

## Analysis of Factors Causing Corruption Based on Streams in Criminology

Kresnawati<sup>1</sup>, Novi Sang Vitri<sup>2</sup>, Zsa Zsa Nur Rafi`za<sup>3</sup>, Ade Pramesty Dwi  
Pradika<sup>4</sup>, Muhammad Farid Wajdi<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Law, Universitas Bangka Belitung, Bangka, Indonesia,  
[kresnawati799@gmail.com](mailto:kresnawati799@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup>Faculty of Law, Universitas Bangka Belitung, Bangka, Indonesia,  
[novisangvitry6112002@gmail.com](mailto:novisangvitry6112002@gmail.com)

<sup>3</sup>Faculty of Law, Universitas Bangka Belitung, Bangka, Indonesia,  
[zsazarara53@gmail.com](mailto:zsazarara53@gmail.com)

<sup>4</sup>Faculty of Law, Universitas Bangka Belitung, Bangka, Indonesia,  
[adepramestydp@gmail.com](mailto:adepramestydp@gmail.com)

<sup>5</sup>Faculty of social anthropology, University of London, England,  
[muhhammad.farid.wajdi@mail.ugm.ac.id](mailto:muhhammad.farid.wajdi@mail.ugm.ac.id)

Coresponding Author: [kresnawati799@gmail.com](mailto:kresnawati799@gmail.com)

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### *Abstract*

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*In the realm of criminology, there are several schools that have different opinions on criminology. In addition to the Juridical (Law) stream, there is a non-Juridical school which is better known as the Sociological school. One scholar of the Sociological stream, Thorsten Sellin, as quoted by Topo Santoso, argued that a better basis for the development of scientific categories is to provide a better basis by studying conduct norms, because the concept of behavioral norms which includes every group or institution such as the state and is the creation of any normative groups, and is not confined by political boundaries and does not always have to be contained in law. The critical criminology approach is more comprehensive than the classical approach which places more emphasis on juridical aspects. A critical approach that covers the root causes of crime and involves authorities such as labor owners is seen as having relevance in overcoming crime (corruption) in Indonesia.*

**Keywords:** *Criminology, Crime, Law.*

### A. INTRODUCTION

Corruption is a multidimensional problem that has a broad and deep impact on the life of a nation. It is not only a form of legal irregularities, but also a

manifestation of moral, social and structural failures in the government system and society. In various countries, especially developing countries such as Indonesia, corruption has become a major obstacle to national development, a destroyer of the democratic system, and a factor inhibiting the achievement of social justice and people's welfare. *Transparency International's* report on the *Corruption Perceptions Index* consistently places Indonesia in an unfavorable ranking, indicating that corrupt practices are still a serious challenge that has not been resolved completely.

The phenomenon of corruption in Indonesia does not only occur at the central level, but has also spread widely in the regions, educational institutions, judicial institutions, and law enforcement institutions. In fact, in many cases, corruption is carried out in a structured, systematic and massive manner by groups that have power and authority. In this situation, the normative legal approach alone is often insufficient to answer the complexity of the problem. Good laws and strict rules will not be effective if they are not supported by a deep understanding of the factors that cause corruption behavior itself.

To understand the root causes of corrupt practices, a more comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach is needed. One approach that is relevant to explore further is the criminology approach. Criminology as a science that studies crime, criminals, and society's reaction to crime, provides various theoretical frameworks to examine corruption in terms of human behavior, social dynamics, and power structures. Various schools in criminology provide diverse perspectives, ranging from an emphasis on individual rationality, psychological conditions, the influence of the social environment, to structural imbalances that allow deviant behavior such as corruption to occur.

