



Examination of the Relationship Between Fans' Opinions on The Source of Violence in Football and Levels of Identification in Sports

Spor Taraftarların Futbolda Őiddetin Kaynađına İliřkin Grřleriyle Sporda zdeřleşme Dzeyleri Arasındaki İliřkinin İncelenmesi

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EXAMINATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FANS' OPINIONS ON THE SOURCE OF VIOLENCE IN FOOTBALL AND LEVELS OF IDENTIFICATION IN SPORTS

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to examine the relationship between fans' views on the sources of violence in football and their levels of identification with sports. A total of 283 participants, including 252 males and 31 females, took part in the survey, and the results were analyzed. Since the data showed a normal distribution, One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and Independent t-tests were used. Pearson Correlation test was used to determine the relationship between the sub-dimensions of the scale. According to the findings of the study, there was a positive weak relationship between identification and the sub-dimensions of violence associated with sports media, referee decisions, coaches and managers, and athlete behaviors ($p < 0.05$). As participants' identification with their teams increased, the violence associated with sports media, referee decisions, coaches and managers, and athlete behaviors also increased. In terms of gender, it was determined that identification was more prevalent among male individuals. An age-based analysis revealed a significant difference among the 18-23 age group. Married participants identified more strongly with their teams, and individuals with a high school education level showed higher levels of identification. In conclusion, this study focused on the sources of violence in sports and fans' levels of identification with their teams. It found a positive relationship between identification and violence associated with sports media, referee decisions, coaches and managers, and athlete behaviors. These findings can help sports media and other stakeholders better understand their responsibilities in reducing violence and contribute to the development of strategies to prevent it.

Keywords: Fans, Identification, Sports, Violence.



SPOR TARAFTARLARIN FUTBOLDA ŞİDDETİN KAYNAĞINA İLİŞKİN GÖRÜŞLERİYLE SPORDA ÖZDEŞLEŞME DÜZEYLERİ ARASINDAKİ İLİŞKİNİN İNCELENMESİ

ÖZ

Bu çalışmanın amacı taraftarların futbolda şiddetin kaynağına ilişkin görüşleriyle sporda özdeşleşme düzeyleri arasındaki ilişkinin incelenmesidir. Anket çalışmasına 252'si erkek 31'i kadın olmak üzere 283 kişi katılım göstermiştir. Veriler

normal dağılım gösterdiği için Tek-Yönlü Varyans Analizi (ANOVA) ve Independent t testi kullanılmıştır. Ölçek alt boyutları arasındaki ilişkiyi belirlemek için veriler normal dağılım gösterdiğinden Pearson Korelasyon testi kullanılmıştır. Araştırmanın bulgularına göre özdeşleşme ile spor mediasından, hakem kararlarından, antrenör ve teknik direktörden ve sporcu davranışlarından kaynaklanan şiddet alt boyutları arasında pozitif zayıf bir ilişki bulunmuştur ($p < 0,05$). Katılımcıların takımla özdeşleşme düzeyi arttıkça spor mediasından, hakem kararlarından, antrenör ve teknik direktörden ve sporcu davranışlarından kaynaklanan şiddet artmaktadır. Cinsiyet göre, özdeşleşme durumunun daha çok erkek bireylerde olduğu belirlenmiştir. Yaş gruplarına göre yapılan incelemelerde ise 18-23 yaş arasında anlamlı bir fark tespit edilmiştir. Evli katılımcıların takımlarıyla daha çok özdeşleştiği ve lise düzeyinde eğitim alan bireylerin özdeşleşme düzeyinin daha yüksek olduğu bulgularına ulaşılmıştır. Özetle, bu çalışma sporda görülen şiddetin kaynaklarına ve taraftarların takımla özdeşleşme düzeylerine odaklanmıştır. Özdeşleşme ile spor medyası, hakem kararları, antrenör ve teknik direktörler, sporcu davranışlarından kaynaklanan şiddet arasında pozitif bir ilişki olduğu bulunmuştur. Bu sonuçlar, spor medyasının ve diğer faktörlerin şiddeti azaltmak için üzerine düşen sorumlulukları daha iyi anlamalarını sağlayabilir ve şiddeti önlemeye yönelik stratejilerin geliştirilmesine katkıda bulunabilir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Özdeşleşme, Spor, Şiddet, Taraftar.



