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Political Bigotry: An Analysis of Scale Development

Siyasal Bağnazlık: Bir Ölçek Geliştirme Çalışması

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Makale Bilgisi Geliş/Received: 26.12.2024 Kabul/Accepted: 24.06.2025 DOI: 10.18069/firatsbed.1607916 Keywords bigotry.political bigotry, prejudice	ABSTRACT When prejudice or fanaticism is expressed through the behavior of a group or society as a whole, it reflects an underlying social conflict. The aim of this study is to develop a valid and reliable scale to assess the presence of political bigotry based on political institutions. A pool of 49 items was initially created by reviewing the relevant literature and consulting the opinions of four academics. The Davis technique was used in 11 experts. The content validity index (CVI) values of the draft scale items ranged between 0.63 and 1.00. To establish the construct validity of the scale, exploratory factor analysis (EFA) was conducted. The two-factor structure of the scale explained 63.012% of total variance. In the preliminary reliability analysis, the Cronbach's alpha coefficient for the entire scale was calculated as 0.937. The reliability coefficient for the sub-dimension Out-group Aggressive Political Bigotry Behaviors was 0.940, while the coefficient for In-group Favoring Political Bigotry Behaviors was 0.781. Among the sub-dimensions, Out-group Aggressive Political Bigotry Behaviors showed the highest correlation with the overall bigotry score ($r = .988$), whereas In-group Favoring Political Bigotry Behaviors had the lowest ($r = .695$). Both sub-dimensions were found to be significant indicators of political bigotry.
Anahtar Kelimeler bağnazlık,siyasi bağnazlık, önyargı	ÖZ Bağnazlık, fanatizm bir davranış, bir kişilik olarak bir grubun veya toplumun davranışları haline geldiğinde kollektif bir çatışma göstergesidir. Bu çalışmada bağnazlığın siyaset kurumuna bağlı olarak varlığını sorgulamak amaçlı güvenilir ve geçerli ölçek geliştirmek amaçlanmıştır. Çalışmanın örneklem grubu 250 kişiden test tekrar test uygulaması için ise 50 kişiye ulaşılmıştır. Literatür taranarak 4 akademisyenin görüşlerine de başvurularak 49 maddeden havuz oluşturulmuş daha sonra Davis tekniğiyle 11 uzmandan oluşan kişiye uzman değerlendirme formu verilmiştir. Taslak ölçeği oluşturan maddelerin KGI değerleri 1-0,63 arasında çıkmıştır. Ölçekte Ölçeğin geçerliliği açımlayıcı faktör analizi (AFA) ile sunulmuştur. İki faktörlü ölçeğin açıkladığı toplam varyans miktarı 63,012'dir. Ölçeğin güvenirlik analizi başlangıçta Cronbach Alpha katsayısı $\alpha=0,937$ olarak, ölçeğin alt boyutlarına bakıldığında Grup Dışı Saldırgan Siyasal Bağnaz Davranışlar (GDSSB) alt boyutunun $\alpha=0,940$; Grup İçi Kayırmacı Siyasal Bağnaz Davranışlar (GİKSB) alt boyutunun $\alpha=0,781$ olduğu hesaplanmıştır. Test-tekrar test sonucunda toplam bağnazlık ve alt boyutlar arasında pozitif anlamlı bir ilişki bulunmuştur. En yüksek ilişki toplam bağnazlık değerleri ile bağnazlığın alt boyutu olan GDSSB arasında ($r=.988$); en düşük ilişki ise alt boyutlar olarak GDSSB ile GİKSB arasında ($r=.695$) pozitif yönde anlamlı ilişki bulunmuştur.

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1. Introduction

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, bigotry is defined as “the state of feeling, or the act of expressing, strong, unreasonable beliefs or opinions. Similarly, the Turkish Language Association (TDK) defines the term as “an excessive devotion and passionate attachment to a person or thing, characterized by bigoted behavior; fanaticism, bigotry, and zealotry.” Bigotry, fanaticism, or prejudice refers to a state in which an individual strongly opposes all other beliefs and viewpoints due to an excessive attachment to their own belief or opinion (Bakırcıoğlu, 2012, p. 199). A bigot, being dependent on their own ideologies and beliefs, is unable to conceive of alternative perspectives and remains imprisoned by those ideas (Başaran, 2000, p. 192). A bigot perceives the world through a narrow lens, places their own beliefs and religion above all else, and harbors hostility toward those who disagree (Başcı, 2004, p. 163; Davies, 1994, p. 39). Bigotry may exist solely as a mental or ideological state, shaped by cultural or legal contexts, yet it can also manifest behaviorally. When bigotry is expressed through behavior, it often leads to a range of harmful actions, including psychological pressure and ridicule, discrimination, violence, torture, and even death (Başcı, 2004, pp. 163–164).

From the point of view of social psychology, bigotry is the formation of prejudice at its root and the fact that it divides people into various social groups, making them prone to discrimination for the favouring of the outgroup and the opposing group, the need to categorize them as untrustworthy, hostile, and dangerous, and a safe way to prepare them for out-group opposition. This is a characteristic of humans and essential to social identity. Conflict is fueled by a combination of societal need and fear, as well as reasonable calculations of interests (Cited from Kelman, 1997, Tugay, Duran, 2021, p.464, 469.).

