Dissociative Identity Disorder Scan in National Wrestlers and Comparison According to Several Variables

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to scan dissociative identity disorders in wrestlers who represented their nations in international tournaments. Dissociative Experiences Scale-DES was used as a data collection tool. Relational and Causative comparison models in quantitative research methods were also used in our research. Study group consisted of 14 male wrestlers competed in international tournaments. As sample number did not meet parametrical norms, non-parametric tests were taken place. Descriptive statistics, Mann-Whitney U test, One-Way variance analysis and Spearmen Correlation analysis were used for statistical analysis. As a result of statistical analysis, dissociative scores of wrestlers in study group were determined to be above 30. When this result was evaluated according to Dissociative Experiences Scale, it can be suggested that there might be dissociative disorders in wrestlers inside study group. Consequently, as a result of statistical analysis, Wrestlers were determined to have 30 and above dissociative scores. And when this is examined according to Dissociative Experience Scale; It indicated that there is a Dissociative disorder in wrestlers.

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INTRODUCTION

As a result of literature readings, it was seen that there were studies carried out related to dissociative identity disorders with different population groups. However, as a result of literature research in Turkish and English languages, there were no any groups to be found related to athletes. As this situation was thought as a negative one, this study was carried out. On that sense, this study was thought to contribute on sports literature. Electronic resources like Elsevier-Science Direct Database, Press Reader, Proquest Thesis Database, Proquest Periodical Publication Database, Google Academics and Dergi Park were used in literature research.

Dissociation as a dictionary meaning, means ''separation and disintegration.'' Dissociaton is one of the mechanisms towards protecting self of a person. While process like memory, thought, identity and emotion were in harmony under normal circumstances, in dissociation these processes change or dissociate. Even though dissociation seem as a function used in order to overcome a traumatic experience, this may become a pathological situation in time (Arabacıoğlu, 2017).

Generally, dissociation had been described as having more than one personality in a body of a person. In most cultures, there is a ''possession'' case like entering into someone else's body or dominating him/her. One of the best examples for this, exorcism; which meant to exclude evil souls and demons out of somebody's body in medieval period. Possession was described as; a person loses suddenly his/her self and become someone else. In this case, that person exhibits the behaviors of their new self. Similar situations can be seen in Muslim cultures as well. In Islamic culture, a devil impose himself on a person, and having someone do something and make people see devils and speak to them can be shown as an example to this (Yargıç, 1995).

The concept ''dissociation'' was first proposed by Moreau De Tours in 1845 Neurologist and Psychologist Pierre Janet described dissociation as an escape process of someone from his/her control and perception. Nemiah described dissociation as not remembering eagerly of cognitive functions like sudden feeling, emotion, fantasy or behavior as a whole or as groups and excluding them from the cognition (Cited: Kılıç, 2006).

Spiegel and Cardena described dissociation as ''a structured disintegration of cognitive process like thought, emotion, memory, identity normalcies. Braun (1988) described dissociation as ''the separation of idea and thought process from main stream'', and Golf (1992) described dissociation as discontinuity in the perception of environment and the self of a person, and Hunter (1990) described it as coping method with a painful experience; a process where a person separates his/her several parts of his/her body, personality, feelings and where they see these apart from themselves (Cited: Kılıç, 2006). Nemiah stated that there are two main principles characterizing dissociation. The first one is the differentiation in identity perception during dissociative reaction. Being an amnesic to self-identity or impersonation can be shown as an example to this. Second main principle is the changes in memory process related to the event during dissociation. This can be in severities like perceiving it like a dream experienced in a real amnesia (Cited: Kılıç, 2006).

Disocciation is a process which make noticeable changes in emotions and thoughts of a person. In many definitions of dissocations, it is observed whether

consciousness, identity feeling and behaviour of a person were separated enough or not (Putnam, 1991). Dissociative experiences start from simple inattentiveness, forgetting, dreaming and result with Dissociative Personality Disorder respectively.

While a constant transition was thought to happen between pathological cases seen in a normal dissociative living before, in our day it was thought that pathological dissociation was different from normal dissociative experiences. During a dissociative experience, a different knowledge in cognition, breaks its connection through a new knowledge where normally it should have a connection (Şar, 1998a).

