

THE EFFECTS OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT ON THE ATTITUDES TOWARDS SYRIAN REFUGEES: TURKEY CASE

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Abstract

International migration movements have very important effects at global, macro and micro levels. These effects come in a wide variety of forms, and they are primarily on socio-economic, political and military areas. Undoubtedly, its negative effects on unemployment are among the most important. The aim of this study is to examine the unemployment perception of citizens in the host country, with reference to the claims that international migration increases unemployment. For this purpose, data from the field study conducted in 2019 on the Syrian refugees in Turkey was used. The data was analysed with the structural equation modelling within the scope of the locals' accepting and rejecting attitudes towards immigrants and a meaningful model has been created. When the regulatory effect of the locals' unemployment status is examined, the effects of unemployed on rejecting immigrants and, the employed on accepting immigrants have been determined.

Key Words: Perception, Immigration, Unemployment, Structural Equation Modelling

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İŞSİZLİĞİN SURIYELİ GÖÇMENLERE YÖNELİK TUTUM ÜZERİNE ETKİLERİ: TÜRKİYE ÖRNEĞİ

Öz

Uluslararası göç hareketlerinin global, makro ve mikro düzeylerde olmak üzere, çok önemli etkileri bulunmaktadır. Bu etkiler başta sosyo-ekonomik, siyasi, askeri v.b. çok çeşitli şekillerdedir. İşsizlik üzerindeki olumsuz etkileri hiç kuşkusuz en önemlilerindendir. Bu çalışmanın amacı uluslararası göçlerin işsizliği artırdığı iddialarından hareketle, göç alan ülkeyedeki vatandaşların işsizlik algısını incelemektir. Bu amaçla 2019 yılında Türkiyede, ülkeye 2011 yılından beri gelen Suriyeli göçmenler ile ilgili yapılan saha araştırması verileri kullanılmıştır. Veriler, yerleşiklerin göçmenlere karşı kabul etme ve reddetme tutumları kapsamında yapısal eşitlik modeli ile analiz edilmiş ve anlamlı bir model oluşturulmuştur. Yerleşiklerin işsiz olup olmama durumunun düzenleyici etkisi incelendiğinde; işsizlerin göçmenleri reddetme, çalışanların ise kabul etme yönündeki etkileri tespit edilmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: *Algı, Göç, İşsizlik, Yapısal Eşitlik Modeli*

INTRODUCTION

The term ‘migration’, meaning displacement in the shortest expression, is a quite sophisticated concept. To put it more clearly, migration is defined as the geographic displacement activity of individuals and / or a society or societies by settling in from their current residence unit to another residence unit in order to spend the rest or a certain or indefinite part of their life span. According to International Organization for Migration; “it also includes the migration of forced migrants and / or asylum seekers, beneficiaries of family reunification, internally displaced persons, those who simply want to live in another country for economic or other reasons, or those who prefer illegal ways, regardless of their length, nature and consequences.”. The concept of immigration and the subject of immigration (immigrant) are considered as sociological parameters since they basically concern human-beings, groups of people. Consequently, different definitions, types, reasons, consequences, legal structure of immigration have been and will be the subject of important research and studies, primarily within the scope of sociology. In this study, immigration that constitutes the basis of the research in the narrow sense focuses specifically on Syrian immigrants in Turkey.

Numerous studies are available in the literature related to Syrian refugees in Turkey both at the national and international level. There is quite a common consensus in these studies on the fundamental definition of immigration. Such a consensus is not common in social sciences, though. As it is known, immigration is not just a process that starts with the individual’s urge to move and ends up with the displacement based on the motivation in question. The event has extensive prior and posterior connections. The process does not only start with the decision to leave the current residence and end up with the completion of the trip after very complex stages such as the provision of the necessary economic resources, the provision of a transfer vehicle to the new living unit, obtaining travel permits or undertaking the risks of unauthorized travel. On the contrary, immigrants face crucial problems in the matter of socio-economics, health, security and education during and after the travel. These problems are extensive enough to affect the immigrant’s families, home and host countries, societies, and the whole human race, but particularly

the immigrant himself. It should also be noted that these effects are not only unidirectional, but also bidirectional. In other words, these extremely extensive and intense effects, which starts with immigration, are experienced not only in the immigrating society but also in the immigrant-attracting places. At this point, the extremely complex concept of immigration, has become a multidisciplinary field that includes many disciplines such as sociology, psychology, public health and international law, international relations, economics, criminology, education and health. (Reif et al., 1988, p. 11)

In this study, the concept of immigration will be examined thoroughly within the scope of economics, taking into account its important dimensions that fall within the scope of other disciplines. In this context, firstly, the concept of immigration has been defined within the scope of broad, narrow and economic rationality principles and it has been scientifically classified. At this stage, the economic effects of immigration will be briefly expressed as micro, macro and international economic effects, as required by the systematic of economics. Finally, a detailed analysis on the relation of immigration and unemployment, one of the most important macroeconomic parameters, will be conducted. Within this framework, the attitudes towards the Syrians in Turkey will be investigated in relation to the concept of unemployment and will be tested using structural equation modelling method.

