

Chapter 5

THE SELF IN WESTERN AND EASTERN THOUGHT

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The concept of self varies greatly between Western and Eastern thought. This difference is at the heart of a clash of civilizations that is currently affecting all Filipinos. The battle is between the Eastern self and the Western self, with no middle ground.



The ongoing influence of both Western and Eastern cultures on Filipino society presents a unique challenge. Filipinos are caught in a tug-of-war between the individualistic values of the West and the collectivistic values of the East.





This cultural tension is reflected in the Filipino concept of self, which is constantly being shaped and reshaped by these competing influences.





Eastern culture
is about focus on
others and the
feeling of others.

Western culture
basically is
about the focus
on oneself and
personal needs



Western and Eastern Culture



WESTERN CULTURE

Western culture prioritizes egoism, emphasizing individualism, material acquisition, and success.

- Egoism centers on self-interest.
- Success is often equated with material wealth and achievement.
- Wealth and poverty are seen as outcomes of enterprise and hard work.



WESTERN CULTURE

- Celebrates youthfulness.
- Tends to favor evolutionary concepts philosophically.



EASTERN CULTURE

Eastern culture values collectivism, focusing on community and the well-being of others.

- Collectivism emphasizes consideration for others.
- Eastern cultures often associate wealth with longevity and a simpler lifestyle.
- Wealth and poverty are often attributed to fortune and luck.



EASTERN CULTURE

- Values the wisdom of elders and seniority.
- Often embraces reincarnation philosophically.



Concept of Self Western and Eastern Thought



Concept of Self Western Thought

- Self is a social construction which is symbolically and signally created between and among social beings.
- Phenomenological object which can be productively studied through as series of evanescent actions, self is multidimensional entity.



Concept of Self Western Thought

- Self is an interpersonal unit.
- Self takes form in communication.
- Self is intimately connected to bodily experience both ontogenetically and here and now awareness.



Concept of Self Western Thought

- Self is both phenomenal and nonphenomenal.
- Self acquires substance according to semantic, syntactic and pragmatic.



Concept of Self Eastern Thought

Confucianism

- Confucianism is an ancient Chinese belief system, which focuses on the importance of personal ethics and morality based on the life of Confucius (6th–5th century BCE).



Concept of Self Eastern Thought

Confucianism

- A gentleman by following the moral way consisting of the virtues of love, righteousness, wisdom, propriety and loyalty in order to promote harmony in society.



Concept of Self Eastern Thought

Confucianism

- The golden rule of Confucianism is “Do not do unto others what you would not want others to do unto you.”



Concept of Self Eastern Thought

Buddhism

- Buddhism is one of the world's largest religions and originated 2,500 years ago in **India**.
Buddhists believe that the human life is one of suffering, and that meditation, spiritual and physical labor, and good behavior are the ways to achieve enlightenment, or nirvana.



Concept of Self Eastern Thought

Buddhism

- ***Theravada Buddhism (The School of the Elders)*** - also refer as *Hinayana Buddhism*
 - detachment and desirelessness to reach nirvana;
 - reciprocal relationship;



Concept of Self Eastern Thought

Buddhism

- ***Mahayana Buddhism (The Great Vessel)***
 - compassion to other humans for belief that we are part of the same ever-changing universe.



Concept of Self Eastern Thought

Buddhism

- The golden rule of Buddhism is “Whatever is disagreeable to yourself, do not do unto others.”



Concept of Self Eastern Thought

Hinduism

- Hinduism, also known as **Sanatana Dharma**, is the world's oldest living religion. It is a natural religion, meaning its philosophies and practices are considered universally accessible through sincere study, reason, and experience apart from special revelation.



Concept of Self Eastern Thought

Hinduism

- Attainment of liberation in the identification of Atman (the spiritual essence of all individual human beings) and Brahman (the spiritual essence of the universe) is through the Four Yogas - Karma, Bhakti, Raja and Jnana.



Concept of Self Eastern Thought

Hinduism

- The golden rule of Hinduism is “Don't do unto others what you don't want done unto you; wish for others what you wish for yourself”.



Concept of Self Eastern Thought

Filipino Humanism: “Kapwa”

- Kapwa is a recognition of a shared identity, an inner self, shared with others.



Concept of Self Eastern Thought

Filipino Humanism: “Kapwa”

- Two levels or modes of social interaction
 - ibang-tao or “outsider”
 - hindi ibang-tao or “one-of-us”.



Concept of Self Eastern Thought

Filipino Humanism: “Kapwa”

- **Pakikipagkapwa.** It means connecting myself with others, feeling myself in the other and having a sense of shared identity and a shared inner self.



Concept of Self Eastern Thought

Filipino Humanism: “Kapwa”

- **Kababayan** means my fellow-countryman; root word— bayan, country. When Filipinos meet other fellow Filipinos, that instant recognition and connection spark up because, we are, kababayan.



Concept of Self Eastern Thought

Filipino Humanism: “Kapwa”

- **Kaakbay** means to support. The root word “akbay” conjures images of lifting up, shoulder on shoulder.



Concept of Self Eastern Thought

Filipino Humanism: “Kapwa”

- **Kaibigan** means friend; the root word is “ibig” which means to love.



Concept of Self Eastern Thought

Filipino Humanism: “Kapwa”

- **Kasama** means someone I am with, the root word “sama” means “to be with or be together with.”



Concept of Self Eastern Thought

Filipino Humanism: “Kapwa”

- **Kaanak** means one's kin; root word being “anak” which means sons and daughters.



Individualism versus Collectivism



Individualism

- People are autonomous and independent from their in-groups.
- Give priority to their personal goals of their in-groups.
- Behave on their basis of attitudes rather than norms.



Collectivism

- Interdependent within their in-groups.
- Give priority to the goals of their in- groups.
- In-groups primarily shape their behavior.
- Behave in a communal way.
- Concerned in maintaining relationship with others.

