



# A Study for Testing the Validity and Reliability of the Turkish Version of the Internalized Misogyny Scale

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## Abstract

The objective of this study is to analyze the validity and reliability of the Turkish version of the Internalized Misogyny Scale (IMS). The study sample consisted of 510 students. In relation to the validity of the items comprising the scale, an item-total correlation test and internal consistency analysis were conducted. Exploratory factor analysis was used to reveal the factorial structure of the scale and to provide evidence, and confirmatory factor analysis was applied to confirm that the scale measured the theoretical structure. In order to evaluate the reliability of the scale in terms of internal consistency, Cronbach's alpha coefficient of the scale and each subscale was calculated. In this study, the chi-square test statistic obtained from Bartlett test analysis was found to be significant ( $\chi^2 = 2444.990$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ). The scale's item-total correlation coefficient varied from 0.32 to 0.92, and Cronbach's alpha coefficient was 0.82. The results of the exploratory factor analysis conducted for the IMS indicate that the scale consisted of three sub-scales, namely, "Devaluing women," "Distrust of women," and "Gender bias in favor of men," as in the original version, and explains 47.446% of the total variance. Consequently, the 17-item scale and three factors were found to be theoretically and statistically acceptable. The IMS was proven to be a valid and reliable tool of measurement.

**Keywords** Misogyny · Internalization · Scale · Turkish · Reliability · Validity

An enemy is someone who wishes another ill, someone who hates and tries to harm another. Likewise, enmity is defined as having feelings of hostility and destructive behaviors (Turkish

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Language Association 2013). The feeling of enmity towards the female sex is called misogyny. Misogyny, which is defined as feelings of hatred and dislike for women, can be regarded as sexual discrimination, female humiliation, violence, and the sexual objectification of women (Code 2000; Kramarae 2000).

Enmity towards women has functioned as an ideology or belief system in male-dominant societies for thousands of years. While animosity towards women can be seen in every part of society, it is typically used to restrict the authority of women and their participation in decision making (Flood et al. 2009). A patriarchal worldview created the phenomena of “witches,” women who harmed innocent people by using their supernatural powers. Similarly, witchcraft has been defined as evil, originating from “the voracious lust of women” (Sayın 2008). Most wise women slaughtered in European witch hunts were doctors and midwives who did not choose to take the advantage of the protective social power of men by getting married and lived alone. Instead of living under the enforcement of patriarchal structures, these women generally preferred to live beyond its control, and thus were excluded from society (Çimen 2011).

One of the most important indicators of misogynistic behaviors is violence. Studies in Turkey have revealed that rates of domestic violence against women are extremely high. The results of a study by the T.R. Prime Ministry Family Research Institution (1997), including 2578 families living in Turkey, showed that 25% of women who were married, or had at some time experienced marriage, were exposed to physical violence and that 45% of them were physically violent to their children. In the study of Gülçür (1999), which included 155 women in Ankara, 39% of the participants stated that they were exposed to violence. In their study of 1800 women, Altınay and Arat (2007) reported that one third of the women had experienced domestic violence and the rate of subjection to violence by their husbands was 39%. In the study by the T.R. Prime Ministry, the General Directorate on the Status of Women (2009), which included 24,048 families throughout Turkey, women were found to experience physical violence (39%), sexual violence (15%), and emotional violence (44%) at some time in their lives.

The most brutal form of misogynistic behavior is murder, and in Turkey, this may be carried out under the pretext of “honor killing.” In the patriarchal structure of Turkish society, men are responsible for both their own and their female relatives’ behaviors. Domestic relations are far from equal and are male dominant in nature. In Turkey, women are the bearers of the concept of honor, whereas men are the protectors of it. Women are responsible for being honorable, while men are responsible for protecting women’s honorability. Men fulfill this obligation by exercising control over women and their bodies. In order to achieve this, women are expected to stay inside their houses and behave according to patriarchal tradition. Showing improper behaviors towards tradition (working outside the home, having a boyfriend, requesting a song from radio, or getting divorced) is considered to taint or defame their honor. Meanwhile, it is the defamed male members of the family who are expected to purify it by killing the woman (Oktay 2003).