INTRODUCTION

Sport is a rapidly developing sector with millions of spectators around the world. This sector, which also has a financial base, involves millions of dollars. Investments in this sector are not limited to clubs and athletes. The development of the sports industry is observed indirectly and directly with many sectors, such as the entertainment sector, the media sector, the betting business, the provision of sports equipment, and the transportation sector (Özen et al., 2013).

If we look at the historical process, sport was first accepted as a game and a means of distraction from work. Over time, sport has acquired different meanings in economic, political and legal terms (Atalay, 2012). In the following processes, the results and outcomes in the understanding of sport became more concrete and commercial and economic concerns came to the fore (Küçük et al., 2024). In addition to the positive developments, deviant behaviors such as violence and aggression in sports also emerged. Passion for winning and losing, especially among spectators, has taken on a serious meaning. This semantic seriousness has revealed the violence and aggression on the sports fields and in the sports areas (Kaplan, 2016).

Aggression in sports can be defined as the type of behavior that occurs to harm an organization. The attack and aggression situation that occurs is intended to affect the resulting competition and not to harm the individual. People who engage in aggressive behavior know that they cannot win the competition under normal conditions and try to turn the outcome in their favor with violent behaviors such as intimidation and threats. This situation clearly leads to violence in sports (Yeter, 2006).

If we take a look at the sports sector, we find that increasing fierce competition and violent situations have become commonplace. This everydayness leads to behaviors such as violence and aggression. Violence and aggressive behaviors are common especially in sports games with a large number of spectators. Many psychological and sociological situations are the cause of fan violence in sports (Dere and Türen; 2020).

The phenomenon of violence in sports is divided into different classes: physical violence, psychological violence and economic violence. Physical violence in sports is directed against the body and physical force. During the competition, the aggressive actions of athletes hitting and kicking each other define physical violence. Physical violence is directed not only against another person, but it can also be directed against an object. Football players kicking the goal wall or turf, or a tennis player damaging his racket by hitting it on the ground, are considered physical violence. Physical violence also occurs in interactions between different groups. Similar actions that result from interactions, such as between athletes and referees, between referees and athletes, or between spectators and athletes, can be classified as physical violence in sports.

If it is necessary to evaluate violence in sport psychologically, psychological violence falls under the indicator of physical violence, even if it is evaluated separately from physical violence. When we consider psychological violence, there is a tendency and risk that it will turn into physical violence or other types of violence. Situations in which athletes, spectators, or coaches swear at and yell at opponents are examples of psychological violence. It is also psychological violence when the coach makes derogatory remarks during training or between competitions.

In economically motivated violence, economic resources are used as a means of sanctioning, powering, and threatening athletes. Behaviours such as preventing athletes from advancing in their career, confiscating their salary, giving them little money, promising bonuses and not paying them, athletes' constantly working on the reserve team and not making the main team, asking athletes to do too much with too little money are examples of economic violence in sports. Economic violence is a negative factor that affects the quality of life and performance of an athlete. This situation negatively affects the athlete's motivation

(Dođaner et al., 2020). Problem of the study was determined as: Is there a relationship between fans' views about the source of violence in football and their level of identification with the sport?

METHOD

Research Group

The research group consisted of 283 fans (n=283) who were asked to complete the personal data and measurement instrument forms by obtaining the necessary permissions from the fans who attended the competitions of Çorumspor club before and after the competitions in the 2021-2022 soccer season.

Data Collection Process

In order to conduct the study, the necessary permissions were obtained from the Ethics Committee for Non-interventional Research of Hitit University on 02.12.2021 with decision number 2021-85. After the ethics committee gave its approval, a form with personal information and measurement instruments were filled out by the fans of Çorumspor Soccer Club to obtain the required information.

Data Collection Tools

In our study, the personal information form prepared by the researcher and the scale of fans' views about the source of violence in football, as well as the semantic differences scale (identification scale of sports fans) were used. The personal information form was used to obtain information about the demographic characteristics of the fans who participated in our study. Demographic information included age, gender, marital status, education level, employment status, monthly income, and frequency of attendance to competitions.

