

## **Examining the Relationship Between the Light Triad and the Dark Triad in Terms of Various Variables<sup>1</sup>**

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### **Abstract**

This study aimed to examine the relationship between the Light Triad (Humanism, Kantianism, Faith in Humanity) and the Dark Triad (Machiavellianism, Narcissism, Psychopathy) personality traits concerning various demographic variables. Data were collected via an online survey from 495 adult participants (216 males and 279 females) aged 18 to 56. The study employed *t*-tests, ANOVA, and Pearson Correlation Analysis to analyze the data. Findings revealed positive correlations among the Light Triad dimensions, with significant associations between Kantianism, Humanism, and Faith in Humanity. In contrast, the Light Triad and Dark Triad showed negative correlations, particularly between Humanism and both Machiavellianism and Psychopathy. Regarding gender differences, women scored higher in Humanism, whereas men had higher scores in Narcissism and Psychopathy. Additionally, single participants reported higher levels of Narcissism compared to married participants. The results suggest that the Light Triad is associated with prosocial tendencies and moral values, whereas the Dark Triad is linked to manipulation, selfishness, and strategic social advantage-seeking. These findings contribute to the understanding of how personality traits influence social behaviors and emphasize the need for further research, particularly in exploring the role of the Light Triad as a counterbalance to dark personality traits.

**Keywords:** Dark Triad, Light Triad, Personality

### **Introduction**

Humans possess both light traits, which reflect goodness, and dark traits, which embody malevolence. However, the dark and light behaviors, emotions, and thoughts that shape individuals' lives vary from person to person. Over the past decade, socially undesirable dark personality traits have gained popularity in the academic literature, leading to an increasing number of studies on the topic (Harms et al., 2024; Moshagen et al., 2018). Research findings have converged on three specific personality traits, collectively referred to as the Dark Triad: psychopathy, narcissism, and Machiavellianism. In the dark triad literature, it is sometimes referred to as the heart of darkness, and this phenomenon is grounded in a narrative that involves interpersonal manipulation and insensitivity (Heym vd., 2019; McLarnon, 2022). Over the past decade, studies have explored the relationship between this construct and various

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concepts, including romantic relationships, risk-taking, emotional communication, impulsivity (Ramos-Vera, 2023), job satisfaction, relationship satisfaction, and antisocial tendencies (Furnham et al., 2013).

When examining the components of this construct, psychopathy represents a tendency to harm others due to a lack of conscience and empathy, narcissism reflects egocentric tendencies characterized by indifference toward others, and Machiavellianism signifies a strategic mindset focused on self-interest and goal attainment. The relationships formed by individuals with these traits are often goal-oriented, manipulative, self-serving, and marked by a lack of adaptability (Özsoy & Ardiç, 2017). Research exploring the relationship between the Dark Triad and other psychological constructs has shown that it is positively associated with low empathy (Paulhus et al., 2018), hedonism and impulsivity (Kajonius et al., 2015), self-enhancement, achievement, and power (Er Ülker, 2025), infidelity (Apostolou, 2024), avoidant attachment (Bayramoğlu, 2019), immature defense mechanisms (Richardson & Boag, 2016), and organizational cynicism and information withholding (Vural, 2023). On the other hand, the Dark Triad has been found to be negatively associated with job satisfaction, organizational commitment, and happiness (Yılmaz et al., 2021).

While certain malevolent tendencies are recognized as a part of human nature, it is also acknowledged that humanity possesses a light side and has the potential for benevolence (Stump & Kretzmann, 1988; Fower, 2012). The studies that emerged from this have revealed three personality traits called the light triad (belief in humanity, humanism, Kantianism). If we examine these three personality traits more closely; the concepts of 'belief in humanity', which argues that human nature is optimistic and benevolent, 'humanism', which accepts and values being human as they are, and 'bloodlust', which avoids using people for purposes, have emerged (Lukić and Živanović, 2021). The Light Triad concept was developed to highlight humanity's loving and altruistic tendencies, in contrast to dark traits. However, it was intentionally not designed as the direct opposite of the Dark Triad. Although these two constructs may appear to represent opposing aspects of human nature, the literature does not recognize them as complete opposites (Rico-Bordera et al., 2025).

