



STUDENTS' PERCEPTION RELATED TO QUALITY OF UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL TOURIST GUIDANCE EDUCATION¹

LİSANS DÜZEYİNDE TURİST REHBERLİĞİ EĞİTİMİ KALİTESİNE İLİŞKİN ÖĞRENCİ ALGILARI

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Abstract

This study aims to measure the quality of tourist guidance education at the undergraduate level according to the opinions of the students. The Tourist Guidance Education Quality Scale was applied to 916 students from nine universities, selected through multi-stage cluster sampling method. In data analysis, independent samples t-test, one-factor analysis of variance, Tukey test, and descriptive analysis were used. The study reveals that the students' perceptions on program and teaching quality, management and support services, teaching environment, teaching outcomes, and general quality were moderate, and their academic staff's quality perceptions were good. The gender, grade, and academic success of the tourist guide candidates did not show a significant difference on their perceptions of quality. In addition, it was revealed that the candidates' accommodation, career preferences, and ages had a significant difference in their perceptions of quality. This research is expected to serve in quality management practices in tourist guidance education.

Keywords: Tourism guidance, Tourism Education, Service Quality, Education Quality

Öz

Bu çalışma, öğrencilerin görüşlerine göre lisans düzeyinde turist rehberliği eğitiminin kalitesini ölçmeyi amaçlamaktadır. Çalışma kapsamında çok aşamalı küme örnekleme yöntemiyle seçilen dokuz üniversiteden 916 öğrenciye Turist Rehberliği Öğretimi Kalite Ölçeği uygulanmıştır. Verilerin analizinde bağımsız örneklem t testi, tek faktörlü varyans analizi, Tukey testi ve betimsel analiz kullanılmıştır. Yapılan analizler sonucunda, öğrencilerin müfredat ve öğretim kalitesi, yönetim ve destek hizmetleri, öğretim ortamı, öğretim sonucu kazanımlar konularında ve genel kalite algılarının orta düzeyde, akademik personel kalite algılarının ise iyi düzeyde olduğu tespit edilmiştir. Turist rehberi adaylarının cinsiyetleri, sınıfları ve akademik başarı ortalamaları kalite algıları üzerinde anlamlı bir farklılığa yol açmamıştır. Bunun yanında adayların kaldıkları yer, kariyer tercihleri ve yaşlarının ise kalite algılarında anlamlı farklılık yarattığı ortaya koyulmuştur. Bu araştırmanın turist rehberliği eğitiminde kalite yönetimi uygulamalarına hizmet etmesi beklenmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Turist Rehberliği, Turizm Eğitimi, Hizmet Kalitesi, Eğitim Kalitesi

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INTRODUCTION

Technological developments and increasing living standards have enabled the development of national and international tourism. People can easily travel around the world, get information about destinations and diversify their holiday options. Countries and businesses compete with other destinations and businesses to get a larger share of the tourism industry. Destinations that provide higher quality service become more advantageous than others. For this, trained personnel have become very important in tourism, which is a service-intensive sector. Many actors in the tourism sector play a role in this sense. Tourist guides are one of these actors. Especially in terms of promotion and image, tourist guides are among the people who affect tourists the most (Değirmencioğlu, 2001: 191).

Tourist guides are at the forefront of the tourism industry. They act as information providers for tourists, and they are representatives of the destination (Rabotic, 2010). Guides are of great importance to the success of a tour, and their service quality directly affects the industry's quality (Zhang & Chow, 2004). The tourism industry, media, and governments have realized that the guide's role is more than welcoming and informing tourists (Dahles, 2002). As frontline professionals, information providers, and translators, guides are representatives and ambassadors of a destination in tourists' eyes (Rabotic, 2010). Based on this, it can be said that the success of the tourism industry depends on tourist guides. The fact that they provide a quality service directly affects tourism quality (Zhang & Chow, 2004).

Tourist guides are the first to be seen by tourist groups coming to a country, which continues throughout the trip. Especially for first-time tourists, the image created by the guide becomes synonymous with the image of the society (Temizkan, 2005). Tourists perceive and interpret the countries they visit with the words and behaviors of the tourist guide. They experience the environment as described by the guide (Dahles, 2002). Besides, tourist guides take part in the use of the destination's resources and the economic and socio-cultural impact of tourism on the local community. As a result, tourist guides also affect the sustainability of destinations (Hu, 2007).

Temizkan (2010) stated that tourist guides who do not convey the correct information will negatively affect the country's image and destination and cause other sectors and areas related to the tourism sector to lose in international competition. The tourism sector is one of the sectors where communication with citizens from foreign countries is the most intense. Therefore, foreign language knowledge is sought in this sector (Hussein, Temizkan, & Temizkan, 2008). Knowing that they need to take cultural differences into account in order to communicate effectively with international tourists, tourist guides and tourist guide academics advocate developing a wide range of communication skills. These skills are; language, motivation, entertainment, dealing with tourists, and dealing with difficult situations (Huang, 2011). As it can be understood from the above definitions, tourist guides should have information about vegetation, animal diversity, geographical location, climate, natural environment, ecosystem, state structure, population, traditions, local dances, languages, architectural structure, important historical events (Hu, 2007).

