TURKISH ADAPTATION OF THE PERCEPTION OF ANOMIE SCALE: PSYCHOMETRIC PROPERTIES, VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY

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Abstract

Anomie describes a situation in which society does not meet individuals' expectations and does not offer moral standards and a just and reasonable social context. Perceived anomie is related to numerous psychological variables, such as political decisions and self-esteem. This study aims to adapt and assess the validity and reliability of the Turkish version of the Perception of Anomie Scale. The sample consisted of 332 participants (189 women) aged between 18-66. For convergent validity we used Group Integration Scale and Belief in a Dangerous World Scale, for discriminant validity we used General Belief in a Just World Scale and Social Dominance Orientation Scale, for predictive validity we used Life Satisfaction Scale and Importance of Identity Scale. The results demonstrated the structural validity of the scale and presented adequate evidence for the measurement validity of the Turkish version of the Perception of Anomie Scale.

Keywords: *Anomie, Breakdown in social fabric, Breakdown in leadership, Perception of anomie scale.*

ALGILANAN ANOMİ ÖLÇEĞİNİN TÜRKÇE UYARLAMASI: PSİKOMETRİK ÖZELLİKLER, GEÇERLİLİK VE GÜVENİLİRLİK

Öz

Anomi, toplumun bireylerin beklentilerini karşılamadığı, ahlaki standartlar ve adil ve makul bir sosyal bağlam sunmadığı durumu tanımlamaktadır. Algılanan anomi, politik kararlar ve benlik saygısı gibi pek çok psikolojik değişkenle ilişkilidir. Bu çalışma, Algılanan Anomi Ölçeğinin (Perception of Anomie Scale) Türkçeye uyarlanmasını ve geçerlilik ve güvenilirliğinin değerlendirilmesini amaçlamaktadır. Çalışmanın örneklemi, yaşları 18 ile 66 arasında değişen 332 katılımcıdan (189 kadın) oluşmaktadır. Yakınsak geçerlilik için Grupla Bütünleşme Ölçeği ve Tehlikeli Dünya İnancı Ölçeği; ayırt edici geçerlilik için Genel Adil Dünya İnancı Ölçeği ve Sosyal Baskınlık Yönelimi Ölçeği; yordayıcı geçerlilik için ise Yaşam Doyumu Ölçeği ve Kimliğin Önemi Ölçeği kullanılmıştır. Elde edilen sonuçlar, ölçeğin yapısal geçerliliğe sahip olduğunu göstermiş ve Türkçe versiyonunun ölçme geçerliliği için yeterli kanıt sunmuştur.

Anahtar kelimeler: *Anomi, Sosyal dokunun bozulması, Liderliğin bozulması, Algılanan anomi ölçeği.*

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1.INTRODUCTION

The social structure surrounding an individual is one of the most important determinants of their psychological state. Anomie is regarded as a subjective perception of the status of society and a sensation of aimless and chaotic disordering (Teymoori et al., 2016). The state of anomie occurs at the intersection of the individual and the social system (Teymoori et al., 2017). It results from the disintegration of social norms and the erosion of moral principles (Yang, 2015). Large-scale social changes such as war, widespread diseases, and conflicts might lead to social anomie, and the experience of social anomie disrupts people's interactions with their environment. In such a situation, the person does not comprehend the changes in society and cannot adapt to the changes in social norms (Hakobyan et al., 2022). Changes that occur at the societal level, such as social breakdowns, crisis environments, or societal resistance to global change, might have various effects at the individual level.

The concept of anomie was first developed by Emile Durkheim (1897/1952), who indicated that social deregulation may result in a sense of despair. Durkheim (1897/1952) described the concept of anomie as a societal situation in which society loses its functionality for individuals and breakdown in moral standards. He states that the anomic situation arises especially in societies where rapid social changes occur and situations where a new consensus is needed. Merton (1938) expanded on this description of anomie as the discrepancy between individuals' needs and expectations from society and society's potential for providing them. In other words, anomie stems from the lack of definition of the legitimate ways to reach the legitimate goals defined by the culture and the imbalance caused by this lack of definition. According to Srole (1956), anomie is a psychological condition in which a person may have difficulty integrating into contemporary society. That is, anomie is a multifaceted concept that simultaneously refers to a social situation and a state of mind (Bjarnason, 2009).

