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Views of Turkish Football Super League (Süperlig) Fans on Fanaticism and Violence*

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Abstract

The objective of this research is to examine the violent and fanatical tendencies of Turkish Football Süperlig team supporters in Ankara, their attitudes towards preventing violence and their views on violence. This research uses the quantitative method and is based on the relational survey model. The research sample group comprises of 754 individuals. The "Football Supporter Fanaticism Scale" (FSFS) was used in the research to collect data in this research. A Significant difference was not established between football fans' views on fanaticism and violence on the basis of their gender. However, a significant difference was identified between the opinions of football fans on fanaticism and violence based on the variable that is the team they support, on the sub-scale of the tendency towards violent thoughts and actions. A significant difference was not found with respect to the sub-scale of institutional attachment. According to the fans, one of the primary subjects regarding violence in football that must be highlighted is the level of education of the fans. Additionally, it was identified that gender, as well as the economic level of the supporters, is also influential on the appearance of violence. As a result, it is evident that factors such as education, age, income status are impactful with respect to the violent actions of football fans.

Keywords: Football, fan, violence, fanaticism.

INTRODUCTION

Recently, sports; which establishes peace among people, and which has become an essential and significant instrument for games, entertainment, competition, and recreation, is implicit of concepts such as health, beauty, success (Yetim, 2008). Sports, as a concept, include activities which are done for the purpose of contesting, getting excited, competing and winning a competition" (Güllü, 2017) and it is a social event which cannot possibly be analyzed exclusive of society (Zivanovic and Randelovic, 2011). Fanaticism or fanatic supporters are always a matter of discussion when it comes to sports.

The subjects of fanaticism and fanatic behavior have been studied for a time (Dwyer et al., 2016). Fanaticism means the characterization of an extreme sense of belief between

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supporters and the team which they support. Hunt et al. (1999) examine fans under five different categories: the group of supporters called 'temporary fans' only supports their team under convenient circumstances; the second group is the group of fans that only supports the local team of their geographical region. Another group is the fans who are devoted to their team; this group includes fans that support their team regardless of resources of geographical distances. The group of fans called the fanatical fans is extremely faithful to their team. The final group of fans is the dysfunctional group. This type of groups puts their identity in the center rather than any sense of attachment and can easily engage in anti-social behavior or acts of violence (Dalpian et al., 2014). Apart from fanaticism, the concept of hooliganism should also be addressed with respect to other violent and aggressive behavior.

The term 'hooligan' emerged after the Daily News newspaper gave the name 'Hooligans' to the groups of fans who pick fights at the games played in England. Hooliganism is not an easy term to define and still does not have a definite definition despite there being hundreds of studies, books, and reports on this subject all around the world since the last 40 years (Radman, 2014). According to one of the definitions, hooliganism is to perpetrate physical violence or to inflict damage on properties and possessions (Bodin and Robene, 2014). Despite the belief that hooliganism and violence are mostly seen in football competitions, nowadays, similar problems are seen in other professional sports branches (basketball, volleyball, ice hockey, etc.), as well (Oojen, 2012). The emergence of violent acts is very likely in the case of hooliganism. The word violence derives from the Latin word "violentia" and implies a tough, cruel personality or power (Şahin, 2003). According to Galtung (1969), there are six important aspects to violence in general; first of which is the physical and psychological aspect of violence. The primary goal of violence is to hurt and cause damage. In psychological terms, violence involves any situation that diminishes one's mental potential such as lying, brainwashing, dictating something on someone, and making threats. The second aspect is the consideration whether the impacts of violence is positive or negative; in this case, violence can be perceived as a (positive or negative) sanction or a physical act. The third aspect of violence is the focus on acts involving human actions or threats. Another aspect is individual or collective acts of violence. The fifth aspect is whether an act of violence was deliberate or without deliberate intent. The final aspect is whether an act of violence was committed openly or in secret (Gregory, 2005). Regardless of the aspect of violence, negative consequences are very probable due to causing harm to someone or something. Violence can come in collective or interpersonal forms as well as in the form of inflicting violence on one's own self. It is a clear fact that there is a relationship between violence and aggression which is a behavioral pattern existing in almost all societies.