Paulauskas (2013) defines bigotry based on prejudice as involving feelings of fear, distrust, and hatred toward others, and manifesting through behaviors such as belittling, criticizing, judging, and showing intolerance. He explains that individuals who engage in bigotry often relate it to variables such as religiosity, ethnicity, national origin, and gender. Therefore, bigotry is emphasized as a form of intolerance toward differing views. It is characterized by a distinction between in-groups and out-groups, the glorification of the self, the devaluation of the other, and concrete expressions in the form of different ways of thinking and behaving, ultimately rooted in hatred (Khalifa, 2017, p.9).

According to social identity theory in social psychology, the identities that individuals derive from the social groups to which they belong serve as a source of enhanced self-esteem. Based on this identity and self-esteem, individuals may develop in-group favoritism by evaluating their own group more positively regardless of objective reality and allocating more resources to it (Çoksın, 2019, p. 84). The distinction between in-groups and out-groups is a socially constructed separation learned from early life through well-structured social ideologies influenced by one's social environment. The dichotomy of in-group and out-group created by individuals lies at the heart of the emergence of hatred and dissatisfaction among people (Khalifa, 2017, p. 20). According to social identity theory, when individuals become members of a group, their self-perception undergoes a transformation: personal identity shifts into social identity. The theory asserts that, in most cases, individuals act in accordance with their motivations, perceptions, and judgments as members of a specific social class (Demirtaş, 2003, pp. 128–129).

Individuals experience a sense of emotional integration when they align themselves with the values and beliefs of their in-group (Öner, 2015, p. 176). However, the emotional polarization toward the out-group simultaneously activates psychological processes within the in-group. These intergroup and communal emotions arise from specific interpretations and trigger a perceived need for action. While collective feelings are often expressed through symbols such as words, flags, and uniforms, it is primarily through narratives that these emotions are transmitted across generations. Narratives play a vital role in emphasizing victimhood and heroism, constructing collective and traumatic identities, and preserving cultural memory. At the same time, they also contribute to the development of sectarian hatred, prejudice, and division. Prejudice-based hostility (Fishbein, 2002, p. 3) often fuels sectarian animosities, which in turn lead to a wide range of discriminatory practices. These include labeling, exclusion from official and social interactions, derogatory nicknaming, stigmatization as deviant, dehumanization or demonization, social banishment, and even acts of violence or murder (Tugay & Duran, 2021, pp. 464, 470).

Although the emergence of political bigotry is often examined through the lens of economic factors (Yağcı, 2022, p. 22), a more comprehensive understanding requires an exploration of familial influences, values, attitudes, and belief systems, as these represent the primary sources of political socialization. Political orientations are initially shaped within the family context (Kalaycıoğlu, 1984, p. 151). Moreover, the roles of educational institutions, social environments, and media must also be analyzed, as political learning is a lifelong process driven by ongoing socialization (Avcı, 2000, p. 107). Political bigotry can only be fully understood by examining intergroup differences in ideologies and belief systems. Cultural distinctions also play a crucial role in shaping national patterns of political development and behavior. Despite societal differences, individuals who belong to pluralistic communities can transcend otherness, engage, unify, and establish mutual understanding—provided they remain aware of their core interests (Kıraç & Karasoy, 2020, p. 256). According to Aristotle, as cited by Kıraç and Karasoy (2020, p. 256), political opinions are rooted in individuals' fundamental interests, which also shape party dynamics and intergroup

relations. While political conflicts may naturally arise due to differing interests, the critical concern is not merely the presence of opposition or party formation, but rather the escalation of such conflicts into crises. This transformation often reflects a shift from latent prejudice to overt bigotry, triggered by provocative discourse or actions. As Paldam (2020, p. 13) notes, such triggers are likely to be activated when systemic weaknesses or contextual crises undermine the existing regime.

In this context, it can be argued that religion plays a significant role in political disintegration and group formation in Turkey (Avcı, 2000, p. 103). Turkey's political history profoundly reflects this dynamic. When examining the causes of political polarization in Turkish society through the lens of cultural, historical, and institutional factors, it becomes evident that two central poles emerge in the center-periphery conflict, dating back to the early Ottoman Empire (Sayarı, 2002, p. 11; Bilgiç et al., 2014, p. 174). The political poles in Turkey are defined by the center-periphery divide, right-left polarization (Yağcı, 2022, p. 23), sectarian elements, ethnic origins, and the religious-secular divide. It is common for political institutions to become divisive, as political discourse inherently fosters rivalry due to the nature of these institutions and their adversarial positioning. This divisiveness is often considered essential for success (Foucault, 1992, pp. 96-97). The type and intensity of polarization and conflict are critical in this context. While such events, which may be regarded as normal, do not necessarily disrupt daily life, they have the potential to trigger group sentiments and provoke extreme bigoted behaviors. To better understand the causes and triggering events that shaped the polarization in Turkish history, examples from the political narratives of figures such as Said Nursi, Alparslan Türkeş, Necmettin Erbakan, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Bülent Ecevit, Deniz Gezmiş, and Selahattin Demirtaş can be examined. A review of these historical and contemporary examples suggests that the themes of victimization and heroism continue to influence the creation of discriminatory practices in Turkish politics.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. The Goal of the study