Since Durkheim's pioneering conceptualisation, anomie has been discussed extensively in the social sciences for a considerable time. While studies conducted from a macro-level perspective consider anomie as a "state of society" (e.g., Merton, 1938), studies conducted from a micro-level perspective consider anomie as a "state of mind" (e.g., Srole, 1956). More recently, it has been suggested that anomie may manifest itself in the interaction between the individual and society (Teymoori et al., 2017). This recent conceptualisation does not strictly reduce anomie to a societal or an individual condition but rather merges them. Teymoori and colleagues (2016: 3) define anomie as a "reflection of the societal state in individuals' minds", that is, a social perception that differs from the objective conditions of society. Namely, it refers to the perception that society is disintegrated and dysregulated (Teymoori et al., 2016). This definition is remarkable in social psychology since anomie is defined as the subjective evaluation of society by the individual rather than the objective state of the society. Also, unlike existing theories that examine the effects of society on individuals, such as Social Identity Theory (Tajfel and Turner, 1979) and Social Dominance Theory (Sidanius and Pratto, 2001), which assumes an orderly and functioning society, the conceptual framework of anomie considers the effects of a disrupted and corrupted societal structure.

Perceived societal anomie consists of two distinct but interrelated dimensions: "breakdown in social fabric" and "breakdown in leadership". Breakdown in social fabric refers to public distrust and corruption of moral standards in society, and breakdown in leadership refers to the perception that the leadership is ineffective and illegitimate (Teymoori et al., 2016; 2017). Breakdown in leadership includes the belief and perception that leaders in the society do not make fair decisions, do not prioritise the welfare of society, and do not represent and protect all members of society. Therefore, as Bornand and Klein (2022) indicate, it considers the idea of political trust. Moreover, this conceptualisation represents beyond a mere negative perception of society; it taps into people's perceptions of the current political system and the social fabric separately (Ionescu et al., 2021). Measuring the concept of anomie, defined as the breakdown of the social fabric and leadership, is crucial for understanding people's thoughts about the structure of society, both individually and collectively and a range of psychological (e.g., life satisfaction, depression) and societal (e.g., poverty, civil conflict) outcomes that emerge from these thoughts. The psychological analysis of anomie, a concept that originated in sociology, is crucial in terms of combining these two fields. Thus, it becomes possible to examine human behaviour in a broader social and political context (Teymoori et al., 2016).

Perceived anomie is associated with certain social and political variables. Numerous studies have shown a relationship between anomie and authoritarianism (e.g., Heydari et al., 2012), the emergence of autocratic parties (e.g., Blank, 2003), the need for a strong autocratic leader (e.g., Sprong et al., 2019), and political extremism (Ionescu et al., 2021). Bornand and Klein (2022) suggested that individuals with low SES have lower levels of political trust, and they perceive greater anomie in society. Some research mentioned the detrimental effects of anomie on individuals, which can lead to deviant (Teymoori et al., 2016), antisocial (Tay et al., 2014) and greedy behaviours (Jiang et al., 2020). Anomie is also related to the perceptions of a lack of control and trust (Hilbert, 1986), lower self-esteem (Dobson et al., 1979) and a sense of meaninglessness (Martin, 2000). In a study conducted within the scope of the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the most recent crises worldwide, anomie was found to mediate between conspiracy theories and vaccine hesitancy (McCarthy et al., 2021).

Social and political instability has been observed in many countries around the world. For example, Syria has faced many economic and political crises in the last ten years, and it has become a chaotic environment where many different armed groups and global powers are involved in the war (Maher and Pieper, 2021). Similarly, Greece has recently experienced a major economic crisis, and radical political groups have emerged due to the lack of an effective management system (Ellinas, 2013). Another example is Iran; following the 1979 revolution, the country faced significant structural and political changes, such as a prolonged war with Iraq, rapid population growth and international blockades (Heydari et al., 2012). The term anomie has been used to describe such societal, political, and economic structural conditions (Teymoori et al., 2017).

Türkiye has also been experiencing significant political and structural changes for a long time. In May 2013, the Gezi protests began as a reaction to the demolition of Gezi Park; over time, it encompassed anti-government demonstrations in many cities in Türkiye and ended up with several injuries and arrests (Demirdağ and Hasta, 2019). One of the deadliest suicide bombing attacks in Türkiye's history, the Ankara bombing, occurred in October 2015 (Öner and Gülgöz, 2020). The coup attempt occurred in July 2016, which resulted in several injuries and deaths, and ended up with a state of emergency and increased inspection pressure (Acar and Uluğ, 2021). Introducing a strong presidential system after the constitutional referendum in 2017 one of the rapid and significant changes in Türkiye. This transition was highly contested and was reacted with online and offline protests in a continuing state of emergency (Acar and Uluğ, 2021). In 2019, the world was confronted with a global health crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to social and economic problems at both global and local levels (Dushime and Hashemipour, 2020). In the most recent history of Türkiye, in February 2023, an earthquake caused great destruction in eleven provinces of the country. This earthquake, which resulted in the death and injury of thousands of people, had a significant impact on the entire country. Criticism was voiced online and offline, including the efficiency of rescue teams to intervene promptly and the government's inadequate and delayed provision of aid.

