

## Development, Validity and Reliability of Significance Quest Scale (SQS)\*

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This study aimed to develop a measurement instrument to find out significance quest levels of adults and to test its psychometric properties. 621 people (385 females, 236 males) aged 18 years and older participated in the study. The results of confirmatory factor analysis were  $\chi^2/df = 1.89$ ; RMSEA=.065, GFI=.86; IFI=.91; TLI=.92 and CFI=.92 and the scale was found to consist of 26 items with a four factor structure. Face validity value of the scale was found as .90, while convergent validity was found as .67. Cronbach alpha coefficient calculated to find out the internal consistency of the scale was found as .95, while test retest correlation coefficient calculated to find out invariance was found as .84. Based on these values, it can be stated that the scale is a valid and reliable measurement instrument to find out the significance quest levels of adults.

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**Keywords:** Quest for significance, scale development, validity, reliability

### INTRODUCTION

Feeling significant can be characterized as a basic motivation or a psychological need (Scarpa et al., 2022). Significance is a key psychological resource and a vital construct at the heart of the human condition (Flett, 2022). The concept of significance, which is at the center of psychological well-being and health, expresses the feeling of being cared and valued by others (Flett et al., 2019). Flett (2018) argued that significance includes the feeling of being recognized and being important as an individual in accordance with people's needs for uniqueness and a distinctive identity. For other people, the feeling of being valuable and significant has a protective function that helps them to buffer life's stresses and setbacks (Flett et al., 2012). Significance can help the individual to get rid of social embarrassment, negative attitudes and behaviors, especially to cope with interpersonal stressors (Flett et al., 2015).

Significance is expressed as the process of feeling valuable and adding value to different areas of a person's life, such as work, school, relationships and self. It consists of feeling valuable, being appreciated, being respected and being recognized (Scarpa et al., 2022). The feeling of significance is derived from the conformity of people's attributes to the social value(s) in their culture and/or the adherence of their actions to social values (Kruglanski et al., 2022). Significance is defined, to some extent and in various ways, as the perception that we are an important part of the world around us. Being able to say that others care about what happens to us, think about us from time to time or take our advice is central to our perception of who we are (Elliot & Kao, 2004). Flett (2022) stated that the sense of significance is a structure which lies at the centre of human experiences; it is valid for a lifetime, universal, strong and can be changed and developed, it is a vital resource for endurance and harmony, it is related to the present and it has the potential to activate the individual. When someone experiences a sense of decline in the sense of significance, he or she might turn to seek for significance with this activation potential.

The desire to be important and respected in one's own eyes or in the eyes of other important people is expressed by the concept of significance seeking or personal significance seeking (Kruglanski & Bertelsen, 2020; Kruglanski et al., 2009). The significance quest is having what the culture values and having a competence valuable for the culture, and having control over the outcomes worthy of the appreciation of the self and others (Kruglanski et al., 2013). The concept of the quest for significance has been explained by the Significance Quest Theory (SQT).

### Theoretical Background

The SQT assumes that the desire to be and to feel significant is a basic human need (Kruglanski et al., 2009; 2014; 2013; Kruglanski & Orehek, 2011). The theory argues that when individuals are deprived of significance, they are motivated to initiate action to restore the sense of significance (Schumpe et al., 2018). According to

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the theory, there is a common core among the individual reasons for the significance quest. Honour, loyalty to the group leader, religious rewards (such as the wish to go to heaven), achieving or maintaining social status, personal loss, humiliation, group pressure, the attractiveness of the outcome, revenge, financial gains and even feminism can be listed among these reasons (Bloom, 2003; Webber et al., 2017). Two types of motivation are at the core of the significance quest. The collective significance quest based on the perception that the individual's social group is humiliated and/or is not respected and an individual significance quest based on personal experiences are these two motivations (Jasko et al., 2019). The common motivational core of the SQT is the personal significance quest, which is expressed as the desire to be respected according to the values of the group (sacred), to be recognized, to be someone and to be important in the eyes of group members (Elliott et al., 2007; Webber et al., 2017). Individuals tend to join social groups, to advocate the group's world view and to serve the group in order to eliminate the threat of insignificance (Kruglanski & Orehek, 2011). The theory suggests three intertwined conditions for the emergence of the significance quest (Elliott et al., 2007): the current loss of significance, the threat of loss of significance and the opportunity to gain significance (Kruglanski & Bertelsen, 2020; Webber et al., 2017).

