

THE DEVELOPMENT STUDY OF NATIONAL IDENTITY PERCEPTION SCALE

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ABSTRACT

282 university students were chosen as the study group of this study that aims to develop a scale measuring perceptions regarding national identity. In the development phase of draft scale, after the examination of existing perception scales and literature on national identity, drafts items were written and sent to expert judges. In the phase of scale development, 50 five point Likert items including positive and negative perceptions were written and item total and item remainder correlation coefficients were calculated. On the basis of those analyses, items that were not significant were deleted and factor analysis was carried out on the remaining 40 items to investigate construct validity of the scale. Based on this analysis, a 21-item scale whose two factors account for 52% of the total variance was obtained. Through exploratory factor analysis, the scale took its final form and the Cronbach-alpha coefficient of the scale was found to be 0,93. Analysis showed that the scale has three factors and items' factor loadings range from 0.45 to 0.76. It was found that the National Identity Perception Scale is for measuring the national identity perceptions of university students.

Key Words: National Identity, National Identity Perception Scale, Perception Scale.

INTRODUCTION

Nationalist movements that emerged after the French Revolution have turned the twentieth century into a process of nationalization. Therefore, the concepts of "national identity" and "national state" have become the most frequently discussed concepts of the process of globalization.

During the French Revolution, bourgeoisie grounded the existence of nation on state and defined it as society who lived on land whose borders were determined beforehand and then joint in the historical process. With the emergence of nation-state, national identity of citizens living within national borders began to be the most important focus of identity while the religious and ethnic identities that had been important have lost their previous function. State pursued policies to gather all citizens under a single identity. The tool used for gathering people under a national identity was national language and culture (Şen, 2004).

The most important factor distinguishing societies is cultural differences. Cultural differences are composed of different lifestyles and relationships. People differ by social characteristics while living in the communities they feel they belong to. They find place for themselves in this homogenized society. In a narrow sense, an individual who differ from others in the community in terms of a variety of physical, social, intellectual properties and perceptions owns an individual identity in the community in which s/he lives and becomes a personality.

Identity is, first of all, a concept unique to human being. There are two components that constitute identity. The first one is recognition and identification while the second one is the sense of belonging. Recognition and identification are related to how an individual is recognized by the society and how he defines himself. The tool for this is language and culture. Belonging comes out when an individual feels included to any social group (Suavi,1999). That is, identity or personality means how an individual or society is recognized and how much value is appraised by others. One's identity is the showcase that is personally and painstakingly built for others. A variety of indicators including bodily characteristics, intellectual backgrounds and behaviors are the determinants of individual identity (Tural, 1994).

Identity is basically one's realization of the fact that he is a unique, original and free entity equipped with some creative abilities. Human is a social being and while living in a community, he explores his identity in the community and tries to build it (Onat, 2009). This viewpoint specifies the social perspective of identity.

Identity is a dynamic formation shaped by expectations ascribed to social roles in the process of socialization. The sense of belonging is effective on this formation to a large extent. However, when the identity is only shaped by the sense of belonging, it brings about individuals without identities. Identity and belonging that are two closely related concepts are full of contradictions. While revealing his identity, one does not compromise on creativity and originality, one who voice his extreme loyalty to the community that he belongs to may shift away from his identity and personality in addition to losing his creativity and originality since people who have extreme loyalty to a certain group adopt the conscious of feeling in the same way and assimilation. The necessities of individual characteristics are of secondary importance for those people. In fact, the need for the sense of belonging and individual necessities should be fulfilled equitably (Erkan, <http://kozadergisi.com>).

Meaning universe that is shaped by the authority in social area will enable individuals to have different encodings and by this way, identity will not only be an ontological identity but exist in a formation with a social and historical background. Yet, the construction of identities uses materials from "the history, geography, biology, productive and production-directed institutions, collective memory, personal fantasies, power devices, and religious revelation. However, individuals, social groups and communities process all these materials and rearrange the meaning of all these material based on the social structure in which they live, social conditions resulting from space / time frame and cultural projects" (as cited in Yanık, 2013: 228,229).

