Travel Capital: A Qualitative Study on Traveler Earnings

Seyahat Sermayesi: Gezgin Kazançları Üzerine Niteliksel Bir Araştırma

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to determine the earnings that people get at the end of their journey. The phenomenology approach, one of the qualitative research designs, was used in the study. Snowball sampling technique, which is one of the purposeful sampling methods, was used to determine the participants of the study. In order to obtain the views of the participants, in-depth interviews were conducted with a total of 18 travelers using a semi-structured interview form. In the analysis, three different themes were obtained; the meaning of travel, the reasons for the trip and the results of the trip. As a result of the study, while the reasons for the travel are personal preferences and requirements; it has been seen that people attribute meanings to travel such as discovery, learning and development, lifestyle, courage, purification and interaction. The results of travel show itself in the form of learning and development, change in life philosophy, gaining social reputation, psychological gains, material gains, positive externalities, changes in habits and other gains. In the study, based on Bourdieu's classification, the concept of 'Travel Capital' as a new capital classification related to earnings obtained as a result of travels is discussed. In conclusion; travel capital can be defined as the whole of the material and spiritual experiences that people who set out for a purpose and complete their journey by consciously ascribing meaning, together with the places they travel, the people they meet, and the experiences they have had.

Keywords: Travel Capital, Travel, Traveller, Bourdieu, Qualitative Studies

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Öz

Bu çalışmanın amacını, insanların yolculukları sonucunda elde ettikleri kazançların belirlenmesi oluşturmaktadır. Araştırmada nitel araştırma desenlerinden biri olan fenomenoloji yaklaşımı kullanılmıştır. Araştırmanın katılımcılarını belirlemek için amaçlı örnekleme yöntemlerinden biri olan kartopu örnekleme tekniği kullanılmıştır. Katılımcıların görüşlerini almak adına yarı yapılandırılmış görüşme formu kullanılarak toplam 18 gezgin ile derinlemesine görüşmeler gerçekleştirilmiştir. Analiz sonucunda seyahatin anlamı, seyahatin sebepleri ve seyahatin sonuçları olmak üzere üç farklı temanın elde edildiği görülmüştür. Çalışma sonucunda seyahatin sebeplerini kişisel tercihler ve gereklilikler oluştururken; kişilerin seyahate keşfetme, öğrenme ve gelişim, yaşam biçimi, cesaret, arınma ve etkileşim ve benzeri anlamlar yüklenildiği görülmüştür. Seyahatin sonuçları; öğrenme ve gelişim, yaşam felsefesindeki değişim, sosyal itibar kazanma, psikolojik kazanımlar, maddi kazanımlar, pozitif dışsallıklar, alışkanlıklarda değişim ve diğer kazanımlar olmak üzere kendini göstermektedir. Çalışma kapsamında, Bourdieu'nün sınıflandırmasından hareketle seyahatler sonucunda elde edilen kazançlara ilişkin yeni bir sermaye sınıflandırması olarak 'Seyahat Sermayesi' kavramı ele alınmıştır. Sonuç olarak; seyahat sermayesi, bir amaçla yola çıkan ve yolculuklarını bilinçli bir şekilde anlam yükleyerek tamamlayan insanların seyahat ettikleri yerler, karşılaştıkları insanlar ve yaşadıkları deneyimlerle birlikte kazandıkları maddi ve manevi deneyimlerin bütünü olarak tanımlanabilir.

Keywords: *Seyahat Sermayesi, Seyahat, Gezgin, Bourdieu, Niteliksel Çalışmalar*

Introduction

Today, individuals meet their needs owing to the existence of the social relations and strong bonds they establish with their circle. Individuals who stand in the center of the social networks benefit from the distinguishing characteristics and capitals they own in order to develop their social relations. These capitals are not individual decisions. Rather, they are what Bordieu refers to as 'habitus,' i.e. habits that one develops upon interacting with others from society they are a part of (Bourdieu, 1986). Habitus can be regarded as a mechanism for producing a strategy that helps to cope with various situations within social experiences (Bourdieu & Wacquant, 2001). Based on Mardin's (2010) statement, every human being shares a 'map of society' with the other people in his/her society as well as the immediate circle. This map of society is a concept that enables the understanding of people and the fulfillment of social responsibilities.

Bourdieu added a new dimension and meaning to the capital by reflecting it on the social area instead of financial factors (Kaufmann, Bergman, & Joye, 2004). According to Bourdieu (1986), the capital is the equivalent of accumulated experience as well as its embodiment. The capital is the body of habits, coding or patterns of the society that shapes the thoughts and behaviors of the individuals or groups (Vester, 2010; Yarcı, 2011).

There are many different types of capitals in social life. According to Bourdieu (1986) divides the capital into three: economic, cultural and social capital. Despite looking different, types of capital are related and intertwined concepts to each other in an inseparable way. Economic capital and the social and cultural capitals offer great effects on the daily life of people. Economic capital is the resources that can

emerge through institutionalization in the form of property rights and can be converted into money in short term. Cultural capital can be converted into economic capital under certain circumstances and can be institutionalized in the form of qualifications regarding education. Cultural capital forming the essence of the society is composed of a whole of acceptance of high values, behavioral patterns, knowledge learned through education and skills obtained. According to Bourdieu, social capital is an integrated evaluation of the relationships and networks within the society and it can be institutionalized as in the form of a nobility title. The values within these capitals are the trumps that people keep in hand.

Another concept mentioned in this study, travel is the journeys people make with the intention of setting out for a purpose and in a free manner in order to make sense of the unknown in the individuals' minds or in the society (Uğraş, 2012). Özbaş (2020) emphasized that travel has a more profound structure by principally involving the journey, stating '*It can be both related to the distances made among time and spices for all living creatures and it is a journey set out to the past of the human beings only as a historical entity, to their inner world as a psychological being, to their sanctuary as a religious being and to the knowledge and inquiry as an entity that wonders and thinks'*.