Scale of Fans' Views on the Sources of Violence in Football: In the qualitative interview phase of the two-stage study developed by Reyhan et al. (2020), the opinions of a group of 24 individuals consisting of referees, managers, coaches, fans, media representatives, and football players were solicited using a semi-structured form and themes related to the source of violence were created. In the second phase, items were written on these themes and the form was applied to the study group consisting of 2262 fans. As a result of the explanatory factor analysis, the scale was finalised with 25 items. It was found that the scale consisted of 5 sub-dimensions and the factor loadings of the items were in the range of 0.46-0.79. As a result of confirmatory factor analysis, which was conducted to determine the accuracy of the existing structure, it was found that the structure showed good fit

with the criterion scores. To determine the reliability, the values of the reliability coefficient Cronbach's alpha and the correlations between the items and the total test were analysed. It was found that the values of the reliability coefficients of the factors were in the range of 0.60-0.74 and the values of the item-total test correlation were in the range of 0.32-0.82. Thus, the obtained values show that the scale is valid and reliable for determining fans' opinion about violence in football.

Sports Fan Identification Scale: The validity and reliability of the "Sport Spectator Identification Scale" developed by Wann and Branscombe (1993) was translated into Turkish by Günay and Tiryaki (2003). A total of 297 university students (202 males, 95 females) aged 17-27 years who were fans of a team participated in the study. A principal components factor analysis was conducted to test the construct validity of the scale. The percentage of variance explained by a single factor was 59%, and the internal consistency value calculated by Cronbach's alpha was 87. The test-retest reliability of the scale, which was tested on 48 university students (29 males, 19 females) aged 17-27 years at 3-week intervals was determined to be 85%. The results of reliability and validity show that the scale can be used for sports fans.

Statistical Analysis Methods Used: The collected data were analyzed using SPSS 22 package program. Data on variables such as gender, age, marital status, and education of the participants were analyzed descriptively. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was used for the normality tests of the values obtained from the data, since the sample group was larger than 50. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and independent t-test were used because the data had a normal distribution. The Scheffe and Hochberg GT2 tests were used for homogenized data, and the Tamhane post hoc multiple comparison test was used for nonhomogenized data. The Pearson correlation test was used to determine the relationship between the subdimensions of the scale because the data had a normal distribution. Statistical values were evaluated with a 95% confidence interval and significance levels $p < 0.05$ and $p < 0.01$.

RESULTS

Table 1. Comparison of total scale scores by gender

Scale Dimensions	Gender	n	Mean±Sd.	t	p
Identification	Male	252	38.83±12.68	4.011	<0.001
	Woman	31	29.67±11.91		
Violence caused by sports media	Male	252	20.72±3.10	3.085	0.002
	Woman	31	18.93±2.52		
Violence arising from referee decisions	Male	252	17.69±3.09	2.632	0.009
	Woman	31	16.16±2.85		
Violence by coaches and managers	Male	252	9.98±3.48	-1.854	0.065
	Woman	31	11.19±2.85		
Violence by fans and cheerleaders	Male	252	17.53±3.56	0.469	0.639
	Woman	31	17.22±3.07		
Violence caused by athlete behavior	Male	252	10.20±3.31	-0.137	0.891
	Woman	31	10.29±2.25		

In Table 1, a highly significant difference was found between men and women in the scale Identification with the team ($p < 0.05$). The significant difference in identification is in favor of male participants. A significant difference was found in the sub-dimensions of violence by sports media and referee decisions in terms of gender ($p < 0.05$). In both sub-dimensions, the significant difference was in favor of the male participants. In the other sub-dimensions, no significant difference was found ($p > 0.05$).

