



## THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PARENTAL ATTITUDES AND THEIR PERSONALITIES AND VALUES

### EBEVEYNLERİN ÇOCUK YETİŞTİRME TUTUMLARI İLE KİŞİLİK ÖZELLİKLERİ VE DEĞERLERİ ARASINDAKİ İLİŞKİLER

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#### Abstract

With this longitudinal study, it was aimed to investigate whether parental attitudes were differentiated in four different periods such as pregnancy, 13th months, 2.5 and 4 years of the children, as well as possible relationships between parents' attitudes, personalities and values. Sample of the study was composed of 68 couples. Parents were administered by Evaluation Form of Pregnancy Period (EFPP), Schwartz Value Survey (SVS), NEO-5 Personality Inventory and Parental Attitude Research Instrument (PARI). Analyses showed that as the children grow parents use overprotection attitude less, and that certain values especially the traditional ones and some personality characteristics of parents predicted parental attitudes. Results were discussed in the light of related literature.

**Key Words:** parental attitudes, personality, values.

#### Öz

Boylamsal olarak yürütülen bu çalışmayla, ebeveyn tutumlarının, hamilelik dönemi, çocukların 13.ay, 2.5 yaş ve 4 yaş olmak üzere dört farklı zaman diliminde farklılaşıp farklılaşmadığı ve ebeveynlerin tutumları, kişilik özellikleri ve değerleri arasındaki ilişkiler incelenmiştir. Araştırmanın örneklemini 68 eş oluşturmuştur. Ebeveynlere, Schwartz Değerler Ölçeği (SDÖ), NEO 5 Kişilik Envanteri ve Aile Hayatı ve Çocuk Değerlendirme Ölçeği verilmiştir. Yapılan analizler sonucunda, çocukların yaşı büyüdükçe ebeveynlerin aşırı koruyucu tutumu daha az benimsedikleri; değerlerin, özellikle de yerel değerlerin ve bazı kişilik özelliklerinin ebeveynlerin çocuk yetiştirme tutumlarını yordayıcı olduğu bulunmuştur. Sonuçlar literature ışığında tartışılmıştır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Ebeveyn tutumu, kişilik, değerler.

In this study, some of the data which were collected during a longitudinal study<sup>1</sup> from pregnancy of mothers to four years of children, were presented. In the longitudinal study, it was aimed to investigate the relationships between children's developmental processes and some properties of parents. Special to this study, in the light of data collected just in the pregnancy period, 13th months, 2.5 years, and 4 years of children, whether parental attitudes are differentiated in four different periods between parents, as well as the relationships between parental attitudes and parents' personality and values were analysed.

Whether child-rearing practices are differentiated as the children grow seems to be an important research subject. Research showing that parents' behaviors also change parallel to children's ages supports this. For instance, Kaye and Fogel (1980) investigated possible changes in mothers' behaviors in response to babies' decreasing interests into their mothers' faces in their first six months. In a longitudinal study conducted by Lohaus et al. (2004), they investigated mother sensitivity described as mothers' perception of babies' signals and appropriate interpretations and giving fast and appropriate responses and its relationship with children's developmental outcomes. Results showed that mothers' sensitivity changed during babies' developments. Further, Hudson, Elek and Fleck (2001) found that, as children grow, they need less control from their parents. Another study supporting this finding is a longitudinal study of Kochanska et al. (2004). Researchers displayed that 7 months babies showed more independency when they grow to 15 months. On the other hand, there are some other studies showing some stability in parental attitudes. For example, McNally, Eisenberg and Haris (1991) determined in their longitudinal study that mothers' attitudes are highly stable.

Since parenting is a complex process reflecting individual, social and cultural effects, it seems to be crucial to explore parenting attitudes and personality characteristics and values as well. These mentioned factors compose this study's subject.

Since parenthood is one of the major roles in an adult's daily life, it may be thought that the way parents behave to their children is related to their personality (Belsky, Crnic & Woodworth, 1995). Investigating the relationship between parents' personality characteristics and their child rearing practices may be seen as a way of explaining especially the relatively stable parenthood tendencies. Personality characteristics reflect basic tendencies based on

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interaction of individual talents, attitudes, interpersonal relationships and the relationships of these with the environment. Although many characteristics are used to describe personality, five factors model of personality presents a comprehensive perspective (Somer, Korkmaz and Tatar, 2004). This model defined five factors as neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness (Costa, McCrae & Dye, 1991).

