Spatial Perceptions and Thoughts of Retirement Migrants in the Case of Kazdağı (Ida Mountain) National Park and Its Vicinity (Balıkesir-Turkey)

Kazdağı Milli Parkı ve çevresi (Balıkesir) örneğinde emekli göçmenlerin mekânsal algı ve düşünceleri

Oğuzhan Özkan*[1], Alper Uzun[2]

Öz

Bu araştırmada Kaz Dağı Milli Parkı ve yakın çevresindeki yerleşimlerde yaşamayı tercih eden emekli göçmenlerin bu alana dair düşünce ve algılarının nasıl olduğu ve bu algı ve düşüncelerinin birbirleriyle ilişkili olup olmadığı incelenmiştir. Araştırmanın amacı, emekli göçmenlerin araştırma alanında daha yoğun olarak nerelerde toplandığı ve Kaz Dağı'nın beşeri ve doğal çevresine yönelik algı ve düşünceleri arasında anlamlı bir ilişkinin bulunup bulunmadığını sorgulamaktır. Araştırmada karma model benimsenmiştir. Bu kapsamda 127 emekli göçmene anket, 30 emekli göçmene ise zihin haritası tekniği uygulanmıştır. Araştırma sonucunda emekli göçmenlerin KMNP ile ilgili algılarının düşünceleri ile ilişkili olduğu anlaşılmıştır. KMNP etrafındaki çevreyi iyi, güzel, düzenli ve bakımlı bulanların doğal çevre hakkındaki düşüncelerinin olumlu olduğu tespit edilmiştir. Ayrıca emekli göçmenler araştırma alanını havadar, doğal, sakin ve huzurlu bulmaktadırlar.

Abstract

In this study, it is examined retirement migrants', who prefer to live in Kazdağı Mountain National Park and its settlements in the vicinity, thoughts and perceptions regarding this area, and whether these thoughts and perceptions are related. The aim of the study is to question whether there is a meaningful relationship between retirement migrants' perceptions and thoughts regarding human and natural environment of Kazdağı Mountain. In this study, mixed model was adopted. In this context, 127 retirement migrants were surveyed, while 30 retirement migrants were applied mind map technique. As a result of the research, it was understood that retirement migrants' perceptions about KMNP were related with their thoughts. It is determined that those who find the environment around KMNP good, beautiful, tidy and well-kept have positive thoughts about the natural environment. Retirement migrants in the sample also find the research area as airy, natural, calm and peaceful.

* **Sorumlu Yazar/Corresponding Author:** Oğuzhan Özkan, oguzhanozkan23@gmail.com
[1] Balıkesir Üniversitesi, Fen-Edebiyat Fakültesi, Coğrafya Bölümü, Balıkesir/Türkiye, https://orcid.org/ 0000-0001-5099-4064
[2] Balıkesir Üniversitesi, Fen-Edebiyat Fakültesi, Coğrafya Bölümü, Balıkesir/Türkiye, https://orcid.org/ 0000-0002-1304-1683

1. Introduction

Retirement migration, one of the types of migration, is an important concept that has the potential to directly or indirectly affect the place, entering an upward trend in many parts of the world in recent years (Südaş, 2012). Although the process of migration appears as a result of force majeure and economic requirements in most types of migration, (Adıgüzel, 2016; Bartram, Poros and Monforte, 2017; Özyakışır, 2013) retirement migration in which economic reasons are not essential and which is done optionally besides being done to have a quality life has a special place in immigration literature because of its different structure (Haas and Serow, 1993; Hoggart & Buller, 1995; Williams & Hall, 2000). Retirement migrants, who are mostly at the age their 50s or 60s, from the upper-middle class, takes place towards the coastal areas with warm climate, and sometimes to the rural areas when people's working life ends and they get retired (Casado-Diaz, Kaiser and Warnes, 2004; Haas and Serow, 1993; Hoggart and Buller, 1995; King, Warnes and Williams, 1998; Südaş and Mutluer, 2010). This displacement may be in or out of the country, and may also be temporary or permanent.

The main popularity of retirement migration, which started to gain importance in the 1960s, came about with the spread of globalization and neoliberalism after the 1980s. The reasons such as the increase in the knowledge of people about other countries, the development of transportation and communication technologies, the great investments of the countries in tourism and the increase in the opportunities of free circulation have led to a significant increase in the global movement of people. The perception of old age as a wait for death before the 1980s was a factor that prevented the intense retirement migration (Todisco, 2006). In the 1980s and afterwards, as a result of the increase in the life span and the welfare of the people, the elderly individuals who want to evaluate their retirement by having a better quality life, have searched for different places (King et al.1998; O'Reilly, 1995; Todisco, 2006). Thus, retirement migration began to be seen in different parts of the world.

Turkey is one of the countries that retirement migration gain importance as well (Balkır and Kırkulak, 2014, Deniz and Özgür, 2010; Karakaya and Turan, 2006; Kırkulak and Balkır, 2009; Özerim, 2008; Südaş and Mutluer, 2008; Unutulmaz, 2007). In Turkey, there are many popular retirement destinations attracting both domestic and foreign immigrants. In addition to the provinces mostly along the Mediterranean coastline (Antalya, Muğla and Aydın), (Photo 1), Kazdağı Mountain and its environment with many natural and cultural riches (Photo 2) is one of the most important retirement migration destinations in Turkey.

Photo 1. One of Turkey's most important tourism and retirement migration destinations Bodrum (Muğla)
Source: http://nettavir.com/bodrumdan-kacisin-bedeli-650/

In this study, spatial perceptions and thoughts of the retirement migrants in the surrounding settlements of Kazdağı Mountain National Park (KMNP) with many natural and cultural richness, which

is one of the most important ecotourism areas of Turkey and is located in the boundaries of Edremit district in Balıkesir province, regarding the region was discussed.

Photo 2. Kazdağı Mountain (Edremit-Balıkesir) which is one of the prominent areas with its natural and cultural richness

Retirement migrants with different migratory motivations, demographic, sociocultural and socioeconomic characteristics constitute a group that should be investigated and examined in particular. However, there is no study examining the perceptions and thoughts of this special group about the space they live in and there is a big deficiency in the related literature. From this perspective, the problem of the study is to determine the spatial perceptions and thoughts of the people settled around the KMNP as a retirement migrant.