Table 2. Comparison of total scale scores according to marital status

Scale Dimensions	Marital Status	n	Mean±Sd.	t	p
Identification	Single	133	39.02±12.68	1.464	0.144
	Married	150	36.78±13.05		
Violence caused by sports media	Single	133	20.52±2.98	-0.019	0.985
	Married	150	20.53±3.20		
Violence arising from referee decisions	Single	133	17.46±3.19	-0.326	0.745
	Married	150	17.58±3.01		
Violence by coaches and managers	Single	133	9.58±3.08	-2.462	0.014
	Married	150	10.58±3.67		
Violence by fans and cheerleaders	Single	133	16.10±3.10	-6.809	<0.001
	Married	150	18.74±3.39		
Violence caused by athlete behavior	Single	133	9.78±2.60	-2.150	0.032
	Married	150	10.60±3.63		

No significant difference was found in the total identification score by marital status ($p > 0.05$). A significant difference was found in the sub-dimensions of violence by coaches and technical directors, athlete and fan behaviour, and cheerleaders in terms of marital status ($p < 0.05$). In all three subdimensions, the mean of married participants was higher than that of single participants. No significant difference was found in the other two sub-dimensions ($p > 0.05$).

Table 3. Comparison of total scale scores according to educational status

Scale Dimensions	Education Status	n	Mean±Sd.	F	p	Multiple Comparison
Identification	High School (A)	113	42.48±9.61	14.700	<0.001	A>B
	University (B)	133	33.93±14.53			
	Graduate (C)	37	37.62±10.89			
	Total	283	37.83±12.90			
Violence caused by sports media	High School (A)	113	20.51±2.79	0.221	0.802	
	University (B)	133	20.62±3.55			
	Graduate (C)	37	20.24±2.08			
	Total	283	20.53±3.09			
Violence arising from referee decisions	High School (A)	113	17.44±2.69	0.388	0.679	
	University (B)	133	17.48±3.52			
	Graduate (C)	37	17.94±2.64			
	Total	283	17.53±3.10			
Violence by coaches and managers	High School (A)	113	9.63±3.00	3.691	0.026	A<B
	University (B)	133	10.69±3.90			
	Graduate (C)	37	9.48±2.56			
	Total	283	10.113.44±			
Violence by fans and cheerleaders	High School (A)	113	16.42±3.90	9.560	<0.001	A<B,C
	University (B)	133	18.28±3.21			
	Graduate (C)	37	18.00±2.22			
	Total	283	17.50±3.50			
Violence caused by athlete behavior	High School (A)	113	10.21±3.43	4.643	0.010	C<A,B
	University (B)	133	10.60±3.14			
	Graduate (C)	37	8.81±2.33			
	Total	283	10.21±3.21			

A significant difference was found between groups in the total identification score in terms of educational status ($p < 0.05$). The significant difference was in favour of the participants with high educational level. In terms of the educational status of the fans, a significant difference was found between the groups in the sub-dimensions of violence caused by coaches and technical directors, behaviour of athletes and fans and cheerleaders ($p < 0.05$). No significant difference was found in the other two sub-dimensions ($p > 0.05$).

Table 4. Comparison of total scale scores according to occupational groups

Scale Dimensions	Occupation	n	Mean±Sd.	F	p	Multiple Comparison
Identification	Unemployed (A)	89	41.11±11.46	12.479	<0.001	A>D B>A,C,D,E D<C
	Worker (B)	16	51.06±1.61			
	Self-employed (C)	26	40.69±8.44			
	Officer (D)	120	32.71±13.77			
	Other (E)	32	38.96±11.15			
	Total	283	37.83±12.90			
Violence caused by sports media	Unemployed (A)	89	20.55±2.33	1.305	0.268	
	Worker (B)	16	22.00±3.24			
	Self-employed (C)	26	21.00±2.49			
	Officer (D)	120	20.30±3.53			
	Other (E)	32	20.21±3.46			
	Total	283	20.53±3.09			
Violence arising from referee decisions	Unemployed (A)	89	16.96±2.60	4.690	0.001	A<B,C B>D C<D
	Worker (B)	16	18.75±1.18			
	Self-employed (C)	26	19.15±2.14			
	Officer (D)	120	17.15±3.42			
	Other (E)	32	18.56±3.62			
	Total	283	17.53±3.10			
Violence by coaches and managers	Unemployed (A)	89	9.13±2.65	11.304	<0.001	A<B,E B>C,D D<E
	Worker (B)	16	14,18±2.99			
	Self-employed (C)	26	9.65±3.12			
	Officer (D)	120	9.91±3.54			
	Other (E)	32	11.93±3.49			
	Total	283	10.11±3.44			
Violence by fans and cheerleaders	Unemployed (A)	89	15.85±2.73	10.800	<0.001	A<B,C,D
	Worker (B)	16	20.75±5.20			
	Self-employed (C)	26	18.19±2.02			
	Officer (D)	120	17.92±2.82			
	Other (E)	32	18.34±5.36			
	Total	283	17.50±3.50			
Violence caused by athlete behavior	Unemployed (A)	89	9.34±2.44	18.497	<0.001	A<B,E B>C,D C<E D<E
	Worker (B)	16	14.75±2.48			
	Self-employed (C)	26	9.11±2.14			
	Officer (D)	120	9.87±3.06			
	Other (E)	32	12.53±3.81			
	Total	283	10.21±3.21			