In Turkey, until 1995, the tourist guide teaching was conducted with the three and six-month courses, organized by the Ministry of Tourism, given to high school or university graduates with foreign language knowledge. Regional guide education was provided with three-month courses and national guide education with six-month courses (Çolakoğlu, Efendi, & Epik, 2010). Starting from 1995, it was aimed to provide tourist guidance education through faculties and colleges. Firstly, in 1997, in Erciyes University Nevşehir School of Tourism and Hotel Management, tourist guidance education was given at associate degree level. Thus, according to the Tourist Guidance Vocational Law enacted in 2012, a different

tourist guidance training system has emerged with the courses offered by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and associate, bachelor's or master's programs of the tourist guidance departments of universities (Yenipinar and Zorkirişçi, 2013; Avcıkurt, Alper and Geyik, 2009).

Quality is one of the most important ways to success. For the service sector, quality is the greatest foundation for competitive advantage. The disappearance of political boundaries and the workforce's easier movement with globalization has led to the concept of teaching quality. It has become more important for universities to improve their teaching quality (Artuner, Uzun, & Ilbars, 2012). Today, beyond being discussed academically, quality measures have become a managerial phenomenon that indicates how organizations ideally regulate their performance (Welsh & Dey, 2002).

Since tourism is a labor-intensive sector, it is necessary to employ qualified personnel to provide quality service (Şenol & Aliyev, 2015). Tourist guides should have a wide variety of knowledge and skills (Tetik, 2006). In this respect, since the tourist guiding profession requires advanced expertise and service quality, education quality must also be high.

There are many models developed for the measurement of service quality. The most well-known models are SERVQUAL and SERVPERF. The main difference between them is that SERVQUAL (Parasuraman, Zeithaml, & Berry, 1988) measures service quality by comparing customer expectations and perceived service quality, while SERVPERF (Cronin & Taylor, 1992) measures only perceived service quality. Since the education sector is also included in the service sector, scales used to measure service quality in education are adapted from these (Güzel, 2006; Eraqi, 2006; Abdullah, 2005; Maksüdünov, Çavuş, & Eleren, 2016). Apart from scales for measuring service quality, scales aiming to measure teaching quality have also been developed. Examples of these scales are CEQ Model, HedPERF Model.

CEQ (Course Experience Questionnaire) was introduced by Ramsden (1991) to measure teaching quality in higher education institutions. This model did not measure all aspects of teaching, such as the preparation of the programs, their timeliness, and the quality of the content. The CEQ scale consists of 30 items and five dimensions. These dimensions are Good Teaching: Teaching staff to be knowledgeable, willing, interested, and accessible; Clear Goals: Clear goals of the institution, curriculum, and courses; Appropriate Workload: The workload that the curriculum and courses require from students; Appropriate Assessment: Instructors' evaluations about the courses; Emphasis on Independence: Choice chance given to students.

The higher education performance (HEdPERF) model was introduced by Abdullah (2006) to measure the service quality in the higher education sector. The reason for the emergence of the model was that previous models viewed teaching only as academic but did not adequately consider non-academic aspects and students as primary stakeholders. A six-factor, a 41-item scale was developed to measure higher education quality. These six factors are non-academic aspects, academic aspects, reputation (professional image), access (accessibility and openness to communication), program issues, understanding (consultancy and health services).

It is possible to come across some studies on teaching quality and service quality in education in the literature. These studies are briefly evaluated below:

Güzel (2006) measured the extent to which student expectations in tourism education were met by using the SERVQUAL model in the study titled "Tourism Education and Service Quality in Higher Education". As a result of the research, it was observed that the satisfaction levels of the students were low. Taşkın and Büyük (2002) measured the quality of educational

services on private tutoring students in their study. In the study, they concluded that there was a significant linear relationship between the perceptions of the students about the quality of the educational service they receive and their opinions about the effect level of the private teaching institution in the university entrance exam. Sakarya (2006) used the SERVQUAL scale to measure the service quality for students in higher education but stated that the dimensions of this scale were insufficient in measuring a complex process such as higher education. Okumuş and Duygun (2008) used a scale by adapting the SERVQUAL scale to measure service quality in marketing education services. In the study, it was concluded that there was a difference between expected service quality and perceived service quality, and there was also a positive relationship between perceived service quality and customer satisfaction.

Li and Kaye (1998) compared SERVQUAL and SERVPERF as two alternatives that can be used to measure service quality in higher education and found that the SERVPERF scale gives better results than the SERVQUAL scale. Senthilkumar and Arulraj (2011) stated that the scales used to measure the service quality of higher education institutions have a very narrow scope and are insufficient to measure students' satisfaction levels with academic and non-academic phenomena.

Maksüdünov, Çavuş and Eleren (2016) developed a scale with the help of SERVPERF and SERVQUAL scale to measure the service quality perceptions of Kyrgyzstan - Turkey Manas University students. They used the dimensions of enthusiasm, reliability, hygiene and environmental cleanliness, physical facilities, ease of transportation, and empathy in their scales. As a result of the study, it was observed that the perceptions of students regarding the quality of service provided were generally above the middle level. At the same time, the dimensions of environmental cleanliness and hygiene were high.

