

TERAJU

Jurnal Syariah dan Hukum

Investigative Audit of Financial Losses to the State by the State Audit Agency in Corruption Cases

Siska Dwi Andini and Listyowati Sumanto

Islamic Legal References: Consensus and Disagreed-Upon Evidence

Muhammad Rifal Sabri, Zulfan, Erman, and Muhammad Fauzi

Legal Analysis of the Application of Polygamy Marriage Validation Regulations in the Sibuhuan Religious Court: Case Number 90/Pdt.P/2023/PA.Sbh and 217/Pdt.P/2022/PA.Sbh from the Perspective of Justice

Muhammad Yusuf Nasution, Muhammad Arsad Nasution, and Putra Halomoan Hasibuan

Several Theories in Criminology: Differential Association Theory, Strain Theory, Social Control Theory, Subculture Theory, The Self Theories

Aqilla Achmad Fathoniansyah, Linda Khasrima Putri, Rizky Habiba Romli Angelita, and Audina Rahmanita Sihab

The History of Islamic Economic Thought in Indonesia

Irtifa Umi Azizah, Muhammad Aswad, and Muhammad Aqim Adlan

The History of Family Law Reform in Islamic Countries

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Teraju: Jurnal Syariah dan Hukum, hadir dengan edisi perdana pada Maret 2019. Dalam Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia (KBBI), kata "**Teraju**" memiliki beberapa makna yang satu diantaranya berarti "timbangan" atau "neraca". Kehadiran **Teraju** tak lain ingin membawa pesan sebagaimana nilai yang termuat dalam namanya, yakni timbangan yang menggunakan dua buah piringan yang digantungkan dengan rantai (tali) pada kedua ujung lengannya yang merupakan identitas syariah dan hukum di berbagai belahan dunia.

Keberadaan **Teraju:** Jurnal Syariah dan Hukum, sebagai jurnal ilmiah dan media komunikasi ilmiah dengan fokus kajian pada ilmu syariah dan ilmu hukum. Jurnal ini diterbitkan dua kali dalam setahun, yakni pada Maret dan September oleh **P3M dan Jurusan Syariah dan Ekonomi Bisnis Islam STAIN Sultan Abdurrahman Kepulauan Riau** dengan **ISSN Online 2715-386X** dan **ISSN Print 2715-3878**. Berdasarkan Surat Keputusan Direktur Jenderal Pendidikan Tinggi, Riset, dan Teknologi Nomor 204/E/KPT/2022, tanggal 03 Oktober 2022 tentang Tingkat Akreditasi Jurnal Ilmiah Periode II Tahun 2022, **Teraju:** Jurnal Syariah dan Hukum **terakreditasi SINTA 5**. **Teraju** mengundang para peminat, pengkaji, peneliti, dan akademisi untuk mempublikasikan hasil penelitian dan karyanya yang berhubungan dengan ilmu syariah dan hukum di jurnal ini.

Focus and Scope

TERAJU: Jurnal Syariah dan Hukum merupakan Jurnal Ilmiah yang memiliki **focus** pada kajian **Syariah dan Hukum**. Sedangkan **scope** dalam Jurnal ini meliputi:

- **Syariah:** Usul Fikih, Fikih, Hukum Ekonomi Syariah, Hukum Keluarga Islam, Perbandingan Mazhab, dan Ilmu Falaq.
- **Hukum:** Filsafat Hukum, Hukum Bisnis, Hukum Pidana, Hukum Perdata, Hukum Tata Negara, Hukum Adat, Hukum Internasional dan Studi Perbandingan Hukum.

