ADAPTATION OF RELATIONSHIP POWER SCALE FOR FEMALE ADOLESCENTS TO TURKISH CULTURE: STUDY OF VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY[*]

ERGEN KIZLAR İÇİN İLİŞKİ GÜCÜ ÖLÇEĞİNİN TÜRKÇEYE UYARLANMASI: GEÇERLİK VE GÜVENİRLİK ÇALIŞMASI

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Abstract

The aim of this research is to examine validity and reliability of Turkish version of the Relationship Power Scale for Female Adolescents. In scale adaptation study, structure validity was used for examine the validity of the scale. For structure validity, explanatory and confirmatory factor analyze are used. Cronbach's Alpha formula was used for determine the reliability of the scale. Furthermore, t-test and corrected item-total correlation were used for item analysis. The results of exploratory factor analysis demonstrated that seven items loaded on single-factors and that the factor structure was harmonized with the factor structure of the original scale. Confirmatory factor analysis, chi-square ($x^2= 20.68$, df= 12, p= 0.00) significantly, while indices of fit RMSEA= .065, GFI= .97, AGFI= .92, CFI= .92, IFI= .93, and SRMR= .05 was found. Internal consistency coefficient for the scale is .78. T-test results are significant, which results are related to the difference of lower 27% and upper 27% groups, that established in accordance to the total points of test. In the result of the item

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analysis, corrected item-total correlations were ranged from a low of 0.24 to a high of 0.37; and T –test values were ranged from a low of 3,45 ($p<.001$) to a high of 9.33 ($p<.001$). Corrected item-total correlations and T –test values were statistically significantl at the $p< 0.01$ level. These findings show that the Turkish version of the the Relationship Power Scale for Female Adolescents is a valid and reliable instrument.

Key Words: Relationship power, adolescent, validity and reliability

Öz

Bu araştırmanın amacı, ergen kızlar için İlişki Gücü Ölçeğinin Türkçe versiyonunun geçerlik ve güvenirliğini incelemektir. Ölçeğin uyarlama çalışmasında ölçeğin yapı geçerliği incelemek için açımlayıcı ve doğrulayıcı faktör analizi kullanılmıştır. Ölçeğin güvenirliğini belirlemek için Cronbach Alpha formülü kullanılmıştır. Ayrıca ölçeğin madde analizi için t-testi ve düzeltilmiş madde-toplam korelasyonu kullanılmıştır. Açımlayıcı faktör analizi sonucu ölçeğin orijinal versiyonunda olduğu gibi 7 maddeli tek faktörlü bir yapı elde edilmiştir. Doğrulayıcı faktör analizi sonucu ki-kare değerinin **(**x^2= 20.68, sd=12, p= 0.00) anlamlı, diğer uyum indekslerinin de (RMSEA= .065, GFI= .97, AGFI= .92, CFI= .92, IFI= .93, ve SRMR= .05) kabul edilebilir düzeyde olduğu bulunmuştur. Doğrulayıcı faktör analizi sonuçları incelendiğinde ölçeğin Türkçe formunun ölçeğin orijinal faktör yapısına uygun kabul edilebilir uyum indeksleri verdiği görülmektedir. Ölçeğin güvenirliğini belirlemek için yapılan analiz sonucu iç tutarlılık katsayısı .78 bulunmuştur. Bu bağlamda ölçeğin iç tutarlılık güvenirlik katsayısının yeterli düzeyde olduğu düşünülebilir. Madde analizi için yapılan t-testi (sd= 89) sonuçlarının 3,45 ($p<.001$) ile 9.33 ($p<.001$) arasında olduğu bulunmuştur. Düzeltilmiş madde-toplam korelasyonlarının ise 0.24 ile 0.37 arasında sıralanmış olduğu bulunmuştur. Madde analizi için incelenen T-testi ve Düzeltilmiş madde-toplam korelasyonu sonuçlarının anlamlı olduğu görülmüştür ($p<.001$). Ayrıca, madde analizi sonucu elde edilen bulgular ölçeğin maddelerinin ayırt edici özelliğe sahip olduğu görülmektedir. Elde edilen sonuçlar genel olarak değerlendirildiğinde ergen kızlar için İlişki Gücü Ölçeğinin Türkçe versiyonunun geçerli ve güvenilir bir ölçme aracı olduğu sonucuna ulaşılabilir.

