

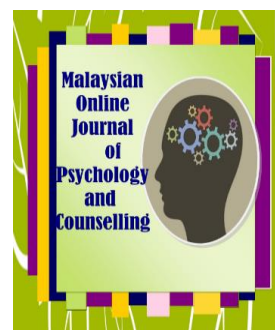
THE CONTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS APPROACH TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF STUDENTS' RELIGIOUS IDENTITY

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to determine the correlation between the religious approach and the achievement of an ideal religious identity. To achieve this goal, a quantitative approach with a correlational design is used. The samples amounted to 31 respondents who were taken purposively from the population of psychology students at Universitas Negeri Malang who had received special training in practicing religious approaches. The data were taken by using two types of scales, namely the religious approach scale and the religious identity scale. A total of 5 items had been tested for validity with content validity and different tests. Religious identity data were collected using a religious exploration questionnaire and a religious commitment questionnaire. The items had been tested for validity and reliability. After the data were analyzed using the product-moment technique, it was concluded that there was a significant positive relationship ($r = 0.574$; $p = 0.002$) between the religious approach and the religious identity, while the determination value was 0.330 ($p = 0.001$). This means that the change in religious identity as much as 33% was determined by the religious approach. Given the large contribution of the religious approach to the development of student religious identity, the religious approach can be used as a treatment to assist students in increasing their religious commitment, so that their lives will be more calm, peaceful, and happy.

Keywords: *Religious Approach, Religious Identity, Religious Exploration, Religious Commitment*



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INTRODUCTION

The development of religious identity should be more stable and stronger when an individual enters his adulthood (Marcia, et. al., 1993). However, the phenomenon in the last decade showed that the religious identity of adults in the world was increasingly blurred. Since 2010, millennials in Western Europe, England, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, and more, had left their religion to become agnostics, even atheists. A recent survey conducted by Stephen Bullivant (2016) a professor of Theology and Sociology at St Mary's University, London, revealed that "the norms that were usually attached to the religious identity of Europeans as Christians are no longer valid, and maybe lost forever."

The survey was conducted from 2014 to 2016 on young people and adults in 12 European countries between the age range of 16 and 29 - which sometimes are referred to as the millennial generation - It had shown that the majority of them profess to be non-religious. The survey was conducted at the request of the Roman Catholic Church. The results of this study showed a very surprising result, that around 80% of respondents stated that 'they have never again offered a worship'. Their religious commitment was very, very low at this time.

The number of non-religious youths was very high, especially in the Czech Republic, where the proportion was 91%. The tendency to not adhere to a particular religion was also high in Estonia, Sweden, and the Netherlands, where the rates ranged from 70% to 80%.

In addition to the fading of religious identity in Europe and America, there were also those who experienced conversion (change of religion). Simon Collis, the British ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2011, had changed his faith from Christian to Muslim (Daily Mail, 15-09-2016). Richard L. Kifer (70 years), a professor from Christian College, who had devoted his life to being a pastor for 40 years in Detroit has become an atheist, a few moments later became a Moslem convert/muallaf (Indonesiana tv: 2021). In US villages, many churches are abandoned by their congregations, because they have converted to atheism, agnosticism, or converted to Islam. In Welling Woods Village, USA, there was only one church in the village, which was very beautiful and has been abandoned by its congregation. Now it has been converted into a mosque (Cecep Tomasati, 2021). Both in Europe and in the United States this phenomenon is getting more frequent. Likewise, in Indonesia, 51% of millennial Catholic-Christian children have left their religion to become atheists (Bimas Kristen/the Centre of the Guidance for the Christian Society: 2021). Amongst the students living in Malang, in particular, the decline in their commitment to religious identity is also increasingly clear. Although not many of them convert their beliefs or openly claim to be agnostics, it is very clear that there are no daily places of worship, only around 2-3% of those places of worship have a fairly high commitment to be occupied. In particular, those occupants are the students who have a special way or approach in studying their religious beliefs comprehensively and deeply.

Based on the declining trend of religious identity observed in the last decade, the research question for this study is: "Is there a significant correlation between religious approach and religious identity among the students?".

