



Current Thinking on Some Social and Moral Issues: A Comparative Study of Turkey and Cyprus¹

Bazı Sosyal ve Ahlaki Konular Üzerine Güncel Düşünceler: Türkiye ve Kıbrıs Üzerine Karşılaştırmalı Bir Araştırma

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ABSTRACT

This study compares the views of people in Turkey and Cyprus on 19 social and moral issues. The sample is split into three distinct groups – People living in Turkey, people living in Cyprus who speak Turkish at home, and people living in Cyprus who speak Greek at home. Data were taken from the most recent wave of the World Values Survey. The sample size was more than 3300. Participants were asked to choose a number from 1 to 10, where 1 = never justifiable and 10 = always justifiable to represent their view on each moral issue. Mean scores were then compared to determine whether the views of the three groups differed significantly. The study found that differences between and among groups were often significant. The Greek speaking group tended to show the strongest opposition to violations of property and the issues that involved some kind of violence. The people living in Turkey tended to have the strongest opposition to issues involving sex. Turkish speakers living in Cyprus tended to have the weakest opposition to violations of property rights, suicide and euthanasia. People living in Turkey showed the lowest opposition to violence and the death penalty. People living in Turkey and Turkish speakers living in Cyprus held similar opinions on the issues in only 35.3% of the cases. Copilot, an artificial intelligence chatbot, was asked to make a list of reasons why the views of people living in Turkey were often significantly different from those of Turkish speakers living in Cyprus

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ÖZ

Bu çalışma, Türkiye ve Kıbrıs'taki insanların 19 sosyal ve ahlaki konu hakkındaki görüşlerini karşılaştırmaktadır. Örneklem üç farklı gruba ayrılmıştır - Türkiye'de yaşayan insanlar, Kıbrıs'ta yaşayan ve evlerinde Türkçe konuşan insanlar ve Kıbrıs'ta yaşayan ve evlerinde Yunanca konuşan insanlar. Veriler Dünya Değerler Anketinin en son dalgasından alınmıştır. Örneklem büyüklüğü 3300'den fazladır. Katılımcılardan her bir ahlaki meseleye ilişkin görüşlerini temsil etmek üzere 1 = hiçbir zaman haklı gösterilemez ve 10 = her zaman haklı gösterilebilir olmak üzere 1 ile 10 arasında bir sayı seçmeleri istenmiştir. Daha sonra üç grubun görüşlerinin önemli ölçüde farklılık gösterip göstermediğini belirlemek için ortalama puanlar karşılaştırılmıştır. Çalışma, gruplar arasında ve gruplar içindeki farklılıkların genellikle önemli olduğunu ortaya koymuştur. Çalışmanın bulgularına göre; Yunanca konuşan grup, mülkiyet ihlallerine ve bir tür şiddet içeren konulara en güçlü muhalefeti gösterme eğilimindedir. Türkiye'de yaşayan insanlar cinsiyetle ilgili konulara en güçlü muhalefeti gösterme eğilimindedir. Kıbrıs'ta yaşayan Türkçe konuşanlar mülkiyet hakkı ihlallerine, intihara ve ötenaziye karşı en zayıf muhalefete sahip olma eğilimindedir. Türkiye'de yaşayanlar şiddete ve idam cezasına en az karşı çıkan grup oldu. Vakaların yalnızca %35,3'ünde Türkiye'de yaşayanlar ve Kıbrıs'ta yaşayan Türkçe konuşanlar bu konularda benzer görüşlere sahiptir. Çalışmada ayrıca yapay zekalı bir sohbet robotu olan Copilot'tan, Türkiye'de yaşayan insanların görüşlerinin Kıbrıs'ta yaşayan Türkçe konuşanlardan neden önemli ölçüde farklı olduğunun nedenlerini belirten bir liste hazırlaması istenmiştir.

¹ This study was previously published as an abstract at II. International Congress of Social, Political and Financial Researches (USSMAK).