There are various views and theories on which such views are based with regard to describing the reasons for aggression. For instance, whereas psychologists tend to explain aggression on the basis of a plan comprising psychological causes, descriptions given by ethologists are mostly based on biological grounds (Brennan, 1998). Aggression is not an attitude or an emotion, but a physical or verbal act and involves physical or psychological damage and hurt (Weinberg and Gold, 2011). The primary theories on aggression are the psycho-analytical theory, the biological theory, the theory of learning and the theory of social learning. The psychoanalytical theory "is the first theory to introduce the fact that aggression must be accepted as an intrinsic part of psychological integrity. The psychoanalytical theory, which

suggests that aggression and sexuality are basic human instincts, claims that these instincts are inherent since birth and direct a person's life" (Poussard and Çamuroğlu, 2015). The biological theory asserts that the factor of genetics plays a role in acts of aggression and argues that the brain and the central nervous system give rise to aggressive behavior, that violence involves a chemical, hormonal and genetical process which is why such a biological mechanism in an organism will unavoidably lead to acts of aggression or violence (Bilgin, 1995; qtd. in: Ziyagil et al., 2014).

The social learning theory interprets aggression as an act that is learned by observing other people (Brennan, 1998). Like other behavior patterns, aggression is also learned by human beings through direct experience or through observing others. Picking up aggressive behavior provides helpful ideas to understand and explain the beliefs and expectations that drive social behavior through the learning processes based on observation (Anderson and Bushman, 2002). Despite the fact that most human behavior is influenced by genetic constitution, socialization processes may shape our behavior in specific forms by encouraging certain beliefs and attitudes and offering certain experiences (Cusimano et al., 2016).

The social learning theory can initially be examined on an individual basis; however, it can also contribute to studying the changes that affect a larger group or community in advancing relationships (Khalil et al., 2017). Watching acts of violence will trigger the emergence of violence (Bandura 1977, qtd. in: Rollins 2014). In other words, the more violent behavior there is, the faster violence and aggression will continue to increase. Bandura argues that almost all behavior can be learned through experience and observation (Bandura, 1977 qtd. in: Kalkstein et al., 2016).

The subject of violence in sports has gained a great deal of attention in studies in the international arena (Scholz, 2016; Živanović and Randelović, 2011; Guivernau and Duda, 2002; Patsantaras, 2012). In his study Scholz, (2016), determines that a majority of fans consider racist statements to be the most severe one amongst acts of violence. Furthermore, Scholz states that the factors leading to violence mostly arise from alcohol or other addictive substances and from referee mistakes. Živanović and Randelović (2011) state in their study that violence in sports is an extremely complex phenomenon that occurs in various forms and that the causes of violence are related to social and cultural values in accordance with the goals set by an individual, however, violence mostly occurs in association with society as a whole and with social groups. Guivernau and Duda (2002) argue that in cases where football coaches encourage violent behavior, athletes will resort to such kinds of behavior more often. Patsantaras (2012) emphasizes the importance of considering how various socio-cultural and emotional conditions at football stadiums are shaped.

Due to the senses of ambition and competition it embodies, football has a significant role in the occurrence of violence and aggression. These senses of ambition and competition may have a negative impact both on the athletes in the field and on the fans and audience outside of the field. This research assesses the attitude of football audiences in Ankara toward acts of violence. The objective of the research is to study the violent and fanatical tendencies of the Football Süperlig team supporters in Ankara, their attitudes towards preventing violence and their views on violence.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Quantitative method was used in the research, and the research model is the survey model. Approval was obtained from the Ethics Committee of Ankara University upon the decision no. 52 dated February 13, 2017 for the ethical compliance of the research. The research population consists of fans of "Osmanlıspor" and "Gençlerbirliği" football teams in Ankara playing in the Süperlig, and passolig/e-ticket holders. Süperlig is the top level professional football league in Turkey. Convenience sampling, which is one of the non-random sampling methods, was used in sample selection. Osmanlıspor has 17,692 and Gençlerbirliği has 10,464 fans who hold a passolig/e-ticket (passolig.com.tr). According to Ural and Kılıç (2006), the number of samples to be taken from a 20,000-person population for 0,05 tolerable error is 377 participants; the number of samples to be taken from an 11,000-person population is 375 people. In this case, sample numbers for Osmanlıspor and Gençlerbirliği are 377 and 375, respectively.