Considering Türkiye's social, economic, and political situations, perceived anomie is a promising approach to understanding the societal context and its impacts on individuals. Almost a half-century ago, Srole's (1956) Anomie Scale was adapted into Turkish by Kağıtçıbaşı (1972; as cited in Yalçın, 2009). Recently, anomie has been used as a theoretical framework for understanding Türkiye's current sociocultural and socio-political conjuncture (Cengiz, 2023). Rahmani and colleagues (2022) have indicated that anomie is related to some psychopathologies among Turkish adolescents, namely depression, anxiety, alcohol use and suicidality. Arslan and Yavuz (2019) examined the relationship between perceived justice, trust and anomie in an organisational context and found that organisational justice and trust were negatively associated with organisational anomie. Although anomie has been empirically examined, to the best of our knowledge, there is a lack of adaptation and evaluation of psychometric properties of measuring perceived societal anomie in Türkiye. Therefore, the primary purpose of the present study was to adapt the Perception of Anomie Scale (PAS; Teymoori et al., 2016) to Turkish-speaking society and to examine the psychometric properties of the adapted scale.

To this end, we first conducted a confirmatory factor analysis to test the validity of the original factor structure of the PAS and its internal consistency. We also evaluated the scale's convergent, discriminant and predictive validity of the scale. For convergent validity, we selected the concepts of group integration and belief in a dangerous world. Group integration refers to the level of integration individuals feel towards the groups

they belong to (Aslan & Dönmez, 2013), and since the concept of anomie is considered a form of "disintegration" (Goode, 1961), it is expected that group integration will be negatively associated with anomie. The dangerous and threatening worldview can be defined as the perception of the world as a dangerous place, resulting from both personal tendencies and societal environment (Duckitt & Fisher, 2003), and it is positively associated with anomie (Wagner-Egger & Bangerter, 2007).

The concept of perceived anomie is characterized as the internalization of a societal situation rather than an individual state, thus it is expected to differ from concepts considered as individual differences such as social dominance orientation and belief in a just world (Teymoori et al., 2016). Social dominance orientation can be defined as the degree to which individuals support group-based hierarchies and the desire for dominant groups to assert their superiority over subordinate groups (Sidanius & Pratto, 2004). Belief in a just world, on the other hand, can be briefly defined as the belief that people get what they deserve in life (Lerner & Miller, 1978; Lerner & Goldberg, 1999). These variables have been included to test discriminant validity, and they are expected to be low or moderately correlated with perceived anomie.

The level of perceived anomie among individuals can predict their life satisfaction and the extent to which they identify themselves with the groups in the country they live in. The concept of life satisfaction refers to the degree of alignment between an individual's living conditions and their idealized conditions (Diener et al., 1985). It is known that as the perceived level of anomie increases, individuals' life satisfaction decreases (Kallay et al., 2016). The importance of identity can be briefly defined as the significance of membership in groups for constructing individuals' social identities (Luhtanen & Crocker, 1992). Therefore, as individuals perceive higher levels of anomie, the importance of group membership in their identities decreases (Teymoori et al., 2016). Life satisfaction and the importance of identity concepts were utilized to test predictive validity, and it was expected that both would be negatively predicted by the perceived anomie.

In brief, we tested the validity of the original factor structure of the PAS and its internal consistency and also evaluated the relations of dangerous and threatening worldview, group integration, social dominance orientation, belief in a just world, life satisfaction and importance of identity with perceived anomie to evaluate the measurement validity of the scale. Confirmation of the reliability and validity of the Turkish version of the PAS will provide researchers with a self-report measurement of individuals' perceptions of the social and political conditions in Türkiye. The findings of the PAS in Turkish samples will contribute to international literature, and practitioners will be able to use this scale to assess current perceptions of social and political in Türkiye.

2.METHOD

2.1. Participants

We collected the data in the month of December 2024. There were no criteria for participation in the survey other than being an adult and living in Türkiye. The sample of the study is consisted of 332 participants (189 females, 143 males) aged between 18-66 years (M = 28.82, SD = 13.13). No participant was excluded from the analyses.

Six (1.8%) participants graduated from secondary school, 52 (15.7%) participants graduated from high school, 196 (59%) participants graduated from a university, and 78 (23.5%) participants had a postgraduate degree. In the aspect of socioeconomic status, 54 (16.3%) participants considered themselves as having a low-level income, 258 (77.7%) participants as having a mid-level income and 20 (6%) participants as having a high-level income.

