



The Effect of Fans' Perceptions of Psychological Commitment to their Team on Respect and Hatred towards Opponents

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to determine the effect of fans' perceptions of psychological commitment to their teams on their respect and hatred towards opponents. The study group consists of 400 fans of clubs called as the Big Three (Beşiktaş, Fenerbahçe and Galatasaray) residing in Konya during the 2021-2022 Football Season. In the study in which survey and relational survey models were used, Personal Information Form, Fan Psychological Commitment Scale and Respect for Opposite Opinions and Self-Control Scale in Sports were used to collect data. As a result of the study, it was found that personal identity, resource cost and social obligation, which are the sub-dimensions of psychological commitment to the team, increase hatred towards the opponent, while affective commitment decreases hatred towards the opponent. In the Multiple Regression Analysis conducted to examine the extent to which psychological commitment to the team predicts hatred towards the opponent, it was found that 39% of hatred towards opponent was explained. In addition, it was found that regional tribalism, one of the sub-dimensions of psychological commitment to the team, increased the respect towards the opponent, while social obligation decreased the respect towards the opponent. In the Multiple Regression Analysis conducted to examine the extent to which psychological commitment to the team predicts respect towards opponent, it was seen that 8% of respect towards opponent was explained. It is considered that the findings of the study will contribute to the development of policies to increase sportsmanship and fairplay behaviours of fans and to prevent aggression.

Keywords: Fan, Hatred and respect towards opponent, psychological commitment

INTRODUCTION

The relationships between fans and sports teams are unique in that they can involve both strong feelings of intense love accompanied by passion and devotion of fans towards their favorite teams and deep feelings of hatred that lead to violence and aggression of fans against opposing teams (69). Fandom is not only limited to individual belonging to a particular team, but also brings about shared emotional and behavioural reactions (33). In addition, winning and losing are integral parts of the sports experience that significantly affect the feelings of fans (2, 72). In this sense, winning and losing have become a rivalry between fans rather than competition between teams. In this context, it would be appropriate to address the concept of respect and hatred of fans towards the other team not only as an emotion, but also in a way that includes group behaviours.

From the moment an individual starts to support a sports club/team, s/he is perceived as a fan and begins to act together with millions of fans who support the same sports club. In addition, an emotional bond is formed between the individual and the team he/she supports. As a result, s/he begins to exhibit behaviors together with other fans to benefit the team he/she supports and to make his/her team successful (11, 17, 18, 24, 32, 68, 73, 74). These feelings and behaviors bring about a unique relationship between the sports fan and the team s/he supports (69). Fan groups provide not just entertainment and show functions, but also a team and player-centered identification function in society by attending certain activities (7). As a result of this identification, fans may sometimes display undesirable behaviours by not being able to self-control. Self-control is defined as a person's ability to control himself/herself in displaying some undesirable behaviors (60). Individuals who can achieve self-control first learn to respect themselves, then the other team and its fans (30). Especially people with opposing views may sometimes have difficulty in respecting each other. Sports fandom gives individuals the opportunity to have good feelings as well as deep emotional experiences that sometimes result in disappointment (61). Sports fandom includes strong and intense emotions such as passion and loyalty towards the teams, players, fans and managers of the teams. It may also include feelings of hatred that results in violence and aggression towards the opponents, fans, players and managers of the teams (69).

The concept of hatred is considered as a negative emotional phenomenon and can also be defined as the consistent negative perception of a person or group towards other people or groups, elements of groups, and extreme negative behaviours towards opposing team fans and everything related to that team (21, 34). In fact, it is stated that the origin of intense negative emotions such as hatred among fans is that strategic sports such as football are based on the old war culture (26). The individual with a feeling of hatred perceives all elements in out-groups as similar and makes a clear distinction between out-groups and his/her own groups (21). Moreover, the concept of hatred, with its different levels, can be considered as a natural consequence of belonging to a group. Because it is argued that hating an out-group and favouritism towards the in-group are two inseparable phenomena, in other words, the attitude towards the in-group and the attitude towards the out-group mutually affect each other negatively (5). Accordingly, although individuals differ in terms of their willingness to benefit the the group they belong to or another group, when it comes to harming, it is the out-group to which the desire to harm is directed (5). When fans have strong negative emotions such as hatred towards a team, the target of such hatred is not limited to the team, but often the fans of that team also become the object of hatred (51). As a result, group behaviour, competition and the resulting hatred play an important role in sport competitions.