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DAFTAR ISI

Volume 7 Nomor 02, September 2025

<p>Investigative Audit of Financial Losses to the State by the State Audit Agency in Corruption Cases <i>Siska Dwi Andini dan Listyowati Sumanto</i></p>	151 – 161
<p>Islamic Legal References: Consensus and Disagreed-Upon Evidence <i>Rifal Sabri, Zulfan, Erman, and Muhammad Fauzi</i></p>	162 – 180
<p>Legal Analysis of the Application of Polygamy Marriage Validation Regulations in the Sibuhuan Religious Court: Case Number 90/Pdt.P/2023/PA.Sbh and 217/Pdt.P/2022/PA.Sbh from the Perspective of Justice <i>Muhammad Yusuf Nasution, Muhammad Arsad Nasution, and Putra Halomoan Hasibuan</i></p>	181 – 193
<p>Theories in Criminology: Differential Association Theory, Strain Theory, Social Control Theory, Subculture Theory, The Self Theories <i>Aqilla Achmad Fathoniansyah, Linda Khasrima Putri, Rizky Habiba Romli Angelita, and Audina Rahmanita Sihab</i></p>	194 – 205
<p>The History of Islamic Economic Thought in Indonesia <i>Irtifa Umi Azizah, Muhammad Aswad, and Muhammad Aqim Adlan</i></p>	206 – 217
<p>The History of Family Law Reform in Islamic Countries <i>Endah Mustika Pertiwi, Syarifuddin, and Ali Murtadho Emzaed</i></p>	218 – 228
<p>Legal Protection of Patient Personal Data to Prevent Leaks on Social Media <i>Yulia Audina Sukmawan, Restiana Kartika Mantasti Hapsari, Dwi Damayanti, dan Saraya Aisyah Awanis</i></p>	229 – 239
<p>Realising Consumer Data Protection in Peer-to-Peer Lending through Market Conduct</p>	240 – 252

<i>Taruna Prakarsa and Muhammad Abdul Ghofur</i>	
The Sovereignty of the Indonesian State in Addressing Rohingya Ethnic Refugees <i>Maylissabet, Ravee Tomong, Nasih Burhani, and Mohammad Saifa Abudillah</i>	253 – 269
Legal Protection for Women in Marriage Law in Indonesia <i>Kudrat Abdillah</i>	270 – 289

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Several Theories in Criminology: Differential Association Theory, Strain Theory, Social Control Theory, Subculture Theory, The Self Theories

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Abstrak

Teori kriminologi memiliki berbagai pendekatan untuk memahami penyebab perilaku tindakan kriminal. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis, Teori Asosiasi Diferensial dikemukakan oleh Edwin Sutherland menekankan Tindakan kriminal dipelajari melalui interaksi sosial dengan individu yang terlibat dalam praktik kriminal. Sementara itu, Teori Anomi, yang diperkenalkan oleh Émile Durkheim, menjelaskan bagaimana ketidakstabilan nilai-nilai sosial dapat memicu tindakan kriminal. Teori Kontrol Sosial menyoroti pentingnya ikatan sosial dalam mencegah perilaku menyimpang, Sedangkan Teori Subkultur menjelaskan bagaimana kelompok tertentu mengembangkan norma dan nilai yang berbeda dari masyarakat luas, yang dapat mendorong perilaku kriminal. Terakhir, Teori Kepribadian berfokus pada faktor-faktor psikologis yang mempengaruhi individu, menunjukkan bahwa karakteristik kepribadian tertentu dapat berkontribusi pada kecenderungan melakukan kejahatan. Setiap teori memberikan wawasan unik yang penting untuk memahami kompleksitas perilaku kriminal dalam konteks sosial dan individu. Pemahaman yang lebih mendalam terhadap teori kriminologi juga meningkatkan kesadaran masyarakat tentang cara mengatasi tantangan kejahatan.

Kata Kunci: *Teori Asosiasi Diferensial, Teori Ketegangan, Teori Kontrol Sosial, Teori Subkultur, Teori Diri*

Abstract

Criminology theory has various approaches to understanding the causes of criminal behaviour. This study aims to analyse Differential Association Theory proposed by Edwin Sutherland, which emphasises that criminal behaviour is learned through social interaction with individuals involved in criminal practices. Meanwhile, Anomie Theory proposed by Émile Durkheim explains how instability of social values can trigger criminal acts. Social Control Theory highlights the importance of social bonds in preventing deviant behaviour, while Subculture Theory explains how certain groups develop norms and values that differ from the wider community, which can encourage criminal behaviour. Finally, Personality Theory focuses on psychological factors that influence individuals, suggesting that certain personality characteristics can contribute to the tendency to commit crimes. Each theory offers unique insights that are important for understanding the complexity of criminal behaviour in social and individual contexts. A deeper understanding of criminology theory also increases public awareness of how to overcome the challenges of crime.

Keywords: *Differential Association Theory, Strain Theory, Social Control Theory, Subculture Theory, Self Theories.*



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Introduction

Criminology is the study of criminal behaviour and the relationship between humans and existing social norms. In this context, criminology does not only focus on crime itself, but also on the social, psychological, and environmental factors that drive individuals to commit crimes. Thus, criminology is often referred to as the sociology of crime because it seeks to understand social phenomena related to crime and unlawful acts.