People in the primitive societies travelled for surviving (to meet their needs of shelter, eating and drinking), whereas travels in the following periods of history took place for various purposes such as religion, economy, commerce, war, and migration. Apart from the fact that travel took place for obligatory purposes in the course of the history, people also started to travel intentionally for pleasure and holiday purposes as can be seen from the travels of nobles in the Roman times (Theobald, 2005). Today, there are travelers who travel for holiday purposes, have a different status from tourists, and wander freely. These travelers can be defined as people that would like to live a actual experience of travelling to the end; determine their travel budget and use it as they like; can be flexible in their decisions from the beginning to the end of their travel; can independently choose the destinations to be travelled in the places they travel to and can see many mountains, villages, towns and cities by moving freely without being fixed to a particular space (Hyde & Lawson 2003; Morrison, et al., 1993).

The traveler can be considered as the person who talentedly performs the difference between looking and seeing, and attaches meaning to space and explores it (Uğraş, 2012). In that way, the journeys made by the travelers provide earnings not only for them, but also for their circles with their expression and travel writings (Uçar & Yüksel 2018). On the other hand, due to the fact that travelers acquaint with new places and people through journeys, their good manners and knowledge increase, they question the meaning of their life and their health may promote. (Kaynak & Sezgin 2008).

Travel capital takes place with the formation of the relationship structure of the social networks of the social capital. As mentioned by Bourdieu (1986) social networks and circle add value to people and create their trumps against others. Travel, on the other hand, offers the best environments for the formation of social networks and expansion of the circle. As emphasized by Morgan et al. (2012), it gives chances for promoting their well-being and health. In addition, Larsen (2006) states that travelling has effects on the formation of social capital. It can be possible to understanding that the world is not comprised of a single city, by getting away from the shallowness of the local and reaching what is

universal. Therefore, the subject of the analysis within the scope of this study is the capital created by travel earnings and travelling on sociological basis and on the basis of the previous studies.

The purpose of this study is to reveal the benefits obtained by the people, who made travelling their lifestyle, as a result of their journeys. Within this framework, the purpose of the study is to explore the meaning of travel, the reasons to travel, and what the contributions of traveling are to the life of travelers and also to provide the comprehensibility of the concept. Within this scope, the research questions are as follows: (1) What does traveling mean to you? (2) What are your reasons to travel? (3) In your opinion, what are the outcomes of traveling?

Method

In this study, phenomenology among the qualitative research designs was used. Phenomenology provides the exploration of phenomena completely unknown in depth despite being encountered frequently at any moment of life (Yıldırım & Şimşek 2013). For each person, travel is experienced in a different way. Moreover, travelling may lead to different meanings and earnings in everyone's personality. For these reasons, phenomenology was chosen because of its characteristics eligible for investigating travelling experiences in depth and comprehensively.

Participant Experiences

The participants consisted of 18 voluntary travelers reached by using snowball sampling method. 4 criteria were used as determinant in the selection of participants:

(1) Having travelled (including abroad) for 10 years regularly

(2) Having seen at least 10 different cities (including abroad) during the travels

(3) Having experienced important changes in their life due to their travels (shooting documentary, starting a new business as an entrepreneur, earning money, starting a blog, learning languages, creating travel news, etc. owing to the travel)

(4) Accepting the interview voluntarily

The research participants consisted of 14 men (5 academicians, 2 teachers, 1 doctor, 1 engineer, 1 public relations specialist, 1 director, 1 sportsman, 1 social services expert, and 1 press member) and 4 women (1 teacher, 1 financier, 1 yoga instructor, and 1 lawyer) who were residing in 8 cities.

Research Process

A semi-structured interview form was prepared by the researchers through making use of the literature and experts in accordance with the study aims. The interview form includes 3 questions about the participant information and 3 main questions about the travel and probing questions. The face-to-face in-depth interviews that were conducted for 30 - 100 minutes were recorded on a sound recorder. The interviews were completed between 01.09.2018 and 30.01.2019.

Ethical Principles Of The Study

This study was conducted with the ethics committee approval taken by the Ethics Committee of X University (Date: 29.08.2018, Meeting No: 58, Decision No: 3) and the verbal and written consents of the participants. The identity information of the participants was kept confidential.

Data Analysis

In the study, descriptive interpretative analysis was applied by making use of the data analysis stages of Miles and Huberman (1994). Different researchers listen to the voice recordings many times and deciphered them. The deciphered data were transcribed into a text and the coding operation was made. Following the coding, theming was executed by joining the statements, which were related in meaning and similar to each other, into a common form. While carrying out the analysis, Maxqda Program, a qualitative software, was used. The research team checked analysis process by meeting twice. The obtained codes and themes were discussed and acceptable standard codes and themes were obtained.