RESEARCH METHOD

This study aims to determine the correlation between the religious approach and the achievement of an ideal religious identity. To achieve this goal, a quantitative approach with a causal correlational design was used. The population was psychology students at Universitas Negeri Malang who were interested and have received special training in practicing religious approaches which totals to as many as 116 students.

Out of the total research population of 116 students, 30% were taken as research samples, namely 34.8 rounded by 35 people. From this figure, after the data were entered, 31 people had been categorized as meeting the requirements for the analysis. So, the number of samples was 31 people. Those 31 people were treated as research respondents and their data were taken purposively. The data were taken by using two types of scales, namely the religious approach scale and the religious identity scale. A total of five items from the Religious Approach Scale had been tested for validity with content validity and different tests. Meanwhile, the Religious Identity data were collected using the Religious Exploration Scale and the Religious Commitment Scale. The test items had been tested for both validity and reliability. After the data were analyzed by using the product-moment technique, it was concluded that there was a significant correlation (0.002) between the religious approach and the religious identity with a coefficient value of 0.574 and a determination value of 0.330, with a significance value of 0.001. This means that changes in religious identity which amounts to as much as 33% were determined by the religious approach. Based on the criteria for rejecting H_0 of $\alpha = 0.05$, it was decided that the H_0 was rejected.

Data Analysis and Research Hypothesis Testing

Assumption Test

Normality Test

Normality test was conducted by using One Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov test and followed by skewness and kurtosis analyses.

Table 1

Normality Test

		Religious Approach	Religious Commitment	Religious Exploration	Religious Identity
N		31	31	31	31
Normal Parameter	Mean	18,8387	88,3226	64,2903	152,6129
	Std. Deviation	4,28250	14,04608	15,64650	28,57117
Most Extreme Differences	Absolute	0,176	0,108	0,142	0,123
	Positive	0,126	0,087	0,104	0,090
	Negative	-0,176	-0,108	-0,142	-0,123
Test Statistic		0,176	0,108	0,142	0,123
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)		0.015	0.200	0,114	0,200

Based on the test conducted by using Lilliefors Significance Correction method, it was found that all three variables met the standard of normality, i.e., religious exploration, religious commitment, and religious identity. With an overall significance of above 0.05, i.e., the religious commitment of 0.200,

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the religious exploration of 0.114, and the religious identity of 0.200. Meanwhile, the value of the religious approach was 0.015. Even so, when the values of skewness and kurtosis were being checked, the religious approach variable was still relatively normal, as shown in the table below:

Table 2
Descriptive Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	Variance	Skewness		Kurtosis	
	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Statistic	Std.Error	Statistic	Std.Error
Religious Approach	31	18,8387	4,28250	18,340	0,138	0,421	-1,337	0,821
Religious Commitment	31	88,3226	14,04608	197,292	-0,701	0,421	-0,225	0,821
Religious Exploration	31	64,2903	15,64650	244,813	-0,725	0,421	-0,201	0,821
Religious Identity	31	152,6129	28,57117	816,312	-0,647	0,421	-0,399	0,821

Based on the values of skewness and kurtosis, these data were quite normal. Previous researchers stated that the data were normal if the kurtosis and skewness values were ± 2 (Trochim & Donnelly, 2006; Field, 2000 & 2009; Gravetter & Wallnau, 2014). The skewness value for the religious approach was 0.138 and the kurtosis value was -1.337. These values were below 2. So, it can be concluded that the data above were quite normal.

Linearity Test

Linearity test was conducted by using the significance test technique on "the Deviation from Linearity". The test was done by comparing the means of the linearity of each variable being tested. Technically, the linearity test was done with the assistance of a computer.

Linearity Test

Linearity test was done by comparing the value in the table with the DEVIATION FROM LINEARITY value with a minimum criterion of 5%. If the significance value of the deviation from linearity is more than 0.05, then it is said that the correlation between the two variables is linear.