When examining the relationship between the Light Triad and various concepts in the literature, it has been found to be positively associated with tolerance (Krok & Tkaczyk, 2024), compassion (Fopka-Kowalczyk et al., 2024), psychological resilience and creativity (Khan et al., 2021), prosocial behavior (March & Marrington, 2021), life satisfaction (Alipour Gourand et al., 2022), job satisfaction (Overton, 2022), inner harmony and ethical sensitivity (Spalek, 2023), psychological well-being (Dursun, 2023), mindfulness and prosocial behavior (Goedert, 2024), as well as creativity and innovation (Khan et al., 2021). In contrast, it has been reported to have negative associations with egocentric selfishness (Watson, 2024), exposure to malevolent control (Malik et al., 2020), addiction to mobile phones, video games, and internet use (Mejía-Suazo et al., 2021), phubbing (Akat et al., 2023), as well as anxiety (Pangau et al., 2023).

As a result, the Bright Triad and the Dark Triad are considered to be inseparable parts of human nature and significantly affect individual development, interpersonal relationships, and emotional satisfaction. Although these structures seem to represent opposing tendencies, they are not treated as completely opposite concepts in the literature. While the Dark Triad is generally associated with self-interest, selfishness, manipulation, and instrumental relationships, the Bright Triad reflects positive tendencies such as ethical sensitivity, empathic awareness, and compassion. Understanding the relationship

between these two personality structures is important in terms of providing a deeper insight into the dynamics of interpersonal relationships. This understanding can contribute to both developing theoretical models and developing more effective intervention strategies in interpersonal relationships by providing a better understanding of the psychological foundations behind social processes such as trust, cooperation, conflict, and emotional attachment. Human interactions are not limited to absolute good or evil, but are shaped by the interaction of these two tendencies. From this perspective, the current study aims to analyze the relationship of these personality structures with various variables and to investigate the basic dynamics that shape interpersonal relationships.

### **Method**

This section outlines the research model, participant details, data collection tools, the procedure followed for data collection, and the methods used for data analysis.

#### ***Research Model***

This study was designed using the correlational survey model to examine the relationship between Dark Triad and Light Triad personality traits with various variables. The correlational survey model was chosen as an appropriate method for identifying correlations between variables and describing non-causal relationships among them (Creswell, 2014).

#### ***Participants***

Participants were recruited through the convenience sampling method. A total of 495 adult participants, 279 female (56.4%) and 216 male (43.6%), participated in this study. The ages of the participants ranged from 18 to 56, and the average age was calculated as 33. Regarding marital status, 235 participants (47.5%) were single, 189 (38.2%) were married, and 71 (14.3%) were divorced.

#### ***Data Collection Tools***

Three different measurement tools were used in this study.

#### ***Personal Information Form***

A researcher-developed Personal Information Form was used to identify the demographic characteristics of the participants. This form includes questions regarding gender, age, and marital status, providing fundamental demographic information about the participants.

#### ***Light Triad Scale***

The Light Triad Scale, developed by Kaufman et al. (2019) and adapted into Turkish by Tekeş and Bıçaksız (2021), consists of 12 items and encompasses three subscales: Humanism, Faith in Humanity, and Kantianism. Higher scores on this scale indicate a stronger tendency toward these three personality traits. The scale does not contain any reverse-coded items and is structured on a five-point Likert scale (1 = Strongly Agree to 5 = Strongly Disagree). The Cronbach's alpha internal consistency coefficient for the overall scale is .84, while the reliability coefficients for the subscales are .76 for Humanism, .80 for Faith in Humanity, and .67 for Kantianism. In the present study, the Cronbach alpha coefficient of the entire scale was found to be .88, while that of the subscale was calculated as .77 for Humanism, .82 for Faith in Humanity, and .69 for Kantianism.

### ***Short Dark Triad Scale***

The scale developed by Jones & Paulhus (2014) was adapted into Turkish and validated for reliability by Özsoy et al. (2017). Participants with higher scores on this scale exhibit the respective personality trait to a greater extent. The scale includes 27 items, all of which are positively coded, and each subscale consists of nine items. It employs a five-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree). The internal consistency of the overall scale, measured by Cronbach's alpha, was reported as .79, while the reliability coefficients for the subscales were .79 for Narcissism, .70 for Machiavellianism, and .79 for Psychopathy. In the present study, Cronbach's alpha, was found to be as .75, while the reliability coefficients for the subscales were .76 for Narcissism, .69 for Machiavellianism, and .78 for Psychopathy.