The research questions are as follows: What are the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the retirement migrants residing around the KMNP? From which cities do the retirement migrants mainly come from who migrate to KMNP? Are there any rural settlements where the retirement migrants settle heavily around KMNP? What are the property status of the retirement migrants around KMNP? What are spatial perceptions and thoughts of the retirement migrants towards KMNP? What are the frequencies of the retirement migrants going to their place of residence before the migration to KMNP and the years of stay around KMNP? Is there a connection between the current perceptions of the retirement migrants about KMNP and their opinions on the region they live in? How are the differences in housing views in the research area?

2. Conceptual Framework

2.1. Retirement Migration

Retirement migration is a domestic or abroad migration process that make retirees who not satisfied with their lives for various reasons (King et al.1998; O'Reilly, 1995; Williams and Hall, 2000). In retirement migration, the retirees, who usually from the middle and upper income groups, migrate to the coastal areas or rural areas. At the same time, there is an important point separating retirement migration from many other types of migration. Although migration flows from developing countries to developed countries in most of the migration types, a movement in the opposite direction can be realized in retirement migration. In the international retirement migration, retirement migrants are settled in relatively less developed countries from developed countries and establish a new life in these areas (King et al.1998; O'Reilly, 1995; Südaş, 2009; Ündücü, Erdoğan and Işık, 2009; Williams and Hall, 2000). In addition, the climate zone of the immigrant sending country and migration-receiving country has an active role in this process during the period of retirement migration. Especially, an example of this can be the international retirement migration from North America and Canada to Lake Chapala (Mexico) and Antigua (Guatemala) (Platt, 2011; Sunil, Rojas and Bradley, 2007; Truly, 2002). In Northern

Europe, migrations from the countries such as England, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, etc. to the popular and warm climate regions of retirement migration like Costa del Sol and Andalucia (Spain), Island of Malta, Tuscany (Italy), Algarve (Portugal) also confirms these claims. (Casado-Diaz, 2006; Huber and O'Reilly, 2004; Karakaya and Turan, 2006; Kırkulak and Balkır, 2009; King et al.1998; O'Reilly, 1995; Özerim, 2008; Sardinha, 2013; Südaş, 2008; Südaş, 2009; Südaş, 2012; Williams and Hall, 2000). Migration of retirees in Japan and Australia to India and Malaysia is another example (Green, 2014; Korpela, 2010; Ono, 2008). Apart from these, there are popular retirement migration destinations in the USA such as Florida, Arizona and California (Casado-Diaz, 2006; King et al.1998; O'Reilly, 1995; Williams and Hall, 2000).

There are many motivations that lead retirees to migrate to other countries or regions. As with other types of migration, it is possible to differentiate these motivations as pushing and attracting factors. The pushing factors constitute the factors related to the place where migrants live before they migrate. Cold climate, stressful life, crowded cities, traffic, the cost of living expenses and the negative feelings felt by retirees against their own countries (due to political, economic, social, cultural, environmental or psychological reasons) push the retirees to migrate to other regions (Casado-Diaz, 2006; King et al.1998; Ündücü et al.2009; Warnes and Williams, 2006; Williams and Hall, 2000). Leaving behind these negativities that they experience in the place where they have lived before, the retirees are trying to open up a new page and get a better life in the places to which they migrate. In order to achieve these goals, they prefer to settle in the areas that attract them. It is possible to list the attractive aspects of the areas to the retirees as hot climate, presence of natural and cultural beauties, cheaper living expenses, quiet living opportunities, friends / family connections, social advantages, etc. (Casado-Diaz, 2004; Casado-Diaz, 2006; Haas and Serow, 1993; King et al.1998; Warnes, 2006; Williams and Hall, 2000).

In his 1995 research, O'Reilly divided retirement migrants into five categories:

- *Expatriates:* They have settled permanently in the place they migrated and have established a permanent bond with the place. They spend most of the year in the place they migrated. They do not prefer to go to their own country in the year much. They don't think about settling in their own country again.

- *Residents:* They have legal status where they migrate. They go to their hometowns within 2 to 5 months in a year.

- *Returnees:* Although they usually have a second residence in the place they migrate, the time they spend in their own country and in the place where they have settled is changing, which is irregular.

- *Seasonal Visitors:* Approximately 2 to 6 months of the year they tend to spend the time in the place where they migrate. They are more dependent on their own country. They have little commitment to retirement migration destination.

- *Tourists:* There are periodic connections with the place they migrate. They are more interested in the natural and cultural beauties of the places where they go. They do not feel any commitment to these places(O'Reilly, 1995).

Williams, King and Warnes (1997) argued that four reasons were effective in increasing migration:

- As a result of the *decline in the retirement age* (in other words, with the prolongation of the third age period), people will be able to settle in different regions and spend the rest of their lives there.

- Extension of human life with the *development of health technology*,

- In particular, the increase in *income and welfare levels of* individuals in developed countries, and consequently the possibility for people to think about migrating to different countries,

- *With the development of transportation and communication technology*, people have the opportunity to increase their knowledge about foreign countries or different regions and to spend more time there (Williams et al.1997).

In 2000, King, Warnes, Patterson and Williams discussed how retirement migration has progressed in the historical process. Accordingly, the origin of retirement migration dates back to in-country *Sanus Per Aquam* (SPA) tours in the 18th century. SPA tours were mostly done in Northern Europe. Elder people aimed to find healing by going to the SPAs, which have been one of the important elements of the health tourism. With the development of railways in the 19th century and the linking of railways to popular coastal settlements, there were retirement migration into these areas. In the 1920s and 1930s, intense retirement migration flows occurred in coastal settlements. Intensive retirement migrations during this period spread to rural areas around popular coastal settlements and many retirees settled in these areas. Immigration from England to France and to California and Florida in the USA happened in this period (cited in Unutulmaz, 2007).

With the catastrophe caused by World War II, retirement migration came to a standstill especially in Europe in the late 1930s and 1940s. The partial reduction of the effects of the war led to a resurgence of retirement migration in the 1950s. The explosion of mass tourism in the 1960s was also reflected in the development of retirement migration and this development increased for 20 years. In the 1980s, retirement migration reached its peak (cited in Unutulmaz, 2007). The development of globalization and neoliberalism has had a great impact on this situation. The reasons such as the increasing knowledge of people about other countries or regions, the increase of holiday opportunities in these places and revenues, the increase of early retirement age and the prolongation of human life with the development of health technology have led to a steady increase in retirement migration from the 1980s to the present day (King et al.1998; Ündücü et al. 2009).

Balkır and Kırkulak (2014) linked the increase of retirement migration among European Union (EU) countries to the signing of the Single European Act in 1986. This act increased population mobility by providing free movement to other EU countries to EU citizens. In addition, according to Balkır and Kırkulak (2014), the transition of the common currency to the Euro accelerated retirement migration.