From a different angle, Herper states that identity is formed by a variety of environments, and some social institutions, particularly by society and adaptation to them influences identity. For example, it is specified that by adapting to communication tools and the effects of media, we create social worlds and identity is formed in this context. Types of music people listen to, the fashion magazines they choose reflect the personality traits of those people. Herper indicates that communication, fashion magazines, other means of communication, media sources and the internet that we always encounter in the social world shape our identity in this manner. Social identities are constructed in this process (<http://www.sagepub.com>).

Erkal who points out the important role of family, friends, school and work on identity formation states that people acquire values and behaviors related to their own cultural environment via formal and informal education. Erkal attaches special importance to today's media in addition to those because according to him, while media that nowadays shrink the world may contribute to the development, recognition and enforcement of cultural identity, it may also cause the identity get obscured and discussed unnecessarily (as cited in Gelekçi, 2011).

Nation is the name of a community of people who share history, territory, common myths and historical memory, public culture of a mass, a common economy and common legal rights and duties. Nation, like ethnicity, is a community with common myths and memories (Kıdıraliyev, 2007).

There are some properties distinguish all nations throughout history and enable identification of a nation among others. All those properties unique to each nation constitutes the concept of "National Identity". National identity is an expression of belonging to a national culture. Individuals own the identity of a culture they belong to. National identity is, on the other hand, refers to all material and spiritual values that constitute the whole nation life. As national culture constitutes national identity, all elements and values in culture determines national identity. Language, religion, flag, history, homeland, government, lifestyle, architecture, music, customs and traditions are the essential elements of national identity (Eker, 2009).

Nation-states must also give an identity to the territory on which they live. History enables those territories turn into homeland and attribution of identities to them. On the condition that there is history on a piece of land, it becomes homeland. It is history that gives identity to both the community living in a nation-state and the territory on which people live (Şivgin, 2009, 42).

National identity is closely associated with other ethnic, political, social, economic, geostrategic, etc. identities. Therefore, when national identity is considered, it is naturally necessary to examine the ethnic and general history, political and economic situation, social structure and geography of a nation or nation-state (Kidıraliyev, 2007). Accordingly, identity is a reality undergoing constant change, reproduced and “always in the state of formation” in the historical process (Gökalp, 2004: 64).

According to Tural, national identity is the sum of indicators that a group of people create in accordance to their wish regarding how to be seen, accepted by other communities. National identity is based on the common denominator called national culture. Each national identity is the highest level affinity indicator of a society. Each national identity is the sum of nationality based values and behaviors that rooted in history and religion based values and behaviors (Tural, 1994).

National identity and the nation are complex constructs that are composed of many interrelated ethnic, cultural, territorial, economic and legal-political elements. They signify bonds of solidarity among members of communalities united by shared memories, myths and traditions that may or may not find expression in states of their own but are extremely different from the purely legal and bureaucratic ties of the state (Smith, 1991: 15).

In order for the society to internalize national symbols and values, it is aimed to deeply attribute events, symbols and historical figures in the collective memory to masses. Particularly by reflecting on national education and cultural policies via tools such as military and mobilizing and supporting intellectuals, it is aimed to bring about citizens with an upper identity. In order to get society and identified cultural values in to the same melting pot, educational and cultural institutions and policies of the state take action to this end. Particularly a public and mass education system has been quiet effective in national identity formation. In fact, this formation is based on the effort to educate. Via education and instruction studies, it has been attempted consolidate the homogeneous identity that will be formed on the basis of otherization, religion in particular. Another important point about identity formation is the constantly strong emphasis on integrity and eternity. Formation of national identity is roughly seen as a phenomenon that can be achieved through creation of another, a national language, a mass education system and a common history and nationalization of industry (Yazar, 2013).