Anahtar Kelimler: İlişki gücü, ergenlik, geçerlik, güvenirlik

INTRODUCTION

In resent years, researchers have increasingly explored the character of adolescent romantic relationships, and scholarly as well as popular interest in teen sexual behavior has continued unabated. Romantic relationships are central in adolescents' lives. They may develop positively, but also place adolescents at risk for problems. Romantic experiences change largely during adolescence. The peer context plays a important role for dyadic romantic relationships. So adolescents' experiences in romantic relationships with peer as well as their social relationships and parents

(Furman, 2002). In addition, adolescent dating relations are as importance as social relationships during this phase of the life course (Sullivan, 1953; cited in Giordano, Manning, & Longmore, 2010).

A review of literature on adolescent romantic relationships, there are little empirical research. In other hand, the literature contained a lot of information about the adolescent sexual development. Research on adolescent sexuality has often adapted a problem behavior lens, focusing on predictors used to explain behaviors such as delinquency and drug use. For example, researchers have documented that nontraditional family structure, lack of supervision, and lower parental attachment are associated with an earlier age of sexual onset (Cohen, Farley, Taylor, Martin, &Schuster, 2002; Davis & Friel, 2001; Rosenbaum & Kandel, 1990; Thomson, McLanahan, & Curtin, 1992).

Adolescence, widely accepted as the transition period from childhood to adulthood, is, in fact, the period in which physical, psychological, and social maturity of an individual is completed. In this developmental stage, in addition to physical changes, sexual feelings emerge with the effect of hormones. The adolescent has to meet with these new, intense, and strong feelings and to adapt to this new situation. During this period adolescents are more prone to unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases (STD) due to beginning of sexual development, lack of access to information resources and health services, early marriages (child marriages), early sexual activities, lack of information about sexuality and birth control. Most of the adolescence pregnancies were unintended and this leads adolescence women to self-induced miscarriage. Due to unprotected sexual intercourse, millions of adolescents have a miscarriage under unhealthy conditions.

Among adolescent girls, 4% of them state that they are forced to engage in intercourse within a romantic relationship or a date with their boyfriend (Vezina & Hebert, 2007; Ackard, Neumark-Sztainer, & Hannan, 2003). Dating victimization may emerge as a consequence of forced sexual intercourse. Dating victimization may lead disturbing experiences and negative outcomes in adults and young adults. Vezina and Herbert (2007), defines the term dating victimization as psychological, physical, and/or sexual violence that experienced by adolescence girls or women during a date. Individuals in early adulthood period experience several problems as a result of dating victimization. According to the results of the studies, dating victimization is related to eating disorders, behavioral problems, posttraumatic stress, depressive symptoms, posttraumatic stress, and suicidal behaviors in girls (Ackard & Neumark-Sztainer, 2002; Callahan, Tolman, & Saunders, 2003; Coker, McKeown, Sanderson, Davis, Valois, & Huebner, 2000; Roberts & Klein, 2003; Zweig, Crockett, Sayer, & Vicary, 1999). Majority of the studies about teenage sexuality focuses on risk factors such as unintended pregnancy, AIDS, and STD (Douglas, 2008). Studies show that risky

behavior like unprotected sex is related to sexual victimization (Hovsepian, Blais, Manseau, Otis, & Girard, 2010; Ellickson, Collins, Bogart, Klein, & Taylor, 2005; Howard & Wang, 2005; Mackellar et al., 2000).