Tayyar and Dilşeker (2012) measured the service quality, image, satisfaction, recommendation, and loyalty levels in their study on students studying at two state universities and one foundation university. As a result of the study, the researchers found that service quality has a multidimensional structure, and these dimensions are physical characteristics, support services, internationalization, academic staff, and non-academic staff. In addition, Küçük, Arslan, and Nur (2018), using the scale developed by Tayyar and Dilşeker (2012) found a positive and strong relationship between the service quality offered by Harran University to its students and their level of satisfaction.

In the study conducted by Bayrak (2007), the expected and perceived service quality of business students studying at universities in Istanbul was investigated. As a result of the research, it was determined that the universities were insufficient to meet the expectations of the students. In a different study, Ayaz and Arakaya (2017) aimed to measure Karabük University Student Affairs Unit's service quality by using the SERVQUAL scale. As a result of the study, they stated that student affairs' service was not sufficient.

Although the authorities set quality standards, the decision of quality is entirely up to the customer. Service quality perceptions vary from person to person. The concept of quality is often ambiguous as it is perceived in various ways. For this reason, an enterprise that will work on quality measurement and development should look from the perspective of the customer (Rahman, 2012). In order to measure and increase the quality of tourist guidance teaching, this situation should be viewed from the perspective of the student. When the literature is examined, there is no study that measures the quality of tourism guidance education at the undergraduate level. The aim of this study is to measure the quality of tourism guidance education at the undergraduate level in Turkey. To this end, a self-evaluation scale was resorted to answer the research questions in the following:

1. What are the quality levels of institutions providing tourist guidance teaching at the undergraduate level according to the opinions of the students?
2. Does the perception of quality measured according to various dimensions in tourist guidance teaching show significant differences according to the gender, grade, accommodation, career preference, age, and academic success of the students?

METHOD

Research Design

In measuring the quality of tourism guidance teaching at the undergraduate level, the "Tourist Guidance Teaching Quality Scale" developed for the doctoral thesis was used (Temizkan & Ergün, 2020). The scale prepared according to the Likert-type five-point grading consists of 47 closed-ended statements under five dimensions (Program and Teaching, Academic Staff, Management and Support Services, Teaching Environment and Teaching Outcomes). For the reliability of the whole scale, the Cronbach's Alpha internal consistency coefficient was found 0.937. The internal consistency coefficients calculated according to the factors are as follows. The values obtained show that this scale is a reliable measurement tool.

Table 1: Internal Consistency Reliability of Factors

Factors	Cronbach's Alpha	Items
Program and Teaching Quality	.940	12
Academic Staff Quality	.945	11
Management and Support Services	.935	10
Teaching Environment	.919	8
Teaching Outcomes	.866	6
Total	.937	47

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The Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was calculated for all items, sub-dimensions, and the entire scale. Pearson's correlation coefficients between the sub-dimensions of the scale were significant at the 0.01 level (2-sided).

The quantitative data obtained by applying the scale to a certain sample group. The research is a descriptive field survey using a quantitative method. A quantitative method was selected to obtain data from a large number of students studying in different universities. Descriptive research was deemed appropriate to reveal the existing situation. Quantitative research methods allow the data to be collected numerically to make perceptions or behaviors towards different events, objects, or people observable, measurable, and comparable (Punch, 2011: 6; Kozak, 2015: 61). Descriptive research is a type of research that aims to define a given situation as fully and carefully as possible (Büyüköztürk et al., 2012: 22). Survey studies are conducted on relatively larger samples compared to other types of research, in which participants' views or characteristics such as interests, attitudes, and skills are determined (Büyüköztürk et al., 2012: 177).

Participants

The population of the study consists of 2nd, 3rd, and 4th-grade students studying undergraduate-level tourism guidance in Turkey. Since there are items about vocational courses in the scale and these courses are mostly given in grade 2 and above, the first graders were not included in the study. About 4000 students study tourism guidance at the undergraduate level in 24 higher education institutions in Turkey. Stratified and cluster-step

sampling technique was used for sampling from this population. The research was applied in 9 institutions. It was applied in Adnan Menderes University, Afyon Kocatepe University, Akdeniz University, Balıkesir University, Batman University, Hacı Bayram Veli University, Mersin University, On Dokuz Mayıs University and Sinop University. The demographic characteristics of the participants were given in table 2.

Table 2: Distribution of Participants According to Their Characteristics

Groups	Number (f)	Percentage (%)	Groups	Number (f)	Percentage (%)
Female	493	53,8	Dormitory	386	42,1
Male	423	46,2	Home	442	48,3
Total	916	100	Homestay	88	9,6
			Total	916	100
2nd grade	326	35,6	I want to be a guide	397	43,3
3rd grade	342	37,3	I don't want to be a	206	22,5
4th grade	248	27,1	guide	313	34,2
Total	916	100	I have not decided yet	916	100
			Total		
Conditional Pass (1.5-1.9)	46	5,0	age 19-20	239	26,1
Pass (2.0-2.4)	287	31,3	age 21-22	429	46,8
Average (2.5-3.0)	239	26,1	age 23-24	171	18,7
Good (3.0-3.4)	181	19,8	Age 25 and over	47	5,1
Excellent (3.5-4.0)	34	3,7	Unspecified	30	3,3
Unspecified	129	14,1	Total	916	100
Total	916	100			

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Data Collection Instruments and Data Analysis

Questionnaire technique was used to collect data in the study. The questionnaire was conducted between December 2018 and June 2019. A total of 1100 questionnaires were distributed to students, but 916 questionnaires were evaluated and analyzed.

