

Examination Of The Relationship Between The Identification Levels And Aggression Levels Of The Fans; Example Of Alanyaspor Fans

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Abstract

The primary objective of this study is to examine the relationship between the levels of identification of fans with their teams and their levels of aggression. In addition, it is aimed in this study to determine whether the levels of identification and aggression of fans differ according to their personal information. Alanyaspor fans (n=305) were the participants of the study. In the study, the "Sports Fan Identification Scale", developed by Wann and Branscombe in 1993 and determined by Günay and Tiryaki in 2003 to be suitable for Turkish sports fans and the "Buss and Perry Aggression Scale", developed by Buss and Perry in 1992 and demonstrated by Madran in 2012 to be suitable with its Turkish form, were used. The normality distribution of the data was examined with the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test and as a result, it was evaluated with correlation analysis, t test and one-way variance analysis (Anova) in the analysis of inter-parameters relations. At the end of the study, it was found that there was no relationship between the identification levels of the fans and their general levels of aggression, but there was a significant relationship between their levels of identification and their levels of physical aggression. However, it was seen that there was a positive-significant relationship between the level of identification of the fans and age, gender, marital status, the state of going to a home match and the state of going to an away match, that there was a negative-significant relationship between the level of identification of the fans and the level of education and the membership of the fans group. Finally, it was observed that there was a negative-significant relationship between the aggression levels of the fans and the age, marital status and the state of going to a home match, while there was a positive-significant relationship between the aggression levels of the fans and their educational status.

Key words: Fan, Identification, Aggression

INTRODUCTION

Conceptual Framework of Identification

The concept of identification, which was firstly used in the literature by Harold Dwight Lasswell in his book "World Politics and Personal Insecurity, is a cognitive state in which an individual begins to consider himself a member of a social entity (11). Identification is one of the key concepts in organizational behavior that has a significant impact on individuals' attitudes and behaviors, dealing with the perception of unity or belonging to an organization (29). At the same time, identification is

a form of social identity in which an individual perceives a sense of belonging and unity towards an organization and the activities and members of that organization (7).

Identification is an important process that begins in early childhood by perceiving the environment in the family and imitating family members, and takes place in the formation of personality by systemizing in later ages. Identification is the process in which one adopts another's behavior system friendly and self-possesses, as well as reorganizing one's own soul,

thought and behavior structure according to an example he has adopted (20). In the process of identification beginning in childhood, the individual chooses the people or groups closest to him and rearranges his behavior structure according to these individuals or groups. The individual adopting the behavior patterns of these persons and groups expands the circle of identification as time progresses. This expanding environment begins to consist of elements such as school, sports team, supporters groups, political or religious environment (22). From this information, it is possible to say that identification has a psychosocial meaning.

With growing age and developing environment, the individual makes an effort to effectively participate in a group emotionally and behaviorally, rather than assimilating another person. Identification is the perception of one's own existence and characteristics depending on the group he or she is a member of and the characteristics of the group. Members who identify strongly with a group are likely to work more selflessly in achieving the group's goal, showing themselves within the group, exhibiting similar behaviors with the group (25).

The collective identification of groups is explained by the emotional importance that group members give to membership. This emotional importance leads to the formation of a common "we" feeling, and it is understood that Inter-member interaction and shared experience reinforce identification (56).

Identification in Sports and Identification of Fans

There are organizations and institutions established to meet people's sporting needs. These institutions prepare and present their programs and activities using information specific to sports services on which they are active (10).

Fans that support these activities of sports organizations identify with thinking that their teams represent cities, religions, nations, or other social categories. As a result of this situation, fans believe they have affected the performance of the sporting team they support and consider themselves part of the organization. This process of identification is seen as a psychological link between one's team and the differences in the level of identification affect the behavior of the fans (46).

Several studies have been conducted on this subject by researchers. While some of them explained identification with the team through psychological bonding, some researchers described the success and defeats of the team supported by the fans as their level of perception of their own success and defeats (4).

Several researchers considering that the identification of the fans with the team has nothing to do with professional success or failure have found that loyalty persists even when opposing an average team. Fans who identify themselves with a team see their team as an extension and think they are better than opponent fans. The fan who sees his team as part of himself enjoys much more as his team wins and his bond with the team becomes stronger (50).

While individuals identify with teams representing various categorizations, they also identifying with each other through the name of the clubs. They think that the moral support they give to the clubs positively affects the morale of the sportsman and managers while they provide financial support to the club by purchasing competition tickets (43).

The level of identification also affects the behavior of fans towards sponsors. As the level of identification increases, it is seen that the fans behave in favor of the team sponsors and are more inclined to shop from these sponsors (23).