In the literature, major risk factor of sexual assault in adolescence is suggested as the previous experience of sexual assault of an individual. Thus, it is considered that victim fails to understand the mechanisms that underlie prevention of the repeated victimization. Repeated sexual victimization may be more strongly related to (lack of) prevention experiences and risk factors rather than previous experience itself. Results of a study in the area show that for the individuals who have a past victimization experience, focusing on prevention of repeated victimization and risk factors is better than focusing on past experiences. In addition, factors related to risk taking behavior increase the risk experiencing sexual assault for adolescent women (Bramsen, Lasgaard, Elklit, & Koss, 2011; Fargo, 2009; Gidycz, Coble, Latham, & Layman, 1993; Humphrey, & White, 2000; Vezina & Hebert, 2007; VanZile-Tamsen, Testa, & Livingston, 2005).

While an adolescent is undergoing the pressure and distress of sexual awakening resulted in growth spurt, social attitudes and values may also create a pressure. For instance, in traditional Turkish culture, adolescents' experiences of sexual desire, thoughts about sexuality, and attempts to understand sexuality is considered as shameful, immoral, and sinful; thus, they are forbidden. Relying on the concept "the time will come, you will learn when you will marry", giving children sexual information is seen as unnecessary. Parents provide adolescents with advice rather than information. This situation will especially put girls in the risk of sexual victimization.

Sexual pressure is a continuum of influence, ranging from mild to extreme, toward having sex or having sex in a particular way (e.g., without condoms). Sexual pressure from partners can be tacit (e.g., expectations for sex in a relationship) or more overt, such as enticements (e.g., offering gifts). It may include psychological or verbal abuse and coercion in relation to sexual decision making, such as when the partner threatens to get angry or end the relationship, or it may actually include partner violence. It often occurs in a context in which the male partner has greater relationship power, meaning that his wishes hold more sway than hers (Blythe, Fortenberry, M'Hamed, Tu, & Orr, 2006)

Girls negotiating adolescence experience pressure to be "popular," which often translates into attracting male approval. They are encouraged to construct themselves as theobjects of male desire, to work their way to the top of the "pretty power hierarchy," and to secure a boyfriend (Artz, Blais, & Nicholson, 2000; Brumberg, 1997). Girls go to great lengths to maintain intimate relationships with boys even if this means silencing their own voices and becoming involved in unhealthy relationships (Guthrie & Flinchbaugh, 2001). Boys, on the other hand, are typically socialized to be emotionally distant and view girls as sexual objects (Miller & White, 2003).

Power is an abstract concept, and hard to measure. It may explain why many researchers measure relationship power from power base or power Outcomes (Sprecher & Felmlee, 1997; Tschann et al., 2002). Relationship power can more important to influence the sexual health of female adolescents. Kelly & Morgan-Kidd (2001) has indicate that lack of power can prevent female adolescent efforts at abstinence. The lack of power with in relationships also adversely affects the ability to negotiate protective sexual behavior with sexual partners among sexually active female adolescents (Harvey, Thorburn Bird, Johnson de Rosa, Montgomery, & Rohrbach, 2003; Tschann, Adler, Millstein, Gurvey, & Ellen, 2002).

The purpose of this study was to adapt the Relationship Power Scale (RPS) and to determine its psychometric properties. Adolescence is the life stage during which many females have initial sex-related problems. One of the problems is intimate partner violence against girl, which can affect all populations. There will need to increase effective prevention strategies to hamper the risk for HIV experienced by minority adolescent girls. For sexually active female adolescents, they face the problems of practicing safe sex to prevent unwanted pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and sexually transmitted diseases. For female adolescents dating steady boyfriends and without sexual experience, they face the problem of maintaining abstinence even under pressure from their boyfriends (Teitelman, Ratcliffe, & Cederbaum, 2008; Wang, Wang, & Hsu, 2006). HIV rates among adolescents are accelerating faster for females than males; infection is primarily acquired through heterosexual transmission (Teitelman, Ratcliffe, & Cederbaum, 2008).