Studies in the field of immigration have increased dramatically in recent years. The increase in national and international institutions, organizations and non-governmental organizations in this field has made crucial contributions to academic studies. (Hughes, 2007, p. 24-44). These contributions have not only provided statistics and data for academic studies, but also facilitated global awareness and cooperation on the issue of immigration. In addition to governmental and non-governmental units at national level, there are highly effective sub-institutions or units related to immigration affiliated with international and supranational institutions and organizations. International Organization for Migration International- (IOM), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Turkish Republic Ministry of Interior Directorate General of Migration Management, Red Crescent Association, Open Society Foundation, Ad.dar (Syrian and Palestinian-Syrian Refugees

Community Center in Istanbul), Refugee Support Center, Refugee Rights Center, Association for Solidarity with Refugees, Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (SGDD-ASAM) are some of them; besides, there are numerous public and private research centres. Among the institutions in question, institutions whose main activity area is only Syrian refugees are quite widespread, as well.

RELATED LITERATURE

David G. Blanchflower and Chris Shadforth examined the impact of the flow of workers from ten East European countries after their accession to the European Union on the UK economy and found evidence that those most susceptible to competition from these workers had seen weaker wage inflation. It is documented that the presence of these foreign workers had increased the fear of unemployment and helped to contain wage pressure (Blanchflower and Shadforth, 2009, p. 29).

Vincent Fromentin examined the relationship between immigration, the labour market and economic development in France. He used the vector error correction modelling and indicated that immigration negatively influences unemployment and past immigration had a smaller impact on increasing wages in the short run. But he found institutional differences, which is the fact that immigration flows have weak (positive) effects on employment in the long run (Fromentin, 2017, p.13).

Güner and Yalınız, analysed the immigration phenomenon in the member states of European Union, which is a developed region in terms of prosperity and economic growth, so is an attractive zone for immigrants. They used the method of panel data analysis and found that labour immigration had a negative impact on economic growth for EU 15 (Güner and Yalınız, 2013, p.1432).

Sekou Keita, Jérôme Valette, Sekou Theodor Keita investigated how the attitude of natives affects immigrants' unemployment duration in Germany. They used individual level panel data from the German Socio-Economic Panel from 1984 to 2012, and employed survival analysis methods to model immigrants' unemployment duration. In a similar vein in 2017 Keita et al., using Eurobarometer surveys, found positive influence on unemployment with lower trust levels.

Veerle Buffel and Sarah Van de Velde investigated how negative attitudes towards the immigrants are related to countries' overall and long-term (LT) unemployment rate. They used in-group-out-group conflict modelling and multilevel analyses performed on two waves (2008 and 2016) of the European Social Survey. They found that in countries with a high LT unemployment rate and / or an increase in this rate, people were more likely to hold negative attitudes toward the immigrants (Buffel and de Velde, 2018, p.419-440).

Australian Geographer Kate Golebiowska, Amani Elnasri and Glenn Withers investigated the impact of immigration for the country of Australia at regional and national levels. They used official data set investigating the condition of public attitudes towards immigration and they found that there is a common positive view that channelling immigration towards regional areas assists regional development and reduces pressure on metropolitan areas. But it is not same for those at the national level (Golebiowska et al., 2016, p. 435-453).

David Card, Christian Dustmann, and Ian Preston investigated public opinions about immigration, and the various dimensions of economic, public and private life affected by immigration. They used the immigration module of the European Social Survey (ESS), which was developed in collaboration with the ESS survey team, to show that there is substantial variation in the strength of anti-immigrant opinions across European countries, and that attitudes towards immigration also vary systematically by some characteristics such as age, education, and type of residence (urban/rural)(Card et al., 2018, p. 29).

In 2000, Wilson FD and Jaynes G., investigated the relationship between immigration and the employment status and earnings of young non-college-educated native. Furthermore, they expanded the research with additional variables such as white, black, Hispanic, Asian, and immigrant white-collar and blue-collar workers in the United States during the decade from 1980 to 1990. They used panel data analyse methods on international and national level and found that immigration (flow) was not a major factor associated with the increased unemployment and decreased wages experienced by some native groups during the 1980s, particularly among blue-collar workers. And they also found that changes in the foreign-born composition of an industrial

sector (a measure of immigrant stock) were associated with increased unemployment of native workers and decreased unemployment of immigrant workers (Wilson and Jaynes, 2000, p. 135-167).