Data Collection Tool

The "Football Supporters Fanaticism Scale" (FSFS) developed by Taşmektepligil et al. (2014) was used as a data collection tool. The first eight-point part (primary factor) of the scale consisting of 13 items in total represents the "tendency of fans towards violent thoughts and acts"; and the final five-point part (secondary factor) represents the fans' attitude with respect to the sense of "institutional attachment". The scale items were assessed in accordance with the 4-point Likert-type rating scale where the four options are: (1) Strongly Agree, (2) Agree, (3) Disagree and (4) Strongly Disagree. Based on the total points scored by the audience who were surveyed according to the scale criteria based on 13 questions; an overall score in the 13-21 range represented "fanatical", the 22-30 range represented "team supporter", and the 31-52 range represented "football lover".

Data Analysis

The normality distribution of the data was studied by using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. Since the data were not distributed normally, the non-parametric Mann Whitney U and Kruskal-Wallis tests were used for groups of two and for groups of more than two, respectively. In cases where there was a distinction between groups as a result of the Kruskal-Wallis test, Dunn's Multiple Comparison Test was used to identify the distinct group. The internal consistency of the subdimensions were acceptable and $\alpha=0.74$ for both of them. The internal consistency for the whole scale (i.e., 13 items) was $\alpha=0.81$.

RESULTS

This section comprises the findings regarding the data obtained in the research.

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of participants

Variables		f	%
Age	18-23	214	28,4
	24-29	212	28,1
	30-35	123	16,3
	36-41	79	10,5
	42 and over	126	16,7
	Total	754	100
Gender	Male	704	93,4
	Female	50	6,6
	Total	754	100
Educational Status	Primary school	36	4,8
	Secondary school	112	14,9
	High school	380	50,4
	Associate degree	54	7,2
	Bachelor's degree	172	22,8
	Total	754	100
Occupational Status	Public servant	96	12,7
	Self-employed	210	27,9
	Laborer	243	32,2
	Retired	54	7,2
	Student	123	16,3
	Unemployed	28	3,7
	Total	754	100
Income Status	236 \$ and less	114	15,1
	237 \$-364\$	285	37,8
	365 \$-492\$	201	26,7
	493 \$-620\$	64	8,5
	621 \$-747\$	48	6,4
	748\$ and over	42	5,6
	Total	754	100
Supporters Club	Yes	306	40,6
	No	448	59,4
	Total	754	100
Frequency of watching a game	Once a week	131	17,4
	Once every two weeks	212	28,1
	Once every three weeks	90	11,9
	Once a month	94	12,5
	Once every two months	41	5,4
	Once every three months	186	24,7
	Total	754	100

If we look at the ages of the fans participating in the study, most of the participants are in the 18-29 range. When the gender variable is considered, the majority consists of male participants. When the level of education of the participants are considered, most of the participants are high school graduates.

Table 2. Mann Whitney U Test analysis of fan views according to gender

Sub-scales	Gender	N	Mean	Rank Difference	Total Rank	U	P*
Tendency towards Violent Thought and Act	Male	704	3.16	380.58	267927	15433	.144
	Female	50	3.06	334.16	16708		
Institutional Attachment	Male	704	2.14	373.58	262997	14837	.062
	Female	50	2.34	432.76	21638		
Total	Male	704	2.77	376.67	265175.5	17015,5	.694
	Female	50	2.78	389.19	19459.5		

*p<0.05

As seen in Table 2, a significant difference could not be found in the sub-dimensions of the scale as well as overall as a result of the "Mann Whitney U" test conducted regarding fan views based on the gender variable [U=15433, p>0.05].