Tajfel (59) indicates that the effects of belonging to a group cause some psychological changes in individuals. When the subject is evaluated in this context, it can be stated that fan commitment directs fan behaviour. This proves why affective commitment is at the centre of our study. In the sport sciences literature, the concept of fan commitment is defined as the process of developing emotional and psychological attachment to an object (team, player, etc.) related to sports (22). In the context of sports teams, commitment represents the psychological meaning and value associated with the reactions and tendencies revealed by a sports team (23, 50). Commitment is manifested in the mind as specific tendencies or responses that involve strong internal relationships with the team or other team-related objects. This internal process helps to explain how the connection is established with external forms (e.g., success, stadium, etc.) and to adopt internal psychological significance (27). In fact, commitment is the most important actor in strengthening the emotional bonds between the fans and the team.

Studies on sports fandom generally aim to reveal the relationship between positive or negative attitudes of sports fans towards their teams and their fan behaviors. Funk and Pastore (23) revealed in their study that the psychological commitment of fans is very important in discovering their attitudinal loyalty. Regarding this situation, Krosnick (42) stated that attitudes have an important detail in revealing the subjective beliefs of individuals. In this case, commitment represents the psychological significance and value of an attitude towards an object. This situation emerges as a result of the process of identification of the fans' personal interests and social identities with their team (3). The possible outcome of this process may have a positive effect on the individual's interest in his/her team and his/her desire to attend more matches, while it may also bring about negative emotions such as hatred. Emotion-based relationships towards the favourite team are similarly hatred-based towards the opposing team. As revealed in the study, this is experienced at the level of fan commitment and identity. The results support the pioneering studies (9, 31, 68) related to team identity in the sport sciences literature and provide insights into the related phenomena in parallel with current approaches. In this context, revealing fan commitment and the structures associated with this commitment is of vital importance for the sustainability of football clubs.

When the literature is examined, it is observed that research on hatred in sports is generally focused on fan hatred (34, 43, 56, 61). When a person starts to hate the elements of the opposing team, he/she tends to show violent and aggressive behaviours, which are the consequences of hatred. In addition, when a person becomes a fan, s/he also has feelings of loyalty and passion towards the team s/he supports in contrast to the feelings of hatred s/he has for the elements of the opposing team (69). In addition, although it may seem contradictory, it is also true that hatred brings along some elements of respect or admiration for the opposing side (53). In other words, Sabah Çelik (53) emphasised in his study on Ankaragücü fans' hatred of Beşiktaş that some positive emotions and hatred may be intertwined. In this qualitative study, it was determined that Ankaragücü fans respect the team they hate and regard the fan group as an effective group.

The present study addresses the complex relationship between sports fans' psychological commitment to their teams and opponents. The model proposed in the study was constructed in accordance with social identity theory (58) and mixed emotions theory (Larsen et al., 2001). Social identity theory assumes that in-group love and hatred towards the out-group, the main competitor of the group, are mutually related (5). The stimulation of these mixed feelings of love and hatred can occur simultaneously in competitive situations where the opponent's victory is one's loss (28). However, by emphasizing that "group love is not a necessary precursor of out-group hatred", Brewer (5) argues that feelings of respect and hatred may be of different dimensions for different fans. Accordingly, in the study, the effect of psychological commitment dimensions (personal identity, affective commitment, resource cost, psychological cost, social obligation and regional tribalism) to their team, formed as a result of the meanings that the fans attribute to their group membership, on the respect and hatred towards opponents will be evaluated according to the social identity theory. In particular, although studies on this subject in the field of sports management have focused on the mechanisms of fan rivalry (1), positive effects (70) and negative effects, studies on variables that may affect the feeling of respect and hatred towards opponents are quite limited. These studies have shown that competition in the sports environment increases the emotional intensity of the fans, which may exacerbate negative fan behaviours based on in-group/out-group distinctions (47). Specifically, an increasing number of studies have shown that identification with a sports team predicts negative emotions such as *schadenfreude* (taking pleasure in misfortunes and unhappiness of others) (9). When the literature is examined, it is seen that the identification of football fans with their teams and the level of respect for opposing views are limited to studies examining demographic variables (15, 29, 75). In this respect, it is considered that the study will make an important contribution to the literature. Therefore, the aim of the study is to examine the effect of the fans' perceptions of psychological commitment to their teams on respect and hatred towards opponents.