Perhaps the most significant function of national identity in terms of politics is legitimizing common legal rights and duties of legal institutions that define personality and values unique to a nation and reflect the ancient traditions and customs of a community. Today, national identity has become the basic reference point in terms of the legitimacy of the social order and solidarity. National identities also perform more intimate, internal functions for individuals in the community. The most obvious function is socialization of individuals as “nationality” and “citizens”. Today, this is achieved through mandatory, standard public education systems By creating a repertoire of shared values, symbols and traditions, nation is referred again for establishing a social bond between individuals and classes of individuals. Via symbols such as flag, currency, starter, uniforms, monuments; common heritage and cultural proximity are reminded to community members and sense of common identity and belonging are strengthened. Nation becomes a ‘faith boat’ group that is able to overcome obstacles and take on hardship. Finally, a sense of national identity provides a powerful means of defining and locating individual selves in the world, through the prism of the collective personality and its distinctive culture (Smith, 1991: 17)

It has become important to build national identity and highlight the unique properties of the community to reinforce it and emphasize the exact and sharp differences between "us" and "others". In communities whose priority in the modernization process is the acquisition of a national identity, particularly in European countries, it has been observed that a new ‘us’ concept is constituted based on almost only the definition of ‘other’ (Şimşek, Alaslan; 2014). There are many theories and views regarding formation and development of national identity. One of them belongs to Anthony Smith. According to Smith, “nations are long-term entities that is constantly introduced and created and require ethnic origin, fatherland, heroes and golden ages.” Those

components that are quiet difficult to change but at the same time more flexible in terms of meaning, play important role on creation of collective culture and national identity (Smith, 2004: 196). According to Benedict Anderson who has important views about national identity formation, nations are "imagined communities". In this formation, from politicians to intellectuals everyone has inconsiderable share and archaeological studies, monuments, museums and maps, and more importantly, press and printing that is "a part of the pictorial count of state heritage" have important role. In addition, Anderson states "readily forgotten tragedies" constantly remembered and / reminded during the formation of national identity and kept alive have important role in construction of "national extraction".

National identity involves both cultural and political identity and it is placed in cultural and political communities as well. This is important because the formation of a national identity means redrawing the lines of a map or a political movement that is the change of the composition of a state. According to the "modernist" image of nation, what creates national identity is nationalism. Nationalism, which is a doctrine invented in the 19th century in Europe, is the movement of nation members to preserve their national identity and their activities to have political freedom (Kıdıraliyeva, 2007).

Basic Elements of National Identity

Herskovits (1948) and Huntington (1996), who define four basic factors in national identity formation, considers those factors as follows: belief structure, cultural similarity, national heritage and racial unity. Fearonc (1999:8), who states that the idea of national identity is the result of a nation's temporal and spatial persistence, points out that the components of national identity are belief structure, beliefs over religion or nation and cultural participation (Bruce D. Keillor, G. Tomas M. Hult;1998).

Smith regarded national identity elements as a common historical territory or understanding of homeland, common myths and historical memories, a common mass public culture, a system of rights and duties for all people and a common economy (Smith, 1994; 31-32). Some of those constitute the frame of basic identities. It was attempted to keep those basic identities alive via origin based policies. Peel and heroic myths, the core of culture, language, religion, traditions and institutions are glorified and a big emphasis on the unique collective past is highlighted (Yazar, 2013).

There are three basic elements of nationality according to Hayes. One of them is language. The importance of language stems from the fact that it shapes nationality. Language (uniformic) creates a similar mentality and a set of common ideas like common words. Thus, people with similar mentalities develop group consciousness for common profit. Group acquires a historical consciousness in time and this is the second element. Sacred memories of the group's common history in both individual and collective memory provide a historical tradition. The third element is members' faith in the encouragement of a different and cultural society. Hayes added that nationality had always existed throughout history; however, a kind of nationality in which patriotism is more dominant than everything is modern (Hayes, 1961:14).