Since the early development of criminology, various approaches have emerged, ranging from classical to modern approaches. These theories can be grouped into several categories, such as biological,

psychological, sociological, and interactionist theories. Biological theories focus on genetic and physical factors that may contribute to criminal behaviour. This approach assumes that some individuals may have a biological predisposition to commit crimes. Meanwhile, sociological theories emphasise the importance of social context in influencing criminal behaviour. Factors such as poverty, social inequality, and environmental influences play a significant role in shaping individual behaviour. This theory suggests that crime is not only the result of individual decisions, but also a product of existing social conditions. One example of a sociological theory is strain theory, which

states that social and economic pressures can push individuals to commit crimes as a means of achieving goals that cannot be achieved through legal means.

This journal will further examine how criminological theories play an important role in providing a framework for analysing the causes and consequences of criminal behaviour. Various theories, such as Differential Association Theory, Anomie Theory, Social Control Theory, Subculture Theory, Personality Theory, or Self-Determination Theory offer different perspectives on how and why individuals engage in criminal acts. Each of these theories provides insights that help researchers and practitioners formulate crime prevention strategies. By understanding these theories, we can better grasp the complexity of criminal behaviour in society and find effective solutions to address crime problems.

The relationship between criminology and crime theory is very close. These theories provide the analytical tools necessary to understand the complexity of criminal behaviour and the factors that influence it. Therefore, through a deep understanding of these theories, it is important to build a safer environment and understand the dynamics underlying crime, with the hope of reducing crime rates and improving the overall quality of life of society.

Discussion

Differential Association Theory

The differential association theory emerged from the teachings of renowned criminologist Edwin H. Sutherland (1883-

1950). This theory explains criminal behaviour through the process of socialisation and interaction between members of a social group to which a criminal belongs. Sutherland introduced his differential association theory in 1939 in his work titled "Principles of Criminology." Of course, the Differential Association Theory was refined twice until 1947 to make many changes, and was finally formed by Sutherland's student, Donald R. Cressey. He argued that a scientific explanation for criminal behaviour can be revealed through the processes that occur at the time of the crime or, in functional terms, through the "life history" of the individual. Some authors (Petrović and Meško, 2004: 103) consider Differential Association Theory to be part of the group of criminological theories known as symbolic interaction theory.

The same authors emphasise that the most significant aspects of Symbolic Interaction Theory include: differential association theory and labelling theory. Therefore, researchers in symbolic interaction study the processes that transform an individual into a criminal. They support this thesis by stating that the symbols we learn serve to understand reality. The core of symbolic interaction is that people enter into various relationships where they influence one another. For each of us, it is not only the image we have of ourselves or of something important, but also what others think of us.¹ This theory is influenced by three other theories, namely: ecological and cultural transmission theory, symbolic interactionism, and cultural conflict theory.

¹ Academic Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies (Vol. 9, No. 1 / Prof. Ass. Dr. Ahmet Maloku, Ph.D)

From these influences, it can be concluded that the emergence of this differentiation theory is based on:

1. Everyone will accept and acknowledge patterns of behaviour that can be carried out;
2. Failure to follow behavioural patterns can lead to inconsistency and disharmony;
3. Cultural conflict is a fundamental principle in explaining crime.

The differential association theory has two versions. The first version, in 1939, placed more emphasis on cultural conflict and social disorganisation as well as differential association. In the first version, Sutherland defined differential association as the content of patterns presented in associations that differ from individual to individual (the content or substance presented in an association will differ from one individual to another). This does not mean that only social groups with criminals will cause someone to behave criminally. What is most important is the content of the communication process with other people. This clearly explains that crime or criminal behaviour arises from communication with other people who are also criminal. In 1947, Sutherland presented his second version, which placed greater emphasis on all learnable behaviour and replaced the term social disorganisation with differential social organisation. This theory rejects the idea that any malicious behaviour is inherited from one's parents. Patterns of malicious behaviour are not inherited but learned through close social interaction.²