METHOD

In this study, based on the quantitative research design, the general survey model and relational survey models, in which the whole population or a sample taken from a population consisting of many elements is scanned to reach a general judgment about the population, were used (36).

This study aims to examine the effect of fan psychological commitment on perceptions of hatred and respect towards opponents. Within the scope of the study, hypotheses were developed based on the explanations obtained through the literature review and the research model was formed as follows.

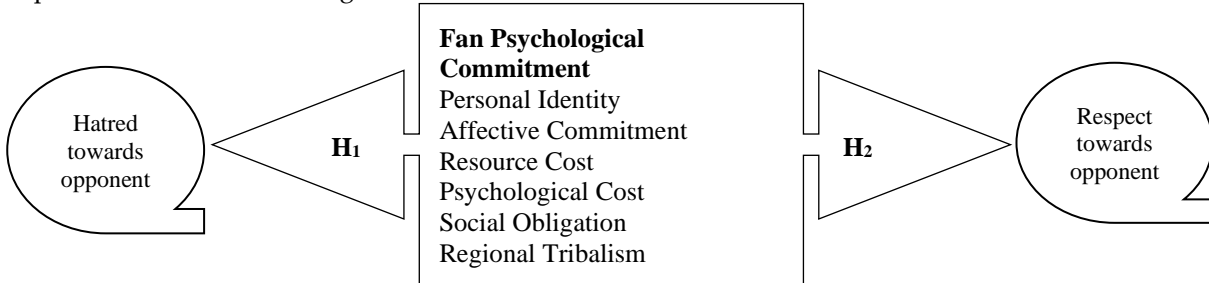


Figure 1. Research Model

H1: Fan psychological commitment affects the hatred towards opponent.

H1a: Fan personal identity affects the hatred towards opponent.

H1b: Fan affective commitment affects the hatred towards opponent.

H1c: Fan resource cost affects the hatred towards opponent.

H1d: Fan psychological cost affects the hatred towards opponent.

H1e: Fan social obligation affects the hatred towards opponent.

H1f: Fan regional tribalism affects the hatred towards opponent.

H2: Fan psychological commitment affects the respect towards opponent.

H2a: Fan personal identity affects the respect towards opponent.

H2b: Fan affective commitment affects the respect towards opponent.

H2c: Fan resource cost affects the respect towards opponent.

H2d: Fan psychological cost affects the respect towards opponent.

H2e: Fan social obligation affects the respect towards opponent.

H2f: Fan regional tribalism affects the respect towards opponent.

Study Group

The 2021-2022 Football Season was taken as a basis in the determination of the study group, and the fans of the clubs, described as the big three (Beşiktaş, Fenerbahçe and Galatasaray), residing in Konya constituted the population of the study. The survey was applied with the convenience sampling approach, and 500 participants were surveyed at the exits of the stores of these clubs. Before the questionnaire forms were distributed to the fans, detailed information was given about the purpose of the study, the data collection tool and the correct filling of the data collection tool. The principle of voluntary participation was taken as a basis in the study and only the fans who voluntarily wanted to participate in the study were given a questionnaire form. However, only 400 questionnaires were included in the analysis after the incomplete and incorrect ones were eliminated.