Arithmetic mean ranges in the evaluation of research findings were interpreted as; 1.00-1.80 "Not Agree at All", 1.81-2.60 "Slightly Agree", 2.61-3.40 "Moderately Agree", 3.41- 4.20 "Strongly Agree" and 4.21-5.00 "Completely agree". Independent samples t-test was used for two groups (gender) to compare the participants' views on the quality of tourist guidance teaching. For variables involving more than two groups (age, grade, accommodation, GPA, career preference), one-factor analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used. Tukey test, one of the Post-Hoc tests, was used in cases where the variances were equal to determine the difference between the groups with significant differences. The data obtained in the study were analyzed with the SPSS package program.

FINDINGS

This study aimed to measure the quality of tourist guidance teaching at the undergraduate level according to the opinions of the students. For this purpose, the average and standard deviation values of the tourism guidance teaching quality scale dimensions were given in Table 3.

Table 3: Dimensions of Tourism Guidance Teaching Quality

Dimensions	n	\bar{x}	Sd
Program and Teaching Quality	916	3.16	0.81
Academic Staff Quality	916	3.66	0.77
Management and Support Services	916	3.22	0.75
Teaching Environment	916	3.39	0.81
Teaching Outcomes	916	3.35	0.85
Total	916	3.36	0.68

When the table is examined, it is seen that the academic staff quality is in the range of "strongly agree", while other dimensions were perceived as "Moderately agree". T-test and variance analysis were conducted to determine whether the students' opinions on the quality of tourist guidance teaching differ significantly according to their characteristics.

Table 4: Evaluation of the Dimensions of Tourist Guide Teaching Quality According to Gender

Tourist Guiding Teaching Quality Dimensions	Gender	N	\bar{x}	Sd	t	p
Program and Teaching Quality	Female	493	3.13	0.79	1.03	0.30
	Male	423	3.19	0.83		
Academic Staff Quality	Female	493	3.66	0.76	0.00	1.00
	Male	423	3.66	0.77		
Management and Support Services	Female	493	3.21	0.75	0.52	0.60
	Male	423	3.24	0.75		
Teaching Environment	Female	493	3.37	0.82	0.97	0.32
	Male	423	3.42	0.79		
Teaching Outcomes	Female	493	3.34	0.86	0.63	0.52
	Male	423	3.37	0.84		
Total	Female	493	3.34	0.69	0.74	0.45
	Male	423	3.37	0.68		

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Table 4 shows the results of the t-test conducted to determine whether the opinions of the participants on the quality of tourist guidance teaching differ significantly according to their gender. According to the t-test results in the table, no significant difference was found between the participants' genders ($p > 0.05$). The results showed that the gender of the students did not affect their perception of teaching quality.

Table 5: Evaluation of the Tourist Guide Teaching Quality According to Grade

Tourist Guiding Teaching Quality Dimensions	Grade	N	\bar{x}	Sd
Program and Teaching Quality	2. grade	326	3.17	0.81
	3. grade	342	3.18	0.85
	4. grade	248	3.10	0.74
Academic Staff Quality	2. grade	326	3.67	0.79
	3. grade	342	3.66	0.80
	4. grade	248	3.64	0.69
Management and Support Services	2. grade	326	3.27	0.78
	3. grade	342	3.24	0.73
	4. grade	248	3.13	0.72
Teaching Environment	2. grade	326	3.41	0.85
	3. grade	342	3.45	0.77
	4. grade	248	3.30	0.79
Teaching Outcomes	2. grade	326	3.38	0.86
	3. grade	342	3.35	0.88
	4. grade	248	3.31	0.80
Total	2. grade	326	3.38	0.72
	3. grade	342	3.38	0.70
	4. grade	248	3.30	0.61

According to the means of the answers in Table 5; the highest mean of 3.67 was seen in the 2nd grade in the academic staff quality dimension. The lowest mean was in the 4th grade, with 3.10 in the program and teaching quality dimension. When the data were examined, it was seen that all grades gave answers at the level of moderately agree on the dimensions of program and teaching quality, management and support services, teaching outcomes, and in general. In terms of academic staff, all grades answered in the range of strongly agree. In contrast, in the teaching environment dimension, 2nd and 3rd grades answered strongly agree, and 4th graders answered moderately agree range. According to the results of variance analysis, no significant difference was found between the participants' grades and the dimensions of tourist guidance teaching. The results show that the grades of the students do not affect their teaching quality perceptions.