*Loss of significance:* the SQT states that loss of significance leads individuals to seek for and find "appropriate tools for significance". Loss of significance, which can occur as a form of humiliation or dishonour, lowers someone's sense of significance below normal levels. Individuals are motivated to take actions to rectify or increase the decreased sense of significance ((Kruglanski et al., 2014; Webber et al., 2017). On the other hand, loss of significance can also develop because of insults and a sense of injustice towards the group with which individuals strongly identify and which is the basis of social identity. The injustice to which individuals think that their group is exposed triggers loss of significance and causes them to feel weak and insignificant (Kruglanski & Bertelsen, 2020; Kruglanski et al., 2009). In summary, loss of significance can result from people's own reasons, their group facing any injustice or insult, and believing that they do not have the opportunities which they should have although others do. Whatever the reason, loss of significance can lead individuals to the significance quest.

*Threat of loss of significance:* If someone is faced with the threat of loss of significance, s/he is motivated to regain significance (Kruglanski et al., 2018). It is a potential loss which is related to the actual loss of significance which will be experienced or which will take place if individuals refuse a task vital for themselves and their group (for example, becoming a suicide bomber). Individuals who brag about their loyalty to a group might face humiliation and accusations of hypocrisy and fraud if they refuse to risk their lives in order to promote their group's cause (Kruglanski et al., 2015). As well as the direct experience of loss of significance, the threat of perceived significance can also threaten individuals. When people do not fulfil the role expected of them, their society might view both individuals and their lives negatively. For this reason, they strive to fulfil the task no matter how difficult it is and even if it ends in death, instead of taking such a risk.

*The opportunity to gain significance:* Feelings of humiliation and relief from misery are not always the primary motivators in the significance quest. Those who seek significance might not be ill-educated or might not be exposed to harassment or discrimination. Instead, they might be in a good state with their seemingly perfect future expectations. These individuals may not have suffered any disrespect or experienced any deep feelings of humiliation. They are usually motivated by the attraction of being a famous hero (Sprinzak, 2001; Webber et al., 2017). The aim here is not simply to get away from feelings of insignificance, as in loss of significance; it might instead be moving towards being a super star, in other words, towards great importance which normal living conditions can rarely provide (Webber et al., 2017). In short, it can be said that the person is looking for an opportunity to achieve prestige and significance and is motivated to seize the opportunity.

### **Purpose of the Current Study**

When the quest for significance becomes dominant because of the loss of significance, the threat of loss of significance or the incentive to gain significance, other concerns are suppressed. In this case, behaviors constrained by secondary concerns arising from reasons such as love for others, empathy and kinship are released and acted upon (Kruglanski & Ellenberg, 2020). A feeling of insignificance is a feeling which is unpleasant and demands an action from the individual to restore his or her importance in society (Kruglanski et al., 2009). Social threats such as embarrassment, humiliation and deprivation of power which cause personal loss of significance can stimulate people's desire to win their significance back (Kruglanski et al., 2021). In a series of studies, Webber et al. (2018) found that being exposed to situations which cause psychological harm such as facing social threat or rejection, being betrayed or being devalued by others can stimulate the need for

personal significance and being valued. It can therefore be said that the significance quest is a basic factor leading behavior. A significance quest should be measured in order to recognize and understand individuals and their behaviors.

The evaluation and conceptualization of significance is still in its early stages and some elements of this construct need to be analysed (Flett et al., 2022). The General Mattering Scale (GMS), which was developed by Marcus and Rosenberg (1987) to measure significance is used to measure the perceived significance of an individual for others. The Anti-Mattering Scale developed by Flett et al. (2022) was devised to measure the complementary structure which includes the feelings of insignificance which might arise from being marginalized and from experiences which increase the feeling of being insignificant for others. A review of the relevant literature, however, found no measurement instruments with which to measure the significance quest. The purpose of the present study is therefore to develop a measurement instrument which can be used to determine the significance quest levels of adults and to conduct reliability and validity analyses of the new scale.

## **METHOD**

Information about the studies which were carried out in order to develop a Significance Quest Scale (SQS) and about the participants of the study are presented below.

### **Participants**

The convenience sampling method was used to reach appropriate participants. Şenol (2012) recommended that when there are limitations in terms of time, money and labour, selecting a sample from easily accessible and applicable units is called convenience sampling. A total of 621 (385 females, 2015 males) adults aged 18 and over ( $\bar{X}=34.41$ ,  $SD=9.51$ ) participated in the study conducted to test the psychometric properties of the SQS. Of the participants, 43.4% were married and 56.6% were single.