In response to the need for an attitude scale measuring political bigotry in Turkey, this study aims to develop a scale that evaluates attitudes towards political bigotry, specifically tailored to Turkish society. The Political Bigotry Scale (PBS) is intended to assess individuals' politically bigoted behaviors and intentions. This research is expected to contribute to raising awareness and developing solutions for political bigotry, as well as providing insights for future studies aimed at identifying attitudes towards political bigotry and evaluating instances of political bigotry, both nationally and globally.

2.2. Research method

Validity and reliability analyses of the Political Bigotry Scale were conducted to develop a tool that assesses the politically bigoted behaviors and attitudes within Turkish society. The scale was designed based on the triple Likert-type model.

2.3. Sample of the research's population

The population for this study consists of individuals residing in the province of Elazığ, as well as those who can be classified as political bigots or fanatics based on their own characteristics. The sample was constructed using non-random purposive sampling and the researcher's discretion, both of which were guided by the objectives of the study (Balci, 2013, p. 104). Categories and relationships between sample size variables were maintained until sufficient relationships were established (Nan Lin, 1976, pp. 158–159). The sample group for this research comprised individuals with a high degree of political bigotry. In November and December of 2021, individuals identified as politically biased, fanatical, or intolerant by their social circles were selected, and data collection was carried out using a snowball sampling method.

In addition to the population and sample of the study, reliability analysis using the KMO and Bartlett's Test, as well as correlation analyses, were performed on the sample group of the study titled "A Study on Generation Z's Politicization, Political Bigotry (Political Intolerance) Behavioral Tendencies and Forms of Fear," conducted by Özpolat and currently in the process of being published. The population of this research consists of Generation Z individuals residing in Turkey. When constructing the sample group, the minimum sample size was determined to be 385 individuals, based on a 95% confidence interval and a 5% margin of error, considering the unknown nature of the sample selection. A total of 698 individuals were reached. The overall political bigotry average for this sample group was 18.36, with a minimum scale score of 16.00 and a maximum of 48.00, indicating that political bigotry among Generation Z is relatively low. For the sub-dimension Out-group Aggressive Political Bigotry Behaviors, the average score was 14.44 (min=13; max=39), while the subscale for In-group Favoring Political Bigotry Behaviors had an average of 3.91 (min=3.00; max=9.00). These findings suggest a very low tendency towards political bigotry within the sample group.

2.4. Working group

In factor analysis, which is one of the steps in scale development, a sample size five to ten times the number of items is considered sufficient. According to some researchers, the sample size should be at least five or ten times the number of observed variables (Ezel Tavşancıl, 2010), while others argue that the total number of items in the measurement tool should be at least three to six times the sample size (Raymond Cattell, 1978). Some academics assert that the sample size should be at least five times the number of variables (Joseph Hair et al., 2010).

During the scale development process, 251 individuals were contacted, which is slightly more than five times the sample size. For the test-retest application, 50 participants were contacted. In the exploratory factor analysis (EFA) study, the sample group consisted of 49% females (123 participants) and 51% males (128 participants). The ages of the sample group ranged from 18 to 47 years. Of the participants, 3.6% (9) had completed only primary school, 16.3% (41) had completed secondary education, and 30.7% (77) were between the ages of 28 and 33. Additionally, 14.7% (37) were between the ages of 38 and 43, and 5.2% (13) were between the ages of 44 and 47. In terms of marital status, 65.3% (164) were married, 30.3% (76) were single, and 4.4% (11) were widowed. Following the test-retest procedure, the sample group consisted of 44% male and 56% female participants.

2.5. Scale development steps

Due to the limited number of studies on political bigotry at the outset of scale development, a comprehensive review of the literature was conducted, and studies related to political violence and prejudice were also examined. By analyzing existing scales on the topic, an item pool was created, drawing on the opinions of four academicians specializing in public administration and political science. The draft scale, consisting of 49 items in total, includes both positive and negative statements. It was developed using a triple Likert-type model, with a total of 45 items, after consulting with 11 experts. Data collection commenced with the aim of targeting a sample size at least five times the number of items in the scale. The scale was administered to 251 participants, slightly above the minimum sample size, due to the sensitivity of political bigotry as a topic in society and the potential concerns regarding political polarization. "Expert Evaluation Form" was hand-delivered to 11 experts in order to examine the content validity of the scale formation process. The Expert Evaluation Form includes the Davis methodology. "According to the Davis technique, the items were rated as: a) Highly Suitable, b) Suitable, c) Somewhat Suitable, or d) Not Suitable." The content validity of the items was examined by dividing the total number of experts using the Davis technique by the number of experts who marked "a-b" alternatives (Linda L. Davis, 1992). The draft scale items' content validity values range from 1 to 0.63.