Fan identification and sporting emotional commitment affect a large segment of society. In some studies, it was stated that a large section of the society became a supporter of a team and that this commitment had an effect on everyday life. The data obtained revealed that sport is an active area for identification (4).

Conceptual Framework of Aggression

The concept of aggression can be explained as verbal, physical or indirect acts intended to harm someone else. Today, aggression is defined as harmful, injurious, even lethal, damaging behavior to any living or inanimate object (59). Aggression is seen as misbehavior as it negatively affects human life in many ways. Aggression is seen as behaviors involving emotions such as anger, ambition, competition, which causes an individual to harm another individual or object (55).

One of the first researchers to study aggression, Berkowitz and Dollard et al firstly described aggression as a form of behavior intended to harm

another object or person. Many researchers who have done research in this field have suggested that it is not true to classify any behavior that has a painful or damaging effect on someone else by collecting it under the heading of aggression. These researchers refer to the concept of "intent" as the basic element of aggression (14).

Aggression, a type of the concept of violence, can be addressed in four main titles: verbal, physical, emotional and hostile aggression. Verbal aggression is intended to harm the other party with words. Methods such as threats, insults, shouting, taunting are applied (31).

Physical aggression is described as acts intended to harm the object or person on the other side with motor skills (44). Hostile aggression is intended to hurt and harm the other party with extreme hatred and anger (15). Emotional aggression is intended to hurt the other side emotionally and to harm spiritually. Other types of aggression also have emotional aspects (21).

Researchers note that many factors are effective in the emergence of aggression. Psychological and biological factors, inhibitions, physical and social environment are some of these factors (26).

Aggression, unfortunately, is a behavior that has become commonplace in almost every part of society, and as such it is on its way to becoming a style of expression in the social relations of individuals in the future (19).

Aggression in Sport and Supporter Aggression

Besides the family factor, sport has a great importance in the individual's proper upbringing and attaining appropriate behaviors. It is thought that sport can help individuals to control their anger and manage aggression properly (51).

Sport has also become a catalyst for the manifestation of aggression in people with unworthy status in society. This is especially valid for disappointed football fans, people who come from the lower classes of society who think they haven't found what they're looking for in life. These people feel powerful and try to influence situations in stadiums and beyond. Their bravado and hooliganism make them the center of attention but also make them appear as heroes in the eyes of their friends and themselves (36).

Aggression in sport can be defined as verbal or physical actions that one or a few of the ones

(athlete, coach, audience) included in the mentioned event performs during a sporting contest or a competition having been influenced by psychological, biological or social factors and going beyond the rules determined for sports in order to hurt the other person or to achieve a goal (17). Aggression in sports has also been defined as the type of behavior done to harm an organization. The purpose of these behaviors is to turn the outcome of the competition into advantage by using aggressive behavior, brute force, which cannot be won in accordance with the rules (45).

Aggression in sport can be studied in two main categories; hostile aggression and the use of aggression as a tool. If aggression is used as a tool, the goal is not to harm the other party but to achieve success. For this goal, the harsh intervention of the other party is acceptable violence. In hostile aggression, the goal is to harm the other side. This is accompanied by anger. While aggression used as a tool is acceptable or even encouraged in some cases, hostile aggression is not acceptable in any way (13).

Sport teaches to discharge aggression impulses naturally and in accordance with social rules (9). While the description of sport is made today based on this statement, it is mentioned in many of them that it eliminates or alleviates aggression and outbursts of anger. On the other hand, it is seen that there is an increase in the number and severity of aggressive behavior in many sports competitions, especially in football.

Fans identify all kinds of failures and unhappiness arising from their subcultures with the team they support. As a result of this identification, the fans who try to gain a place in the society by serving almost as bodyguard of their team, demonstrate their belonging to the team with the violence and aggression they perform and try to obtain a respectable identity (33).

Method

Contributor Group

Alanyaspor fans (n=305) were the participants of the study. 41 (13.4%) of fans were female and 264 (86.6%) were male.

Data Collection Tools

Sports Spectator Identification Scale (SSIS): The scale was developed by Wann and Branscombe (57). The scale, consisting of a total of 7 items, is scored in the form of ratings, with statements showing two

opposite ends, such as “(1) not important, not at all” and “(8) very important, always”. The fact that identification is more is understood from the high scores. The suitability of the Sports Fan Identification Scale for Turkish sports fans was determined by Günay and Tiryaki (28).