Introduction

This study compares the views of people in Turkey and Cyprus on 19 social and moral issues. The sample is split into three distinct groups – People living in Turkey, people living in Cyprus who speak Turkish at home, and people living in Cyprus who speak Greek at home. Data were taken from the most recent wave of the World Values Survey. The sample size was more than 3300. Participants were asked to choose a number from 1 to 10, where 1 = never justifiable and 10 = always justifiable to represent their view on each moral issue. Mean scores were then compared to determine whether the views of the three groups differed significantly.

Most of the 19 moral issues included in this study have not been studied before in any significant detail. There are a few exceptions. The tax evasion (McGee, 2012; McGee & Shopovski, 2024a & b) and bribery (McGee & Benk, 2023, 2024) questions have been studied in some detail in prior studies that used World Values Survey data. Those studies examined the views of the people in numerous countries. Some of them also examined a number of demographic variables, such as age, gender, religion, income level, education level, marital status, etc.

Several studies of tax evasion attitudes have been conducted using different methodologies involving Turkish participants. Those studies examined the reasons that have been given to justify tax evasion (McGee, 2023) as well as the attitudes of various demographic groups (Benk et al., 2015; Benk & Budak, 2012; Mohdali et al., 2017; Geyik & Seren, 2023).

1. Methodology

Space constraints preclude us from examining any demographic variables for these 19 moral issues. There is also not sufficient space to examine any of the 19 moral issues in any depth. The current study is limited in scope. It only compares the attitudes of three groups in two countries on the acceptability of these moral issues. The most recent wave of World Values Surveys included data on more than 90 countries. Thus, there is much room for further study on these moral questions. We wanted to do research that would be of interest to a Turkish audience, so we gave Perplexity, an artificial intelligence chatbot, the following instruction:

INSTRUCTION: Make a list of the top 10 countries where Turkish is spoken. Rank them by the number of Turkish speakers and list the number of Turkish speakers.

It gave us the following ranking:

Table 1: Top 10 Countries Where Turkish Is Spoken

Rank	Country	Turkish Speakers
1	Turkey	75-80 million
2	Germany	2.5-3.5 million
3	France	500,000 – 1 million
4	Bulgaria	800,000 – 1 million
5	North Cyprus	300,000
6	Greece	200,000 – 300,000
7	United States	55,000 – 200,000
8	United Kingdom	150,000 – 300,000
9	Austria	150,000 – 200,000
10	Netherlands	100,000 – 200,000

Source: Perplexity (2024).

It cited Wikipedia (2024) as one of the sources it used. That Wikipedia source mentioned that Turkish is an official language of Turkey, Northern Cyprus and Cyprus. Since Turkish was an official language of only those countries, we decided to focus our research on those countries rather than the countries listed in Table 1.

Next we went to the World Values Survey (2024) website to see what data were available for those three geographic regions. Wave 7, the most recent Wave (2017-2022) had data on Turkey and Cyprus, but not Northern Cyprus. The main languages spoken on Cyprus are Greek and Turkish, and it was possible to break down the data in Cyprus based on the language spoken at home. We then chose to compare the answers given to some moral and social questions that were included in the World Values Survey.

The World Values Survey asked some questions soliciting opinions on various social and moral issues. The questions asked whether those acts would be justifiable using a 10-point Likert Scale, where 1 = never justifiable and 10 = always justifiable. We then compared mean scores using Welch's unpaired t-test rather than the traditional student t-test because it is considered to be slightly superior in some ways (Ruxton, 2006; Delacre

et al, 2017; Derrick et al., 2016). After tabulating the results, we asked Copilot, an artificial intelligence chatbot, to list some reasons why the views of the people who live in Turkey might be significantly different from the views of Turkish speakers living in Cyprus.

The results are reported in the next section.

2. Findings

The findings are presented below.

2.1. Claiming Government Benefits

One question asked whether it would ever be justifiable to claim government benefits to which you are not entitled. The results are reported in Table 2. Differences in mean score are considered significant if $p < 0.05$. None of the p-values were < 0.05 , which means that the views of the three groups on this issue were not significantly different.