Aksoy (2012) argued that the network of relations is important in the increase of retirement migration. According to her, retirement migrants can lead their families, relatives or friends to the destinations they live in by telling about the places they migrate. For this reason, the positive thoughts or attitudes of retirement migrants about the place they live in can trigger more migration flows into the area.

2.2. Spatial Perception

Humans are the creatures who can think and feel. Besides having opinions, feelings and perceptions concerning the situations, persons and events, people can also have opinions, feelings and perceptions about the environment they live in. These perceptions can change in every person. Because people's past experiences, gender, culture, age, psychological status, individual characteristics, occupations, friends/acquaintances, family structures, goals, expectations or the characteristics of the environment they live in influence their perceptions. This phenomenon, which includes thoughts, feelings and attitudes about the place lived in and changes according to the individual, is called the spatial perception (Aliağaoğlu, 2007; Aliağaoğlu and Uzun, 2017; Andersson and Dahlgren, 1974; Erniş, 2012; Eşen, 2007; Larimore, 1969; Tümertekin and Özgüç, 2016). Spatial perception has been used for the first time in behavioral geography studies and has entered into geography literature along

with concepts such as perception, knowledge, image, imagination and mind maps (Aliağaoğlu, 2007; Aliağaoğlu and Uzun, 2017; Temurçin and Keçeli, 2015).

Erniş (2012) stated that spatial perception occurs the moment the space begins to be internalized by people by their senses beyond the length, width and depth dimensions. Because people do not accept environmental information which they receive as they are. Spatial perception process is formed by the reasons mentioned before and changing from individual to individual. In his study of the subject in 1974, Stea stated that the spatial image has gone through three stages as input, processing and output in relation to spatial perception in humans (Figure 1). According to Stea, the input is environmental information that determines the environmental behaviors of people. The process is the stage of processing this environmental information in the minds of people. The output is that the human mind is able to present the image of the environment by verbal, written or mind map ways after the process stage (cited in Kara, 1997).
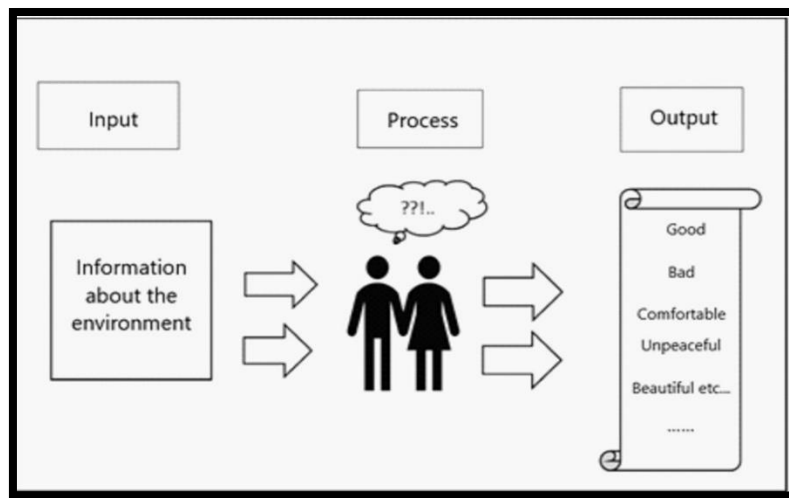
Figure 1 Process of spatial image formation (Changed from Kara, 1997)

The environment that people perceive and create in their minds is actually bigger than their environment (Kara, 1997). Because people's mental processes and feelings create different images by making additions to what they see, hear and know about the place. Therefore, the one and only place in the real world loses this uniqueness when people's perceptions arise and different perceptual spaces emerge (Figure 2).
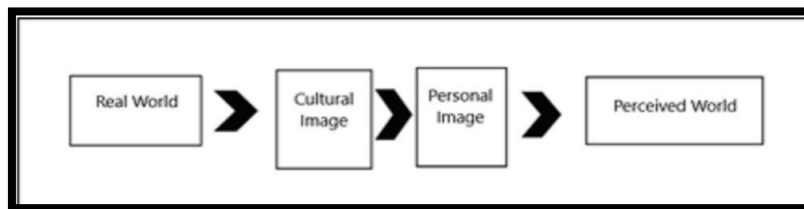
Figure 2. Perception of the environment (Changed from Kara, 1997)

3. Methodology

In this study, the embedded pattern, one of the sub-types of the mixed model, was preferred. Because the questions to determine the spatial perception of the retirement migrants were asked in the questionnaire used in the study. In order to support the answers given in these questions, mind map, a

qualitative research method, was used. In other words, as necessitated by the questions asked in the study, the quantitative method was predominant and the qualitative method was preferred as an adjunctive method.

The research population is composed of the retirement migrants living in KMNP and the nearby settlements. KMNP is an area which is located on Kazdağı Mountain to the southeast of the Biga Peninsula and to the north of Edremit Bay and stays entirely withing the borders of Edremit district of Balıkesir province (Figure 3). Kazdağı Mountain, which is also one of the places in the status of Key Biodiversity Areas in Turkey, is home to many natural and cultural richness (Özel, 1999). Important water sources such as small streams of Mıhlı, Manastır, Kızılkeçili and Zeytinli, Şahin Deresi, Hasanboğuldu Pond, Sütüven Waterfall are on Kazdağı Mountain. In fact, Kazdağı Mountain, which has many underground and surface water resources, is therefore referred to as "Ida with one thousand fountains" or "Ida with many fountains" (Homeros) in mythology (cited in. Arı and Soykan, 2006: 15). In addition, the beauty contest that initiated the Trojan Wars was held here (Arı and Soykan, 2006: 15).
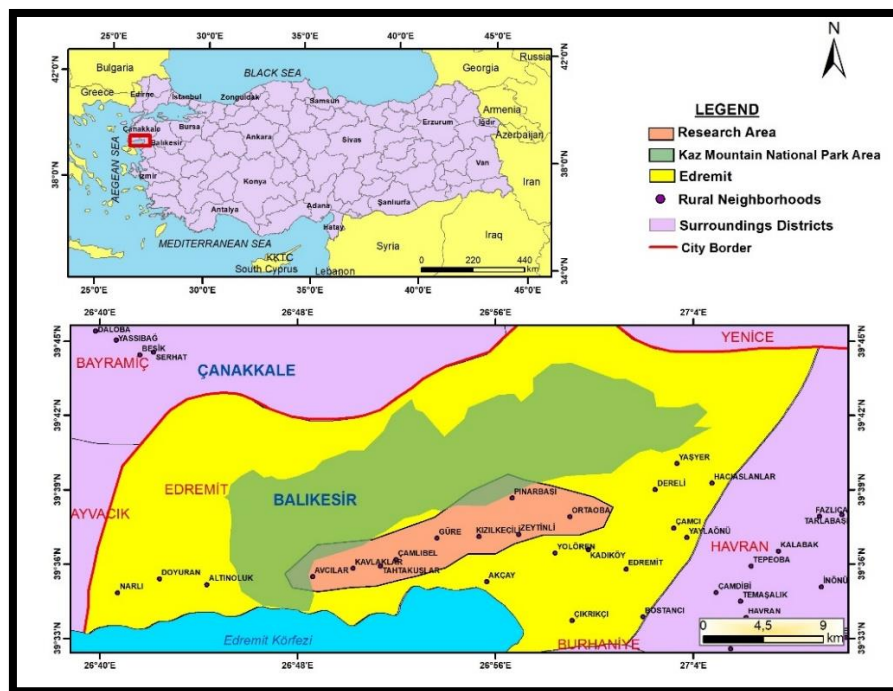