Kösoğlu states that national culture constitutes national identity while national culture is the whole of national life. That is, it is possible to consider countless cultural elements that constitute national identity and that are the signs of it. Language is the most basic one of those national signs. Islam and our religious culture through which this faith is realized in life are said to be the other important signs (www.yusufiye.net).

Aim

This study aims to develop a scale to determine university students' perceptions regarding national identity.

METHOD

This study, which aims to develop a scale that can be used to determine university students' perceptions regarding national identity, was completed through survey model. In this section, study group of the research and techniques used in scale development and data analysis are examined.

Study Group

The study group consists of students of Gazi University, Gazi Faculty of Education, Ankara University Educational Sciences Faculty and METU Faculty of Education in the 2012-2013 academic year. The distribution of participants is presented in Table 1.

Table1: Distribution of Students By Universities

<i>Faculties</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
G.U. Gazi Faculty of Education	226	80.1
Ankara University Faculty of Educational Sciences	23	8.2
METU Faculty of Education	32	11.3
TOTAL	282	100

Random sampling method was adopted and voluntary students studying in universities located in Ankara were selected as the study group. Participants studying in Gazi Faculty of Education, METU Faculty of Education and Ankara University Faculty of Educational Sciences respectively compose 80%, 11% and 8% of the total 282 participants.

Scale Development

The fact that perceptions cannot be directly observed lead researchers to develop scales to measure perceptions. As a result of those studies, various perception scales were developed to measure perceptions. For the aim of this study, it was necessary to formulate positive and negative sentences that are considered for measuring students' national identity perceptions. In this context, an item pool, which consists of positive and negative items, was prepared and five point Likert type scale was used as a model. After experts analyzed the items so as to provide content validity, a 50-item scale was drafted for piloting. In order to provide validity of the scale based on the feedback, positive items were coded as follows: 5=totally agree 4=agree 3=partially agree 2=disagree 1=totally disagree while negative items were scored reversely (Tezbaşaran, 1997). The piloting of the 50-item scale was performed on 282 voluntary students studying in Gazi University, Gazi Faculty of Education, METU Faculty of Education and Ankara University Faculty of Educational Sciences.

After scoring all perception items, item analysis was carried out. To this end, the correlation between group's score on each item and group's total score on the whole scale was calculated. Those items that show high correlation with total score were saved and others were omitted from the scale. After content analysis was provided, three steps were followed for construct validity. Those steps were factor analysis, item total scores and item discrimination index (Tavşancıl; 2006).

Factor analysis was done in order to make clear the dimensions of the "National Identity Perception Scale" that was composed of 50 items. To this end, Principal Component Analysis, one of the factor analysis techniques, was carried out on the data obtained and number of factors was kept free without any interference.

Through Principal Component Analysis, Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) coefficient and Barlett Sphericity test were checked. KMO value (Kaiser Meyer Olkin) was found to be 0.920 and items whose eigenvalue was greater than 1.00 were kept in the scale. Varimax vertical rotation method was used to determine the independent sub-dimensions of the scale.

Alpha internal consistency coefficient and item total correlations were calculated to check the reliability of each sub-dimension of "National Identity Perception Scale". As the cut-off value for factor loadings was set at a minimum of .45, 30 items with factor loadings lower than .45 were removed from the scale and the scale was finally composed of 21 items.

Additionally, out of participants of the pilot study, the upper 27% and the lower 27% groups' answers to each item were compared based on interdependent t test.

FINDINGS AND COMMENTS

Data suitability for factor analysis was checked through Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) coefficient and Bartlett Sphericity test. Accordingly, KMO value (Kaiser Meyer Olkin) was found to be 0.920 and Bartlett test result was found to be (Bartlett's test of Sphericity) 3123,334 ($p < 0.01$). The data structure was considered to be appropriate for factor analysis as the KMO value was much higher than the limit value of .600 that is accepted as the minimum acceptable value (Büyüköztürk, 2005, Akgül, 1997:581). Both test results proved that factor analysis processes were suitable for data structure. KMO and Bartlett's test results are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		,920
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	3123,334
	df	210
	Sig.	,000