In terms of occupational groups, a significant difference was found between the groups ($p < 0.05$). The significant difference is in favor of the self-employed. A significant difference was found between the groups in the sub-dimensions violence by referee decisions, coaches and technical directors, behavior of athletes and fans and cheerleaders ($p < 0.05$). There is a significant difference between the groups of workers and civil servants and self-employed and civil servants ($p < 0.05$). No significant difference was found in the subdimension violence by sports media ($p > 0.05$).

Table 5. Comparison of total scale scores according to income groups

Scale Dimensions	Income	n	Mean±Sd.	F	p	Multiple Comparison
Identification	4253₺ and below (A)	95	42.46±11.13	7.210	<0.001	A>D,E
	4253-6000₺ (B)	25	36.88±10.96			
	6000-8000₺ (C)	28	41.42±11.63			
	8000-10000₺ (D)	64	34.40±13.42			
	Over 10000₺ (E)	71	33.64±13.63			
	Total	283	37.83±12.90			
Violence caused by sports media	4253₺ and below (A)	95	20.65±2.48	0.534	0.711	
	4253-6000₺ (B)	25	20.48±3.01			
	6000-8000₺ (C)	28	21.17±3.13			
	8000-10000₺ (D)	64	20.42±3.04			
	Over 10000₺ (E)	71	20.22±3.84			
	Total	283	20.53±3.09			
Violence arising from referee decisions	4253₺ and below (A)	95	17.52±3.03	0.337	0.853	
	4253-6000₺ (B)	25	18.08±2.48			
	6000-8000₺ (C)	28	17.67±2.55			
	8000-10000₺ (D)	64	17.54±3.13			
	Over 10000₺ (E)	71	17.26±3.56			
	Total	283	17.53±3.10			
Violence by coaches and managers	4253₺ and below (A)	95	9.17±2.74	10.422	<0.001	A<B,C B>D,E C>D,E
	4253-6000₺ (B)	25	12.56±3.29			
	6000-8000₺ (C)	28	12.57±4.06			
	8000-10000₺ (D)	64	9.39±3.08			
	Over 10000₺ (E)	71	10.19±3.56			
	Total	283	10.11±3.44			
Violence by fans and cheerleaders	4253₺ and below (A)	95	15.56±3.05	16.263	<0.001	A<B,C,D,E
	4253-6000₺ (B)	25	19.52±4.72			
	6000-8000₺ (C)	28	19.96±4.14			
	8000-10000₺ (D)	64	18.03±2.47			
	Over 10000₺ (E)	71	17.94±2.80			
	Total	283	17.50±3.50			

	4253£ and below (A)	95	9.52±2.59			
	4253-6000£ (B)	25	12.60±3.74			
Violence caused by athlete behavior	6000-8000£ (C)	28	12.14±4.10	8.734	<0.001	A<B,C D<B,C
	8000-10000£ (D)	64	9.48±2.58			
	Over 10000£ (E)	71	10.19±3.26			
	Total	283	10.21±3.21			

A significant difference was found between identification with team groups in terms of participants' income status ($p<0.05$). A significant difference was found between the groups in the sub-dimensions of violence by coaches and technical directors, behavior of athletes and fans and cheerleaders ($p<0.05$). No significant difference was found for the sub-dimension of violence by sports media and referee decisions ($p>0.05$).

