



TikTok Bağımlılığı Ölçeğinin Türkçe Uyarlaması: Geçerlik ve Güvenirlik Çalışması

Mahmut ULUKAN¹, Yunus SAHİNLER¹, Mustafa Can KOC^{2*}, Ebru Elif DURMAZ³, Yavuz ÖNTURK⁴,
Irfan KARA¹, Engin CİNİBULAK⁵

¹Faculty of Sport Sciences, Istanbul Gelisim University, Istanbul, Türkiye.

²Faculty of Sport Sciences, Mersin University, Mersin, Türkiye

³Faculty of Sport Sciences, Ankara University, Ankara, Türkiye

⁴Faculty of Sport Sciences, Yalova University, Yalova, Türkiye

⁵Ministry of Education, Istanbul, Türkiye, Istanbul, Türkiye

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Öz: Bu çalışmanın amacı TikTok Bağımlılığı Ölçeğini Türkçeye uyarlamak ve Türkçe konuşan TikTok kullanıcılarında ölçeğin psikometrik özelliklerini değerlendirmektir. Araştırmaya, en az 12 aydır TikTok kullanan, 18–27 yaş aralığında 229 katılımcı (117 erkek, 112 kadın) dahil edilmiştir. Katılım gönüllülük esasına dayanmış ve veriler Google Forms aracılığıyla çevrim içi olarak toplanmıştır. Verilerin analizinde SPSS 22.0 ve AMOS programları kullanılmıştır. Ölçeğin özgün altı faktörlü yapısının Türk örnekleminde doğrulanıp doğrulanmadığını değerlendirmek amacıyla doğrulayıcı faktör analizi (DFA) gerçekleştirilmiştir. İç tutarlılık Cronbach alfa katsayısı ve düzeltilmiş madde-toplam korelasyonlarıyla, ayırt edicilik alt ve üst %27'lik grupların karşılaştırılmasıyla, zamana karşı kararlılık ise test-tekrar test analizi ve sınıf içi korelasyon katsayısı (ICC) ile değerlendirilmiştir. DFA sonuçları altı faktörlü modelin verilerle iyi uyum gösterdiğini ortaya koymuştur ($\chi^2 = 103,127$; $df = 75$; $\chi^2/df = 1,375$; CFI = ,987; GFI = ,945; NFI = ,956; IFI = ,988; TLI = ,982; RMSEA = ,041; RMR = ,016). Standartlaştırılmış faktör yükleri ,812 ile ,910 arasında değişmiştir. Ölçeğin genel Cronbach alfa katsayısı ,894, alt boyutların güvenilirlik katsayıları ise ,830 ile ,936 arasında bulunmuştur. Düzeltilmiş madde-toplam korelasyonları ,492–,670 arasında değişmiş ve alt ve üst %27'lik gruplar arasında anlamlı farklılıklar saptanmıştır ($p < ,001$). Toplam ölçek için test-tekrar test güvenirliliği de yüksek bulunmuştur (ICC = ,928). Bulgular, TikTok Bağımlılığı Ölçeğinin Türkçe formunun genç yetişkin TikTok kullanıcılarında faktör geçerliği, iç tutarlılık, ayırt edicilik ve zamana karşı kararlılık açısından güçlü psikometrik özellikler gösterdiğini desteklemektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: TikTok, Bağımlılık, Ölçek, Kültürel uyarlama

Turkish Adaptation of the TikTok Addiction Scale: A Validity and Reliability Study

