

Disposition || Predisposition (Latin *dispositio arranged, set*→ disposition)

Arrange, organize, set. In psychology: ‘Arrangement’ of the **individual**’s soul or a deep, less changeable, firmly **fixed set**, characteristic of this particular individual, is his/her character. Therefore, it is the individual’s preliminary readiness for this or that action or the individual’s internal basis of behavior, set of behaviors or some separate aspects of behaviors not causally determined by environment [W. Stern]; readiness to evaluate events in a particular way; this kind of readiness is so stable and long-lasting that it represents one of the individual’s characteristics, his/her peculiarity. It is clear that disposition is actualized from time to time, in certain situations. Consequently, it has a latent form of mental existence; it exists in the form of potential. In some theories, including Soviet social psychology, disposition is defined as the conscious readiness for evaluation or action, determined by the individual’s experience. Such a definition is totally unacceptable for set theory since it defines attitude rather than set. Disposition is the **unconscious** readiness underlying **attitudes** and other **conscious** phenomena.

Any person is an individual complex-system of dispositions [F. Kruger and G. Allport]. There are several thousand dispositions in one person. However, about twenty of them are most important. These constitute the persons’ character traits and their specific organization determines individual peculiarities. Therefore, disposition is intentional, which means that in addition to being aspiration and tendency, it is a form of the person’s directedness at the future. Three main groups of dispositions are inborn. These are **instincts** and any instinctual tendencies, inborn qualities, different abilities, talents and tendencies existing in the form of potential. However, acquired dispositions are also very important.

Any volitional act or process is essentially related to the individual’s personality and is marked with the personality’s distinct characteristics. It is preceded by the person’s tendency to perform volitional behavior in a distinct way, in a manner different from that of other people. And this is what we call the ‘person’s character’. Its psychological essence is the person’s **dispositional set**, the ability of certain sets to self - actualize [D. Uznadze]. Similarly to Allport’s theory, **the theory of set** states that the person’s any ability or inclination is, at the same time, his/her aspiration. The person’s character is made up of a complex system of dispositional sets. Character is a ‘volitional disposition’. Any single dispositional set of this type is a single individual trait. The individual’s personal – typological disposition has the following characteristics [V. Norakidze]:

1) Remarkably big ‘personal weight’ or ‘significance’, i.e. strong **distinctiveness** – not being **neutral**;

2) Extreme stability and duration in time;

3) Can be easily evoked; is a ‘general’ or non specific ability to become part of many different behavioral sets (in other words, the individual manifests his/her character through different behaviors);

4) Primarily (but not only) linked to social **relationships**.