Table 1. The Demographic Information of the Participants.

		f	%
Gender	Female	196	49,0
	Male	204	51,0
Favorite football team/club	Galatasaray	145	36,3
	Fenerbahçe	129	32,2
	Beşiktaş	126	31,5
		Mean	ss
Age		25,18	8,00

A total of 204 male (51%) and 196 female (49%) fans between the ages of 16-60 ($X = 25.18 \pm 8.00$) participated in the study voluntarily. It was determined that 145 (36.3%) of the participants were Galatasaray fans, 129 (32.2%) were Fenerbahçe fans and 126 (31.5%) were Beşiktaş fans (Table 1).

Data Collection Tools

Personal Information Form

The Personal Information Form, which was created to collect data on the independent variables of the study, consists of four questions (gender, age, education level, occupation).

Respect for Opposite Opinions and Self-Control Scale in Sports

In the study, the "Respect for Opposite Opinions and Self-Control Scale in Sports", the validity and reliability of which was studied by Gülle (30), was used as a data collection tool. The scale was prepared according to the 5-point Likert-type rating method and consisted of a total of 15 questions. The scale consists of two sub-dimensions. These sub-dimensions are named as "respect towards opponent" and "hatred towards opponent". According to the results of Principal Components Analysis, there are six items related to the "Hatred towards opponent" factor of the scale, and the factor loading values of the items vary between .462 and .702 and the factor explains 28.68% of the total variance. The second factor is "Respect Towards opponent" and there are nine items related to this factor, and the factor loading values of the items vary between .519 and .782, and the factor explains 10.15% of the total variance. Accordingly, the amount of variance explained by the two factors was calculated as 38.83%. In the validity and reliability study of the scale, it was stated that the Cronbach's Alpha value of the hatred towards the opponent sub-dimension was calculated as (.80) and the Cronbach's Alpha value of the respect towards the opponent sub-dimension was calculated as (.81).

Fan Psychological Commitment Scale

"Fan Psychological Commitment Scale" was developed by Matsuoka 2001 year to determine the psychological commitment of fans. The Turkish adaptation, validity and reliability study of the scale was carried out by Bozgeyikli et al (4). "Fan Psychological Commitment Scale" consists of 30 items including Personal Identity (6 items), Affective Commitment (5 items), Resource Cost (4 items), Psychological Cost (4 items), Social Obligation (4 items) and Regional tribalism (7 items). Confirmatory factor analysis for the construct validity of the scale showed a good fit ($\chi^2 = 933,737$, $sd = 390$, $RMSEA = .055$, $CFI = .908$, $TLI = .898$, $SRMR = .055$). Cronbach's Alpha coefficients calculated based on item analysis for the reliability of the scale were .86 for the personal identity factor, .84 for the affective commitment factor, .78 for the resource cost factor, .89 for the psychological cost factor, .81 for the social obligation factor, .87 for the regional tribalism factor, and .93 for the whole scale (4).

Analysis of Data

Skewness and kurtosis values of the data were analysed to determine their conformity to normal distribution. In the normality test, the skewness and kurtosis values of the data were taken as a base in the range of -1.5 + 1.5 (57). In our study, the Skewness and Kurtosis values are in the range of -1.5 + 1.5. Based on this information, it was decided that the data were in accordance with the normal distribution. In addition, Pearson Correlation test was used to investigate the relationship between the level of identification with the team and the perception towards team image. Pearson correlation test results between "0.70-1.00" as an absolute value indicate the presence of a high level relationship, between "0.30-0.70" indicate a moderate level relationship, and between "0.00-0.30" indicate a low level relationship (6). Multiple Regression Analysis was

performed to determine the extent to which the sub-dimensions of psychological commitment to the team predicted hatred towards the opponent and respect towards the opponent.

FINDINGS

Table 2. Correlation Analysis of the Relationship between Football Fans' Respect and Hatred towards the Opponent and Their Psychological Commitment.