### **The Data Collection Process and Ethical Considerations**

During the process of developing the scale, Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) and Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) were performed within the scope of construct validity. The measurement instrument was applied to 406 (264 females, 142 males) individuals for EFA and EFA was performed on the data obtained. Following this, the measurement instrument was applied to the remaining 215 (121 female, 94 male) participants and CFA was performed on the data obtained. Prior to the study, permission was sought and obtained from the Educational Sciences Ethics Committee of a university in Turkey (Date: 01.07.2022; Document No: 731592). Participation in the study was voluntary and the researchers obtained signed informed consent forms from all the participants before applying the measurement instrument.

### **Data Collection Tools**

#### ***Significance Quest Scale (SQS)***

The process of developing the measurement instrument was initiated by a literature review from which an item pool was formed. Opinions and suggestions of a professor and two assistant professors from the field of psychological counselling and three language experts with at least a master's degree were taken about the items. A pilot form prepared in line with their expert opinions was applied to 35 participants and in line with the feedback received from these participants, the parts which had been found difficult to understand were revised and a 47-item trial form was prepared. During the scale development process, whether the sample size was sufficient (at least 250-300 participants for factor analysis) had to be taken into account (Heppner et al., 2008). Gorsuch (1990), however, had previously stated that the number of participants should be at least five times the number of items in the measurement instrument, whereas Tinsley and Tinsley (1987) suggested that the number of participants should be ten times the number of items in the scale. In this context, the SQS was applied to 406 adults through face-to-face applications and online processes. In other words, the scale was applied to participants who formed more than eight times the number of items in the EFA.

#### ***Desire for Being Liked Scale (DFBLS)***

The DFBLS measurement instrument was developed by Kaşıkara and Doğan (2017), who monitored 600 university students during the scale development process. With the data obtained from those participants, convergent validity, EFA and CFA were performed and internal consistency and stability were analysed in a reliability study. The scale was found to show a single factor and nine-item construct. It was found that the single factor explained 42% of the total variance. CFA results were  $\chi^2/sd=1.42$ ; AGFI=.88; GFI=.92; NFI=.87; IFI=.96, CFI=.95 and RMSEA=.06. The Cronbach Alpha coefficient calculated for internal consistency reliability

was found to be .82. The test-retest reliability of the scale was calculated to be .73. Higher scores on the scale indicate a higher desire for being liked (Kaşıkara & Doğan, 2017).

#### **Personal Information Form**

A Personal Information Form was prepared by the researchers to determine the demographic characteristics of the participants. It includes questions to find the gender, age and marital status of the participants.

#### **Data Analysis**

EFA was first conducted with SPSS 23.0 to analyse the factor structure of the SQS. The Bartlett Sphericity Test and the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) Test were applied to establish the suitability of the data obtained with the SQS for factor analysis and to determine the sufficiency of the sample size (Karaman, 2015). Explained total variance values of the scale were calculated within the scope of the EFA. In addition, rotated component matrices were calculated using the Varimax technique, one of the orthogonal rotation methods, and a Scree Plot was formed. CFA was conducted using SPSS AMOS 23.0 software to determine the suitability of the factor structure found from the EFA. With CFA, the fit of the model was evaluated with  $\chi^2/df$ , RMSEA, CFI, IFI, TLI and GFI fit indices. The DFBLS was used to analyse the convergent validity of the SQS. Convergent validity was calculated using the Pearson Moments Correlation Coefficient. The face validity of the scale was also analysed as part of the scope of the study. For face validity, opinions were received from 35 randomly chosen participants who had similar characteristics to those of the intended cohort. The reliability of the SQS was analysed using the internal consistency and test-retest methods. The Cronbach's Alpha coefficient was calculated to determine the internal consistency. For test-retest reliability, the SQS was reapplied to 71 participants with an interval of eighteen days and the correlation between the results obtained from the two applications was calculated using the Pearson Moments correlation coefficient.

### **RESULTS**

#### **Validity of the SQS**

##### **Face Validity**

Face validity, which was carried out to evaluate the clarity and comprehensibility of the items in the measurement instrument, is a type of validity which is calculated based on the opinions of at least ten individuals in the intended population of the scale (Holden, 2010; Nevo, 1985). In this study, the measurement instrument was applied to 35 individuals to analyse the face validity of the SQS and the participants were asked to evaluate the clarity and comprehensibility of the items on a scale between 4 ('Totally clear and comprehensible') and 1 ('Not at all clear and comprehensible'). The S-FVI/Ave [sum of I-FVI scores/number of item] value of the scale was found to be .90, which showed that the SQS had a sufficient level of face validity (Chin et al., 2018).