Results

When analyzing the statements of the travelers participating in the study, three different superordinate themes were obtained, *the meaning of travel, the reasons to travel* and *the results of travelling'*. The findings obtained were represented through the following theme tables with the titles of 'superordinate theme', 'theme' and 'examples from participant statements':

Table 1: Themes regarding the meaning of travel

Superordinate Theme	Theme	Examples from the statements
Meaning of Travel	1. Exploring	"A journey where I have **discovered** new things both inside and outside."
	2. Learning and development	"…to **develop oneself** in any way."
	3. Lifestyle	"It is completely **my lifestyle** for now. It is a need for me and a **lifestyle**."
	4. Interaction	"People who travel are curious about getting to know people. (…) **People travelling understand each other.**"
	5. Courage	"For me travel means **the ability to leave the house for travelling** to a new place, a new region from the place a person is located in."
	6. Purification (Detox)	"To me travel is a personal need, and in a way can be considered as **detox.**"

The data obtained by asking the participants what travel means to them were gathered in the superordinate theme of *meaning of travel*. This theme, as can be seen from Table 1, consisted of six themes that are *exploring, learning,* and *development, lifestyle, courage, purification* and *interaction*. In the theme of *exploring,* emphasis was laid on new discoveries and a journey of self-knowledge. In *learning and development* theme, emphasis was laid on topics such as learning by experience, experiences, new perspective and self-development. In the other themes, the topics emphasized by the participants were hobbies, freedom, happiness and passion in the *lifestyle* theme; cultural ambassadorship, meeting new people, culture, and a chance to improve friendships in the *interaction*

theme; travelling, wandering, and going to other places in the *courage* theme; and mental relaxation in the *purification* theme.

Table 2: Themes regarding reasons to travel

Superordinate theme	Theme	Subtheme	Examples from the statements
Reasons to Travel	1. Personal Preferences	1. Exploring	"I travel out of **curiosity**. (…) That **curiosity to discover** causes me to travel."
		2. Escape	"I always **run away** even in the slightest chance I can find to **get away from** the monotony of life**."**
		3. Fun	"Seeing new places makes me **excited**."
		4. Getting to know new cultures	"…**there is a different geography, different people, different cultures, different languages and different cities. Just to see them.**"
		5. Posting	"**Let me take some photos and to get some likes and comments**". Unfortunately most people travel for this reason."
	2. Requirements	1. Work-related requirements	"…from here **the travels related to the project, in other words, the business trips**."
		2. Education-related requirements	"I made presentations in many places for **academic purposes**."
		3. Health-related requirements	"Some travel **due to health issues**."
		4. Ethnicity-related requirements	"I think it is from the **genes,** from the maternal and paternal side we are **Yörük Turks. It is because our origins are based on such a lifestyle**."

As seen from Table 2, the data obtained regarding the reasons why they travel were gathered under two themes, *personal preferences* and *requirements*. In the *personal preferences* theme, the personal choice of the individual was attributed and this theme was divided into five subthemes; *exploring, escape, fun, getting to know new cultures,* and *posting*. The *exploring* subtheme consisted of codes of self-discovery, fulfilling the sense of emptiness, curiosity, and the desire to feel free; the *escape* subtheme consisted of codes of resting and avoiding the life monotony; the *fun* subtheme consisted of codes of holiday, travelling, doing sports, and feeling pleasure. While the participants mentioned about topics such as seeing the different cultural structures in their original place, getting to know new people, and tasting local foods in the subtheme of *getting to know new cultures;* they laid emphasis on topics like showing something to others or sharing it on social media in the subtheme of *posting*. On the other hand, in the theme of *requirements,* emphasis was laid more on the effects of external factors instead of individual ones and this theme consisted of four subthemes; *work-related requirements, education-related requirements, health-related requirements,* and *ethnicity-related requirements*.

Table 3: Themes regarding results to travel

Superordinate theme	Theme	Subtheme	Subtheme -2	Examples from the statements
Results to Travel	1. Learning and Development	1. Personal Development	1. Maturation	"In Sufism, there is something called **mature human being. These travels make one closer to that point**."
			2. Breaking down the prejudices	"**I freed myself from my prejudices**… I began to see everyone with a lot **more tolerance**."
		2. Gaining Skills	1. Improvement in conceptual skill	"As you express your ideas, you can notice how a traveler **approaches to the events through various dimensions**."
			2. Improvement in skill of human relations	"I learnt to be civilized, **and show respect to people.**"
			3. Improvement in communication skill	"**I think that my communication with the students improved**…"
			4. Improvement in organizational skill	"In the first place it **enables one to manage oneself**."
			5. Improvement in technical skill	"It has a lot of contributions to: **photography. People have really improved themselves in this area.**"
			6. Improvement in the skill of coping with difficulties	"If you have to pass from the backstreets of Brazil, **you need to be extremely cautious.** This cautiousness tests a great deal of stress level in you. Therefore **you are not afraid of chaos and disorder, you can cope with it.**"
		3. Learning by experiencing		"**You get to know cultures**… **I wouldn't have known about this clearly if I had read this in a book, for instance. I learnt by experiencing.**"
		4. Professional development		"I did a lot of operations in Africa. I am a surgeon. In the end the most important thing in surgery is to have a lot of experience for the person dealing with various cases. **I did different operations.**"
	2. Changes in the life philosophy	1. Spiritual Development		"**For instance, I try to measure how generous Allah is, how he provided every blessing everywhere to perfection, how all these people perceive this, how they make use of this, how they live with this, how they shape their lives with this.**"
		2. Changes in the meaning of life		"**You can distinguish how important or unimportant things are a lot easier.**"

	3. Self-discovery	"**And actually you get to know yourself. In fact one must see all those travels outside as an inner journey within oneself.**"
	4. Awareness	"This is the most important earning. **You learn that the world does not consist of you only.**"
3. Gaining Social Reputation	1. Making friends	"**I made more friends.**"
	2. Guiding	"About the places I have seen, **I can give information about there if someone I know is to go there**."
	3. Being respected	"People **respect me more** because of that. Because I know a lot of things."
4. Psychological Earnings	1. Feeling happy	"**I live my life more enjoyably. I get pleasure from living.**"
	2. Gaining self-confidence	"It is something **that increases my self-confidence**... **Being able to chat with everyone, express myself easily. Not being afraid of anyone, give you the chance to act courageously**."
	3. Mental and physical serenity	"I become a **totally different person when I return from mountain climbing** or walks in the nature"
5. Financial Earnings	Financial earnings	"That I am invited to deliver a speech about travelling to many places and that I am **even able to earn money** from this job..."
6. Positive Externalities	Positive externalities	"You know when you ask how it contributes to my life, **the happier I am, the happier and calmer my life at home is.**"
7. Changes in the Habits	Changes in the habits	"**Once you get that taste, you know that what they bring you as Adana kebab here is not the real Adana kebab.**"
8. Other Earnings	Other earnings	"**Countries advertise themselves.** When I go there, **they can change their opinions about Turkish people**... **I had a chance to explain my country.**"