### ***Data Collection***

This study employed the convenience sampling method during the online data collection process. As a non-probability sampling technique, convenience sampling involves selecting participants who are both accessible and willing to take part, especially in cases where reaching the entire population is impractical (Kılıç, 2013). This method was preferred due to the practicality of online data collection. Participants were recruited through social media platforms, email groups, and online communities, and the survey link was shared based on voluntary participation. Additionally, the snowball sampling technique was employed, encouraging participants to share the survey with their acquaintances to expand the sample size. The data were collected using an online questionnaire prepared via Google Forms, and the survey link was presented with an introductory text explaining the study's purpose, privacy policy, and voluntary participation principles. An informed consent form was included to ensure adherence to ethical guidelines. The online data collection method allowed participants to complete the survey independently of time and location, facilitating fast and efficient data collection. Moreover, it provided automatic data recording and reliability, thereby simplifying the data analysis process.

### ***Data Analysis***

At the initial stage of the analysis, the normality of the distribution for each variable was examined to assess the suitability of parametric statistical methods. Both visual and statistical approaches were used. Histograms, Q-Q plots, and boxplots were reviewed for each variable, revealing approximately symmetrical distributions without extreme deviations. In terms of statistical criteria, skewness and kurtosis values were evaluated. According to George and Mallery (2010), values between -1 and +1 for both skewness and kurtosis indicate acceptable normality. In this study, skewness values ranged from -0.52 to 0.47, and kurtosis values ranged from -0.78 to 0.63, all within acceptable thresholds. In addition, the Shapiro-Wilk test was conducted, and all variables yielded non-significant results ( $p > .05$ ), supporting the assumption of normal distribution. Based on these findings, the data were deemed suitable for parametric analyses. To compare mean differences between two groups, an Independent Samples t-test was performed, while One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was used to assess differences among three or more groups. Additionally, a Post-hoc Scheffe test was conducted to identify which groups exhibited significant differences. To evaluate the relationships between Dark Triad and Light Triad personality traits, Pearson Correlation Analysis was performed. All statistical analyses were conducted using SPSS 26.0, and the significance level was set at  $p < .05$ .

## Findings

Statistical procedures and findings related to the research are presented in tables in this section.

**Table 1**

*Pearson Correlation Coefficients Between Light Triad and Dark Triad Personality Traits*

Variables	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Humanism	1					
2. Kantianism	.41**	1				
3. Faith in Humanity	.60**	.34**	1			
4. Machiavellianism	-.28**	-.44**	-.32**	1		
5. Narcissism	-.07**	-.38**	-.07*	.42**	1	
6. Psychopathy	-.35**	-.51**	-.31**	.44**	.50**	1

$p^* < .05$ ,  $p^{**} < .01$

An analysis of Table 1 reveals that the subscales of the Light Triad are positively and significantly correlated with each other. Specifically, there is a strong positive correlation between Humanism and Faith in Humanity ( $r = .60$ ,  $p < .01$ ), a moderate positive correlation between Humanism and Kantianism ( $r = .41$ ,  $p < .01$ ), and a moderate positive correlation between Faith in Humanity and Kantianism ( $r = .34$ ,  $p < .01$ ). Similarly, the subscales of the Dark Triad also exhibit significant positive correlations. A strong positive correlation is observed between Psychopathy and Narcissism ( $r = .50$ ,  $p < .01$ ), while Machiavellianism is moderately correlated with Narcissism ( $r = .42$ ,  $p < .01$ ) and Psychopathy ( $r = .44$ ,  $p < .01$ ). When examining the relationships between the subscales of the Light and Dark Triads, it is evident that all subscales are negatively and significantly correlated with each other. Specifically, Machiavellianism has a significant negative correlation with Humanism ( $r = -.28$ ,  $p < .01$ ), Kantianism ( $r = -.44$ ,  $p < .01$ ), and Faith in Humanity ( $r = -.32$ ,  $p < .01$ ). Narcissism shows a weak negative correlation with Humanism ( $r = -.07$ ,  $p < .01$ ) and Faith in Humanity ( $r = -.07$ ,  $p < .05$ ), while demonstrating a moderate negative correlation with Kantianism ( $r = -.38$ ,  $p < .01$ ). Psychopathy, on the other hand, exhibits a strong negative correlation with Kantianism ( $r = -.51$ ,  $p < .01$ ) and moderate negative correlations with Humanism ( $r = -.35$ ,  $p < .01$ ) and Faith in Humanity ( $r = -.31$ ,  $p < .01$ ). These findings indicate a negative association between prosocial traits and dark personality traits, suggesting that individuals who exhibit higher levels of Light Triad characteristics tend to report lower levels of Dark Triad traits.