		Personal Identity	Affective Commitment	Resource Cost	Psychological cost	Social Obligation	Regional Tribalism
Hatred towards Opponent	r	,522**	,405**	,564**	,553**	,566**	,352**
	p	,000	,000	,000	,000	,000	,000
Respect towards Opponent	r	-,043	,007	-,142**	-,091	-,170**	,071
	p	,387	,886	,004	,068	,001	,158

It was determined that there was a positive moderate relationship between hatred towards opponent sub-dimension of Respect for Opposite Opinions and Self-Control Scale in Sports and personal identity ($r=0.522$; $p<0.01$) affective commitment ($r=0.405$; $p<0.01$), resource cost ($r=0.564$; $p<0.01$), psychological cost ($r=0.553$; $p<0.01$), social obligation ($r=0.566$; $p<0.01$), and regional tribalism ($r=0.352$; $p<0, 01$) sub-dimensions of Fan Psychological Commitment Scale. It was found that there was a low level negative relationship between respect towards opponent sub-dimension of Respect for Opposite Opinions and Self-Control Scale in Sports and the resource cost ($r=-0.142$; $p<0.01$) and social obligation ($r=-0.170$; $p<0.01$) sub-dimensions.

Table 3. Linear Regression Analysis for the Prediction of Hatred towards Opponent, a Sub-Dimension of Respect for Opposite Opinions and Self-Control Scale in Sports.

Predicted Variable	Predicting Variables	B	Standard Error	β	t	p
Hatred towards Opponent	(Stationary)	,753	,181		4,165	,000
	Personal Identity	,365	,101	,307	3,606	,000*
	Affective Commitment	-,199	,092	-,168	-2,160	,031*
	Resource Cost	,235	,068	,238	3,448	,001*
	Psychological Cost	,104	,096	,099	1,085	,278
	Social Obligation	,250	,080	,228	3,142	,002*
	Regional Tribalism	-,070	,073	-,056	-,957	,339
	Multiple R= .625 R ² =.391 Adj R ² = .381 F _(6,393) = 41.985, p=0.00 < .05					

p<0,05*

According to the findings of the study, hatred towards opponent sub-dimension of Respect for Opposite Opinions and Self-Control Scale in Sports forms a significant model with the sub-dimensions of Fan Psychological Commitment Scale. Personal identity, affective commitment, resource cost, psychological cost, social obligation and regional tribalism sub-dimensions of Fan Psychological Commitment Scale explain 39.1% of the total variance ($R=.625$ $R^2=.391$, $F(6,393) = 41.985$, $p=0.000 < .05$) of hatred towards opponent sub-dimension of Respect for Opposite Opinions and Self-Control Scale in Sport. As a result of the Regression Analysis, it was found that there was a positive relationship between Hatred towards opponent and personal identity ($\beta=.31$, $p<.001$), resource cost ($\beta=.24$, $p<.001$) and social obligation ($\beta=.23$, $p<.001$) and a negative relationship between hatred towards opponent and affective commitment ($\beta=-.17$, $p<.001$). It was also seen that the psychological cost ($\beta=.01$, $p>.05$) and regional tribalism ($\beta=-.06$, $p>.05$) sub-dimensions of Fan Psychological Commitment Scale did not have a significant predictive effect on Hatred Towards Opponent. Accordingly, hypotheses H1a, H1b, H1c and H1e were accepted, while hypotheses H1d and H1f were rejected.

Table 4. Linear Regression Analysis for the Prediction of Respect towards Opponents, the sub-dimension of Respect for Opposite Opinions and Self-Control Scale in Sports.