Table 2: Claiming Government Benefits

(1 = never justifiable; 10 = always justifiable)			
	Turkey	Cyprus Greek	Turkish
Mean	1.89	1.88	2.40
Std. Dev.	1.85	1.92	2.09
n	2,397	726	23
p-values	Turkey	Cyprus (G)	Cyprus (T)
Turkey	1	0.9014	0.2561
Cyprus (G)		1	0.2510
Cyprus (T)			1

2.2. Avoiding A Fare On Public Transport

One question asked whether it would ever be justifiable to avoid a fare on public transport. The results are reported in Table 3. For this issue, all three p-values were < 0.05 , which means that all views were significantly different. The Greek speakers in Cyprus were significantly more opposed to avoiding a fare on public transport than were either of the other two groups. Turkish speakers in Cyprus were the least opposed. Native speakers in Turkey were significantly more opposed to avoiding paying a fare on public transport than were Turkish speakers in Cyprus, and were significantly less opposed to pay a fare than were Greek speakers in Cyprus.

Table 3: Avoiding A Fare On Public Transport

(1 = never justifiable; 10 = always justifiable)			
	Turkey	Cyprus Greek	Turkish
Mean	2.10	1.93	3.92
Std. Dev.	2.03	1.91	2.98
n	2,388	723	235
p-values	Turkey	Cyprus (G)	Cyprus (T)
Turkey	1	0.0390	0.0001
Cyprus (G)		1	0.0001
Cyprus (T)			1

2.3. Stealing Property

One question asked whether it would ever be justifiable to steal property. The results are reported in Table 4. Two of the three p-values showed that there was a significant difference in opinion. People living in Turkey and Turkish speakers in Cyprus had basically the same view on this issue. Greek speakers in Cyprus were significantly more opposed to stealing property than were either of the Turkish speaking groups.

Table 4: Stealing Property**(1 = never justifiable; 10 = always justifiable)**

	Turkey	Greek	Cyprus	Turkish
Mean	1.61	1.26		1.66
Std. Dev.	1.59	1.08		1.62
n	2,404	732		235
p-values	Turkey	Cyprus (G)		Cyprus (T)
Turkey	1	0.0001		0.6514
Cyprus (G)		1		0.0005
Cyprus (T)				1

2.4. Cheating On Taxes

One question asked whether it would ever be justifiable to cheat on taxes if you had a chance. The results are reported in Table 5. The p-values were < 0.05 in two cases. People living in Turkey and Turkish speakers in Cyprus had opinions that were not significantly different. Greek speakers in Cyprus were significantly more opposed to cheating on taxes than were either of the Turkish speaking groups.

Table 5: Cheating On Taxes**(1 = never justifiable; 10 = always justifiable)**

	Turkey	Greek	Cyprus	Turkish
Mean	1.69	1.48		1.74
Std. Dev.	1.64	1.44		1.66
n	2,395	732		236
p-values	Turkey	Cyprus (G)		Cyprus (T)
Turkey	1	0.0009		0.6589
Cyprus (G)		1		0.0316
Cyprus (T)				1

2.5. Accepting a Bribe

One question asked whether it would ever be justifiable to accept a bribe in the course of their duties. The results are reported in Table 6. P-values were < 0.05 in two cases. People living in Turkey and Turkish speakers in Cyprus had basically the same opinion on the acceptability of bribery. Greek speakers in Cyprus were significantly more opposed to taking a bribe than were either of the Turkish speaking groups

Table 6: Accepting A Bribe**(1 = never justifiable; 10 = always justifiable)**

	Turkey	Greek	Cyprus	Turkish
Mean	1.65	1.30		1.78
Std. Dev.	1.64	1.05		1.72
n	2,396	732		235
p-values	Turkey	Cyprus (G)		Cyprus (T)
Turkey	1	0.0001		0.2679
Cyprus (G)		1		0.0001
Cyprus (T)				1

2.6. Homosexuality

One question asked whether homosexuality would ever be justifiable. The results are reported in Table 7. For this issue, all three p-value comparisons were < 0.05 , indicating that all three groups had opinions that were significantly different from those of the other groups. People living in Turkey had the strongest opposition to the view that homosexuality was justifiable; Greek speakers in Cyprus showed the least opposition to homosexuality.