##### **Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA)**

Skewness and kurtosis coefficients were calculated in order to analyse whether the data obtained from the 406 participants had a normal distribution. The skewness and kurtosis values of the scale were found to be between +1.5 and -1.5, as suggested by Tabachnick and Fidell (2013). Before EFA, in order to determine whether the data set was suitable for analysis, the Bartlett Sphericity Test and the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) Test were applied and the results were examined, as suggested in the literature (Karaman, 2015). The KMO test result was .95 and the Bartlett Sphericity Test result was .000. These values show that the data came from multiple distributions and that the sample size was sufficient for EFA (Field, 2009). EFA was initiated on the basis of these results. In factor analysis, theoretically there are as many factors as the number of items in the measurement instrument initially (Büyüköztürk, 2021). The factor analysis process is used to determine how few factors represent the relationships between the variables at the highest degree. There are different criteria regarding how many factors there will be (Karagöz, 2016; Özdamar, 2002). The first of these criteria is the method of considering the factors whose eigenvalues are 1 and greater than 1 (Özdamar, 2002). The explained variance values of the SQS were analysed in this context and the values obtained are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1.** SQS Total variance values explained

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extracted Dimensions			After Rotation		
	Eigenvalue	Percentage of Variance	Total Explained Variance value	Eigenvalue	Percentage of Variance	Total Explained Variance value	Eigenvalue	Percentage of Variance	Total Explained Variance value
		Explained			Explained	Explained		Explained	
1	11.539	44.381	44.381	11.539	44.381	44.381	5.392	20.737	20.737
2	2.034	7.823	52.204	2.034	7.823	52.204	4.634	17.824	38.562
3	1.182	4.545	56.749	1.182	4.545	56.749	3.049	11.728	50.289
4	1.076	4.138	60.887	1.076	4.138	60.887	2.755	10.598	60.887
5	.829	3.188	64.075						
6	.786	3.023	67.098						
7	.672	2.583	69.681						
8	.650	2.500	72.181						
9	.623	2.394	74.576						
10	.586	2.254	76.829						
11	.562	2.163	78.992						
12	.538	2.069	81.061						
13	.527	2.026	83.087						
14	.454	1.744	84.832						
15	.437	1.680	86.512						
16	.431	1.658	88.170						
17	.395	1.518	89.688						
18	.390	1.499	91.187						
19	.358	1.379	92.566						
20	.339	1.304	93.870						
21	.303	1.165	95.034						
22	.288	1.106	96.140						
23	.277	1.064	97.204						
24	.265	1.021	98.225						
25	.248	.953	99.178						
26	.214	.822	100.000						

Table 1 shows that there were four factors with an eigenvalue greater than 1 in the measurement instrument. The total variance explained by these four factors was 60.88. Tabachnick and Fidell (2013) stated that factor determination methods should be interpreted through the rotation process and also suggested that the factor load of an item should be determined as at least .32. In the current study, the factor load of an item was determined as .40. On the other hand, when the same item gives a factor load in more than one factor, it is stated that the factor load value difference between the two factors should be at least .1 (Stevens, 2002). In addition, each stable factor should include three items (MacCallum et al., 1999). The Rotated Component Matrix results calculated with this information are shown in Table 2.

**Table 2.** SQS Rotated components matrices

Items	Subscales			
	Impressiveness	Respectability	Difference	Popularity
I44	.752			
I42	.695			
I34	.665			
I25	.659			
I47	.658			
I28	.643			
I30	.630			
I43	.628			
I24	.624			
I37	.619			
I4		.763		
I20		.759		
I15		.715		
I5		.703		
I23		.664		
I40		.651		
I46		.597		
I18			.670	
I19			.651	
I29			.642	
I27			.619	
I26			.541	
I3				.729
I1				.721
I6				.659
I11				.524

Table 2 shows that the SQS had a 26-item structure with four factors. There were ten items in the Impressiveness factor, seven in the Respectability factor, five in the Difference factor and four in the Popularity factor. A Scree Plot of the SQS shows the distribution of items to factors more clearly (see Figure 1).