Predicted Variable	Predicting Variables	B	Standard Error	β	t	p
Respect towards Opponent	(Stationary)	3,516	,175		20,039	,000
	Personal Identity	-,054	,098	-,057	-,545	,586
	Affective Commitment	,085	,090	,091	,946	,345
	Resource Cost	-,052	,066	-,066	-,784	,433
	Psychological Cost	,027	,093	,032	,288	,774
	Social Obligation	-,263	,077	-,304	-3,405	,001*
	Regional Tribalism	,239	,071	,242	3,365	,001*
	Multiple R= .280 R ² =.078 Adj R ² = .064 F _(6,393) = 5.572, p=0.00 < .05					

p<0,05*

According to the findings of the study, Respect towards Opponents sub-dimension of Respect for Opposite Opinions and Self-Control Scale in Sports forms a meaningful model with the Fan Psychological Commitment Scale sub-dimensions. Personal Identity, Affective commitment, Resource Cost, Psychological Cost, Social Obligation, and Regional tribalism sub-dimensions of Fan Psychological Commitment Scale explain 7.8% of the total variance of Hatred Towards Opponent sub-dimension of Respect for Opposite Opinions and Self-Control Scale in Sports ($R = .280$ $R^2 = .078$, $F(6,393) = 5.572$, $p = 0.000 < .05$). As a result of the Regression Analysis, it was found that there was a positive relationship between Hatred towards the opponent and regional tribalism ($\beta = .24$, $p < .001$) and a negative relationship between Hatred towards the opponent and social obligation ($\beta = -.30$, $p < .001$). On the other hand, it was found that personal identity ($\beta = -.06$, $p > .05$), affective commitment ($\beta = .09$, $p > .05$), resource cost ($\beta = -.07$, $p > .05$), and psychological cost ($\beta = .03$, $p > .05$) sub-dimensions of Fan Psychological Commitment Scale had no significant predictive effect on Respect Towards Opponent. Accordingly, hypotheses H1e and H1f were accepted, while hypotheses H1a, H1b, H1c and H1d were rejected.

DISCUSSION

As a result of the Multiple Regression Analysis conducted to reveal how the variables (sub-dimensions) of psychological commitment to the team, which were thought to have an effect on the hatred towards the opponent, predict the hatred towards opponent, the joint interactions of these variables showed a significant relationship with the hatred towards opponent. The sub-dimensions of psychological commitment to the team explain 39% of the hatred towards opponent. The effect levels of significant predictors on hatred towards opponent were determined as personal identity, resource cost, social obligation and affective commitment, respectively. While affective commitment has a negative effect on hatred, personal identity, resource cost and social obligation have positive effects.

Personal identity is the most determinative psychological commitment dimension on hatred towards opponent. Based on Tajfel and Turner's theory of social identity (58, 62, 63), personal identity is simply defined as the feeling of being one with a team or belonging to a team that defines one's self-identity. In the study, it can be said that fans who feel belonging to the team they are a fan of and who identify with their team adopt hatred towards opponent more. This result in the study is due to the fact that hatred towards an outside group is directly related to belonging to the group (5). In a study conducted on this subject with similar results, it was determined that identification with the team predicts negative feelings towards other fans (9). It would be more appropriate to address the hatred towards opponent resulting from identification with the group or the team in a way to include group behaviours since it is not only a personal feeling. Moreover, the concept of hatred, with its different levels, can be considered as a natural consequence of belonging to a group. Because it is argued that hatred towards the out-group and favouritism towards the in-group are two inseparable phenomena, in other words, the attitude towards the in-group and the attitude towards the out-group have a mutual negative effect on each other (5). It can even be argued that out-group hatred is more dominant than in-group favouritism. The reason for this is that people not only identify themselves with the group they belong to, and in the case of fandom, with the team and fan group, but also identify the fans of the opposing team with the opposing team (26). Fear, anger or hostility towards the out-group occurs when the perception arises that the opposing group poses a threat to the interests or existence of the current group (5). The

predominance of fear or anger depends on the severity of the hatred (76). Accordingly, although individuals differ in their willingness to benefit the group they are in or another group, when it comes to hatred, it is the out-group that the hatred is directed towards. This is especially true for fandom. The in-group emphasises the characteristics and achievements that are considered positive against the out-group. Accordingly, it is suggested that the fans of the opposing team are characterised as "bad fans" and are thought to be not as loyal as themselves (51). The achievements of the out-group are ignored by the group members if it is accepted that the in-group is more successful in other issues that are important for group identity (5). It is stated that the root of intense negative emotions such as hatred among fans is that strategic sports such as football are based on the old war culture (26). Therefore, it is not surprising to see that football fans not only praise the team they support, but also make negative attributions about the opposing team, thus developing a state of hatred. When fans have strong negative emotions such as hatred towards a team, the target of such hatred is not limited to the team, but often the fans of that team also become the object of hatred (51).