Table 7: Homosexuality

(1 = never justifiable; 10 = always justifiable)

	Turkey	Greek	Cyprus	Turkish
Mean	2.08	4.01		3.44
Std. Dev.	1.96	3.02		2.63
n	2,363	695		211
p-values	Turkey	Cyprus (G)		Cyprus (T)
Turkey	1	0.0001		0.0001
Cyprus (G)		1		0.0081
Cyprus (T)				1

2.7. Prostitution

One question asked whether prostitution would ever be justifiable. The results are reported in Table 8. For this issue the two Cyprus groups had basically the same opinion on the acceptability of prostitution. The people living in Turkey showed the strongest opposition to prostitution, while the Greek speakers in Cyprus showed the least opposition.

Table 8: Prostitution

(1 = never justifiable; 10 = always justifiable)

	Turkey	Greek	Cyprus	Turkish
Mean	1.85	2.29		2.25
Std. Dev.	1.75	1.94		2.12
n	2,381	704		217
p-values	Turkey	Cyprus (G)		Cyprus (T)
Turkey	1	0.0001		0.0075
Cyprus (G)		1		0.8044
Cyprus (T)				1

2.8. Abortion

One question asked whether abortion would ever be justifiable. The results are reported in Table 9. The two Cyprus groups had basically the same opinion on the acceptability of abortion. People who lived in Turkey had the strongest opposition, while the Turkish speakers in Cyprus showed the least opposition.

Table 9: Abortion

(1 = never justifiable; 10 = always justifiable)

	Turkey	Greek	Cyprus	Turkish
Mean	2.57	2.91		3.11
Std. Dev.	2.17	2.42		2.53
n	2,366	705		216

p-values	Turkey	Cyprus (G)	Cyprus (T)
Turkey	1	0.0008	0.0027
Cyprus (G)		1	0.3052
Cyprus (T)			1

2.9. Divorce

One question asked whether divorce would ever be justifiable. The results are reported in Table 10. For this question, all three p-value comparisons were < 0.05 , indicating that all groups had opinions that were significantly different from those of the other two groups. People living in Turkey had the strongest opposition to divorce, while the Greek speakers in Cyprus showed the least opposition.

Table 10: Divorce

(1 = never justifiable; 10 = always justifiable)

	Turkey	Greek	Cyprus	Turkish
Mean	4.40	5.55		4.82
Std. Dev.	2.76	2.45		2.88
n	2,357	716		226

p-values	Turkey	Cyprus (G)	Cyprus (T)
Turkey	1	0.0001	0.0365
Cyprus (G)		1	0.0007
Cyprus (T)			1

2.10. Sex Before Marriage

One question asked whether sex before marriage would ever be justifiable. The results are reported in Table 11. For this question, all three p-value comparisons were < 0.05 , indicating that all groups had opinions that were significantly different from those of the other two groups. The people who lived in Turkey showed significantly stronger opposition to sex before marriage than did either of the other two groups. The Greek speakers in Cyprus showed significantly less opposition to sex before marriage than either of the other two groups.

Table 11: Sex Before Marriage

(1 = never justifiable; 10 = always justifiable)

	Turkey	Greek	Cyprus	Turkish
Mean	2.35	6.60		3.50
Std. Dev.	2.14	2.87		2.63
n	2,360	692		216

p-values	Turkey	Cyprus (G)	Cyprus (T)
Turkey	1	0.0001	0.0001
Cyprus (G)		1	0.0001
Cyprus (T)			1

2.11. Suicide

One question asked whether suicide would ever be justifiable. The results are reported in Table 12. The two Turkish speaking groups showed the same extent of opposition to suicide. The Greek speakers had the strongest opposition to suicide, while the Turkish speakers in Cyprus showed the least opposition.