As seen from Table 3 statements about the results of travelling were gathered under eight themes. These themes are *learning and development, changes in the life philosophy, gaining social reputation, psychological earnings, financial earnings, positive externalities, changes in the habits* and *other earnings*.

In the learning and development theme, the teaching and developing aspects of travelling were focused more. The learning and development theme consists of four subthemes, *personal development*

(including the subthemes of *maturation* and *breaking down the prejudices*), *gaining skills* (including the subthemes of *improvement in conceptual skill*, *improvement in skill of human relations*, *improvement in communication skill*, *improvement in organizational skill*, *improvement in technical skills* and *improving in the skill of coping with difficulties*), *learning by experiencing,* and *professional development*. Among these subthemes, *maturation* subtheme laid emphasis on increasing patience, travel making people mature, being modest, while the subtheme of *breaking down the prejudices* laid emphasis on issues such as breaking down the prejudices related to food, respecting diversity, avoiding stubbornness and discriminatory perspectives, and being more tolerant. The subtheme of *improvement in conceptual skill* consisted of codes such as the ability to make comparisons among countries and understand social differences, broadening the perspective and horizon, increase in perception, seeing life from a macro perspective, increase in awareness and language learning. The subtheme of *improvement in skill of human relations* consisted of codes such as the ability to understand others, humanist point of view, learning to be more respectful for people. The subtheme of *improvement in communication skill* consisted of codes such as open-mindedness, establishing better communication, increase in communication, and being more extrovert. Another subtheme, *improvement in organizational skill* laid emphasis on topics such as the ability to manage, earning the ability to make the right decision, learning risk management, gaining planning skills and organizational skills, and managing time well. The subtheme of *improvement in technical skill* laid emphasis on topics such as quick adaptation, the ability to make things easily and improvement in photography skills. Also the subtheme of *improvement in the skill of coping with difficulties* laid emphasis on the topic of learning to cope with challenges. In the subtheme of *learning by experiencing*, emphasis was laid on issues such as learning the history from living people, learning by experiencing what is heard from the media, seeing how the works of art are preserved and offering the chance to experience different lives. The subtheme of *professional development* laid emphasis on earnings such as providing opportunities for internship, seeing different hospitals, the ability to see the profession from a different perspective, job satisfaction, concentrating on work more, providing work-related materials and the ability to cope with work-related stress.

The theme of changes in the life philosophy consists of four subthemes; *spiritual development*, *changes in the meaning of life*, *self-discovery* and *awareness*. The participants laid emphasis on understanding the creator better in the *spiritual development* subtheme. In *changes in the meaning of life* subtheme, they laid emphasis on topics such as the changes in the meanings attributed to the events, the changes in our perception of vital needs, changes in priorities and the ability to instrumentalize money. The *self-discovery* subtheme consists of codes such as self-knowledge, self-realization (excelling) and being at peace with oneself, while the subtheme of *awareness* consists of codes such as understanding that the world is not comprised of oneself, seeing the true face of the events, understanding the importance of knowing a language and being aware of the popular culture.

The theme of gaining social reputation consists of three subthemes; *making friends*, *guiding* and *being respected*. In the subtheme of *making friends*, emphasis was laid on topics such as universalization, extending social environment, and providing socialization. The subtheme of *guiding* laid emphasis on topics such as having the role of an advisor, being the first person to come in mind in the issue of

travelling and being a mentor for the places they visit. The subtheme of *being respected* laid emphasis on issues such as an increase in the respect and interest of people and increase in recognition.

The psychological earnings theme consists of the subthemes of *feeling happy*, *gaining self-confidence*, and *mental* and *physical serenity*. The *Feeling happy* subtheme drew attention to topics such as learning to live the moment, providing the feeling of freedom, getting pleasure from life and being happier. The *gaining self-confidence* subtheme included the issues of getting rid of phobias and providing self-confidence. The *mental and physical serenity* subtheme included the issues such as feeling mentally relieved, avoiding depression, gaining body health, and staying away from being a workaholic and chaos of life.

The emphases laid on topics such as creating new job areas, converting the travel outputs into money, efficiency in work life, establishing a ground for entrepreneurship constituted the theme of *financial earnings*. The effects of travelling on the surrounding individuals such as creating a positive synergy at work place, finding a spouse, and being more merciful toward the family constituted the theme of *positive externalities*. The theme of *changes in the habits* laid emphases on the topics such as changing current job, friends circle, education life and eating habits; creating a money box for travelling, and changing the luxury consumption habits. Finally the topics such as promoting the country and writing a book were also mentioned in the theme of *other earnings*.

Discussion

This study has been brought to the literature through gathering the experiences of travelers considering that travelling caused significant changes in their lives. The places they have seen, the events they have experienced, the cultures they have learned, the person they have interacted with add a great wealth and experience to them. It has been determined that personal developments are obtained at the end of independent travels (Akkuş, 2019). A lot of benefits in life such as extending social circle, and improving language and communication skills are obtained as a result of travels. It can be asserted that travelers' life perspective has broadened, their life has become enriched and their social capital has increased as a result of the experiences gained (Kervankıran & Bağmancı 2020). In fact, the independent trips causing earnings are referred to as 'university of travel' (Pearce & Foster 2007). For this reason, investigating the travel experiences and earnings of travelers becomes a significant research topic.