Table 6. Comparison of total scale scores according to frequency of attendance to matches

Scale Dimensions	Frequency of Attendance to Matches	n	Mean±Sd.	F	p	Multiple Comparison
Identification	Almost never (A)	47	25.23±14.50	24.632	<0.001	A<B,C,D,E B<C,D,E
	Rarely (B)	63	34.39±11.72			
	Sometimes (C)	73	40.94±9.55			
	Often (D)	78	43.67±8.97			
	Almost always (E)	22	43.54±13.31			
	Total	283	37.83±12.90			
Violence caused by sports media	Almost never (A)	47	18.97±3.50	6.610	<0.001	A<C,D
	Rarely (B)	63	20.09±3.29			
	Sometimes (C)	73	21.28±2.63			
	Often (D)	78	21.34±2.49			
	Almost always (E)	22	19.68±3.45			
	Total	283	20.53±3.09			
Violence arising from referee decisions	Almost never (A)	47	16.51±3.63	5.101	0.001	E>A,D
	Rarely (B)	63	17.44±3.21			
	Sometimes (C)	73	18.24±2.45			
	Often (D)	78	17.01±2.68			
	Almost always (E)	22	19.40±3.69			
	Total	283	17.53±3.10			
Violence by coaches and managers	Almost never (A)	47	9.53±3.47	3.074	0.017	C>D
	Rarely (B)	63	10.73±3.62			
	Sometimes (C)	73	10.87±3.49			
	Often (D)	78	9.24±2.86			
	Almost always (E)	22	10.18±3.89			
	Total	283	10.11±3.44			

Violence by fans and cheerleaders	Almost never (A)	47	17.02±2.79	15.007	<0.001	B>D,E C>A,D,E
	Rarely (B)	63	18.88±3.69			
	Sometimes (C)	73	19.01±2.98			
	Often (D)	78	15.96±2.56			
	Almost always (E)	22	15.04±4.90			
	Total	283	17.50±3.50			
Violence caused by athlete behavior	Almost never (A)	47	9.95±2.94	6.235	<0.001	B>D
	Rarely (B)	63	11.49±3.41			
	Sometimes (C)	73	10.43±3.40			
	Often (D)	78	8.96±2.57			
	Almost always (E)	22	10.81±3.15			
	Total	283	10.21±3.21			

A significant difference was found between identification with team groups in terms of the frequency of participants' attendance to games ($p<0.05$). A significant difference between the groups was found in the sub-dimensions of violence by sports media, referee decisions, coaches and technical directors, athletes' and fans' behavior, and cheerleaders ($p<0.05$).

Table 7. Relationship of scale sub-dimensions

Scale Dimensions		Identification
Violence caused by sports media	r	0.260
	p	<0.001
	n	283
Violence arising from referee decisions	r	0.390
	p	<0.001
	n	283
Violence by coaches and managers	r	0.188
	p	0.002
	n	283
Violence by fans and cheerleaders	r	0.052
	p	0.385
	n	283
Violence caused by athlete behavior	r	0.145
	p	0.015
	n	283

According to the results, a positive weak relationship was found between identification and the sub-dimensions of violence emanating from sports media, referee decisions, coaches and technical directors, and athletes' behavior ($p<0.05$). No relationship was found between identification and violence by fans and cheerleaders ($p>0.05$).

DISCUSSION

Sport is a field where people relieve the stress of their daily lives, shape their lives with activities and find the possibility to act more flexibly than many institutional structures. From an individual and social point of view, sport has a life-encompassing effect and enlivens social relations. In the nature of sport lies the possibility to develop one's character, to establish social contacts and to break away from negative actions and behaviors. In addition to these positive aspects of sports, another unfortunate phenomenon is violence and aggression in sports. The positive aspects and the negative aspects such as violence are two opposite situations that can be found in sports. There are many scientific studies on these situations. Some of these studies are as follows;