The classical school in criminology, for example, emphasizes that humans are rational beings capable of making free choices based on considerations of gain and loss. In this context, a person commits corruption because he calculates that the benefits of the act outweigh the risk of punishment that may be faced. Therefore, a definite, swift and severe sanction system is key in preventing corruption according to this school. In contrast, positivism views deviant behavior as the result of factors beyond an individual's control, such as biological background, psychiatric

conditions, and environmental influences. In this perspective, perpetrators of corruption may be "victims" of a flawed social system and an organizational culture that is permissive of violations. In addition, the symbolic interactionism school views that corruption behavior can arise from the process of social interaction and label formation. When a person is in an environment accustomed to corrupt practices, and he or she receives a label as part of an "insider" or "strong group", the tendency to deviate becomes higher. This school also highlights the important role of society in shaping perceptions and attitudes towards corruptive acts. Furthermore, conflict theories in criminology reveal that law and crime cannot be separated from power relations. Corruption, in this perspective, is seen as a manifestation of the domination of certain classes or groups that use power to defend their interests. The law is not neutral, but reflects the interests of the powerful group.

An integrative approach in criminology then attempts to bring these various dimensions together. By combining individual, social and structural perspectives, this approach recognizes that acts of corruption do not arise from a single cause, but are the result of complex interactions between various factors. Within this framework, corruption eradication efforts should not only focus on individual perpetrators, but also on institutional reforms, strengthening public ethics, and creating a transparent and accountable work culture.

Referring to these thoughts, it is important to explore in more depth how each school of criminology views the factors that cause corruption. This understanding will not only enrich the academic literature on criminology and anti-corruption, but can also be used as a basis for formulating more effective and sustainable corruption prevention and control strategies. This study is important because so far anti-corruption policies in Indonesia still rely heavily on repressive approaches, namely prosecution after corruption has occurred, compared to preventive approaches that focus on the formation of anti-corruption systems and behaviors from an early age.

From this description, several fundamental questions can be formulated: How do the main schools in criminology explain the causes of corruption? What factors are identified by each school as the main triggers for the crime of corruption?

The purpose of this study is to systematically analyze the factors that cause corruption based on the thoughts of various schools in criminology. This study aims to present a richer and holistic approach to understanding corruption, emphasizing that this deviant behavior does not stand alone, but is strongly influenced by psychological, sociological, and structural aspects. Through this understanding, it is hoped that awareness will emerge that eradicating corruption is not enough to establish enforcement agencies or develop strict regulations, but must also be supported by legal culture reform, ethics education, and the creation of an environment conducive to honest and responsible behavior.

The urgency of this study lies in the importance of broadening the horizons of policy makers, academics and the public in seeing corruption not only as a violation of the law, but as a complex social symptom. By understanding the dynamics of the causes of corruption from various criminological perspectives, prevention and handling strategies can be carried out more strategically, purposefully and sustainably. In addition, this study is also expected to be an academic contribution in enriching the treasures of criminology in Indonesia, especially in the field of applied criminology related to public policy and institutional reform.

As such, this study is not only academically relevant, but also has practical benefits in supporting national efforts to create a clean, transparent and accountable government. Corruption is not a disease that can only be cured with one drug, but rather requires a comprehensive therapy that involves changing paradigms, cultures, systems and social structures. And criminology, with its wealth of theories, offers an intellectual roadmap for understanding and tackling one of the biggest challenges in modern governance: corruption. Legislation is a manifestation of the legal politics of State institutions designed and passed as a law to eradicate corruption. It is selective. That is the opinion of some legal practitioners and observers of the government's moves in dealing with corruption cases lately. State officials have made corruption cases a powerful weapon in their speeches, speaking as if they are clean and anti-corruption. The public, through NGOs and mass organizations, is also taking advantage of the anti-corruption campaign in Indonesia. The weakness of the law in Indonesia is used as a powerful weapon by corruptors to avoid prosecution. The corruption case of former President Suharto is

an example of a corruption case that has never been resolved. The resolution of Suharto and his cronies' corruption cases, BLBI funds and other major corruption cases will be able to stimulate economic development programs in Indonesia. Literally, corruption is the behavior of public officials, both politicians and civil servants who improperly and illegally enrich themselves or enrich those close to them, by abusing the public power entrusted to them.