Table 6: Evaluation of the Tourist Guide Teaching Quality According to Accommodation

Tourist Guiding Teaching Quality Dimensions	Accommodation	n	\bar{x}	Sd
Program and Teaching Quality	Dormitory	386	3.20	0.80
	Home	442	3.16	0.83
	Homestay	88	2.94	0.73
Academic Staff Quality	Dormitory	386	3.69	0.75
	Home	442	3.65	0.77
	Homestay	88	3.56	0.79
Management and Support Services	Dormitory	386	3.25	0.73
	Home	442	3.23	0.75
	Homestay	88	3.08	0.80
Teaching Environment	Dormitory	386	3.40	0.85
	Home	442	3.40	0.78
	Homestay	88	3.32	0.78
Teaching Outcomes	Dormitory	386	3.37	0.85
	Home	442	3.38	0.85
	Homestay	88	3.15	0.85
Total	Dormitory	386	3.38	0.69
	Home	442	3.36	0.68
	Homestay	88	3.21	0.68

According to the means of the answers in Table 6, the highest mean was seen in academic staff quality, with students staying in dormitories with 3.69. The lowest mean was found in homestay students' responses with 2.94 in the dimension of program and teaching quality. When the data were examined, it was seen that all students gave answers at the level of moderately agree on the dimensions of program and teaching quality, management and support services, teaching environment, teaching outcomes. In terms of academic staff, all students answered at a strongly agree level.

Table 7: Variance Analysis Results by Accommodation

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	p
Program and Teaching Quality	Between Groups	5.010	2	2.505	3.808	.023
	Within Groups	600.509	913	.658		
	Total	605.519	915			
Academic Staff Quality	Between Groups	1.297	2	.648	1.089	.337
	Within Groups	543.560	913	.595		
	Total	544.857	915			
Management Support Services	Between Groups	2.200	2	1.100	1.939	.144
	Within Groups	518.121	913	.567		
	Total	520.322	915			
Teaching Environment	Between Groups	.591	2	.295	.447	.640
	Within Groups	603.936	913	.661		
	Total	604.527	915			
Teaching Outcomes	Between Groups	3.917	2	1.958	2.685	.069
	Within Groups	665.887	913	.729		
	Total	669.804	915			
Total	Between Groups	2.209	2	1.105	2.335	.097
	Within Groups	431.842	913	.473		
	Total	434.052	915			

In Table 7, variance analysis results are given for the comparison of the participants' opinions on the quality of tourist guidance teaching according to their accommodation. According to the results of the analysis of variance, a significant difference ($p=0.023<0.05$) was observed only in the program and teaching quality dimensions.

Tukey multiple comparison analysis was conducted to determine which accommodation variables differ significantly. According to the results, it was determined that the difference between dormitory ($\bar{x} = 3.20$) and homestay ($\bar{x} = 2.94$) was significant ($p=0.017$). Students living in dormitories perceived the quality of program and teaching higher than those living with their families. The results show that the place where students live changes their perception of teaching quality.

Table 8: Evaluation of the Tourist Guide Teaching Quality According to Career Preferences

Tourist Teaching Dimensions	Guiding Quality Career Preferences	n	\bar{x}	Sd
Program and Teaching Quality	I want to be a tourist guide	397	3.19	0.81
	I don't want to be a tourist guide	206	3.10	0.84
	I have not decided yet	313	3.16	0.79
Academic Staff Quality	I want to be a tourist guide	397	3.72	0.77
	I don't want to be a tourist guide	206	3.57	0.82
	I have not decided yet	313	3.64	0.72
Management and Support Services	I want to be a tourist guide	397	3.27	0.75
	I don't want to be a tourist guide	206	3.13	0.80
	I have not decided yet	313	3.22	0.71
Teaching Environment	I want to be a tourist guide	397	3.41	0.83
	I don't want to be a tourist guide	206	3.30	0.81
	I have not decided yet	313	3.43	0.77
Teaching Outcomes	I want to be a tourist guide	397	3.47	0.84
	I don't want to be a tourist guide	206	3.18	0.89
	I have not decided yet	313	3.32	0.82
Total	I want to be a tourist guide	397	3.41	0.68
	I don't want to be a tourist guide	206	3.26	0.73
	I have not decided yet	313	3.35	0.65

According to the answers in Table 8, the highest mean of 3.72 was found in the academic staff quality dimension with students who want to work in the guidance profession. The lowest mean was seen among students who did not want to work in the guidance profession with 3.10 in program and teaching quality. When the data were examined, it was seen that all students gave answers at the level of moderately agree on the dimensions of program and teaching quality, management, and support services. In terms of academic staff, all students answered at strongly agree level. In the teaching environment dimension, students who want to do the guidance profession and who have not made a decision yet answered at the level of "Strongly agree", while those who do not want to do the guidance profession answered at the level of "moderately agree". In terms of teaching outcomes and in general, those who want to do the guidance profession answered at the level of "strongly agree". The other groups responded at the level of "moderately agree".

