

## CONCEPT OF EGOISM. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

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**Abstract:** *The concept of egoism has been a central theme in ethical philosophy for a long time, causing questions about human motives and moral behavior. Egoism, widely defined as prioritization of person's own self, is often compared with altruism, which generally highlights concern for others. While some scholars emphasize egoism a natural part of human existence, others condemn it as a source of social isolation and moral fall. This thesis provides a comparative analysis of egoism by including both Western perspectives and the point of views of Uzbek scholars, particularly focusing on relations between egoism, altruism, and moral education.*

**Аннотация:** *Понятие эгоизма на протяжении длительного времени занимает центральное место в этической философии и вызывает вопросы о мотивах человека и его моральном поведении. Эгоизм, в широком смысле, определяется как приоритет собственных интересов личности и часто сопоставляется с альтруизмом, который подчеркивает заботу о других. В то время как одни ученые рассматривают эгоизм как естественную часть человеческого существования, другие осуждают его как источник социальной изоляции и морального упадка. Данное исследование представляет сравнительный анализ концепции эгоизма, включая как западные теоретические подходы, так и взгляды узбекских ученых, с особым акцентом на взаимосвязь между эгоизмом, альтруизмом и моральным воспитанием.*

**Annotatsiya:** *Egoizm tushunchasi uzoq vaqt davomida axloqiy falsafaning markaziy mavzularidan biri bo'lib kelgan va inson motivlari hamda axloqiy xulq-atvori haqida muhim savollarni keltirib chiqaradi. Egoizm, keng ma'noda, shaxsning o'z manfaatlarini ustuvor qo'yishi sifatida ta'riflanadi va ko'pincha boshqalarga g'amxo'rlikni ta'kidlaydigan altruizm bilan taqqoslanadi. Ba'zi olimlar egoizmni inson tabiatining tabiiy qismi sifatida ko'rsatsalar, boshqalari uni ijtimoiy ajralish va axloqiy tanazzul manbai sifatida baholaydilar. Ushbu tadqiqot egoizm tushunchasining qiyosiy tahlilini taqdim etib, G'arb nazariyalari hamda o'zbek olimlarining qarashlarini qamrab oladi, ayniqsa egoizm, altruizm va axloqiy tarbiya o'rtasidagi munosabatlarga e'tibor qaratadi.*

### **Theoretical Foundations of Egoism**

Egoism derives from the Latin term ego, which translates to “self,” and refers to actions motivated by self-interest. It can be categorized into psychological, ethical, and rational egoism. Psychological egoism posits that all human actions are fundamentally self-interested, while ethical egoism argues that individuals should act in their own best interest (Li, 2023).

From a comparative viewpoint, egoism is frequently analyzed alongside altruism. Egoism focuses on personal gain, while altruism prioritizes the well-being of others. However, recent studies suggest that these ideas are not completely oppositional but exist along a continuum influenced by social and environmental elements (Liu, 2024).

#### **Egoism as a Natural Human Tendency**

One major argument in favor of egoism is that it aligns with the fundamental nature of humanity. People often make choices according to their personal gain, guided by subjective moral boundaries shaped by their experiences and social situations (Liu, 2024).

This perspective is consistent with evolutionary theories that consider self-interest as vital for survival. However, Uzbek researchers show a more social-centered perception. Rakhimova (2025) argues that human nature is incredibly influenced by moral and spiritual education, indicating that egoism is not completely fundamental but can be monitored through development in ethics.

#### **Egoism as a Virtue vs. Egoism as a Vice**

A core argument regards whether egoism should be considered as a virtue or a vice.

##### **Egoism as a Virtue**

Some people claim that egoism fosters independence, rational decision-making, and efficiency. It is suggested by classical economic and philosophical theories that people striving for self-benefit can profit community in an indirect way (Li, 2023). Egoism, in this case, is a contribution to self development and societal advancement.

##### **Egoism as a Vice**

In contrast, critics claim that egoism can cause immoral attitude, such as exploitation and societal fragmentation. Examples from history and society prove that excessive self-interest may cause a harm to general welfare (Li, 2023). Therefore, egoism represents a binary nature, serving both as a constructive and destructive force according to context.

#### **Comparative Perspective: Western vs. Uzbek Approaches**

A comparative analysis shows key differences between Western and Uzbek views on egoism. Western theories highlight individual autonomy, while Uzbek scholars prioritize social values and responsibilities. According to Western perspectives, self-interest is a natural instinct which guides human behavior. Conversely, Uzbek thoughts reflects the importance

of moral values and cultural traditions in controlling one's own interest. This emphasizes a big distinction between individualistic and collectivist values system.

Ultimately, egoism should not be seen in inaccessibility but as part of a wider moral system in which self-interest and sympathy for others coexist. A balanced strategy that involves individual autonomy with social responsibility gives the most insightful understanding of egoism in contemporary world.

### References

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