Development of Differential Association Theory

Regarding the classification of theories, including differential association theory. Therefore, it is not surprising that there are also opinions that this theory has a place in the presentation called exogenous etiology (Horvatić, 112). As seen, this falls under the category of criminological theories that seek the causes of criminal and deviant behaviour in factors outside the individual's personality, i.e., those present in their own social structure. Even the French sociologist Gabriel Tarde (1912) found that people learn bad behaviour through imitation and association, just as they learn a profession. This perspective is also reflected in the statement, "all significant actions in social life are performed under the influence of an example. A person kills or does not kill because they imitate others." Other authors (Mladenović, 153) clearly note the extent of Tarde's influence and his law of imitation. It is clear that Sutherland's theory of differential association is largely psychological in nature.³

Edwin H. Sutherland (1939) took Tarde's ideas as a basis and developed a theory about the causes of delinquent behaviour, which he called the differential association theory. Sutherland hypothesised that people understand delinquent behaviour through association with individuals who violate social norms. Criminal behaviour is a consequence of learning, where an individual associates with members of a delinquent group and consequently adopts their habits. By

² Aletheia Rabbani Updated: 11 August 2024
(<https://www.sosiologi79.com/2017/11/edwin-h-sutherland-differential.html?m=1>)

³
<https://www.simplypsychology.org/differential-association-theory.html> (By Charlotte Nickerson/February 13, 2024)

interacting with such people, the individual behaves contrary to prevailing social norms, adopting criminal values while rejecting consistent societal values (Milutinović, 127, cited by Meško, Petrović, p. 104). Thus, the individual comes to believe that laws should be broken rather than respected, indicating a cultural conflict between society and the individual.

According to differential association theory, it should be noted that criminal behaviour is not always learned through direct contact with criminals. According to some authors (Janković and Peshić, 1981: 66), the phrase "you are the same as the people you spend time with" is a simplification and distortion. Therefore, a potential criminal does not need to associate with other criminals, but simply be in a situation where attitudes that support crime are heard or portrayed positively. As a result, criminal behaviour can also be learned through reading books, the press, or watching films. For someone to become deviant, they need to be exposed to many definitions and patterns of behaviour that support or even encourage the violation of norms (Ristanović-Nikolić, 2018: 300-301). Differential association theory has been the most influential socio-psychological theory about the causes of crime in the last sixty years. After Sutherland's death in 1950, Donald Cressey continued his work and developed the theory further. Cressey's ability to communicate the theory to the public contributed to its recognition. Gibbons notes that Sutherland also made

significant contributions to establishing criminology as a discipline.⁴

Sutherland presents an approach that emphasises social contradictions, stating that many values in society influence behaviour. According to Sutherland, people learn antisocial behaviour and commit crimes by associating with criminals. He does not classify social factors as good or bad, but as influences on individuals. According to Sutherland, individual behavioural choices are limited by their associations and situations, which indicate a positive attitude towards the causes of crime. Situational research concludes that the direct determinants of criminal behaviour lie in the personality-situation complex, while perpetrators attempt to explain the situation in this way. Objective situations are crucial in enabling the possibility of criminal actions. If a situation "applies in a criminal aspect," sociological attitudes do not exclude it because it is defined by those involved in criminal actions. Others do not define situations in this way, indicating that individuals with different life experiences tend to articulate alternative choices, including resisting criminal actions. An individual's past experiences will significantly determine how they define situations. Explaining criminal behaviour based on past experiences is crucial (Šabani, 2013: 60). Differential association theory can be translated as differential contact theory. Sutherland's theory explains criminality at two levels: the individual level and the social (group) level. He uses three interrelated concepts: normative conflict (cultural), differential

⁴ Siegel, L. Larry. (2012). *Criminology* eleventh edition. Wadsworth, Belmont.

association, and differential social organisation.⁵

At the individual level, Sutherland distinguishes between two types of scientific explanations for criminal behaviour. Sutherland puts forward nine postulates (Sutherland, 1939: 6-7), which reveal the main points of the differential association theory:

1. Criminal behaviour can be understood
2. Criminal behaviour can be understood through cooperation with others, through the process of communication.
3. The main part of learning about criminal behaviour is realised in primary groups.
4. The learning process of criminal behaviour includes: Techniques for committing criminal acts, which can be complex or very simple and are carried out in a specific manner aimed at motivation, drive, rationalisation, and attitude.
5. The way motivation is managed depends on whether the individual is associated with people who have positive definitions. Each person who approves of criminal behaviour or those who have negative definitions of criminal behaviour, meaning about the cases they judge.
6. An individual becomes criminal because they receive more definitions that permit criminal behaviour and fewer definitions that condemn it.

