



## Investigation the Levels of Moral Distancing of Wrestling Athletes in Terms of Some Demographic Changes (Sample of U20 Athletes)

“Güreş Sporcularının Ahlaki Uzaklaşma Düzeylerinin Bazı Demografik Değişiklikler Açısından İncelenmesi (20 Yaş Altı Sporcu Örneği)”

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### RESEARCH ARTICLE

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### ABSTRACT

**Aim:** This study, it is aimed to examine the moral distancing levels of wrestling athletes in terms of some demographic variables.

**Material and Method:** The sample of the study consisted of 190 athletes in the U20 category, including 130 men and 60 women. The research is a quantitative study and was carried out in the descriptive screening model. The SPSS 22 package program was used for statistical analysis of the data in the research. In the study, the distribution of normality of the collected data was examined and the normal distribution of the data was determined. In this respect, statistical analysis was performed using the t-Test and One-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) tests to determine the differentiation between the variables

**Results:** Statistically significant differences could not be found when the wrestling athletes' levels of alienation from morality were examined in terms of some demographic variables in this study (p>.05).

**Conclusions:** As a result of the research, it was determined that wrestling athletes' alienation from morality was at a low level when examined by looking at the total score of the "depravity scale".

**Keywords:** Moral Distancing, U20 (Under 20 Years Old), Wrestling.

### ÖZET

**Amaç:** Bu çalışmada güreş sporcularının ahlaktan uzaklaşma düzeylerinin bazı demografik değişkenler açısından incelenmesi amaçlanmıştır

**Materyal ve Metod:** Araştırmanın örneklemini U20 kategorisinde güreş branşlarındaki 130'u erkek 60'ı kadın olmak üzere toplamda 190 sporcudan oluşmaktadır. Araştırmada, nicel araştırma yöntem tercih edilmiş olup desen olarak ise betimsel tarama modeli kullanılmıştır. Verilerin istatistiksel analizi için SPSS 22 paket programı kullanılmıştır. Araştırmada toplanılan verilerin ilk olarak normallik dağılımı incelenmiş ve verilerin normal dağılımı tespit edilmiştir. Bu doğrultuda değişkenler arasındaki farklılaşmayı belirlemede t-Testi ve Tek Yönlü Varyans Analizi (ANOVA) testleri kullanılarak istatistiksel analiz yapılmıştır.

**Bulgular:** Güreşçilerin ahlaka yabancılaşma düzeyleri bazı demografik değişkenler açısından incelendiğinde, istatistiksel olarak anlamlı farklılıklar bulunamamıştır (p>.05).

**Sonuç:** Araştırma sonuç olarak, güreş sporcularının ahlaktan uzaklaşma düzeyleri "ahlaktan uzaklaşma ölçeği" toplam puanına bakılarak incelendiğinde düşük seviyede olduğu tespit edilmiştir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Ahlaktan Uzaklaşma, Güreş, U20 (20 Yaş Altı)

## INTRODUCTION

Sports are important for public health. The concept of morality in sports, as it is important in terms of health, has an important place in sports. The fact that sports are performed among various age groups and masses brings with it the importance of the moral dimension of sports.

Morality as a word is of Arabic origin. When examined in terms of meaning, it is described as temperament and character. A virtuous and moral individual should have all the positive characteristics and basically include these operational behaviors (Hançerlioğlu, 2010). There are those who accept the existence of a universal criterion for man's ability to distinguish between good and evil within the framework of his conscience, or there are opinions that think that this is not the case. From the past to the present, all these debates seem to focus on whether there is a universal morality (Dedeoğlu, 2014).

The fact that sport has a universal structure brings along social norms and rules (Yapan, 1992). In terms of universality in sports, common norms and moral rules should be included, and athletes should act according to the moral norms of sports within the framework of sports ethics (Turan, 2020). When we look at sports branches, each sports branch contains rules within itself (Erdemli, 2006). In this sense, besides being considered as a set of specific uses and principles, the sport requires compliance as a whole, both in terms of competition and in terms of universal moral rules (Boxill, 2003).