## **B. RESEARCH METHODS**

This research uses a descriptive qualitative method with a *library research* approach. This method was chosen because it is suitable for exploring and analyzing theoretical concepts in criminology related to the factors that cause corruption. (Rotua Tinambunan & Oktafian Abrianto, 2021) The main data sources in this research consist of academic literature, criminology books, scientific journals, previous research results, and official documents relevant to anti-corruption studies. This approach allows the author to deeply understand the theoretical framework of each school of criminology, such as classical school, positivism, symbolic interactionism, conflict theory, and integrative approach. The data were analyzed qualitatively using *content analysis* techniques, namely by identifying, categorizing, and interpreting various concepts of the causes of corruption based on the point of view of each school of criminology. The analysis process is carried out systematically with the aim of producing a comprehensive understanding of how each school explains the etiology (origin) of corruption, as well as its relevance to the social and structural context in Indonesia. Data validity is strengthened through source triangulation and cross-confirmation between the scientific literature used.

## **C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **1. Corruption**

The term corruption comes from the Latin word *corruptio*. In English it is corruption or corrupt, in French it is *corruptie*. Presumably it was from the Dutch language that the word corruption was born in the Indonesian language. Corruption means rotten, bad; like to accept bribes (use their power for their own interests and so on) Corruption is a bad act (such as embezzlement, receiving bribes and so on) Nawatmi (2014), states that an act is said to be an act of corruption, including when giving or receiving gifts or promises and bribery, embezzlement in office, extortion in office,

participating in procurement and receiving gratuities for civil servants or state officials. In general, corruption is the abuse of official position for personal gain.

## **2. Efforts to resolve Corruption Crime**

Efforts to eradicate corruption can be seen and carried out in an optimistic perspective with a more systemic strategy and a consolidative approach by integrating all existing resources and social capital in full. This approach can be done by synergizing between agencies/institutions in an effort to eradicate corruption. (Marbun, 2020) The eradication of corruption is a series of actions to prevent and eradicate corruption through coordination, supervision, monitoring, investigation, prosecution, and examination in court, with the participation of the community based on applicable laws and regulations. Therefore, there are three things that need to be underlined, namely 'preventing', 'eradicating' in the sense of taking action against perpetrators of corruption, and 'community participation'. Advances in information technology have helped KPK in carrying out its duties. From the KPK building designed as a smart building, the paperless information system implemented as an internal communication mechanism in the KPK, and the KPK's anti-corruption campaign and education programs. In increasing public participation, electronic information is needed so that information can be received faster, distributed more widely, and stored longer.

To overcome these obstacles, the following steps have been and are being taken. a. Redesigning public services, especially in areas that are directly related to daily community service activities. The aim is to make it easier for the wider community to obtain public services that are professional, of high quality, on time and without being burdened by extra costs/illegal levies. Priority measures are aimed at: (a) Improving the Public Service System; (b) Improving the Performance of Public Service Officials; (c) Improving the Performance of Public Service Institutions; and (d) Improving Supervision of Public Services, with priority activities as attached in the matrix. b. Strengthening transparency, supervision and sanctions on government activities related to the economy and human resources. The aim is to increase the Government's accountability in the management of state resources and human resources and to provide access to information and various matters that provide more opportunities for the wider community to participate in the economic field.

### 3. Criminology

Criminology according to Enrico Ferri seeks to solve the problem of criminality with a positive review of social facts, crime includes any act that threatens the collective and from a group that causes a community defense reaction based on its own considerations. Criminology seeks to gain knowledge and understanding of social symptoms in the field of crime that occur in society, or in other words, why the defendant committed the crime. In criminology, there are several schools of theory that can be used to analyze corruption cases. However, previously two basic theories of crime were explained, namely spiritual explanations and natural explanations. In the explanation of crime theory, spiritualism has a fundamental difference with the current criminological explanation method. Spiritualist explanations focus on the distinction between good that comes from God or gods and bad that comes from demons. Because in this theory, a person who commits a crime means that they have been seduced by an evil/demon, in reality, this spiritual theory or explanation still exists and is very strong in society with the high level of belief in myths. However, it also has the disadvantage that this spiritual explanation cannot be proven scientifically because it is abstract or unreal. Meanwhile, the theory of naturalism that has existed since the 460th century BCE, which emerged from the development of natural science after the Middle Ages, has caused humans to look for other explanatory models that are more rational and able to be explained scientifically. In the development of theories of crime, it can be divided into three madzab or schools, namely classical, neo-classical and positivist. Schools or in criminology often called schools point to the basic thought processes and concepts about crime and its perpetrators. The schools of criminology are reflected as follows:

a. Classical School This school is based on the view that intelligence and rationality are fundamental human characteristics and form the basis for explaining human behavior, both individual and group. Within this framework, crimes and criminals are usually seen solely within the confines of the law.