METHOD

The psychometric properties of the RPS were examined in a two-phase process. During Phase 1, the items of the RPS were translated into Turkish. In Phase 2, construct validity, concordance validity, and internal consistency reliability were established.

Participants

Study groups of this research consist of 171 female adolescents living in Istanbul. Ages of individuals participating to the study ranged between from 13 to 15 years. Perception of academic achievement of individuals participating to the study ranged between from 50 to 100 points. Number of siblings of individuals participating to the study ranged between from 0 to 14.

Instrument

Relationship Power Scale (RPS)

The scale has been developed by Wang, Wang, & Hsu (2006) in order to measure relationship power of female adolescents. This instrument consisted of 7 likert-type items that represent relationship power (e.g., ''I say what I think even if it is different to the opinion of others''). Participants rated their level of endorsement on a 5-point Likert type. The scale consisted of positively (items 1, 2, 3) and negatively worded items (items 4, 5, 6, 7). Scale interval anchors were Strongly Disagree= 1, Disagree= 2, Neither Agree or Disagree= 3, Agree = 4, and Strongly Agree= 5. scale.

In the analysis about original form of the scale, confirmatory factor analysis revealed that a one-factor model with correlated uniqueness among the positively worded items best fits the data. Cronbach's alpha for the RPS was .69. Test-retest reliability coefficients for the RPS were .83 (Wang, Wang, & Hsu, 2006).

Data Analysis

A communication established through an e-mail with Wang, Wang, & Hsu (2006) who studied on psychometric expects of Relationship Power Scale and necessary permission is granted. In the proces of translation of Relationship Power Scale into Turkish, at first, 5 expert translators, translated scale items into first Turkish, then into English again to examine their consistence. Necessary corrections are made by 6 experts in psychological counselling and guidence field by getting their opinion. After that, this form was reexamined by three expers in Turkish language and literature in terms of meaning and grammar. At next step, pilot Turkish form is applied on 45 female students and they are asked determine unclear statements. In the end, those unclear statements have been expressed differences.

In scale adaptation study, construct validity was used for examine the validity of the scale. For construct validity, explanatory and confirmatory factor analyze are used. Cronbach's Alpha formula was used for determine the reliability of the scale. Furthermore, t-test and corrected item-total correlation were used for item analysis.

FINDINGS

Construct Validity

Explanatory Factor Analysis. Explanatory Factor Analysis was made to examine the structure validity of Relationship Power Scale, at first, it is looked whether there is meaningful correlations in imported quantity or not by examining correlation matrix among all items. It is stated that Barlett test should be meaningful and KMO is higher than .60 to determine that is whether datas are suitable for explanatory factor analisis that is determine the structure validity of scale (Büyüköztürk, 2010). In this analysis, that is made for that purpose, KMO example suitable coefficient is .75, Barlett Sphericity test $\chi 2$ value is 139,59 (p<.001), and answer for the scale are factorable. At the first analysis in the research; there were one factor that explain 30.31% of total

variance and factor eigenvalue was over 1,95. Factor loading of Scale differed from .30 to .62. Factor loading of items present in Table 1.

Table 1. The Items of Relationship Power Scale, Factor Loadings, Eigenvalue, and Percentages of Explained Variance

Items	Factor Loadings
1	.56
2	.49
3	.61
4	.30
5	.62
6	.57
7	.47
Eigenvalue	1,95
Total Variance (%)	30,31

Confirmatory Factor Analize. CFA is applied to confirm the one-factor structure found in original form of scale for structure of Relationship Power Scale in CFA. In the result of analysis, it was found that model's accordance index is examined and Chi-square value is meaningful (x^2= 20.68 N= 171, df= 12, p= 0.00). Accordance index values are found as RMSEA= .065, AGFI= .92, CFI= .92, GFI= .97, and SRMR= .05. Factor loadings load of the model are shown in Figure 1.