7. Contact with those who approve of norm violations or criticise them leads to changes in participation, duration, interest, and intensity.
8. The learning process of criminal behaviour encompasses all mechanisms that are part of the overall learning process.
9. Criminal behaviour is an expression of general needs and values. Although it cannot be explained by these needs and values, criminal behaviour is also a non-criminal expression of the same needs and values. (Ristanović-Nikolić, 1998: 300: 257-258)⁶

Based on Sutherland's detailed explanation of the theory of differential association, bad behaviour is something that is learned from others through interaction and communication, not something that is innate. Bad behaviour that is learned is a way of committing a crime so that the law is not considered something that must be obeyed. This behaviour varies depending on the frequency, duration, priority, and intensity of interaction with intimate groups.⁷

Strain Theory

Understanding Anomie Globally, the actual and representative theory of Anomie emerged and grew based on social conditions (social heritage) such as the Industrial Revolution and the Great Depression in France and Europe in the 1930s. Deregulation brought about social

⁵ Šabani, 2013: 60

⁶

<https://www.sosiologi79.com/2017/11/edwin-h-sutherland-differential.html> (Sutherland, 1939: 6-7)

⁷ Hardianto Djanggi and Nurul Qamar, (2018), Application of Criminological Theories in Combating Cyber Crime, Pandecta Vol.13 No.1, p.16

traditions and had an impact on individuals and social/public institutions. The term anomie was first introduced by Emile Durkheim and described as a state without norms (the concept of anomie refers to the absence of social regulatory norms).

Emile Durkheim stated that the theory of anomie encompasses three perspectives: (1) Man is a social animal. (2) The existence of man as a social animal. (3) Humans tend to live in societies and their existence is highly dependent on those societies, as colonies (tending to live in colonies, and his/her survival dependent upon moral connections).

Emile Durkheim used the term anomie to describe a state of deregulation in society. Durkheim defined deregulation as a situation in which social rules are ignored and people do not know what is expected of them. This state of deregulation or normlessness gives rise to deviant behaviour. The most prominent deviant behaviour at that time was suicide.⁸

Suicide, according to Durkheim, stems from three stressful social conditions, namely:

- a. Deregulation of needs or anomie,
- b. Excessive regulation or fatalism,
- c. Lack of structural integration or egoism.

In 1938, Merton adopted the anomie theory to explain deviant behaviour in America. However, Merton's theory differs from Durkheim's. Merton classified social norms into two types: social goals (societate goals) and acceptable means to achieve those goals. Merton argued that every society has certain goals that are

instilled in all of its members (). However, in reality, not everyone uses the available means to achieve those goals.

This leads to the use of unlawful means to achieve goals, resulting in deviations from the intended outcomes.⁹

To address anomie, Merton proposed five ways, namely:¹⁰

1. Conformity (conformitas), which is a state where members of society continue to accept the goals and means available in society due to moral pressure,
2. Innovation: A situation where the goals of society are recognised and maintained, but the means of achieving those goals are changed. For example, to earn a lot of money, people should save, but to get money quickly, they rob banks.
3. Ritualism: A situation where society rejects established goals but continues to use the prescribed means.
4. Retreatism: A situation in which society rejects both the goals and the methods that exist within society.
5. Rebellion: A state in which the goals and methods within a society are rejected, and there is an effort to replace or change everything.

Social Control Theory

This theory is commonly used in criminology and aims to investigate why an individual chooses not to engage (or engage) in criminal activity (Hirschi, 1967).

Usually, an individual in society will be involved in many social networks from

⁸ Yesmil Anwar and Adang, 2010, *Criminology*, Refika Aditama: Bandung, p. 93

⁹ Nursariani S, Faisal, 2017, *Criminology (An Introduction)*, CV Pustaka Prima: Medan, p. 163

¹⁰ Ibid, p. 164

childhood, such as school, work, and family. From an early age, an individual is bound to society, so their attitudes are in line with what is expected in society. On the other hand, macro social institutions such as religion, law, and the education system work together to maintain order in society. Social control theory in sociology and criminology states that an individual's relationships, commitments, values, norms, and beliefs encourage them not to break the law. Therefore, if moral codes are internalised and individuals have an interest in obeying the rules, they are less likely to commit offences; they voluntarily restrict deviant behaviour.¹¹ The emergence of social control theory was triggered by three developments in criminology. First, there was a reaction against the labelling and conflict orientations, which redirected the focus back to the investigation of criminal behaviour. Second, the emergence of studies on criminal justice as a new discipline influenced criminology to become more pragmatic and system-oriented. Third, social control theory was associated with new research techniques, particularly for child/adolescent behaviour, namely self-report surveys. The early development of this theory began with Durkheim in 1895. By the 1950s, several theorists were already using the control theory approach to juvenile delinquency. Reiss argued that there are three components of social control that explain juvenile delinquency: (1) a lack of reasonable internal control during childhood, (2) the loss of such control, and (3) the absence of social norms or conflicts

between such norms (in school, among parents, or in the immediate environment).

