratitude and self-protection enmity. Modules of appreciation might be distributed keen on struggling aimed at individuality (emotional-encouraging), fixation through magnificent imaginations (cognitive) and amiable conduct (behavioural part), whereas enmity may be distributed into struggling for sovereignty (affectivemotivational), depreciation of other individuals (thinking), besides hostile actions (interactive feature). Though appreciation exemplifies openly optimistic style and keenness indicates the publicly terrific tactic, equally keep on surely associated (Back et al., 2013; Rogoza et al., 2016).

1.3 Psychopathy

Psychopathy states to impulsivity, apathy, cold-heartedness and inner manipulation (Cleckley, 1976). People having psychopathic traits generally have no concern related to other people, ethical principles and customs. They often manipulate others in order to get benefit from them. They mostly don't act to reduce other people's pain, seems like they don't bother others suffering (Boyle et al., 2012).

Initially, the term psychopathy was referred to a clinical disorder, but nowadays recent studies considered as a character attribute (Hare, 1991; Levenson et al., 1995). Neumann and Hare (2008) proposed the four proportions of psychopathy: relational (apparent attraction, splendid self-confidence, unreasonable dishonesty, and devious), emotional (Absence of repentance and compassion, superficial emotional impact), rebellious behaviour (poor behavioural mechanism, illegal adaptability, and young wrongdoing), and way of life (pursuing for stimulation, impulsivity, and negligence). Even though, initially this conceptualization was developed for clinical objectives, and it was successfully made part of personality evaluation communal samples (Neal & Sellbom, 2012). It was also authenticated in diverse cultural settings (Chegeni& Atari, 2016).

These attributes of psychopathy can be distinguished into two dynamics but both are interconnected (Hare, 2003). First one is primary psychopathy which consists of cold-heartedness (mercilessness) and manipulative traits, and other one is secondary psychopathy that is linked with disruptive or belligerent behavioural trends (Maran & Rauthman, 2017).

Basically narcissism and psychopathy are different from each other as psychopathyis dysfunctional impulsivity because in it there is a presence of continuous gambling culminating into monetary problem while narcissism is related to functional impulsivity (Jones & Paulhus, 2011). Moreover, psychopaths harm others in destructive way (Figueredo & Jones, 2013; Harms & Grijalva, 2014). Baughman and colleagues (2012) studied that bullying behaviour is strongly correlated to psychopathy in the Dark Triad elements. Therefore, psychopathy appears as the gloomiest trait of the Dark Triad because it is the most seasick, and somewhat dysfunctional (Maran, 2017).

1.4 Literature review

1.4.1 Machiavellianism and Juvenile Delinquency

Sejourn et al., (2009) conducted a study to examine the psychopathic, narcissistic, Machiavellian, and sadistic traits juvenile delinquent behaviours. The participants were 615 high-school students who submitted self-report forms. Psychopathic, narcissistic, Machiavellian, and sadistic traits were moderately

correlated and overlapped but in different paradigms. Graded multiple regression analyses were conducted to identify other socio-familial or psychopathological risk factors. Psychopathic and sadistic traits were autonomous indicators of delinquent behaviours in boys only. These findings highlight the importance and significance of studying the role of sadistic traits in juvenile delinquency.

Moreover, Cheiffetz, (2017) conducted study to examine the influence of the distinct factors ranging from psychopathy, domains of narcissism, Machiavellianism to antisocial behaviours in undergraduates. The Psychopathic Personality Inventory-Revised, Pathological Narcissism Inventory, and Mach-IV were administered to assess the Dark Triad traits. In order to measure scores of antisocial behaviours of self-report, Comprehensive Misconduct Inventory was implemented and for academic cheating, an anagram cheating was implemented. Sample comprised of 100 participants aged 18-38 years. Results of the study revealed strong correlations amid both features of psychopathy and areas of narcissism, also several areas of antisocial behaviour. However, once the intersection amid the dark triad variables was examined, bullying/harassing was strongly anticipated by Factor 1, while overall predicted was antisocial behaviour. Soft drug abuse was anticipated by Factor 2. However, hard drug abuse was predicted by Machiavellianism and anti-authority misconduct was predicted by grandiose narcissism.