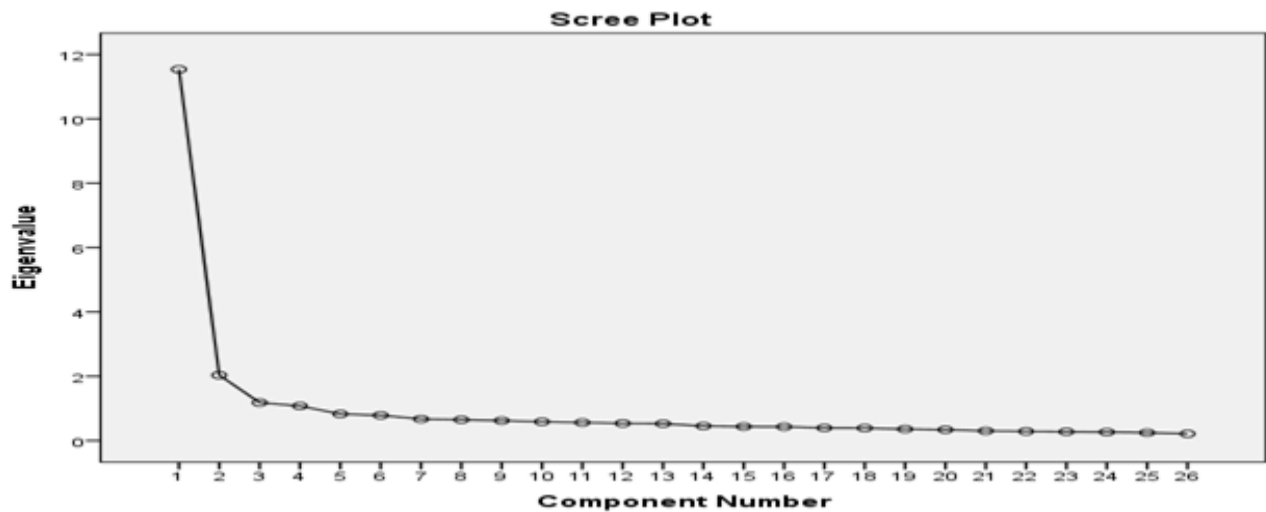


Figure 1. SQS Scree Plot

Eigenvalues are analysed with a scree plot. Factors up to the point where the vertical line becomes horizontal are included in the solution (Karagöz, 2016). The SQS scree plot shown as Figure 1 shows that the line becomes horizontal after four factors. As a result of EFA, when the total explained variance value, rotated component matrices and scree plot were examined, it was found that the items were grouped in four factors.

**Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA)**

CFA was conducted to evaluate the EFA results of the measurement instrument. The 26-item form was applied to 215 individuals. Before CFA, it was checked whether each item of the scale met the normality distribution. The skewness and kurtosis values of the data obtained were calculated and the data were found to be within normal distribution. CFA was then performed using SPSS AMOS 23.0.

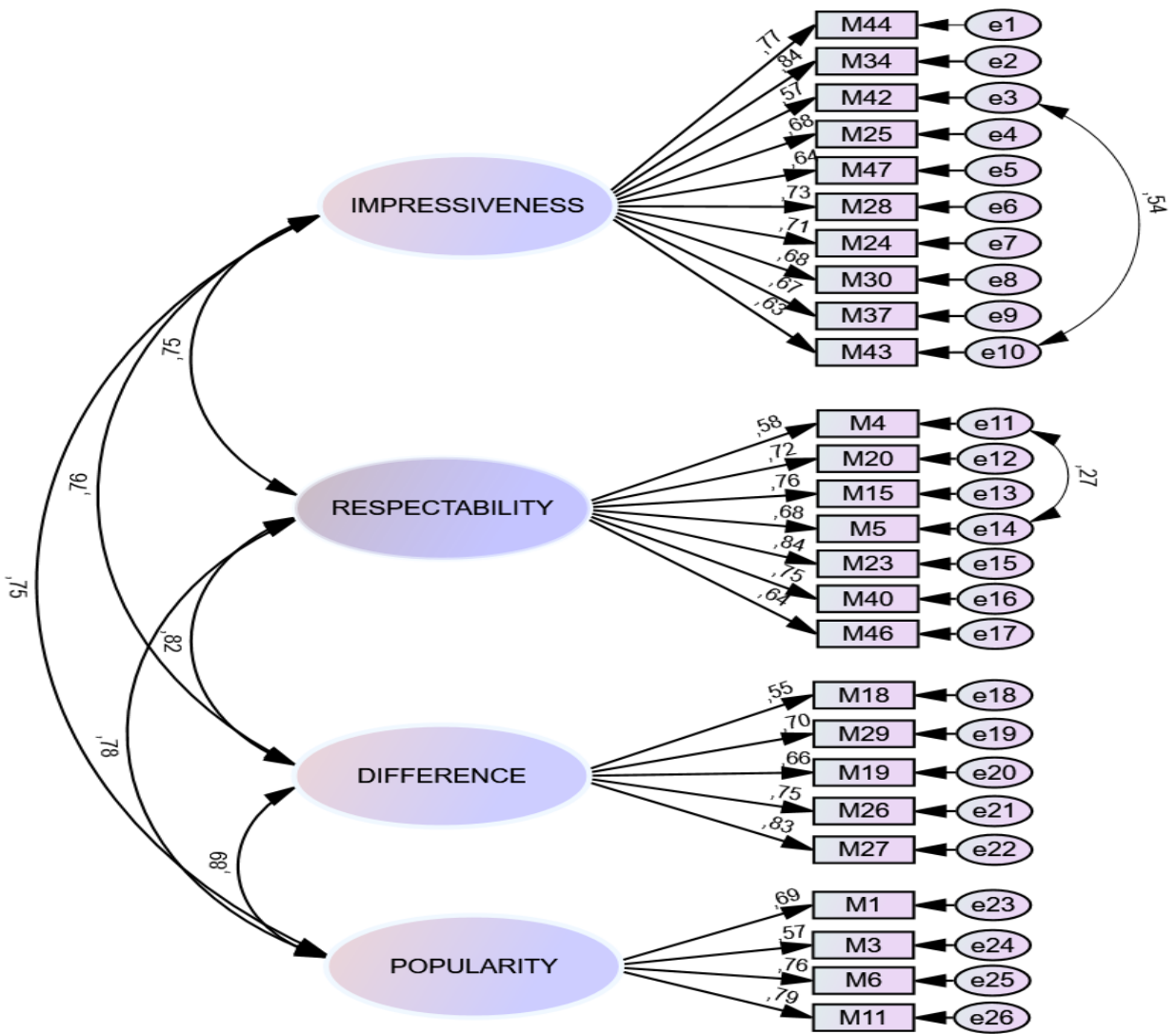
Chi-square goodness, GFI, CFI and RMSEA are among the most used statistics to test a model fit in CFA (Karagöz, 2016). Here,  $\chi^2/sd < 3$  Chi-Square Goodness showed an acceptable fit whereas  $\chi^2/sd < 2$  showed a perfect fit (Kelloway, 1998). Bryne (2001) stated that the Comparative Fit Index (CFI) should be  $>.90$  and the Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA) should be  $< .080$ . It has been stated that a GFI value of  $\geq .85$  is considered an acceptable model (Jöreskog & Sörbom, 1993; Karagöz, 2016; Marsh et al., 1988; Tabachnick & Fidell, 2013).