As a result of the interviews in this study, different dimensions of travelling were revealed. The patterns derived from the codes and themes of the research were modeled as in Figure 1 and the whole pattern was gathered under the concept of 'Travel Capital'.

Personal Preferences	REASONS TO TRAVEL	Requirements
Exploring		Work-related
Escape		Education-related
Fun		Health-related
Getting to know new cultures		Ethnicity-related
Posting		

MEANING OF TRAVEL

Exploring · Learning and Development

RESULTS OF TRAVELING

Other Earnings	**Learning and Development**	**Changes in Life Philosophy**
.Promoting the country	.Personal Development	.Spiritual Development
.Writing a book	.Gaining Skills	.Changing the Meaning of Life
	.Learning by Experiencing	.Self-discovery
	.Professional Development	.Awareness
Changes in the Habits		**Gaining Social Reputation**
.Changing habits of consumption	**TRAVEL CAPITAL**	.Making Friends
.Changing eating habits		.Guidance
		.Being Respected
Positive Externalities	**Financial Earnings**	**Psychological Earnings**
.Creating a synergy at work place	.Finding New Job Opportunities	.Feeling Happy
.Reflecting positively on the people around us	.Preparing a Ground for Entrepreneurship	.Gaining self-confidence
		.Mental and Physical Serenity

Lifestyle · Interaction
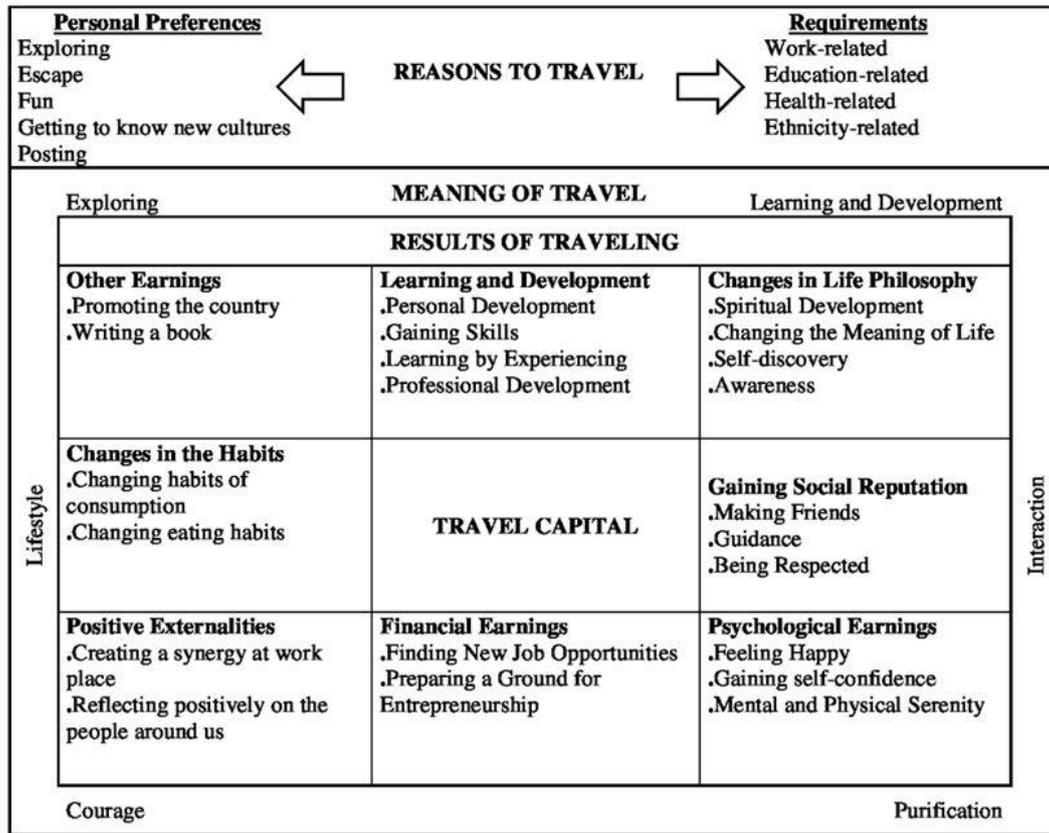
Courage · Purification

Figure 1. Model of Travel Capital

While designing Figure 1, the metaphor of a window was used because for travelers, a new window opens in their life. They have the chance to see new sceneries from this opening window during each travel. When examining Figure 1, firstly, there is a need to have a reason for travelling. Even though the reasons for travelling for people may differ for everyone depending on time and condition, it was tried to reveal the motivations for travelling in accordance with the common responses of the travelers in this study.

The reasons to travel are divided into two categories that are *'personal preferences'* and *'requirements'*. It was noticed that setting out may arise from both some requirements and may be affected by individual status in line with the themes emerging when examining the findings related to the reasons to travel. The personal preferences theme include 5 subthemes; '*exploring*', '*escape*', '*fun*', '*getting to know new cultures*', and '*posting*'. The *'self-discovery and exploration of the surroundings'* code under the subtheme of *exploring* was found to be close in meaning to 'searching for/be up-to-date with novelties' as referred by Cohen (1972), Harman (2014) and Mehmetoğlu (2004) regarding the motivations for travelling because a travel full of discoveries can most of the time bring novelty to the lives of people. In fact external journeys are the profound ones made towards the inner world where the person involved is to take a step for self-realization (Kervankıran & Bağmancı 2020; Söylemez, 2018). A travel may appeal to the hedonic and aesthetic needs of individuals. Owing to travelling, travelers have an enriched life and their motivations of pleasure and entertainment are satisfied (Chen, Prebensen, & Huan, 2008). In addition, among the elements determined as a reason to travel in the other studies, finding the natural beauties in the countryside (Butler & Hannam 2012) and seeing new places (Xiangi, 2013) was

also seen to be compatible with the code of 'being up-to-date with novelties'. The subtheme of *escape* consists of the codes of 'the desire to feel free', 'fulfilling the emptiness feeling' and curiosity'. The code 'curiosity' was also mentioned in a study conducted by Mehmetoğlu (2004) in parallel with the findings of this study.