In this model, neuroticism includes characteristics such as unrealistic thoughts, psychological distress, impulsive behaviors, and inappropriate reactions. In this sense, parents high on neuroticism tend to be emotional, anxious, nervous, insecure, and incompetent. These tendencies make it difficult for them to be sensitive to their children's needs. Since extraversion includes being cheerful and talkative, showing his/her love, being optimist and sociableness, it is expected from these parents to be sensitive to the cues from their children. Openness to experience reflects the personality characteristics such as being not traditional, being curious, having wide sphere of interest and imagination and being creative. Although parents who are high on openness to experience are open-minded and sensitive, focusing on new experiences and interests may prevent them to be sensitive to their children. Agreeableness is a characteristic of personal relationship style and includes compassion, honesty, helpfulness, empathy and trust. Thus, parents having these personality characteristics are expected to be more sensitive and less interfering acts. Since these parents will make efforts to have harmonic and positive relationships with their children, and besides they will be more sensitive to cues from their children. Conscientiousness means to have responsibility, to be trustable, to be controlled, and systematic. Having these characteristics, parents are expected to be more sensitive and supporting and to tend less to show power to their children (Costa, McCrae & Dye, 1991; Smith et al., 2007; Somer, Korkmaz & Tatar, 2004).

Results of various studies investigating the relationship between parents' personality characteristics and parental attitudes showed that change in parental attitudes is partly related to change in personality (Stams, Dekovie, Reijntjes, Belsky & Prinzie, 2009). Studies generally imply that extraversion and agreeableness are related to positive child-rearing attitudes such as warmness, parental sensitiveness (Belsky, Crnic & Woodworth, 1995; Clark, Kochanska & Ready, 2000; Coplan, Reichel & Rowan, 2009; Smith et al., 2007). Further, it was shown that neurotic personality is related to inadequate parenthood such as power based discipline techniques, less sensitivity and less warmness (Clark, Kochanska & Ready, 2000; Coplan, Reichel & Rowan, 2009; Kochanska, Clark & Goldman, 1997). Stams, Dekovie, Reijntjes, Belsky and Prinzie (2009) conducted a metaanalysis containing 30 studies

investigating the relationships between five personality factors and parental warmth, behavioral control and supporting autonomy characteristics. Results of this analysis showed that being high on extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness and openness to experience and being low on neuroticism were more related to warmth, and behavioral control; being high on agreeableness and low on neuroticism is related to supporting autonomy. Nevertheless, inconsistent results were also found among studies. For instance, there is a study showing that extraversion is both related to adequate parenting (Matsapelto & Pulkkinen, 2003), and negative parenting behaviors like power assertion (Kochanska, Clark & Goldman, 1997), or there is another one finding no direct relationship between extraversion and positive parenting (Smith et al., 2007).

Another concept which is related to child-rearing attitudes is values. Values which are described as basic principles leading to our lives (Schwartz, 1992) were stated as having an importance order, and this relative order guides to our attitudes and behaviors (Schwartz, 2006). In his Values Theory, Schwartz (1992) mentions ten value types as universalism, benevolence, tradition, conformity, security, power, achievement, hedonism, stimulation and self-direction.

Further, Schwartz's Values Theory states that people's value systems form a coherent structure, and thus this makes it possible to make predictions about relationships of these values with some other variables. Values, consciously or unconsciously, get activated and affect behaviors. On the other hand, parents' child-rearing practices are seen as tools for children to become coherent individuals for the culture they are living in (Roer-Strier, 2001). At this point, values as guiding principles are closely related to the decision of what aims we are to follow (Parks & Guay, 2009). For instance, in their study, Whitbeck and Gecas (1988) found that parents' personal values and the values they try to socialize in their kids were highly related. Ellison and Sherkat (1993) also found that parental attitudes are affected from their religious values. Further, as Schönplflug (2001) asserts, generational value transmission is selective; individual's personality characteristics, parenting styles, marriage relationship, family variables, education, age, etc., are all important variables in this transmission.

In the light of studies mentioned above, the first aim of this study is to investigate whether parental attitudes are differentiated in four different periods (pregnancy, 13th months, 2.5 and 4 years of children). It is predicted that, as the children grow, parents are expected to show less control behaviors. The second aim of the study is to investigate the relationship between parental attitudes and parents' personality. Openness to experience, extraversion and

agreeableness are expected to be related to democratic attitude including parental warmth, sensitivity and supporting autonomy; neuroticism is expected to be related to strict discipline. The third aim is to investigate the relationship between parental attitudes and parents' values. Value types as tradition, conformity and security are predicted to be positively related to over-protection and strict discipline, and universalism and benevolence values types are predicted to be positively related to democratic attitude. Further, it will be analysed whether parental attitudes are differentiated according to parent's gender in pregnancy period.

## METHOD

### Participants

The study was conducted with 68 volunteer couples who were in the 7., 8. or 9. months of the pregnancy period. The mean marriage year was 3.59 years and the %77.9 of the couples were the first-time parents and %22.1 of the parents had kids before. Mothers' mean age was 29 and fathers' was 32.6. See Table 1 for the educational status and age means of couples who stated their economic status as upper middle class.

**Table 1.** Education Levels and Mean Age of Parents

	Education Level		Age	
	Secondary-High	Graduate	M	Sd
Mothers (N=68)	%35.4	%64.6	29.0	4.54
Fathers (N=68)	%30.3	%69.7	32.6	5.44

Of females %33.8, are housewives, and the rest of them are working. The number of girl babies was 35 and that of boys was 33.

