



An analysis of the relationship between football fans passion for sports and their levels of fanaticism

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Abstract

This study aims to examine the relationship between football fans' passion for the sport and their levels of fanaticism. The participants consisted of 414 fans, including 90 women and 324 men. The study employed the "Football Fanaticism Scale" a 13-item Likert-type scale with all positive statements, and the "Passion Scale" which has been adapted into Turkish for athletes. The results of the Passion Scale revealed significant differences based on marital status, age, and family income. In the Fanaticism Scale, significant differences were found in subdimensions based on marital status, frequency of watching football, gender, and education level. Additionally, a weak to moderate positive correlation was observed between the two scales. A statistically significant but weak relationship was found between passion and tendencies towards violent thoughts and behaviors. However, no statistically significant relationship was found between passion and institutional loyalty. A significant and moderate positive relationship was observed between tendencies towards violent thoughts and behaviors and institutional loyalty. These results suggest that an increase in passion for sport may also increase tendencies towards violent thoughts and behaviors, but it does not lead to a notable increase in institutional loyalty. Furthermore, the results obtained provide significant insights for understanding fan psychology and sports management, offering a new perspective on the effects of sports passion at both individual and societal levels. The research opens the door to intriguing questions about the nature of passion in the sports world and lays a valuable foundation for future studies.

Keywords: Fanaticism, football, passion

Futbol taraftarlarının sporda tutku anlayışı ile fanatiklik düzeyleri arasındaki ilişkinin incelenmesi

Öz

Bu çalışmada, futbol taraftarlarının sporda tutku ile fanatiklik düzeyleri arasındaki ilişkinin incelenmesi amaçlanmıştır. Katılımcılar, 90 kadın, 324 erkek toplam 414 taraftar kişiden oluşmaktadır. Araştırmada, likert tipi ve tamamı olumlu 13 maddeden oluşan "Futbol Taraftarı Fanatiklik Ölçeği" ve sporcular için Türkçe uyarlaması yapılmış "Sporda Tutku Ölçeği" kullanılmıştır. Sporda tutku ölçeği sonuçlarında medeni durum, yaş ve aile geliri değişkenlerinde anlamlı farklılıklar görülmüştür. Fanatiklik ölçeğinde ise medeni durum, futbol izleme sıklığı, cinsiyet ve eğitim durumu değişkenlerinde alt boyutlar açısından anlamlı farklılıklar saptanmıştır. Ayrıca iki ölçek arasında pozitif yönlü zayıf ve orta düzeyli korelasyon görülmüştür. Tutku ve şiddete yönelik düşünce ve eylem eğilimleri arasında, istatistiksel olarak anlamlı ancak zayıf bir ilişki tespit edilmiştir. Tutku ile kurumsal aidiyet arasında ise istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir ilişki bulunamamıştır. Şiddete yönelik düşünce ve eylem eğilimleri ile kurumsal aidiyet arasında, anlamlı ve orta düzeyde pozitif bir ilişki mevcuttur. Bu sonuçlar, sporda tutkunun artmasının şiddete yönelik düşünce ve eylem eğilimlerini de artırabileceğini, ancak kurumsal aidiyet üzerinde belirgin bir artış olmadığını göstermektedir. Ayrıca elde edilen sonuçlar, taraftar psikolojisi ve spor yönetimi açısından önemli ipuçları sunarak, spor tutkusunun hem birey hem de toplumsal düzeydeki etkilerini anlamak için yeni bir bakış açısı sağlamaktadır. Araştırmanın, spor dünyasında tutkunun doğasına dair merak uyandıran sorulara kapı açacağı ve gelecekteki çalışmalar için değerli bir temel oluşturacağı düşünülmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Fanatiklik, futbol, tutku

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INTRODUCTION

Passion in sports is often defined as an intense emotional attachment and commitment to a sports event, team, or athlete. This emotional attachment goes beyond viewing sports merely as an activity and is characterized by a deep passion and enthusiasm for sports. Passion involves an individual's focus on sports-related goals, the expenditure of time and energy on sports-related activities, and an increased sense of enjoyment and satisfaction derived from sports. This definition is frequently used in psychological and sociological researches (Vallerand & Miquelon, 2007; Vallerand, 2010; Curran et al., 2011). For example, in their study on the psychological dimensions of passion in sports, Wann et al. (2001) define passion as an intense emotional attachment and interest in sports. This definition encompasses the depth and various elements of passion in sports, highlighting that it is not merely a commitment to an activity but also has broad impacts on personal identity, social relationships, and lifestyle (Funk & James, 2001; Wann et al., 2001). In another study, the dualistic model of passion is discussed, explaining how individuals develop passion for their activities and how this passion affects their lives (Vallerand, 2010). Curran et al. (2011) examined the relationship between passion and burnout, investigating the mediating role of self-determined motivation in athletes. Undoubtedly, it is extremely important to regulate the dosage of passion. However, when passion sometimes becomes excessive, a more intense and uncontrolled devotion called fanaticism may emerge. When the literature is examined, it is seen that passion is described as obsessive and harmonious. According to Vallerand (2008), harmonious and obsessive passion can lead to positive and negative effects on a person's health, respectively, through different types of persistence and attachment exhibited in risky behaviors (Vallerand, 2008). In recent years, along with motivation and achievement goal approaches, the concept of passion has also been added to explain individuals' different behaviors in sports and exercise settings (Keleşek & Aşçı, 2013). When we push the boundaries of passion, it can turn into a state known as fanaticism in sports. A review of the literature reveals studies indicating that when team identification intensifies, it can turn into a negative form of team passion, leading to radical forms of commitment known as fanaticism in the sports world (Dimmock et al., 2005). The study by Wann et al. (2001) discusses the potential for passion to escalate into fanaticism when taken to extremes, which can result in negative outcomes in the sports domain. Fanaticism in sports, particularly in football, refers to extremely passionate and obsessive behaviors related to a team or athlete. Fanatic supporters are excessively enthusiastic and committed to supporting their teams, often closely linking their emotional state to their team's success or failure. This