At first, without interfering with factors, principal component analysis was utilized. While items with factor loadings over 0.45 were taken to evaluation, those with loadings lower than .45 were removed from the scale. Accordingly, scale was composed of 20 items and two dimensions. According to the principal components analysis, before application of varimax vertical rotation method, the variance values explained solely by the first factor was 37,19. Results of Principle Component Analysis are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Results of Principle Component Analysis (National Identity Perception Scale Item Eigenvalues and Explained Percentages)

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	8,974	42,733	42,733	8,974	42,733	42,733	7,811	37,197	37,197
2	2,010	9,573	52,306	2,010	9,573	52,306	3,173	15,108	52,306
3	1,057	5,034	57,340						
4	1,001	4,767	62,107						
5	,863	4,107	66,214						
6	,777	3,698	69,912						
7	,693	3,302	73,214						
8	,634	3,017	76,231						
9	,586	2,790	79,021						
10	,533	2,539	81,560						
11	,507	2,412	83,972						
12	,464	2,208	86,180						
13	,450	2,144	88,323						
14	,412	1,962	90,285						
15	,404	1,926	92,211						
16	,381	1,815	94,026						
17	,317	1,512	95,538						
18	,291	1,388	96,926						
19	,229	1,092	98,018						
20	,214	1,019	99,036						
21	,202	,964	100,000						

Total Variance Explained

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

While there were strong proofs showing that the scale consisted of a single factor, by analyzing the structure of item, it was decided to use varimax vertical rotation method. Results showed that 20 items were accumulated around two factors whose eigenvalue was over than 1. While the first factor explained 37.19% of total variance, the second one explained 15.10% of it. It was revealed that two factors explained 52.30%

of the total variance. Common variances of those two factors ranged from .494 to .856. Results of factor analysis after rotation are presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Results of Factor Analysis After Rotation(Rotated Component Matrix)

Items	Component	
	Factor I	Factor II
M14	,764	
M3	,742	
M33	,733	
M29	,725	
M15	,719	
M5	,701	
M9	,700	
M17	,699	
M36	,695	
M20	,636	
M18	,634	
M23	,632	
M22	,629	
M12	,611	
M28	,607	
M34	,586	
M24	,494	
M30		,856
M31		,819
M16		,817
M10		,502

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis. Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.
 a. Rotation converged in 3 iterations.

Results of reliability and validity analysis are presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Reliability and Validity Analysis Results of National Identity Perception Scale

Items and Factors	Mean	Standard Deviation	Communality	Component Factor Loadings	Varimax Factor Loadings	Item Total Correlations	t value*
I. Factor (National Identity and Values)							
3. I would be happy to attend national holidays.	4,18	,96	,554	,652	,742	,581	9,930
5. My country is my priority. /comes first.	4,19	,95	,582	,763	,701	,720	11,716
9. National identity and solidarity are essential values.	4,18	,76	,521	,711	,700	,656	9,425
12. Language is the most important element that unite society.	4,20	,95	,377	,582	,611	,521	9,008
14. National identity constitutes is composed of ideal and sense of homeland.	4,07	1,00	,599	,749	,764	,694	15,094
15. National identity is formed by the relationship of citizenship.	4,05	,95	,517	,659	,719	,592	12,040