Schermelleh-Engel, Moosbrugger, & Müller (2003) stated that reasonable fit indices of model are ranged between 2≤ $\chi2/df$≤3 for $\chi2/df$, 0.01≤p≤0.05 for p, 0.05≤ RMSEA≤0.08 for Root Mean Square Error of Approximation, 0.85≤AGFI≤0.90 for Adjusted Goodness of Fit Index, and 90≤GFI≤0.95 for Goodness of Fit Index, 0.05≤SRMR≤0.10 for Standardized Root Mean Square Residual. AGFI values typically range between zero and one with larger values indicating a better fit. A rule of thumb for this index is that .90 is indicative of good fit relative to the baseline model, while values greater than .85 may be considered as an acceptable fit. Furthermore, Hu and Bentler (1999) gave evidence that .90 might not be a reasonable cutoff for all fit indices under all circumstances. They suggested to raise the rule of thumb minimum standard for the CFI and the NNFI from .90 to .95 to reduce the number of severely misspecified models that are considered acceptable based on the .90 criterion. In this regard, the results indicated that this model has acceptable fit indices.

Figure 1. Path diagram and factor loadings related to Relationship Power Scale
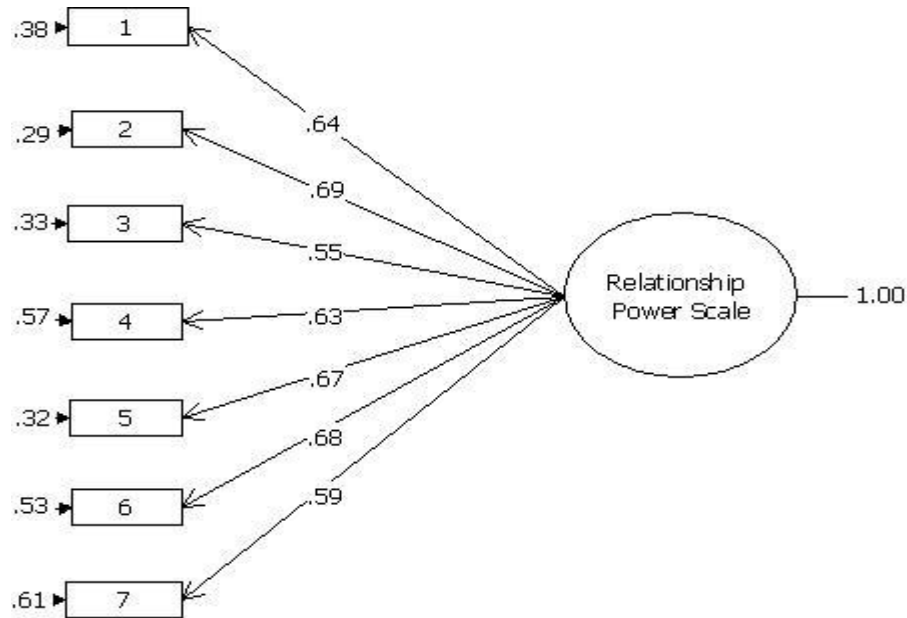
Chi - Square = 20.68, df = 12, P-value = 0.00000, RMSEA = 0.05

Reliability

Cronbach's Alpha internal consistence coefficient was used in order to examine the reliability of the scale. Scale's internal consistence reliability coefficient was found ..78. If we consider that preassumed reliability is .60 (Büyüköztürk, 2010) that can be used in research, scale's reliability level is enough.