When CFA was applied to the 26-item and four factor structure of SQS which was found as a result of the EFA, the fit indices of the initial model were found to be  $\chi^2/sd = 2.09$ ; GFI=.83; IFI=.88; TLI=.86, CFI=.88 and RMSEA=.071. It can therefore be said that some fit index values of the 26-item form were acceptable but that others were not. According to Karagöz (2016), the required corrections can be made in CFA by analysing modification indices. When the corrections indicated by modification indices are made, the model shows a better fit. Corrections should be in line with the theoretical structure. Some changes were made by checking the modification indices of the SQS. The fit indices of the modified model were retested and the results are shown in Table 3.

Table 3. SQS Confirmatory factor analysis results

$\chi^2$	<i>sd</i>	<i>P</i>	$\chi^2/sd$	GFI	TLI	CFI	IFI	RMSEA
547.489	289	.00	1.89	.86	.91	.92	.92	.065

Table 3 shows that the SQS has an acceptable fit level in a model of 26-items and four factors. The construct resulting from confirmatory factor analysis is shown as Figure 2.



**Figure 2.** Confirmatory Factor Analysis Model of the SQS

As can be seen in Figure 2, the four factor and 26-item construct of SQS was confirmed. Table 4 presents the item contents of the scale, the distribution of the items to the subscales, and the factor loads resulting from the CFA.

**Table 4.** Factor loads for the items of SQS

<i>Item Number</i>	<i>Items</i>	<i>Subscale</i>	<i>Factor load</i>
M44	I use my authority to impress those around me	Impressiveness	.77
M34	I do my best to impress everyone around me	Impressiveness	.84
M42	I take care to choose clothes that will be noticed	Impressiveness	.57
M25	I like to cause sensation	Impressiveness	.68
M47	I try to show my worth by talking about my family elders	Impressiveness	.64
M28	I somehow get involved in conversations I am not in	Impressiveness	.73
M24	I speak loudly to make my presence felt in the group	Impressiveness	.79
M30	I try to influence others by advocating different ideas	Impressiveness	.69
M37	I try to share things that will get a lot of likes in social media	Impressiveness	.68
M43	I try to have an image different from everyone	Impressiveness	.64
M4	I want everyone around me to love me	Respectability	.58
M20	I want everyone around me to value me	Respectability	.72
M15	I want everyone around me to accept me	Respectability	.76
M5	I want everyone to approve of what I do	Respectability	.68
M23	I want everyone around me to like me	Respectability	.84
M40	I want my thoughts to be liked by everyone	Respectability	.75
M46	I want everyone around me to laugh at my jokes	Respectability	.64
M18	I enjoy answering questions that no-one knows	Difference	.57
M29	I strive to have a personality that is envied	Difference	.70
M19	I try to show my difference somehow	Difference	.66
M26	I want to be recognized in my environment	Difference	.75
M27	I dream of being someone pointed at	Difference	.83
M1	I want everyone to know me	Popularity	.69
M3	I want to have a popular friend group	Popularity	.57
M6	I want to be the popular person of the groups I am in	Popularity	.76
M11	I want all the attention to be on me	Popularity	.79