A study was conducted by Land and Birkas (2015) to explore the relationship between Machiavellianism and parental attachment in adolescents and likely sex differences grounded on life history theory. Sample size of adolescents comprised of N=376. Results of the study revealed that a strong sex differences occurred in the relationship between Machiavellianism and attachment to parents. However, maternal alienation for girls was the solitary significant predictor of Machiavellianism. While low intensity and quality of verbal communication for boys with the farther figure anticipated higher levels of Machiavellianism.

1.4.2 Narcissism and Juvenile Delinquency

To explore the relationship between grandiose narcissistic traits and juvenile delinquency is intervened by self-esteem and shame regulation approaches a study was conducted by Schalkwijk et al., (2014). Sample comprised of diverse ethnicity and mixed gender size of 59 delinquents and 275 non-delinquent adolescents between age range of 13-18. While the tools administered were the (CNS) Childhood Narcissism Scale, (RSS) Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale and (CSS) Compass of Shame Scale. Weak positive correlation between self-esteem and externalizing shame regulation was shown by Narcissism. However, strongly negative correlation with internalizing shame regulation and shame proneness was

shown by self-esteem. While high SES was negatively correlated with delinquency as shown by the results of logistic regression analysis. Relationship between narcissism and delinquency was moderated by self-esteem which revealed that high self-esteem increases the chance of narcissism leading to delinquency.

Another study conducted by Pechorro et al., (2015) on female juvenile delinquents to explore narcissism among them. Sample comprised of 377 female adolescents from Portugal, 103 among them were selected from forensic setting while 274 were selected from school settings). The three-factor structure model of narcissism was supported by the results, after removal of one item due to its low factor loading. Promising results were shown by the internal consistency, discriminant validity and convergent validity. While major associations were explored in terms of criterion-related validity, with criterion-related variables like age of criminal onset, conduct disorder, crime severity, violent crimes, drug use and alcohol.

1.4.3 Psychopathic traits and Juvenile Delinquency

Pechorro et al., (2014) conducted the study to analyze that what was the role of psychopathic traits in juvenile delinquency? He used a sample of 543 young males from the Juvenile Detention Centers of the Portuguese Ministry of Justice and from schools in the Lisbon region. Resultantly, a group of highly psychopathic traits (n = 281) and other group of low psychopathic traits (n = 262) were respectively found on the Portuguese version of Antisocial Process Screening Device (APSD). The results unveiled that youth with high psychopathic traits start engaging in criminal activities earlier in life, and consequently they come into contact with the justice system earlier in life than others. Moreover, they also have higher levels of conduct disorder, behaviour problems, and delinquency as well as declining self-esteem.

A study was conducted to explore either psychopathy was related with delinquency and reoffending in juveniles (Eveline et al., 2011). Sample comprised of meta-analysis studies k=53, contained non-overlapping 60 sample and 10, 073 participants. Results revealed that psychopathy was reasonably related with recidivism (violent/general) and delinquency. While concluding the study it has been revealed that early detection of psychopathy is very significant, as delinquent behaviour and recidivism could be expected from psychopathy as initial as the evolution from middle youthful to adolescence.

1.5 Rationale

Many researchers over the previous several years have explored intrusion approaches and plan models that decreases delinquency and endorse pro-social development. According to Greenwood, averting delinquency not only defends beginning lives from being unexploited but also averts the establishment of the adult felonious careers (Greenwood, 2008). Children born with or without carrying such traits that leads them to engage in offensive activities. Present study focuses on traits of Dark Triad, Narcissism, Machiavellianism and Psychopathy that played a role in delinquent behaviour of juveniles. This study aims to examine how dark triad can affect developmental and behavioural personalities, what is the part of Dark Triad trait in the delinquent behaviours of recent generations (Tyler, 2007).