While the number of participants was totally 136 in the pregnancy period (mothers=68, fathers=68), this number changed to 66 in 13th months of the children (mothers=37, fathers=29), to 76 in 2.5 years of children (mothers=42, fathers=34) and to totally 65 in the four years of children (mothers=37, fathers=28). These changes occurred from the reasons such as address changes, divorce, wish to quit from the study, etc.

### Measures

**Evaluation Form of Pregnancy Period (EFPP):** This evaluation form is composed of demographic information such as age, education, job, economic status and marriage years

about family members and information related to pregnancy period. It was conducted by the researchers and contains totally 37 open-ended and multiple choice questions.

### **Parental Attitude Research Instrument (PARI):**

Parental Attitude Research Instrument (PARI) was developed to determine parents' child-rearing attitudes by Schaefer and Bell and the short form was adapted to Turkish by Le Compte, Le Compte and Özer (1978). Inventory is composed of 60 questions and it is answered as choosing one of the options from "I do not agree", "I agree a little", "I agree much" and "I totally agree". Grading is done giving 1 point to "I do not agree" and 2, 3, and 4 points to others, respectively. There are two items to be reversed. High scores from the dimensions shows that the respondents support the attitude mentioned in this dimension. Other than democratic attitude dimension, high scores from all the other dimensions show a negative parental attitude. The inventory includes five dimensions. In this study, only overprotection, democratic attitude and strict-discipline dimensions which were thought to be related to the other variables were used. Over-protection attitude includes over control, intervention, wanting from the child to be dependent, active and hardworking, being mother self-sacrificing, believing that the child must understand this sacrifice. Democratic attitude includes providing equality, supporting the child to express his/her ideas freely, being friendly with the child, and sharing many things. Strict-discipline attitude mostly reflects a negative child-rearing attitude and includes issues like repression, restraining of sexual behaviors and aggressivity, believing in strict discipline, forcing the child, believing mothers' and fathers' absolute dominance. The other two dimensions, rejection of homemaking role and marital conflict were not used in this study.

The coefficients of test-retest reliabilities of the dimensions were found between .58 and .88 and the test was applied to mothers from three socioeconomic status for the construct validity and five dimensions were obtained (LeCompte, LeCompte & Özer, 1978; Öner, 2006).

### **NEO-5 Personality Inventory (NEO-5)**

In order to assess the personality characteristics of parents, NEO-5 Personality Inventory which was developed by Costa and McCrae (1991) and translated to Turkish by Sunar (1996) was used in this study. This inventory measures five dimensions as neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness and conscientiousness. The inventory is composed of 60 items, and every item is graded in five-point likert type (totally not suitable

for me, not suitable for me, I am not sure, suitable for me, totally suitable for me) (Sunar, 1996). Reliability coefficients for neuroticism, extraversion, openness to experience, agreeableness, conscientiousness were found as .76, .70, .65, .70 and .80 respectively (Sunar, 1996).

### **Schwartz Value Survey (SVS)**

Culturally validated short form of the Schwartz Value Survey (SVS) was used in order to evaluate participants' values (Schwartz, 2001). The survey has 45 items and measures 10 value types as universalism, benevolence, tradition, conformity, security, power, achievement, hedonism, stimulation and self-direction. Four local values were added to the survey which was adapted to Turkish by Kuşdil and Kağıtçıbaşı (2000). These local values are chastity of woman, secularism, superiority of man and hospitality. Values are evaluated in a scale changing from -1 (against my principles) to 7 (the most important to me). Internal consistency coefficients of ten value types were found between .54 and .77 and those of four dimensions composed by these 10 types were found between .78 and .85.

Two value lists were presented in this survey (Schwartz, 2006). Respondents evaluate every item in two lists as a guiding principle and give them numbers between -1 (against my principles) and 7 (most important to me) (Schwartz, 2001). Grading includes negative evaluations also since some values attached in some countries may be rejected in other countries (Smith & Schwartz, 1997). Importance of every value type is calculated by the mean of values in this particular type. In this study, short form of 45 items (Schwartz, 1992) and four local values were used (Kuşdil & Kağıtçıbaşı, 2000). These four local values are separately analysed.

### **Procedure**

In order to reach participants in the late periods of their pregnancy (7, 8 and 9. months), doctors' offices and hospitals were determined and contacts were made with the gynecologists. Doctors were given written explanations clarifying the details of the study. Appointments were arranged with the volunteer pregnant women and their partners. Interviews were conducted in places where the participants prefer, such as doctors' offices, hospitals, in their houses or in their work places. After the first contact was made in pregnancy period, regular meetings were conducted with the parents at two months intervals after the third months of the babies. This part of the longitudinal study reported here only contains the data gathered in pregnancy period, 13th months, 2.5 years and four years of the children. The list of the

surveys and questionnaires and the number of participants in every period are given in Table 2.