2.2. Measures

Perception of Anomie Scale (PAS) was developed by Teymoori and colleagues (2016) to measure the individual perception of societal state. It has two dimensions: breakdown in social fabric (BSF) and breakdown in leadership (BL). The PAS is a 12-item measure that uses a 7-point Likert scale. Higher scores indicate higher levels of perceived anomie. In the original study, the Cronbach's alpha values ranged from .59 to .87.

General Belief in a Just World Scale (GBJWS) aims to measure the extent to which people believe that the world is a just place in general. It was developed by Dalbert (1999) and adapted to Turkish by Göregenli (2004). The scale has six items and is scored on a 5-point scale. Higher scores indicate greater belief in a just world. In the adaptation study, Cronbach's alpha value was .69; in our study, it was .81.

Social Dominance Orientation Scale (SDOS) was developed by Pratto, Sidanius, Stallworth and Malle (1994) and aims to measure the desire to construct and maintain social hierarchies and inequalities in society. It has 16 items in one factor and is scored on a 7-point scale. The Turkish adaptation was completed by Karaçanta (2002). The Cronbach's alpha values were .85 in the original study and .83 in our study.

Importance of Identity Scale (IIS) was developed by Luhtanen and Crocker (1992), and it aims to measure the extent to which people have a high opinion of their social identities. It was a subscale of the Collective Self-Esteem Scale, and the Turkish adaptation was made by Baysu (2007). The scale consists of 5 items in one factor and is scored on a 7-point scale. The Cronbach's alpha values were .74 in the adaptation study and .84 in our study.

Life Satisfaction Scale (LSS) was created by Diener, Emmons, Larsen, and Griffin (1985) to measure overall life satisfaction, and the Turkish adaptation was made by Dağlı and Baysal (2016). The scale consists of five items in one factor and is scored on a 7-point scale. The Cronbach's alpha values were .92 in the adaptation study and .86 in our study.

Group Integration Scale (GIS) was created by Aslan and Dönmez (2013), and it aims to measure the extent to which people feel integrated into their social groups. It has 12 items in one factor and is scored on a 5-point scale. The Cronbach's alpha values were .90 in the original study and .92 in our study.

Belief in a Dangerous World Scale (BDWS) was developed by Duckitt, Wagner, du Plessis and Birum (2002), and it aims to measure people's tendency to believe that their world is a dangerous and threatening place. The scale consists of ten items in one factor and is scored on a 7-point scale. The Turkish adaptation of the scale was made by Sayılan (2018). The Cronbach's alpha values were .80 in the adaptation study and .72 in our study.

2.3. Study data

First, we contacted the first author of the original scale and obtained the required permission. The items of the scale were translated into Turkish by the authors of this study, and two specialists with expertise in psychology evaluated the translation. For the evaluation, we prepared a form including the original item and its translation to rate the clarity of the Turkish items and the convenience of the translation on a 5-point Likert scale. In line with the evaluations, one item (item 6) was formally changed. The Turkish form was back-translated into English by a specialist with expertise in English Culture and Literature. Finally, these two forms were reviewed and agreed upon by a translator and the authors to create the final version of the Turkish form.

We then created a link to the online survey and announced the link via social media. After the participants read and approved the informed consent form, they filled out the scales.

Ethical approval for the research was received from the Ethics Committee of Ege University Social Sciences and Humanities Scientific Research and Publication (dated 29.11.2023 and numbered 2194).

2.4. Data analysis

To test the original two-factor structure of the PAS, we conducted confirmatory factor analyses (CFA) with maximum likelihood estimation (Brown, 2015). In these analyses, we used the following fit indices to assess the structural validity of the scale (Thompson, 2004): The ratio of chi-square to degree-of-freedom (good if < 2.5), Comparative Fit Index (CFI; good if > .95), Goodness of Fit Index (GFI; good if > .95), Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA; good if < .6) and the Akaike Information Criterion (AIC; in which a low value is better in comparison). Additionally, we calculated Cronbach's alpha coefficients to test the reliability of the PAS and its subscales, performed a structural equation model test to assess convergent and discriminant validity, and simple

linear regression analysis to assess predictive validity. It has been observed that the normality assumption is satisfied based on the values of Skewness and Kurtosis (Skewness$_{min}$ = -1.64, Skewness$_{max}$= .18, Kurtosis$_{min}$= -1.34, Kurtosis$_{max}$ = 1.81). All statistical analyses were performed in SPSS 22.0 and AMOS 21.0 programs.