level of devotion can sometimes exceed healthy boundaries, leading to negative behaviors such as violence, aggression, and hostility. Many academic studies and literature examine and define fanaticism in sports and football. Wann et al. (2001), in their study on the psychological and social effects of fanaticism in sports, define fanaticism as a phenomenon characterized by passionate support and excessive devotion. The study explains how fanaticism integrates with individuals' identities and consequently leads to extreme behaviors. Fanatic supporters exaggeratedly celebrate their team's victories and react to losses with great disappointment and anger. This can result in negative outcomes such as aggressive behaviors and even violent incidents (Wann et al., 2001). Similarly, many books and articles in sports sociology and psychology provide definitions that associate fanaticism with extreme passion and commitment in sports. These definitions often discuss the positive and negative aspects of fanaticism, how fans' emotional attachment can reach an excessive level, and the effects of this on sports events and society (Giulianotti, 2002; Hognestad & Tollisen, 2004; Kerr & Males, 2010).

Examining the relationship between passion and fanaticism in sports fans is an important topic in both academic literature and the sports world. When examining the passionate bonds fans have with their teams within the framework of Social Identity Theory, it becomes clear how individuals feel a sense of belonging to a particular group and how this belonging affects their social environment (Tajfel & Turner, 2003). In this context, excessive passion can transform into fanaticism, which can lead to both positive and negative outcomes. Studying fanaticism helps identify the high levels of passion that significantly affect fan behavior. Extreme fanaticism has been associated with negative behaviors such as vandalism and violence. This situation can create significant problems in terms of security and social cohesion at sports events (Guttmann, 1986; Wann, 2006).

Based on the explanations provided, the aim of this study has been determined as "investigating the relationship between football fans' understanding of passion for sports and their levels of fanaticism." Vallerand et al. (2003) highlighted that an individual's personal passion and obsessive behaviors play a significant role in the development of sports fanaticism. Specifically, obsessive passion can lead to fanatical behaviors. Giulianotti (2002) examined the formation of sports fanaticism in different cultural contexts and emphasized that societal norms and values play a crucial role in the emergence of fanatical behaviors. Boyle (2009) noted the significant role of sports media in the spread and reinforcement of fanaticism, with social media's impact on this process increasingly growing. Literature suggests that variables such as marital status, gender, educational level, and income affect sports passion and fanaticism (Wann

& Branscombe, 1993; Guttman, 1986; Funk & James, 2001; Giulianotti, 2002). Recent studies also emphasize that variables such as age, educational level, and income influence fanaticism and passion (Smith & Stewart, 2007; Trail & James, 2015; Inoue et al., 2017). Based on these identified variables, this study aims to thoroughly examine the psychological boundaries of sports passion and the process of fanaticism and to understand the fine line between sports passion and fanaticism. Additionally, by investigating the relationship between sports passion and fanaticism, the study aims to address existing gaps in knowledge on this topic. Future research could test the findings of this study in a broader context and contribute to a better understanding of passion and fanaticism in sports.

METHOD

Research model

In this study, the relational survey model, one of the general survey models from quantitative research methods, was utilized. The survey model encompasses all processes applied to describe a situation as it is in the past or present, facilitating learning and the development of desired behaviors in individuals. In the general survey model, a survey is conducted on either the entire population composed of a large number of elements or on a sample group taken from the population to make general judgments about the population. Random sampling method was preferred in this study. This method was used to create a reliable sample group representing the population. The relational survey model is a survey approach aimed at determining the presence of a co-variation between two or more variables (Karasar, 2011).