Violence has become a commonplace behavior, encountered in every part of daily life in Turkey, in recent years. For example, acts of violence towards women can frequently be seen in schools and workplaces, on public transport, and at home. Moreover, violence is openly shown in the media through TV series and films. In a study by Kırhoğlu et al. (2015), 300 songs published by mass media that included negative judgments about women were analyzed. Sexual discrimination, sexism, and/or violence were identified in the lyrics. It is also reported that there are countless statements containing insults, sexuality, and violence against

women in these songs, which are constantly heard in daily life and that children repeat when singing. There are many songs among these that include statements, which curse and insult women, emphasizing the worthlessness of women, bring female sexuality to the forefront and that show women as individuals who get their men into trouble. At the end of the study, it was concluded that these songs and lyrics cause women to internalize and normalize the psychological violence to which they are subjected. In another study by Baydar and Serpen (2015), popular foreign TV series, which are published on internet and followed by Turkish audiences, were analyzed. The results show that in these TV series, the social roles, identities, and status of women are formed from a male dominant perspective. The data shows that in one of the most popular foreign TV series, the frequency of the themes are as follows: “Devaluation of women and damage to the integrity of their identity,” 44.60%; “Sexual objectification,” 30.93%; “Defamation and humiliating nicknames,” 12.23%; “Use of humiliating and derogatory words about women sexuality/physical features,” 5.04%, “Use of violence against women and legitimizing it,” 5.04%, and “Use of stereotypes showing that women are weak and inadequate,” 1.39%. The study determines that in this TV series, which involves war and sexuality, substantial indicators of misogyny are emphasized.

Although misogynistic feelings and behaviors are more common in men, they can occur both in themselves and against other women (Etyang 2012). This is due to the internalization of misogyny. It is stated that misogyny began to take root in the first years of the child’s development and was learned mostly in the home environment. The responsibility of raising children in the family in the traditional countries such as Turkey are given to mothers. The fact that the mother is misogynistic leads to the transfer of the misoginia for generations (Vickers 2006). The regularity of violence against women is internalized by individuals in the process of socialization and is therefore not questioned or normally met in adulthood. In the study conducted by Şenol and Yıldız (2013) with 3500 women, 14.9% of the participants stated that they agree with the statement “violence against women is sometimes necessary.” It seems that the male violence against women is a “right” and a “natural event” (Kılıçarslan 2018). It has been reported that women who have been subjected to various forms of violence for years have directed their sons or brothers to apply the same violence to their fellow being (bride, sister-in-law, etc.) and sometimes even participate in this violence (Kılıçarslan 2018).

In order to increase awareness of violence against women and to stop violence against women, the misogynistic feelings and behaviors of women and men should be revealed. There are many studies that demonstrate the violent behavior of men (Adıbelli et al. 2019; Akpınar et al. 2019; Özcan et al. 2016; Sen and Bolsoy 2017; Yılmaz 2018). However, there are no studies showing the hostility of women towards women. In the elimination of violence learned in the family, it is necessary to increase the awareness of women, and decrease their attitude towards accepting violence and their misogynistic attitudes towards their fellow beings. Therefore, there is a need for reliable tools that primarily measure women’s hostility towards women. There is not any scale which measures women’s internalized misogyny, in Turkey.

## Methods

### Purpose and Design

This study was designed as methodological research, to explore the reliability and validity of Turkish version of the Internalized Misogyny Scale (IMS).

## Population and Sample

The study universe consisted of 2677 female, first year university student, and volunteering to participate in the study. Considering that university education may influence attitudes towards misogyny, the study population comprised of junior students. For the sample selection, the university faculties were divided into five science groups: health (Faculty of Dentistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, Faculty of Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine), social (Faculty of Letters, Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Law, Faculty of Communication, Faculty of Economics, and Administrative Sciences), science (Faculty of Science, Faculty of Letters), engineering (Faculty of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Technology, Faculty of Applied Sciences), and education (Faculty of Education). Then, one faculty from each group was randomly selected for the study sample: Faculty of Health Sciences, Faculty of Communication, Faculty of Sciences, Faculty of Engineering, and Faculty of Education.