Figure 3. Location Map of Kazdağı National Park and Its Surroundings

There are many retirement migrants in the settlements constituting the universe of the research. These settlements are popular destinations in terms of summer tourism as well as their natural and cultural characteristics. The areas with these characteristics attract retirement migrants as mentioned earlier (King et al.1998; O'Reilly, 1995; Südaş, 2012; Williams et al.2000). In this sense, the settlements in the research area consist of Avcılar, Çamlıbel, Güre, Kavlaklar, Kızılkeçili, Ortaoba, Pınarbaşı, Tahtakuşlar and Zeytinli.

Criterion sampling was used in the sample selection of the study. In this sampling type, some criteria based on experience or previous studies on the subject are determined and the samples to meet these criteria are included in the study (Yıldırım & Şimşek, 2013). As a criterion, retirement migrants being at least 50 years old and at least 3 months of staying in the settlements included in the sample per year on average were taken as a basis. Indeed, as previously mentioned in the literature, there are studies including retirement migrants aged 50 and over (King et al.2000; Rodriguez, Mayoralas and Rojo, 1998; Unutulmaz, 2007). There are also some studies based on retirement migrants who spend at least 3

months of the year in migration destination (Südaş, 2012). In this study, a total of 1212 retirement migrants were identified in the research area according to the information obtained from the village headmen (Table 1). Of the 1212 retirement migrants, 127 were surveyed. According to Yazıcıoğlu ve Erdoğan (2004), the sampling size for the universe (d=0,10 according to sampling error) in the range of 1000-2500 people was calculated as 88-93 people (Lorcu, 2015: 18). As a result of the research, a total of 127 people were reached. The sample size is considered to represent the universe and it is thought that it is suitable in terms of allowing the generalization of the results obtained. 30 out of 127 retirement migrants chose to participate in the mind map study (Table 2). The number of the retirement migrants to be surveyed according to rural areas is proportionally determined as the most number of surveys with the highest number of retirement migrant population and the least number of surveys with the lowest number of retirement migrant population. In some rural neighborhoods in the research area, the surveyed people are as few as the retirement migrants of 2, 5 and 6. Therefore, while the questionnaires are analyzed according to tests such as Mann Whitney and Spearman correlation, it does not give any healthy results if they are separated on the basis of neighbourhood. For this reason, apart from frequency and percentage test (frequency and percentage test performed to find out how many surveys have been done only on the basis of rural neighbourhood and frequency and percentage test to find the percentages of them), there has been no separation of rural neighbourhood in the types of analysis used in the study. In the mind map, the criteria for doing the study from the most with the retirement migrants to the minimum, in proportion to retirement migrant population, were not taken into consideration.

Table 1. Settlements in the Research Area, Their Total Populations and Number of Retirement Migrants by the Settlements

Settlements in the Research Area	Total Populations of The Settlements in 2017*	Number of Retirement Migrants in the Settlements	Percentage of Retirement Migrants in the Total Population
Avcılar	2484	60	% 2.41
Çamlıbel	1591	40	% 2.51
Güre	2515	360	% 14.31
Kavlaklar	208	30	% 14.42
Kızılkeçili	1401	200	% 14.27
Ortaoba	1688	2	% 0.11
Pınarbaşı	126	70	% 55.55
Tahtakuşlar	1002	150	% 14.97
Zeytinli	3506	300	% 8.55
Total	**14521**	**1212**	-

*: Source: https://biruni.tuik.gov.tr/medas/?kn=95&locale=tr

Table 2. Total Number of Retirement Migrants, Surveyed Retirement Migrants and Participating in the Mind Map

Rural Neighborhoods	Number of Total Retirement Migrants	Number of Surveyed Retirement Migrants	Number of Retirement Migrants Participating in the Mind Map	Ratio of Surveyed Retirement Migrants in Total Retirement Migrants Population	Ratio of Retirement Migrants Participating in the Mind Map in Total Retirement Migrants Population
Avcılar	60	6	2	% 10	% 3,33
Çamlıbel	40	10	2	% 25	% 5
Güre	360	32	3	% 8,88	% 0,83
Kavlaklar	30	5	2	% 16,66	% 6,66
Kızılkeçili	200	14	3	% 7	% 1,5
Ortaoba	2	2	2	% 100	% 100
Pınarbaşı	70	12	2	% 17,14	% 2,85
Tahtakuşlar	150	21	3	% 14	% 2
Zeytinli	300	25	11	% 8,33	% 3,66
Total	**1212**	**127**	**30**	-	-

There are closed and open-ended questions in the survey technique. There have been categorical, scaled, matrix and conditional questions covered by closed-ended questions, while information questions from open-ended questions are available in the research questionnaire (Yavan, 2014). In the questionnaires, 5-point Likert- type scale was used in the questions to get the retirement migrants general thoughts about the nature of KMNP environment and the local people. This type of scale was articulated in the form of entirely negative, negative, neutral, positive and completely positive. There is also a likert type scale in the questions where social, economic and natural environment is asked to be scored. The questions in this section were asked to score from 1 to 5. Semantic differentiation scale was used in perception questions containing opposite adjectives related to KMNP environment. Each phrase is divided into three as positive adjectives, neutral and negative adjectives.