17. National identity is unity of sense.	4,07	,91	,548	,737	,699	,691	13,742
18. The most important element of national identity is independence.	4,46	,83	,411	,618	,634	,553	8,817
20. National identity is formed by common history.	4,08	,93	,471	,686	,636	,636	10,629
22. Social belonging is important for me.	4,05	,84	,412	,627	,629	,569	11,136
23. I would be happy to read books related to Turkish history.	3,92	1,03	,430	,648	,632	,593	13,583
24. Cultural values influence my life.	4,21	,77	,320	,564	,494	,515	9,761
28. Honor, dignity, reputation, independence, morality are the basic elements of national identity.	4,26	1,03	,504	,705	,607	,662	10,137
29. Consciousness of national history is an important determinant of national identity.	4,14	,88	,579	,756	,725	,703	11,694
33. National values are the determinants of national identity.	4,17	,82	,597	,769	,733	,718	14,554
34. Customs and traditions are major determinants of national identity.	4,05	,93	,471	,681	,586	,637	11,623
II. Factor (National Identity-Religion Relationship)							
10. I would be happy to attend religious holidays.	3,38	1,10	,745	,592	,502	,445	1,52570
16. Religion is the most important one of national values.	3,22	1,07	,678	,691	,817	,407	1,89148
30. Religious beliefs are the determinants of national identity.	4,38	,89	,431	,738	,856	,566	1,61309
31. Culture is composed of the religious beliefs of a nation.	3,49	1,16	,686	,712	,819	,454	1,54989

* All the "t" values are significant at the 0.001 level.

It was found that item-total correlations of all items ranged from .407 to .720. While item-total correlations vary from .515 to .720 for Factor I, those correlations vary from .407 to .566 for Factor II. Considering that items with item-total correlations that is .30 or above discriminated well (Büyüköztürk, 2005), it can be stated that the reliability of items measures the same behavior at a fair or high level.

The Cronbach alpha reliability coefficient was found to be .93 for Factor I whereas it was .80 for Factor II. Totally, the Cronbach alpha reliability coefficient was found to be .93 for the scale and it can be said that scale has high reliability. Reliability analysis was provided through the examination of the difference between average item scores of the upper 27% and the lower 27% groups, item total correlation and Cronbach alpha internal consistency coefficient and t values were found to be significant ($P < .001$).

In the 'National Identity Perception Scale' development study, the item 3, 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, 33 and 34 fell into the first factor (National Identity and Values) while item 10, 16, 30 and 31 fell into the second factor (National Identity-Religion Relationship). Variance Rates Explained by the Sub dimensions of National Identity Perception Scale and Alpha Coefficients are presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Variance Rates Explained by the Subdimensions of National Identity Perception Scale and Alpha Coefficients

Factor	Explained Variance	Alpha
1.	37.197	.93
2.	15.108	.80
Total	52.306	.93

While the first factor explained 37.19% of total variance, the second one explained 15.10% of it. It was revealed that two factors explained 52.30% of the total variance. The Cronbach alpha reliability coefficient was found to be .93 for Factor I whereas it was .80 for Factor II. Totally, the Cronbach alpha reliability coefficient was found to be .93 for the scale. The total alpha coefficient of the scale is found to be .93. The criteria to evaluate alpha coefficient is as follows (Özdamar, 1999:522).

When correlation coefficients in the University National Identity Perception Scale were analyzed, it was revealed that the correlation between the first and second factor was found to be .467. While the correlation between the first factor and total scale items was .972, the correlation between the second factor and total scale items was .661. It was observed that the correlation between factors was significant; however, it was at a fair level. This finding could be a proof showing that perception items of the scale fall under two independent factors. Correlations of National Identity Perception Scale are presented in Table 7.

Table 7: National Identity Perception Scale Correlations

Factors	N	X	Ss	p	Top	Fak1	Fak2
Factor 1	282	70.723	10.76	.000	.972*	---	---
Factor 2 Pearson Correlation	282	14.464	3.36	.000	----	.467*	---
Top Pearson Correlation	282	85,187	12.69	.000	----	----	.661*

RESULT

This research aims to develop a valid and reliable scale to determine university students' perceptions regarding national identity. Firstly, a pilot scale composed of 50 items was performed on 282 students and as a result of analysis, 30 items were removed from the scale and the final form consisted of 20 items.

Those items were determined to measure two basic structures (National Identity and Values, National Identity – Religion) of participant students' national identity perceptions. Accordingly, "National Identity Perception Scale" was accepted as a reliable and valid measurement tool that measures university students perceptions regarding national identity and have two sub-dimensions.

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