Buss and Perry Aggression Questionnaire (BAQ): The scale was developed by Buss and Perry (12). The scale consisting of 29 items in total and evaluated in 5 Likert format includes 4 sub-dimensions: physical aggression, verbal aggression, emotional (containing anger) aggression and hostile aggression. Physical aggression is measured with articles 2, 5, 8, 11, 13, 16, 22, 25 and 29, verbal aggression with articles 4, 6, 14, 21 and 27, emotional aggression with articles 1, 9, 12, 18, 19, 23 and 28 and hostile aggression is measured with articles 3, 7, 10, 15, 17, 20, 24 and 26. The appropriateness of the Turkish form of the aggression scale was presented by Madran (40).

Analysis of Data

The data of the study was uploaded to the SPSS 21 statistical program and the analyses were carried out through this program. The compatibility of the

data with the normality distribution was examined with Kolmogorov-Smirnov test and Skewness-Kurtosis values on both scales were found to be between +1,500 and -1,500 (SFIS; -1,108 to ,802 / BPAS; ,568 to ,792). When Kurtosis and Skewness values are between -1.5 and + 1.5, it is accepted that the data show normal distribution (52). From this viewpoint, the data that is seen to comply with the normality distribution were evaluated by Pearson correlation analysis, t test and one-way variance analysis (Anova). Furthermore, the data obtained are presented in the form of frequency distributions and percentages.

Reliability analyses of the scales used in the study were performed and Cronbach's alpha value of the identification scale was found to be 0.873 and cronbach's alpha value of the aggression scale was 0.910. Since the reliability of the scales used in the research is acceptable, we proceeded to the findings section.

Research Findings

In this section, the results obtained as a result of the analyses conducted in line with the purposes of the research are given.

Table 1. Distribution of fans participating the research by personal information

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Age	Age 15-19	84	27,5	27,5
	Age 20-24	84	27,5	55,1
	Age 25-29	20	6,6	61,6
	Age 30-34	28	9,2	70,8
	Age 35-39	33	10,8	81,6
	Age 40 and over	56	18,4	100,0
Gender	Female	41	13,4	13,4
	Male	264	86,6	100,0
Marital Status	Single	201	65,9	65,9
	Married	104	34,1	100,0
Place of Birth	Antalya province and districts	55	18,0	18,0
	Alanya	166	54,4	72,5
	Other provinces and districts	84	27,5	100,0
Income Level	Low	26	8,5	8,5
	Medium	152	49,8	58,4
	Good	127	41,6	100,0
Educational Status	Primary School	15	4,9	4,9
	Secondary School	30	9,8	14,8
	High School	81	26,6	41,3
	University	179	58,7	100,0
Status of Going to the Home Match	Rarely	93	30,5	30,5
	Sometimes	68	22,3	52,8
	Too often	144	47,2	100,0
Status of Going to Away Matches	Never	128	42,0	42,0
	Rarely	73	23,9	65,9
	Sometimes	70	23,0	88,9
	Too often	34	11,1	100,0
Membership of Fan Group	Yes	101	33,1	33,1
	No	204	66,9	100,0

Looking at the distribution according to the age of the fans involved in the research, it is seen that 84 (27,5%) of them were at the age of 15-19, 84 (27,5%) were at the age of 20-24, 20 (6,6%) were at the age of 25-29, 28 (9,2%) were at the age of 30-34, 33 (10,8%) were at the age of 35-39, 56 (18,4%) were over the age of 40; and looking at the distribution according to gender it is seen that 41 of the fans (13,4%) were female, 264 of them (86,6%) were male; looking at the distribution according to their marital status it is seen that 201 of the fans (65,9%) were single, 104 of them (34,1%) were married; looking at the distribution according to place of birth of the fans 55 (18,0%) of them were born in Antalya and its districts, 166 of them (54,4%) were born in Alanya, 84 (27,5%) of them were born in other cities and districts; when looking at the distribution according to income level, it is seen that the 26 (8,5%) of the fans stated their income level as bad, 152 (49,8%) of them stated it as medium and 127 (41,6%) stated their income level as good; when looking at the distribution according to their educational status of the fans, it is seen that 15 (4,9%) we graduate of

primary school, 30 (9,8%) were graduate of secondary school, 81 (26,6%) were graduate of high school, and 179 (58,7%) were graduate of university. Furthermore, when looking at the distribution according to the status of going home games of the fans involved in the research, it is seen that 93 (30,5%) of the fans rarely went to a game, 68 (22,3%) went sometimes, and 144 (47,2%) went too often to the game; when looking at the distribution according to the status of fans going to an away game, it is seen that 128 (42,0%) of them have never gone to a game, 73 (23,9%) of them went rarely, 70 (23,0%) of them went sometimes, and 34 (11,1%) of them went too often. Finally, when we look at the distribution of the fans involved in the research according to the fan group membership, it is seen that 101 (33,1%) of the fans are members of the group, and 204 (66,9%) are not members of the group.