2.6. Analysis of data

The reliability analyses of the measure were conducted using the SPSS22.0 software package. Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) was employed to provide statistical support for the scale's validity. Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) and Bartlett's test were used to assess the suitability of the data for EFA. Principal component analysis and Varimax rotation techniques were applied in EFA to test the construct validity of the scale. In determining which items would form the scale, the item-total correlation coefficient was required to be above 0.20, the factor loading above 0.30 in the factor analysis, and the factor needed to contain at least three items. To examine the relationship between the scale and its items, the correlation coefficients between the overall score of the scale and the total scores of the factors were calculated. The Cronbach Alpha coefficient and internal consistency (homogeneity) of the scale and its sub-dimensions were initially used to assess the reliability of the scale. To evaluate the stability of the scale, a test-retest procedure was applied to a sample group of 50 participants at three-week intervals. In the context of scale reliability analysis, an independent samples t-test was employed to examine the distinction between total and subscale scores, as well as the arithmetic mean of the lower and upper 27% groups. Furthermore, the test-retest data for each item and its sub-dimensions were analyzed using the Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient.

3. Validity analysis

The reliability analyses that were employed in the study are shown below:

Table 1. 45 Test items' values in accordance with KMO and Bartlett's

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy		,875
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	6571,368
	Df	990
	Sig.	,000

The KMO value was determined as 1.875 by Principal Component Analysis. The KMO test examines whether the

partial correlations are small and the distribution is sufficient for factor analysis. Kaiser claims that the value discovered is acceptable below 0.50 and ideal as it approaches 1. According to the statement, the KMO value is very good at 0.80, excellent at 0.90, mediocre at 0.70 and 0.60, and poor at 0.50. (Alpar, 2014). This study has a very good value as seen by its KMO value of 0.911. The investigation found that the Bartlett's test result was 6571.368 (p.000). The multivariate normal distribution hypothesis of the data is supported by the importance of Bartlett values.

In factor analysis, the coefficient that represents the strength of the relationship between individual items and underlying factors is known as the factor loading. This value indicates whether an item appropriately belongs to a specific sub-dimension. High factor loadings suggest that an item is strongly associated with the corresponding factor, thus contributing to the construct validity of the scale. A factor loading of 0.30 typically accounts for approximately 9% of the variance. According to Kline (1994), loadings above 0.60 are considered high, while values between 0.30 and 0.59 are viewed as moderate but acceptable. In this study, a lower threshold of 0.30 was adopted as the cut-off value for item retention. Among the various techniques for identifying factor structures, Principal Component Analysis (PCA) is one of the most widely used (Klainbaum et al., 1987). In the initial PCA, no restriction was placed on the number of factors, and 11 components with eigenvalues greater than 1.00 were extracted, accounting for 67.761% of the total variance. Following this step, the Varimax rotation method was employed to examine the distribution of items across these factors. It was observed that several items loaded above 0.30 on multiple factors. To ensure factorial clarity, items exhibiting a cross-loading difference of less than 0.10 were excluded (Büyüköztürk, 2012). Additionally, items with significant loadings (≥ 0.30) on more than one factor were carefully examined and removed. As a result, items 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, and 23 were excluded from the scale. Subsequently, items 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 25, 26, and 27 were also removed. The KMO and Bartlett's test values for the refined 16-item version of scale are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. KMO and Bartlett's Test values of 16 Item

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy		,911
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	2926,984
	Df	120
	Sig.	,000

The 16-item scale was analyzed, and the results indicated excellent sampling adequacy, as the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) value was found to be 0.911. Bartlett's Test of Sphericity yielded a chi-square value of 2926.982 ($p < 0.000$), confirming the suitability of the data for factor analysis. In a separate study titled "A Study on Generation Z's Politicization, Political Bigotry (Political Intolerance), Behavioral Tendencies, and Forms of Fear," the KMO value was 0.903, and Bartlett's Test produced a chi-square value of 6401.249 ($p < 0.000$). These findings support the assumption of multivariate normality and justify the application of factor analysis.