Elisa Rustenbach investigated the immigrant attitudes and anti immigration solutions. He tested cultural marginality theory, human capital theory, political affiliation, societal integration, neighbourhood safety, contact theory, foreign investment, and economic competition. Analysis is conducted using combined data from the European Social Survey and Eurostat/OECD and individual-, regional-, and national-level predictors and found that key predictors of anti-immigrant attitudes were regional and national interpersonal trust, education level, foreign direct investment, and political variables (Rustenbach, 2010, p. 53-77).

Joachim Vogt Isaksen investigated changes in attitudes toward immigration over a 10-year period, with an examination of the long-term effects of economic downturn. He did a comparative analyse between main economic indicators before and after the financial crises at the national level for 25 European countries. Using the combined economic indicators sets with the data from the European Social Survey (2002–2014). He found that more pessimistic attitudes toward the immigrations' contribution to the economy, especially in countries where the crisis had the most severe economic impact (Isaksen, 2019, p.1).

Gang, Ira N., Rivera-Batiz and Francisco D. worked on attitudes towards foreigners on the part of European Union citizens and determine the relative role played by various forces in determining those attitudes. As an extension of Krueger and Pischke's analysis, focusing on the determinants of general attitudes towards foreigners rather than the issue of crimes against foreigners, upon which Krueger and Pischke concentrated. As a difference they used data for the whole European Union, not only for Germany (Gang et al., 1996, p. 1).

Klaus F. Zimmermann IZA focused on a comparative analyse on natives and second generation immigrants. They investigated the economic effects of risk attitudes, time preferences, trust and reciprocity sample into unemployment in Germany. They found that differences matter in terms of economic outcomes, and more specifically in terms of the employment probability about two

months after unemployment entry. So their observations a significantly lower employment probability for individuals with a high willingness to take risks (Zimmermann, 2012, p. 45-62).

Masood Gheasi, Murat Gen, Nijkamp P. Nijkamp Jacques Poot Jacques Poot investigated the impact of international migration on international trade, predominantly from the host country perspective. They used log-linear gravity model of export and import flows augmented with the logarithm of the stock of immigrants from specific source countries as an additional explanatory variable, the resulting elasticities are broadly comparable and yield a set of estimates that is well suited to meta-analysis. They found that immigration complements rather than substitutes for trade flows between host and home countries (Gheasi et al., 2011, p. 1-10).

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Immigration and Economy

The concept of immigration is closely related to the science of economics, as defined above. This is an interactive relation, meaning that immigration affects an individual's economic activities just as it is affected by them at the same time. There is also the exact same interactive relation between the parties of immigration. In other words, immigration activity affects both the immigrants themselves and their own country, as well as the country they go to and the individuals in that country. This is why the attitudes of local individuals in host countries towards immigrants vary according to economic parameters. (Randall, 1992, p. 245-70).

The interactive link between immigration and economy brings along interactions. In our study, this interaction will be examined thoroughly in one direction. In this context, economic developments resulting from immigration will be evaluated in a cause and effect relation. It should also be noted that the evaluations will be made on the ground of the principles and systematics of economics. As we consider immigration primarily from an economic perspective, it should not be assumed that it does not have the same priority and significant impact with its political, international relations, law, health, criminal, educational, social and moral aspects. However, all (the economical) effects in order of importance will be included in the analysis in a categorical manner in order to make a comprehensive examination.

Micro Economic Aspect

Significant changes will occur for microeconomic units such as households and industries in host countries. These changes differ according to the current economic situation of the host country. For instance, for a full-employment economy, in a word for, an economy without unemployment, incoming immigrants will take up with relatively lower wages (compared to the current labour market wage level). In this case, there will be a reducing pressure on the current household income level, as the current wage level in the market will decrease. On the other hand, this effect will be on the contrary, positive and will be directed towards meeting the labour force deficit, if there is an employment deficit in the country (Zimmermann, 2012, p. 45-62).

The main purpose of the household economic activities is to meet the needs. While some of these needs are met with its own financing, a significant part is met by the state within the scope of public service. Health, education, justice and infrastructure are among these main services. The service load of the state will increase, as the population of the host countries increases. When the need for this state-financed service increases, public expenditures will either increase or will be offered to more people without increasing the current public services. If the offered services are increased, it is a burden to the budget; which will be examined within the scope of macro impact. In the case that the service starts to be shared with immigrants without increasing the amount, the quality of the provided service will decrease. In other words, the unit quantity will decrease when the same cake is shared by more people. In this case, the resident citizen will want to go on with their ongoing habits. They will try to fulfil their missing public service needs. This situation brings new costs to households and will cause a decreasing effect on their total real income. (Bellettini et al., 2020, p. 61).