Table 9: Variance Analysis Results by Career Preferences

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	p
Program and Teaching Quality	Between Groups	1.029	2	.514	.777	.460
	Within Groups	604.491	913	.662		
	Total	605.519	915			
Academic Staff Quality	Between Groups	3.241	2	1.621	2.732	.066
	Within Groups	541.615	913	.593		
	Total	544.857	915			
Management and Support Services	Between Groups	2.991	2	1.495	2.639	.072
	Within Groups	517.331	913	.567		
	Total	520.322	915			
Teaching Environment	Between Groups	2.140	2	1.070	1.622	.198
	Within Groups	602.387	913	.660		
	Total	604.527	915			
Teaching Outcomes	Between Groups	11.538	2	5.769	8.002	.000
	Within Groups	658.266	913	.721		
	Total	669.804	915			
Total	Between Groups	3.281	2	1.640	3.477	.031
	Within Groups	430.771	913	.472		
	Total	434.052	915			

Table 9 shows the results of variance analysis for the comparison of the participants' opinions on the quality of tourist guidance teaching according to their career preferences. According to the results of the variance analysis in the table, there was a significant difference between career preferences and the dimension of teaching outcomes ($p=0.000>0.05$) and also in general ($p=0.031<0.05$).

According to the TUKEY multiple comparison analysis results, it was determined that the difference between "I want to be a guide" ($\bar{X} = 3.47$) and "I do not want to be a guide" ($\bar{X} = 3.18$) is significant ($p=0.000$). Students who want to do the guidance profession saw the quality of the teaching outcomes at a higher level than the students who do not want to do the guidance profession. Also, in general, it was observed that there was a significant difference between "I want to be a guide" ($\bar{X} = 3.41$) and "I do not want to be a guide" ($\bar{X} = 3.26$) ($p=0.023$). Likewise, students who want to do the guidance profession see the quality of tourism guidance education higher than students who do not want to do the guidance profession. The results show that the career choices of students affect their perceptions of teaching quality.

Table 10: Evaluation of the Tourist Guide Teaching Quality According to Age Groups of Students

Tourist Guiding Teaching Quality Dimensions	Age Groups	n	\bar{x}	Sd
Program and Teaching Quality	19-20	239	3.15	0.83
	21-22	429	3.22	0.80
	23-24	171	3.00	0.79
	25 and over	47	3.09	0.83
Academic Staff Quality	19-20	239	3.69	0.78
	21-22	429	3.69	0.74
	23-24	171	3.51	0.78
	25 and over	47	3.68	0.81
Management and Support Services	19-20	239	3.25	0.80
	21-22	429	3.25	0.72
	23-24	171	3.08	0.78
	25 and over	47	3.29	0.71
Teaching Environment	19-20	239	3.43	0.83
	21-22	429	3.42	0.80
	23-24	171	3.27	0.83
	25 and over	47	3.20	0.75
Teaching Outcomes	19-20	239	3.39	0.86
	21-22	429	3.37	0.85
	23-24	171	3.26	0.84
	25 and over	47	3.18	0.93
Total	19-20	239	3.38	0.71
	21-22	429	3.39	0.67
	23-24	171	3.22	0.68
	25 and over	47	3.29	0.68

According to Table 10, the highest mean of 3.69 was observed in the academic staff quality dimension with students between the ages of 19-20 and 21-22. The lowest average of 3.00 was seen in program and teaching quality with the 23-24 age group. When the data were examined, it was seen that according to the age groups, all students gave answers at the level of moderately agree in the dimensions of program and teaching quality, management and support services, teaching outcomes, and in general. In terms of academic staff, all students answered at strongly agree level. In terms of teaching environment, students in the 19-20 and 21-22 age groups answered at the level of strongly agree, while students aged 23-24 and 25 and over answered at the level of moderately agree.

Table 11: Variance Analysis Results by Age Groups

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	p
Program and Teaching Quality	Between Groups	6.210	3	2.070	3.138	.025
	Within Groups	581.763	882	.660		
	Total	587.973	885			
Academic Staff Quality	Between Groups	4.686	3	1.562	2.643	.048
	Within Groups	521.343	882	.591		
	Total	526.029	885			
Management and Support Services	Between Groups	4.309	3	1.436	2.518	.057
	Within Groups	503.163	882	.570		
	Total	507.472	885			
Teaching Environment	Between Groups	4.851	3	1.617	2.439	.063
	Within Groups	584.837	882	.663		
	Total	589.688	885			
Teaching Outcomes	Between Groups	3.315	3	1.105	1.499	.213
	Within Groups	650.100	882	.737		
	Total	653.415	885			
Total	Between Groups	3.907	3	1.302	2.745	.042
	Within Groups	418.447	882	.474		
	Total	422.354	885			

Table 11 shows the results of variance analysis for the comparison of the participants' opinions on the quality of tourist guidance teaching according to their age groups. According to the results of the variance analysis, there was a significant difference between age groups and the dimensions of the program and teaching quality ($p=0,025<0.05$) and academic staff quality ($p=0,048<0.05$) and also in general ($p=0,042<0.05$).

