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The Effects of Conscientiousness, Agreeableness, Organizational Climate, and Job Satisfaction on Lecturer's Commitment and Policy Implications

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Abstract

The purposes of this research were to verify the personality traits consisting of conscientiousness and agreeableness as personal factors along with job satisfaction and organizational climate as the environmental factors affect organizational commitment, and to compare the organizational commitment of lecturers at one public university in Jambi. A questionnaire was used as a research instrument to collect the data from 140 lecturers. Data were analysed by using descriptive statistics and path analysis to analyse the effects of conscientiousness, agreeableness, job satisfaction and organizational climate on organizational commitment. The results of the study indicated that conscientiousness, agreeableness, job satisfaction had direct effects on organizational commitment, while organizational climate had indirect effects. Additionally, the organizational climate had direct effects on job satisfaction. These findings indicated that personal and environmental factors affected organizational commitment in an organization.

Keywords: conscientiousness and agreeableness; job satisfaction; organizational commitment; organizational climate.

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Introduction

It is understood that education matters for human and economic development. Knowledge (leak) has become the most important factor in economic development (Easterly, 2001) and "Investments in tertiary education generate many external benefits that are crucial for knowledge-driven economic and social development" (World Bank, 2001, p. xxi). Tertiary education or higher education has a variety of purposes such as for the effective creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge and for building technical and professional capacity. University as one of the forms of higher education has a central role to achieve those purposes.

However, those purposes will only be achieved through having highly quality and committed faculty members or lecturers. Commitment is related to someone's attachment to one organization where she or he works. There are three components of commitment, namely affective, continuous, and normative commitment (Allen & Meyer, 1997). For affective commitment, it is connected with the existence of emotional attachment and involvement of employees in their organization while continuous commitment is related to an awareness of the costs associated with leaving the organization. Additionally, normative commitment is connected with a feeling of obligation to continue being employed (Allen & Meyer, 1997).

In this study, lecturers' commitment is related to how they are committed to their organization (university), which is influenced by their behaviours such as their attendance, academic atmosphere including their interactions with students, colleagues, deans, or rector, and their academic productivity including doing research, writing research articles, and participating in developing their faculty and university. The existence of lecturers' commitment at any university may become the standards of the effectiveness and quality of a university as a form of higher education.

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One of the important factors related to the organizational commitment is personality (Conscientiousness dan Agreeableness). The appropriateness or the match between lecturers' personality and their job (person-job fit) is one of the factors influencing lecturers' commitment to their university. The more appropriate the lecturers' personality, the higher the lecturers' commitment to their university (Allen & Meyer, 1997). The other two factors are related to job satisfaction and organizational climate. However, research the relationships among conscientiousness and agreeableness and job satisfaction and organizational climate to organizational commitment in higher education in Indonesian contexts is currently rare. The purposes of this research were to verify the personality traits consisting of conscientiousness and agreeableness as personal factors along with job satisfaction and organizational climate as the environmental factors affect organizational commitment, and to compare the organizational commitment of lecturers at one public university in Jambi.

The Nature of Commitment

A commitment is as a single and fundamental term which might differ according to variances in emphasis and time-specific evaluation. Commitment related to someone's feeling of attachment to one organization where she or he works. Meyer and Allen (1991) offered three models of commitment: 'continuance', 'normative' and 'affective' commitment. Every model of commitment produces different behavioral outcomes, though an individual may reflect varying degrees of all three models of commitment to a particular focus (Meyer & Allen 1997). The first element of the Meyer and Allen model is affective commitment referring to an employee's "emotional attachment to, identification with, and involvement in a job setting (Meyer et al., 1991). The second element is continuance commitment referring to an employee's perceived costs of leaving a job setting. The third element is normative commitment, referring to an employee's feelings of obligation to remain in their job setting

(Allen & Meyer, 1997). In our study, commitment is defined as the individual lecturer's psychological attachment to the university as the focus of our research.

20 Conscientiousness and Agreeableness

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Conscientiousness and agreeableness are part of the five-factor model of personality (Erdheim, Wang, & Zickar, 2006). Individual characteristics such as conscientiousness and agreeableness and their contributions to any job settings have been well studied and documented. For conscientiousness, notwithstanding its importance in the literature, it is still not easy to define. According to Digman (1990), conscientiousness, "both as a scale in research and in its dictionary definition, is ambiguous" (p. 424), and remarkably the ambiguity remains until now. Furthermore, Barrick and Mount (1991), Barrick, Mount, and Strauss (1993), and Costa and McCrae (1992) identified the characteristics of conscientiousness were related to being careful, dependable, thorough, responsible, organized, planful, hardworking, achievement-oriented, persevering, and persistent. These ten traits provide a picture of what a conscientious individual looks like that we used in this study. In relation to organizational commitment, Barrick and Mount (1993) indicated that conscientious people were good performers as a result they would obtain more rewards from their job settings, which finally could increase their affective commitment and job satisfaction. Also, Organ and Lingl (1995) pointed out that persons who were high in conscientiousness were commonly committed to their organizations because conscientiousness is a generalized work involvement tendency. In sum, conscientious people are the ones who are careful, dependable, thorough, responsible, organized, planful, hardworking, achievement-oriented, persevering, and persistent in their organizations. Through these characteristics, conscientious people tend to be good actors and actresses in their organizations that influence their supervisors to provide more rewards and incentives for their performance which eventually could upturn their affective commitment and job satisfaction at their organization.