It is seen that many athletes continue their sports life, starting at an early age and including their adolescence period. During this period, individuals are in a period of emotional, physical, psychological, and social development and reincarnation (Derman, 2008). Individuals between the ages of 10 and 19 are accepted by the World Health Organization as being in the 'adolescence period'. (WHO, 2003). In the adolescence classification made by UNICEF, individuals between the ages of 15 and 19 are in the late adolescence period (UNICEF, 2011).

The profiles of the athletes in different sports branches and the way they perceive the sports environment they have to differ from each other (Arıburun and Aşçı, 2005). The fact that the athletes earn excessively and expect too much from themselves causes the emergence of various disturbing and disturbing behaviors in the athletes (Tanriverdi, 2012). In addition to aiming to provide individuals with features such as friendship, fraternity and fair-play within the basic structure of sports, in some cases the opposite can be experienced. In terms of the concept of moving away from morality in sports, acting with the logic that everything will be done to win brings along many negative situations (Eroğlu, Ünveren, Ayna and Müftüoğlu, 2020).

Today, it is seen that many institutions and organizations make serious profits through sports with different income items such as sports, TV broadcasting revenues, production and sales of sports equipment, and sports tourism. For all these reasons, the sport has become a professional occupation by leaving an amateur activity besides having a good time and staying healthy. (Tanriverdi, 2012). As a result, it is seen that it has become an effective and wide social institution in the universal dimension (Aydın, Demir and Yetim, 2003).

There can be many situations that trigger the athlete's departure from morality in the sportive sense, especially due to the character and personality differences that are unique to her/him (Türksoy, Güvendi and Toros, 2019). The role of the training received from the trainer and the family of the athlete in displaying ethical behavior in sports is great. Education has a critical importance in the training of good athletes and coaches in terms of sports ethics (Yıldıran, 2005). Especially the fact that the training periods of the athletes generally coincide with the late adolescence period is thought to have even more critical importance in the moral behavior of the athletes.

It is seen that moral collapse, which is increasing in the developing and globalizing world, also spreads to the field of sports (Yapan, 1992). Considering that the moral dimension of sports is ignored

by various circles, in this study, it is important to examine the immorality in sports of wrestlers in a certain age group and in a critical period in terms of development, in order to shed light on the immorality of the athletes in the critical period.

## MATERIAL AND METHOD

### Research Model

In this study; A descriptive survey model, one of the quantitative research designs, was used in order to examine the morality of the athletes in terms of various variables.

### Participant

The sample of the research consists of a total of 190 wrestling athletes under the age of 20, 130 boys and 60 girls, under the age of 20, who play sports in various clubs in Turkey and actively participate in competitions.

### Data Collection Tool

In order to collect data in the research, the “Avoidance Scale in Sports” developed by Boardley and Kavussanu (2008) and adapted into Turkish by Gürpınar (2015) was used. Depending on the principle of voluntary participation, the data were sent to the participants online through club trainers and individually, and usable feedback was obtained from 198 participants. The data belonging to 190 of the participants who were returned were deemed worthy to be included in the study.

### Analysis of Data

In the analysis of the data, firstly, the normality distribution (skewness-Kurtosis values) was examined. When it was determined that the data were normally distributed, the Independent T-Test was used for independent groups and one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used. As a result of the analyzes made, the significance level was checked ( $p < .05$ ).