1.6 Objectives

The objectives of the current study were:

- To conceptualize the dark triad traits of juveniles delinquents.
- To qualitatively investigate how dark triad traits affect juvenile delinquents' personalities.

1.7 Research question

- How dark triad traits of juveniles can be conceptualized?
- How dark triad traits do affect juvenile delinquents' personalities?

Research Methodology

2.1 Research Design

The current study project focuses on the qualitatively analyzing the data. Qualitative research analysis is highly encouraged to study the behaviour of participants for particular experience product, as natural settings allows the respondents to express their ideas more freely, as they are not restricted to a particular narrow domain. Moreover, the field researchers are provided to study the complex human behaviour, as it is in the case of qualitative research (Newman & Ramlo, 2010).

Qualitative research is used to study the complex emotional behaviours of the masses. Researchers are required to get subjectively immersed in the topic being dissected upon. Only measurable and quantifiable data is collected and analyzed in quantitative analysis techniques. Qualitative research is less standardized. It is usually inductive in nature. The data collected in this from is then analyzed in subjective and interpretive manner by using IPA (Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis).

The presenting of data in qualitative techniques uses objects, words or images, At most the graphical technique can be applied here to make the analysis more coherent. The primary aim of qualitative analysis is to give complete and detailed description of the topic. It has a more exploratory nature. In qualitative approach, there is a fusion of theory and data and they are controlled situationally.

2.2 Demographic Information

Following table showed the Age, Gender, Qualification, Birth order of the Participants

Participants	AgeGe	ender	Qualification	No.of	Birth	Duration of	Residence
				Siblings	Order	Imprisonment	
Case 1	17	Male	Primary	3	2^{nd}	8 months	Urban
Case 2	14	Male	Illiterate	7	4 th	1.7 years	Rural

2.3 Sampling Strategy and sample

Purposive sample of the study consisted of two juvenile offenders who were imprisoned in Central District Jail, Gujranwala and they were released recently. The age range of the participants was 14-17 years. Purposive sampling was done in order to novice those contributors who can offer in-depth and detailed facts concerning the phenomenon below examination. Both the teenagers who were interviewed were boys. These two boys were approached and interviewed because they met the inclusion criteria like age range, juveniles and also they vocalized all the details which were mentioned on the interview protocol. Face to face interview was conducted with each boy.

2.4 Research Instrument

Semi structured interview was prepared in order to obtain information. Semi structured interviews permit the investigators to progress a intense considerate of the area of attention required for emerging appropriate and significant semistructured inquiries. The protocol questions were prepared from the literature review, books and articles relevant to the investigated topic, once the questions were finalized by the researcher, they were then peer reviewed and expert reviewed from the researchers who have been working in the field related to this study. Finally, interview questions were carefully designed under proper expert supervision. Open ended questions were asked form the participants so that a detailed answer shall be received.

2.5 Procedure

Semi-structured interview was conducted keeping in view the previous literature. Prior to data collection, informed consent was taken from the

participants. One to one semi structured interview was conducted with the juvenile offenders. Both the participants were cooperative. Initially the participants were reluctant but then with little probing they responded very well. Confidentiality of the data was ensured. The note taking technique was used for recording the data. On a scheduled timing, one to one semi-structured interview was conducted with each candidate.