The sample size was calculated using a sample calculation formula in universe-known situations (Sümbüloğlu and Sümbüloğlu 2005). The calculated sample size was 510. In order to have a heterogeneous group with an equal distribution of students studying different subjects at different faculties, each faculty was categorized as a layer. Accordingly, the weight of each layer (number of students in the layer/number of students in the universe) was calculated. Then, the number of students (layer weight  $\times$  sample number) per sample was determined according to the layer weight. The number of students included in the sample as a result of these calculations is shown in Table 1.

## Data Collection Tool

Piggott developed the Internalized Misogyny Scale (IMS) in 2004. The scale depicts internalized hatred and dislike towards women. It contains 17 items and three factors, which are: the devaluing of women, the distrust of women, and gender bias in favor of men. A seven-point Likert-type scale is used. The score obtained from the scale ranges between 17 and 119 and higher scores indicate more internalized misogyny. The reliability coefficient of the scale is reported to be 0.88.

## Linguistic Equivalence of Internalized Misogyny Scale

The linguistic equivalence and the content validity of the IMST were submitted to specialists, for their opinions. In order to provide linguistic equivalence, three people who were native

**Table 1** The number of students included in the sample

Faculties	Number of students in the universe	Layer weight	Number of students in the sample
Faculty of Health Sciences	408	0.15	76
Faculty of Communication	130	0.05	26
Faculty of Sciences	369	0.14	71
Faculty of Engineering	436	0.16	82
Faculty of Education	1334	0.5	255
Total	2677		510

Turkish speakers and had good command of English, translated the scale into Turkish. One of these people has lived and worked in the USA, the other has lived and studied in Canada, and the last one still lives and works in the USA. The researchers evaluated the three translations of the scale, to determine the most proper expressions and to choose a single one. Following this step, it was back-translated into English by three people, one of whom has lived and studied in the UK, another has lived and studied in the USA, and the third still lives and works in the USA. Seven specialists checked the Turkish and English versions of the scale and some expressions were edited in accordance with the recommendations shown at the end of this evaluation. The researchers compared the original and the retranslated version of the scale. It was seen that the latter was compatible with the original scale, so the Turkish version (IMST) was acquired. This translated version of the scale was sent to five academicians, who have made many studies on Gender Mainstreaming and Violence Against Women, to consult their opinions about the intelligibility of the items. The final version of the scale was developed in accordance with the expert recommendations.

## **Statistical Analysis**

The following statistical analysis was conducted to evaluate the reliability and validity of IMST. To evaluate the factorial structure of the scale, exploratory factor analysis was used to determine whether the scale represented the factor structure stated in the literature and confirmatory factor analysis was used to verify that the scale measured the identified conceptual structure.

To evaluate the reliability of the items, item-test correlations and the item's factor loading were calculated to examine the extent to which the items represented measured the feature intended by the scale, by taking the total test scores as criteria.

To select the item for the IMST, or to decide to what extent the item measured the intended feature, the significance level of the item test correlation and factor load value was determined to be 0.30 and above. It was also determined that each item forming the scale should explain at least 40% of the total variance.

In order to evaluate the reliability of the scale in terms of internal consistency, Cronbach's alpha coefficient of the scale and each subscale was calculated. To decide to what extent the overall scale and each subscale gave consistent results, the significance level of Cronbach's alpha coefficient was determined as 0.70 or above.

## **Ethical Consideration**

The study was approved by the Ethics Commission (Gazi University Ethics Committee Date: 24.04.2019 Number: 04). Written permissions from the deans' offices of the faculties were obtained to conduct the study. Verbal and written consent were obtained from the students who participated in the study.