Table 12: Suicide**(1 = never justifiable; 10 = always justifiable)**

	Turkey	Greek	Cyprus Turkish
Mean	1.80	1.62	1.91
Std. Dev.	1.71	1.54	1.77
n	2,391	720	215
p-values	Turkey	Cyprus (G)	Cyprus (T)
Turkey	1	0.0075	0.3823
Cyprus (G)		1	0.0308
Cyprus (T)			1

2.12. Euthanasia

One question asked whether euthanasia would ever be justifiable. The results are reported in Table 13. For this question, two of the p-values were < 0.05 while one p-value was > 0.05 but < 0.10 . When a p-value is > 0.05 but < 0.10 , there is a weak significance. Thus, Greek speakers in Cyprus were somewhat more opposed to euthanasia than were the people living in Turkey and were significantly more opposed to euthanasia than were the Turkish speakers in Cyprus. The people living in Turkey were significantly more opposed to euthanasia than were Turkish speakers in Cyprus.

Table 13: Euthanasia**(1 = never justifiable; 10 = always justifiable)**

	Turkey	Greek	Cyprus Turkish
Mean	2.53	2.36	3.08
Std. Dev.	2.38	2.16	2.89
n	2,325	708	213
p-values	Turkey	Cyprus (G)	Cyprus (T)
Turkey	1	0.0738	0.0075
Cyprus (G)		1	0.0009
Cyprus (T)			1

2.13. Wife Beating

One question asked whether it would ever be justifiable for a man to beat his wife. The results are reported in Table 14. All three groups showed strong opposition to wife beating, as indicated by the fact that all mean scores were < 2.0 . However, all p-values were < 0.05 , which indicates that all groups had opinions that were significantly different from those of the other two groups. The Greek speakers had the strongest opposition to wife beating, whereas the people living in Turkey had the least opposition.

Table 14: Wife Beating**(1 = never justifiable; 10 = always justifiable)**

	Turkey	Greek	Cyprus	Turkish
Mean	1.80	1.17		1.46
Std. Dev.	1.73	0.84		1.40
n	2,401	731		235
p-values	Turkey	Cyprus (G)		Cyprus (T)
Turkey	1	0.0001		0.0006
Cyprus (G)		1		0.0029
Cyprus (T)				1

2.14. Parents Beating Their Children

One question asked whether it would ever be justifiable for parents to beat their children. The results are reported in Table 15. The two Cyprus groups had the same opinion on the acceptability of child beating. The people living in Turkey were significantly less opposed to child beating than were either of the other two groups, although opposition of all groups was strong, as indicated by the fact that all three mean scores were < 2.10. The Greek speakers in Cyprus had the strongest opposition.

Table 15: Parents Beating Children**(1 = never justifiable; 10 = always justifiable)**

	Turkey	Greek	Cyprus	Turkish
Mean	2.09	1.42		1.53
Std. Dev.	1.90	1.20		1.42
n	2,400	734		234
p-values	Turkey	Cyprus (G)		Cyprus (T)
Turkey	1	0.0001		0.0001
Cyprus (G)		1		0.2856
Cyprus (T)				1

2.15. Violence Against Other People

One question asked whether committing violence against other people would ever be justifiable. The results are reported in Table 16. All p-values were < 0.05, indicating that all three groups had opinions that differed significantly from those of the other two groups. The Greek speakers in Cyprus showed the strongest opposition, whereas the people living in Turkey showed the least opposition. However, all three groups showed strong opposition to violence against other people, as indicated by the fact that all three mean scores were < 2.0.

Table 16: Violence Against Other People**(1 = never justifiable; 10 = always justifiable)**

	Turkey	Greek	Cyprus	Turkish
Mean	1.95	1.28		1.56
Std. Dev.	1.83	0.92		1.48
n	2,398	737		235
p-values	Turkey	Cyprus (G)		Cyprus (T)
Turkey	1	0.0001		0.0002
Cyprus (G)		1		0.0066
Cyprus (T)				1

2.16. Terrorism

One question asked whether terrorism as a political, ideological or religious mean would ever be justifiable. The results are reported in Table 17. However, the only group that received surveys with this question was the Greek speaking group in Cyprus, so it was not possible to compare the opinions between groups. All that can be said is that the Greek speakers in Cyprus had strong opposition to the view that terrorism could be justified, as indicated by the very low mean score (1.25).