3.RESULTS

3.1. Factor structure of the PAS

Confirmatory factor analysis was conducted to examine the original factor structure of the scale in our data.

As a result of the analysis, it was seen that the original structure indicates poor model fit , $\chi 2$ (53) = 115.86, $\chi 2/df$ = 2.19, (N = 332, p < .001), CFI = .92, GFI = .95, RMSEA = .06, AIC = 165.86. When the factor loadings of the items were examined, it was found that the factor loading of item 6 ("People are cooperative") was .09. No significant correlation was found when examining the relationship between item 6 and the other items (all ps > .05). Therefore, this item was removed from the model, and the 11-item model was tested.

The goodness of fit of the new model was not better than the previous one, $\chi 2$ (43) = 110.13, $\chi 2/df$ = 2.56, (N = 332, p < .001), CFI = .92, GFI = .94, RMSEA = .07, AIC = 156.13. When all the standard regression coefficients of the items were examined, it was found that the lowest coefficient belonged to item 1 with .28, and item 12 with a coefficient of .32.

Item 12 was found to have significant correlations with items 2, 3 and 5 in the first factor (BSF), and with items 7, 8, 9 and 10 in its own factor (BL). The modification indices also indicated that item 12 could be associated with the first factor and have a cross-loading (Expected partial change was .32; see Byrne, 2011). Accordingly, item 12 seems to be similarly related to the items in both factors. Given all of this data on item 12, and considering the theoretical structure of the second factor, we concluded that it should be removed from the scale.

On the other hand, when we examined the relationship between item 1 and the other items, we found significant correlations between item 1 and items 2, 3, and 5, and a marginally significant correlation with item 4 (p = .06). There was no significant correlation between item 1 and item 6 of the BSF. However, the correlations between item 1 and any of the BL items were not significant. The modification indices did not suggest any cross-loading for item 1, as supported by the inter-item correlations. In this regard, our conclusion was that the retention of item 1 on the scale would be appropriate.

We then tested the model with the retention of item 1 and the removal of item 12. The fit statistics of the final model were better than the previous models, $\chi 2$ (34) = 60.4, $\chi 2/df$ = 1.78, (N = 332, p = .004), CFI = .96, GFI = .97, RMSEA = .05, AIC = 102.4. We decided that this two-factor structure with five items for each factor was the most appropriate structure (see Figure 1). The factor covariance was .48, and the standardized regression coefficients of the items ranged from .28 to .84 (see Table 1).

3.2. Reliability and correlations between factors

The correlation coefficient between the two factors of the PAS was .34 (p < .001). The Cronbach's alpha reliability coefficients were .67 for BSF and .74 for BL. It was .73 for the whole scale.

Table 1. Factor loadings of the PAS subscales

Items*	BSF			BL		
	Standardized regression weights	Regression weights	Standard error	Standardized regression weights	Regression weights	Standard error
1. People think that there are no clear moral standards to follow.	.28	.57	.14	-	-	-
2. Everyone thinks of himself/herself and does not help others in need.	.67	1.17	.14	-	-	-
3. Most of the people think that if something works, it doesn't really matter whether it is right or wrong.	.73	1.17	.14	-	-	-
4. People do not know who they can trust and rely on.	.52	.85	.12	-	-	-
5. Most of the people think that honesty doesn't work all the time; dishonesty is sometimes a better approach to get ahead.	.58	1	-	-	-	-
7. The government works towards the welfare of people.	-	-	-	.80	1	-
8. The government is legitimate.	-	-	-	.68	1.04	.09
9. The government uses its power legitimately.	-	-	-	.84	1.14	.08
10. Politicians don't care about the problems of average person.	-	-	-	.34	.41	.07
11. The government laws and policies are effective.	-	-	-	.44	.65	.14

**Note**: All factor loadings were statistically significant (p < .001)

* Scale item after items 6 and item 12 are removed.

Table 2. Correlations between the PAS-BFS, PAS-BL and GIS, BDWS, GBJWS and SDOS scores

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. PAS-BSF	-					
2. PAS-BL	.34***	-				
3. GIS	-.03	-.09	-			
4. BDWS	.47***	.51***	-.02	-		
5. GBJWS	-.25**	-.53***	.12*	-.28***	-	
6. SDOS	-.07	-.36***	.05	-.2**	.21**	-