**Table 2.** List of Surveys and Scales Applied to Parents in Four Different Periods

PERIOD	MATERIALS	
	To MOTHERS	To FATHERS
7.-8.-9. months of Pregnancy	EFPP (N=68), SVS (N=65), NEO-5 (N=64), PARI (N=61)	EFPP (N=68), SVS (N=60), NEO-5 (N=58), PARI (N=58)
13. Month after Birth	PARI (N=37)	PARI (N=29)
Age of 2,5	PARI (N=42)	PARI (N=34)
Age of 4	PARI (N=37)	PARI (N=28)

## FINDINGS

A Paired Samples t-test and Wilcoxon Signed Ranks test were conducted to analyse whether PARI scores of mothers and fathers were differentiated from each other in every period (See Table 3 for means and standard deviations).

**Table 3.** Parents' Mean and Standard Deviations of PARI Scores in Four Different Periods

Pregnancy Period	Over Protection		Democratic Attitude		Strict Discipline	
	M	Sd	M	Sd	M	Sd
Mothers	38,72	8	28,62	2,9	29,67	6,9
Fathers	38,23	9,1	27,54	3,3	29,25	7
Total	38,51	8,5	28,09	3,1	29,46	6,9
13. Months						
Mothers	37,61	8,4	28,52	3	29,3	7,4
Fathers	38,25	9,8	28,43	3,8	29,59	8,7
Total	37,89	8,0	28,58	3,4	29,43	7
Age of 2,5						
Mothers	35,41	7,3	28,45	3,2	27	6
Fathers	36,71	8,9	26,7	5,3	28,32	5,5
Total	35,69	8,5	27,5	4,4	27,59	5,8
Age of 4						
Mothers	34,66	9,6	27,14	3,1	29,47	6,9
Fathers	36,32	7,9	27,69	4,6	28,99	6,4
Total	35,29	8,4	27,44	3,8	28,91	6,7

In pregnancy period, mothers were significantly higher from fathers only in Democratic attitude ( $z=-2.801, p<.05$ ). No differentiation between mothers and fathers were found in terms of Over-protection and Strict Discipline attitudes ( $t(55)=.611, p>.05; z=-.214, p>.05$ , respectively).

In babies' 13th months and 2.5 years, it was found that mothers and fathers were not differentiated from each other on any subtests of PARI (In 13th month for Over-protection  $z=-.637, p>.05$ ; Democratic attitude  $t(28)=-.937, p>.05$  and Strict Discipline  $z=-.372, p>.05$  and in 2.5 years for Over-protection  $t(32)=-.758, p>.05$ ; Democratic attitude:  $t(32)=1.671, p>.05$  and Strict Discipline:  $z=-1.491, p>.05$ ). When children were 4 years old, there were again no differentiation between mothers and fathers in terms of subtests of PARI (Over-protection:  $t(27)=-.829, p>.05$ ; Democratic attitude  $t(27)=-.471, p>.05$  and Strict Discipline:  $t(27)=.363, p>.05$ ).

In order to investigate whether four periods were differentiated in terms of PARI scores. Repeated Measures t-tests and Wilcoxon Signed Ranks tests were done. See Table 3 for means and standard deviations of every period's PARI subtest scores.

PARI'nin Over-protection, Democratic attitude and Strict Discipline subtests were not differentiated between Pregnancy and 13th months of babies ( $z=-1.93, >.05; z=-.793, >.05; z=-1.313, >.05$ , respectively).

Democratic attitude ( $z=-1.094, >.05$ ) and Strict Discipline ( $z=-1.849, >.05$ ) were not differentiated between Pregnancy and 2.5 years. Over-protection scores of Pregnancy Period were significantly higher than those of 2.5 years ( $t(69)=2.472, p<.05$ ).

When PARI subtest of Pregnancy and 4 years period were compared, it was seen that Democratic and Strict Discipline attitudes were not differentiated in terms of these periods ( $z=-.964, >.05; z=-1.629, >.05$ , respectively). Over-protection scores of Pregnancy period were significantly higher than 4 years scores ( $t(58)=3.818, p<.05$ ).

When PARI scores of mothers and fathers in 13th months and 2.5 years period, it was found that Over-protection ( $z=-1.848, >.05$ ), Democratic attitude ( $z=-.877, >.05$ ) and Strict Discipline ( $z=-.977, >.05$ ) scores were not differentiated in terms of these periods.

Over-protection scores of 13 months period were found to be significantly higher than 4 years' scores ( $z=-2.221, >.05$ ); the other subtests were not differentiated between these periods (Democratic attitude  $z=-.646, >.05$  and Strict Discipline  $z=-.047, >.05$ ).

No significant differentiation was found between 2.5 and 4 years period in any subtests of PARI (Over-protection  $t(47)=1.475$ ,  $p<.05$ ; Democratic attitude  $z=-.068$ ,  $>.05$ ; Strict Discipline  $z=-.077$ ,  $>.05$ , respectively).