Item Analysis

Corrected item-total correlations and t-test results, which for comparison of lower 27% and upper 27% groups were formed according to total scores of the test, were used. In the result of the analysis, it was found that corrected item-total correlations were ranged between .24 and .37, and it was seen that t (df= 89) values of low-high 27% groups were ranged between 3,45 ($p<.001$) and 9.33 ($p<.001$). We can accept that scale is reliable, according to the result of internal consistency, corrected item-total correlation and t-test results ($p<.001$). The findings concerning the item analysis are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. The Items of Relationship Power Scale, Corrected Item-total Correlation, and T-test Results

Items	Corrected Item-Total Correlation	T-test
1	.29	4,41***
2	.24	3,45***
3	.35	7,74***
4	.20	5,24***
5	.37	9,33***
6	.34	7,36***
7	.25	6.44***

$**p < .001, *p < .01$

DISCUSSION

In the literature, it is seen that there is very little research about this subject, so such scales must be developed and adapted in order to research. The aim of the present study was to adapt and test psychometric characteristics of the Relationship Power Scale (RPS), which can be used to explore the relationship power of female adolescents in heterosexual relationships. It is seen that, as a result of exploratory factor analysis of Turkish version of Relationship Power Scale that explain 30,31% of total varience which one factor structure is gained that is suitable for original scale's form. If we think that 30% total variance is suitable for scale development and adaption study, we see that there is structure validity (Büyüköztürk, 2010; Çokluk, Şekercioğlu, & Büyüköztürk, 2010). Also, accordance index for Confirmatory Factor Analysis is in accordance with the goal level and it is consistent with original form.

If we think that reliability level is .70 for the scales used in research (Büyüköztürk, 2010; Çokluk, Şekercioğlu, & Büyüköztürk, 2010; Spahi, Yurtkoru, & Çinko, 2008), reliability level is enough. In this context, satisfactory to good internal consistency reliability of the scale were found. In interpretation of item-total correlation .20 and higher items, it is differentiate with its items, we see that item-total correlation is in enough level (Büyüköztürk, 2010). In low high 27% groups t-test results have meaningful differences. Internal consistence value in the scale are in coherence so reliability for internal consistence is high. Item-total correlation and 27% lower-upper group comporison result show that results are distinguishing as original form. We can say that Turkish form of Relationship Power Scale can be used as valid and reliable as a result of studies.

There can be some suggestions as a result of validity and reliability studies. Applying this scale on different individuals who have different charecteristics can

contribute to the validity and reliability of scale. By this scale, there can be possibilities to create researches to improve and increase the relationship power of adolescents. It can also be used as a data-collector for the ones who have troubles in romantic relationships, with their boyfriend, and helping them. It can be used for psychologial guidence and counselling to improve individual's romantic relationships. At that phase, this scale can create possibilities in revise studies and increase its affect relation studies and experiments about subject and conparing other results may highly contribute to the scale. Finally, the researches that use this scale may contribute to measure the scale's effect.

It is thought that about sexual development of adolescent, thanks to studies for the development of relationship power is prevented unintented pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, and the use of methods of protection during sexual intercourse will make possible the prevention of adverse outcomes of a team. Group guidance, and psychological counselling works are done to improve individual's sexual prevent characteristics, may contribute relationship power of female girls.

There were some limitations in this study. First, the age ranges of samples were severely restricted. Second, the sample groups are only of Turkish female adolescents in school. Further studies of female adolescents randomly selected from diverse age groups, cultural backgrounds, educational backgrounds, and geographical areas should be undertaken to build the validity and reliability database of the 7-item RPS. In conclusion, this research is an important first step in measuring relationship power among adolescent females within heterosexual relationships.

This study is limited by our focus on youths residing in a single geographic region. And while we believe that respondents' subjective experiences are important to understand, this focus also has limitations,in that objective measures/observations (e.g.,of power dynamics) might reveal a different pattern of results. Couple level data would also be a useful supplement to the individual reports we focused upon in this analysis. In future research, it will also be useful to focus more attention on problematic features of romantic relationships, such as conflict, jealousy, and cheating behaviors.

Consequently, the measurement of individual differences in proneness to relationship power, in romantic relationships when using the Relationship Power Scale appears feasible and valid and reliable, given the satisfactory psychometric characteristics of this 7-item questionnaire. Further study using this instrument appears valid and reliable to clarify the role of relationship power proneness.

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