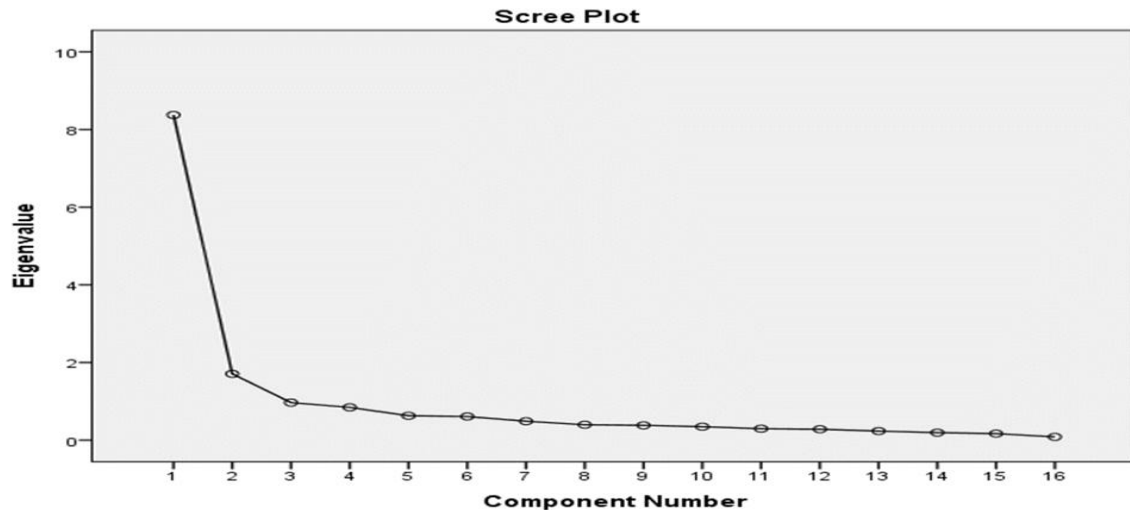
An analysis of the factor structure presented in Table 4, utilizing the Varimax rotation method, revealed that the eigenvalues of the scale clustered into two factors with values greater than 1. All items demonstrated acceptable factor loadings on the respective factors to which they were assigned. Furthermore, no items exhibited significant cross-loadings, indicating that each item loaded strongly on only one factor.

Table 3. Total variance explained

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	8,374	52,338	52,338	8,374	52,338	52,338	6,869	42,929	42,929
2	1,708	10,674	63,012	1,708	10,674	63,012	3,213	20,083	63,012
3	,968	6,047	69,059						
4	,844	5,278	74,337						
5	,627	3,917	78,254						
6	,609	3,806	82,060						
7	,487	3,043	85,103						
8	,397	2,482	87,586						
9	,382	2,388	89,974						
10	,347	2,167	92,141						

11	,295	1,844	93,984
12	,281	1,758	95,742
13	,235	1,468	97,211
14	,194	1,212	98,422
15	,168	1,051	99,473
16	,084	,527	100,000

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.



Graphic 1: The Backlog graph on political bigotry items

Table 4 and Figure 1 present the results of the scale's explanatory factor analysis (EFA). Repeated EFA results identified two factors when the eigenvalue was assumed to be 1. However, when the scale's initial 45-item raw eigenvalues were treated as 1, 11 components were identified, accounting for a total of 67.761% of the variance. The scale was ultimately examined with two factors, as the item loadings of the items forming the other factors had high values across multiple factors. Since the two-factor model explains 63.012% of the total variation, the factor structure remains largely intact. EFA was employed to calculate the percentage of variance explained by each factor, with the first factor explaining 52.338% and the second factor explaining 10.674% of the variance, respectively. This finding suggests that the factor structure of the scale is adequate, despite the fact that very high variance rates are uncommon in social sciences. According to the literature, an analysis is considered valid if it can account for between 50 and 75 percent of the total variation (Tabachnick & Fidell, 2015, p. 618).

Table 5 below provides the results of a varimax vertical rotation study displaying the factors distribution of the scale's constituent elements.

Table 4. After Factor analysis, the transformed component matrix

	Component	
	1	2
I try to avoid interacting with people who share my political views if possible.	,845	
Because of how my political identity conflicts with others around me, I want to use violence against them.	,824	
I use nicknames that they do not like and call them because of the people's political identities, which are opposite to mine.	,800	
I gather my supporters and incite someone against them if they have a political stance that is opposed to mine.	,769	
Because the individuals around me have political identities that differ from mine, I make sarcastic jokes at them.	,753	
When my family members cast ballots for an opposition party instead of the one I favor, I have the power to harm them.	,747	
I destroy someone's economic endeavors if their political views conflict with mine.	,722	
Because they have political identities that conflict with mine, I would prefer the people in my immediate vicinity to vanish.	,722	
I use strong language that they find offensive because the individuals around me have political identities that are the reverse of mine.	,707	
By influencing those around me, I destroy someone's economic endeavors if their political views differ from mine.	,633	
Even those who appear to hold opposing political views to mine are intolerable in my eyes.	,576	
When my family members choose to support a different party than the one I do, I put financial pressure on them.	,571	

I put moral pressure on my family members to vote for the opposition party instead of the party I favor.	,570
I offer assistance to promote someone's commercial operations if we share the same political views.	,898
If someone shares my political views, I support them by making use of the resources available to me to make their economic activity easier.	,892
My family members receive money and moral incentives from me in exchange for attending the event I sponsor.	,558

The Varimax rotation method was employed to examine the distribution of items across the identified factors. The results indicated that each item exhibited a substantial loading on a single factor, with no significant evidence of cross-loadings. This finding suggests a well-defined factor structure and supports the discriminant validity of the scale. The factor loadings ranged from 0.558 to 0.898, exceeding the commonly accepted threshold of 0.30, thereby confirming that the retained items reliably represent their corresponding latent constructs.