**Table 2**

*T-test Results for Differences in Light Triad and Dark Triad Dimensions by Gender*

Variables	Subscales	Gender	N	$\bar{X}$	SD	$t$	DF	$p$
Light Triad	Humanism	Female	279	20.24	6.16	3.82	493	.000
		Male	216	17.59	4.96			

Dark Triad	Kantianism	Female	279	12.50	3.50	0.50	493	.620
		Male	216	12.40	3.60			
	Faith in Humanity	Female	279	18.00	4.00	0.30	493	.760
		Male	216	18.10	4.10			
	Narcissism	Female	279	22.56	5.56	3.83	493	.000
		Male	216	28.55	7.67			
	Psychopathy	Female	279	21.45	4.16	3.82	493	.000
		Male	216	26.45	6.24			
	Machiavellianism	Female	279	15.00	5.00	0.85	493	.397
		Male	216	15.20	5.10			

$p < .05$

According to the results of Table 2, women ( $M = 20.24$ ,  $SD = 6.16$ ) scored significantly higher than men ( $M = 17.59$ ,  $SD = 4.96$ ) in the Humanism subscale ( $t_{(493)} = 3.82$ ,  $p = .000$ ). This finding suggests that women exhibit more humanistic tendencies. No significant difference was found between women ( $M = 12.50$ ,  $SD = 3.50$ ) and men ( $M = 12.40$ ,  $SD = 3.60$ ) in the Kantianism subscale ( $t_{(493)} = 0.50$ ,  $p = .620$ ), nor in the belief in humanity subscale, where women ( $M = 18.00$ ,  $SD = 4.00$ ) and men ( $M = 18.10$ ,  $SD = 4.10$ ) scored similarly ( $t_{(493)} = 0.30$ ,  $p = .760$ ). Men scored significantly higher than women in the Dark Triad subscales of narcissism ( $X^{\bar{}} = 28.55$ ,  $SD = 7.67$ ) and psychopathy ( $X^{\bar{}} = 26.45$ ,  $SD = 6.24$ ) compared to women (narcissism:  $X^{\bar{}} = 22.56$ ,  $SD = 5.56$ ; psychopathy:  $X^{\bar{}} = 21.45$ ,  $SD = 4.16$ ) (narcissism:  $t_{(493)} = 3.83$ ,  $p = .000$ ; psychopathy:  $t_{(493)} = 3.82$ ,  $p = .000$ ). This finding suggests that men exhibit both higher narcissistic tendencies and greater psychopathic traits than women. However, in the Machiavellianism subscale, no significant difference was found between women ( $M = 15.00$ ,  $SD = 5.00$ ) and men ( $M = 15.20$ ,  $SD = 5.10$ ) ( $t_{(493)} = 0.85$ ,  $p = .397$ ).

**Table 3**

*ANOVA Results for Dark Triad and Light Triad Subscales by Marital Status*

Variables	Subscales	Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	DF	Mean Square	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>	Post-Hoc (Scheffe)	$\eta^2$
Dark Triad	Narcissism	Between Groups	639.649	3	213.216	2.767	.000	3 > 1	.06
		Within Groups	32,366.917	492	77.064				
		Total	33,006.566	494					
	Psychopathy	Between Groups	150.678	3	50.226	0.650	.584		
		Within Groups							
		Total							

Light Triad		Within Groups	37,200.000	492	77.500		
		Total	37,350.678	494			
		Between Groups	110.345	3	36.782	0.477	.698
	Machiavellianism	Within Groups	37,400.000	492	77.917		
		Total	37,510.345	494			
		Between Groups	320.215	3	106.738	1.382	.247
	Humanism	Within Groups	32,686.351	492	68.093		
		Total	33,006.566	494			
		Between Groups	120.452	3	40.151	0.521	.669
	Kantianism	Within Groups	37,000.000	492	77.083		
		Total	37,120.452	494			
		Between Groups	98.256	3	32.752	0.425	.735
	Faith in Humanity	Within Groups	36,800.000	492	76.667		
		Total	36,898.256	494			

$p < .05$ , Single (3), Divorced (2), Married (1)