The impacts on industries, another micro-economic unit, can be experienced in various ways and will vary according to the state of the economies. At its simplest, there will be some changes in production because the number of both supply and demand units in industries will increase. In the simplest terms, there will be an increase in demand and / or supply of new clothing in the textile sector according to the traditional dressing habits

of immigrants. There may be changes in this direction in the textile industry. Besides, developing sectors such as interpreting, language courses, schools for immigrants in their languages will emerge after immigration.

Macro-Economic Aspect

Likewise, these effects vary according to the state of the economy in question. In macro terms, immigration to a country means primarily an increasing population. Increasing population means increasing total demand. The increase in total demand, in terms of idle capacity, may even lead an increase in expenditure, consumption, production and national income with a multiplier effect in a developed country. On the other hand, it causes an inflationary effect in Turkey. (Cascio and Lewis, 1986 p. 135-150).

Additional financing needs for the increase in public expenditures, including social aid expenditures will constitute a significant burden on the budget. This burden also varies according to the country, and the effects of the increasing financing need vary according to the proportional size in the budget. It also has negative effects on the budget in countries with savings and chronic budget deficits, while it has positive results with a multiplier effect in developed countries. For instance, a crowding out effect will be experienced as a result of the increasing pressure on interest rates and the allocation of scarce resources in the financial markets to the budget if the financing of the budget deficit is covered by borrowing (Naskoteen and Zimmer, 1980, p. 840-51).

The most dramatic effects of immigration are observed in the labour market. Primarily, the current level of unemployment increases as the supply in the labour market increases. As mentioned above, increasing labour supply fills the employment gap in developed countries while its impact on the labour market becomes more negative in Turkey-like countries. Immigration has also negative effects on the household income other than decreasing it. Informality will occur in the labour market as in the whole economy. Informal employment will create a dual structure in the market. Informality not only increases immigrants' employment but also increase the informality rate of the locals, as the average quality of the workforce decreases, total labour productivity also decreases. On the other hand, human capital will increase in the long run because the young population in the country has increased. (Winkelmann and Zimmermann, 1993, p. 10-15).

It is seen that Syrian Refugees have positive and negative effects on Turkish Economy. Increasing the number of registered Syrian workforce and strengthening their professional qualifications will allow their contribution to Turkish economy to come to a better level and will facilitate their adaptation to the society in which they live.(Adil, 2019,p.131)

As stated before, while setting the theoretical framework of the study, the forming of the individuals' attitudes towards the immigrants in the host country is related to whether these individuals work or not. This relation is within the scope of unemployment, which is a macroeconomic parameter. This relationship will be examined below within the context of the structural equation modelling.

International Economic Aspect

Large-scale immigration movements usually start with capital movements and immigrants firstly bring a fair amount of capital, the cumulative sum of this capital will be in foreign currency and precious metals. Such a capital mobility will have significant effects on the economy of the country, although it changes according to the situation. Even foreign exchange rates and interest rates in the country, the balance of payments being in the first place, may be affected by this movement. Besides, the initiatives of immigrant capitalists in the country have to be evaluated as direct foreign capital investment. Last but not the least, the fact that immigrants return their earned income and / or accumulated capital back to their home countries is also an important issue that should be evaluated. (Mishan and Needleman, 1966, p. 129-47).

METHODOLOGY AND DATA

Within the scope of purpose of our study, attitudes of localstowards Syrian refugees in Turkey have been examined and whether the locals are employed or not is associated within this context. By this means, it will be easier to determine how attitudes towards immigrants are formed. In the modelling that we made using the structural equation modelling, the data of the survey used in the dissertation study collected within the scope of the PhD program of the Department of Business Administration at Kirikkale University Social Sciences Institute was used. (Adil, 2019, p. 143) Within this framework, legal and ethical permissions regarding the data we use were completed within the prescribed period.

The research population is Turkey and, the data obtained from sample composed of random 500 people has limitations such as homogeneous distribution and subjectivity. In our study, the aforementioned survey data was evaluated with a 5-Point Likert Scale consisting of 26 questions to measure the accepting, rejecting and seeing as a threat attitudes of locals towards to immigrants. Likewise, the reliability of the research was tested and the result of Cronbach's Alpha is 0.966 and it is found to be a high-grade reliable scale. Meanwhile, asking whether the respondents are employed or not has been the mainstay of our hypothesis.