Research group

The study group consists of a total of 414 voluntary participants, selected through simple random sampling, who were present at the football stadium to watch the TFF 1st League football match during the 2023-2024 season. According to Fowler (2014), in simple random sampling, the selection of individuals is entirely random, which enhances the representativeness of the sample. Among them, 90 are women and 324 are men. In data collection, specific sections of the stadium were identified as the target population, and data were obtained from each section. Individuals attending the stadium were considered as supporters. Approximately 414 responses were collected from around 4000 people present in the stadium, and it was accepted that the obtained data was sufficient for the study. In this context, when evaluating approaches used to determine sample size, it is noted that with a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of

error, a sample size representing 5-10% of the population is generally considered sufficient to reflect the characteristics of the population (Fowler, 2014; Taherdoost, 2016).

In collecting research data, the researchers first obtained permission via email from the survey respondents. Subsequently, an application was made for ethical approval, and approval was granted by the Düzce University Scientific Research and Publication Ethics Committee in its 5th meeting on April 25, 2024, under decision number 426788, approval reference 2024/155. Ethical guidelines were adhered to during the data collection process.

Data collection tools

In addition to a demographic information questionnaire developed by the researchers, the study utilized the “Football Fanaticism Scale” (FFS), a Likert-type scale with 13 positively worded items developed by Taşmektepligil et al. (2015), and the “Sports Passion Scale”, adapted into Turkish for athletes by Özdayı et al. (2021). Responses in the FFS were structured with four options: “a) Strongly Agree” (1), “b) Agree” (2), “c) Disagree” (3), and “d) Strongly Disagree” (4). The first 8 items of the scale (first factor) assess fans’ tendencies towards thoughts and actions related to violence, while the remaining 5 items (second factor) measure attitudes related to institutional belonging. The scale demonstrated an internal consistency coefficient of 0.87.

In the study, the “Passion Scale” developed by Sigmundsson et al. (2020), and its Turkish adaptation for athletes, the “Passion in Sport Scale” adapted by Özdayı et al. (2021), were used. The original scale study reported a Cronbach’s Alpha (α) value of 0.86. The Passion in Sport Scale consisted of 8 items rated on a 5-point Likert scale ranging from “1 = Strongly Disagree” to “5 = Strongly Agree.” The maximum score achievable on the scale was 45 (Extremely passionate), and the minimum score was 8 (Not passionate at all). There were no reverse-scored items in the scale.

In this study, the reliability coefficients of the scales were found to be 0.90 for the “Fanaticism Scale for Football Fans” and 0.91 for the “Passion Scale in Sports.”

Data analysis

Prior to the football match, data from voluntary participation of fans were collected through face-to-face explanations, followed by an online survey prepared via academic Google Forms accessible on mobile phones. The obtained data were transferred to the SPSS software package, and it was determined that the dataset exhibited a normal distribution. The normality test revealed that the skewness and kurtosis values fell between -1 and +1. These findings

allowed for the use of statistical analysis methods such as t-tests and one-way ANOVA (George & Mallery, 2010; Meyers et al., 2016). Post-Hoc tests, specifically the Tamhane T2 test were used to determine the source of differences. The Tamhane test is commonly used in post-hoc analyses following ANOVA tests when significant results are found. This allows for the identification of which groups have significant differences (Meyers et al., 2016).

FINDINGS

This section presents the findings related to the statistical procedures conducted on the data in the study.

Table 1. Frequency table for the study

Demographic features	Category	N	Percent
Gender	Woman	90	%21.7
	Men	324	%78.3
Marital status	Married	157	%37.9
	Single	257	%62.1
Active sports status	Yes	182	%44.0
	No	232	%56.0
Age	18-24	137	%33.1
	25-31	114	%27.5
	32-38	81	%19.6
	39-45	39	%9.4
	46 +	43	%10.4
Education	Middle school	36	%8.7
	High school	131	%31.6
	Undergraduate	217	%52.4
	Postgraduate	30	%7.2
Family income level	0-10000 TL	40	%9.7
	10001- 20000 TL	87	%21.0
	20001-30000 TL	95	%22.9
	30001-40000TL	101	%22.0
	40001 +	91	%24.4
Frequency of watching football	Every day	92	%22.2
	One day apart	34	%8.2
	Once a week	92	%22.2
	Twice a week	58	%14.0
	Other	138	%33.3
	Total	414	%100

p<0.05*

According to Table 1, there are 90 females and 324 males; 157 are married, and 257 are single. For active sports participation: 182 individuals answered “yes,” and 232 answered “no.” Age distribution: 18-24 years, 25-31 years: 114, 32-38 years: 81, 39-45 years: 39, and 46+ years: 43. Educational level: Middle school: 36, High school: 131, Bachelor’s degree: 217, Postgraduate: 30. Family income: 0-10.000 TL: 40, 10.001-20.000 TL: 87, 20.001-30.000 TL: 95, 30.001-40.000 TL: 101, and 40.001+ TL: 91. Frequency of watching football: Every day:

92, Every other day: 34, Once a week: 92, Twice a week: 58, and “Other” consists of 138 individuals.