Since it was found that many subtests of the scales used in the study were not distributed normally, Spearman Correlation analysis was conducted, which is a non-parametric correlation method.

When the relationships between Neo-5 Factor Personality Inventory and PARI in Pregnancy period were analysed, the results in Table 4 were reached.

**Table 4.** Correlations between PARI Scores and NEO-5 Personality Inventory in Pregnancy Period

MOTHERS	NEO-5 Subscales	PARI Subscales	Correlation Coefficient
		Openness to Experience	Over-protection
FATHERS	NEO-5 Subscales	PARI Subscales	Correlation Coefficient
	Neuroticism	Over-protection	.28*
	Extraversion		.29*
	Openness to Experience		-.26*
	Conscientiousness		.38*
	Neuroticism	Strict Discipline	.37*
	Extraversion		.27*
	Openness to Experience		-.32*
Conscientiousness		.34*	

\* $p<.05$

With the significant results of the correlations, to see the predictive powers of NEO-5 subtests and Values on PARI scores, Forward Stepwise Logistic Regression analyses were conducted. PARI's subtest scores were divided into two categories by using median of these scores, and they were used as the dependent variables in the Logistic Regression Analyses.

In the Logistic Regression analysis which was conducted for the prediction power of 'openness to experience' dimension for the overprotection attitude of mothers' in the pregnancy period, 'openness to experience' significantly explained %18 of overprotection attitude ( $\chi^2(1)=11,865$ ,  $p<.001$ ) (See Table 5).

**Table 5.** Logistic Regression Results of PARI and NEO-5 Subscales of Mothers in Pregnancy Period

	B	S.E.	Wald Significance	Exp. B.	Sd	Cox & Snell R Square	Nagelkerke R Square
<b>Over-protection</b>						.18	.24
Constant	5,313	1,847	8,278	202,944	1		
Openness to Experience <sup>a</sup>	-,215	.072	8,956	,807	1		

a. Variables entered in the first step: Openness to Experience

In the Logistic Regression analysis which was conducted for the prediction power of ‘openness to experience’ dimension for the overprotection attitude of fathers’ in the pregnancy period, ‘openness to experience’ significantly explained %18 of overprotection attitude ( $\chi^2(1)=11,865, p< .001$ ) (See Table 5).

To see the prediction power of Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness to Experience and Conscientiousness on Over-protection attitude in the Pregnancy period, in the first step of the logistic regression analysis, when all the independent variables were not in the equation, Extraversion and Openness to Experience which did not add a significant change to the model were discarded from the analysis, and in the second regression analysis by adding the remaining variables and their binary interactions, it was seen that no variable made a significant difference in the model.

Fathers’ Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness to Experience and Conscientiousness scores were regressed on Strict Discipline attitude, and when they all were not in the equation, it was seen that Neuroticism, Extraversion and Openness to Experience did not made a significant change in the model. In the second logistic regression analysis, Conscientiousness dimension of personality significantly explained % 13 of fathers’ Strict Discipline attitude ( $\chi^2(1)=7,829, p< .05$ ) (See Table 6).

**Table 6.** Logistic Regression Results of PARI and NEO-5 Subscales of Fathers in Pregnancy Period

	B	S.E.	Wald Significance	Exp. B.	Sd	Cox & Snell R Square	Nagelkerke R Square
<b>Strict Discipline</b>						.13	.17
Constant	-3,928	1,521	6,667	,020			
Conscientiousness <sup>a</sup>	,111	,043	6,534	0,20			

a. Variables entered in the first step: Conscientiousness

Some significant results were found in the correlation analyses between PARI scores and Values in the pregnancy period (See Table 7).

**Table 7.** Correlations between SVS and PARI Subscales in Pregnancy Period

<b>MOTHERS</b> (N=58)	<b>SVS Subscales</b>	<b>PARI Subscales</b>	<b>Correlation Coefficients</b>
	Self-Direction	Over-protection	-.51**
	Universalism		-.28*
	Tradition		.43**
	Chastity		.44**
	Superiority of Man		.34*
	Hospitality		.37*
	Success	Strict Discipline	-.27*
	Self-Direction		-.57**
	Tradition		.38**
	Conformity		.29*
	Chastity		.44**
	Superiority of Man		.42**
	Hospitality		.29*
<b>FATHERS</b> (N=55)	<b>SVS Subscales</b>	<b>PARI Subscales</b>	<b>Correlation Coefficients</b>
	Self-Direction	Over-protection	-.33*
	Conformity		.30*
	Chastity		.36**
	Superiority of Man		.39**
	Stimulation	Strict Discipline	-.29*
	Self-Direction		-.35**
	Universalism		-.32*
	Tradition		.38**
	Conformity		.27*
	Superiority of Man		.35**

\*p<.05, \*\* p<.01

A Logistic Regression analysis was run to see the predictive power of Value Survey's Self-direction, Tradition, Conformity, Chastity, Superiority of Man and Hospitality scores on PARI's Over-protection attitude. In the first step, when all the variables were not in the equation Self-direction and Conformity which did not make a significant contribution to the

model, they were discarded from the analysis in the second step. Thus, in the first model HospitalityXChastity interaction explained % 25 of Over-protection attitude ( $\chi^2(1)= 17,714$   $p< .000$ ). In the second model, when the Superiority of Man was added to the model, HospitalityXChastity interaction and Superiority of Man explained %31 Over-protection attitude ( $\chi^2(1)= 4,484$ ,  $p<.05$ ) ( See Table 8).