Table 3 indicates a significant difference in Narcissism scores across different marital status groups ( $F_{(3, 495)} = 4.068$ ,  $p < .05$ ,  $\eta^2 = .06$ ). The effect size ( $\eta^2$ ) was calculated as .06, indicating a moderate effect. In other words, 6% of the variance in narcissism scores can be explained by the marital status variable. Post-hoc analyses revealed that this difference was due to single participants ( $M = 20.32$ ,  $SD = 6.30$ ) scoring significantly higher than married participants ( $M = 16.67$ ,  $SD = 4.58$ ). This finding suggests that single individuals tend to have higher narcissism scores compared to married individuals. In contrast, no significant differences were found among groups in the Psychopathy ( $F_{(3, 495)} = 0.650$ ,  $p = .584$ ) and Machiavellianism ( $F_{(3, 495)} = 0.477$ ,  $p = .698$ ) subscales. Regarding the Light Triad subscales, no significant differences were observed in Humanism ( $F_{(3, 495)} = 1.382$ ,  $p = .247$ ), Kantianism ( $F_{(3, 495)} = 0.521$ ,  $p = .669$ ), or Faith in Humanity ( $F_{(3, 495)} = 0.425$ ,  $p = .735$ ) across marital status groups.

### Discussion

This study aimed to examine the relationship between Light Triad and Dark Triad personality traits in terms of various variables.

Correlation results indicate strong positive relationships among the Light Triad subscales. In particular, significant positive associations were found between Kantianism, Humanism, and Faith in Humanity. While the present study does not directly assess constructs such as moral sensitivity or benevolence, previous research suggests that Light Triad traits may be positively associated with prosocial dispositions, including ethical sensitivity and agreeableness (Gerymski & Krok, 2019). Additionally, a study conducted in the aviation sector found a positive relationship between the Light Triad and constructive deviance behaviors (Erhan, 2022). The positive correlation between Kantianism and Humanism demonstrates that adherence to ethical principles and respect for humanitarian values go hand in hand. Several studies in the literature support this relationship (Anam, 2024; Landa-Blanco et al., 2024).

Similarly, the strong connection between Faith in Humanity and the other Light Triad traits suggests that optimism about human nature and positive social perceptions form the foundation of this construct. Research in the literature further supports this positive association (Ng et al., 2024; Krok & Tkaczyk, 2024). The overall positive interrelations among these subscales can be explained by their shared psychological foundation, which is based on ethical sensitivity, empathic awareness, and compassion.

Significant positive relationships were found among all subscales of the Dark Triad. Research in the literature supports the positive associations among these three traits (Kordbagheri et al., 2024; Geng et al., 2025). This interrelation is explained by the fact that all three tendencies share common characteristics, such as manipulation, self-enhancement, and ruthless strategies (Jonason & Webster, 2010). People exhibiting Dark Triad traits often prioritize power and control in their interpersonal relationships, seeking to manipulate their environment to benefit their own interests.

Conversely, significant negative relationships were generally observed between the Light Triad and Dark Triad subscales. The negative correlation between Humanism and all Dark Triad subscales suggests that humane values are incompatible with tendencies toward manipulation and ruthlessness. Similarly, Kantianism also showed a negative relationship with all Dark Triad subscales, indicating that avoiding the instrumentalization of others and adhering to ethical principles contradict manipulative and selfish tendencies. Likewise, Faith in Humanity was negatively associated with Dark Triad traits. This suggests that an optimistic view of human nature does not align with pessimistic and self-serving social strategies. All these findings support the idea that moral sensitivity is at odds with self-centered and strategic approaches in interpersonal relationships (Ermiş et al., 2024). According to Gerymski & Krok (2019), individuals with higher scores on Light Triad dimensions—namely Kantianism, Humanism, and Faith in Humanity—tended to report lower levels of Machiavellianism and psychopathy. As a result, although these two constructs are not considered complete opposites, these results suggest that moral and ethical tendencies in human behavior are in conflict with dark social strategies.

When examining gender differences, a significant difference was found in the Humanism subscale of the Light Triad, with women scoring higher than men. This result, which favors women, can be explained by several factors. Women's higher levels of empathy and emotional intelligence, both of

which are positively associated with Humanism (McDonald & Kanske, 2023), may account for this finding. From a gender roles perspective, society tends to assign women more compassionate and sensitive roles, whereas men are often expected to adopt competitive and self-centered roles (Giorgi et al., 2023). Indeed, research suggests that women exhibit greater compassion and empathy, making them more inclined toward humanistic values (Nadeau et al., 2021). From a biological standpoint, the influence of oxytocin in women fosters greater compassion, stronger emotional bonds, and caregiving tendencies, all of which are closely linked to Humanism (Taylor et al., 2000). On the other hand, no significant relationship was found between gender and the other two Light Triad subscales, Faith in Humanity and Kantianism. When examining previous studies on the Light Triad in relation to gender differences, mixed findings have been reported. In a study by Kaufman et al. (2019), being female was significantly associated with all three Light Triad subscales, whereas another study found that only the Faith in Humanity subscale showed a significant difference in favor of women (Tekeş & Bıçaksız, 2021). Given the limited number of studies on Light Triad traits, future research should further explore gender differences to enhance the generalizability of these findings.

