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Research Article

INVESTIGATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CLOSE PARTNER VIOLENCE, EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE AND DARK TRIAD PERSONALITY TRAITS

Sahide Güliz KOLBURAN * & Beyza Naz DENİZ **

* İstanbul Aydın University, Psychology Department, Science & Literature Faculty, Psychology Department, İstanbul, Turkey, e-mail: sahidegulizkolburan@aydin.edu.tr
ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7403-6933>

** İstanbul Aydın University, Psychology Department Science & Literature Faculty, Psychology Department, İstanbul, Turkey, e-mail: beyzanazdeniz60@hotmail.com
ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1919-3274>

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the study is to investigate the relationship between attitudes towards emotional violence and control behavior with dark triad personality traits together with physical and sexual violence against women. Another aim is to draw attention to psychological violence and control behaviors in the studies, to be carried out in the context of preventing intimate partner violence.

The sample group consisted of 140 men aged 18 and over, who were reached through random sampling, reached through Google forms and face-to-face interviews. For the purposes of the research, the ISKEBE Violence against Women Scale (ISKEBE Attitude Scale) and Short Dark Triad Scale (SD3-T) were used, and personal information form was applied for demographic data.

According to the statistics, men with a high dark triad total value have higher attitudes towards violence against women. There is a positive correlation between the high scores of psychopathy and body attitudes subscale scores. ($B: 0.305, p < 0.001$) A positive relationship was found between the high scores of narcissisms and the attitudes towards identity subscale. ($B: 0.308, p < 0.001$) There is a positive relationship between the high score of Machiavellianism and the attitudes towards identity subscale. ($B: 0.470, p < 0.001$) There is a positive correlation between Machiavellian score and psychopathy score. ($B: 0.515, p < 0.001$).

The results reveal that dark triad personality traits predict emotional and physical violence in close partner relationships.

Keywords: Attitude; Violent attitudes towards women; Dark triad; Partner violence; Emotional violence.

1. INTRODUCTION

The World Health Organization stated that violence in close relationships as one of the most common forms of violence against women and defined it as “psychological, physical or sexual abuse and control behaviors that harm the welfare of its victims” (WHO 2012). Within this context, the behaviors mentioned may include physical violent behaviors such as slapping, hitting, kicking, beating, sexual violence such as forced sexual intercourse and sexual assault, emotional (psychological) abuse such as insult, contempt, constant humiliation, threats to harm and remove children. (WHO, 2012). Control behaviors, which are a dimension of emotional abuse, include restrictive behaviors such as controlling the behavior of the partner, including isolating the person from their family and friends, preventing them from accessing their financial resources, education, social environment, etc.

Güler et al. (2005), “According to the findings reported in a study investigating the violence in Turkey, %96,3 of women beating, %57.4 of women insulting words, %50 of women bereaving her money, %39.5 of women forbidden to work, %39.5’ of women cut off money or restricting, %35 of women not informing about family income, %70.4 of women forcing an acting on sexual behavior and %64.2 of women starting a fight because of jealousy defined as violence. (Güler et al., 2005). These results contain important findings regarding the awareness that violence is no longer defined only in the physical dimension.

According to studies carried out by Kadın Statüsü Genel Müdürlüğü (KSGM) (2014), 44% of women in Turkey are exposed to psychological violence at any time during their lives. The rate of women who say they have been subjected to psychological violence in the last 12 months is 26%. Economic violence, which we can be given as an example of controlling behavior, found its place in this study as not giving money for household expenses and seizing women's earnings. The percentage of women who have been exposed to at least one of these behaviors in any period of their life is 30%, and the percentage of women who have been exposed to it in the last 12 months is 15% (KSGM, 2014: 13). Preventing women from entering the business life or forcing them to leave their jobs are among the most common forms of economic violence in our country. There is no doubt that this behavior is done to gain control over the partner.

Another psychological violent behavior observed in Turkey emerges as stalking. According to the research, approximately 3 out of every 10 women have been subjected to stalking at least once (KSGM, 2014: 13). The most frequently used persistent follow-up methods are continuous phone calls (19%), sending text messages, letters or e-mails (8%) or following via social media (6%), and harassing by coming to the place where the woman is working or living (6%) (KSGM; 2014: 13). Persistent stalking and compulsive control behaviors are important in terms of evaluating the starting signals of the process up to femicide (Kolburan, 2020).