Another result of the study is the effect of high perceived resource cost on the hatred towards opponent. Resource cost refers to the investment in money, effort, or time emerged in the transition from one service provider to another (10, 52). Considering this in terms of fans, there may be more than one team in the same sports branch in big cities. Therefore, the fan has the option to change commitment between teams. The size of this investment is proportional to the time and energy spent for clearly expressing one's commitment to a team. This component of commitment has not been adequately discussed in fan behavior studies. A fan may maintain a close relationship with his/her team because s/he has invested money, effort and time in such a commitment. This relationship, like personal identity, triggers hatred towards opponent.

In the study, another fan psychological commitment dimension, which has a similar effect to the resource cost on the hatred towards opponent, is social obligation. Kahle, Kambara, and Rose (35), in their conceptual model of fan involvement, argued that obligation is one of the critical motivational factors for fan involvement. Social obligation is defined as the commitment based on the fan's conformity to social norms and pressure from significant others. Social structures are defined as "social expectations or norms that create a sense of obligation to remain active" (54), while Etzioni (19) states that they are based on "members' sensitivity to the pressures of primary groups". Considering that this form of commitment is a sense of obligation fostered by social norms and pressures (35), its effect on hatred towards opponent can be evaluated as an expected situation for fans. Although this is not considered to be a very desirable situation, the pressure of other groups (managers, fan leaders, etc.) may have affected this situation.

One of the interesting results of the study is that although fans' affective commitment to their team is not very effective compared to other psychological commitment dimensions (personal identity, resource cost and social obligation) that are effective on hatred towards opponent, the increase in affective commitment to their team decreases hatred towards opponent. Fandom is not only limited to individual belonging to a particular team (personal identity), but also includes shared common spaces, connections with other fans, and common emotional and behavioural reactions (33). In this framework, it is observed that the concept of hatred towards the other team in fandom is not only related to personal identity, but also includes emotional state. The personal identity component and the affective commitment component are distinguished from each other by the different foundations from which they originate. While the personal identity component of psychological commitment is based on the fans' desire to develop and maintain their personal identity, the affective commitment that develops over time is based on loving a team, "a commitment or devotion to a particular team based on the spectator's interest in the team (67). In fact, in a different aspect, affective commitment is the commitment formed by respect for the goals and rules of the event or club, love and respect for managers, emotional closeness, sharing of organisational vision and mission. When the issue is considered in this respect, it is possible that the fans who feel that they act in accordance with the values and rules do not look favorably on an undesirable phenomenon in football, such as hatred. In fact, the emphasis in Brewer's (5) study that "group love and commitment is not a necessary precursor of out-group hatred" is considered important. Brewer (5) stated that the combination of feelings of love and hatred may have different dimensions for different fans. In the study conducted by Durgutluoğlu (14), which supports our findings, negative relationships were reported between affective commitment, which is the dimension of psychological commitment, and the "tendency towards violent thoughts and actions" and "corporate belonging" fanaticism levels. In addition, fans are emotionally committed to their teams. However, in practice, it is also possible to

be a fan and not be a spectator, or to be a spectator but not be a fan (17, 18). These situations may have affected the result of this study, which we find interesting.

When the literature was examined, no research findings were found on the relationship between psychological commitment to the team or its dimensions and hatred towards opponent. There are mostly studies on the effect of psychological commitment on fanaticism and aggression (8, 13, 14, 25, 65, 71) reputation (12), consumption behaviour (49, 64), identification (13). Considering that the hatred of the fans towards the opposing team or the opposing team's fans is generally associated with negative fan behaviors (fanaticism, aggression), it can be said that the related studies are partially similar to our findings.