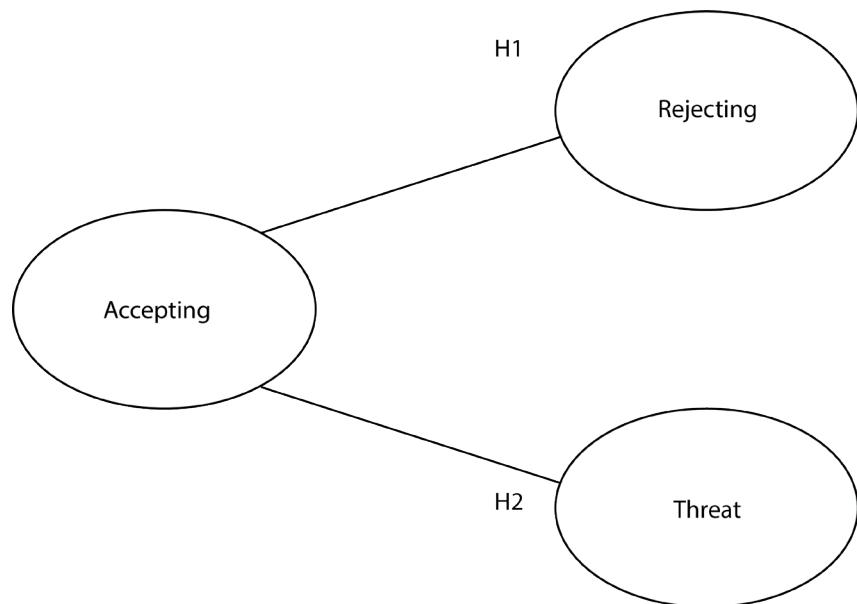
Models and Hypotheses

Hypotheses of the research can be seen on the research model prepared in Figure 1.

H1: Accepting Behaviour has a negative effect on Rejecting Behaviour.

H2: The Accepting Behaviour has a negative effect on the Seeing as a Threat Behaviour

Figure 1. Research Model and Hypotheses



Accepting Behaviour is considered as independent variable, Rejecting and Seeing as a Threat Behaviour as dependent variable. In addition, the variables asked in section 1 are considered as regulatory variables.

H1a: Employment status variable, it has a regulating effect between the Accepting Behaviour and the Rejecting Behaviour.

H2a: Employment status variable, it has a regulating effect between the Accepting Behaviour and the Seeing as a Threat Behaviour.

Explanatory Factor Analysis

It is an analysis that produces only factors suitable for the presented data set, utilizing the relationships between items.

“Principal components factor analysis” was applied to the items using the varimax rotation method. As a result of the analysis, the KMO value is found to be 0.962. This value represents the adequacy of the sample. The variance load of the factors is 75,412%. The variance load of the factors is expected to be higher than 50%. In Table 1 below the factors, the percentage of variance explained by each factor and the reliability test (Cronbach Alpha) of each factor are included.

Table 1. Cronbach Alpha

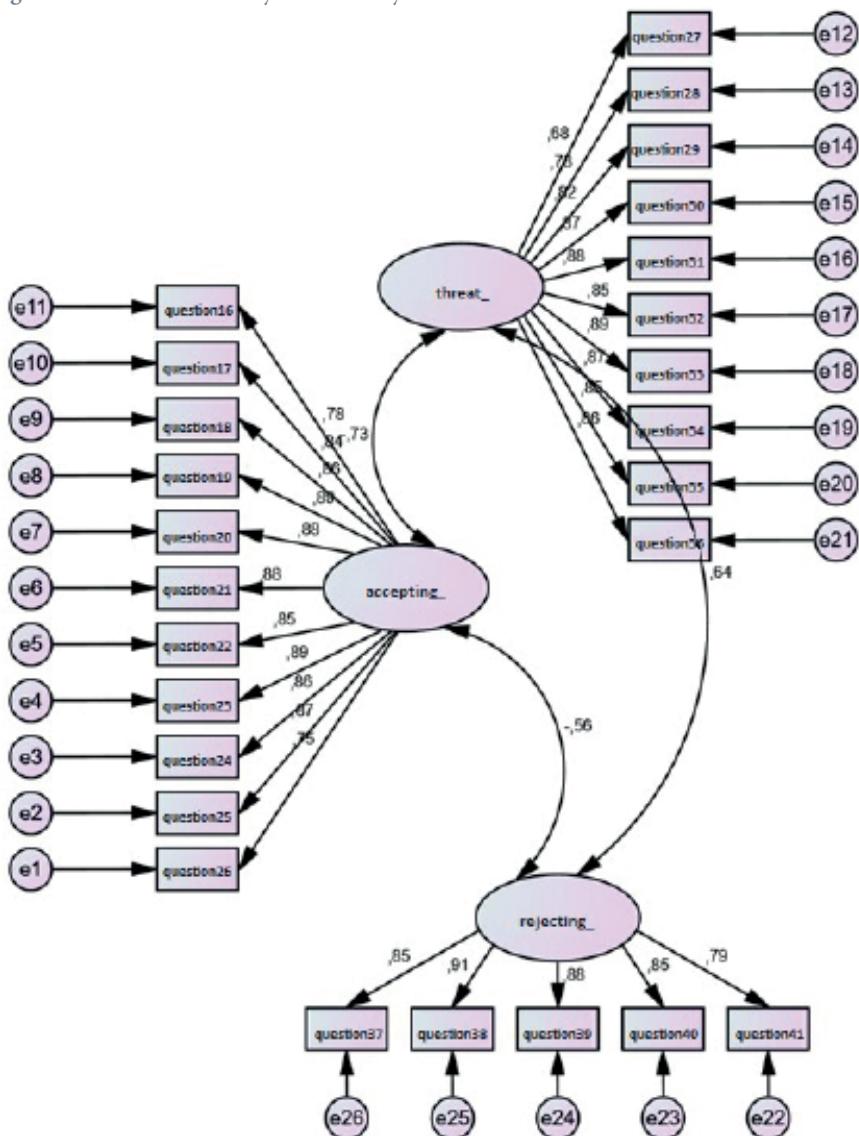
Factors	Reliability Analysis (Cronbach Alpha)	Explained Variance %
Factor 1: Accepting	0,966	30,277
Factor 2: Seeing as a Threat	0,958	26,527
Factor 3: Rejecting	0,931	18,608