* p < .05, ** p < .01, *** p < .001. BSF=Breakdown in Social Fabric, BL=Breakdown in Leadership, GIS=Group Integration Scale, BDWS=Belief in a Dangerous World Scale, GBJWS=General Belief in a Just World Scale, SDOS=Social Dominance Orientation Scale
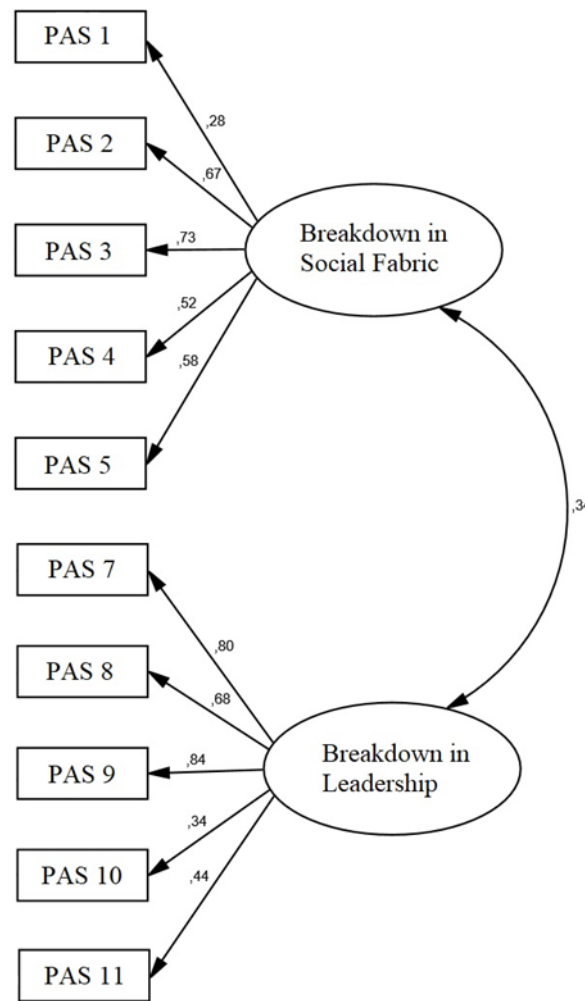
Figure 1. The two-factor model of the PAS in the Turkish sample

3.3. Convergent and discriminant validity

To test the convergent and discriminant validity of the PAS, the relationship of its subscales with variables that are different from the PAS but theoretically close and distant to the PAS was examined. Among these variables, the GIS was expected to be negatively correlated with the PAS subscales, the BDWS was expected to be positively correlated with the PAS subscales, and the GBJWS and the SDOS were not expected to be highly correlated with the PAS subscales.

Results of the structural equation model test which includes measurement models of the variables showed that the BDWS was positively correlated with the PAS subscales of BSF (r = .47, p < .001) and BL (r = .51, p < .001). However, the GIS was not correlated with BSF (r = -.03) and with BL (r = -.09).

To investigate the discriminant validity of the PAS, its relationship with the GBJWS and the SDOS was examined. The BSF was negatively correlated with the GBJWS (r = -.25, p < .01) but not with the SDOS (r = -.07). The BL was negatively correlated with both GBJWS (r = -.53, p < .001) and SDOS (r = -.36, p < .001; see Table 2).

Table 3. Linear regression analysis results of the LSS and the ISS

	F	R²	β	SE	*t*
LSS (Life Satisfaction Scale)	8.13*	.024	-.15	.04	-2.85*
ISS (Importance of Identity Scale)	21.13**	.06	-.24	.09	-4.6**

* p < .01, ** p < .001.Predictor: the PAS

3.4. Predictive validity

To examine the predictive validity of the PAS, we examined whether it predicted life satisfaction and the importance given to collective identity as in the original study. According to the results of Pearson correlation analysis, high PAS was associated with low LSS (r = -.15, p < .01) and low IIS (r = -.24, p < .001).

Simple linear regression results showed that the PAS explained a significant amount of the variance in life satisfaction ($F(1, 331) = 8.13$, $p < .01$). Similarly, it also explained some of the variances in the importance given to collective identity ($F(1, 331) = 21.13$, $p < .001$). According to these results, the PAS predicted the scores of both LSS and ISS, indicating that the predictive validity of the PAS is demonstrated in our sample (see Table 3).

4. DISCUSSION

This study aimed to investigate the psychometric properties of the Turkish adaptation of the Perception of Anomie Scale. The scale was designed to measure the perceived state of society and includes two dimensions: a perceived breakdown in the social fabric and a perceived breakdown in leadership. To this end, a survey was conducted among the people living in Türkiye, and the collected data was analysed to determine the validity and reliability of the PAS.

This scale was developed by Teymoori et al. (2016) to measure the perception of the current state of the society and the leadership rather than the consequences of anomie at the individual level. The PAS distinguishes the assessment of how people think about their societies from the individual outcomes that develop in response to perceived anomie. In this respect, the PAS can provide an idea for a better understanding of troubled societies. Also, compared to theoretical frameworks that addressed challenging the status quo in relatively functioning and ordered societies (e.g., social identity theory, system justification theory), the PAS can provide insights for better understanding troubled societies.