Changes depended on accessibleness of these knowledges with regard consciousness lead to a series of clinical symptoms which may include some identity and memory swings (Şar, 1998; Şar, 2000). Contrary to what is believed; Dissociative Disorders may influence not only the memory but also the cognition and identity. Main characteristic of Dissociative Personality Disorder is to influences own self-perception. The main thing in Dissociative Personality Disorder is to perceive one's own behavior as someone else's behavior rather than recollecting the main behavior (Şar, 1998b; Şar, 2010). Dissociation is a spiritual defending way and a spiritual process including psycho-biological components. While it was used for only overcoming a traumatic experience in the beginning, it becomes a pathological process in time. In the occurence of trauma-caused psychopathologies as a result of breaking the continuity in the experiences, it is important to use dissociation as a defending mechanism. Also, in the pathogenesis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, dissociative symptoms were thought to occur after the traumas. Particularly, in the ethiology of chronical and complicated dissociative disorders, it is known that traumatic cases like emotional, sexual and physical abuse occupied an important place. If the trauma was in the level of influencing to be aware or a voluntary control, then dissociative experience or symptoms show up (Semiz, 2000).

Dissociative symptoms were stated to be a strong indicator of anti-social behavior. In a study condected to male arrestees related to borderline personality disorder who had B Group Personality Disorder, arrestees were stated to show a highly observable dissociative symptoms and these symptoms were thought to be related to personality structure (Boysan, 2005). In a study of Ross which he made on 1042 people, he determined minor dissociative experiences (reverie, reverie during listening to a conversation or while driving, and while watching T.V or reading a book) were quite widespread (Ross, 1991).

DSM-IV Diagnosis Criteria for Dissociative Personality Disorder

Existence of two or more personalities or separate identities different from eachother. Sometimes, at least two of these identities or personality, control over the behaviors of a person. Not being able to recollect important personal informations that can't be explained through an ordinary forgetfulness. This disorder is not based on the direct physiological effects of a substance (Blackouts or Chaotic Behaviors seen during Alcohol Intoxication) or a medical case (Complex Partial Seizures) Note: Symptoms in children can't be applied to imaginary game friends or a different kind of game fantasy.

Imagination and Fantasy Capacity

Against a grim reality, Imagination and fantasy capacity enabling to window to an alternative world were claimed to be developmentally associated with

dissociation from two aspects. The first of these, imaginary friends would turn into ''alter'' personalities who had different functions in situations when developmental continuity stopped and trauma continued, and the claim of dissociative disorder might develop. There were a lot of case notifications that various alters in Dissociative Personality Disordered patients stating that it first occured as an imaginary friend, but became a different state of internalized personality and recognising this claim. Most part of the adult dissociative disordered patients stated that they had imaginary friends during their childhood (Cited: Kılıç, 2006).

METHOD

Participants

Study group consisted of 14 Wrestlers competing in international competitions. Two of wrestlers who voluntarily participated in study were World Champion, one of them had 2nd – 3rd rank, one of them was a Europe Champion, four were 2 and 3rd in European Championships, four were Turkey Champion and two were 2nd and 3rd in Turkey championships. Average age of wrestlers were determined as 21,500 ±4,146 sports ages were determined as 8,28±3,799. All athletes participated in the study voluntarily.

Data Collection Tool

In study Dissociative Experiences Scale was used as a data collection tool. Scale is based on self-notification which used in deteremining dissociative identity disorder and other chronic complicated dissociative disorders. Scale consisted of 28-item in total. General DES score is obtained by addition of 28 questions and dividing it to 28 and it changes between 0 – 100. Average scores obtained from the scale indicate the existence of dissociative disorder. This test is highly reliable and have internal consistency. Turkish validity and reliability study of the scale were made by Yargıç et al. in 1995 and it was found as reliable as the original one (Cited: Balıkcı, 2010; Semiz, 2000).

Internal consistency (Cronbach alfa=0,97 Gutman Half test r= 0,95), of scale and test repetition test correlation (r=0.77) was found as high. (Cited, Aydemir and Köroğlu, 2009). In our study, Cronbach Alpha was found as =0,96. Many studies indicate that DES score is able to sort dissociative personality disorder patients from other psychiatric disorder groups.

The diagnosis that 17% of individuals who had more than thirty average score was indicated through a multicentric study. DES average scores of most DPD patients were above 40. However, DES scores were under 20 in approximately 15% of DPD patients (Semiz, 2000). In DES scores were found about 7 in normal individuals, and 5% of population had 30 scores or above which was a necessary score in order to be diagnosed with dissociative disorder (Ross, 1991).