## RESULTS

*Tablo 1. Participant information included in the research sample*

According to Demographic Variables		f	%
Gender	Male	130	68.4
	Female	60	31.6
Year	12-13	24	12.6
	14-15	43	22.6
	16-17	74	38.9
	18-19	49	25.8
Size	Altı-150 Cm	22	11.6
	151-165 Cm	58	30.5
	166 - 170 Cm	46	24.2
	171- 180 Cm	53	27.9
	180 Cm - Üzeri	11	5.8
Weight	Below-55kg	70	36.8
	56-60 kg	21	11.1
	61-70 kg	44	23.2
	71-80 kg	32	16.8
	81-Above	23	12.1
Education Status	Continuing Education	135	60
	Graduate	90	40
City	Sakarya	18	9.5
	Şanlıurfa	14	7.4
	Diyarbakır	15	7.9
	Kahramanmaraş	19	10

	Konya	15	7.9
	Düzce	16	8.4
	Rize	8	4.2
	Samsun	18	9.5
	Yalova	5	2.6
	Adana	9	4.7
	Tokat	20	10.5
	Elazığ	14	7.4
	Gaziantep	10	5.3
	Hakkâri	9	4.7
Frequency of Exercising	Twice a day every day	10	5.3
	6 days a week	70	36.8
	4 or 5 days a week	59	31.1
	2 or 3 days a week	38	20
	Once a day	13	6.8
Total		190	100

**Tablo 2.** The t-Test results of the athletes' moral distancing scores in sports according to the gender variable

Gender	n	$\bar{X}$	Ss	t	p
Male	130	23.13	8.48	-.168	.866
Female	60	23.35	8.02		

When Table 2 is examined, no significant difference could be found in the sportsman's divergence from morality in sports according to the gender variable ( $p>.05$ ).

**Tablo 3.** Anova test results of athletes' divergence from morality in sports according to year variable

Year	n	$\bar{X}$	Ss	f	p
12-13	24	20.62	10.11	2.468	.064
14-15	43	25.30	7.79		
16-17	74	23.85	7.81		
18-19	49	21.63	8.19		
Total	190	23.20	8.32		

When Table 3 is examined, no significant difference could be found in the sportsman's divergence from morality in sports according to the gender variable ( $p>.05$ ).

**Tablo 4.** Anova test results according to the height variable of the athletes' alienation from morality in sports scores

Height	n	$\bar{X}$	Ss	f	p
Below-150 Cm	22	24.13	8.00	.939	.442
151-165 Cm	58	23.10	8.85		
166 - 170 Cm	46	21.86	8.14		
171- 180 Cm	53	23.28	8.19		
180 Cm - Above	11	27.00	7.33		
Total	190	23.20	8.32		

When Table 4 is examined, no significant difference could be found in the sportsman's divergence from morality scores according to the height variable ( $p>.05$ ).

**Table 5.** Anova test results according to the body weight variable of the athletes' depravity scores in sport

Height	n	$\bar{X}$	Ss	f	p
Below-150 Cm	70	24.74	8.32	1.905	.111
151-165 Cm	21	20.95	7.35		
166 - 170 Cm	44	21.84	8.56		
171- 180 Cm	32	21.71	8.27		
180 Cm - Above	23	25.21	8.08		
Total	190	23.20	8.32		

When Table 5 is examined, no significant difference could be found in the sportsman's divergence from morality scores in terms of height variable ( $p>.05$ ).

**Table 6.** T-Test results of athletes' divergence from morality in sports according to educational status variable

Education Status	n	$\bar{X}$	Ss	t	p
Continuing Education	167	23.31	8.33	.494	.620
Graduate	23	22.39	8.38		

When Table 6 is examined, no significant difference could be found in the scores of the athletes' divergence from morality in sports according to the variable of educational status ( $p>.05$ ).

**Table 7.** Anova test results according to the variable of sportsman's alienation from morality in sports, depending on which side they do sports.

City	n	$\bar{X}$	Ss	f	p
Sakarya	18	21.77	9.59	1.275	.232
Şanlıurfa	14	25.14	5.88		
Diyarbakır	15	24.00	9.27		
Kahramanmaraş	19	27.31	7.62		
Konya	15	20.86	7.28		
Düzce	16	20.12	7.15		
Rize	8	24.25	8.01		
Samsun	18	22.11	9.47		
Yalova	5	19.20	8.92		
Adana	9	23.11	9.54		
Tokat	20	23.25	7.81		
Elazığ	14	23.21	8.96		
Gaziantep	10	28.40	7.87		
Hakkâri	9	20.00	7.05		
Total	190	23.20	8.32		

When Table 7 is examined, no significant difference could be found in the sportsman's divergence from morality scores in terms of the variable of which sports they do sports ( $p>0.05$ ).