Table 2. Correlation table showing relationship between identification and personal information of fans

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. Identification	R	1	,186**	,348**	,198**	-,056	-,035	-,266**	,562**	,460**	-,377**
	p		,001	,000	,001	,332	,538	,000	,000	,000	,000
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305
2. Age	R	,186**	1	,282**	,835**	-,015	-,029	-,391**	,419**	,078	,116*
	p	,001		,000	,000	,788	,618	,000	,000	,176	,043
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305
3. Gender	R	,348**	,282**	1	,243**	-,117*	,086	-,225**	,476**	,187**	-,134*
	p	,000	,000		,000	,042	,136	,000	,000	,001	,019
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305
4. Marital Status	R	,198**	,835**	,243**	1	-,040	,006	-,385**	,404**	,096	,080
	p	,001	,000	,000		,484	,914	,000	,000	,093	,164
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305
5. Place of Birth	R	-,056	-,015	-,117*	-,040	1	,050	,073	-,135*	-,028	,111
	p	,332	,788	,042	,484		,383	,205	,018	,627	,054
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305
6. Income Level	R	-,035	-,029	,086	,006	,050	1	,114*	-,005	,013	,038
	p	,538	,618	,136	,914	,383		,047	,926	,815	,505
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305
7. Educational status	R	-,266**	-,391**	-,225**	-,385**	,073	,114*	1	-,376**	-,275**	,191**
	p	,000	,000	,000	,000	,205	,047		,000	,000	,001
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305
8. Status of going to the home match	R	,562**	,419**	,476**	,404**	-,135*	-,005	-,376**	1	,559**	-,347**
	p	,000	,000	,000	,000	,018	,926	,000		,000	,000
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305
9. Status of going to away matches	R	,460**	,078	,187**	,096	-,028	,013	-,275**	,559**	1	-,517**
	p	,000	,176	,001	,093	,627	,815	,000	,000		,000
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305
10. Membership of Fan Group	R	-,377**	,116*	-,134*	,080	,111	,038	,191**	-,347**	-,517**	1
	p	,000	,043	,019	,164	,054	,505	,001	,000	,000	
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305

*p<0.05, **p<0.01

When the above table is examined, it is observed that there is a positive-significant relationship between identification and age, gender, marital status, status of going to a home game and away game ($p < 0.001$). Accordingly, it can be said that identification increases as age goes up, identification is higher in men and married people, and identification increases as the frequency of

going to home games and away games increases. Again, when we look at this table, it is observed that there is a negative-significant relationship between identification and educational status and fan group membership ($p < 0.001$). Accordingly, it can be said that identification increases as the level of education decreases, and identification is higher in those who are members of the group of fans.

Table 3. Pearson correlation table showing relationship between aggression and personal information of the fans

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. Aggression	R	1	-,410**	-,054	-,377**	-,025	-,066	,161**	-,169**	,075	-,066
	p		,000	,343	,000	,660	,251	,005	,003	,191	,248
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305
2. Age	R	-,410**	1	,282**	,835**	-,015	-,029	-,391**	,419**	,078	,116*
	p	,000		,000	,000	,788	,618	,000	,000	,176	,043
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305
3. Gender	R	-,054	,282**	1	,243**	-,117*	,086	-,225**	,476**	,187**	-,134*
	p	,343	,000		,000	,042	,136	,000	,000	,001	,019
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305
4. Marital Status	R	-,377**	,835**	,243**	1	-,040	,006	-,385**	,404**	,096	,080
	p	,000	,000	,000		,484	,914	,000	,000	,093	,164
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305
5. Place of Birth	R	-,025	-,015	-,117*	-,040	1	,050	,073	-,135*	-,028	,111
	p	,660	,788	,042	,484		,383	,205	,018	,627	,054
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305
6. Income Level	R	-,066	-,029	,086	,006	,050	1	,114*	-,005	,013	,038
	p	,251	,618	,136	,914	,383		,047	,926	,815	,505
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305
7. Educational status	R	,161**	-,391**	-,225**	-,385**	,073	,114*	1	-,376**	-,275**	,191**
	p	,005	,000	,000	,000	,205	,047		,000	,000	,001
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305
8. Status of going to the home match	R	-,169**	,419**	,476**	,404**	-,135*	-,005	-,376**	1	,559**	-,347**
	p	,003	,000	,000	,000	,018	,926	,000		,000	,000
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305
9. Status of going to away matches	R	,075	,078	,187**	,096	-,028	,013	-,275**	,559**	1	-,517**
	p	,191	,176	,001	,093	,627	,815	,000	,000		,000
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305
10. Membership of Fan Group	R	-,066	,116*	-,134*	,080	,111	,038	,191**	-,347**	-,517**	1
	p	,248	,043	,019	,164	,054	,505	,001	,000	,000	
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305	305