Table 2. Results of the passion in sport scale t-test

Demographic features	Category	N	\bar{X}	s.d.	T	P
Gender	Woman	90	3.45	0.79	0.530	0.412
	Men	324	3.50	0.96		
Marital status	Married	157	3.60	0.81	1.921	0.045*
	Single	257	3.42	0.99		
Active sports status	Yes	182	3.56	1.04	1.325	0.186
	No	232	3.44	0.83		
Total		414				

p < 0.05*

According to Table 2, while no significant differences were observed in terms of gender and active sports participation, a significant difference was found in favor of men regarding marital status. Married individuals generally tend to have a more structured lifestyle. This organized way of living may allow them to focus more on sports, contributing to the development of sports as a passion.

Table 3. Results of ANOVA test for passion scale in sports

Demographic features	Category	N	\bar{X}	s.d.	F	P
Age	18-24	137	3.44	1.02	3.135	0.015*
	25-31	114	3.33	0.98		
	32-38	81	3.52	0.90		
	39-45	39	3.67	0.60		
	46 +	43	3.87	0.61		
Education	Middle school	36	3.22	1.06	1.815	0.144
	High school	131	3.49	0.99		
	Undergraduate	217	3.50	0.88		
	Postgraduate	30	3.76	0.76		
Family income level	0-10000 TL	40	2.98	1.11	6.484	0.000*
	10001- 20000 TL	87	3.41	0.99		
	20001-30000 TL	95	3.55	1.00		
	30001-40000TL	101	3.40	0.86		
	40001 +	91	3.80	0.64		
Frequency of watching football	Every day	92	3.58	1.03	1.229	0.298
	One day apart	34	3.44	1.02		
	Once a week	92	3.52	0.97		
	Twice a week	58	3.64	0.80		
	Other	138	3.37	0.85		
Total		414				

p < 0.05*

According to Table 3, a significant difference was observed in the age variable. The Tamhane test results indicated that the difference is in favor of those aged 39 and above. As individuals age, their commitment to sports and other interests may deepen. Older individuals might appreciate the positive effects of sports on their lives more, leading to higher levels of passion. While no differences were observed in terms of educational level and frequency of watching football, differences were found in family income. There is a statistically significant difference among income groups (p < 0.05). Specifically, participants in the 40001+ TL income

bracket had the highest average. Higher-income individuals may have more financial resources to frequently engage in sports activities and cover related expenses, allowing them to maintain higher levels of passion for sports.

Table 4. Results of t-test for the “tendency towards violent thoughts and actions” subscale of the sports fanaticism scale

Demographic features	Category	N	\bar{X}	s.d.	T	P
Gender	Woman	90	3.39	0.56	1.270	0.205
	Men	324	3.29	0.67		
Marital status	Married	157	3.40	0.55	2.149	0.032*
	Single	257	3.26	0.70		
Active sports status	Yes	182	3.29	0.70	-.685	0.494
	No	232	3.34	0.61		
Total		414				

p < 0.05*

As shown in Table 4, there is a statistically significant difference between married and single participants (p < 0.05). There is no significant difference between groups based on active sports participation (p > 0.05). The variable of marital status shows a difference in favor of married supporters. Marriage can strengthen individuals’ social identity and sense of belonging. Consequently, married individuals might exhibit a stronger attachment to their sports teams. This strong attachment may sometimes include tendencies toward aggression, as a deep sense of belonging can lead to intense reactions and emotional responses regarding the team’s success.

Table 5. Results of ANOVA test for the “violent thoughts and actions tendencies” subscale of the sports fanaticism scale

Demographic features	Category	N	\bar{X}	s.d.	F	P
Age	18-24	137	3.20	0.71	1.981	0.096
	25-31	114	3.33	0.73		
	32-38	81	3.43	0.49		
	39-45	39	3.37	0.51		
	46 +	43	3.40	0.56		
Education	Middle school	36	3.18	0.53	1.965	0.119
	High school	131	3.27	0.67		
	Undergraduate	217	3.34	0.67		
	Postgraduate	30	3.54	0.44		
Family income level	0-10000 TL	40	3.25	0.66	.144	0.966
	10001- 20000 TL	87	3.33	0.62		
	20001-30000 TL	95	3.3	0.65		
	30001-40000TL	101	3.34	0.71		
	40001 +	91	3.31	0.63		
Frequency of watching football	Every day	92	3.16	0.74	5.780	0.000*
	One day apart	34	3.34	0.51		
	Once a week	92	3.19	0.74		
	Twice a week	58	3.28	0.59		
	Other	138	3.52	0.53		
Total		414				

P < 0.05*

According to Table 5, there are no statistically significant differences in age, education level, and family income ($p > 0.05$). However, there are statistically significant differences in football viewing frequency groups ($p < 0.05$). Particularly, the “Other” category has a higher average score compared to other categories. The “Other” option encompasses viewing habits outside the standard categories for sports watching frequency, which may include different or irregular viewing patterns.