Self-direction, Achievement, Tradition, Conformity, Chastity, Superiority of Man and Hospitality were regressed on Strict Discipline attitude, in the first step Self-direction and Achievement which did not add a significant contribution to the model were discarded from the analysis, then a second regression analysis was conducted with the remaining variables and their dual interactions (See Table 8). In this analysis, ChastityXConformity interaction significantly explained %23 of Strict-discipline ( $\chi^2(1)= 15.789$ ,  $p< .001$ ) and ChastityXConformity interaction with Superiority of Man significantly explained %30 of Strict-discipline attitude of mothers ( $\chi^2(1)= 6,052$ ,  $p<.05$ ).

**Table 8.** Logistic Regression Results of PARI and SVS Subscales of Mothers in Pregnancy Period

	B	S.E.	Wald Significance	Exp. B.	Sd	Cox & Snell R Square	Nagelkerke R Square
<b>Over-protection</b>						.31	.41
Constant	-1,56	0,632	6,09	0,21	1		
HospitalityXChastity <sup>a</sup>	0,068	0,025	7,335	1,07	1		
Superiority of Man	0,549	0,293	3,519	1,732	1		
a. Variables entered in the first step: HospitalityX Chastity							
b. Variables entered in the second step: Superiority of Man							
<b>Strict Discipline</b>						.30	.40
Sabit	-1,75	0,722	5,868	0,174	1		
ChastityXConformity <sup>a</sup>	0,067	0,025	6,968	1,069	1		
Superiority of Man <sup>b</sup>	0,607	0,293	4,294	1,836	1		
a. Variables entered in the first step: ChastityXConformity							
b. Variables entered in the second step: Superiority of Man							

In order to see the predictive value of Self-direction, Conformity, Chastity and Superiority of Man on Over-protection, a Logistic Regression analysis was run; in the second step nonsignificant Self-direction and Superiority of Man were not included, and the other variables and their interactions were included in the regression analysis. The resulting model

ChastityXConformity interaction significantly predicted %14 of fathers' Over-protection attitude ( $\chi^2(1)=8.409, p< .05$ ) ( See Table 9).

Fathers' Strict-discipline attitude was regressed by Stimulation, Self-direction, Universalism, Tradition, Conformity and Superiority of Man, in the first step of the Logistic Regression analysis Stimulation, Self-direction and Universalism which added no significant contribution to the model were not included in the second regression analysis; in the second analysis, the remaining variables and their interactions were included. Results showed that ConformityXSuperiority of Man explained %15 of fathers' Strict-discipline attitude ( $\chi^2(1)=9.181, p< .05$ ). In the second model, when TraditionXConformity interaction was added, it predicted %20 of Strict-discipline attitude ( $\chi^2(1)=4.081, p< .05$ ) (See Table 9).

**Table 9.** Logistic Regression Results of PARI and SVS Subscales of Fathers in Pregnancy Period

	B	S.E.	Wald Significance	Exp. B.	Sd	Cox & Snell R Square	Nagelkerke R Square
<b>Over-protection</b>						.14	.18
Constant	-1,597	,667	5,739	,202	1		
ChastityXConformity <sup>a</sup>	,065	,024	7,087	1,016	1		
a. Variables entered in the first step: ChastityXConformity							
<b>Strict Discipline</b>						.20	.27
Constant	-1,325	,580	5,225	,266	1		
ConformityX Superiority of Man	107	,047	5,240	1,113	1		
TraditionXConformity <sup>b</sup>	,065	,034	,3,739	1,067	1		
a. Variables entered in the first step: ConformityX Superiority of Man							
b. Variables entered in the second step: TraditionXConformity							

## DISCUSSION

The aim of this study was to investigate whether parental attitudes are differentiated in four different periods, and to study the relationship between parental attitudes and parents' personality and the relationship between parental attitudes and parents' values in the light of data gathered in four different periods as pregnancy, 13th months, 2.5 and 4 years of children.

As the first aim of the study, when it was investigated whether the four periods were differentiated in terms of parental attitudes, it was found that as the child grow parents use

overprotection attitude less. This is an expected result that parents' less caring behaviors with the growing age of the children go parallel with the decreasing overprotection attitudes. Also, Hudson, Elek and Fleck (2001) state that, as the children grow, they sleep less, they are fed less, and they are behaved in a predicted way; thus, they are needed less control.