Table 5. Factor analysis-derived sub-dimensions and items loading from these dimensions

Factor			Number of Items	
1. Out-group Bigotry Behaviors	Aggressive	Political	13	41, 36, 38, 40, 35, 33, 42, 37, 34, 43, 39, 32, 31
2. In-Group Bigotry Behaviors	Favouring	Political	3	44,45,28

As presented in Table 5, the sub-dimension of Out-group Aggressive Political Bigotry Behaviors consists of 13 items (items 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, and 43), all of which are negatively worded. These items are scored on a 3-point Likert scale, where a score of 3 indicates "Always" and a score of 1 indicates "Never." The possible score range for this sub-dimension is between 13 and 39.

The second sub-dimension, In-Group Favouring Political Bigotry Behaviors, includes three items (items 28, 44, and 45). These items are positively phrased but are designed to reflect biased tendencies favoring the in-group. Similar to the first sub-dimension, these items are also scored on a 3-point Likert scale (3 = Always, 1 = Never).

The development of the items and sub-dimensions was guided by an assessment of whether the statements expressed aggressive or supportive actions in interpersonal and social contexts and whether the phrasing of the items conveyed negative or biased sentiments.

4. Reliability analysis

Following the completion of the validity analyses, reliability analyses were conducted. Initially, internal consistency reliability was examined by calculating the Cronbach's Alpha coefficients for the overall scale and its sub-dimensions. The Cronbach's Alpha value of the scale is presented below:

Table 6. Reliability coefficients for the sub-dimensions determined as a consequence of the general scale and factor analysis

Factor	Cronbach's Alpha Value
1. Out-group Aggressive Political Bigotry Behaviors	,940
2. In-Group Favouring Political Bigotry Behaviors	,781
Total	,937

The internal consistency of the scale was assessed using the Cronbach's Alpha coefficient, as presented in Table 6. The overall internal consistency coefficient of the scale was calculated as $\alpha = 0.937$. In terms of the sub-dimensions, the Cronbach's Alpha coefficient was found to be 0.940 for the Out-group Aggressive Political Bigotry Behaviors sub-dimension, and 0.781 for the In-Group Favouring Political Bigotry Behaviors sub-dimension. These findings are further supported by the reliability analysis results of the sample group from the forthcoming study titled "A Research on the Politicization of Generation Z, Political Bigotry (Political Intolerance), Behavioral Tendencies and Forms of Fear." In that study, the general Cronbach's Alpha coefficient for the Political Bigotry Scale was reported as 0.916; for the Out-group Aggressive Political Bigotry Behaviors sub-dimension, it was 0.914; and for the In-Group Favouring Political Bigotry Behaviors sub-dimension, it was 0.760. These coefficients indicate a high level of internal consistency and suggest that the scale and its sub-dimensions possess a strong degree of reliability. According to Özdamar (1999: 522) and Tavakol & Dennick (2011: 54), these values reflect an acceptable to excellent level of internal consistency.

Table 7. Independent group t-test results to determine discrimination of scale sub-dimension and total scores

Score	Groups	N	x	ss	Shx	T Test t	Sd	P
1. Out-group Aggressive Political Bigotry Behaviors	Lower	67	13,0	,000	,000	-9,344	136	,000
	Upper	67	19,94	6,079	,742			
2. In-Group Favouing Political Bigotry Behaviors	Lower	67	3,0	,000	,000	-16,330	136	,000
	Upper	67	6,26	1,638	,200			
Total	Lower	67	16	,000	,000	-12,754	136	,000
	Upper	67	26,20	6,551	,800			

As part of the scale's reliability assessment, an independent samples t-test was conducted to examine the discriminative power of the total and sub-dimension scores by comparing the arithmetic means of the upper and lower 27% groups. The results indicated statistically significant differences across all groups ($p < .000$), demonstrating that the scale effectively distinguishes between individuals with high and low levels of political bigotry.

Table 8. Item Total and Correlation Results

Materials	N	Item Total R	P
My family members receive money and moral incentives from me in exchange for attending the event I sponsor.	251	,617	,000
I put moral pressure on my family members to vote for the opposition party instead of the party I favor.	251	,665	,000
When my family members choose to support a different party than the one I do, I put financial pressure on them.	251	,699	,000
When they cast their ballots for a different party than the one I support, I have the power to harm my family members.	251	,560	,000
I use strong language that they find offensive because the individuals around me have political identities that are the reverse of mine.	251	,669	,000
Because the individuals around me have political identities that differ from mine, I make sarcastic jokes at them.	251	,642	,000
Because of how my political identity conflicts with others around me, I want to use violence against them.	251	,654	,000
Because they have political identities that conflict with mine, I would prefer the people in my immediate vicinity to vanish.	251	,653	,000
I use nicknames that they do not like and call them because of the people's political identities, which are opposite to mine.	251	,751	,000
Even those who appear to hold opposing political views to mine are intolerable in my eyes.	251	,681	,000
I gather my supporters and incite someone against them if they have a political identity that is opposed to mine.	251	,801	,000
I try to avoid interacting with people who share my political views if possible.	251	,810	,000
I destroy someone's economic endeavors if their political views conflict with mine.	251	,717	,000
By influencing those around me, I destroy someone's economic endeavors if their political views differ from mine.	251	,710	,000
I offer assistance to promote someone's commercial operations if we share the same political views.	251	,531	,000
If someone shares my political views, I support them by making use of the resources available to me to make their economic activity easier.	251	,469	,000

As presented in Table 8, the item-total correlation coefficients for the 16 items on the scale range from $r = .469$ to $r = .810$. These values exceed the generally accepted threshold of .200, indicating adequate item discrimination. When evaluated as a whole, the item-total correlations are statistically significant at the $p < .000$ level. The analysis further reveals that all items exhibit a consistent structure, supporting the internal coherence of the scale.