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$

When the table above is examined, it is observed that there is a negative-significant relationship between aggression and age, marital status and the status of going a home game ($p < 0.001$). Accordingly, it can be said that aggression increases as the age decreases, aggression is higher in singles, and aggression increases as the frequency of going to a home game decreases. Again, when we look at this table, it is observed that there is a positive-significant relationship between aggression and educational status ($p < 0.001$). Accordingly, it can be stated that as the level of educational status increases, aggression increases too.

Table 4. Correlation table showing the relationship between identification and aggressiveness and sub-dimensions of aggression

		1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Identification	R	1	,073	,113*	,042	,058	,009
	p		,201	,049	,469	,315	,869
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305
2. Aggression	R	,073	1	,873**	,752**	,890**	,765**
	p	,201		,000	,000	,000	,000
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305
3. Physical aggression	R	,113*	,873**	1	,570**	,713**	,478**
	p	,049	,000		,000	,000	,000
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305
4. Verbal aggression	R	,042	,752**	,570**	1	,662**	,467**
	p	,469	,000	,000		,000	,000
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305
5. Emotional aggression	R	,058	,890**	,713**	,662**	1	,562**
	p	,315	,000	,000	,000		,000
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305
6. Hostile aggression	R	,009	,765**	,478**	,467**	,562**	1
	p	,869	,000	,000	,000	,000	
	n	305	305	305	305	305	305

*p<0.05, **p<0.01

When examine table 4, it is observed that there is a positive-significant relationship between identification and physical aggression ($p<0.05$). Accordingly, it can be stated that as identification increases, physical aggression increases too.

Furthermore, when Table 4 is assessed, it is observed that there is no significant relationship between identification and general level of aggression, verbal aggression, emotional aggression, and hostile aggression.

Table 5. Table of one-way variance analysis (Anova) on differences in identification and aggression levels according to ages of fans

	Age	n	Average	Ss	F	p	Significant Difference*
Identification	1. Age 15-19	84	5,5884	1,85594	3,350	,006*	1-5*
	2. Age 20-24	84	5,7517	1,84033			
	3. Age 25-29	20	6,2500	1,14930			
	4. Age 30-34	28	6,5408	1,40690			
	5. Age 35-39	33	6,6364	1,36000			
	6. Age 40 and over	56	6,1684	1,17301			
Aggression	1. Age 15-19	84	2,9228	,50904	13,383	,000*	1-5*
	2. Age 20-24	84	2,8748	,64600			1-6*
	3. Age 25-29	20	2,8586	,51765			2-5*
	4. Age 30-34	28	2,6970	,62559			2-6*
	5. Age 35-39	33	2,3250	,40214			3-5*
	6. Age 40 and over	56	2,3239	,45480			3-6*
							4-6*

*p<0.05

When the above table is examined, it is observed that there is a significant difference between the levels of identification of the fans in terms of their ages. According to this, it is understood that identification levels of the fans at the age of 35-39 are significantly higher than those at the age of 15-19. Again, the same table shows that there is a significant difference between the levels of aggression of the fans in terms of their age. Accordingly, it is understood that the level of aggression of the fans of 15-19 age was significantly

higher than the aggression level of fans of 35-39 age and the age of 40 and over, the level of aggression of the fans of 20-24 age was significantly higher than the aggression level of fans of 35-39 age and the age of 40 and over, the level of aggression of the fans of 25-29 age was significantly higher than the aggression level of fans of 35-39 age and the age of 40 and over, the level of aggression of the fans of 30-34 age was significantly higher than the aggression level of fans of 40 age and over.

Table 6. T test table on differences in identification and aggression levels by gender of fans

	Gender	n	Average	SS	t	p
Identification	Female	41	4,5331	1,69032	-6,458	,000*
	Male	264	6,2094	1,52310		
Aggression	Female	41	2,7923	,58947	,949	,343
	Male	264	2,6972	,59754		

*p<0.05

When the above table is examined, it is observed that there is a significant difference between the levels of identification of the fans in terms of their genders. According to this, it is understood that the levels of identification of men

are significantly higher than the levels of identification of women. Furthermore, when table 6 is examined, it is observed that there is no significant difference between the levels of aggression in terms of the gender of the fans.