Regarding control behaviors, Stark concluded that the necessity of going beyond the physical injury model in terms of intimate partner violence against women and emphasized the significance of focusing on men's behaviors that violate women's human rights and victimization without criminal sanctions (Stark, 2009).

Common features of narcissism, Machiavellian and psychopathy structures that make up the dark triad; egocentrism can be counted as superficial, interest-oriented human relations, incompatibility, goal-oriented and manipulation (Özsoy & Ardiç, 2017). The concept of Dark Triad has been put forward to express three personality traits that are perceived as malicious and are related to each other. This structure is a structure that contains features of Machiavellianism, psychopathy and narcissism, which do not carry the functionality of the person to the clinical dimension (Paulhus & Williams, 2002). Since this structure is found in

forms that do not show clinical symptoms, the basic symptoms of each disorder can be seen, but it does not meet the sufficient criteria for diagnosis (Cori, 2017; 275). Today, although the features covered by the dark triad are malignant, the idea that early detection is not necessary, as they are not included in the psychopathological scope, has started to change.

The three personality traits in the dark triad are the structures frequently mentioned in the violence and violence against women studies, and brief information is given below.

1.1.1. Narcissism: According to psychoanalysis, the personalities of narcissists are organized to maintain their self-esteem by getting approval from outside. All personality structures have a narcissistic function; individuals protect their self-esteem through certain defenses. In narcissistic personality structures, on the other hand, it is necessary to understand the ongoing, automatic, and independent behavioral patterns (Mc Williams, 2009; 225). Self-esteem is always very fragile, and when they cannot respond to their desire to be admired and cared for, they may experience deep injuries and become angry (Köroğlu & Bayraktar, 2011; 101)

1.1.2. Machiavellianism: Machiavellianism refers to manipulative behavior against the interests of others for personal gain. In this context, the Machiavellian individual can use any means to achieve his goals and maximize his personal interests (Özsoy & Ardıç; 2017). Machiavellianists as planning, alliance and trying every way to achieve the goal; they tend to be strategic rather than impulsive (Jones & Paulhus, 2014).

1.1.3. Psychopathy: Although these individuals were not evaluated at the border of personality disorder, they were able to provide sufficient identity integration and reality connection, and use more mature defense mechanisms; his basic thoughts and actions bear the traces of antisocial tendency. These people act instead of talking. When they speak, words are meant to manipulate others rather than express themselves (Mc Williams, 2009; 193). Impulsivity, lack of empathy, irritability and aggression are its leading characteristics (Köroğlu & Bayraktar, 2011; 53)

Carton and Egan (2017) examined that researches which investigate the correlation between dark triad personality traits and partner violence found significant relationships with intimate partner violence (Hamberger & Hastings, 1990; Rosen, 1991; Baumeister, Smart, & Boden, 1996; Juodis, Starzomski, Porter, & Woodworth, 2014 as Cited: Carton & Egan, 2017).

This organization, which is the dark triad, identifies a structure that includes all three mentioned features at multiple levels. This structure is a subclinical organization and does not show any symptoms or disorders at the clinical level (Richardson & Boag, 2016).

Attitude has been defined as the causal factors behind human behavior, and it is also an important reason for violence against women. Strong relationships were found between attitudes towards violence and violent behavior (Vernberg, Jacobs & Hershberger, 1999). It was stated that attitudes are also an important tool in studies of classification and prevention of violence. (Guan et al., 2016).

In studies of violence against women and its prevention, determining the attitudes of individuals towards women is important in terms of violence motivation.

2. AIM

In this study, the main aim was to investigate the relationship between the level of having a structure, which is called the dark triad personality trait (Dark Triad), and their attitudes towards violence against women. In addition to physical and sexual violence against women, the relationship between attitudes towards emotional violence and control behavior and

dark triad personality traits was examined, and it was aimed to draw attention to psychological violence and control behaviors in studies to prevent intimate partner violence.

2.1. Hypothesis:

H1. The higher the value of dark triads in men, the higher the attitudes towards violence against women.

H2. There is a positive correlation between the high scores of psychopathy and body attitudes subscale scores.

H3. There is a positive relationship between the high scores of narcissism and the attitudes towards identity subscale.