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Another important factor in the five-factor model of personality (Erdheim, Wang, & Zickar, 2006) is agreeableness which is related to typical behaviours such as well mannered, adaptable, caring, collaborative, kind, understanding, and patient (Barrick & Mount, 1991). Agreeableness with its unique characteristics is an important factor for the organizational commitment as well mannered, adaptable, caring, collaborative, kind, understanding, and patient people are needed in any job settings. Without those characteristics, it cannot be denied that stress and conflicts will be part of any job settings. For example, Choi, Oh, and Colbert (2015) in one of their findings their study indicated that the agreeableness factor was the trait most strongly related to both affective and normative commitment in organization. The finding of this study suggests that agreeableness factor is one of the most influential factors in any organizations and the organizations with more agreeable people might have stronger organizational commitment and be more productive.

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Conscientiousness and agreeableness are two influential factors related to organizational commitment in any job settings which also influence job satisfaction and organizational climate. In this study, we wanted to see the appropriateness or the match between lecturers' personality (conscientiousness and agreeableness) and their job satisfaction and organizational climate with lecturers' commitment to their university at our research site.

Methods

Research site and participants

This study was conducted at one public university in Jambi, Sumatra, Indonesia. The participants of this study were 140 lecturers consisting of 55 percent of male lecturers and 45 percent of female lecturers from five faculties. The age ranged from 30 to 55 years. In terms

of working experience, all have worked for at least three years at the research site. All participants held at least an undergraduate degree and master's degree. The 140 participants were recruited through a variety of networking sources and permission from the authorities was also acquired.

Data collection and analysis

This study used a survey questionnaire in order to examine the personality traits consisting of conscientiousness and agreeableness as personal factors along with job satisfaction and organizational climate as the environmental factors affect organizational commitment, and to compare the organizational commitment of lecturers at one public university in Jambi. The survey questionnaires were personally administered to each lecturer at one public university in Jambi, Sumatra, Indonesia. The questionnaires consisted of (1) the organizational commitment with 42 statements (e.g. I like working at this university), (2) the job satisfaction with 30 statements (e.g. the working environment encourages me to work comfortably), (3) the agreeableness with 25 statements (e.g. I feel happy that the sense of togetherness encourages the spirit of work at my university), (4) the conscientiousness with 30 statements (e.g. I prepare myself for doing my duties at my faculty), and (5) the organizational climate with 36 statements. A Likert scale (from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree") was used to measure the personality traits consisting of conscientiousness and agreeableness as personal factors along with job satisfaction and organizational climate as the environmental factors affect organizational commitment, and to compare the organizational commitment of lecturers at one public university in Jambi. Data were analysed by using descriptive statistics and path analysis to analyse the effects of conscientiousness, agreeableness, job satisfaction and organizational climate on organizational commitment.

Results and Discussions

The purposes of this research were to examine the personality traits consisting of conscientiousness and agreeableness as personal factors along with job satisfaction and organizational climate as the environmental factors affect organizational commitment, and to compare the organizational commitment of lecturers at one public university in Jambi. The following were the variable descriptions of the data obtained from the questionnaires.

In terms of the conscientiousness (X_1), the findings indicated that 3, 57% of lecturers were included in a somewhat low category with the score interval between 2, 13 and 2, 54 while 25 % of lecturers were included in the medium category with the score interval between 3, 37 and 3, 79. For the high category, only 2, 14 % of lecturers were included in this category with the score interval between 5, 46 – 5, 88. The data indicated that the average of the score for the conscientiousness was 3, 71 with the deviation standard of 0, 70, and with the maximum score of 5, 46 and the minimum score of 2, 13. This finding revealed that the category of the lecturers' conscientiousness was medium.

In terms of the agreeableness (X_2), the findings indicated that 2, 86% of lecturers were included in a somewhat low category with the score interval between 2, 13 and 2, 51 while 19, 29 % of lecturers were included in the medium category with the score interval between 4, 07 and 4, 46. For the high category, only 2, 86 % of lecturers were included in this category with the score interval between 5, 24 – 5, 86. The data indicated that the average of the score for the agreeableness was 3, 77 with the deviation standard of 0, 73, and with the maximum score of 5, 24 and the minimum score of 2, 13. This finding revealed that the category of the lecturers' agreeableness was medium.