Table 3. Mann Whitney U Test analysis of fan views according to the team they support

Sub-scales	Team	N	Mean	Mean Rank	Total Rank	U	P*
Tendency towards Violent Thought and Act	Osmanlıspor	377	3.08	341.7	128822	57569	.000*
	Gençlerbirliği	377	3.22	413.3	155813		
Institutional Attachment	Osmanlıspor	377	2.18	388.4	146443	66939	.165
	Gençlerbirliği	377	2.11	366.5	138192		
Total	Osmanlıspor	377	2.74	356.4	134382	63129	.008*
	Gençlerbirliği	377	2.80	398.5	150253		

*p<0.05

As seen in Table 3, a significant difference was found in the "Tendency towards Violent Thought and Act" sub-scale as a result of the "Mann Whitney U" test conducted on fans on the basis of the team which they support [U=57569, p<0.05]. when the mean ranks considered, it is evident that the perception of Gençlerbirliği fans (x=413.3) on "tendency towards violent thought and act" is lower in comparison to the Osmanlıspor fans (x=341.7). A significant difference at a rate of 0.05 was identified following the "Mann Whitney U" test conducted on the mean values of the overall points on the football supporter fanaticism scale [U=63129, p<0.05]. Accordingly, when the overall score averages are considered, it is evident that Gençlerbirliği fans (x=36.41) have a higher score than Osmanlıspor fans (x=35.63).

Table 4. Mann Whitney U Test analysis according to membership to a supporters club of the team supported by fans

SCALE	Fan Membership	N	Mean	Mean Rank	Total Rank	U	P*
Tendency towards Violent Thought and Act	Yes	306	3.20	395.2	120946.5	63112.5	.064
	No	448	3.12	365.3	163688.5		
Institutional Attachment	Yes	306	2.00	323.1	98887.0	51916.0	.000*
	No	448	2.25	414.6	185748.0		
Total	Yes	306	2.74	363.7	111317.0	64346.0	.152
	No	448	2.78	386.8	173318.0		

*p<0.05

As seen in Table 4, a significant difference was identified in the "Institutional Attachment" sub-scale as a result of the "Mann Whitney U" test conducted on football audiences based on the variable of membership to a supporters' club [U=51916, p<0, 05]. When the mean ranks (or scores) considered, it was identified that fans who do not have a supporters' club membership (x=414.6), have higher scores than the fans who do have a supporters' club membership (x=323.1). when the scores are examined, it is seen that the "institutional attachment" perception of participants who are members of a supporters' club is higher than the participants who are not members of any supporters' club.

Table 5. Kruskal Wallis Test analysis of fan views according to age

Sub-dimensions	Age	N	Mean	Mean Rank	sd	X ²	P*	Difference
Tendency towards Violent Thought and Act	18-23	214	3.00	314.3	4	59.7	.000*	18-23<30-35, 42 and above 24-29<30-35,42 and above
	24-29	212	3.07	341.5				
	30-35	123	3.31	438.2				
	36-41	79	3.18	393.8				
	42 and above	126	3.37	475.7				
Institutional Attachment	18-23	214	2.13	368.2	4	7.27	.122	-
	24-29	212	2.15	379.1				
	30-35	123	2.14	372.3				
	36-41	79	2.04	340.7				
	42 and above	126	2.25	418.5				
Total	18-23	214	2.66	326.6	4	42.6	.000*	18-23<30-35,42 and above 24-29<30-35,42 and above 36-41<42 and above
	24-29	212	2.72	351.2				
	30-35	123	2.86	423.6				
	36-41	79	2.74	368.5				
	42 and above	126	2.94	468.6				

*p<0.05

As seen in Table 5, there is a significant difference in the overall scale as a result of the Kruskal-Wallis analysis conducted on fan views based on the age variable [$\chi^2(4)= 42.6$, $p<0.05$]. Results of the Dunn's Multiple Comparison test conducted to determine from which age group such a significant difference arises demonstrated that the 18-29 age group has a lower score average than the 30-42 and above age group; and the 24-29 age group has a lower score average than the 30-42 and above age group.