Table 17: Terrorism

	Turkey	Greek	Cyprus	Turkish
Mean	-	1.25		-
Std. Dev.	-	0.85		-
n	-	725		-
p-values	Turkey	Cyprus (G)		Cyprus (T)
Turkey	-	-		-
Cyprus (G)		-		-
Cyprus (T)				-

2.17. Having Casual Sex

One question asked whether having casual sex would ever be justifiable. The results are reported in Table 18. The two Turkish speaking groups had basically the same view on whether having casual sex would ever be justifiable. All other group comparisons of mean score showed significant differences of opinion. The people living in Turkey had the strongest opposition to having casual sex, whereas the Greek speakers in Cyprus showed the least opposition.

Table 18: Having Casual Sex

	Turkey	Greek	Cyprus	Turkish
Mean	2.35	3.09		2.62
Std. Dev.	2.15	2.74		2.61
n	2,369	689		224
p-values	Turkey	Cyprus (G)		Cyprus (T)
Turkey	1	0.0001		0.1346
Cyprus (G)		1		0.0213
Cyprus (T)				1

2.18. Political Violence

One question asked whether political violence would ever be justifiable. The results are reported in Table 19. The only group that had this question included in their survey was the Greek speaking group in Cyprus. Thus, it was not possible to make any comparisons between groups. However, it can be said that opposition to political violence was strong among the Greek speaking group in Cyprus, as indicated by the very low mean score (1.33).

Table 19: Political Violence

	Turkey	Greek	Cyprus	Turkish
Mean	-	1.33		-
Std. Dev.	-	0.97		-
n	-	727		-

p-values	Turkey	Cyprus (G)	Cyprus (T)
Turkey	-	-	-
Cyprus (G)		-	-
Cyprus (T)			-

2.19. Death Penalty

One question asked whether the death penalty would ever be justifiable. The results are reported in Table 20. The two Cyprus groups had basically the same view on the justifiability of the death penalty. The Turkish speakers in Cyprus showed the strongest opposition to the death penalty, whereas the people who lived in Turkey showed the least opposition.

Table 20: Death Penalty

	Turkey	Greek	Cyprus	Turkish
Mean	3.29	2.69		2.60
Std. Dev.	2.92	2.43		2.73
n	2,354	731		228

p-values	Turkey	Cyprus (G)	Cyprus (T)
Turkey	1	0.0001	0.0003
Cyprus (G)		1	0.6561
Cyprus (T)			1

2.20. Summary of Findings

Table 21 summarizes the findings. The Greek speaking group tended to show the strongest opposition to violations of property and the issues that involved some kind of violence. The people living in Turkey tended to have the strongest opposition to issues involving sex. Turkish speakers living in Cyprus tended to have the weakest opposition to violations of property rights, suicide and euthanasia. People living in Turkey showed the lowest opposition to violence and the death penalty.

Table 21: Summary of Findings

Issue	Strongest Opposition	Weakest Opposition
Claiming government benefits	Greek speakers	Turkish speakers in Cyprus
Avoiding a fare on public transport	Greek speakers	Turkish speakers in Cyprus
Stealing property	Greek speakers	Turkish speakers in Cyprus
Cheating on taxes	Greek speakers	Turkish speakers in Cyprus
Accepting a bribe	Greek speakers	Turkish speakers in Cyprus
Homosexuality	People living in Turkey	Greek speakers
Prostitution	People living in Turkey	Greek speakers
Abortion	People living in Turkey	Turkish speakers in Cyprus
Divorce	People living in Turkey	Greek speakers
Sex before marriage	People living in Turkey	Greek speakers
Suicide	Greek speakers	Turkish speakers in Cyprus
Euthanasia	Greek speakers	Turkish speakers in Cyprus
Wife beating	Greek speakers	People living in Turkey
Child beating	Greek speakers	People living in Turkey
Violence against other people	Greek speakers	People living in Turkey
Having casual sex	People living in Turkey	Greek speakers
Death penalty	Turkish speakers in Cyprus	People living in Turkey

2.21. Reasons For Differences In Views

We asked Copilot (2024), an artificial intelligence chatbot, why the views of people living in Turkey might have views on social issues that are significantly different from those of Turkish speakers living in Cyprus. The instruction we gave it is given below.