Cohen (1972) divides travel motivations in two groups as 'searching for novelty' and 'motivation of fear and escape', while Hartman (1988) does this as 'orientation motivations' and 'instincts of escaping'. Escaping can be in the form of running away from daily life and crowds, while it can also occur in the form of avoiding loneliness. On the other hand, orientation can be explained as setting out for a specific purpose, and travelling for gaining power, status and reputation in the society (Harman, 2014). Orientation can also be associated with the utility based approaches mentioned by Kay (2003). As it is seen, the motives of escaping indicated by many researchers were explained similarly in this study as 'escaping from the monotony of life' under the subtheme of *Purification*. The *purification* subtheme expresses detox and the act of escaping from the ordinariness of life based on the participant statements.

As a result of the findings under the subtheme of fun, it can be seen that travel may take place for the purpose of spiritual needs and having fun and being happy such as holiday, travelling or doing sports based on personal preferences. Another theme derived from the participant statements is *'getting to know new cultures'*. Within this theme, the reasons to travel involve 'getting to know new people' and 'tasting local foods'. Likewise, the studies in the literature have reported 'knowing other cultures/new cultures' is as a significant motivator for travelling (Harman, 2014; Richard & Wilson 2004).

The codes of 'showing to others' and 'posting on social media' obtained with the subtheme of posting show that the main motivation for people to travel is associated with the act of gaining appreciation through sharing with others. According to the study conducted by Harman (2014), this motivation is looking for an opportunity to exhibit the skills of travelers and providing experience. Lastly, the other motivators stated in the literature are providing personal development (Mehmetoğlu, 2004; Harman, 2014; Bui, Wilkins, & Lee, 2013); social interaction/socialization (Mehmetoğlu, 2004; Harman, 2014); relaxation (Richard & Wilson, 2004; Harman, 2014); experiencing excitement, increasing knowledge (Richard & Wilson, 2004); escaping from ordinariness (Mehmetoğlu, 2004); experiencing the cosmopolitan structure of the countries being travelled, and increasing cultural capital (Bui, et al., 2013).

The *requirements* theme consists of 4 subthemes; '*work-related requirements*', '*education-related requirements*', '*health-related requirements*' and '*other requirements*'. Requirements can be considered in regard with the requirement-based approaches that explain the travel motivation mentioned by Kay (2003). It is seen that requirements consist of the external factors but not inner factors stemming from the people themselves.

The reasons to travel and the meaning of travel are the two factors that surround the window of the model in Figure 1. What meaning is attributed to travelling after it was associated a reason is reflected on the model. Within the frame of the participant views, travelling is attributed to the meanings such as '*exploring*', '*learning and development*', '*lifestyle*', '*interaction*', '*courage*' and '*purification*'. When examining the participant views about the meaning of travel, some people regard travel as discovering

and seeing new places and some others consider travelling as a way of purification. The meaning of travel differs based on personal needs, interests and mood as well. Individuals may travel for the purpose of meeting their needs or satisfying the feeling of desire for making further progress for themselves. Thus, while some find the chance to learn about the topics they feel insufficient during their travel, others obtain the chances where they can improve themselves and their relationships and know about cultures. Finally, those who have the exact pleasure of travelling make it a lifestyle and include it in their lives.

Figure 1 shows results/earnings of traveling as window segments. These earnings are divided into eight different categories; *'leaning and development', changes in the life philosophy', 'gaining social reputation', 'psychological earnings,' 'financial earnings', 'positive externalities', 'changes in the habits',* and *'other earnings'*.

The learning and development superordinate theme among the results of travelling includes four themes *'personal development', 'gaining skills', 'living by seeing/experiencing',* and *'professional development'*. The theme of personal development has two subthemes, *'maturation'* and *'breaking down the prejudices'*. Personal development is referred as an outcome of independent travels in different studies in the literature (Pearce & Foster, 2007; Miao, 2016; Akkuş, 2019). On the other hand, the theme of gaining skills consists of 6 themes, '*improvement in conceptual skill*', '*improvement in skill of human relations*', '*improvement in communication skill*', '*improvement in organizational skills*', '*improvement in technical skill*' and '*improving in the skill of coping with difficulties*'. Likewise, in the literature, it is indicated that independent travelers have similar contributions under 8 titles, '*problem solving and thinking skills*', '*interpersonal relationships/social skills*', '*information literacy and management skills*', '*learning skills*', '*adaptation skills*', '*social and cultural awareness skills*', '*management of resources*' and '*personal qualifications*' (Pearce & Foster 2007). In addition, the study conducted by Akkuş (2019) it was found that their awareness and communication skills increased.

Travels within the scope of learning and development theme create an instructive and improving difference in people, make them gain skills related to conceptual, communicative, organizational and human relations; enable them to develop a vision, make them mature and lead to changes in their life perspectives. They also contribute to their coping with the challenges and well time management.