According to our findings, we can conclude that the psychometric structure of the PAS in our sample is similar to the structure in the original study. Although we removed one item from each subscale, we found that the scale can be used in Turkish-speaking samples in its proposed structure. Despite that the PAS was not correlated with GIS and this issue needs to be further investigated in future studies, convergent validity has been confirmed by the expected positive correlation with the BDWS. The reliability of the scale seems acceptable, and the results regarding discriminant and predictive validity were as expected. High PAS scores were associated with low scores in general on just world beliefs and social dominance orientation. The PAS also predicted the variance in life satisfaction and the importance given to collective identity.

The first item (item 6 of the BSF subscale) that we decided to remove from the Turkish version of the scale had a factor loading of .09 in our data, although it had a factor loading of .48 in the original study. It was found to have the lowest factor loading of the BSF subscale in the original study. It is possible that our participants did not respond to this item ('People are cooperative') in the sense of anomie, whereas the other items of this subscale describe the deterioration of the social fabric in more detail in terms of the trust, honesty, helpfulness, and moral standards. Cooperation is one of the key elements of trust (Brehm and Rahn, 1997); thus, it promotes a sense of community. However, the concepts of "cooperation" or "a cooperative person" also have negative connotations in the everyday Turkish language. It can mean a person who seeks to gain benefits from other people who serve the malicious purposes of others. Indeed, in the dictionaries of the Turkish Language Institution, a cooperative person ("iş birlikçi"- in Turkish) is defined as a person or organisation that aims to take advantage of any field. Also, a cooperative person is generally considered untrustworthy by other people; thus, our participants may have evaluated this item in a negative manner. This conceptual complexity may have caused the item to be out of context in relation to other items.

We found that the measurement model did not fit even after removing item 6, and we evaluated the items that were likely to be removed. Among them, items 1 and 12 appeared to have low factor loadings. Regarding the conceptual relationship between item 1 ('People think that there are no clear moral standards to follow') and anomie, we suggest it has a much closer relationship with the structure than item 12 ('Some laws are not fair'). Although item 1 had a weak relationship with the factor to which it belonged, we preferred not to remove this

item, as the perception of compliance with moral standards in society is strongly related to anomie. Accordingly, when evaluating the psychometric structure of a scale, the theoretical structure should also be considered, and the elimination of items should be based on statistical and conceptual criteria. In this respect, we believe that both psychometric and theoretical compatibility have been achieved by removing items 6 and 12 and retaining item 1 in the scale.

Teymoori et al. (2016) examined the relationship between social cohesion and the PAS for the convergent validity of the PAS and reported a moderately negative relationship. This is an expected finding, considering that anomie reduces societal trust and decreases perceived cohesion (Teymoori et al., 2016). Since there is no adapted Turkish version of the social cohesion scale, we used the group integration scale instead in the current study. Our study aimed to find a negative relationship between the PAS and the GIS for convergent validity; however, no significant correlation was found between the two variables. The social cohesion scale used by Teymoori et al. (2016) is aimed to measure the general community cohesion and trust. Instead, the group integration scale allows individuals to think about a particular group to which they feel they belong (Aslan and Dönmez, 2013); it does not measure a perception towards the general community. Therefore, it can be said that the scales of social cohesion and group integration measure slightly different structures. The presence of a perception towards disintegration at the social level may not make a difference in the integration of the individual with the group to which they belong. Indeed, Teymoori et al. (2017) state that the perceived breakdown in the social fabric reflects an evaluation of the superordinate group. Thus, the presence of trust and consensual moral standards provide a social network capital that unites people and groups in a heterogeneous society of diverse groups. Also, the breakdown in leadership corresponds to the perception of whether the entire society, that is, the superordinate group, is regulated fairly and effectively by the leaders. However, it is also stated that the emergence of smaller groups or cliques might be associated with increased anomie (Teymoori et al., 2017); the perception of anomie may trigger the need for individuals to establish strong and secure relationships, and small groups satisfy this (Greenaway et al., 2016). The relationship between perceptions of anomie and in-group identification can be examined in future research.

Although there are well-documented findings about the negative consequences of anomie, the processes that lead to or are related to anomie need to be better assessed. The present study shows that anomie is associated with dangerous world beliefs. Previous research has argued that anomie reduces trust in society and increases the belief that the social order is disrupted and that the world is dangerous (Hilbert, 1986; Teymoori et al., 2016). Believing in a dangerous and threatening world leads to the endorsement of heightened political and social conservatism that promotes security and control (Duckitt et al., 2002). The relationship between anomie and the rise of authoritarianism is also well-established in the literature (Blank, 2003; Heydari et al., 2012). Given this information, the PAS provides an important tool to specify the transition process between democracy and autocracy.