b. Neo-classical flow The neo-classical flow departs from the same view as the classical flow, so it does not deviate from the general conception of man that prevailed at that time in Europe, that humans are free to choose to do good or evil. According to Made Darma Weda, this neo-classical theory is a revision or renewal of classical theory. Thus

the neo-classical theory does not deviate from the general conceptions of human nature that humans are creatures who have a ratio of free will and are therefore responsible for their actions and can be controlled by their fear of the law.

A. Positivism The basis of positivism is the concept of multiple factor causation of crime, namely natural factors or those brought by humans and their world, which are partly biological and partly due to environmental influences. Or in other words, human behavior is determined by factors beyond their control, which can be biological or cultural factors.

#### **4. Corruption Factors**

A. Internal Factors of Corruption Based on the Classical School of Criminology When viewed from the point of view of the perpetrator of corruption, because corruptors commit acts of corruption can be in the form of internal encouragement in the form of desire or intention and do it with full awareness. A person is motivated to commit corruption, among others, because of human greed, consumptive lifestyle, lack of religion, weak morality in facing the temptation of corruption, and lack of ethics as an official.

##### 1. Aspects of Individual Behavior:

- a) Human greed;
- b) Less strong morale; and
- c) Consumptive lifestyle.

2. According to behaviourists, the family environment can actually encourage a person to act corruptly, defeating the good nature that has actually become his personal character. The environment provides encouragement rather than punishment for one's corrupt actions.

B. External Factors of Corruption Based on Criminological Positivism. Level of education Corruption is a crime committed by intellectuals. The average official who is caught in a corruption case is those who are highly educated, higher education should make them not commit corruption, as Kats and Hans say that the role of academics still seems paradoxical. Indeed, in reality, the perpetrators of corruption are intellectuals who before committing their actions have made careful preparations and calculations so that they can manipulate the law so that the crime is not detected. C. The influence of the work environment Corruption can also come from the attitude of working with the view

that everything that is done must be able to produce money. Usually what they have in mind before doing work is whether they will make a profit or not, profit or loss and so on. In the context of bureaucracy, officials who use such economic calculations will definitely not bring together benefits. What actually happens is how each job aims to produce its own profit. Political Influence According to Daniel S. Lev, politics does not run according to the rule of law, but occurs according to the influence of money, family, social status, and military power. This opinion shows the correlation between the dysfunctional factors of the rule of law, political games, and the pressure of the dominant corruption group. In fact, in many countries some of the proceeds of corruption are used to finance political party activities.

#### **D. CLOSING**

Corruption is a complex and systemic crime, so its understanding cannot be separated from a multidisciplinary perspective, especially criminology. Through the approach of various schools in criminology, it can be understood that the causes of corruption do not only lie in individual factors, but are also influenced by the social environment, organizational culture, and unequal power structures. The classical school emphasizes the rationality of the perpetrator, positivism relates it to psychological and environmental conditions, symbolic interactionism highlights the formation of social labels, while conflict theory emphasizes power inequality as the root of the problem. An integrative approach offers a more holistic view by combining all these elements.

Thus, efforts to eradicate corruption must be comprehensive, not only through legal action, but also prevention based on structural and cultural reforms. This criminological study provides a strong theoretical basis for the formulation of more effective and contextualized anti-corruption policies. A synergy between academic understanding, political commitment, and public awareness is needed to build a system that is transparent, accountable, and in favor of the interests of the wider community. The criminological approach can be an important foundation in creating a sustainable and equitable anti-corruption strategy.

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