Abstract: This study aimed to adapt the TikTok Addiction Scale into Turkish and evaluate its psychometric properties among Turkish-speaking TikTok users. The study included 229 participants (117 men and 112 women) aged 18–27 years who had used TikTok for at least 12 months. Participation was voluntary, and data were collected through an online survey administered via Google Forms. Data were analysed using SPSS 22.0 and AMOS. Confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was conducted to examine whether the original six-factor structure of the scale was supported in the Turkish sample. Internal consistency was evaluated using Cronbach's alpha coefficients and corrected item-total correlations, discriminative validity was examined by comparing the lower and upper 27% score groups, and temporal stability was assessed through test-retest analysis and the intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC). CFA results indicated that the six-factor model demonstrated a good fit to the data ($\chi^2 = 103.127$, $df = 75$, $\chi^2/df = 1.375$, CFI = .987, GFI = .945, NFI = .956, IFI = .988, TLI = .982, RMSEA = .041, and RMR = .016). Standardized factor loadings ranged from .812 to .910. The overall scale demonstrated high internal consistency (Cronbach's $\alpha = .894$), while the subscale coefficients ranged from .830 to .936. Corrected item-total correlations ranged from .492 to .670, and significant differences were observed between the lower and upper 27% groups ($p < .001$). The total scale also demonstrated high test-retest reliability (ICC = .928). Overall, the findings support the factorial validity, internal consistency, discriminative ability, and temporal stability of the Turkish version of the TikTok Addiction Scale among young adult TikTok users.

Keywords: TikTok, Addiction, Scale, Cultural adaptation

* Sorumlu yazar: Mustafa Can KOC, E-posta: cankoc_01@hotmail.com

INTRODUCTION

Throughout history, human beings have relied on a variety of communication methods to sustain their social existence. These methods have evolved over time, shaped by the impact of social and technological developments. In the contemporary era, social media has emerged as a preeminent communication tool, a phenomenon largely facilitated by technological advancements that have rendered the internet ubiquitous and integral to daily life. The proliferation of mobile devices, particularly smartphones and tablets, has further bolstered the appeal of social media platforms for communication, information sharing, and entertainment purposes, particularly among younger demographics. The growing popularity of social media is underscored by its ability to provide individuals with avenues to express themselves and share their ex-periences, a feature that has become increasingly significant in the digital age. However, the benefits offered by the internet, such as communication and information sharing, also carry the potential to form a habit that carries the risk of addiction in in-dividuals (Al-Menayes, 2014; Çömlekçi & Başol, 2019; Kıran et al., 2020; Kuss & Griffiths, 2011; Schou Andreassen & Pallesen, 2014). Social media is defined as a very common web application today, and is a meta-concept that includes social networking applications (Tang et al., 2016; Wartberg et al., 2020; Zhao, 2023). Social media use has become an integral part of daily life, especially among young people (Kıran et al., 2020). Alongside technological advancements, there has been a diversification of social media usage areas (Atteh et al., 2020; Tanhan et al., 2024). This diversification has been driven by the provision of customised options catering to individuals' diverse interests and interaction requirements. In this context, applications specialising in short video sharing, notably TikTok, have garnered significant popularity among younger demographics due to their creative content creation and rapid consumption dynamics. TikTok, previously known as Musical.ly, is now recognised as one of the most success-ful Chinese social media applications in the world (Atteh et al., 2020). Since its incep-tion in September 2016, the app has reached a large user base and has rapidly ex-panded globally, particularly by encouraging young individuals to participate in ac-tivities such as watching, producing and commenting on 'LipSync videos' (Montag et al., 2021). The application was originally developed by Zhang Yiming in September 2016, before being acquired by Beijing Bytedance Technology in November 2017 and rebranded as TikTok. The app's widespread use has been particularly notable during the pandemic (Li et al., 2021), and it has become one of the most successful social me-dia applications from China, achieving global distribution in a short period of time (Xiong & Ji, 2019). TikTok offers a variety of features that set it apart from other social media applications. These include the ability to add audio and visuals, broadcast live, and earn income based on the number of followers. The platform's unique features al-low users to produce content that is tailored to the interests of their followers, through short videos that incorporate audio and visuals. This feature facilitates higher levels of interaction, engaging users in an interactive process. The platform's popularity is fur-ther bolstered by the ability to generate income through content creation while engag-ing followers (Günlü et al., 2023). TikTok, a social media platform predicated on short video sharing, has been identified as a highly popular application that showcases highly engaging video content (De Leyn et al., 2021). The platform places a strong em-phasis on personalised content, frequently shared by individuals with whom users do not have a personal connection (Barry et al., 2024). TikTok's