When evaluating the gender variable in terms of the Dark Triad, it was found that men scored higher than women in the narcissism and psychopathy subscales. From a sociological perspective, this finding can be explained by gender norms, which encourage men to be competitive, dominant, and independent, while expecting women to be compassionate and emotional (Way et al., 2014). While men are culturally encouraged to suppress emotions and display strength, girls are often socialized to develop empathy and maintain social relationships. This socialization process may create a foundation for the development of callous, ruthless, and manipulative behaviors in men, leading to higher levels of narcissism and psychopathy. From a biological perspective, testosterone has been found to be associated with narcissistic and psychopathic behaviors (Pfattheicher, 2016; Yıldırım & Derkesen, 2012). Testosterone may contribute to competitiveness, risk-taking, aggression, and striving for higher social status, thereby strengthening narcissistic and psychopathic traits (Lobbestael et al., 2014; Welker et al., 2014). On the other hand, no significant gender differences were found in Machiavellianism. The literature also presents inconsistent findings regarding gender differences in Machiavellianism. While some studies have reported higher scores in men (Carter et al., 2018; Navas et al., 2020), others have found no significant difference (Güven, 2019; Aslan & Kartopu, 2021). These inconsistencies in gender differences may be attributed to the evolving nature of gender roles and traditional societal structures. In recent years, women in modern societies have increasingly pursued roles focused on power, control, and success, which may influence gender-related findings in research.

When evaluating the Dark Triad in terms of marital status, a significant difference was observed only in the narcissism subscale. It was found that single individuals had higher narcissism scores compared to married individuals. This finding can be explained by several factors. Single individuals tend to lead a more independent lifestyle compared to married individuals, which may make it easier for them to focus on their own needs. This self-centered orientation could contribute to narcissistic tendencies. On the other hand, marriage requires commitment, and maintaining this commitment often involves empathy and self-sacrifice, which may help diminish narcissistic traits over time. Furthermore, when examining previous studies on the relationship between the Dark Triad and marital status, some studies have reported similar findings regarding higher narcissism levels in single individuals (Chatterjee, 2014;

Golec de Zavala & Keenan, 2024). However, other studies have found significant differences not only in narcissism but also in Machiavellianism and psychopathy (Güven, 2019; Çarpar, 2017).

Finally, it was observed that the Light Triad subscales did not show significant differences based on marital status. Similar findings have been reported in two studies that categorized marital status as married and single (Pektaş & Durmuş; Kavak & Naldöken, 2024). However, there are also studies in the literature that have found significant differences based on marital status (Robinson & Lewandowski, 2025). Gender roles, age, cultural context, differences in measurement tools, and economic factors may be key reasons why the Dark and Light Triad traits yield varying results concerning marital status.

These findings indicate that Light Triad and Dark Triad personality traits manifest differently in terms of moral tendencies, gender roles, biological factors, and social strategies. The Light Triad's association with positive social tendencies and adherence to ethical values suggests that it may support prosocial behaviors in individuals. In contrast, the Dark Triad, characterized by manipulation, ruthlessness, and the pursuit of strategic advantage, appears to reinforce antisocial tendencies and exploitative interpersonal behaviors. Additionally, the national literature on the relationship between the Light and Dark Triad and other psychological constructs remains underdeveloped, and there seems to be a gap in research exploring mediating or moderating variables related to these traits. To gain a deeper understanding of these constructs, conducting new studies utilizing both quantitative and qualitative methods will not only contribute to the existing body of knowledge but also provide a strong foundation for intervention programs in this field. However, this study is not without limitations. First, the sample was limited to a specific cultural and age group, which may affect the generalizability of the findings to broader populations. Second, the use of self-report questionnaires may have introduced social desirability bias, especially when measuring socially sensitive constructs such as empathy or manipulative behaviors. Third, the cross-sectional design prevents drawing causal conclusions about the relationships between variables. Lastly, although established scales were used, the study did not directly include additional personality dimensions or behavioral measures that could further contextualize the findings. Future research would benefit from longitudinal designs, multi-method assessments, and more diverse sampling strategies to address these limitations and provide a more comprehensive understanding of the Light and Dark Triad traits.

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