**Tablo 8.** Anova test results according to the variable of frequency of doing sports, of the sportsmen's disobedience scores in sports

Frequency of Exercising	n	$\bar{X}$	Ss	f	p
2 a day every day	10	24.90	10.21	1.213	.307
6 days a week	70	24.15	8.09		
4 or 5 days a week	59	21.50	8.21		
2 or 3 days a week	38	24.18	8.52		
Once a day	13	21.53	7.57		
Total	190	23.20	8.32		

When Table 8 is examined, no significant difference was found in terms of how often the athletes do sports in sports ( $p>0.05$ ).

### DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

As a result, a statistically significant relationship could not be found when the wrestling athletes' levels of abstinence from moralizing were examined in terms of some demographic variables in this study. Durmaz, Şener, and İmamoğlu, (2019) in their study on sports faculty students' tendency to move away from morality, it was found that sports faculty students had a low tendency to move away from morality. This result is similar to our current study. This result shows us that individuals who play sports from a young age can adapt to the moral rules of sports in line with various observations, experiences and education.

Eroglu et al. (2020). In the study they carried out on the Levels of Mental Resilience in Sports and Divergence in Sports of Students at the Faculty of Sports Sciences, it was determined that the scores of the participants in the sports morality scale differed significantly in favor of male participants according to the gender variable.

Durmaz et al. (2019) In their study on the Distancing Tendencies of Sports Faculty Students, no statistically significant difference was found between the student-athletes' moral distancing scores according to gender. Turan, (2020) As a result of their study on Secondary School Students Participating in School Sports on the State of Divergence in Sports, a significant difference was found in favor of girls in terms of gender. In addition, in terms of the school type variable, the average scores of the students studying at vocational high schools were found to be significantly higher than the average scores of students studying at Anatolian and imam hatip high schools. This result differs from our current study. Bunun sebebi olarak mevcut çalışmada yer alan örneklem grubunun aktif sporculardan oluşmasından dolayı spora yönelik ahlaki bilinçlerinin yüksek olduğu düşünülmektedir. Turan, (2021) Late Adolescence: In their study on Moral Distancing, it was determined that there was no significant difference between the ages in the total scores of moral distancing. Similar results are found in our study. Therefore, the result determined is similar to our study.

Turan, (2021). Late Adolescence: As a result of their study on Moral Distancing, it was determined that the moral distancing scores of men were significantly higher than the scores of women in late adolescence; Paciello, Fida, Tramontano, Lupinetti, and Caprara, (2008). As a result of their studies, it was determined that there was an increase in moral distancing from the age of 14 to 16, but there was a serious decrease in moral distancing from the age of 16 to 20. These results show that moral distancing behaviors are exhibited at a lower level in late adolescence. Turan, (2021). In the present study, although there was a value close to a significant difference between age groups ( $p=.064$ ), no significant difference could be found between age groups.

Şeker, (2020) In a study conducted at Harran University on the social skills, aggression and sports ethics levels of university students who do and do not do sports, a significant difference was found between the levels of alienation from morality between those who do sports and those who do not. According to this result, it has been determined that those who do sports have higher levels of alienation from morality. When we look at the same study, it was concluded that the students studying at the physical education and sports school have higher levels of alienation from morality than the students studying at other faculties.

As a result of the research, it was determined that the tendency of the participants to move away from morality was at a low level.

### Suggestions

- ✓ In sports, the concept of morality should be taught to athletes from a young age and it should be ensured that the spirit of friendship and brotherhood in sports can act in a way that is approachable within the framework of respect to the opponent and fair-play.
- ✓ Especially professional and experienced athletes should display moral attitudes that will set an example for the athletes who come after them, both in and out of the field.

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