Further, it may be thought that, as the children become autonomous and become more competent, they need their parents less. A finding supporting this result comes from Koschanska friends' study (2004). Researchers investigated parent and baby relationship during baby care in a longitudinal study. They observed that babies in 7 month tend to be voluntarily cooperative (though in a passive traditional way), then babies in 15 month show resistance against parental constraints and control attempts. Researchers interpreted this finding as the will of babies to behave more autonomous as the babies grow. Then, this finding makes us think that parallel to babies' growing, they need less parental control.

Again, also whether parental attitudes were differentiated between mothers and fathers in four different periods, it was found that only in pregnancy period and only in democratic attitude, they were significantly different. Mothers' being more democratic than fathers is parallel to Aytemiz's (2010) findings. Nevertheless, although it was expected that fathers will perform Strict Discipline more because of the traditional gender roles, no such result could be found. That finding which may be interpreted as a positive change toward a more modern understanding in the new generation fathers (Kağıtçıbaşı & Ataca, 2005). Sümer and Güngör (1999), also investigated the difference between fathers and mothers in terms of authority, and they found no such significant difference.

Parents' strict discipline and democratic attitudes were not significantly different in the four periods. McNally, Eisenberg and Haris's (1991) research finding is consistent with the findings that parental attitudes are relatively stable in time. Researchers observed 32 mothers with their 7-8 year old boys during 8 years in five periods and reported that mothers' attitudes showed no change in this time. Relatively little research is present about the change in parental attitudes as the children grow (Maccoby, 1980). Various studies about the consistency of parental attitudes generally showed that parental attitudes are stable in time, especially after 3 years old. An important deficiency is that most of this research is collected data only in two time periods or in cross-sectional designs instead of longitudinal (McNally, Eisenberg & Haris, 1991).

In line with our second aim, when we investigated the relationships between parental

personality characteristics and parenting attitudes, we saw that our expectation that neuroticism would be related to strict discipline attitude was true only for fathers. Research finding the relationships of neuroticism with incompetent parenting such as power based discipline techniques, lower sensitivity and lower warmth supports this result (Aytemiz, 2010; Clark, Kochanska & Ready, 2000; Coplan, Reichel & Rowan, 2009; Kochanska, Clark & Goldman, 1997). When it is thought that neurotic character includes being emotional, anxious, insecure, incompetent tendencies, it is an expected result that parents having this characteristic may be having difficulties for being sensitive to their children's needs. The reason why we did not find the same pattern for mothers may be their being more experienced than fathers in child rearing. Probably mothers did not reflect this characteristic to their parenting attitudes. On the other hand, when we investigated the relationships of parenting attitudes and parents' personalities, it was seen that the personality characteristics other than neuroticism would be related to democratic attitude was not met. Literature is full of controversial findings in this subject (Metsapelto & Pulkkinen, 2003; Kochanska, Clark & Goldman, 1997), and sometimes some relations were found between these mentioned variables (Smith et al., 2007). We might have reached this result because of representative power of our sample being low and using different kinds of scales.

We found some results that we did not anticipate. One of these findings is the negative relationship of openness to experience with overprotection attitude for both mothers and fathers. Aytemiz (2010) also similarly found a significant negative relationship between openness to experience and overprotection attitude. Metsapelto and Pulkkinen (2003) also reached similar results. This finding seems to be consistent with the Five Factor Model of Personality. According to this model, it may be said that parents having openness to experience characteristic may be open-minded and sensitive parents and do not adopt overprotection or control attitudes because of their personalities' being not traditional, being curious, creative and having wide range of interests.

Another result is the positive relationship of fathers 'over protection attitudes with their neuroticism, extraversion and conscientiousness personality characteristics. Aytemiz (2010) also found a similar result of the relationship neuroticism with over protection attitude. Another finding is the positive relationship of strict discipline attitude of fathers with extraversion and conscientiousness. This finding is not consistent with Aytemiz's (2010) findings of authoritarian parenting's negative relationships with both extraversion and conscientiousness. Nonetheless, literature has studies showing both extraversion's

relationship with competent parenting (Metsapelto & Pulkkinen, 2003) and also with negative parenting such as power use (Kochanska, Clark & Goldman, 1997). Another finding is the negative relationship of fathers' strict discipline attitudes with openness to experience. Aytemiz (2010) and Metsapelto and Pulkkinen (2003) also reached the similar results.

According to the results of regression analyses, it was found that increase in openness to experience explained decrease in over protection attitude. Although it is an unexpected finding, Metsapelto and Pulkkinen (2003) reported that they found a relationship with openness to experience and less restrictiveness similar to our finding. Aytemiz (2010) also reported a negative relationship with openness to experience and over protection. It can be seen that there is a few studies about over-protective parenting in the literature. Lindhout et al. (2006) reached different results. These researchers concluded that mothers' neurotic personality characteristic predicted over protection attitude. Again Coplan et al. (2009) found that mothers' overprotection was related to her neurotic personality.