The criterion-dependent validity of the scale was analysed in addition to the construct validity. For this, convergent validity was performed.

#### ***Convergent Validity***

In the convergent validity study of the SQS, the DFBS developed by Kaşıkara and Doğan (2017) was used. Both instruments were applied to an adult group of 143 individuals, one after the other. The correlation between the total scores of the scales was calculated using the Pearson Moments Correlation Coefficient. The correlation coefficient between the SQS and DFBS was found to be .67. The convergent validity of the SQS was then examined by calculating the Mean Variance Subtracted (AVE) and the Combined Reliability (CR) values. It has been reported that the AVE value should be  $\geq .50$  (Fornell & Larcker, 1981) and the CR value should be  $\geq .60$  (Bagozzi & Yi, 1988) for convergent validity, and that all the CR values of the scale are expected to be greater than the AVE values (Yashloglu, 2017). Table 5 presents the AVE and CR values of the SPS subscales.



**Table 5.** AVE and CR Values

<i>Subscales</i>	<i>AVE (≥.50)</i>	<i>CR (≥.60)</i>
Impressiveness	.50	.90
Respectability	.51	.87
Difference	.50	.83
Popularity	.50	.79

As Table 5 shows, the AVE and CR values of the SQS subscales were above the theoretically specified limits. It can therefore be said that the convergent validity of the scale was high.

#### **Reliability of the SQS**

The reliability of the SQS was analysed and found to be within the scope of internal consistency and stability. The Cronbach Alpha coefficient was calculated for internal consistency and was found to be .95. Cronbach Alpha coefficients were found to be .90 for the impressiveness factor, .90 for respectability, .82 for difference and .84 for popularity. The test-retest method was used to determine the stability of the scale. The correlation coefficient between the test-retest results was found to be .84. Karagöz (2016) stated that if the Cronbach Alpha coefficient of a scale is  $>.80$ , the scale has internal consistency and is highly reliable. Şencan (2005) stated that a correlation coefficient should be interpreted as 'perfect' at the level of .90 and 'very good' at .80. It can therefore be said that the SQS is a highly reliable scale.

#### **Scoring and Interpretation of the SQS**

Options ranging between 1 and 5 were available for each item for scoring the SQS. The positivity of the responses given to the items in the SQS increased from 1 ('Not at all suitable for me') to 5 ('Very suitable for me'). The minimum possible score from the scale was 26 and the maximum possible score was 130. An increase in the score indicates an increased significance quest.

### **CONCLUSION and DISCUSSION**

Failure to meet the need for significance, which is at the center of human experience and persists throughout life, can have profound and negative effects on the individual. The need for significance is a resilient, powerful, changing and evolving construct which is vital for individual adaptation (Flett et al., 2019; Flett, 2022). This universal need encompasses people's desire to understand that their behavior has a purpose: to achieve a desirable social status and to achieve socially valuable goals (Bélanger et al., 2022; Moyano et al., 2019). The search for significance, which is a universal need, has been studied with qualitative research methods on topics such as radicalism, terrorism, suicide bombing and violence (Kruglanski et al., 2015; 2018; Kruglanski & Orehek, 2011; Webber et al., 2017; 2018). On the other hand, it is thought that this universal motivation not only triggers processes such as violence and aggression, but also initiates honorable actions (Webber et al., 2017). In this context, it can be stated that it is necessary to determine the relationship of both positive and negative behaviors with the quest for significance construct. The current study was carried out considering the need for a measurement tool to examine the quest for significance construct quantitatively and to determine the relationship between the quest for significance and other processes.