Table 6. T-test results for the “institutional belonging” subscale of the sports fanaticism scale

Demographic features	Category	N	\bar{X}	t	p
Gender	Woman	90	2.47	2.463	0.014*
	Men	324	2.23		
Marital status	Married	157	2.20	-1.494	0.136
	Single	257	2.33		
Active sports status	Yes	182	2.28	-0.009	0.993
	No	232	2.28		
Total		414			

$p < 0.05^*$

In Table 6, while no differences were observed in marital status and active sports participation variables, a significant difference was found in favor of women ($p < 0.014$) for the gender variable. Women are generally stronger in forming social and emotional connections. Such strong connections to sports teams may enhance corporate identity. The sense of belonging to sports teams could be a reflection of these social bonds.

Table 7. Results of ANOVA test for the “institutional belonging” subscale of the sports fanaticism scale

Demographic features	Category	N	\bar{X}	s.d.	F	P
Age	18-24	137	2.29	0.89	0.627	0.643
	25-31	114	2.35	0.86		
	32-38	81	2.17	0.78		
	39-45	39	2.25	0.70		
	46 +	43	2.31	0.64		
Education	Middle school	36	1.72	0.85	9.622	0.001*
	High school	131	2.18	0.87		
	Undergraduate	217	2.38	0.74		
	Postgraduate	30	2.64	0.80		
Family income level	0-10000 TL	40	2.26	0.99	1.291	0.273
	10001- 20000 TL	87	2.20	0.88		
	20001-30000 TL	95	2.17	0.83		
	30001-40000TL	101	2.38	0.72		
	40001 +	91	2.37	0.76		
Frequency of watching football	Every day	92	1.88	0.79	1.895	0.001*
	One day apart	34	2.15	0.65		
	Once a week	92	2.15	0.66		
	Twice a week	58	2.24	0.78		
	Other	138	2.68	0.83		
	Total	414				

$p < 0.05^*$

According to Table 7, there is no significant difference in terms of age and family income ($p > 0.05$). However, significant differences are found with respect to education level and frequency of watching football ($p < 0.05$). Test results indicate that individuals with only a middle school level education score lower. Individuals with a middle school education might have developed fewer social connections and a less strong sense of belonging. As educational levels increase, individuals typically have broader social networks, which can affect their sense of belonging to sports teams. Regarding the frequency of watching football, those who watch football “every day” have a lower average compared to other groups. Daily viewers may achieve a sense of satisfaction from their regular exposure to the sport. This constant exposure can make the sense of belonging to a sports team less pronounced, as being part of the team daily may make the sense of belonging feel more normalized rather than intensified.

Table 8. Correlation table between sports passion levels and fanaticism

		Passion	Thought and Action Tendencies Towards Violence	Institutional Belonging
Passion	Pearson Correlation	1	0.231**	0.084
	P		0.000	0.086
	N	414	414	414
Thought and Action Tendencies Towards Violence	Pearson Correlation	0.231**	1	0.499**
	P	0.000		0.000
	N	414	414	414
Institutional Belonging	Pearson Correlation	0.084	0.499**	1
	P	0.086	0.000	
	N	414	414	414

The correlation is significant at the 0.01 significance level (two-sided).

In Table 8, upon examination: The correlation between passion and tendencies towards violent thoughts and actions is $r = 0.231$, with a significance level of $p = 0.000$. There is a weak positive correlation between passion and tendencies towards violent thoughts and actions. This relationship is statistically significant ($p < 0.01$), indicating that as passion increases, tendencies towards violent thoughts and actions also tend to increase. However, this correlation is not strong. The correlation between passion and institutional belonging is $r = 0.084$, with a significance level of $p = 0.086$. There is a very weak positive correlation between passion and institutional belonging. However, this relationship is not statistically significant ($p > 0.01$), suggesting that there is no significant relationship between passion and institutional belonging. The correlation between tendencies towards violent thoughts and actions and institutional belonging is $r = 0.499$, with a significance level of $p = 0.000$. There is a moderate positive correlation between tendencies towards violent thoughts and actions and institutional

belonging. This relationship is statistically significant ($p < 0.01$), indicating that as tendencies towards violent thoughts and actions increase, institutional belonging also tends to increase.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The study aimed to examine the relationship between sports passion and fanaticism levels among football fans. Specifically, it investigated whether there are differences in sports passion and fanaticism levels among football fans based on various variables, and also explored the correlation dimension of the study. The results obtained in this study, which is limited by the sample group, the scale used, and the knowledge and experience of the researchers, are given below.