Data Analysis

SPSS 20 programme was used in statistical analysis of data obtained. Descriptive statistics, Mann-Whitney U test, One Way variance analysis and Spearman Correlation analysis were used in the analysis of data.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Scores of Wrestlers received from DE Scale

	Mean
1	23,93
2	48,21
3	18,93
4	17,14
5	30,36
6	53,93
7	64,29
8	38,93
9	21,43
10	64,64
11	64,64
12	67,5
13	21,07
14	37,5

Table 2. Mann-Whitney U test

		N	Mean	Std. Deviation	. P
Did you ever do mental training?	Yes	11	43,1818	19,84357	,217
	No	3	32,5000	13,20173	
Did you imagine yourself as a champion in your Daily life?	Yes	12	43,7500	18,80379	,035
	No	2	23,7500	7,62927	
Did you ever imagine that you were training in your mind or seen yourself as a champion during walking out of training times?	Yes	12	43,7500	18,80379	,035
	No	2	23,7500	7,62927	
Did you ever behave like an athlete you pattern on?	Yes	11	38,5714	17,37373	,312
	No	3	49,4048	23,60676	
Did you behave like athletes from your branch in order to be like them?	Yes	13	39,8901	19,30020	,371
	No	1	53,9286	0,00000	
Did you ever receive a psychological support to increase your performance?	Yes	10	43,5000	20	,221
	No	4	34,3750	8	

As shown in Table 1, The scores which wrestlers received from DES were given in the table. As shown in Table 2, As a result of statistical analysis, dissociation scores of athletes who receive a psychological support to increase performance, imagining that they were training in their mind or seen themselves as a champion during walking out of training times, imagining themselves as a champion in their Daily life, and doing mental training were determined to be high.

Table 3. Descriptive Statistics Findings Related to Dissociation According to Ranks Variable Wrestlers Received

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
World Champion	2	45,7143	25,15598
World 2-3	1	64,2857	0,00000
Europe Champion	1	37,5000	0,00000
Europe 2-3	4	22,5000	5,17197
Turkey Champion	4	57,8571	7,56893
Turkey 2-3	2	28,9286	11,54701

As shown in Table 3, As a result of descriptive statistics, dissociation score of wrestlers were defined as 40,8929.

Table 4. One Way Variance Analysis

	Sum of Squares	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	6791,709	1358,342	10,352	,000
Within Groups	2886,735	131,215		

As shown in Table 4, as a result of analysis, wrestlers who received 2nd and 3rd rank in world championship had 64,2857 dissociation score, Turkey Champions had 57,8571 dissociation score, World Champions had 45,7143 dissociation score, Europe Champion wrestlers had 37,5000 dissociation score, 2nd and 3rd Wrestlers in Turkey Championships had 28,9286 dissociation score, and Wrestlers who received 2nd and 3rd ranks in European Championship had 22,5000 dissociation scores.

Table 5. Comparison of Dissociation Scores According to Rank Variables Wrestlers Achieved

The Best Rank Achieved		Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.
World Champion	Avrupa 2-3	23,21429*	7,01468	,033
World 2-3.	Turkey 2-3	35,35714*	9,92025	,019
	Europe 2-3	41,78571*	9,05591	,002
Europe 2-3	World Champion	-23,21429*	7,01468	,033
	World 2-3	-41,78571*	9,05591	,002
	Turkey Champion	-35,35714*	5,72746	,000
Turkey Champion	Turkey 2-3	28,92857*	7,01468	,005
	Europe 2-3	35,35714*	5,72746	,000

As shown in Table 5, As a result of Tukey test, there were statistically significant difference among wrestlers who achieved 2-3 rank in World and Europe Championships; among wrestlers who achieved 2-3th rank and again 2-3th rank in Europe and Turkey championships; among wrestlers who achieved 2-3th rank and World Champions, and wrestler who achieved 2-3th rank in World Championship and Turkey Champion Wrestlers, and among wrestlers who were Turkey champion and wrestlers who achieved 2-3th rank in Europe and Turkey championship.

Table 6. Correlation Analysis

		Dissociation
Did you ever do mental training?	Correlation Coefficient	-,238
	Sig.	,223
Did you imagine yourself as a champion in your Daily life?	Correlation Coefficient	-,406[*]
	Sig.	,032
Did you ever imagine that you were training in your mind or seen yourself as a champion during walking out of training times?	Correlation Coefficient	-,406[*]
	Sig.	,032
Did you ever behave like an athlete you pattern on?	Correlation Coefficient	,195
	Sig.	,321
Did you behave like athletes from your branch in order to be like them?	Correlation Coefficient	,172
	Sig.	,381
Did you ever receive a psychological support to increase your performance?	Correlation Coefficient	-,236
	Sig.	,227

As shown in Table 6, As a result of Correlation Analysis, there was a negative way relationship between imagining oneself in Daily life and doing mental training while walking on the road or imagining oneself as a champion and Dissociation were determined.