Accepting is the most explanatory factor.

Confirmatory Factor Analysis

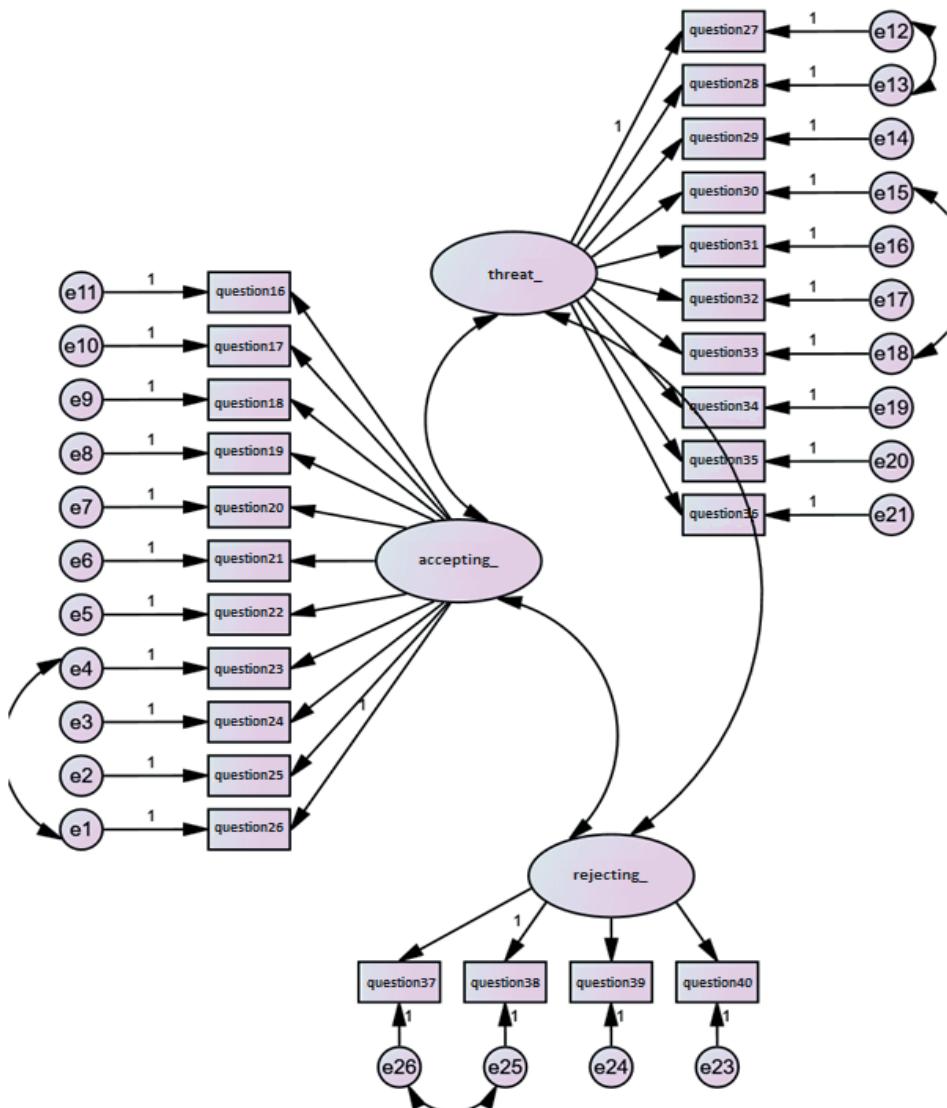
After testing the model designed by the researcher and creating a valid measurement model, a structural model should be tested to determine the effects of Accepting, Seeing as a Threat and Rejecting behaviours in the second stage. Confirmatory factor analysis was used to test the measurement model. Confirmatory factor analysis was used to verify the structural validity of previously discovered scales combined under fewer factors.