With regard to the organizational climate (X_3), the findings indicated that 6, 43% of lecturers were included in a somewhat low category with the score interval between 2, 63 and

2, 93, while 20, 71% of lecturers were included in the medium category with the score interval between 3, 24 and 3, 54. For the high category, only 5 % of lecturers were included in this category with the score interval between 5, 07 – 5, 38. The data indicated that the average of the score for the organizational climate was 3, 83 with the deviation standard of 0, 59, and with the maximum score of 5, 38 and the minimum score of 2, 63. This finding revealed that the lecturers felt that organizational climate at the research site was medium. In terms of the job satisfaction (X_4), the findings indicated that 1, 43% of lecturers were included in a somewhat low category with the score interval between 2, 13 and 2, 49, while 25 % of lecturers were included in the medium category with the score interval between 3, 93 and 4, 29. For the high category, only 5, 71 % of lecturers were included in this category with the score interval between 5, 07 – 5, 38. The data analysis result indicated that the average of the score for the job satisfaction was 4, 00 with the deviation standard of 0, 67, and with the maximum score of 5, 38 and the minimum score of 2, 13. This finding revealed that the lecturers' job satisfaction at the research site was better. For the organizational commitment (X_5), 5 % of lecturers were included in a somewhat low category with the score interval between 2, 63 and 2, 93 while 24, 9 % of lecturers were included in the medium category with the score interval between 3, 54 and 3, 85. For the high category, 4, 29 % of lecturers were included in this category with the score interval between 5, 07 – 5, 38. The data analysis result indicated that the average of the score for the organizational commitment was 3, 86 with the maximum score of 5, 38 and the minimum score of 2, 63. This finding revealed that the lecturers' organizational commitment at the research site was medium.

Additionally, in this study to measure the relationship among the variables including the conscientiousness (X_1), the agreeableness (X_2), the organizational climate (X_3), the job satisfaction (X_4), and the organizational commitment (X_5), the following path models were used to describe the relationship among the variables:

Figure 1. The path model's Coefficient value on the relationship among variables

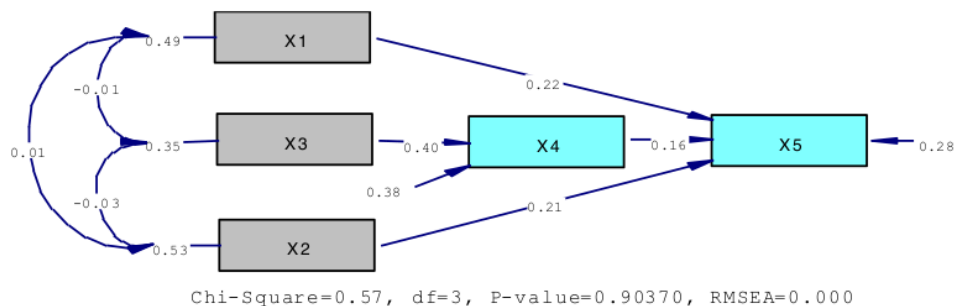
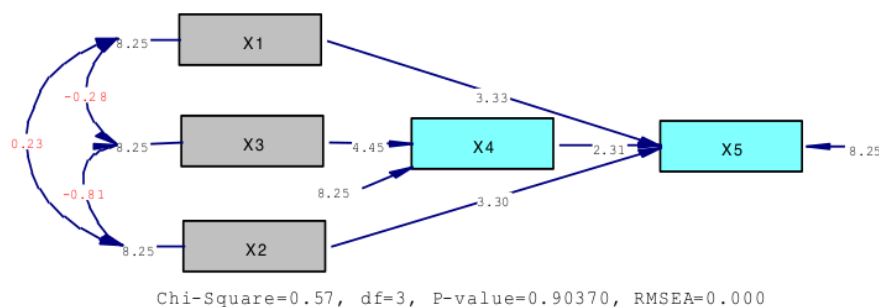


Figure 2. The T-Value on the model of the structural relationship among the variables



Based on the data analysis on the figure 1, the path coefficient value on the relationship among variables the biggest path coefficient was the change effect of organizational climate on job satisfaction with path coefficient value of 0,45. This suggested that the factor that encouraged job satisfaction of lecturers at the research site was organizational climate. In the meantime, the path coefficient value that determined lecturers' organizational commitment with a path coefficient value of 0,22 was conscientiousness, agreeableness a path coefficient value of 0,21, job satisfaction a path coefficient value of 0,16.