2.6 Analysis

After obtaining the data, its analysis has been done by applying IPA (Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis). IPA comprised of a number of steps to investigate the data. Open ended questions were asked from the participants consisting of two questions with probes. Once the data collection was completed as a result of successful interviews, it was then analyzed and initial themes were generated. However, detailed analysis resulted in constructing major themes which have covered all the key areas of the study like the relationship between dark triad traits and delinquent behaviour in juveniles. Lastly, comprehensive discussion was constructed to assist in thoughtful connection of themes with the candidate's dark triad trait

2.7 Ethical Considerations

Several ethical considerations were kept in mind while conducting the current study. Participant's written consent was taken and briefly explained the nature of the study before administration of the interview protocol. While explaining the rules to the participants, it was elaborated to them that they can withdraw from the study at any stage if they wish to do so. Furthermore, participants were informed that the information assimilated from them would be kept confidential and used merely for research commitments.

Results

3.1.1 Coding Table (Participant 1)

Table Showing the Coding and Page no. and Line no. of the participant 1

Coding	Page no., Line no.
Hang out with friends	Pg: 1, line: 1
Father was beating to mother	Pg: 1, line: 2
Resolving attitude towards fight	Pg: 1, line: 3

Father's aggression towards me	Pg: 1, line: 4
Feeling of Anger	Pg: 1, line: 5
Intended to kill the father	Pg: 1, line: 6
Planning with peers	Pg: 1, line: 7
Low level of guilt	Pg: 1, line: 8
Justifiable act of crime	Pg: 1, line: 9
Disagreed with other people	Pg: 1, line: 10
Blame to father	Pg: 1, line: 11
Self-view as a leader	Pg: 1, line: 14
Admiration from others	Pg: 1, line: 13
Dissatisfied with others	Pg: 1, line: 12
Lack of shame	Pg: 1, line: 15
Blaming others for the act	Pg: 1, line: 15

Affection towards mother	Pg: 2, line: 16
Violent with others	Pg: 2, line: 17
Rule-breaking is fair	Pg:2, line: 18

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Feeling of rage	Pg: 2, line: 19
To Punish others	Pg: 2, line: 20

3.1.2 Coding Table (Participant 2)

 Table Showing the Coding and Page no. and Line no. of the participant 2

 Coding

Coding	Page no., Line no.
Working in a factory	Pg: 1, line: 1
No money	Pg: 1, line: 2
Bad peer company	Pg: 1, line: 3
Selling of drugs	Pg: 1, line: 4
Arrested by Police	Pg: 1, line: 5
Low level of regret	Pg: 1, line: 6
Need of money	Pg: 1, line: 7
Defensible act	Pg: 1, line: 8
Conflict with family	Pg: 1, line: 9
People are mean Misuse of others for own	Pg: 1, line: 10
benefit	Pg: 1, line: 11
Love for self	Pg: 1, line: 12
Admiration from others	Pg: 1, line: 13
Self- praise	Pg: 1, line: 14
Shame due to mistake	Pg: 1, line: 15

Refusal of accusation	Pg: 1, line: 16
Need for rights	Pg: 2, line: 17
Possible effort for self-benefit	Pg: 2, line: 18
Respect for rules	Pg: 2, line: 19
Other people also do wrong	Pg: 2, line: 20
Feeling of anger	Pg: 2, line: 22
Breaking things in anger	Pg: 2, line: 23
To harm others	Pg: 2, line: 24

3.2 Super-ordinate Theme

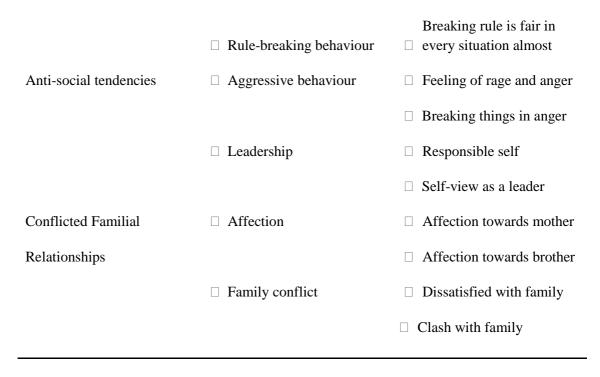
Table Showing the Super-ordinate Themes, Sub-ordinate Themes and Coding