The purpose of this study was to develop a measurement instrument which can be used for determining the significance quest of individuals aged 18 and older, and to conduct validity and reliability analyses on that instrument, termed the SQS. In this context, a literature review was conducted, an item pool was created and the first form of the scale was devised on the basis of the views of established experts. First, the face validity of the SQS was examined. The index calculated for face validity was .90, which showed that the face validity of the SQS was sufficient (Chin et al., 2018). Next, EFA was conducted to find what kind of factor structure the significance quest had. The EFA showed that the SQS had a four-factor and 26-item structure. It was found that this four-factor structure explained 60.88% of the total variance. CFA was conducted on the four-factor structure obtained from the EFA. The results of the CFA were  $\chi^2/sd=1.89$ , RMSEA= .065, CFI= .92, IFI= .92, GFI=.86, TLI= .92. It can therefore be said that these goodness of fit values were within acceptable limits (Jöreskog & Sörbom, 1993; Hu & Bentler, 1999; Kline, 2011; Marsh et al., 1988). The convergent validity of the SQS was .67. Büyüköztürk (2021) stated that correlations of  $\geq.30$  for a validity coefficient indicate the validity of the test. It can therefore be said that the SQS has high convergent validity. The AVE and CR values of the subscales of the SQS were calculated and it was found that the AVE values of the subscales were .50 and above,

as suggested in the literature (Fornell & Larcker, 1981) and the CR values were .79 and above. In the literature, it is stated that the CR value should be .60 and more (Bagozzi & Yi, 1988), on the other hand, the CR values should be greater than the AVE values (Yaşlıoğlu, 2017). In line with the results obtained from the calculation of AVE and CR values, it can be said that the convergent validity of the SQS was high.

In the present study, which was conducted on the reliability of a newly devised measurement instrument, the Cronbach Alpha coefficient was .95 for the overall scale and .90 for the impressiveness factor, .90 for respectability, .82 for difference and .84 for popularity. The test-retest correlation coefficient of the scale was .84. These values show that the scale had a high reliability level. Reliability values obtained from two different methods therefore showed that the SQS is a stable measurement tool with high internal consistency (Nunnally & Bernstein, 1994). The psychometric properties of the SQS showed that the measurement instrument is a valid and reliable scale which can be used to determine the significance quest levels of individuals aged 18 and older.

## LIMITATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of the study should be evaluated by considering some limitations. Gender and age invariances of the SQS were not analysed in the present study. It can be recommended that gender and age invariance should be analysed in future studies. Also, because the scale was developed as a measurement instrument for adults and used with an adult sample, it is recommended that adaptation studies using the SQS should be conducted with and for adolescents.

Individuals who feel significant will have an effective inner source which responds positively to challenges in life. In other words, a clear sense of significance can combat or even prevent various stresses in life. On the other hand, individuals who lack the sense of being significant for others will be deprived of the basic sense of personal significance, human commitment and social acceptance, which are required for development and change (Flett, 2022). It can therefore be said that healthy individuals need to feel significant. The significance quest is the desire to be cared for, valued and appreciated by others who look for a positive perspective. The significance quest plays a key role in human relations and is therefore assumed to have affected humans throughout their evolution (Kruglanski et al., 2022). For this reason, examination of the significance quest, which triggers and directs individuals' behaviors, can reveal valuable results in terms of understanding human behavior and humans. As stated above, the relationship between the quest for significance, a universal need, and constructs such as thrill seeking, substance use tendency, smartphone addiction, the desire to be liked, relative deprivation, self-esteem, marital satisfaction, anti-social tendencies, academic achievement and shopping addiction can also be examined. In this context, the SCS can be used by humanitarian professionals and researchers to determine the level of importance seeking and significance in individuals.

## Declarations

### Conflict of Interest

The authors declared no conflicts of interest with respect to the authorship or the publication of this article.

### Ethics Approval

All procedures performed in studies involving human participants were in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and/or national research committee and with the 1964 Helsinki Declaration and its later amendments or comparable ethical standards. The study was conducted with the 04-18 numbered permission stated in the 01.07.2022 dated and 731592 numbered Ethics Committee approval of Aksaray University Rectorship.

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### Research and Publication Ethics Statement

The study was conducted with the 04-18 numbered permission stated in the 01.07.2022 dated and 731592 numbered Ethics Committee approval of Aksaray University Rectorship. Hereby, we as the authors consciously assure that for the manuscript "Development, Validity and Reliability of Significance Quest Scale (SQS)" the following is fulfilled:

- This material is the authors' own original work, which has not been previously published elsewhere.
- The paper reflects the authors' own research and analysis in a truthful and complete manner.

- The results are appropriately placed in the context of prior and existing research.
- All sources used are properly disclosed.

#### **Contribution Rates of Authors to the Article**

The authors provide equal contribution to this work.

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