The study data were obtained from 414 voluntary participants. The study is limited to the scales used and the randomly selected sample group. In terms of the sports passion scale, no significant difference was found in the mean scores between male and female participants. However, in terms of marital status, married participants exhibited higher mean scores compared to single participants, and this difference was statistically significant. No difference was observed based on active sports participation. Gender is a variable that could potentially influence sports passion; however, according to t-test results in this study, no significant difference was found between genders. This suggests that both men and women may have similar levels of sports passion. Nevertheless, some research suggests that gender can affect sports passion: men typically participate in more sports activities and consume more sports-related media, which can influence their sports passion, while women tend to engage in more social and community-oriented sports activities (Wenner, 1998). In the study conducted by Şahin (2017), titled “An examination of passion levels of high school students in physical education class environments” it was concluded that male students had higher levels of obsessive and harmonious passion. In the study conducted by Bayköse et al. (2019), titled “The impact of passion and life satisfaction on the burnout levels of Muay Thai coaches” no statistically significant difference was found in terms of gender. However, in terms of the variable of active sports background, it was determined that Muay Thai coaches’ levels of harmonious and obsessive passion differed statistically. In the study conducted by Ceyhun et al. (2023), titled “An examination of the relationship between passion for sports and mental resilience levels among sports science faculty students” a significant result was found in favor of males in relation to the gender variable.

Active participation in sports can strengthen individuals’ connections with sports; however, this engagement may not fully reflect the breadth of their sports passion. Factors such

as the frequency and type of sports participation can also play a role. The lack of a significant difference in the sports passion scale based on active sports participation indicates that sports passion is not solely limited to physical involvement. Rather, individuals' emotional or psychological connections to sports can be shaped by various factors. This situation underscores that sports passion is a multidimensional construct and that frequency of participation or physical activity alone may not be the sole determinant of this passion (Vallerand & Miquelon, 2007). As previously highlighted, significant results were obtained in favor of married participants. It is well known that marriage can provide social support and family support. Social support can encourage individuals to invest more in sports and other interests. Participation in sports activities among family members can enhance passion for such activities (Wann & Branscombe, 1993). Research suggests that marital status may influence sports passion. Married individuals often display higher levels of passion for sports, as sports can be considered an activity that strengthens social bonds and identities among married individuals (Funk & James, 2001).

According to the results of the one-way anova for the sports passion scale, a statistically significant difference was observed among age groups. Specifically, the 39+ age group exhibited higher mean scores. Age plays a crucial role in shaping sports passion and the development of fanaticism. It has been found that younger individuals, particularly during adolescence and young adulthood, tend to have more intense passion for sports teams, with a higher likelihood of this passion turning into fanaticism. During these periods, the development of identity and a strengthened sense of social belonging can enhance attachment to sports teams (Wann & Branscombe, 1993). In the study conducted by Koç et al. (2024), it was concluded that the age factor significantly affects fan perceptions and sports identity. No significant differences were observed in the variables of educational attainment and frequency of watching football. The lack of significant differences between educational attainment, frequency of watching football, and sports passion suggests that these variables do not directly affect sports passion. Instead, sports passion may be influenced more by personal experiences, social environment, and motivation rather than by educational level or viewing habits. A significant difference was found in terms of family income. In the study by Madan and Karagözoğlu (2019), titled "An investigation of the relationship between passion, perfectionism, and well-being in football coaches" no differences were observed in passion levels based on coaches' age, years of experience, or educational background. Similarly, Mageau et al. (2009), in their study "on the development of harmonious and obsessive passion: the role of autonomy support,

activity specialization, and activity engagement” concluded that passion levels did not vary according to experience (Mageau et al., 2009; Keleşek et al., 2015). Furthermore, the study by Çebi et al. (2019) titled “An investigation of passion levels among tennis players” identified a statistically significant difference between scores for harmonious passion and activity-related passion. Participants in the income group of 40001+ TL exhibited the highest mean scores. It can be suggested that income level influences sports passion. According to existing studies, individuals with higher income levels are better able to access sports activities and equipment. This access can increase opportunities for engaging in sports and, consequently, nurture sports passion. Individuals with higher income levels can allocate more resources for memberships in sports clubs, personal trainers, and various sports activities (Eime et al., 2013).

In the subscale “violence-related thoughts and actions” of the sports fanaticism scale, the t-test results indicate that there is no significant difference in mean scores between female and male participants. However, married participants have higher mean scores compared to single participants, with this difference being statistically significant. No significant difference was observed based on the variable of active sports participation. When examining the subscale “violence-related thoughts and actions” through One-Way Anova, no differences were found based on educational level, age groups, or family income. However, a significant difference was found in terms of football watching frequency, with the “other” category showing higher mean scores. Regarding the subscale “organizational affiliation” of the sports fanaticism scale, the t-test results show a significant difference between genders, with women having higher mean scores. No significant differences were found for marital status or active sports participation. In the One-Way Anova test for the “organizational affiliation” subscale, no significant difference was found among age groups. However, there is a significant difference based on educational level; mean scores increase with higher education levels. No significant difference was found based on family income. In terms of football watching frequency, a significant difference was observed; those who watch football daily had lower mean scores compared to other groups. Several studies have concluded that men are generally more fanatic than women (Bahçe & Turan, 2022; Yılmaz, 2023). Another finding is that younger students are more fanatic than older students (Yılmaz, 2023). Those who follow their team’s matches from stadiums and all channels tend to have higher levels of fanaticism. Conversely, one study found no significant gender differences in fanaticism levels (Dimmock et al., 2005). In the study titled “investigation of the relationship between football fans’ feelings of fanaticism and cyberbullying behaviors” conducted by Çakiroğlu (2022), significant differences were found in