## **Results**

### **Item Analysis and Evaluation of Factor Structure of the Scale**

In order to find out factor structure of the scale, Principal Component Analysis (PCA), which is a factor analytical method, was applied to the scores obtained from the responses to the scale

of the 510 students. The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) value was found to be 0.85, which was very high and above the accepted limit of 0.50, as a result of PCA. This value indicated that the findings were appropriate for factor analysis. The KMO test is a method used to test whether partial correlations are small and distribution is adequate for factor analysis. The closer the KMO coefficient is to 1, the more adequate the data are for analysis, and a perfect match is achieved when it is 1. In order to use parametric methods, measured features should be normally distributed in the universe. The Bartlett Sphericity test is a statistical method used to test whether the data have multivariate normal distribution. A significant result of the chi-square test obtained at the end of this test is an indicator that the data have multivariate normal distribution. In this study, the chi-square test statistic obtained from Bartlett test analysis was found to be significant ( $\chi^2 = 2444.990$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ).

Factor analysis is based on the criteria that factor load should be at least 0.30, and the explanation variance ratio should be 0.40 or above. Then factor analysis was applied to the data of the 17-item trial scale. Kaiser criterion was adopted for the factor analysis process, and according to this, criteria factors with an eigenvalue higher than 1.00 were included in the scale. In addition, item-total test correlation and Cronbach's alpha coefficient for internal consistency were calculated, in order to determine which items would be used to form the scale. In this research, an item-total correlation coefficient above 0.40 was accepted as the criteria. Results of the first factor analysis are shown in Table 2.

The 17 items of the scale constructed a structure with three sub-factors with an eigenvalue greater than 1. These three factors together explained 47.446% of the total variance.

Cronbach's alpha coefficient for the internal consistency of the total sample was 0.82. Cronbach's alpha value was found to be 0.71 for the "Devaluing Women" subscale; 0.51 for the "Distrust of Women" subscale, and 0.80 for the "Gender Bias in Favor of Men" subscale.

**Table 2** Factor analysis of seventeen item of instrument, extraction principal component, rotation varimax

Question	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor3
Q1	.710		
Q2	.721		
Q3	.669		
Q4	.672		
Q5		.530	
Q6		.718	
Q7		.708	
Q8		.525	
Q9		.519	
Q10		-.430	
Q11			.587
Q12			.707
Q13			.728
Q14			.660
Q15			.688
Q16			.434
Q17			.632
Eigenvalue	5.020	2.1.725	2.1.321
Percent of total variance explained	29.529	10.148	7.769
Cumulative percent	29.529	39.677	47.446

## Confirmatory Factor Analysis

Confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was implemented to test the factor structure of the scale. Multicriteria were used to reach the best study model in CFA. As the best study determinants, comparative fit index (CFI: > 0.90 acceptable, > 0.95 perfect), root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA: < 0.08 acceptable, < .05 perfect), goodness of fit index (GFI: > 0.90 acceptable, > 0.95 perfect), approximate goodness of fit indices (AGFI: > 0.90 acceptable, > 0.95 perfect), non-normed fit index (NNFI: > 0.90 acceptable, > 0.95 perfect), and standardized root mean square residuals (SRMR: < 0.08 acceptable, < 0.05 perfect), were used. The findings obtained from the CFA test were: RMSEA = 0.079; GFI = 0.90; AGFI = 0.87; NNFI = 0.93; SRMR = 0.060, and CFI = 0.94. Findings showed that the model fitted at the expected level. Standard coefficients indicating the relation between items and their factors are given in Fig. 1. One of the indices commonly used to evaluate the fitness of a model is chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ). To determine the fitness of a model, the chi-square value and degrees of freedom (df) are calculated and  $\chi^2/df$  values lower than 3.0 represent that the fitness of the model is good. However, this index is not always available because of the sensitivity of chi-square to sample size (the sensitivity of it decreases generally 200 and above). In this study, chi-square was not the only test used, as the sample size was 510.

Standardized coefficients of items, *t* values, and multiple correlation values are given in Fig. 1. Standardized coefficients of all the items were found to be significant at a level of 0.01. Item coefficients range between 0.32–0.92 and subscales range between 0.50–0.61. Consequently, the 17-item scale and the three factors were found to be theoretically and statistically acceptable.