Table 9. Results of pearson product moment analysis to ascertain associations between variables

Factors	Complete bigotry	Out-group Aggressive Bigotry Behaviors	In-Group Favouing Bigotry Behaviors
Complete bigotry	1	,969** ,000	,741** ,000
	251	251	251

Out-group Aggressive Political Bigotry Behaviors	,969** ,000 251	1 251	,553** ,000 251
In-Group Favoursing Political Bigotry Behaviors	,741** ,000 251	,553** ,000 251	1 251

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The relationships among the variables constituting the scale's sub-dimensions were examined using Pearson's Product-Moment Correlation analysis. The findings indicated a strong and statistically significant positive correlation between the Out-group Aggressive Political Bigotry Behaviors sub-dimension and the overall bigotry score ($r = 0.969$, $p < 0.001$). A similarly positive and significant relationship was found between the scale's other components. Among these, the correlation between Out-group Aggressive Political Bigotry Behaviors and In-Group Favoursing Political Bigotry Behaviors was the lowest, yet still statistically significant ($r = 0.553$, $p < 0.001$). These results suggest that all sub-dimensions are structurally related and measure aspects of the same overarching construct.

In order to assess the reliability of the scale, the coefficient of stability was calculated using the test-retest method. For this purpose, the scale was re-administered to a group of 50 participants after an interval of three weeks. To evaluate the consistency of the scores obtained at both time points, the Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient was calculated, the results of which are presented below.

Table 10. Results from the pearson product moment correlation analysis to assess test-retest reliability

Factors	Complete bigotry	Out-group Aggressive Political Bigotry Behaviors	In-Group Favoursing Political Bigotry Behaviors
Complete bigotry	1	,988** ,000 50	,799** ,000 50
Out-group Aggressive Political Bigotry Behaviors	,988** ,000 50	1	,695** ,000 50
In-Group Favoursing Political Bigotry Behaviors	,799** ,000 50	,695** ,000 50	1

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

As shown in Table 10, the test-retest Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Analysis (Karasar, 2007), conducted to assess the reliability of the entire scale and its sub-dimensions, revealed a statistically significant and positive relationship between the scores across both administrations. Among the sub-dimensions, Out-group Aggressive Political Bigotry Behaviors exhibited the strongest correlation with the overall political bigotry score ($r = .988$; $p < .000$), while In-Group Favoursing Political Bigotry Behaviors displayed the lowest yet still significant correlation ($r = .695$; $p < .000$). These findings indicate that the scale demonstrates a high degree of reliability in terms of stability over time and consistently yields valid results across different applications.

Table 11. Results of pearson product moment analysis to ascertain associations between variables in a different sample group

Factors	Complete bigotry	Out-group Aggressive Political Bigotry Behaviors	In-Group Favoursing Political Bigotry Behaviors
Complete bigotry	1	,822** ,000 698	,807** ,000 698
Out-group Aggressive Political Bigotry Behaviors	,822** ,000 698	1	,416** ,000 698

In-Group Bigotry Behaviors	Favouring Political	,807** ,000 698	,416** ,000 698	1 698
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** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

To examine the relationships between the sub-dimensions of the scale, Pearson Product-Moment Correlation analysis was conducted on different sample groups. Despite the sample group's overall low mean score in political bigotry, the analysis results are consistent with those presented in Table 9. The strongest correlation was observed between the total political bigotry score and the Out-group Aggressive Political Bigotry Behaviors sub-dimension ($r = .822$; $p < .000$), indicating a statistically significant and positive relationship. Additionally, a significant positive correlation was found between all sub-dimensions, further supporting the structural coherence of the scale. The lowest correlation, also consistent with Table 9, was identified between the Out-group Aggressive Political Bigotry Behaviors and In-Group Favouring Political Bigotry Behaviors sub-dimensions ($r = .416$; $p < .000$). These results confirm that all factors are components of a unified construct.

5. Discussion and conclusion

Since the extent of political bigotry is not covered in the literature, this study was conducted to fill this gap. No scale advancements with the issue of political bigotry were found, despite the research on prejudice and political violence being evaluated as subjects related to this study. As a result, the research's findings are shown in the table below:

- The Expert Evaluation Form evaluated expert opinions using the Davis method. An acceptable threshold for the technique's content validity index is 0.80. (Davis, 1992, p.194-197). Content validity scores on the scale were seen to range from 0.63 to 1.

- It is deemed to meet the requirements for factor analysis if the overall variance rate of the scale's items exceeds 50% (Yaşlıoğlu, 2017). When the raw Eigen value of the 45 items in this study is considered as 1, the factor analysis results show that the variance rate with 11 factors is 67,761. A two-factor scale was developed since it can explain 63,012 variances in total and does not significantly alter the factor structure (Tabachnick, Fidell, 2015, p.618).