As a result of the Multiple Regression Analysis conducted to reveal how the variables (sub-dimensions) of psychological commitment to the team, which were thought to have effects on respect towards opponent, predicted respect towards opponent, the joint interactions of these variables showed a significant relationship with respect towards opponent. The psychological commitment to the team sub-dimensions explain 8% of the respect towards opponent. Respect is not only one of the core values, but also the foundation of many values (46). Since there are many different variables affecting respect, which is based on morality and politics and emphasises a democratic and egalitarian understanding of life, it is an expected result that the power of psychological commitment to the team to explain respect towards the team is low among the fans. In the literature, there are very few studies that theoretically examine respect behaviour specific to fans. The fact that respect behaviour is included in the definition of sportsmanship and seen as its sub-dimension (16, 39, 66) and that respect is referred to for fair play behaviour in sports (20) strengthens the negative relationship of respect with undesirable behaviours in sports (violence, aggression, fanaticism, hatred).

The effect levels of significant predictors on respect towards opponent were determined as social obligation and regional tribalism, respectively. While social obligation has a negative effect on respect, regional tribalism has a positive effect. According to the findings of the study, the positive effect of social obligation, as in hatred towards opponent, similarly affected the respect towards opponent negatively. Although it is considered as an undesirable situation, social obligation, which is a type of commitment based on the fans' compliance with social norms and pressure from important people, has also prevented the fans from respecting the opponent with the influence of other people (manager, fan leaders, etc.). Although there is no similar study in the literature, Shields, Funk, and Bredemeier (55) found a negative relationship between moral distancing and sportsmanship orientation. Kavussanu et al. (37) and, Kavussanu, and Ring (38) found a negative relationship between moral distancing and prosocial behaviours and a positive relationship between moral distancing and antisocial behaviours. The research findings of Koç and Yeniçeri (41) and Koç and Seçer (40) also indicated that the level of respect positively affects sportsmanship behaviors. These results are partially similar to the findings of our study.

Another result of the study is that the high perception of regional tribalism has a positive effect on respect towards opponent. In their fan behavior study on factors affecting fan involvement, Laverie and Arnett (45) suggested that the concept of regional tribalism should be taken into account. Regional tribalism refers to "the extent to which an individual values or identifies with a particular environment" (48). From the fan's perspective, regional tribalism is defined as the commitment based on the perception of connection between the team and the place where the fan is affiliated to (e.g. a city, region, and university). In the findings of our study, it was determined that fans with this commitment have higher respect towards opponents. This may be due to the fans of the teams that make up our study group. This can be explained by the fact that these fans are Beşiktaş, Fenerbahçe and Galatasaray fans from the teams of Istanbul province, and that the teams are relatively more established teams and that the fans are more respectful to their opponents. Furthermore, in their conceptual model of fan involvement, Kahle, Kambara, and Rose (35) suggested that regional tribalism is a critical motivational factor for fans to attend matches, and stated that fan cohesion with other fans is "the need to show public support for the home team through attendance". Kahle, Kambara and Rose (35) stated that this can explain the result of our findings to a certain extent.

As a result, relationships were determined between the psychological commitment of sports fans and their respect and hatred towards opponents. While it is determined that the high psychological commitment of sports fans increases the hatred towards opponents, it can be said that their psychological commitment is not very effective on respect. It is considered that the findings of the study will make important contributions

to both the relevant literature and more effective policies to be developed for the prevention of violence in football. In this context, accurately identifying the reasons affecting the hatred and respect of fans towards opponents will contribute to the development of solutions for the prevention of aggression in football. In addition, there are some limitations of the study. The fact that the study was conducted only on Beşiktaş, Fenerbahçe and Galatasaray fans negatively affects the generalisability of the study. The application of the study to other clubs other than the fans of the three big clubs may provide more information about the psychological commitment of the fans and their respect and hatred towards the opponent throughout Turkey. In addition, the research data were applied to the fans who shopped from the stores of the relevant clubs. The application of the study to the fans who constantly attend the matches of their teams or who are members of fan groups may contribute to obtaining more efficient results.

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