The questionnaires were applied by face to face interview method. In the preparation of the questions about the personal information of the retirement migrants in the survey, their income and the time they first visited as a tourist and as permanently, the frequency of visiting the places where they lived before the research area, the duration of their stay in a year in the vicinity of KMNP and the reasons for going there, the doctorate thesis of İlkay Südaş was benefited from. The questions about the natural, economic and human environment to score the area around KMNP and the ways in which the retirement migrants defined the research area were assisted from the studies of Eşen (2007) and Özer (2014).

Another method used in the research is the mind map. Since all of the respondents did not agree to participate in the mind map application, this study could be done with fewer participants (30 people) than the questionnaire. In this context, a draft map showing the vicinity of KMNP was prepared and 30 retirement migrants were asked to write or draw the elements that occured to their minds and that they associated and perceieved related to the region on the map after this map were shown to them.

The data obtained from the surveys were subjected to some analyzes and tests for the purpose of research through SPSS (Statistical Packages for Social Sciences) 20. First of all, the *reliability analysis* and *normality test* which should be performed in every study in which questionnaire method is applied was used. As a result of the normality test, it was mandatory to choose nonparametric analyzes as a result of the fact that 21 expressions received low values in the perception section containing 24 expressions in particular. As a result, Spearman Correlation analysis was used in the study.

The analysis of mind maps was done according to some criteria. The criteria such as the types of the items shown on mind maps, their frequencies and the order in which they are arranged in the maps

are taken into consideration in the analysis. As a result of the analysis, the concepts specified in mind maps were also shown by connotation sign technique (Karadağ and Turut, 2013).

4. Findings

4.1. Demographic and Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Retirement Migrants

59.1% of the retirement migrants in the questionnaire were male and 40.9% were female. In other words, six out of ten people are men. Even if there is no obvious superiority of the number of male retirement migrants compared to women, it can be said that there are differences between them (Table 3).

The group with the highest number of themigrants in terms of age group is the retirement migrants aged between 56-60 years with a percentage of 29.9%. The least retirement migrants are between the ages of 71-75 with 2.4%. The 61-65 age group is the second with a percentage (26%) close to the first group. In other words, the group between the ages of 56 and 65 constitutes more than half of the total retirement migrants participating in the survey (55.9%) (Table 3).

30.7% of the retirement migrants are undergraduate graduates and this group is in first place. The last group is the associate degree with 10.2%. It is noteworthy that the retirement migrants with a high school degree have a high rate of 22.8%. (Table 3).

In the study, the retirement migrants with an income between 3001-5000 Turkish Liras (TL) are the first with 51,96%. The retirement migrants with income between 30.7% and 1500-3000 TL rank last. The total income of those with an income ratio of 3001-5000 TL and 5001 TL and above was 69.3% (Table 3).

When the retirement migrants were asked what job they were doing before retiring, 34.64% of them stated that they were public officials. This group includes soldiers, police, teachers, doctors, nurses, prosecutors, judges, academics and civil servants. Public servants are followed by tradesmen with a rate of 16.5%. Those having jobs apart from working as public servants, tradesmen, workers, engineers, self-employed and making up "the other" group is the second with 26.77%. This group includes psychologists, those trading iron, bankers, journalists, farmers, and cooks (Table 3).

Table 3. Demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the retirement migrants in the sample

f: Frequency   sd: Standard Deviation

Gender	*f*	Percent (%)	sd
Man	75	59.1	
Woman	52	40.9	.494
Age	*f*	Percent (%)	sd
Between 50-55	24	18.9	
Between 56-60	38	29.9	
Between 61-65	33	26	
Between 66-70	25	19.7	1,236
Between 71-75	3	2.4	
76 and above	4	3.1	
Education	*f*	Percent (%)	sd
Primary education	29	22.8	
High school	28	22	
Associate Degree	13	10.2	1,420
Undergraduate	39	30.7	
Graduate	18	14.2	
Job	*f*	Percent (%)	sd
Public servant	44	34.64	
Artisan	21	16.5	
Worker	11	8.7	2,794
Self-employed	9	7.1	
Engineer	8	6.3	
Other	34	26.77	
Revenue	*f*	Percent (%)	sd
Between 1501-3000 TL	39	30.7	
Between 3001-5000 TL	66	51.96	.728
5001 TL and above	22	17.32	

4.2. Provinces Where The Retirement Migrants Lived Before Migration to KMNP

When the retirement migrants were asked about where they lived before they came to one of the settlements in the research area, those coming from İstanbul are the first with 36.2%. It can be said that one out of every three retirees migrated from İstanbul. Those from İzmir have a 15% share. The proportion of those coming from some other big cities or towns attached to them in Turkey apart from İstanbul, Ankara, İzmir, Bursa and Tekirdağ is 24% (Table 4). It is noteworthy that no foreign retired migrants are encountered in the fieldwork in the research area. Therefore, only local migrants were included in the research.

Table 4. Provinces where the retirement migrants lived before the migration to the research area

Which provinces did you live in before you migrated to KMNP?	*f*	Percent(%)	**sd**
İstanbul	46	36.2	
İzmir	19	15	
Çanakkale	14	11	2,037
Bursa	9	7.1	
Tekirdağ	8	6.3	
Other Cities	31	24.4	

4.3. Property Status of The Retirement Migrants

When asked participants about the property status of the retirement migrants around KMNP, 85.8% stated that they had their own homes. This percentage shows that almost 9 out of every 10 retirement migrants live in their own homes. 46.5% of those who stated that they had their own homes said that they bought the house from someone living in the rural neighborhood they migrated, and 39.4% said that they had it built by themselves. It is customary for most retirement migrants to own the house in which they live. In many parts of the world, retirement migrants often choose to buy a house when they move to another place, and retirement migration is linked to second home ownership (O'Reilly, 1995; Casado-Diaz, 2006; Südaş and Mutluer, 2008; Özerim, 2008; O'Reilly and Benson, 2009; Özerim, 2012; Südaş, 2012). In addition, as a result of the surveys, 7.9% of retirees stated that the house they live in is rented, and 6.3% stated that they lived with their relatives or friends (Table 5).

Table 5. Property Status of The Retirement Migrants House in KMNP

What is the property status of the house that you are living in KMNP?	*f*	Percent (%)
My house	109	85,8
Rented	10	7,9
I am staying with my relative / family / friend	8	6,3

4.4. Thoughts of The Retirement Migrants on The Natural and Human Environment Around KMNP

In the research, in the eight-question section involving the thoughts of the retirement migrants about the natural and human environment, 50.4% of the retirement migrants, one of the two respondents, answered the question of their opinions about the natural landscape of the area around KMNP as *completely positive*. It is interesting to note that there are no retirement migrants who consider their natural environment to be completely negative or have a neutral opinion (Table 6).