According to the TUKEY multiple comparison analysis results, it was determined that in terms of the program and teaching quality, the difference between the 21-22 age group ($\bar{X} = 3.22$) and the 23-24 age group ($\bar{X} = 3.00$) was significant ($p=0.014$). In terms of academic staff quality, there was also a significant difference between the 21-22 age group ($\bar{X} = 3.69$) and the 23-24 age group ($\bar{X} = 3.51$) ($p=0.041$). Students in the 21-22 age group see the quality of the program and teaching and the quality of academic staff at a higher level than students in the 23-24 age group. In addition, in general, a significant difference was found between the 21-22 age group ($\bar{X} = 3.39$) and the 23-24 age group ($\bar{X} = 3.22$) ($p=0.035$). Likewise, students in the age group 21-22 perceived the quality of tourism guidance teaching at a higher level

than students in the 23-24 age group. The results show that the age of the students affects their perceptions of teaching quality.

Tablo 12: Evaluation of the Tourist Guide Teaching Quality According to Academic Success of Students

Tourist Guiding Teaching Quality Dimensions	Academic Success	n	\bar{x}	Sd
Program and Teaching Quality	Conditional Pass (1.5-1.9)	46	3.17	0.92
	Pass (2.0-2.4)	287	3.17	0.80
	Average (2.5-3.0)	239	3.10	0.85
	Good (3.0-3.4)	181	3.12	0.79
	Excellent (3.5-4.0)	34	3.33	0.80
Academic Staff Quality	Conditional Pass (1.5-1.9)	46	3.60	0.86
	Pass (2.0-2.4)	287	3.64	0.75
	Average (2.5-3.0)	239	3.67	0.76
	Good (3.0-3.4)	181	3.62	0.77
	Excellent (3.5-4.0)	34	3.89	0.83
Management and Support Services	Conditional Pass (1.5-1.9)	46	3.23	0.70
	Pass (2.0-2.4)	287	3.23	0.77
	Average (2.5-3.0)	239	3.22	0.75
	Good (3.0-3.4)	181	3.14	0.75
	Excellent (3.5-4.0)	34	3.20	0.64
Teaching Environment	Conditional Pass (1.5-1.9)	46	3.40	0.79
	Pass (2.0-2.4)	287	3.39	0.79
	Average (2.5-3.0)	239	3.41	0.85
	Good (3.0-3.4)	181	3.33	0.82
	Excellent (3.5-4.0)	34	3.45	0.71
Teaching Outcomes	Conditional Pass (1.5-1.9)	46	3.45	0.89
	Pass (2.0-2.4)	287	3.39	0.83
	Average (2.5-3.0)	239	3.29	0.91
	Good (3.0-3.4)	181	3.25	0.87
	Excellent (3.5-4.0)	34	3.68	0.73
General	Conditional Pass (1.5-1.9)	46	3.37	0.74
	Pass (2.0-2.4)	287	3.36	0.67
	Average (2.5-3.0)	239	3.34	0.72
	Good (3.0-3.4)	181	3.29	0.68
	Excellent (3.5-4.0)	34	3.51	0.61

According to the answers given in Table 12, the highest mean is 3.67 in terms of academic staff quality. The lowest mean of 3.10 is in the program and teaching quality dimension. When the data were examined, it was seen that all students gave answers at the level of moderately agree in the dimensions of program and teaching quality and management and support services. In terms of academic staff, all students answered at strongly agree level. Students with average and excellent academic success answered at strongly agree level in the teaching environment dimension, while other students answered at moderately agree level. At the teaching outcomes, dimension students with conditional pass and excellent academic success answered at strongly agree level while other students responded at the level of moderately agree level. In general, students with excellent academic success responded at the strongly agree level, while the other students answered at moderately agree level.

According to the results of variance analysis, no significant difference was found between the participants' academic success and the dimensions of tourist guidance teaching ($p > 0.05$). The results show that the academic success of students does not affect their teaching quality perceptions.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

When the findings were evaluated in general, it was determined that the tourist guide candidates assessed the quality of tourism guidance teaching at moderately agree level. While the dimensions of program and teaching quality, management and support services quality, teaching environment and learning outcomes were evaluated at moderately agree level, academic staff quality was rated as strongly agree level. In the study conducted by Tayyar and Dilşeker (2012) on state and foundation universities, it was determined that students gave a partially sufficient response in terms of non-academic staff and academic staff. It was concluded that they have a "partially sufficient" and "sufficient" perception in terms of support services. However, students did not report the quality very well in any dimension or statement.

Similarly, in the studies of Güzel (2006), Tayyar and Dilşeker (2012), and Chopra, Chawla and Sharma (2014), it was stated that tourism institutions providing education at higher education level could not meet the expectations of students in terms of service quality. Yousapronpaiboon (2014) found a similar result in his study on undergraduate students and stated that higher education institutions in Thailand could not meet students' service quality expectations, and the service quality could be increased, especially with the applications to be made by the administration. In addition, in the study conducted by Bayrak (2007) to measure students' perceived service quality level in higher education institutions, it was concluded that students expect the service quality of the university where they study to be 60.75% better.

Students perceived the lowest quality in English education. They stated that English education is inadequate in institutions. Similarly, in the studies of Hussein, Temizkan and Temizkan (2008), Gökçe and Batman (2015), Ayaz, Yalı, and Aydın (2017), they stated that foreign language proficiency is one of the most important issues in the sector and the foreign language education received is insufficient for an international career or an academic career.