rapid growth, making it one of the most popular social media platforms worldwide (McCashin & Murphy, 2023), is noteworthy. The widespread use of social media provides an ideal platform for various purposes, such as the sharing of information and the raising of awareness (Eghtesadi & Florea, 2020). TikTok is distinguished by its functionality for users to create and consume brief videos (15-60 seconds), employing filters, music, and lip-syncing templates. A salient feature of the platform is its use of algorithms to personalise content according to users' preferences and past engagement patterns (Anderson, 2020). Furthermore, TikTok has been conceptualised as a distinctive online network where imitation and memetic elements accelerate the interaction between users, with its unique technical structures and high level of user adoption, a distinction it shares with no other platforms (Zulli & Zulli, 2020). The present study aims to adapt the TikTok Addiction Scale into Turkish and to evaluate the validity and reliability of the Turkish version among Turkish-speaking TikTok users. The platform's algorithm-based personalised content presentation, its structure based on short video format, and its interaction-oriented features are known to strengthen the relationship that users establish with the platform. However, the contribution of these features to social media addiction may have significant effects on both the psychological well-being of individuals and the usage habits of the platform. The present study is of particular importance as it provides a novel scientific tool with which to address user behaviours, and this is particularly relevant in light of the rapid growth in popularity of TikTok. The cultural adaptation of the TikTok Addiction Scale (TADS) aims to make a unique contribution to the existing literature on social media addiction by providing a new dimension to the study of the individual and social effects of TikTok use in the Turkish context. Furthermore, the introduction of this scale into Turkish culture has the potential to establish the foundation for more comprehensive studies to understand the dynamics of social media addiction.

METHOD

Research Design

This study employed a methodological scale adaptation and validation design. The psychometric evaluation focused on testing whether the established six-factor structure of the original TikTok Addiction Scale was supported in the Turkish sample through confirmatory factor analysis. Reliability was evaluated using internal consistency, item analysis, and test-retest procedures.

Participants

The study included 229 TikTok users (117 men and 112 women) aged between 18 and 27 years. Of the participants, 141 (61.6%) were aged 18–22 years and 88 (38.4%) were aged 23–27 years. Participants were recruited on a voluntary basis through an online survey administered via Google Forms. The eligibility criteria required participants to be at least 18 years old, able to read and understand Turkish, and to have used TikTok for at least 12 months. Regarding sample size adequacy, the 15-item scale was administered to 229 participants, corresponding to

approximately 15.3 participants per item. This exceeds the commonly recommended minimum ratio of 10 respondents per item and also falls within the generally recommended range of 200–300 observations for scale development and validation studies (Boateng et al., 2018).

Instruments and Procedure

TikTok Addiction Scale (TTAS). The TikTok Addiction Scale (TTAS) was developed by Galanis et al. (2024) to assess the level of TikTok addiction among adult users. The final version of the scale consists of 15 items distributed across six dimensions representing the core components of addictive behavior: salience (2 items), mood modification (2 items), tolerance (3 items), withdrawal symptoms (2 items), conflict (4 items), and relapse (2 items). Each item refers to the participant's experiences with TikTok during the previous 12 months and is rated on a five-point Likert-type scale ranging from 1 (very rarely) to 5 (very often). No reverse-scored items are included in the original scale. Higher scores indicate greater levels of TikTok addiction. Accordingly, the total score obtained from the 15 items ranges from 15 to 75. In the original validation study, the six-factor structure accounted for 80.70% of the total variance, and the scale demonstrated high internal consistency, with a Cronbach's alpha coefficient of .911 and a McDonald's omega coefficient of .914 (Galanis et al., 2024).