Table 7. T test table on differences in identification and aggression levels by marital status of fans

	Marital Status	n	Average	SS	t	p
Identification	Single	201	5,7498	1,77722	-3,518	,001*
	Married	104	6,4368	1,24664		
Aggression	Single	201	2,8717	,59086	7,096	,000*
	Married	104	2,3975	,47148		

*p<0.05

When Table 7 is examined, it is observed that there is a significant difference between the levels of identification of the fans in terms of their marital status. According to this, it is understood that the identification levels of married people are significantly higher than the identification levels of

single people. However, there is also a significant difference in the level of aggression of the fans in terms of their marital status. Accordingly, it is understood that the levels of aggression of singles are significantly higher than the levels of aggression of married ones.

Table 8. One-way variance analysis (Anova) table on differences in identification and aggression levels according to the birthplace of fans

	Place of Birth	n	Average	Ss	F	p	Significant Difference*
Identification	1. Antalya province and districts	55	5,6026	1,87672	9,522	,000*	1-2* 2-3*
	2. Alanya	166	6,3494	1,45104			
	3. Other provinces and districts	84	5,5119	1,69208			
Aggression	1. Antalya province and districts	55	2,8345	,53029	2,414	,091	
	2. Alanya	166	2,6460	,60131			
	3. Other provinces and districts	84	2,7549	,61682			

*p<0.05

When table 8 is examined, it is observed that there is a significant difference between the identification levels of the fans in terms of their birthplace. Accordingly, it is understood that the identification levels of the fans whose place of birth is Alanya are significantly higher than the

identification levels of the fans whose place of birth is Antalya province and its districts and other provinces and their districts. When the same table is evaluated, it is observed that there is no significant difference between the aggression levels of the fans in terms of their place of birth.

Table 9. One-way variance analysis (Anova) table on differences in identification and aggression levels according to income levels of fans

	Income Level	n	Average	Ss	F	p	Significant Difference*
Identification	1. Low	26	5,9560	1,76440	,397	,673	
	2. Medium	152	6,0667	1,52210			
	3. Good	127	5,8909	1,76901			
Aggression	1. Low	26	2,9987	,51807	3,629	,028*	1-2*
	2. Medium	152	2,6606	,55348			
	3. Good	127	2,7100	,64624			

*p<0.05

When table 9 is evaluated, it is observed that there is no significant difference between the level of identification of the fans in terms of their income level. When the same table is evaluated, it is observed that there is a significant difference

between the levels of aggression in terms of the income level of the fans. It is understood that the aggression levels of fans with low income levels are significantly higher than the aggression levels of fans with medium income levels.

Table 10. Table of one-way variance analysis (Anova) on differences in identification and aggression levels according to educational status of fans

	Educational Status	n	Average	Ss	F	p	Significant Difference*
Identification	1. Primary School	15	6,0952	1,48331	12,562	,000*	2-4* 3-4*
	2. Secondary School	30	7,1333	,81586			
	3. High School	81	6,4762	1,29874			
	4. University	179	5,5595	1,75362			
Aggression	1. Primary School	15	2,1747	,52124	4,571	,004*	1-2* 1-3* 1-4*
	2. Secondary School	30	2,6690	,60845			
	3. High School	81	2,7288	,56979			
	4. University	179	2,7532	,59445			

*p<0.05

When the above table is examined, it is observed that there is a significant difference between the levels of identification of the fans in terms of their educational status. Accordingly, it is understood that the identification levels of fans with secondary school and high school education are significantly higher than the identification levels of fans with university education. Furthermore, when

table 10 is examined, it is observed that there is a significant difference between the levels of aggression of the fans in terms of their educational status. Accordingly, it is understood that the levels of aggression of fans having secondary school, high school and university education are significantly higher than the levels of aggression of fans having primary school education.

Table 11. Table of one-way variance analysis (Anova) on differences in identification and aggression levels according to the status of the fans going to home game

	Status of going to the home match	n	Average	Ss	F	p	Significant Difference*
Identification	1. Rarely	93	4,6759	1,83457	70,685	,000*	1-2* 1-3* 2-3*
	2. Sometimes	68	5,9769	1,20553			
	3. Too often	144	6,8323	1,03889			
Aggression	1. Rarely	93	2,8572	,49423	4,576	,011*	1-3*
	2. Sometimes	68	2,6983	,51179			
	3. Too often	144	2,6205	,67381			

*p<0.05

It is seen in table 11 that there is a significant difference between the level of identification of the fans in terms of their status of going to home game. Accordingly, it is understood that the identification levels of the fans going to the match too often are significantly higher than the identification levels of the fans going to the match rarely and sometimes, and that the identification levels of the fans going to the match occasionally are significantly higher than the identification levels of the fans going to the

match rarely. Furthermore, when table 11 is examined, it is observed that there is a significant difference between the aggression levels of the fans in the terms of the status of the fans going to a home game. Accordingly, it is understood that the levels of aggression of fans who rarely go to the match are significantly higher than the levels of aggression of fans going to the match too often.