## Discussion

Perception of violence is internalized by individuals in the process of socialization, while in adulthood, this situation is not questioned and is met as usual. Therefore, women can justify violence in Turkey. In the study conducted by Şenol and Yıldız (2013) with 3500 women, 14.9% of the participants stated that they agree with the statement “violence is sometimes necessary.” Multidisciplinary groups are interested in the interventions required to reveal the misogynistic attitudes of women and to steer future generations away from this attitude. Nevertheless, in the Turkish literature, there is no scale dealing directly with misogyny. The aim of this study is to adapt the IMS by Piggott (2004) into Turkish and to evaluate its reliability and validity.

The study sample is of a sufficient size, as required by statistical analysis. Although a sample size between 100 and 200 is considered to be adequate for performing factor analysis, it is recommended that the number of subjects should be more than the number of variables, and at least ten times more than the number of items (Çapık et al. 2018; Erdoğan et al. 2015). The IMS consists of 17 items. With the purpose of increasing the reliability and validity scores, 510 students took part in the study. The original scale has been validated with feedback from a focus group, exploratory factor analysis, and correlations with a cross-cultural sample of 803 women from five countries (Piggott 2004), and it has been correlated in the expected direction with measures of modern sexism, internalized heterosexism, body image, depression, self-esteem, psychosexual adjustment, and social desirability (Piggott 2004). Though the scale was originally normed on a sexual minority female sample, results have been replicated with

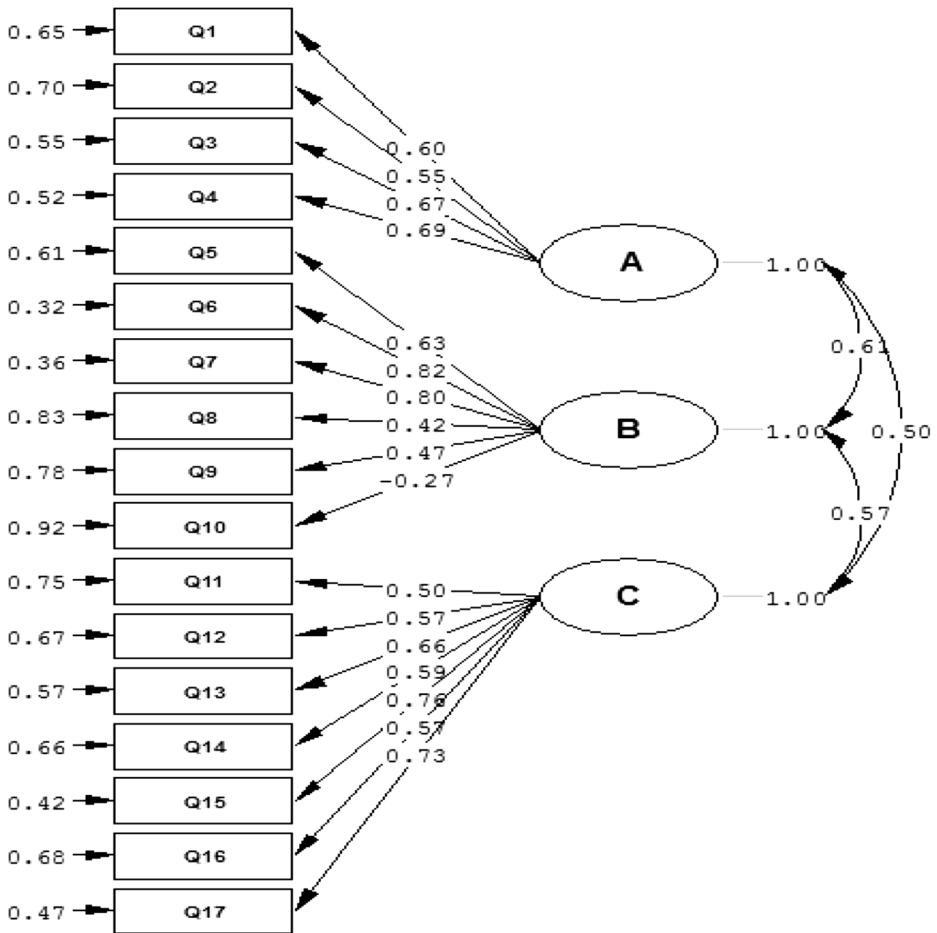


Fig. 1 The standardized coefficients which show the relationship between the items and their factors

heterosexual women, suggesting that the construct is valid for both populations (Syzmanski et al. 2009).