the fanaticism levels of football fans when compared based on the age variable ($p>0.05$). Specifically, significant differences in fanaticism were found between fans aged 16-20 and those aged 41 and over, as well as between fans aged 21-25 and those aged 41 and over. These findings indicate that levels of fanaticism vary with age and that there are particularly notable differences between younger and older age groups. The study also concluded that male fans are more aggressive compared to female fans. In the study titled “Investigation of the attachment styles and personality traits of football spectators based on their identification as fanatics, fans, and football lovers” conducted by Yildirim (2020), it was found that male fans tend to identify themselves as fanatics. In the study titled “Determining the tendencies of violence and hooliganism among fans who are members of football associations: The case of Kayseri” conducted by Koçer (2012), it was found that women’s tendencies toward supporting their team, being affected by events, provocation, violence, and aggression are lower compared to men. The study indicated that women have significantly lower tendencies towards violence and hooliganism compared to men. This finding suggests that female fans are less inclined towards violence and hooliganism than their male counterparts. Koçer’s study highlights this difference between genders, indicating that women exhibit more peaceful and less aggressive behavior in the context of football fandom (Koçer, 2012). In the study titled “opinions of super league football team fans on fanaticism and violence in sports” conducted by Kural (2017), no significant differences were found among fans based on the gender variable. In the study titled “Examining the relationship between fanaticism levels and psychological attachment of football fans” conducted by Durgutluoğlu (2020), it was found that the institutional belonging sub-dimension of fanaticism in football does not differ according to marital status, but the sub-dimensions of thoughts and actions related to violence do show differences. According to the study, widowed individuals scored higher in the sub-dimensions of thoughts and actions related to violence compared to married or single individuals. This finding indicates that widowed individuals have higher tendencies towards violence compared to those who are married or single. Durgutluoğlu’s study provides significant insights into how certain sub-dimensions of fanaticism vary according to marital status (Durgutluoğlu, 2020). According to the findings of the study titled “determining the fanaticism levels of football fans” conducted by Doğaner et al. (2021), it was found that female fans had higher fanaticism scores compared to male fans. Additionally, significant statistical differences were observed in terms of education and income levels. Furthermore, statistically significant differences were identified among fan groups regarding the environment in which they watch matches and their preferred locations for

watching matches. In conclusion, the study determined that the fanaticism levels of fans vary according to demographic variables, and overall, the fanaticism levels of fans were found to be high. These findings highlight that fans' levels of fanaticism vary depending on demographic factors such as gender, education, income, and preferences in watching matches. In the study conducted by Atasoy (2019), titled "An examination of the attitudes of Adanaspor and Adana Demirspor fans towards fanaticism," the age factor related to fanaticism was explained through a phenomenon observed in young adults, described as a latency period, and it was emphasized that this factor is considered a normal part of the socialization process. In the study, it was noted that the high levels of fanaticism among young adults are considered a natural part of their developmental process. Another study focusing on football teams found that younger viewers tend to exhibit higher levels of fanaticism compared to other age groups. Yamen (1999) conducted research titled "Comparative analysis of fanaticism in sports among different social groups (Sivas sample)," indicating that as education levels increase, so does fan consciousness. Açak et al. (2017) explored the fanaticism levels of fans in the Turkish football federation 1st league, finding statistically significant differences in tendencies towards violence, institutional belonging, and overall scores based on variables such as age and student status among members and non-members of fan communities. Additionally, significant differences were observed in fan attitudes towards violence, institutional belonging, and overall scores based on variables such as marital status, education level, monthly income, and occupation. However, among participants who were members of fan communities, no statistically significant differences were found in these dimensions. These findings suggest that fan attitudes vary according to demographic characteristics, with membership in fan communities not significantly influencing these attitudes. The study also identified statistically significant differences in fan attitudes towards violence, institutional belonging, and overall scores based on monthly income levels.

Additionally, when participants who were members of fan communities were evaluated based on their monthly income levels, statistically significant differences were found in tendencies towards violence and overall scores. These findings indicate that fan attitudes towards violence and fandom may vary depending on their monthly income levels. Çakmak et al. (2022) conducted a study titled "Examination of psychological team attachment, fanaticism, and happiness levels of football fans" revealing that those who are fanatics exhibit higher levels of psychological team attachment, fanaticism, and happiness compared to male participants, non-members of their team's supporter groups, those who watch all their team's matches, and those who do not. In the study conducted by Kurak (2020), titled "An examination of high

school students' levels of football fanaticism" statistically significant differences were found in the sub-dimensions of violence and institutional loyalty based on variables such as gender, type of school, supported team, and the purchase of licensed products. These results indicate that fan attitudes vary among fan groups with different demographic characteristics.