In this study carried out with National Wrestlers, their Dissociative Personality Disorders were tried to determine. In addition, dissociative personality disorders of wrestlers were statistically examined according to several variables. As a result of statistical analysis; dissociative scores of wrestlers answering yes to ''Did you ever do mental training'' question were 43,181 and wrestlers who answered No had 32,500, and dissociation scores of wrestlers who answered ''did you imagine yourself as a champion in your daily life'' question as Yes, was 43,750 and wrestlers who answered No had 23,750, and dissociation scores of wrestlers who answered ''did you ever do mental training or imagine yourself as a champ while walking on the road'' question was 43,750, and wrestlers who answered No had 23,750, and

dissociation scores of wrestlers who answered ''Did you behave like an athlete you pattern on'' question as Yes was 38,571 and wrestlers who answered No had 49,404 scores and dissociation scores of wrestlers who answered '' Did you behave like athletes in order to be like them'' question as Yes was 39,890 and wrestlers who answered No had 53,928 scores, and dissociation scores of wrestlers who answered ''Did you ever get psychological support to boost your performance'' as Yes was 43,500 and wrestlers who answered No had 34,375 scores.

Total Dissociative Experience scores of Wrestlers were determined as 40,892. As it can be inferred from these statistical results; dissociative experience scores of wrestlers were above 30. Average scores above 30 according to Dissociative Experiences Scale are an indicator of Dissociative Disorder. This has shown that wrestlers had dissociative disorders. For this reason, wrestlers need to receive a support from a psychiatrist. As a result of analysis, wrestlers who received 2nd and 3rd rank in world championship had 64,285 dissociation score, Turkey Champions had 57,857 dissociation score, World Champions had 45,714 dissociation score, Europe Champion wrestlers had 37,500 dissociation score, 2nd and 3rd Wrestlers in Turkey Championships had 28,928 dissociation score, and Wrestlers who received 2nd and 3rd ranks in European Championship had 22,500 dissociation scores. As a result of Correlation Analysis, there was a negative way relationship between imagining oneself in Daily life and doing mental trainin while walking on the road or imagining oneself as a champion and Dissociation were determined. This result which appears to be negative, actually represented a positive situation.

Because while the questions were coded, Yes Option was coded with 1, No option was coded with 2 in the questions asked as ''Did you ever imagine yourself as a champion in your Daily life and Did you do mental training while walking on the road or did you imagine yourself as a champion''. According to correlation analysis as wrestler' imaginations related to seeing themselves as a champion while they were walking on the road and their imagination related to being a champion status get increased, it can be suggested that there is an increase in their dissociative experiences as well.

Dissociative symptoms were stated to be a strong indicator of anti-social behaviour. In a study condected to male arrestees related to borderline personality disorder who had B Group Personality Disorder, arrestees were stated to show a highly observable dissociative symptoms and these symptoms were thought to be related to personality structure (Boysan, 2005). Cooper, Noakes, Dunne, Lambert and Rochford 14 in their study, streoid using athletes; found that borderline, antisocial, paranoid, schizotypal, histrionic, passive, aggressive and narcissistic personality scores were higher than non-users. Hendawy and Awad, 101 in their work with the national Egyptian athletes, 16 athletes on the threshold level and 26 athletes under the threshold that they are obsessive; 6 athletes at the threshold level and 14 athletes under the threshold paranoid; 7 athletes were at the threshold and 17 athletes were under the threshold; 9 athletes at the threshold level and 16 athletes under the threshold borderline; personality disorder.

CONCLUSION

Consequently, as a result of statistical analysis, Wrestlers were determined to have 30 and above dissociative scores. And when this is examined according to Dissociative Experience Scale; It indicated that there is a Dissociative disorder in wrestlers. For this reason, wrestlers need to recieve a support from a psychiatrist. In addition, with more comprehensive studies to be carried out with different athletes from different branches there must be a dissociative identity disorder scan should be carried out. The causes of this occured in wrestlers should be examined more in details. Also, in literature readings, it was understood that there was no any reserches could be seen related to Dissociative Disorders in athletes. From this aspect, this research was thought to contribute to sports science literature and may be considered and served as an example for further research.

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