After the analyses about the relationships between fathers' personality characteristics and their attitudes, it was shown that the increase in conscientiousness of fathers predicted increase in strict-discipline attitude. Metsapelto and Pulkkinen's (2003) study supports this finding; they found a positive relationship between conscientiousness and restrictive parenthood. In a metaanalysis reviewing 30 studies investigating the relationships between five factor personality characteristics and parental warmth, behavioral control and autonomy, Stams and his friends (2009) showed that increase in conscientiousness dimension was related to increase in warmth and behavioral control. Our finding which was partly fit with the findings of that research is that responsibility and restrictiveness were related, and this can be explained by a possible disposition to control of responsible people because of conscientiousness' being relatively stable (Smith et al. 2007; Somer, Korkmaz & Tatar, 2004)

In line with the third aim of the study, when the relationship of parents' values with parenting attitudes were analyzed, mothers' over protection was found to be negatively related to self-direction and universalism and positively related to tradition, chastity, superiority of man and hospitality values. While mothers' strict discipline attitude was negatively related to success and self-direction values, it was positively related tradition, conformity, chastity, superiority of man and hospitality. Similar results were found in fathers' attitudes. While fathers' over-protection attitude was found to be negatively related to his self-direction value, his over protection attitude was found to be positively related to his conformity, chastity and superiority of man values. Again fathers' strict discipline attitude showed negative

relationships with stimulation, self-direction and universalism and showed positive relationships with tradition, conformity and superiority of man.

When it was investigated what is the proportion of parents' values in explaining their attitudes, it was seen that mothers' overprotection attitude was predicted by a model composed of hospitality and chastity interaction and superiority of man values. Further, mothers' strict-discipline attitude was significantly explained by a model of chastity and conformity interaction and superiority of man. It seems that, while some part of fathers' overprotection attitude was explained by chastity and conformity interaction, some part of strict-discipline attitude was explained by conformity and superiority of man interaction.

As Schwartz (2006) summarizes, their research show that as people grow older and once people enter families, they tend to become more committed to habitual patterns, and less exposed to arousing and exciting changes and challenges, they tend to become less preoccupied with their own strivings and more concerned with the welfare of others. Nonetheless, thinking of others may not include the whole humanity as the universalism values proposes. Findings of this research imply that it includes rather a protection of family members, especially children based on conservative values such as tradition and conformity. Further, findings like the negative relationships between attitudes of over protection and strict discipline and self-direction value including choice, creativity and independent thought and universalism value including thinking of humanity's welfare are expected findings to some degree. Parents' more caring to their children goes parallel to their less interest to their success or an exciting, changing life.

On the other hand, values found to be related to parental attitudes are all in conservative dimension of values (Smith & Schwartz, 1997). Tradition and conformity values which were found to be positively related to over protection and strict discipline attitudes are not close values to self-direction, universalism, success and stimulation in Schwartz value model. Thus, negative relationships of over protection and strict discipline attitudes with these second mentioned values are consistent with the model (Schwartz, 2006). Further, it seems that local values affect parental attitudes more. In addition to values such as tradition and conformity, hospitality, superiority of man and chastity values which showed significant relationships with parental attitudes are local values added to Schwartz's model after research conducted in Turkey. These values were placed in conservative dimension (Kağıtçıbaşı & Kuşdil, 2000). When Schwartz (1992) divided values as collectivist or individualistic values, and saw that values positively related to parents' over-protection and strict discipline attitudes are values in

the collectivistic side, and values showing negative relationships with these attitudes are in the individualistic side. In summary, parents' over protection and strict discipline attitudes go parallel with their traditional and collectivist values. Contrary to expectations, no relationships were found between democratic attitude and values. It may be understood that parents' traditional values play a more important role than the other values in child rearing, since traditional values also includes thinking and protection of closed ones. In their study Whitbeck and Gecas (1988) found that parent's personal values and values they try to socialize in their children were highly related. Schönflug (2001) found that in his longitudinal study with Turkish adolescents and their fathers living in Turkey and Germany, collectivistic values were the mostly transmitted ones. Schönflug concluded that collectivistic values have functional properties and serve the continuity of the group. On the other hand Kağıtçıbaşı and Ataca (2005) reported that culture of relatedness (in collective societies) and social structure affecting life styles need a family structure which requires and promotes mutual dependency. Many studies imply that autonomy, control and relatedness exist together. When Kağıtçıbaşı and Ataca (2005) compared the years of 1975 and 2003 as a follow-up study of Child's Value Project, they found an increasing proportion of autonomy tendency, but at the same, they found that control did not disappear.

In conclusion, some relationships between parental attitudes and personality and values were presented in this study; parents' over protection was found to be negatively related with the age of the children. Nonetheless, in line with the longitudinal research design, only parental attitudes 'change in four periods could be analysed; relationships of parental personality and values with parental attitudes could only be analysed in pregnancy period. However, it is still important to investigate the relationships of these variables collected in pregnancy period with the variables in a later period of life.

When we consider middle or upper middle socioeconomic status of parents, it must be considered that findings of the study can only be generalized to parents sharing the same properties.

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