A significant difference was not found in the "Institutional Attachment" sub-scale of the scale [$\chi^2(4)= 7.27$, $p<0,05$]. However, a significant difference was present in the "Tendency towards Violent Thought and Act" [$\chi^2(4)= 44.3$, $p<0.05$] sub-scale. According to the Dunn's Multiple Comparison test conducted to determine from which age group such a significant difference arises in the "Tendency towards Violent Thought and Act" sub-scale, the 18-23 age group, and the 24-29 age group have a lower score than the 30-35 and 42 and above age groups, and the 30-35 and 42 and above age groups, respectively.

Table 6. Kruskal Wallis Test analysis of fan views according to fans' professions

Scale	Profession	N	Mean	Mean Rank	sd	X ²	P*	Difference
Tendency towards Violent Thought and Act	Public servant	96	3,40	478,5	5	35,0	,000*	Student, Self-employed, Laborer, Unemployed< Public servant
	Self-employed	21	3,09	347,6				
	Laborer	24	3,17	379,6				
	Retired	54	3,26	433,0				
	Student	12	3,03	332,0				
	Unemployed	3						
Institutional Attachment	Public servant	96	2,12	371,2	5	22,8	,000*	Student<Laborer, Retired Self-employed<Retired Public servant<Retired
	Self-employed	21	2,10	361,9				
	Laborer	24	2,20	396,2				
	Retired	54	2,42	480,4				
	Student	12	2,01	323,9				
	Unemployed	3						
Total	Public servant	96	2,91	447,0	5	32,8	,000*	Student<Laborer, Public servant, Retired Self-employed<Public servant, Retired
	Self-employed	21	2,71	349,5				
	Laborer	24	2,80	389,3				
	Retired	54	2,94	463,5				
	Student	12	2,64	315,2				
	Unemployed	3						

*p<0.05

As is evident in Table 6, there was a significant difference in the overall scale as a result of the Kruskal-Wallis analysis conducted on fan's views according to profession [$\chi^2(5)= 32.8$, $p<0.05$]. Results of the Dunn's Multiple Comparison test conducted to determine from which

age group such a significant difference arises demonstrated that the student group had a lower score average than the public servant and retired groups, and the self-employed group had a lower score average than the public servant and retired groups.

When the views on sub-scales on the basis of the profession variable are examined, there were significant differences in the “Tendency towards Violent Thought and Act” [$\chi^2(5)=35.0$, $p<0.05$] and “Institutional Attachment” [$\chi^2(5)=22.8$, $p<0.05$] sub-scales. Results of the Dunn's Multiple Comparison test conducted to determine from which age group such a significant difference arises demonstrated that, in the “Tendency towards Violent Thought and Act” sub-scale, Student, Laborer, Unemployed and Self-employed groups had a lower score average than the Public servant groups. In the "Institutional Attachment" sub-scale, it was seen that the students had a lower score than the Laborers and the Retired; the Self-employed group had a lower score average than the Retired group and the Public servant group had a lower score average than the Retired group.

Table 7. Kruskal Wallis Test analysis based on fan views according to their income status

SCALE	Income Status	N	Mean	Mean Rank	sd	X ²	P*	Difference
Tendency towards Violent Thought and Act	236 \$ and less	114	3,06	356,5	5	56,7	,000*	237-364<365-492, 493-620, 621-747 and 748 and above 236and less<493-620, 748 and above
	237 \$-364\$	285	3,01	317,1				
	365 \$-492\$	201	3,23	403,6				
	493 \$-620\$	64	3,36	468,7				
	621 \$-747\$	48	3,29	438,8				
	748\$ and over	42	3,49	509,9				
Institutional Attachment	236 \$ and less	114	2,10	354,7	5	13,8	,016*	493-620<237-364
	237 \$-364\$	285	2,23	410,4				
	365 \$-492\$	201	2,12	367,4				
	493 \$-620\$	64	1,99	318,9				
	621 \$-747\$	48	2,10	348,6				
	748\$ and over	42	2,17	386,1				
Total	236 \$and less	114	2,69	346,7	5	21,6	,001*	236 and less<748 and above 237-364<748 and above
	237 \$-364\$	285	2,71	350,0				
	365 \$-492\$	201	2,80	392,6				
	493 \$-620\$	64	2,83	415,0				
	621 \$-747\$	48	2,83	400,7				
	748\$ and over	42	2,98	490,8				

* $p<0.05$

As is evident from Table 7, the Kruskal-Wallis analysis results regarding fan views according to income status demonstrated a significant difference in the overall scale [$\chi^2(4)=21.6$, $p<0.05$]. According to the Dunn's Multiple Comparison test conducted to determine from which age group such a significant difference arises, it was seen that the 236 \$ and below income group had a lower score average than the 748\$ and above income group; and the 237-364\$ income group had a lower score average than the 748\$ and above income group.