In recent years, research has been conducted examining the relationship between the PAS and issues such as conspiracy theories (e.g., Nera, Wagner-Egger, Bertin, Douglas, and Klein, 2021; McCarthy et al., 2021), political orientation (Ionescu et al., 2021), political trust (Bornand and Klein, 2022), and support for authoritarian leaders (Crimston et al., 2022). For example, Nera et al. (2021) showed that perceived breakdown in leadership is related to endorsing upward conspiracy theories, which corresponds to attributing more power to powerful groups than they actually have. McCarthy et al. (2022) suggested that anomie is an important mediator between trust in the government and vaccine hesitancy. Bornand and Klein (2022) showed that heightened anomie leads to lower interpersonal trust, which lowers political trust. Crimston et al. (2022) indicated that anomie is a crucial mechanism connecting moral polarisation and leadership choice. In their research, moral polarisation predicted support for authoritarian leaders via the perceived breakdown in the social fabric but support for democratic leaders via the perceived breakdown in leadership. Ionescu et al. (2021) showed that perceived anomie leads to more negative projections of the collective future.

5.CONCLUSION and FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The main aim of this research was to evaluate the psychometric properties of the Perception of Anomie Scale in a Turkish sample. Our findings demonstrate that the PAS can be used in Turkish-speaking samples. Social and political instability has been observed in many societies in recent years, and Türkiye is one of these societies. Especially in the last ten years, significant social and political changes have been observed in Türkiye. For this reason, the Perception of Anomie Scale is a unique and crucial tool for examining the social context and its effects on individuals, especially in troubled societies.

Despite its strengths, the current study has several limitations. First, we did not examine the test-retest validity and cross-validation. Second, although gender was not related to perceptions of anomie and related constructs, our sample, which included slightly more women, might raise concerns about the generalizability of our findings. Another possible limitation might be the online data collection. On the one hand, we had no control over environmental stimuli, but on the other hand, online data collection is known to be as representative as the pencil-and-paper method (Lewis et al., 2009), and we were also able to extend our sample beyond undergraduates through convenience sampling.

Finally, to the best of our knowledge, this is the first study to evaluate the psychometric properties of the Perception of Anomie Scale in a Turkish sample. It would be an appropriate tool to examine the perception of anomie in relation to psychological variables, namely democratic leadership preferences. Within the heterogeneous cultural structure of Türkiye, future research would reach useful results considering the effects of an anomic political environment on individuals' psychological state, attitudes, and behaviours. In conclusion, we believe that the Turkish version of the PAS can contribute to the literature by providing new insights and expanding our knowledge of anomie.

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Appendix: The Perception of Anomie Scale Turkish form

Maddeler	
Yönerge: Türkiye toplumunu göz önünde bulundurarak aşağıdaki ifadelere ne derece katıldığınızı belirtiniz.	
Günümüzde Türkiye'de…	
Sosyal Dokuda Bozulma	
1.	İnsanlar uymaları gereken belirli ahlaki standartların olmadığını düşünür.
2.	Herkes kendini düşünür; kimse ihtiyacı olanlara yardım etmez.
3.	Eğer bir şeyler işliyorsa, çoğu insan bunun doğruluğunu veya yanlışlığını önemsemez.
4.	İnsanlar kime inanıp güveneceğini bilemez.
5.	Çoğu insan dürüstlüğün her zaman işe yaramadığını, kimi zaman bir adım öne geçmek için sahtekarlığın daha iyi bir yol olduğunu düşünür.
Liderlikte Bozulma	
6.	Hükümet insanların refahı için çalışır.
7.	Hükümet kanunen geçerlidir.
8.	Hükümet gücünü yasalara uygun olarak kullanır.
9.	Politikacılar sıradan insanların problemlerini önemsemez.
10.	Hükümetin yasaları ve politikaları etkilidir.

Disclosure Statements (Beyan ve Açıklamalar)

1. The authors of this article confirm that their work complies with the principles of research and publication ethics (Bu çalışmanın yazarları, araştırma ve yayın etiği ilkelerine uyduklarını kabul etmektedirler).

2. No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors (Yazarlar tarafından herhangi bir çıkar çatışması beyan edilmemiştir).

3. This article was screened for potential plagiarism using a plagiarism screening program (Bu çalışma, intihal tarama programı kullanılarak intihal taramasından geçirilmiştir).