H4. There is a positive correlation between the high score of Machiavellianism and the subscale of attitudes towards identity.

H5. There is a positive correlation between Machiavellian score and psychopathy score.

3. METHOD

3.1. Sample

The population of the research is men over the age of 18, and the sample is made up of 140 male individuals over the age of 18 who can be reached via a Google form and face-to-face interviews. The individuals reached were selected through random sampling.

3.2. Measurements

3.2.1. SD3 (Short Dark Triad) Abbreviated Dark Triad Scale

The Scale From Jones and Paulhus's (2014) study; by Özsoy et al. (2017), it has been determined that it can be used as a valid and reliable scale adapted to Turkish. It consists of 27 questions and three subscales. There are Machiavellianism, Narcissism, Psychopathy subscales measured with 9 questions each for the scoring of each question, there are five point Likert-type answers: "1 (strongly disagree)", "2 (disagree)", "3 (undecided)", "4 (agree)" and "5 (strongly agree)". The internal consistency Cronbach alpha coefficients of the test were found as .80, .67 and .81 for Narcissism, Psychopathy, and Machiavellianism, respectively. High scores indicate, high levels of the relevant personality trait.

3.2.2. Violence Against Women Attitude Scale (ISKEBE)

Kanbay et al. (2017), it is a 30-question, 5-point Likert-type scale prepared to determine the attitudes of individuals aged 15-65 towards violence against women. The Cronbach's alpha internal consistency coefficient of the scale was 0.86 for the overall scale. Additionally, the test-retest correlation coefficient was found to be 0.81 ($p < 0.001$), and it was shown that the scale reliably measures attitudes towards violence against women (Kanbay et al.2017).

The total score of the scale is obtained from the sum of the scores obtained from the two factors through the scale consisting of two sub-dimensions: attitudes towards the body (ATT) (physical / sexual violence dimension) and attitudes towards identity (MCT) (economic / mental violence dimension). The lowest and highest scores that can be obtained from the attitudes towards body sub-dimension are 16-80, the lowest and highest points that can be obtained from the attitudes towards identity sub-dimension are 14-70, the lowest total score that can be obtained from the scale is 30, and the highest score is 150.

3.2.3. Demographic form & Information form

It was created by the researchers to determine the demographic characteristics of the participants.

3.3. Data Analysis

First of all, frequency analyzes were made for the demographic data of the participants. Then, explanatory factor analysis for validity analysis of ISKEBE and SD3 (Short Dark Triad) scales; For their reliability, reliability analysis was made using Cronbach's Alpha coefficient. In the next step, correlation analysis was conducted to examine the relationship between the dark triad, the independent variable of the research, and the violence attitudes as the dependent variable, and the sub-dimensions of these main variables, and finally, a regression analysis to test the effect of the dark triad on the tendency to violence.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Frequency Analysis

Variable	N	Percentage
Age		
18-24	8	% 5,7
25-34	37	% 26,4
35-44	44	% 31,4
45-54	29	% 20,7
55 and older	22	% 15,7
Total	140	% 100,0
Marital Status		
Single (No relationship)	19	13,6
Single (Have a relationship)	20	14,3
Married	92	65,7
Divorced	8	5,7
Dead Spouse	1	,7
Total	140	100,0
Educational Background		
Primary School	2	1,4
High School	21	15,0
Undergraduate	84	60,0
Graduate	33	23,6
Total	140	100,0
Violence against spouse or partner		
Yes	31	22,1
No	109	77,9
Total	140	100,0
Do you know about emotional violence?		
Yes	112	80,0
No	28	20,0
Total	140	100,0
Restriction to Spouse/Partner		
Yes	51	36,4
No	89	63,6
Total	140	100,0
Spouse / Partner Forced Control		
Yes	48	34,3
No	92	65,7
Total	140	100,0

When the age ranges of the participants are examined, it is seen that the most participants are between the ages of 35-44 with 31.4%. After this age group comes the age range of 25-34 with 26.4%. In third place, the age range of 45-54 with 20.7% and the lowest rate of 18-24 years (5.7%) come. Fifty seven point eight percent of the participants are young adult males between the ages of 25-44.

When the marital status of the participants is examined, it is seen that the most participants are married with 65.7% of them. Next comes those who are single and have a relationship with 14.3%, and those who are single and have no relationship with 13.6%.