The themes of '*spiritual development*', '*changes in the meaning of life*', '*self-discovery*' and '*awareness*' are derived under the superordinate theme of changes in the life philosophy. Travels taking place within the frame of the theme of changes in the life philosophy pave the way for growing spiritually, having a differing meaning of life, self-discovery and having an increased awareness about this circle.

Under the superordinate theme of gaining social reputation, there are 3 themes, '*making friends*', '*guiding/pioneering',* and '*being respected*'. Within the frame of gaining social reputation theme, people are lead to expand their social circle and be considered as a guide by their circle as well as being respected.

Under the superordinate theme of psychological earnings, there are '*living the moment/feeling happy*', '*gaining self-confidence*' and '*mental and physical serenity*'. Within the frame of psychological earnings theme, people are lead to focus on living the moment, get pleasure from life, become self-

confident, have an improved physical and mental condition and have an increased well-being. In the literature, it is stated that travels cause individuals to be relaxed, get pleasure and have an improved health and life conditions (Connell, 2006).

Under the theme of *financial earnings,* results such as creating new business, obtaining financial gains, having an efficient work life and being an entrepreneur are obtained. Within the scope of *positive externalities,* benefits such as finding a spouse, having a positive synergy in the work place and having increased compassion in family relationships are observed. Furthermore, travelers have earnings such as changing eating habits, making differences in education life, promoting the country they live and writing a book.

The results of travelling is an earning and experience for traveler compared to ones who do not and in this study this is called as 'Travel Capital'. Travel Capital can be defined as the whole of the material and spiritual experiences that are gained together with the destinations travelled, people encountered and experiences gone through for people, who set out for a reason and complete their journey in a conscious way by attributing a meaning to it.

Conclusion

Within the scope of the study, the phenomenon of travelling was examined in depth and the study was carried out with qualitative method through the travelers having experience related to the phenomenon. In this way, the reasons, meaning and results of travelling were addressed. At this point, the most important issue is that the results of travelling provide earnings to people themselves and to their circle. With these earnings provided, a new type of capital (travel capital) was conceptualized based on the classification of capitals by Bourdieu within the frame of the research. The concept of travel capital was supported with the model put forward emerging as the conclusion of the study. Thanks to this, how travelling can have benefits for people and surrounding as a capital was presented.

In the literature, there is no study revealing that the utility emerging as a consequence of the travels of travelers and those making traveling a lifestyle are referred as a capital. In the literature, the qualification of 'mobility capital' was made within the frame of social capital in connection with the elements of cultural and economic capitals solely (Kaufmann, et al., 2004). Travel becomes an object of social knowledge and reflects on the daily life (Kervankıran & Bağmancı 2020). Therefore, with this study, the emerging utility was named as 'Travel Capital'. Thus, in the sociology literature, a new type of capital was discovered based on the capital classification of Bourdieu. This is the first research article made in the field of travel capital.

Inquiries were made in the study regarding the meaning of the phenomenon of travel, and the depths of this phenomenon were tried to be discovered. However, the major limitation of the study is not making generalizations as required by the nature of qualitative research. The findings revealed involve the subjective opinions of the participants and the subjective comments of the researchers.

It is recommended to conduct scientific researches for increasing the depth and comprehensibility of this concept, and strengthening its foundations. Furthermore, it is suggested to arrange programs

making the travel culture more widespread in order for the respective institutions and bodies to benefit from these advantages of travelling.

Author Contributions

1. Author: 20% 2. Author: 20% 3. Author: 20% 4. Author: 20% 5. Author: 20% contributed to the study

Conflict of Interest Statement

There is no financial conflict of interest with any institution, organization, person related to our article titled " Travel Capital: A Qualitative Study on Traveler Earnings" and there is no conflict of interest between the author.

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Genişletilmiş Özet

Seyahat, bireylerin zihninde ya da toplumda bilinmeyeni anlamlandırabilmek için bir amaç doğrultusunda ve özgür bir şekilde yola çıkma niyetiyle yaptıkları yolculuklardır (Uğraş, 2012). Seyahatler kişilere sosyal ağların oluşması ve bu çevrenin genişlemesi için iyi bir ortam sunmaktadır. Morgan ve arkadaşları (2012) seyahatin kişilerin sağlık ve iyi oluşlarını geliştirdiğini ifade etmişlerdir. Gezginlerin gördükleri yerler, yaşadıkları olaylar, öğrendikleri kültürler, etkileşimde bulundukları kişiler onlara büyük bir zenginlik ve deneyim katmaktadır. Bağımsız seyahatler sonunda kişisel gelişimlerin sağlandığı tespit edilmiştir (Akkuş, 2019). Seyahatler sonucunda sosyal çevrenin genişletilmesi, dil ve iletişim becerilerinin geliştirilmesi gibi hayatta pek çok fayda sağlanmaktadır. Kazanılan deneyimler sonucunda gezginlerin hayata bakış açılarının genişlediği, yaşamlarının zenginleştiği ve sosyal sermayelerinin arttığı söylenebilir (Kervankıran & Bağmancı 2020). Bu nedenle gezginlerin seyahat deneyimlerini ve kazançlarını araştırmak önemli bir araştırma konusu haline gelmektedir.