Validity of a data collection tool is tested using the methods of content validity, criterion-related validity, and construct validity (Erefe 2012). In this study, the results obtained following the linguistic equivalence procedure indicated that the correlation between the items of the Turkish and the original versions was high. Consequently, we can say that the linguistic equivalence of the scale is ensured.

The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) measure indicated a quite high value of 0.85, which was higher than the accepted value of 0.50, as a result of PCA. This result showed that the obtained data was sufficiently adequate for a factor analysis (Şencan 2005; Laher 2010). Bartlett's sphericity test is a statistical technique used to test whether the data have multivariate normal distribution. The significance of the chi-square test obtained from this technique revealed that the data showed multivariate normal distribution (Şencan 2005; Büyüköztürk 2011). The chi-square score obtained from Bartlett's test result of the study was also found to be significant ( $\chi^2 = 2444.990$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ).



Exploratory and confirmatory factor analyses were deployed to test construct validity of the IMST. Exploratory factor analysis demonstrated that the IMST, which consisted of three subscales, “Devaluing Women,” “Distrust of Women,” and “Gender Bias in Favor of Men” as the original version, and the items had high factor load that was similar to the original one. These three subscales explained 47.446% of the total variance. This score ensures the construct validity of the IMST, since a variance ratio of 30% or above is accepted in scale development and adaptation studies (Ural and Kılıç 2006). In this study, it was also determined that all items forming the scale should explain at least 40% of the total variance. When fit index values of Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) were considered, compatibility of the model was found to be at good level and the original factor structure was found to be compatible with the factor structure of the Turkish one.

In the literature, Cronbach’s alpha coefficient ranges between 0 and 1, and acceptable standards for reliability of a scale are none,  $0.00 \leq \alpha < 0.40$ ; slight,  $0.40 \leq \alpha < 0.60$ ; moderate,  $0.60 \leq \alpha < 0.80$ ; and substantial,  $0.80 \leq \alpha < 1.00$  (Büyüköztürk 2011; Laher 2010). The assessment of reliability results of the IMST showed a Cronbach’s alpha coefficient of 0.82, which was parallel with that of the original (0.88). Taking Cronbach’s alpha coefficient into consideration, it was seen that the IMST is highly reliable in Turkey. Moreover, it was found that the IMST’s coefficient of consistency over time was very high, in other words, the scale gave consistent results. The item-total correlation test carried out for reliability also revealed that each item of the scale made equal measurements, as the factors under which they were classified. All of these findings indicate that the IMST was reliable and valid enough to give consistent results.

The item-total correlation coefficient is found by calculating the correlation between the relevant item and the total consisting of other items. It is indicated in the literature that item-total correlation values should be above 0.30 and that items under this value should be removed (Çapık et al. 2018; Büyüköztürk et al. 2008). The results showed that the item-total correlation coefficients of the IMST ranged between 0.32 and 0.92 and there was no item that should be removed.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

The findings obtained at the end of the test for the reliability and validity of the scale demonstrated that the Turkish form of the IMS was reliable and valid.

The limitations of the study are that the participants were young females of a particular age and the IMST was being conducted in Turkey for the first time. In order to contribute to the reliability and validity of the scale, we recommend that further research studies should be conducted with women and men from different cultural backgrounds, to evaluate the validity of the Turkish version of the scale.

**Acknowledgments** The authors would not like any contribution to this research.

## Compliance with Ethical Standards

**Conflict of Interest** The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

**Ethical Approval** All procedures implemented in this study were carried out in accordance with the ethical standards of the institutional and/or national research committee and the 1964 Helsinki Declaration and its later amendments, or comparable ethical standards. Informed consent was obtained from all the participants included in the study.

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