Linearity Test on Religious Approach and Religious Exploration

Table 3
Linearity Test on Religious Approach and Religious Exploration

		Sum	of	df	Mean	F	Sig.
		Squares			Square		
Between Groups	(Combined)	4424,220		11	402,202	2,617	0,032
	Linierity	2161,212		1	2161,212	14,062	0,001
	Deviation from Linierity	2263,009		10	226,301	1,472	0,224
Within Groups		2929,167		19	153,639		
Total		7344,387		30			

Dealing with the correlation between Religious Approach and Religious Exploration, the Deviation from linearity value is $0.224 > 0.05$. This means that the correlation between the two variables is linear.

Linearity Test on Religious Approach and Religious Commitment

Table 4

Linearity Test on Religious Approach and Religious Commitment

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	(Combined)	3786,108	11	344,192	3,066	0,016
	Linierity	1882,130	1	1882,130	16,768	0,001
	Deviation from Linierity	1903,977	10	190,398	1,696	0,154
Within Groups		2132,667	19	112,246		
Total		5918,774	30			

Dealing with the correlation between the religious approach and religious commitment, the Deviation from linearity value is $0.154 > 0.05$. This means that the correlation between the two variables is linear.

Linearity Test on Religious Approach and Religious Identity

Table 5

Linearity Test on Religious Approach and Religious Identity

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	(Combined)	15241,855	11	1385,623	2,847	0,022
	Linierity	8077,041	1	8077,041	16,595	0,001
	Deviation from Linierity	7164,814	10	716,481	1,472	0,225
Within Groups		9247,500	19	486,711		
Total		24489,355	30			

Dealing with the correlation between Religious Approach and Religious Identity, the Deviation from linearity value is $0.225 > 0.05$. This means that the correlation between the two variables is linear. Overall, it is found out that the results of linearity tests between religious approach, religious exploration, religious commitment, and religious identity are linear.

Data Analysis and Hypothesis Testing

In analyzing the data of this study, the product-moment correlation technique was used. The above-mentioned technique, continued with the hypothesis testing, was used to observe the correlation between religious approach and religious identity which consists of religious commitment and religious exploration. The coefficient of correlation (r) were interpreted on the basis of certain test criteria, i.e. if $r_{count} > r_{table}$ then H_a is accepted. In other words, there is a significant positive correlation between variables X and Y. On the contrary, if $r_{count} < r_{table}$ then H_a is rejected or H_0 is accepted. In other words, there is no significant positive correlation between variables X and Y, of which significance level is 0.05 and number of students under study (n) is 31.

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Table 6

The Coefficient of Correlation

	Religious Approach (X)	Religious Exploration (Y1)	Religious Commitment (Y2)	Religious Identity (Y)
Religious Approach	1	0.542** (0.002)	0.564** (0.001)	0.574** (0.001)
Religious Exploration	0.542** (0.002)	1	0.851** (0.000)	0.966** (0.000)
Religious Commitment	0.564** (0.001)	0.851** (0.000)	1	0.958** (0.000)
Religious Identity	0.574** (0.001)	0.966** (0.000)	0.958** (0.000)	1

* $\alpha < 0.05$ is significant, *r 0.10-0.20 (extremely low), 0.21-0.40 (low), 0.41-0.60 (moderate), 0.61-0.80 (sufficient), $r > 0.81$ (high)

- a. The correlation between religious approach (X) and religious identity (Y) is significant ($\alpha = 0.001$, $r = 0.574$)
- b. The correlation between religious approach (X) and religious exploration (Y1) is significant ($\alpha = 0.002$, $r = 0.542$)
- c. The correlation between religious approach (X) and religious commitment (Y2) is significant ($\alpha = 0.001$, $r = 0.564$)

The results of the calculation regarding the correlation between the variable of religious approach (X) and the variable of religious identity (Y) are indicated by an r_{xy} -correlation of 0.574. Based on the results of the calculation, the value of $\alpha = 0.001 < 0.05$. Thus, it can be concluded that the level of correlation between the variables of religious approach (X) and religious identity (Y) is significant with a moderate level of correlation. While the correlation between the religious approach (X) and religious commitment (Y2) is significant with an r -value of 0.564, which belongs to the medium category. The correlation between religious approach (X) and religious exploration (Y1) is also at a moderate level. It shows a significant value, i.e. with a value of $r = 0.542$.