To the question of what they think about the local people in the area around KMNP, 47.2% of the retirement migrants answered as positive. The least given response is *"completely negative* with 3.9% (Table 6).

Table 6. Frequency, percentage and standard deviations of the retirement migrants' thoughts on natural and human environment in the field of research

What are your thoughts on the natural landscape of the place where you live around KMNP?	*f*	Percent (%)	sd
Totally positive	64	50.4	
Positive	56	44.1	.758
Negative	7	5.5	
What is your opinion about the local people living in the vicinity of the KMNP?	*f*	Percent (%)	sd
Completely Positive	27	21.3	
Positive	60	47.2	
Neutral	17	13.4	1,083
Negative	18	14.2	
Totally negative	5	3.9	

4.5. Perceptions of The Retirement Migrants on Natural And Human Environment in The Field of Research

Having given them opposite adjectives about KMNP environment, the retirement migrants were asked to give a positive, negative or neutral answer for each of them. The most prominent feature in the positive sense is that the location in question is *"airy"* (Table 7). Except for the two retirement migrants

participating in the survey, everyone stated that KMNP environment is airy. The second most frequently mentioned feature as positive is "*calm*" (94.5%). Being *"natural"* and *"peaceful"* has the equal rate of *91.3%*. After that, the "*comforting*" aspect was emphasized with 90.6% .The most important negative feature stated by the retirement migrants is that *"ordinary"* with the rate of *28.3%*. Nearly one out of four migrants found KMNP environment to be ordinary. In addition, one out of four migrants (25.2%) pointed out the *irregularity* here. The ratio of those who find this region to be *monotonous* and *boring* is equal (24.4%). In the negative sense, options of being "*depressing*" and "*detached from the center* " were not mentioned by any retirement migrants.

The most undecided feature, the neutral expression, is *amazing- boring with* 46.5%. *Expressions of diverse-monotonous follow this* with 44% (Table 7).

Table 7. Frequency, mean and standard deviations of the retirement migrants' perceptions of natural and human environment

Phrase_1	*f*	Percent(%)	sd
Airy	125	98,4	
Neutral	2	1,6	0,125
Phrase 2	*f*	Percent(%)	sd
Calm	120	94,5	
Neutral	3	2,4	0,378
Fast	4	3,1	
Phrase 3	*f*	Percent(%)	sd
Peaceful	116	91,3	
Neutral	7	5,5	0,410
Unpeaceful	4	3,1	
Phrase 4	*f*	Percent(%)	sd
Natural	116	91,3	
Neutral	4	3,1	0,483
Artificial	7	5,5	
Phrase 5	*f*	Percent(%)	sd
Comfortably	115	90,6	
Neutral	7	5,5	0,443
Disturbing	5	3,9	
Phrase 6	*f*	Percent(%)	sd
Central	113	89	
Neutral	14	11	0,795
Phrase 7	*f*	Percent(%)	sd
Good	111	87,4	
Neutral	10	7,9	0,489
Bad	6	4,7	
Phrase 8	*f*	Percent(%)	sd
Beautiful	106	83,5	
Neutral	14	11	0,533
Ugly	7	5,5	
Phrase 9	*f*	Percent(%)	sd
Understandable	93	73,2	
Neutral	13	10,2	0,762
Complicated	21	16,5	
Phrase 10	*f*	Percent(%)	sd
Memorable	84	66,1	
Neutral	20	15,7	0,785
Non-identity	23	18,1	
Phrase 11	*f*	Percent(%)	sd
Hospitable	80	63	
Neutral	21	16,5	0,812
Inhospitable	26	20,5	
Phrase 12	*f*	Percent(%)	sd

Attractive	78	61,4	
Neutral	29	22,8	0,753
Unattractive	20	15,7	
Phrase 13	*f*	Percent %)	sd
Quality	75	59,1	
Neutral	25	19,7	0,816
Vulgar	27	21,3	
Phrase 14	*f*	Percent(%)	sd
Alive	74	58,3	
Neutral	31	24,4	0,770
Lifeless	22	17,3	
Phrase 15	*f*	Percent(%)	sd
Clean	66	52	
Neutral	33	26	0,810
Dirty	28	22	
Phrase 16	*f*	Percent(%)	sd
Cheap	65	51,2	
Neutral	47	37	0,692
Expensive	15	11,8	
Phrase 17	*f*	Percent(%)	sd
Multicultural	60	47,2	
Neutral	39	30,7	0,797
Homogeneous	28	22	
Phrase 18	*f*	Percent(%)	sd
Rich	55	43,3	
Neutral	53	41,7	0,712
Simple	19	15	
Phrase 19	*f*	Percent(%)	sd
Contemporary	54	42,5	
Neutral	47	37	0,765
Conservative	26	20,5	
Phrase 20	*f*	Percent(%)	sd
Organized	51	40,2	
Neutral	44	34,6	0,798
Disorganized	32	25,2	
Phrase 21	*f*	Percent(%)	sd
Well-kept	49	38,6	
Neutral	49	38,6	0,771
Neglected	29	22,8	
Phrase 22	*f*	Percent %)	sd
Contain Diversity	40	31,5	
Neutral	56	44,1	0,747
Uniform	31	24,4	
Phrase 23	*f*	Percent(%)	sd
Surprisingly	37	29,1	
Neutral	59	46,5	0,733
Boring	31	24,4	
Phrase 24	*f*	Percent(%)	sd
Unordinary	37	29,1	
Neutral	54	42,5	0,761
Ordinary	36	28,3	

4.6. Relation of The Perceptions and Thoughts of The Retirement Migrants in KMNP Environment

The perceptions of retirees who participated in the survey were evaluated with Spearman Correlation analysis. It is determined that environmental perception has a correlation relationship with at least one expression of the environmental thinking section of all statements except seventh (central-detachable), twenty-first (cheap-expensive), twenty-third (multicultural-homogeneous) and twenty-fourth (contemporary-conservative). According to the Spearman Correlation analysis, that the retirement migrants perceived the environment of KMNP as a good and beautiful place is negatively correlated with their negative thinking of natural landscape. Their perceptions of beautiful are also associated with a low-negative correlation with the negative opinions of local people before and after their immigration to the area of the natural environment, with all of their opinions after migration to the area. That it is perceived as comforting is seen to have negative correlation with negative thoughts directed to the local people living there. Apart from these, some noteworthy relations are low negative with natural perception and negative change of thought towards natural environment. The perception of being calm and high quality has low negative correlation with the negative perception towards local people. In short, the relationship between the retirement migrants with the mentioned perceptions and the negative thoughts about the KMNP environment shows a decreasing trend.