Özen et al. (2013) conducted a survey on soccer fan violence and aggression. When analyzing the survey results, they found that acts of aggression, ideas, and thoughts were related to the age and education level of the participants in the survey. In their study, they emphasized that scientific studies on violent acts in sports in Turkey are insufficient and therefore stressed the need for a multidisciplinary approach in the studies to be conducted. Kılıç (2019) addressed the phenomenon of violence in sports in his study. In his study, he stated that the phenomenon of violence in sports is mainly physical and psychological violence. He emphasized that especially economic and sexual violence in sports are issues that not commonly studied and that they need to be studied. For this reason, he said that the phenomenon of violence in sports should be treated with holistic approaches and solutions should be offered to this situation. This is because the types of violence are factors that influence and produce each other. In their study, Yücel et al. (2015) emphasized that violence in sports is an important issue. For this reason, it is necessary to take important steps in terms of raising awareness among individuals from all segments regarding the prevention of violence and aggression, communicating legal regulations, enriching them with scientific visualizations such as panels, conferences, etc., and understanding the importance of the phenomenon of violence individually and socially.

Considering scientific studies, violence and aggression in sports is an important topic to be researched. The purpose of this paper is to investigate the relationship between fans' views on the source of violence in football and their level of identification with the sport. To this end, a survey of 283 participants was conducted. When the demographic characteristics of the participants who took part in the survey were examined, it was found that 89% of the participants were male and 11% were female. In Table 1, identification with the team was analyzed by gender. In this regard, a highly significant difference was found between men and women ($p < 0.05$). The significant difference is in the direction of men. In the average evaluation, the average of women was higher in violence by coaches and technical

rişon, a significant difference was found between unemployed participants and civil servants. Unemployed participants had higher identification with their team than civil servants. There was also a significant difference between workers and non-workers, civil servants, self-employed and other occupational groups. As a result of this significant result, people who work as employees have higher identification with the team than other occupational groups. According to the results of multiple comparison, a significant difference was found between self-employed and civil servants ($p < 0.05$). The significant difference is in favor of the self-employed. In terms of the occupational groups, a significant difference was found between the groups in the sub-dimensions Violence by Referee Decisions, Coaches and Technical Directors, Behavior of Athletes and Fans and Cheerleaders ($p < 0.05$). According to the results of multiple comparisons, a significant difference was found between the groups of unemployed participants, workers and self-employed in the sub-dimension of violence due to referee decisions ($p < 0.05$). The significant difference is due to the fact that the scores of the unemployed are lower than those of the workers and self-employed. There is a significant difference between the groups of workers and civil servants and self-employed and civil servants ($p < 0.05$). The significant difference between workers and civil servants is in favor of workers, while the significant difference between self-employed and civil servants is in favor of self-employed. In the sub-dimension of violence by coaches and technical managers, a significant difference was found between unemployed participants and workers and other occupational groups. The average of unemployed participants was low. The difference between employed participants, self-employed participants and civil servants is in favor of employed participants. The difference between civil servants and other occupational groups is in favor of the other occupational groups. In the fan and cheerleader violence subdimension, the difference between unemployed participants and employed, self-employed, and civil servants is due to the low average of the unemployed participants. The significant difference between the unemployed participants and workers and other occupational groups in the subdimension of violence by athletes is due to the low average of the unemployed participants. The significant difference between workers and self-employed and civil servants is in favor of the group of workers. The significant difference between other occupational groups and self-employed and civil servants is in favor of the other occupational groups.

In Table 5, a significant difference was found between the identification with the team groups depending on the income status of the participants ($p < 0.05$). In multiple comparisons, a significant difference was found between income groups of 4253₺ and below, between 8000-10000₺ and above 10000₺ ($p < 0.05$). Participants with incomes of 4253₺ and below had higher identification with their teams. A significant difference was found between the groups in the sub-dimensions of violence by coaches and technical directors, behavior of athletes and fans and

cheerleaders ($p < 0.05$). According to the results of the multiple comparison of the sub-dimension of violence by fans and cheerleaders, this difference is due to the fact that participants with incomes of 4253₺ and below have lower mean scores than the other groups. According to the results of the multiple comparison of the sub-dimension of violence by the behavior of athletes, the significant difference was in the income status of 4253₺ and below, 4253-6000₺ and 6000-8000₺, due to the low average of the income group of 4253₺ and below. When the literature is examined, there are studies that found a significant difference between income level and violence (Gümüşgöl, 2016; Doğaner, 2021; Lee, 2021; Seong, 2021). Studies that did not find a significant difference according to the income status of football fans' studies on violence were also found in the literature (Paksoy, 2014; Kural, 2017; Yıldız & Açak, 2018).