When examining the correlation between Passion and Tendencies towards Violence in Thought and Action, a correlation coefficient of $r = 0.231$ with a significance level of $p = 0.000$ is observed. There exists a weak positive correlation between Passion and Tendencies towards Violence in Thought and Action. This relationship is statistically significant ($p < 0.01$), indicating that as passion increases, tendencies towards violence in thought and action also tend to increase, albeit weakly. A study by Mageau et al. (2009) found that obsessive passion might be linked with negative behaviors, including aggression, whereas harmonious passion generally has more positive outcomes. This could help explain why a weak but significant correlation might be found between passion and violence-related tendencies. Research has explored how intense emotional states, including passion, can influence aggressive behaviors. For example, Vallerand et al. (2003) have discussed how passionate engagement in activities can sometimes lead to negative outcomes, such as aggressive behavior, when the passion becomes obsessive. Anderson and Dill (2000) examine the relationship between passion for competitive activities and aggression, providing contextual support for understanding the dynamics between passion and tendencies toward violence.

The correlation between Passion and Institutional Belonging, measured by the Pearson correlation coefficient, is $r = 0.084$ with a significance level of $p = 0.086$. There is a very weak positive correlation between Passion and Institutional Belonging, but this relationship is not statistically significant ($p > 0.01$). This indicates that there is no significant relationship between Passion and Institutional Belonging. The relationship between passion and organizational commitment is complex. Meyer and Allen (1991) proposed that organizational commitment consists of affective, normative, and continuance components. Passion might influence affective commitment to some extent, but this influence may not be strong enough to show a significant correlation. Additionally, contextual factors such as organizational culture, job characteristics, and personal values can influence organizational commitment. For example, a study by Tett and Meyer (1993) found that organizational commitment is affected by multiple factors beyond individual passion. The correlation between Violence-Related Thoughts and Actions and Organizational Commitment is $r = 0.499$ with a significance level of $p = 0.000$. There is a moderate positive correlation between Violence-Related Thoughts and Actions and

Organizational Commitment. This relationship is statistically significant ($p < 0.01$), indicating that as Violence-Related Thoughts and Actions increase, Organizational Commitment tends to increase as well. In the study by Vallerand et al. (2003), the effects of passion and organizational commitment in the workplace were examined. The findings indicate that the relationship between personal passion and organizational commitment is not always strong. Gagné and Deci (2005), on the other hand, investigated the relationship between personal motivation and organizational commitment in their work. They noted that, in some cases, this relationship can be weak while examining the impact of different types of motivation on organizational commitment.

In conclusion, a statistically significant but weak relationship was found between passion and violence-related thoughts and actions. There was no statistically significant relationship found between Passion and Organizational Commitment. However, there is a statistically significant and moderate positive relationship between Violence-Related Thoughts and Actions and Organizational Commitment. These findings suggest that increasing passion may increase tendencies towards violence-related thoughts and actions, but it does not significantly impact organizational commitment. The increase in violence-related thoughts and actions may also enhance feelings of organizational commitment, suggesting a potential link between behaviors involving violence and organizational commitment.

In addition to this study, research could be conducted on different fan groups. In addition to quantitative data, qualitative research methods can also be utilized. In-depth interviews can provide insights into how fans experience notions of passion and fanaticism. Studies can be enriched by including individuals with different demographic characteristics. Additionally, research can be directed toward other sports, rather than being limited to football alone.

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KATKI ORANI CONTRIBUTION RATE	AÇIKLAMA EXPLANATION	KATKIDA BULUNANLAR CONTRIBUTORS
Fikir ve Kavramsal Örgü <i>Idea or Notion</i>	Araştırma hipotezini veya fikrini oluşturmak <i>Form the research hypothesis or idea</i>	Reşat SADIK Müberra ÇELEBİ
Tasarım <i>Design</i>	Yöntem ve araştırma desenini tasarlamak <i>To design the method and research design.</i>	Reşat SADIK Müberra ÇELEBİ
Literatür Tarama <i>Literature Review</i>	Çalışma için gerekli literatürü taramak <i>Review the literature required for the study</i>	Reşat SADIK Müberra ÇELEBİ Gıyasettin TAŞKIN
Veri Toplama ve İşleme <i>Data Collecting and Processing</i>	Verileri toplamak, düzenlemek ve raporlaştırmak <i>Collecting, organizing and reporting data</i>	Reşat SADIK Gıyasettin TAŞKIN
Tartışma ve Yorum <i>Discussion and Commentary</i>	Elde edilen bulguların değerlendirilmesi <i>Evaluation of the obtained finding</i>	Reşat SADIK Müberra ÇELEBİ
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