Super-ordinate Themes	Sub-ordinate Themes	Coding
Insidious trend	Lack of Remorse	No regret
		•Low level of guilt
		• Absence of shame
	Oppositional tendencie	Disagree with everyone
		•Other people are wrong
		• All people are mean
	Schematic approach	 Intended to kill father Planning with friends to harm others
	Manipulative behavior	• Misuse of others for

- Personal benefit
- Self-Centered approach Self-Defensive behavior
- Blaming others for his own bad actions
- Father is responsible
- External Attribution of mistake
- Defensible act
- Refusal of accusation
- Enhancement of self

		□ Admiration from others
	□ Rule-breaking behaviour	□ Breaking rule is fair
Anti-social tendencies	□ Aggressive behaviour	□ Feeling of rage and anger
		□ Breaking things in anger
	□ Leadership	□ Responsible self
		\Box Self-view as a leader
		(dominating personality)
Conflicted Familial	□ Affection	Sometimes feels affection towards mother
Commeted Familia		 towards mother Sometimes feels affection
Relationships		towards brother
	□ Family conflict	□ Dissatisfied with family
		Clash with family
		• Admiration to Self

 \Box Admiration from others



Discussion

The present research was designed to conceptualize role of Dark Triad traits in the delinquent behaviour of the young offenders. The study intended to have a detailed understanding about the Dark Triad traits which mainly comprised of Machiavellianism, Narcissism and Psychopathy. To measure the different personality traits, an interview protocol was administered.

The study was carried out on the sample of two participants and analysis was done by applying IPA (Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis). To investigate the effect of Dark Triad traits on personalities of young offenders was objective of the study.

The demographics of the juvenile showed that he was the second born and it was supported by the present literature. A study conducted by Breining et al., (2017) revealed that delinquent behaviours are more likely to occur in second born boys as compared to their older siblings. In Denmark higher rates of juvenile crime mainly severe violent crime and imprisonment is more common in second born as compared to their older siblings.

The juveniles showed the presence of the self-centered approach that showed the narcissistic tendencies of the participants. Schalkwijk et al., (2016) reported that delinquents exhibited slightly higher levels of narcissism which indicated that narcissism was positively weakly related with delinquency. Imposing self-admiration, with an exaggerated sense of dignity is categorized by a comparative shortage of embarrassment.

Pechorro et al. (2014) investigated that early life criminal activities, get in touch with the justice system, behavioural problems, higher level of conduct problems and down self-esteem are common in youths with high psychopathic traits. The preceding literature is reliable with the existing discoveries as the participants clearly showed the anti-social propensities.

The qualitative interpretation showed the trend of insidious personalities in both the participants. As Lau and Marsee (2013) investigated that narcissistic traits displayed the toughest exclusive relations with obvious hostility, interpersonal aggression, interactive deregulation, and sensitive deregulation. They also described that Machiavellian personalities had a solid exclusive connotation with emotional deregulation, nevertheless were not exclusively linked with externalizing conduct problems. These findings have suggestions for intervention with hostile and rebellious youth.

4.1 Conclusion

The current qualitative study scrutinized the Dark Triad character traits and their relations in young delinquents. Results showed that Narcissism, Psychopathy and Machiavellianism were related with indicators of violence and felony. This additionally emphasizes the standing of these Dark Triad traits in the pathogenesis of trouble some conduct difficulties in early generation.

4.2 Recommendations

- As this research is based on qualitative research model, it has more capacity to research about. Juveniles from other parts of the country can be interviewed and later studied.
- The sample number can be increased to uncover more and more aspects of personality related to juveniles.
- Forthcoming researches might work on longitudinal research project to investigate the growth of juveniles scoring high and low on dark triad traits with the passage of time.

4.3 Limitations

• Each researcher has its own way of interpreting the data obtained from an interview, so the result can be interpreted in a number of other way.

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