Figure 2. Level Confirmatory Factor Analysis



When the values produced as a result of the confirmatory factor analysis were examined, covariance were added between *e12-e13*, *e25-e26* and *e1-e4* to combine the error variances of the items under the same factor with high values. In addition, when the regression weights were evaluated, question 41 was removed from the model (Figure 2).

Figure 3. Level Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) Modification Result



After repeating the analysis, the obtained values were checked and CMIN/df(4.196), RMSEA(.80), GFI(.837), CFI(.936) and SRMR(.04) values were found. The goodness of fit values accepted in the literature were approached (Table).

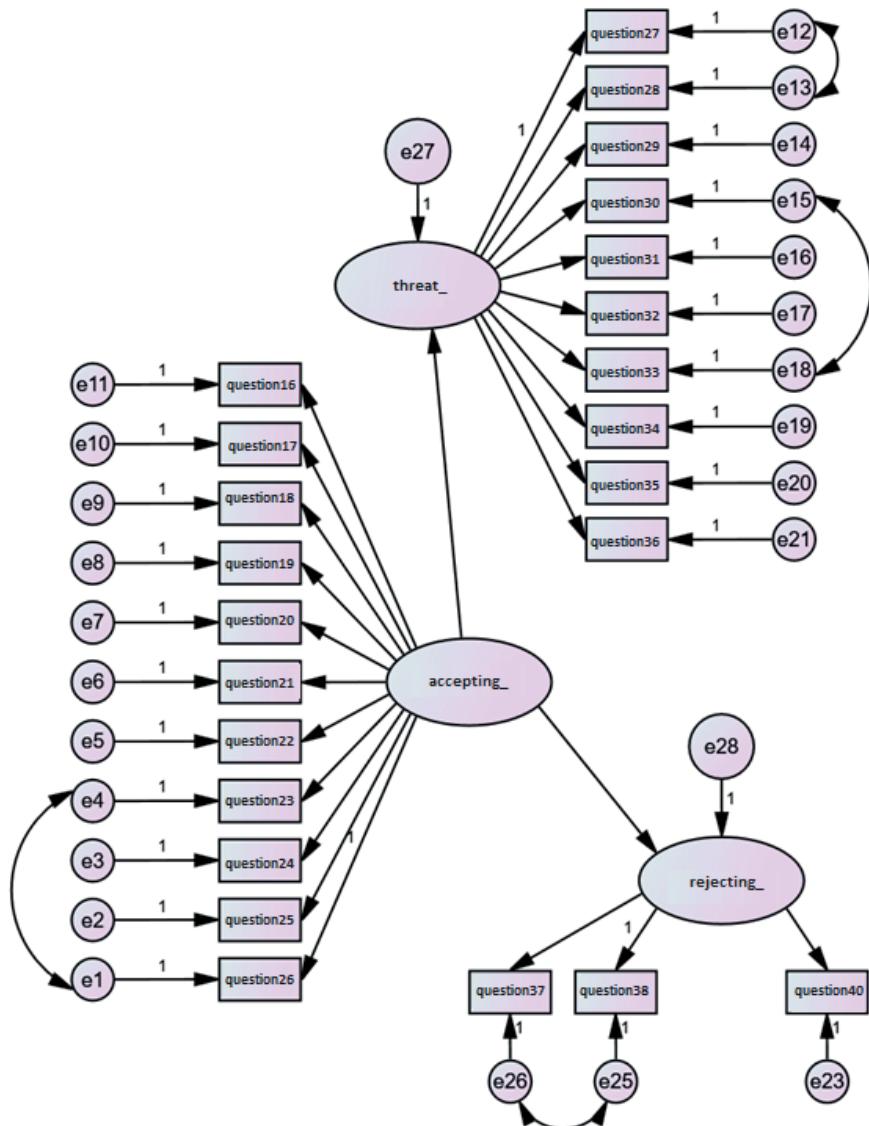
Table 2. Goodness of Fit Indices Used in SEM

	Good match	Acceptable	Obtained values
CMIN/df	<3	$3 < (\text{CMIN}/\text{df}) < 5$	4,196
RMSEA	<.05	<.08	.80
GFI	>.95	>.90	.837
CFI	>.95	>.90	.936
SRMR	<0.5	<.08	.04

Implementing the Structural Equation Modelling

It is a multivariate statistical method used to measure latent structures determined by the researcher using observed variables (Yilmaz and Varol, 2015, p. 29-44).

Figure 4. Structural Equation Model



As a result of the structural equation model analysis; when the correction suggestions regarding the regression weights were evaluated, it was decided to remove the 39th problem from the model (Figure).