In Table 6, a significant difference was found between identification with team groups in terms of the frequency of participants' attendance to games ($p < 0.05$). In the multiple comparison, participants who reported that they almost never and rarely went to games had lower identification with the team than the other groups. A significant difference between groups was found in the sub-dimensions of the source of violence by sports media, referee decisions, coaches and technical directors, athlete behavior, and fans and cheerleaders ($p < 0.05$). According to the results of multiple comparisons, the significant difference in the subdimension of violence caused by sports media was due to the low average of the group that reported almost never going to games. The significant difference in the subdimension of violence caused by referee decisions was found in favor of those who attended almost every game. The significant difference in the subdimension of violence by coaches and technical directors is in favor of the group that sometimes went to games. The significant difference in the subdimension of violence by fans and cheerleaders is in favor of the groups that rarely and sometimes went to the games. In the multiple comparison of the subdimension of violence by athletes, the significant difference was in favor of the group that rarely went to games. Studies with similar findings to our study are available in the literature (Tanyeri, 2019; Doğaner, 2021).

In Table 7, the relationship between identification with the team and the sub-dimensions of the Source of Violence in Soccer scale was examined. According to the results, a positive weak relationship was found between identification and the sub-dimensions of violence emanating from sports media, referee decisions, coaches and technical directors, and athletes' behavior ($p < 0.05$). As participants' identification with the team increases, violence caused by sports media, referee decisions, coaches and technical directors, and athlete behavior increases. No relationship was found between identification and violence by fans and cheerleaders ($p > 0.05$).

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

When the results were analyzed, it was found that the phenomenon of violence in sports is caused by sports media. Gender, age group, marital status, family status, education level and profession were analyzed in terms of identification with the team. In terms of gender, the identification status was in favor of male participants. When age groups were analyzed, a significant difference was found between 18-23 year olds. In terms of marital status, married participants were found to identify more strongly with their team. In terms of education, identification was found to be more common among those with high school degrees. Regarding profession, unemployed individuals identified more with their team than civil servants. The relationship between identification with the team and the sub-dimensions of the scale on the source of violence of fans in soccer was sought. According to the results, a weak positive relationship was found between identification and the sub-dimensions of violence from sports media, referee decisions, coaches and technical directors, and athlete behavior. As participants' identification with the team increases, violence caused by sports media, referee decisions, coaches, and technical directors and athlete behavior increase. There was no relationship between identification and violence by fans and cheerleaders.

To strengthen the role of sports media in reducing violence, awareness training can be provided to media organizations and sports media staff. The relationship between identification and violence in the young age group (18-23 years) was found to be significant. Awareness campaigns and training can be organized for this age group to prevent violence in sports. It was found that married participants identify more with the team. Therefore, family-oriented programs and activities can be organized specifically for married individuals. It has been found that identification with the team is stronger among individuals with higher levels of education. Training can be organized for these groups to emphasize the harms and negative effects of violence in sports. It was found that unemployed people identify more with the team than civil servants. Access to sports activities can increase the social participation of this group and promote positive behaviors to prevent violence. For example, initiatives such as regular sporting events, opportunities to join amateur teams, or social support groups can be implemented for these individuals. These recommendations can help take steps to reduce violence and create a healthier sports culture in the relationships between sports media, individuals, and society. However, further research and analysis is important to verify the feasibility and effectiveness of these recommendations.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

There is no personal or financial conflict of interest between the authors of the article within the scope of the study.

Statement of Contribution of Researchers

Design of Study: EİB (%60), AÇ (%40)

Data Acquisition: EİB (%60), AÇ (%40)

Data Analysis: EİB (%60), AÇ (%40)

Writing Up: EİB (%60), AÇ (%40)

Submission and Revision: EİB (%60), AÇ (%40)

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