When the fan opinions on sub-scales are examined according to income status, significant differences are present in the “Tendency towards Violent Thought and Act” [$\chi^2(5)= 56.7$, $p<0.05$] and the “Institutional Attachment” [$\chi^2(5)= 13.8$, $p<0.05$] sub-scales. According to the Dunn's Multiple Comparison test conducted to determine from which age group such a significant difference arises in the "Tendency towards Violent Thought and Act" sub-scales, it was seen that the 237\$-364\$ income group had a lower score than the 365\$-492\$, 620\$-747\$, 493\$-620\$ and the 747\$ and above income groups; on the other hand, the 236\$ and below income group had a lower score than the 747\$ and above income group. In the "Institutional Attachment" sub-scales, the 493\$-620\$ income group had a lower score than the 237\$-364\$ income group.

Table 8. Kruskal Wallis Test analysis based on fan views according to their educational level

SCALE	Education	N	Mean	Mean Rank	sd	X ²	P*	Difference
Tendency towards Violent Thought and Act	Primary school	36	3,06	343,4	4	56,8	,000*	Primary school, High school, Secondary school, Associate degree<Bachelor's degree
	Secondary school	112	2,98	302,0				
	High school	380	3,11	358,4				
	Associate degree	54	3,09	360,9				
	Bachelor's degree	172	3,40	481,1				
Institutional Attachment	Primary school	36	2,28	417,6	4	8,39	,078	-
	Secondary school	112	2,28	423,4				
	High school	380	2,13	371,6				
	Associate degree	54	2,09	352,0				
	Bachelor's degree	172	2,10	360,1				
Total	Primary school	36	2,76	377,57	4	23,9	,000*	Secondary school, Associate degree, < Bachelor's degree
	Secondary school	112	2,71	347,11				
	High school	380	2,73	358,23				
	Associate degree	54	2,70	351,97				
	Bachelor's degree	172	2,90	447,87				

* $p<0.05$

In Table 8, there was a significant difference in the overall scale according to the Kruskal-Wallis analysis results on an educational level [$\chi^2(4) = 23.9$, $p<0.05$]. According to the Dunn's Multiple Comparison test conducted to determine from which age group such a significant difference arises, it was seen that secondary school graduates had a lower score

than the bachelor's degree holders, and the associate degree holders had a lower score than the bachelor's degree holders and the high school graduates.

When the fan opinions on sub-dimensions are examined in terms of level of education, there were significant differences in the “Tendency towards Violent Thought and Act” [$\chi^2(4)=56.8$, $p<0.05$] and the “Institutional Attachment” [$\chi^2(4)=8.39$, $p<0.05$] sub-scales. According to the Dunn's Multiple Comparison test conducted to determine from which age group such a significant difference arises in the “Tendency towards Violent Thought and Act” sub-scales, it was seen that the bachelor's degree holders had a higher point average than the high school, secondary school and primary school graduates and the associate degree holders.

DISCUSSION

Our study was unable to identify a significant difference in the football fans' tendency towards violent thought and act and the institutional attachment sub-scales according to gender, which is a similar result to the results of the research conducted by Dimmcok and Grove (2005). A significant difference was found in the Tendency towards Violent Thought and Act sub-scales with regard to the variable of the team supported by the participants. Following the study, it was evident that Gençlerbirliği fans had a lower perception of violence than Osmanlıspor fans. A significant difference was not identified in the institutional attachment sub-scales with regard to the variable of the team supported by the participants.