Dünyanın tek bir kentten ibaret olmadığını anlamak; yerelin sığlığından uzaklaşıp evrensele ulaşmakla mümkün olabilir. Dolayısıyla bu çalışmanın konusu, sosyolojik temelde ve daha önceki çalışmalara dayalı olarak seyahat kazançları ve seyahatlerin yarattığı sermayedir. Bu çalışmanın amacını; insanları seyahat etmeye iten faktörlerin, kişilerin seyahate yükledikleri anlamların ve yolculuklar sonucunda elde edilen kazançların keşfedilmesi oluşturmaktadır. Araştırmada nitel araştırma desenlerinden fenomenoloji yaklaşımı kullanılmıştır. Araştırmanın katılımcılarını belirlemek için amaçlı örnekleme yöntemlerinden biri olan kartopu örnekleme tekniği kullanılmıştır. Katılımcıların görüşlerini almak adına yarı yapılandırılmış görüşme formu kullanılmış olup, bu kapsamda yöneltilen araştırma soruları şu şekildedir: (1) Seyahat etmek sizin için ne ifade ediyor? (2) Seyahat etme nedenleriniz nelerdir? (3) Sizce seyahat etmenin sonuçları nelerdir?. Çalışmada seyahatin yaşamlarında önemli değişikliklere neden olduğunu düşünen 18 gezgin ile derinlemesine görüşmeler gerçekleştirilmiştir. Araştırmada betimsel yorumlayıcı analiz uygulanmıştır. Ses kayıtlarını farklı araştırmacılar defalarca dinlemiş ve deşifre etmiştir. Deşifre edilen veriler yazıya dökülerek kodlama işlemi yapılmıştır. Kodlamanın ardından anlam bakımından ilişkili ve birbirine benzer ifadeler ortak bir formda birleştirilerek temalandırma yapılmıştır. Analizler yapılırken nitel bir yazılım olan Maxqda Programı kullanılmıştır.

Araştırmaya katılan gezginlerin ifadeleri incelendiğinde seyahatin anlamı, seyahatin nedenleri ve seyahatin sonuçları olmak üzere üç farklı üst tema elde edilmiştir. Araştırmanın kod ve temalarından elde edilen örüntüler modellenmiş ve örüntünün tamamı 'Seyahat Sermayesi' kavramı altında toplanmıştır. Araştırma sonuçlarına dayanılarak pencere metaforunun kullanıldığı seyahat sermayesi modeli çalışmada sunulmuştur. Burada, öncelikle seyahat etmek için bir nedene ihtiyaç duyulduğu vurgusu yer almaktadır. İnsanların seyahat etme nedenleri zamana ve duruma göre herkes için farklılık gösterse de bu çalışmada gezginlerin ortak yanıtları doğrultusunda seyahat etme motivasyonları ortaya konulmaya çalışılmıştır. Seyahat etme nedenlerine ilişkin

elde edilen veriler; kişisel tercihler ve gereklilikler olmak üzere iki tema altında toplanmıştır. Kişisel tercihler temasında bireyin kişisel seçimi atfedilmiş ve bu tema beş alt temaya ayrılmıştır; keşfetmek, kaçmak, eğlenmek, yeni kültürler tanımak ve paylaşım yapmak. Gereklilikler temasında ise bireysel faktörlerden çok dış faktörlerin etkilerine ağırlık verilmiş ve bu tema dört alt temadan oluşmuştur; işle ilgili gereklilikler, eğitimle ilgili gereklilikler, sağlıkla ilgili gereklilikler ve etnik kökenle ilgili gereklilikler. Katılımcılara seyahatin kendileri için ne ifade ettiği sorularak elde edilen veriler seyahatin anlamı üst temasında toplanmıştır. Bu tema keşfetme, öğrenme ve gelişme, yaşam tarzı, cesaret, arınma ve etkileşim olmak üzere altı temadan oluşmaktadır. Katılımcılara yöneltilen seyahat etmenin sonuçlarına yönelik alınan cevaplar analiz edildiğinde ise sekiz temanın ortaya çıktığı tespit edilmiştir. Bunlar; öğrenme ve gelişme, yaşam felsefesindeki değişimler, sosyal itibar kazanma, psikolojik kazançlar, maddi kazançlar, olumlu dışsallıklar, alışkanlıklardaki değişiklikler ve diğer kazançlar şeklindedir. Öğrenme ve gelişme temasında seyahat etmenin öğretici ve geliştirici yönlerine daha fazla odaklanılmıştır. Öğrenme ve gelişme teması, kişisel gelişim, beceri kazanma, yaşayarak öğrenme ve mesleki gelişim alt temalarından oluşmaktadır. Yaşam felsefesindeki değişimler teması dört alt temadan oluşmaktadır; ruhsal gelişim, hayatın anlamındaki değişimler, kendini keşfetme ve farkındalık. Toplumsal itibar kazanma teması ise arkadaş edinmek, yol göstermek ve saygı görmek şeklinde üç alt temadan oluşurken; psikolojik kazanç teması da mutlu hissetme, özgüven kazanma, zihinsel ve fiziksel dinginlik alt temalarından oluşmaktadır.

Elde edilen bulgular neticesinde; çalışmada seyahat olgusu derinlemesine incelenmiş ve seyahatin sebepleri, anlamı ve sonuçları ele alınmıştır. Bu noktada en önemli konu, seyahatin sonuçlarının kişilerin kendilerine ve çevrelerine kazanç sağlamasıdır. Sağlanan bu kazançlarla, araştırma çerçevesinde Bourdieu'nün sermaye sınıflandırmasına dayalı olarak yeni bir sermaye türü olarak seyahat sermayesi kavramsallaştırılmıştır. Seyahat sermayesi, bir amaçla yola çıkan ve yolculuklarını bilinçli bir şekilde anlam yükleyerek tamamlayan insanların seyahat ettikleri yerler, karşılaştıkları insanlar ve yaşadıkları deneyimlerle birlikte kazandıkları maddi ve manevi deneyimlerin bütünü olarak tanımlanabilir. Çalışma sonucunda ortaya çıkan model ile seyahat sermayesi kavramı desteklenmiştir. Bu sayede seyahat etmenin bir sermaye olarak insanlara ve çevreye nasıl fayda sağlayabileceği ortaya konulmuştur.