4.7. Frequency of Visits by Migrants to Their Hometowns and Duration of Their Stay Around KMNP Environment

When asked about the frequency of their visits to the place they lived in before their settlement in the research area, 46.5% of the retirement migrants stated that they went more than four times a year. Those who state that they go two to four times a year have a ratio of 35.4% and are in second place. Those who said: "I don't visit where I live before" are the last with a ratio of 3.9% (Table 8).

The retirement migrants were asked how long they were staying annually around KMNP (Table 8). 66.1% said that they stayed there for 3-6 months in a year. The rate of those staying between 6-12 months is 27.6% and the rate of those staying during the year is 6.3%.

Table 8. The frequency of retirement migrants to the place they lived in before migration and duration of their stay around KMNP environment

What is the frequency of visiting the place where you lived before KMNP?	*f*	Percent (%)	sd
I don't visit	5	3,9	
Once in a year	18	14,2	
2-4 times in a year	45	35,4	0,842
More than 4 times in a year	59	46,5	
How long do you stay per year around KMNP	*f*	Percent (%)	sd
Between 3-6 months	84	66,1	
Between 6-12 months	35	27,6	0,608
Throughout the year	8	6,3	

4.8. Findings From Mind Maps

A total of 90 expressions were included in the study of the mind map, which consists of 30 people in at least two people in each of the nine settlements in the research area. While the retirement migrants stated the elements they identified with Kaz Mountain, KMNP or only the rural neighborhoods where they lived, they used a number of expressions ranging from one to eight. Some retirement migrants showed Assos and Zeus Altar in Çanakkale and others on Altınoluk and Akçay's mind maps. While 4 people used the shape and writing on the mind map, the other 26 people preferred to use the text.

It is noteworthy that the expression "*Edremit Bay scenery*" was used five times in the mind maps of the retirement migrants. It is followed by *"Kaz Mountain and Kaz Mountain views", "olive trees"* and "*water resources*" each of which was mentioned four times. In second most mentioned elements comes "*views of Kaz Mountain and Kaz Mountain scenery*" and "*olive trees*" which are mentioned four times."*Edremit Bay view*" is the third most indicated factor in the second place. In the third place, the most indicated ones are "*Kaz Mountain and Kaz Mountain scenery*", "*olive trees*" and "*nature*". Another point to be mentioned is that there are four statements in mind maps that can be classified in the negative sense. These are "*narrow and curvy roads*", "*narrow and slopy roads", "infrequency of buses*", and "*rapidly deteriorating bay*".

"*Kaz Mountain and Kaz Mountain scenery*" is the most stated expressions (11 times) in mind maps applied to the retirement migrants. This is followed by *"olive trees*" repeated 9 times. "*Edremit Bay scenery*" and "*nature*" are indicated in mind maps 8 times. These are followed by the expression *"water resources"* repeated 7 times. Due to the large number of expressions mentioned in mind maps only once and as it is meaningless to show them with the association sign technique, all expressions except for the 20 expressions that are shown once are shown with the association sign (Figure 4).
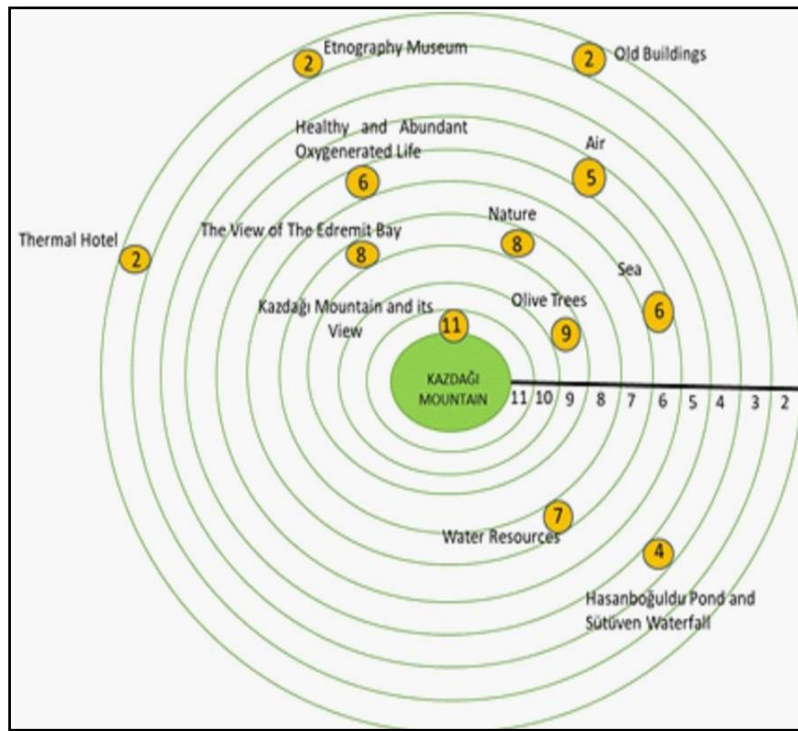
Figure 4. Connotation sign based on expressions mentioned in mind maps

5. Results

As is often advocated in behavioral geography, people's perceptions of the place they live in may be related to their thoughts and behaviors. Therefore, it will not be wrong to say that people's thoughts about their human, economic and physical environments in their lives are directly related to their spatial perception and images. Spatial perceptions, thoughts and attitudes of those relations can be seen in retirement migrants as seen in every human being. However, in the literature regarding the retirement migrants, it is seen that spatial perceptions and thoughts of retirement migrants have not been researched. This situation is a major deficiency in the literature because retirement migrants are a special group in many aspects and they can influence the environment where they migrate intensively.

Therefore, in this study, it has been tried to examine the spatial perception and thoughts of retirement migrants.

When the education status of the retirement migrants is examined, it can be seen that the ones who have undergraduate, graduate, and post graduate education in other words those with university education constitute more than half of the total sample. However, it is understood that there are still high level of primary and high school education. This situation is different from the one familiarized in literature. Because, in the relevant literature, it was emphasized that retirement migrants mostly formed the human community with a high level of education (Bolender, 2010; King et al.1998; O'Reilly, 1995 Unutulmaz, 2007; Williams et al. 1997).

