

TOLERANCE AS A SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL PHENOMENON

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Abstract: This article examines tolerance as a socio-psychological phenomenon in the context of contemporary globalization and increasing cultural, religious, and ethnic diversity. Tolerance is interpreted as a fundamental value that promotes mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation among individuals and social groups. From a socio-psychological perspective, tolerance is analyzed as a complex construct consisting of cognitive, emotional, and behavioral components that are formed through social interaction and socialization processes. The theoretical foundations of tolerance are explored through the works of scholars such as Gordon Allport, Henri Tajfel, and Milton Rokeach, highlighting the role of stereotypes, social identity, and value systems. The article also discusses key mechanisms of tolerance formation, including education, interpersonal communication, and cultural environment, with particular emphasis on Allport's contact hypothesis. Furthermore, the importance of tolerance in ensuring social stability, strengthening democratic values, fostering personal development, and preventing extremism is emphasized. The study concludes that promoting tolerance should be a priority for modern societies, requiring coordinated efforts from educational systems, social institutions, and public policy.

Keywords:

tolerance, socio-psychological phenomenon, social identity, globalization, intercultural relations, empathy, socialization, stereotypes, intergroup relations, democratic values

Introduction

In the context of modern globalization, cultural, religious, and ethnic diversity among societies is steadily increasing. Under such conditions, tolerance emerges as an important psychological and social factor ensuring social stability. It is considered a fundamental value that promotes mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation in interpersonal relations.

The processes of globalization and informatization are exerting a profound influence on all spheres of human life. In today's environment, where interactions among representatives of different nations, religions, and cultures are intensifying, ensuring social harmony has become an urgent issue. In this regard, tolerance acts as a key socio-psychological factor regulating interpersonal relationships.

Tolerance is not only the ability to be patient toward different views, beliefs, and lifestyles, but also the capacity to respect, understand, and accept them. In the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance adopted by UNESCO, this concept is interpreted in close connection with human rights, freedom, and democracy. Therefore, tolerance is recognized as one of the core values of modern society.

From a socio-psychological perspective, tolerance is a complex phenomenon formed through the interaction between the individual and the social environment. It is closely related to cognitive (knowledge), emotional (feelings), and behavioral components, playing a crucial role in interpersonal and intergroup relations. Scholars such as Gordon Allport and Henri Tajfel have extensively studied tolerance in the context of stereotypes, social identity, and intergroup relations.

Today, the issue of tolerance is becoming increasingly relevant due to the intensification of migration processes, the growth of religious and cultural diversity, and manipulative influences in the information space. A decline in tolerance within society may lead to conflicts,



social tensions, and the rise of radical attitudes. Therefore, it is important to study this phenomenon scientifically and identify its formation mechanisms.

Main Part

1. Theoretical Foundations of Tolerance

The concept of tolerance is interpreted differently in scientific literature. According to the UNESCO Declaration of Principles on Tolerance (1995), tolerance is defined as “respect, acceptance, and proper understanding of the rich diversity of our world's cultures.”

From a psychological perspective, tolerance is characterized by an individual's readiness to demonstrate a positive or neutral attitude toward other individuals, groups, or values. Gordon Allport, in his work *The Nature of Prejudice*, describes tolerance as a psychological mechanism that reduces stereotypes and social misconceptions[1.21].

Similarly, Milton Rokeach, in his theory of values, associates tolerance with openness, flexibility, and the willingness to accept others[2.12].

2. Socio-Psychological Nature of Tolerance

As a socio-psychological phenomenon, tolerance includes the following components:

- **Cognitive component** – knowledge and perceptions about other people, cultures, and beliefs. A higher level of knowledge reduces stereotypes and xenophobia.
- **Emotional component** – feelings toward others, such as empathy and respect, which strengthen tolerance.
- **Behavioral component** – the practical manifestation of tolerance in real-life actions.

According to Henri Tajfel's social identity theory, individuals tend to favor their “in-group,” which may hinder tolerance[2.256]. Therefore, fostering positive intergroup relations is essential for developing tolerance.

Practical Part

3. Mechanisms of Tolerance Formation

Tolerance is formed through the following socio-psychological mechanisms:

- **Socialization** – family, school, and society play a key role
- **Education and upbringing** – knowledge about different cultures and religions enhances tolerance
- **Interpersonal communication** – direct interaction between groups reduces stereotypes (Allport's contact hypothesis)[1.27]
- **Cultural environment** – living in multicultural societies fosters openness and adaptability

Results

4. The Importance of Tolerance in Society

Tolerance plays an important role in:

- ensuring social stability and reducing conflicts
- strengthening democratic values
- contributing to personal development (empathy and communication skills)[7.35]
- preventing extremism and radicalism

Research shows that societies with higher levels of tolerance also demonstrate higher levels of trust and cooperation.

5. Tolerance in the Context of Modern Social Issues

Today, tolerance is closely linked with global challenges such as:

- migration processes
- religious conflicts
- cultural globalization
- information manipulation



According to United Nations reports, promoting tolerance is a key factor in ensuring peace and security[5.46].

Conclusion

Tolerance, as a socio-psychological phenomenon, has a complex structure consisting of cognitive, emotional, and behavioral components. It serves as an important mechanism regulating the relationship between individuals and society.

The formation of tolerance is carried out through socialization, education, and communication processes. Therefore, promoting tolerance should be one of the priority tasks of state policy, the education system, and social institutions in modern society.

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