When the educational status of the participants is examined, it is seen that 60% of them are university graduates, 23% of them have a graduate degree, and 15% of them are high school graduates.

"Did you implement physical violence to your spouse or partner?" When their answers to the question are examined, it is seen that 77.9% answered "no" and 22.1% answered "yes".

"Do you know about emotional violence?" When their answers to the question are examined, it is seen that 80% of the participants have information about this subject and 20% do not have any information about emotional violence.

"Would you restrict your spouse or partner?" When their answers to the question were examined, it was seen that 63.6% answered "no" and 36.4% answered "yes" to this question.

"Do you do something to gain control over your spouse or partner?" When their answers to the question are examined, it is seen that 65.7% of them answered "no" and 34.3% of them answered yes.

4.2 Correlation Analysis

Correlation analysis was applied in order to examine the relationship between research variables with each other. Correlation analysis is a preliminary test that should be done first in terms of testing the effect of attitudes towards violence against women on Dark Triad personality traits (Narcissism, Psychopathy, Machiavellianism) (Gürbüz & Şahin, 2014).

Table 8: Relationship Between Variables

	<i>BYT</i>	<i>KYT</i>	<i>Machiavellianism</i>	<i>Narcissism</i>	<i>Psychopathy</i>	<i>İSKEBE</i>	<i>Dark Triad</i>
<i>BYT</i> <i>Attitude Towards the Body</i>	1						
<i>KYT</i> <i>Attitude Towards Identity</i>	,693**	1					
<i>Machiavellianism</i>	,453**	,470**	1				
<i>Narcissism</i>	,401**	,308**	,432**	1			
<i>Psychopathy</i>	,305**	,344**	,515**	,454**	1		
<i>İSKEBE</i>	,878**	,953**	,501**	,372**	,356**	1	
<i>SD3</i>	,485**	,479**	,862**	,724**	,809**	,521**	1

** . The correlation is significant at the 0.01 level.

- p<0,05
- Pearson Correlation Analysis

According to the correlation analysis, there is a statistically positive and significant relationship between attitudes towards violence against women and dark triad personality traits, which are the main variables of the study (B: 0.521, $p < 0.001$).

In addition, there is a correlation of 0.48 between the attitude towards the body and the dark triad total score among the ISKEBE sub-dimensions, and a relationship of 0.479 with the attitude towards identity.

The higher the value of the dark triad in men, the higher the attitudes towards violence against women are. Men with a high dark triad total value have higher attitudes towards violence against women.

There is a positive correlation between the high scores of psychopathy and body attitudes subscale scores. (B: 0.305, $p < 0.001$)

A positive relationship was found between the high scores of narcissism and the attitudes towards identity subscale. (B: 0.308, $p < 0.001$)

There is a positive correlation between the high score of Machiavellianism and the attitudes towards identity subscale. (B: 0.470, $p < 0.001$)

There is a positive correlation between Machiavellianism score and psychopathy score. (B: 0.515, $p < 0.001$).

According to these results, the H2, H3, H4 and H5 hypotheses of the research were confirmed.

4.3 Regression Analysis

Regression analysis briefly explains the cause and effect relationship between independent and dependent variables. The purpose of regression analysis is to determine whether there is a significant relationship between the variables used in the study. (Gürbüz and Şahin, 2014: 271).

Table 9: Regression Analysis

<i>Model</i>	<i>Hypothesis</i>	<i>Independent Variable</i>		<i>Dependent Variable</i>	<i>Std. β</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>p</i>
Model 1	H1	<i>SD3</i>		<i>İSKEBE</i>	0,521***	7,165	,000
					$R^2 = 0,26$ $F = 51,330$ $p < 0,001$		
(* $p < 0,05$; ** $p < 0,01$; *** $p < 0,001$)							

By looking at the p value in the regression analysis results in Table 9 ($p < 0.001$), we can say that the regression model is significant. According to this table, the Dark Triad significantly predicts the ISFI scale ($R^2 = 0.26$ $F = 51.330$ $p < 0.001$).

According to Model 1 results, Dark Triad personality traits had a statistically significant and positive effect on violence attitudes towards women. Hence, H1 has been verified.

According to the results of correlation and regression analysis, all the hypotheses of the study were verified statistically.