It is seen that retirement immigrants came to KMNP environment form various cities of Turkey. It is an important point that those migrating from KMNP to İstanbul constitutes half of the total sample. Retirement migration takes place from the developed areas to the less developed or developing areas as mentioned in the previous sections of the study. In the research, a parallel result was obtained. A large proportion of the retirement migrants who migrated to the research area from İstanbul and İzmir, Turkey's advanced metropolitan cities in terms of many aspects, preferred an area such Kaz Mountain which is distinguished with different characteristics rather than being a developed place. This situation is directly related to the retirement migrants search for peace and tranquility. The retirees, who have a stressful, overwhelming, exhausting life in İstanbul and İzmir, migrate to the vicinity of KMNP, which they consider to be close to these cities and they can find calmness and peace there. In addition, it is noteworthy that those coming from areas located in a short distance to the research area such as İstanbul, İzmir, Çanakkale, Bursa, Balıkesir and Tekirdağ accounted for approximately 75% of the total sample.

When the property status of retired migrants was examined, it was found that nine out of ten were in their own home. The rest is either renting out or staying with friends/relatives. Considering the fact that being a host in one location would increase the loyalty to that location, it is possible to state that the retirement migrants in the sample are generally more loyal to the KMNP environment than the others.

In the study, it was observed that the retirement migrants found the natural environment of the research area completely positive or positive. While there are not those finding it completely negative, those finding it partly negative is a minority. It can be said that when the perceptions of the retirement migrants, which they find the area airy, calm, natural, and peaceful are combined with the high natural scoring level, this is a consistent and expected situation. Apart from this, it is also important that one out of three retirement migrants in the sample find KMNP surroundings as ordinary. The fact that no retirement migrants perceive the area as overwhelming and detached from the center is another important point. It is interesting to note that even if there is no public transport in some areas in the universe (Pınarbaşı) or limited (Kavlaklar, Ortaoba), the option "detached from the center" is not specified. This situation can be said to be related to the fact that all of the retirement migrants in the sample have their own cars of transportation. In addition, the perceptions of the local population are positive even if it is not as much as the one in the natural environment. The difference between these perceptions is in line with the fact that perceptual spaces mentioned in the previous sections of the study are also found in the retirement migrants around the KMNP and the research area is not unique.

As a result of the research, it was understood that the retirement migrants' thoughts about their perceptions of KMNP were related with their thoughts. For example, it is determined that those who find the environment around KMNP good, beautiful, tidy and well-kept have positive thoughts about the natural environment. On the other hand, it was found that those who think positively about local people find the area peaceful, comfortable, beautiful, calm, vibrant and extraordinary. On the contrary, for example, those who find the space ordinary, bad, ugly and disturbing, are more of a negative opinion about local people. Therefore, it can be said that positive perceptions bring positive thoughts and negative perceptions bring negative thoughts.

On mind maps of the retirement migrants, they mentioned Kaz Mountain Scenery, Olive trees, and Edremit Bay Scenery more than they mentioned Kaz Mountain air. Kaz Mountain air was the eighth most stated expression. On the other hand, although there are negative perceptions of the Edremit Bay and Kaz Mountain, these perceptions must be underlined. Only 4 of the 90 statements in the mind maps are negative. This shows that although some of the retirement migrants participating in the questionnaires have stated that the KMNP environment has been disturbed in recent years, the positive perceptions about the area are much higher. For this reason, it can easily be said that opinions and perceptions in mind maps and surveys the retirement migrants often look favorably to KMNP. Another point to be taken into account in mind maps is that when the retirement migrants who participate in the mind map application are asked to indicate their perceptions about the place they live in, they also show the elements towards the Bay, Altınoluk and Akçay. Therefore, the retirement migrants see Kaz Mountain and Edremit Bay as an inseperable whole.

It is seen that almost one in two people living in Pınarbaşı, which is one of the rural neighborhoods in the research area, is a retirement migrant. The fact that young people living in the neighborhood have problems finding work and go to other areas is one of the most important reasons that reveal this rate. Pınarbaşı also has one of the most striking examples of the housing model of retirement migrants in their destination. (Photo 3).

Zeytinli, Güre and Kızılkeçili are the areas where the most retirement migrants live. Besides showing typical rural characteristics, these three neighborhood are also carrying urban features. The fact that residences where the retirement migrants live has often been observed in urban areas supports this argument.

Photo 3. A photo from a house of a retirement migrant in Pınarbaşı

The urban outlook is both the cause and the result of lifestyle migration in general, and in particular the welfare migration and retirement migration. Lifestyle migrants can reveal different landscapes where they go. The urban outlook is the result; because these areas, which have urban dimensions and are also rural, attract more retirement migrants and the urban appearance of the areas is becoming more and more evident. Especially in Güre (Photo 4), Zeytinli and Kızılkeçili (Photo 5),

although the urban appearance is evident, the remaining six settlements have a rural view (Photo 6 and Photo 7).

Photo 4. Some houses of the retirement migrants in Güre

Photo 5. A photo of urban reconstruction in Kızılkeçili

Photo 6. An example of traditional house in Kavlaklar

Photo 7. A rural house in Ortaoba

Considering O'Reilly's classification of retirement migrants in 1995, the majority of the retirement migrants in the research area are *seasonal visitors* and *returnees*. This group remains in the neighborhoods of the research area between 3 and 6 months of a year. A significant number of residents stay in the research area for the most part of the year. However, the *expatriates* remaining around KMNP is a minority throughout the year. This is in line with the previous explanation. The retirement migrants in the sample do not break their ties with their hometowns and KMNP and show the existence of these ties between their country and research area during the year.

In the related literature, it is revealed that retirement migrants often participate in this type of migration with the motivation of a hot climate and low living expenses (Casado-Diaz et al. 2004; Karakaya and Turan, 2006; Kırkulak and Balkır, 2009; King et al.1998; O'Reilly, 1995; O'Reilly, 2003; Özerim, 2008; Südaş, 2008; Südaş, 2012; Unutulmaz, 2007). But this study has revealed the landscape, calmness, nature, fresh air, and water resources as the foreground rather than warm climate and low living costs of the retirement migrants. The reason why the climate is not valid for the retirement migrants in the research area is that the migrants come from places such as İstanbul, İzmir, Çanakkale, Bursa, Balıkesir and Tekirdağ, which are similar to Kaz Mountain, or where the warmer climates are dominant. As mentioned in the literature, the transition from cold climate to hot climate is not mentioned

here. For this reason, it cannot be said that the warm climate for the migrants in the research area is widely accepted as the reason of migration. In this study, low living expenses are not in the foreground indicator as migration motivation, half of the retirement migrants to prefer neutral or expensive expressions in perception question which examines whether the purchases of the retirement migrants in the field of research are cheap or expensive. In summary, it is not possible to talk about the dominant acceptance that the retirement migrants made their purchases in their environment.

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