Table 12. Table of one-way variance analysis (Anova) on differences in identification and aggression levels according to the status of fans going to away games

	Status of going to away matches	n	Average	Ss	F	p	Significant Difference*
Identification	1. Never	128	5,1540	1,83907	27,989	,000*	1-2*
	2. Rarely	73	6,1585	1,20434			1-3*
	3. Sometimes	70	6,7265	1,13448			1-4*
	4. Too often	34	7,2059	,80903			2-4*
Aggression	1. Never	128	2,7363	,57703	4,745	,003*	2-4*
	2. Rarely	73	2,5635	,43444			3-4*
	3. Sometimes	70	2,6680	,63118			
	4. Too often	34	3,0122	,77613			

*p<0.05

It is seen in table 12 that there is a significant difference between the level of identification of the fans in terms of their status of going to away games. It is understood that the identification levels of the fans going to games rarely, occasionally and too often are significantly higher than the identification levels of the fans who never go to away games, and the identification levels of the fans going to games too often are significantly higher than the

identification levels of the fans who rarely go to games. Furthermore, it is seen in table 12 that there is a significant difference between the level of aggression of the fans in terms of their status of going to away games. Accordingly, it is understood that the aggression levels of fans going to away games too often are significantly higher than the aggression levels of fans going to away games rarely and occasionally.

Table 13. T test table for differences in identification and aggression levels of fans according to their status of fan group membership

	Membership of Fan Group	n	Average	SS	t	p
Identification	Yes	101	6.8642	1.05335	7,080	,000*
	No	204	5,5483	1,71375		
Aggression	Yes	101	2,7661	,68809	1,157	,248
	No	204	2,6822	,54503		

*p<0.05

When the above table is examined, it is observed that there is a significant difference between the levels of identification of the fans in terms of their fan group membership. Accordingly, it is understood that the identification levels of the ones who are members of the fans group are

significantly higher than the identification levels of those who are not members of the fans group. However, when we examine the table 13, it is observed that there is no significant difference in the aggression levels of the fans in terms of their membership in the fan group.

Discussion And Conclusion

As a result of the study, it was found that there was no relationship between the identification levels and general aggression levels of the fans. Supported by studies in the same extension (18), this conclusion shows that identification is not a trigger factor in aggressive tendencies in general. Another finding is that there is a significant relationship between the identification levels and the physical aggression levels of the fans. Accordingly, it can be said that there are parallel studies stating that physical aggression increases as identification increases (48, 53, 3). In this case, the supporter intends to convert the way of identification into action. It is mentioned in the literature that physical aggression may be less dangerous than verbal aggression in terms of incitement. Therefore, one of the most important elements of aggression, "intent to harm the other party", is seen more often with verbal aggression. The emergence of physical aggression depending on identification that is identified in the study is thought to be one of the factors affecting intent to cause harm. Wann et al., (58) revealed that there is no relationship between identification and physical aggression.

According to the research findings, there is a positive-significant relationship between the identification level of the fans and age, gender, marital status, the state of going to a home game and the state of going to an away game. There are many studies that have parallels with these results of the research on the basis of field. Accordingly, it can be said that there are supporting studies showing that identification increases as age goes up (30, 53), identification is higher among males (47, 42, 24, 22, 41) and married ones, identification increases as the frequency of going to home games and away games increases (46, 32, 23, 54, 50). Considering the male population of football spectators, men feel themselves better watching football games on screen or going to games during off-the-job times. Being married or having a growing age does not prevent them from identifying with the teams they are fans of. When they participate in matches in a physical sense, their identification level is positively affected by the psychological atmosphere they are in. According to the research findings, the fact that there is a significant difference between identification level of the fans in terms of their age, gender, marital status, state of going to home games and away games is also supporting the abovementioned relations.

It is found out in the study that there is a negative-significant relationship between identification and educational status and fan group membership. In the studies supporting this result, it was observed that they reached the conclusions that identification increases as the level of educational status decreases (47, 54), that identification is higher in those who are members of the fan group (16). Individuals develop their social environment and relationships in line with their education. That is to say, a new environment is added to their lives in every degree of education they receive. Therefore, that there is an increase in identification as the level of education decreases in the research is related to the limited social environment and social relations they have in the current situation. In this case, the individual will devote more time to the team he supports and will devote himself to. Besides, the person who is devoted to his team, who follows it or its sportsmen, who has positive feelings for them, supports them and meets their desires related to football in this way is called a supporter (6). Therefore, it is an expected situation that identification increases in individuals who also provide their loyalty to the team by being a member of the group of fans. That there is a significant difference in the level of identification according to educational status of the fans and their membership of a fan group in the results of the research supports the mentioned relations.