5. DISCUSSION

Similar to the findings of our study, Gluck et al. (2020) revealed in their study that dark triad personality traits and sexism are more common in men.

Hart (1998) states that psychopathy is the most risk factor in certain forms of violence, such as sexual violence and partner attack. Methot-Jones et al. (2019) say that individuals with high psychopathy levels see women as sub-human beings and tend to think that they deserve violent behavior. This dehumanization may be important for our understanding of the positive correlation between psychopathy and body attitudes in our study. Dehumanizing behavior is a behavior that makes it easier to justify negative attitudes and behaviors towards a group. Methot-Jones et al. (2019) revealed that psychopathic characteristics that include violence against women and sexism are created by objectifying women and turning them into a commodity.

The Machiavellian approach is pragmatic, skeptical, does not care about moral principles, self-seeking, cold, strategic, calculating, deceptive, manipulating (Christie & Geis, 1970; Jakobwitz & Egan, 2006 cited: Bolelli, 2018). There are theorists who say that manipulation-type traits are mostly in primary psychopathy and secondary psychopathy includes more deviant behaviors (Hare et al., 1990) From this point of view, it would be meaningful for an individual with subclinical psychopathy to have Machiavellian traits as in the dark triad. While some researchers say that Machiavellianism is subclinical psychopaths (Fowler, Lilienfeld, & Patrick, 2009), others emphasize that Machiavellianism should be considered as a separate personal feature (Rauthmann, 2012).

Studies show that individuals with high Machiavellian scores experience lower relationship commitment. It is known that Machiavellianism causes negative emotions such as an increase in anxiety in relationships and this situation causes negative effects on personal close relationships of Machiavellianists (Ali & Chamorro-Premuzic, 2010). In a study in which the relationship between jealousy and dark triad personality traits in romantic relationships was measured (Chin, K. et al., 2016), it was found that Machiavellianism was positively correlated with cognitive and emotional jealousy, while narcissism was positively correlated with behavioral jealousy.

The American Psychiatric Association (2013) defines narcissism by talking about inflation of personal authority and superiority, and low empathy with others. We can say that individuals with these characteristics have the potential to commit violence.

The positive correlation of narcissism and attitudes towards identity subscale is quite compatible with narcissistic defense mechanisms. The narcissist, who wants to get rid of all kinds of emotions, thoughts and impulses about his real self, suppresses it into the subconscious, or projects it to objects in the outside world after separating and denting it. In this way, he will get rid of himself that he does not want and will be able to more easily control the object he loaded with these feelings, thoughts and impulses. The object is in fact representative of its hurt self. By humiliating this object, he will feel all powerful and majestic (Kernberg, 1975). Also narcissistic men behave intolerant of women who they think occupy masculine spaces and display hostile attitudes in a sense of competition (Cengiz & Ozdemir, 2020).

Some studies of narcissism show that, narcissists people focus only on themselves in relationships and try to maintain authority by gaining authority (Bradlee & Emmons, 1992). This explains the positive correlation between controlling the partner and narcissism.

In a study by Satici et al. (2019) investigated the relationship between dark triad personality traits and impulsivity and sensation seeking behaviors in university students, they found that psychopathy and narcissism significantly predicted motor impulsivity positively..

This can be considered as a finding that reveals that dark triple personality traits facilitate the emergence of violent behavior.

6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Although dark triad personality traits are not evaluated at the clinical level, they contain features that disrupt compliance and, as determined in many studies, predict violent attitudes and behaviors. In this sense, personality development and childhood traumas and their adult-period patterns should be investigated and announced.

In studies on violence against women, it is not enough to work only with women, studies with male perpetrators are needed. There are deficiencies in this context in the literature. There is a need for preventive projects and studies to gain a more holistic perspective.

- Studies that evaluate the attitudes and motivations of the perpetrators, as well as the studies conducted with the victims, are also needed to develop solutions.
- There is a need to study other dimensions of intimate partner violence and to deal with the issue in relational and multidimensionally.
- Working in different cultures and with larger groups will provide broader perspectives.
- Focusing on qualitative research on this subject will contribute to gaining more in-depth information about dark triad personality traits.
- Organizing various seminars at institutions such as universities and municipal psychological counseling centers in order to normalize controlling and manipulative behaviors in relationships and not to evolve into psychological violence will increase the level of awareness in all segments of the public.

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