Additionally, the figure 2 describes t-value on the significance level of the causal effect pattern among variables. It describes that the path coefficient value of the organizational climate on job satisfaction was the highest, 4,45 with $\alpha=0,05$. Also, the path coefficient value of the conscientiousness on the organizational climate was 3,33 while the path coefficient value of the agreeableness on the organizational climate was 3,30 and the path coefficient value of the job satisfaction on the organizational climate was 2,31.

The findings of this study revealed that there was an effect of conscientiousness, agreeableness, and job satisfaction as well as an indirect effect of organizational climate on lecturers' commitment to the university where they worked. The findings of the study were in line with what previous literature indicated that personal and environmental factors influenced organizational commitment (Costa & McCrae, 1998; Davis & Newstrom, 2002; Morrow & McElroy, 1987; Steers & Lyman, 1997). This suggests that although a university is a kind of a professionally bureaucratic organization, lecturers' commitment to their university is influenced by the factors that are similar to any other organization. In this study, organizational commitment was influenced by personal factors such as conscientiousness, agreeableness as well as environmental factors such as job satisfaction and organizational climate. Another interesting finding in this study was that lecturers' commitment to their university was determined by job satisfaction, which was perceived by them based on the situation or climate at their university. Particularly, lecturers' job satisfaction was influenced by their satisfaction with leaders, colleagues, ways of communication, and facilities at the university or faculty. This finding was related to the so called "satisfaction-performance loop" (Allen & Meyer, 1997). Additionally, the effect of organizational climate on job satisfaction had the biggest coefficient path score, suggesting that job satisfaction was importantly influenced by organizational climate. The finding of this study also indicated that the highest coefficient path score that determined lecturers' commitment to their university was related to conscientiousness, followed by agreeableness and job satisfaction. The highest coefficient path score of conscientiousness also implied that lecturers at the research site met the requirements for becoming professional lecturers as mandated by the teacher and lecturer law of No. 14 in 2005.

In this study, it was also found that the significant effect of agreeableness indicated that lecturers' commitment to the university was impacted by the fit between lecturer's personality and their job. This finding supports what the literature says that the fit between personality and job has a significant correlation with job satisfaction and organizational commitment (Hambleton, Kalliath, & Taylor, 2000).

The findings of the current study indicated that personal and environmental factors affect organizational commitment of lecturers at one public university in Jambi. The results of this study have implied that personal and environmental factors could become a trigger to improve the quality of higher education through improving lecturers' commitment to where they work. Lecturers' commitment is very needed to achieve the academic, social, and cultural purposes of higher education, in particular, in the era of globalization because

competition among universities in Indonesia and in the world is very tight. The increase and improvement of lecturers' commitment through the improvement of conscientiousness and agreeableness traits and organizational climate and job satisfaction should be well-planned and well-focused. In other words, in future, human development processes should not only provide young people with knowledge and experience, but also provide them with the theories and practices on the importance of the sense of belonging (commitment) to where they will work.

Conclusion and Policy Implications

The purposes of this research were to verify the personality traits consisting of conscientiousness and agreeableness as personal factors along with job satisfaction and organizational climate as the environmental factors affect organizational commitment, and to compare the organizational commitment of lecturers at one public university in Jambi. The findings of the study revealed that lecturers' organizational commitment was directly impacted by their conscientiousness, agreeableness, and job satisfaction meanwhile the organizational climate indirectly influenced lecturers' organizational commitment at the research site. The findings of this study imply that lecturers' organizational commitment was significantly impacted by personal and environmental factors.

Policy implications, the findings of this study could be the sort of evidence necessary for university, faculty, and department leaders or policymakers for providing support to improve lecturers' organizational commitment at their respective area of authorities. Also, it could be utilized by university, faculty, and department leaders to provide programs and policies for lecturers for anticipating the challenges and problems related to lecturers' organizational commitment. University, faculty, and department leaders or policymakers should also provide lecturers with high conscientiousness and agreeableness with rewards for increasing their commitment to their university. Another important thing that should be taken into account is that lecturers with high conscientiousness and agreeableness should be maintained as models for other lecturers who have low conscientiousness and agreeableness.

Additionally, related to the limitations of the study, despite the fact this study will potentially contribute the sort of evidence necessary for university, faculty, and department leaders for providing support to improve lecturers' organizational commitment at their respective area of authorities, participants in this study may not be representative of Indonesian lecturers. There may be differences of lecturers' organizational commitment experienced by Indonesian lecturers from one department to other departments and from one university to other universities. Future research may include a larger sample of Indonesian lecturers from different departments or universities. Additionally, in this study, only two personality traits were examined due to logistic limitations, future research could include five personality traits to be researched quantitatively and qualitatively.

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