It was observed that there was a negative-significant relationship between aggression and age, marital status and the status of going a home game ($p < 0.001$). Accordingly, it can be said that aggression increases as age downs (34, 53, 35), that aggression is higher in singles, aggression increases as the frequency of going to a home game decreases. As of young age, we acquire many behaviors in the social environment we are in. The first of the most important processes that determine our behavior are sensations. Particularly, visual sensations lead to the acquisition of behaviors. Our behaviors change with perception in further ages. Maybe this process goes on for the rest of human life. That there is a more aggression in the fans at younger ages and the decreasing tendency of aggression with growing age can be attributed to this fact. Gümüşgül (27) concluded that contrary to the current study result, aggression behaviors were more common in married individuals, while Kural (37) concluded that

there was no difference between aggression behaviors relative to the marital status of the parties. There is no study in the literature on the relationship between aggression and the frequency of going to a home game. Therefore, based on the results of the research, it can be said that there is an increase in the tendency of aggression of fans not having the opportunity to watch live matches in their city. As a result of the research findings, the fact that there is a significant difference between aggression levels of the fans in terms of their age, marital status, state of going to home games is also supporting the abovementioned relations.

It is observed that there is a positive-significant relationship between aggression and educational status. Accordingly, it can be stated that as the level of educational status increases, aggression increases too. The fact that there is a significant difference between the levels of aggression of the fans in terms of their educational status supports this relationship. There are no studies supporting this situation in the literature. Koçer's study (35) concluded that aggression increases as the level of educational status decreases. In his study Yıldırım (60) stated that as the level of educational status of fans increased, their awareness of the laws in force for aggression and violence in sports increased.

Ladd's (39) study was supported by finding that there was no significant difference between the levels of aggression in terms of the gender of the fans as a result of the research. This result can be explained by the concept of "social impact". Social impact is defined as the change in an individual's thoughts, feelings, attitudes, or behaviors as a result of their interaction with another person or group (49). In other words, if the individual is physically inside a crowded group, he or she does not act contrary to the group by hiding his or her thoughts and behaviors, and tends to adapt to the group's thoughts and behaviors. Therefore, it is possible to say that women are involved in the social impact process in football which is generally followed by men.

It is observed that there is a significant difference between the identification levels of the fans in terms of their birthplace. Baş's (8) study conducted on the fans of Trabzonspor supports this study in which the ones living in Alanya identified with Alanyaspor with a higher rate. This situation can be explained by cluster-cluster identification. Cluster-cluster identification is the identification of a

sociological group by integrating with another group of sportsmen. There are many examples on a regional basis like the identification of the ones living in Trabzon with Trabzonspor.

It is observed that there is no significant difference between the aggression levels of the fans in terms of their place of birth. There are no studies supporting or refuting this situation in the literature.

It is observed that there is no significant difference between the identification levels of the fans in terms of their income level (5, 3, 43, 8). As can be understood from the result here, income level does not constitute an obstacle to identification.

Nonetheless, it is observed that there is a significant difference between the aggression levels of the fans in terms of their income level (1, 38). The low level of economic income brings about many social and psychological problems. Therefore, one of the reasons behind the aggressive behavior faced in sports should be regarded as the economic situation.

It is observed that there is a significant difference between the level of aggression of the fans in terms of their status of going to away games. Albayrak (2) found that there was no significant differentiation in sub-dimensions of destructive and assertive aggression, but there was a significant differentiation in sub-dimensions of passive aggression in his study in which he compared the sub-dimensions of aggression with fans' status of going to away game.

It is observed that there is no significant difference between the aggression levels of the fans in terms of their membership to a fan group. The fact that the participants did not differ in terms of aggression whether or not they were members of the fan groups can be explained by a sense of loyalty or belonging. Even if the individual is not a member of the fan group, he/she will fully include himself/herself in the process of his/her team. Hence, his/her response in the face of any situation will be the same with that of the individual who is a member of the fan group.

The followings should be carried out by sports clubs in line with the research results;

Scientific study groups should be formed to analyze the psycho-social behavior of fans,

Positive emotions of the supporters should be ensured to be reflected to the pitches by supporting

the social activities of the supporters out of the competition,

Studies should be carried out for informal supporter groups and member acquisitions to the associations should be ensured.

Events should be organized where fans can participate with their families and,

Efforts should be made to ensure active participation in home games.

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