INSTRUCTION: Native speakers living in Turkey often have significantly different views on moral issues than Turkish speakers living in Cyprus. Why is that? Make a list of reasons why their views might be significantly different.

COPILOT REPLY

Turkish speakers in Turkey and Cyprus indeed exhibit distinct perspectives on moral issues, and several factors contribute to these differences:

1. Historical Context:

- Cyprus has a complex history marked by Greek and Turkish influences. The island was populated by Greeks since ancient times, while Turks from Anatolia began settling there during Ottoman rule.
- The struggle for independence and subsequent interethnic clashes shaped the island's identity and divided it into Greek and Turkish regions.

2. Language Variation:

- Cypriot Turkish (CT), the vernacular spoken by Cypriots with Ottoman ancestry, evolved over centuries. It is also used by Cypriots who converted to Islam during Ottoman rule.
- Standard Turkish (ST), spoken in Turkey, differs from CT due to historical and regional factors.
- Language variation often influences cultural attitudes and values.

3. Isolation and Identity:

- Cyprus remains internationally isolated due to its unresolved political situation. Turkish Cypriots may develop distinct views as a result.
- Identity plays a crucial role. Turkish Cypriots identify with both their Cypriot heritage and Turkish roots, leading to unique perspectives.

4. Political and Social Context:

- Cyprus Conflict: The island's division and ongoing conflict impact moral viewpoints. Turkish Cypriots' experiences differ from those in mainland Turkey.
- Traditional Policies: Turkey's changing position on Cyprus has shifted from supporting a federal solution to embracing a more traditional stance.

5. Education and Exposure:

- Educational Systems: Differences in education systems between Turkey and Cyprus can shape moral values.
- Media Exposure: Access to different media sources influences awareness and opinions.

6. Religious and Cultural Factors:

- Religion: Turkish Cypriots' religious practices and beliefs may diverge from those in Turkey.
- Cultural Practices: Local customs, traditions, and social norms contribute to varying moral perspectives.

7. Geopolitical Influences:

- Proximity to Greece: Greek Cypriots' influence on Turkish Cypriots and vice versa affects moral outlooks.
- Turkey's Role: As a major regional player, Turkey's policies and cultural exports impact its citizens' views.

In summary, the historical context, language variation, isolation, political climate, education, religion, and cultural factors all contribute to the distinct moral perspectives of Turkish speakers in Turkey and Cyprus.²

Conclusion

The main conclusion of this study is that the difference in opinion about the moral questions included in the survey is often significant. Greek speakers in Cyprus often had views that differed significantly from those of the Turkish speakers. The people living in Turkey and the Turkish speakers living in Cyprus had significantly different views on 11 of the 17 issues (64.7%) that were included in the survey instrument, where they had similar views in only 6 of the 17 cases (35.3%). The Greek speaking group tended to show the strongest opposition to violations of property and the issues that involved some kind of violence. The people living in Turkey tended to have the strongest opposition to issues involving sex. Turkish speakers living in Cyprus tended to have the weakest opposition to violations of property rights, suicide and euthanasia. People living in Turkey showed the lowest opposition to violence and the death penalty.

AUTHOR STATEMENT

Statement of Research and Publication Ethics: This study has been prepared in accordance with scientific research and publication ethics rules.

Ethics Committee Approval: Since this research includes analyzes that do not require ethics committee approval, it does not require ethics committee approval.

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² AUTHORS' NOTE: Copilot cited the following three sources.

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We will leave it to the reader to decide whether Copilot provided an acceptable list of reasons for the differences between the views of people living in Turkey and Turkish speakers in Cyprus. Perhaps this issue can be the topic of a future research project.

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