- Principal Component Analysis revealed that the KMO value was 1,875. The KMO test examines the distribution's suitability for factor analysis as well as whether or not the partial correlations are modest. After 0.50, the KMO value of 0.90 is regarded as excellent (Reha Alpar, 2014; Ezel Tavşancıl, 2010). The study's KMO value is 911. This demonstrates the study's superior value.

- The eigenvalue of the scale was found to be greater than 1, with two factors extracted. All 16 items demonstrated acceptable loading values within the respective factors when the factor structure of the scale was examined using the Varimax vertical rotation method. The lowest item loading value was 0.55, while the highest was 0.89. Additionally, it was observed that no item exhibited a high loading on more than one factor.

- Internal consistency was assessed using the Cronbach's Alpha coefficient. The overall internal consistency coefficient of the scale was found to be 0.937, indicating that the scale demonstrates high reliability. Among the sub-dimensions of the scale, violent and destructive bigoted behaviors yielded a coefficient of 0.940, while in-group favoring bigoted behaviors had a coefficient of 0.781. The evaluation of these results suggests that the internal consistency is at an acceptable level (Tavakol & Dennick, 2011, p. 54; Özdamar, 1999, p. 522).

- The correlation coefficients of the scale range from $r = 0.810$ to $r = -0.469$. These correlation coefficients are above the generally accepted threshold of 0.200 (Ural & Kılıç, 2013, p. 244). When the item-total correlation was evaluated based on all items ($p < 0.000$), it was found to be statistically significant.

The significant correlations observed among the sub-dimensions, particularly the strong association of the 'Out-group Aggressive Political Bigotry Behaviors' sub-dimension with the overall bigotry score ($r = 0.988$), offer compelling evidence supporting the structural integrity of the scale.

- The distinctiveness of the total and sub-dimension scores, as well as whether or not there was a significant difference between the arithmetic means of the upper and lower 27% groups, were all revealed from the reliability studies of the scale ($p < .000$).

- Based on the strongest correlation between the total bigotry score and sub-dimension ($r = .969$; $p < .000$), Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis was used to determine the link between the components. It was discovered that the components generally had a substantial positive association. Among all the components, the Out-group Aggressive Political Bigotry Behaviors (Aggressive and Destructive Bigoted Behaviors) sub-dimension and the In-Group Favouring Political Bigotry Behaviors (Interest-Oriented Bigoted Behaviors) sub-dimension have the lowest correlation ($r = .553$; $p < .000$). When the results were examined, it was determined that all components belonged to the same structure.

- As a result of the test-retest Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Analysis performed for reliability analysis, when the whole scale and its sub-dimensions were examined, a positive and significant correlation was found between the

results. The sub-dimension of Out-group Aggressive Political Bigotry Behaviors, which was shown to have the highest connection with overall bigotry values ($r=.988$; $p<.000$), and the sub-dimension of In-Group Favouring Political Bigotry Behaviors, which had the lowest correlation ($r=.695$; $p<.000$), were both bigoted. It is clear from the results that the scale is dependable in terms of continuity coefficient and consistently produces accurate results across a range of applications.

-Reliability and validity analyzes conducted on the sample group of the study titled "A Study on Generation Z's Politicization, Political Bigotry (Political Intolerance) Behavioral Tendencies and Forms of Fear" support the data of the sample group created for this study.

Based on the statistical analyses, the following can be said about the scale developed:

The study has made an important scale development contribution to the literature on bigotry and political behavior. In the future, this scale can be used to examine connections with other types of prejudice.

This scale can be adapted to examine political bigotry in different cultural contexts, thus making cross-cultural comparisons. At the same time, this research offers a new perspective on the interaction between social psychology and political science.

6. Suggestions for Upcoming Research

- This study was conducted specifically for Elazig province. Testing the applicability of the scale in other regional, cultural or international contexts can create a general model of political bigotry perception.
- Supporting the scale with qualitative interview or case study methods as a complementary element can contribute to a deeper understanding of individuals' bigotry behaviors.
- Investigating the effects of demographic variables such as gender, age, and education level on political bigotry can expand the scope of the scale's application.
- The study can be developed with an international research design to compare forms of political bigotry in different countries.

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Etik, Beyan ve Açıklamalar

1. Etik Kurul izni ile ilgili;

☒ Bu çalışmanın yazar/yazarları, Fırat Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Etik Kurulu'nun tarih 22.12.2022 sayı 2022/27 ve karar 27 ile etik kurul izin belgesi almış olduklarını beyan etmektedir.

2. Bu çalışmanın yazar/yazarları, araştırma ve yayın etiği ilkelerine uyduklarını kabul etmektedir.

3. Bu çalışmanın yazar/yazarları kullanmış oldukları resim, şekil, fotoğraf ve benzeri belgelerin kullanımında tüm sorumlulukları kabul etmektedir.

4. Bu çalışmanın benzerlik raporu bulunmaktadır.