Coefficient of Determination Test

Coefficient of Determination Analysis was carried out to analyze the contribution of variable X to variable Y. To make a conclusion, this analysis uses a limit value of $= 0.05$. If the results of the analysis carried out is < 0.05 then the results are considered significant.

Table 7

The Coefficient of Correlation, Determination, and Hypothesis Testing

Var. X	Var. Y	R Coefficient	R ² Coefficient	Decision
Religious Approach	Religious Identity	0.574	0.330*	Ho is rejected
	Religious Exploration	0.542	0.294*	Ho is rejected
	Religious Commitment	0.564	0.318*	Ho is rejected

The determination coefficient is 0.330. Therefore, the contribution of religious approach variable (X) religious identity variable (Y) is 33%. This means that the religious approach affects 33% of the value

of religious identity with a significance value of 0.001. Thus, it can be concluded that it is not only religious approach that can affect an individual's religious identity but there are other factors that influence the level of one's religious identity because there are 67% of factors left unexamined in this study.

Next, we would like to discuss the analysis of determination to observe the influence of religious approach towards religious commitment. The value of the determination coefficient is 0.318, with a value of sig. $0.001 < 0.05$. It means that this regression is significant. 31.8% of religious commitment is influenced by religious approach. This analysis shows that 68.2% of religious commitment is influenced by factors other than religious approach.

In the analysis of determination between religious approach and religious exploration, the determination coefficient deducted from this regression test is 0.294. It means that the influence of religious approach is 29.4% towards religious exploration. Meanwhile, 70.6% of religious exploration is influenced by other factors that have not been explained in this study.

So, based on the results of data analysis with the product-moment technique above, it can be concluded that there is a significant positive correlation (0.002) between religious approach and religious identity with a coefficient value of 0.574, a determination value of 0.330, and a significance value of 0.001. This means that changes in religious identity as much as 33% are determined by religious approach. Based on the level of significance and the correlation coefficient of the analysis results and the rejection criteria for H_0 of 0.05, it was decided that H_0 is rejected, meaning that there is a significant positive correlation between religious approach and religious identity.

DISCUSSION

The results of the inferential data analysis above show that there is a significant positive correlation between religious approach and religious identity. As much as 33% of religious approach contributes to the achievement of an ideal and stable religious identity. With this approach, students become more committed to carry out their worship. They no longer carry out their worship with compulsion or complaints. As a result, they feel an immense need to get closer to their Lord, then they will be calmer, peaceful, and happy in living their daily life.

Most of the students whose religious commitment has decreased are those who have not finished studying their religion. Although religion subject has been taught in schools since the elementary level, even it was still taught to the college level, most of the learning materials for the subject only reached students' cognitive level. They cannot delve deeper to reach their spiritual boundaries. Religious exploration is still low. It has not been carried out comprehensively and deeply, in such challenging ways. According to Erikson (1968) and Marcia (1993), new adolescents will be interested in developing their identity in challenging ways, for example through problem-solving learning.

Students who have achieved this high commitment are those who have carried out their exploration comprehensively and deeply. They do not only study their religion physically-cognitively, but they also experience the enjoyment of their worship spiritually, which means that their practice of worship has succeeded in penetrating their spiritual dimension. That way, whatever activity they do or whatever distraction they face will not be able to scale down their religious commitment. Even seriously implementing their religious approach will serve as a therapy for various mental-spiritual disorders that are ready to attack them any time.

CONCLUSION

Finally, it can be concluded that this study has been managed to prove a significant positive correlation between religious approach and religious identity. Furthermore, it was found that 33% of the development of religious identity is determined by the seriousness of individuals in carrying out their religious approach.

Given the large contribution of the religious approach to the development of students' religious identity, the religious approach can be used as a treatment to assist students in increasing their religious commitment, so that their lives can be calmer, peaceful, and happier.

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