They clarified five neutralisation techniques as follows:

1. Denial of responsibility
2. Denial of injury
3. Denial of the victim
4. Condemnation of the condemners
5. Appeal to higher loyalties

Reiss qualifies two types of control, namely personal control and social control. Personal control (internal control) is a person's ability to refrain from fulfilling their needs by violating the norms that apply in society. Meanwhile, social control (external control) is the ability of social groups or institutions in society to make norms or regulations effective. Ivan F. argues that social control theory is not a general explanation of crime but is better understood as a casuistic explanation. The concept of external control or social control became dominant after David Matza and Gresham Sykes criticised Albert Cohen's subculture theory. Sykes and Matza then introduced a theory of neutralisation techniques. The most credible and well-known version of social control was proposed by Travis Hirschi in 1969. With his expertise, Hirschi changed previous theories about social control and explained a clearer understanding of this theory. Hirschi agreed with Durkheim and argued that individual behaviour reflects various views on morality.¹² The early development of the "social control" theory was pioneered by Durkheim in 1895. This theory can be analysed from two

¹¹

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/social-control-theory.html> (fuji matahari/ 11 October 2023/ reviewed by Saul Mcleoad, Doctor

¹² Romli Atmasasmita, *Theory and Selected Topics in Criminology* (Jakarta: PT Rineka Cipta, 2007), pp. 79-81

perspectives, namely: the macro perspective and the micro perspective.

1. Macro perspective (Macrosociological Study).

This perspective focuses more on the formal systems used to control groups. These formal systems include: (a) Legal systems, regulations, and law enforcement agencies. (b) Powerful groups in society. (c) Social and economic policies of the government or private entities. This control can be positive or negative; positive if it successfully prevents illegal behaviour, and negative if it leads to oppression, restrictions, or corruption among those in power.

2. Micro Perspective (Microsociological Studies):

Micro Perspective (Microsociological Studies): This perspective focuses on informal control systems. The main figures in this perspective are Travis Hirschi with his book "Causes of Delinquency," and Jackson Toby, who introduced the concept of "individual commitment" as an important force in social control of behaviour. Hirschi agrees with Durkheim that individual behaviour reflects various views on morality and that individuals have the freedom to commit crimes or deviate from norms. Additionally, Hirschi uses neutralisation theory to explain that such behaviour is caused by the absence or lack of moral attachment of the perpetrator to society.¹³

Subculture Theory

Delinquents are products of separate subcultures, with value systems that directly contradict the values of the wider society. These subcultures reflect the norms of the larger culture but invert and challenge them. Deviant behaviour is considered acceptable within the context of their subcultural value system, even though it is considered wrong by the norms of the more dominant culture (Larry J. Siegel & Joseph J. Senna, 1988: 137).

According to Cohen, the development of delinquent subcultures is influenced by the family and social conditions of children in "ghetto" environments. Deviant behaviour is not the result of a lower class, but rather the result of social and economic limitations experienced by members of disadvantaged groups. One of the main challenges for lower-class children is their inability to achieve certain social positions, such as teachers or civil servants, which are generally filled by members of the middle class. Children from the middle class have easier access to social institutions such as schools and the judicial system, which are controlled by agents of the middle class.

The rejection of lower-class children by the middle class tends to make them feel unrecognised in their social position, encouraging "corner boy," "college boy," or "delinquent boy" behaviour. "Corner boy" is a reaction to the rejection of middle-class values and is not a reflection of true deviance, but rather behaviour that is considered deviant by the wider community. Their loyalty is primarily

¹³ Elly Setyadi and Usman Kholip, Introduction to Sociology (Jakarta: Kencana, 2011), 243

to their "peer group," where they find support and motivation. College boy occurs when lower-class children attempt to pursue the understanding and social values of middle-class children. Meanwhile, "delinquent boy" adopts norms that are directly opposed to middle-class values, with a principle of short-term hedonism. Coben , and James Short classify delinquent subcultures into:

- a) negative subcultures associated with delinquent boys;
- b) conflict-oriented subcultures, such as gang culture involved in collective violence;
- c) drug-addicted subcultures;
- d) semi-professional theft, where teenagers steal items to sell; and
- e) middle-class subcultures that emerge due to the pressures of life in middle-class environments.