The other expressions with the lowest quality perceptions were the items related to the curriculum used, the inclusion of practical lessons on the field of tourism guidance, the support of the institution in technical trips, and the adequacy and quality of the food and beverage areas. The low level of opinions on these items shows that students' perceptions about the practice aspect of education are not very positive.

Students perceived the highest level of quality in academic staff. The students stated that the lecturers helped the students. The lecturers who attended the courses were experts in their subjects, had sufficient knowledge and equipment, and effectively communicated. It has been concluded that the quality of academic staff is higher than other dimensions. Tayyar and Dilşeker (2012) stated in their study that the variable that affects satisfaction the most is the quality of academic staff, and they reported that they found this dimension at a partially sufficient level. In Yousapronpaiboon's (2014) study, the lecturers had sufficient knowledge and the highest quality perception.

Considering the gender of the students, no significant difference was found regarding the quality of tourist guidance teaching. The result that gender does not affect the quality of higher education was also seen in the studies conducted by Güzel (2006) and Bayrak (2007). In the study of Maksüdünov, Çavuş and Eleren (2016), it was revealed that there was a difference in favour of female students in terms of service quality. In the study conducted by

Karahan and Kuzu (2014), it was concluded that female students were more satisfied with food and library services than males. In the study conducted by Min and Khoon (2013) in Singapore, it was concluded that female students' perceptions of service quality were lower than male students.

Similarly, no statistically significant difference was found between the participants' grades and the dimensions of tourist guidance teaching. However, even if there was no statistically significant difference at this point, the quality perceptions of the last year students showed a decrease compared to the other grades. The reason for this can be explained by the anxiety of graduating and finding a job. According to the study of Maksüdünov, Çavuş and Eleren (2016), the grade of the students did not affect their service quality perceptions. In the study of Sakarya (2006), a difference was found between the grade of the students and their quality perceptions, and it was found that the satisfaction levels of the second-grade students were higher than the fourth-grade students. A similar result was found in the study of Karahan and Kuzu (2014); second-grade students stated that they were more satisfied with the cafeteria services. On the other hand, in the study conducted by Bayrak (2007), it was revealed that as the grades of students increased, their service quality perception levels also increased.

When the data about students' accommodation choices were examined, it was seen that the students staying at home had the same level of quality perception as the students staying at the dormitory and with their families. However, even if there was no statistically significant difference, the students staying with their families perceived the program and teaching as less quality than the students living in the dormitory. This difference can be explained by the fact that the students staying in the dormitory interact more with other departments' students and thus exchange information with each other on academic issues.

The quality perceptions of the students who want to be a tourist guide were found to be higher than the students who do not want to do the guidance profession in the teaching outcomes dimension and in general. This result is normal, as it is expected that the awareness and responsibility levels of the candidates who want to do the guidance profession are high. After graduation, issues related to finding a job, future goals, and personal development are not interesting for students who do not want to work as a tourist guide. However, the fact that there is no difference in other factors indicates that students have similar thoughts in the teaching process, although their expectations are high after graduation.

When examining the answers of the tourist guide candidates regarding their ages and the quality of tourism guidance teaching, no significant difference was found in the dimensions of management and support services, teaching environment, and teaching outcomes. However, a significant difference was found between the 21-22 age group and the 23-24 age group in terms of program and teaching quality, academic staff quality, and in general. Students in the 21-22 age group stated that they perceive quality higher than those in the 23-24 age group. In the study of Min and Khoon (2013), it was found that the age factor did not affect the perception of service quality in higher education. In Güzel's (2006) study, it was concluded that there was a significant difference only in the assurance dimension from the service quality dimensions, but it did not make a significant difference in other dimensions. In the study by Yousapronpaiboon (2014), it was reported that there was a significant difference between students' ages and service quality dimensions. In the study conducted by Bayrak (2007), it was found that as the age of the students increased, the level of service quality perceptions also increased.

When examining the tourist guide candidates' answers regarding their academic success and the quality of teaching, no significant difference was found. While it was expected that students' perceptions of the quality of teaching differ significantly according to

the academic success variable, not encountering such a difference is an important finding. On the other hand, when the dimensions of the scale were examined, it was noteworthy that the students with excellent academic success perceived the quality of management and support services lower than students with conditional pass, pass and average academic success. Again, the perception average of the students with excellent academic success was higher than the other students. This may be due to the higher meta-cognitive levels of these students. However, it should be kept in mind that this difference was not significant. A similar result was seen in the study by Yousapronpaiboon (2014). According to the study, no significant difference was found between students' academic success and their perception of service quality.

This study has a practical significance, apart from the value it provides to the literature conceptually. This study aimed to determine the quality of the institutions that provide tourism guidance education at the undergraduate level with the students' opinions. Thus, it has been tried to ensure that the relevant institutions are able to identify their deficiencies in terms of quality and make improvements in this regard. Seeing the shortcomings and making improvements can help to increase the quality of the teaching provided. In addition to the scale, more information can be obtained with the use of qualitative research methods together. Moreover, service users in higher education institutions cannot be limited to students only. For this reason, the inclusion of other segments other than students in future researches can provide important information in terms of quality management within the institution.

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