It was found out that the participants with membership to a supporters' club had a higher sense of institutional attachment than the participants without any membership to a supporters' club. This result is similar to the results of the study conducted by Taştan (2009) which demonstrates that the fans who are members of a fan association had a higher rate of wearing their football club's colors than the non-members. Furthermore, the research conducted by Dimmcok and Grove (2005) also had results similar to this.

A significant difference was identified in the Tendency towards Violent Thought and Act sub-scale according to the age groups of fans and it was determined that younger fans were more prone to violent acts than middle-age and older fans. This result is similar to that of the research conducted by Paksoy (2014) which demonstrates that the level of fanaticism increases as the fandom age decreases. The results of the study conducted by Koçer (2012) also were similar to the results of our research. In Koçer's (2012) study, it was identified that the fans younger than 18 years of age showed greater support to their football club than the fans that are 25 and older and that fans tended to become more provoked by outside conditions and circumstances as their age decreases.

There was a significant difference in the Tendency towards Violent Thought and Act and the Institutional Attachment sub-scale according to the fans' views according to occupational groups. Accordingly, in the violent thought and act tendencies sub-scale it was seen that the student, laborer, unemployed and self-employed occupational groups had a higher level of engaging in violent acts than the public servants. The results of our research show similarities with the results of the study conducted by Var (2008), which demonstrates that the laborers, the self-employed, the unemployed and the students are more likely to engage in violence

before, during or after a match than the public servants. In the institutional attachment sub-scales of our study, it is seen that the student group and the self-employed group were more attached to their football teams than the laborers and the retired, and the retired, respectively.

There was a significant difference in the Tendency towards Violent Thought and Act and the Institutional Attachment sub-scales according to the fans' views according to their income status. Accordingly, in the violent thought and act tendencies sub-scales, it was seen that the fans with a lower level of income were more likely to engage in violence than the fans with a moderate or high level of income. These results do not match the results of the study results conducted by Var (2008). On the other hand, the results of the study conducted by Kurtiç and Yaman (2006) bear similarities to our research results and demonstrate that participation in violent acts increases as the income level of the fans decreases. Results of the study conducted by Acet (2001) supports our research results by asserting that the level of participation in violent acts increases as the individuals' levels of income decrease. From the institutional attachment perspective, it is identified that the fans with a lower level of income are more attached to their teams in comparison to the fans with a moderate or high level of income. This result is compatible with the results of the study conducted by Paksoy (2014) which demonstrate that the individuals identify more with their teams as their level of income decreases.

A significant difference was found in the Tendency towards Violent Thought and Act sub-scale according to fans' opinions according to their educational status. Accordingly, in the tendency towards violent thought and act sub-scale, it was established that Primary school, Secondary school, High school graduates and Associate degree holders had a higher level of violent tendencies than the bachelor's degree holders. Kurtiç and Yaman (2006), Şeker (2011) and Koçer (2012) obtained similar results to ours in their respective studies, as well.

CONCLUSIONS

According to the results of the research, the educational level of fans is one of the primary subject matters that must be accentuated with respect to violence in football. It can be stated that as the educational level of the fans decreases, their tendency towards violence will increase. Furthermore, it was found that gender is an influential factor in the occurrence of violent acts. It is possible to assert that male fans are more violent and more likely to engage in violent acts than female fans. The economic status of the fans is another factor that influences the occurrence of acts of violence and aggression. Additionally, it can also be stated that the age factor is impactful both on the occurrence of acts of violence as well as on the fans' sense of belonging. It is seen that the fans in younger age groups are more prone to violent acts and have a greater sense of belonging.

Consequently, it was comprehended that factors such as education, age, income status were influential with respect to the football fans' tendency towards violent acts. It is only natural for violence, aggression and fanaticism to occur as long as football inherently involves factors such as competition, success, prizes, etc. Even though such violent and aggressive acts cannot be completely prevented, they can be diminished.

It is possible to examine how acts of fanaticism and violence occur in different regions by conducting research on various fan groups. In order to prevent violence and aggression in sports, it is essential to raise awareness of people of all ages on the subjects of violence, aggression and fair-play. Furthermore, legislative regulations must be systematically explained to the fans, the laws must be implemented properly, and the penalties imposed must be monitored on a regular and orderly basis.

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