In practice, subcultures can be accepted and appreciated in society for their positive contributions, but some are rejected and even ridiculed, often because of stigma or behaviour considered immoral. Thus, the acceptance of subcultures is divided into two categories: first, subcultures that are accepted and appreciated, and second, subcultures that are rejected and despised by the parent culture.

A phenomenon, movement, or ideology can be categorised as a subculture if it meets certain criteria, such as rules of life, perspectives and norms, internal power structures, as well as fashion, behaviour, speech patterns, and other

easily recognisable characteristics. Based on this discussion, the author classifies subcultures into two groups: those accepted and valued by the dominant culture, and those rejected and not appreciated. However, it is important to remember that the dominant culture of each country is different, so they cannot be equated.¹⁴

The Self Theories

Self-theories (the selftheories), this theory explains that this theory includes self-crime, which is emphasised by the interpretation of the person. L Edward Wells (1978) argues that behaviour is an individual's attempt to create, test, affirm, and express their feelings towards themselves. L Edward Wells observed that many types of emotional problems and negative behaviours are caused by a gap between human thoughts and needs and desires, such as expectations. There are two ways that behaviour and self-image are connected:

1. Behaviour can reveal a person's character, so if someone thinks poorly, it is a reflection or mirrors in the structure of a series of negative behaviours, including depression, such as alcoholism, criminality, and others.
2. Behaviour can also support or hinder self-esteem or self-worth.¹⁵

a) Self-Theories and Effort

People with a fixed mindset often view setbacks and mistakes as reflections of their abilities. They believe that true talent should require little to no effort, similar to the views of Billy Beane, who asserts

¹⁴ Rethinking Subculture and Subcultural Theory in the Study of Youth Crime – A Theoretical Discourse Chijioke J. Nwalozie New College Stamford, UK.

¹⁵ Topo Santoso and Eva Achjani Zulfa, Criminology, Jakarta: Raja Grafindo Persada, 2015.

that genuine talent should yield results effortlessly. This mindset suggests that effort indicates a lack of innate ability or ability, which is particularly limiting in challenging fields like sports. Conversely, those with a growth mindset recognise that effort is essential for realising and enhancing one's abilities. They maintain that even highly talented individuals must exert significant effort to achieve their potential, aligning with Thomas Edison's belief that genius relies heavily on hard work.

b) Self-Theories and Mastery-Oriented Coping

These differing self-theories lead to distinct coping strategies in the face of challenges. The entity theory often results in limited responses to setbacks. For example, students with a fixed mindset may react to poor test results by studying less in the future or even considering dishonest tactics, viewing their difficulties as evidence of a lack of ability. In contrast, students with an incremental theory approach setbacks as opportunities to learn. They plan to increase their effort or change their study strategies to address the challenges. Moreover, those with a growth mindset actively manage their motivation, finding ways to remain engaged and committed even when facing difficulties. This contrasts sharply with fixed mindset students, who often lose interest and confidence as challenges arise, leading to diminished effort and enjoyment.

To summarise, the entity theory prioritises maintaining appearances over genuine learning, instils a fear of effort,

and encourages abandoning useful strategies during tough times. In contrast, the incremental theory fosters a desire for challenges, values hard work, and supports persistence in adversity, allowing individuals to maintain their enjoyment even under pressure.¹⁶

Conclusion

Criminological theories serve as a framework for understanding why individuals or groups engage in criminal behaviour. Various theories, such as strain theory, social control theory, and subculture theory, provide different perspectives on the factors that influence criminal behaviour. A deeper understanding of these theories will help develop more effective and appropriate prevention strategies for criminal offenders. In addition, criminological studies also increase social awareness and help communities create better and safer environments. Thus, the relationship between criminology and these theories is an important analytical tool for understanding the complexity of criminal behaviour. Therefore, the relationship between criminology and these theories is an important analytical tool for understanding the complexity of criminal behaviour and finding appropriate solutions to crime problems in society.

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¹⁶ Self Theories: The Mindset of a Champion Carol S Dweck – Stanford University.

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