Table 3: Model fit indices

	Good match	Acceptable	Obtained values
CMIN/df	<3	$3 < (\text{CMIN}/\text{df}) < 5$	4,429
RMSEA	<.05	<.08	.83
GFI	>.95	>.90	.836
CFI	>.95	>.90	.933
SRMR	<0.5	<.08	.06

Accepting factor has a negative effect on the Rejecting factor.

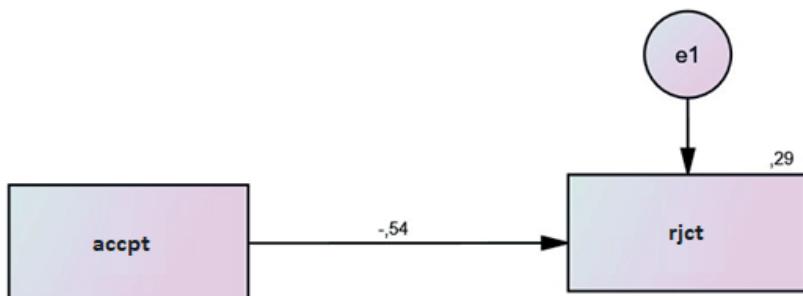
Accepting factor has a negative effect on the Threat factor.

H1 and H2 hypotheses were accepted.

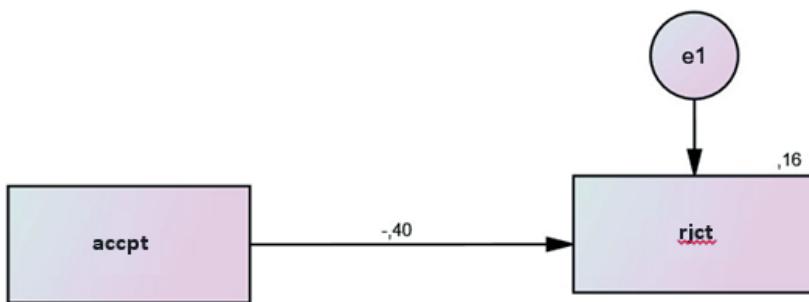
Regulatory Effect

Regulatory variable is a variable that helps us to understand in which situations the relationship between two variables increases, decreases or changes direction (Gürbüz, 2019, p. 144).

Analysis results on whether the person's employment status has a regulatory effect between the Accepting and Rejecting factors:



As a result of the analysis, it was seen that if the person is unemployed in the path diagram, the path from Accepting behaviour to Rejecting behaviour is significant ($\beta = -.58$; $p < .01$). It is determined that the Rejecting behaviour on the path diagram explains 29% of the variance in Rejecting behaviour in the unemployed.



As a result of the analysis, it was seen that the path from Accepting behaviour to Rejection behaviour is significant when the person is employed in the path diagram ($\beta = -.40$; $p < .01$). It is determined that the rejection behaviour on the path diagram explains 16% of the variance in the rejecting behaviour in the employed.

RESULTS and CONCLUSION

The effects of Accepting behaviour on Rejecting behaviour is significant whether the person is employed or not. In order to understand whether the difference between these two cases is significant, the critical Z value for the difference between the path coefficients between the two groups was examined. It can be said that the difference between groups is significant when the critical Z value is greater than 1.96. As the Z value is 2.600, it can be said that the difference between the groups is significant. In accordance with these findings, the effect of Accepting behaviour surpasses Rejecting behaviour in the unemployed.

The results of the analysis on whether there is a regulatory effect of the person's employment status among the factors of Accepting and Seeing as a

Threat are as follows: the effect of Accepting behaviour on Seeing as a Threat behaviour does not depend on the employment status of the person. The phenomenon of immigration is a dynamic process in respect of the reasons and results that reveal it. Factors arising due to the immigration process can seriously affect societies, policies and states. Immigration movements can create added value in terms of economic, cultural and social aspects for the host communities, if managed properly. If the process is not managed correctly, there may be consequences such as the emergence of some humanitarian crises as well as serious problems in public order and security.

Considering the effects of immigrants on the economies of the host countries, a situation where both risks and opportunities exist together is observed. While this effect sometimes creates positive results for the host country, it may also cause negative results due to changes in demand and supply balance.

There are many different factors that affect the attitudes of residents living in host countries towards immigrants. Immigrants from poor countries, in particular, may not be accepted in countries with high welfare. For the residents, it is critical to correctly identify the reasons that lead to negative attitudes towards immigrants in order to achieve the aimed results of the activities to be carried out to solve these problems. At this point, it is of great importance for universities, non-governmental organizations and policy makers to work in cooperation to achieve the success of the process.

In the current century, the human race is going through a challenging test due to wars, global warming and pandemics. It is necessary for academics and non-governmental organizations from different countries to work together and act in cooperation in order to question how ready we are for mass migration movements or to prevent the humanitarian crises that may arise from global warming, wars and poverty in the near future.

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