Translation and cultural adaptation procedure. The original English items were initially translated into Turkish by language experts. Subsequently, a back-translation procedure was conducted to evaluate linguistic equivalence between the original and Turkish versions. The translated items were reviewed by independent language experts in terms of semantic clarity, linguistic appropriateness, and consistency with the original items. Items for which discrepancies were identified were revised and re-translated. Following this review process, the final Turkish version of the scale was established.

Descriptive Characteristics

Table 1. Distribution according to descriptive characteristics

Variables	Groups	Frequency(n)	Percent (%)
Gender	Male	117	51,1
	Female	112	48,9
Age (year)	18-22	141	61,6
	23-27	88	38,4

A subsequent analysis of the descriptive characteristics of the study participants revealed that 51.1% of the subjects were male and 48.9% were female. With regard to age distribution, the majority of the participants were between the ages of 18 and 22 (61.6%) and 38.4% of the participants were between the ages of 23 and 27.

Ethical Considerations

Ethical approval for this study was obtained from the Yalova University Social and Behavioral Sciences Scientific Research Ethics Committee (Protocol No. 2025/53; Date: January 28, 2025). All participants were informed about the purpose and procedures of the study, and

participation was entirely voluntary. Informed consent was obtained from all participants prior to data collection. Participants were informed that they had the right to withdraw from the study at any time without providing a reason. All data collected were used solely for research purposes, and participants' personal information was kept confidential.

Statistical Analysis

The data obtained in the study were analysed using SPSS 22.0 and AMOS. The normality of the scale items was evaluated using skewness and kurtosis values. To evaluate the construct validity of the Turkish version of the TikTok Addiction Scale, confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was conducted using AMOS. Since the original instrument has an established six-factor theoretical structure, CFA was used to examine whether this predefined structure was supported in the Turkish sample. Model fit was evaluated using the chi-square statistic (χ^2), the χ^2/df ratio, Comparative Fit Index (CFI), Goodness-of-Fit Index (GFI), Normed Fit Index (NFI), Incremental Fit Index (IFI), Tucker–Lewis Index (TLI), Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA), and Root Mean Square Residual (RMR). Convergent validity was evaluated using average variance extracted (AVE), while composite reliability was assessed using composite reliability (CR) coefficients. AVE values of .50 or higher and CR values of .70 or higher were considered indicative of adequate convergent validity and composite reliability, respectively. Internal consistency reliability was assessed using Cronbach's alpha coefficients and corrected item-total correlations. Temporal stability was evaluated through test-retest analysis and the intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC). Scale discrimination was examined using an independent-samples t-test comparing the lower and upper 27% groups.

RESULTS

Confirmatory Factor Analysis

Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) is a methodological approach that is employed to evaluate the compatibility of the factor structure, as theorised, with the data at hand. The evaluation of the model's congruence with the data is facilitated by the utilisation of various fit indices within the framework of CFA. Figure 1 contains the diagram of the confirmatory factor analysis used in the study.

The CFA results indicated that the six-factor model demonstrated a good overall fit to the data. The chi-square statistic was $\chi^2 = 103.127$ with 75 degrees of freedom, resulting in a χ^2/df ratio of 1.375. The incremental fit indices were high (CFI = .987, NFI = .956, IFI = .988, and TLI = .982), while the GFI value was .945. In addition, the RMSEA value of .041 indicated a close fit, and the low RMR value (.016) further supported the adequacy of the model. Taken together, these fit indices provide strong support for the predefined six-factor structure of the Turkish version of the TikTok Addiction Scale.

Table 2. Confirmatory factor analysis index values

Indexes of Fit	Obtained Value	Interpretation
χ^2 (CMIN)	103.127	-
df	75	-
χ^2/df (CMIN/DF)	1.375	Good fit
CFI	0.987	Very good fit
GFI	0.945	Good fit
NFI	0.956	Very good fit
IFI	0.988	Very good fit
TLI	0.982	Very good fit
RMSEA	0.041	Close/good fit
RMR	0.016	Good fit

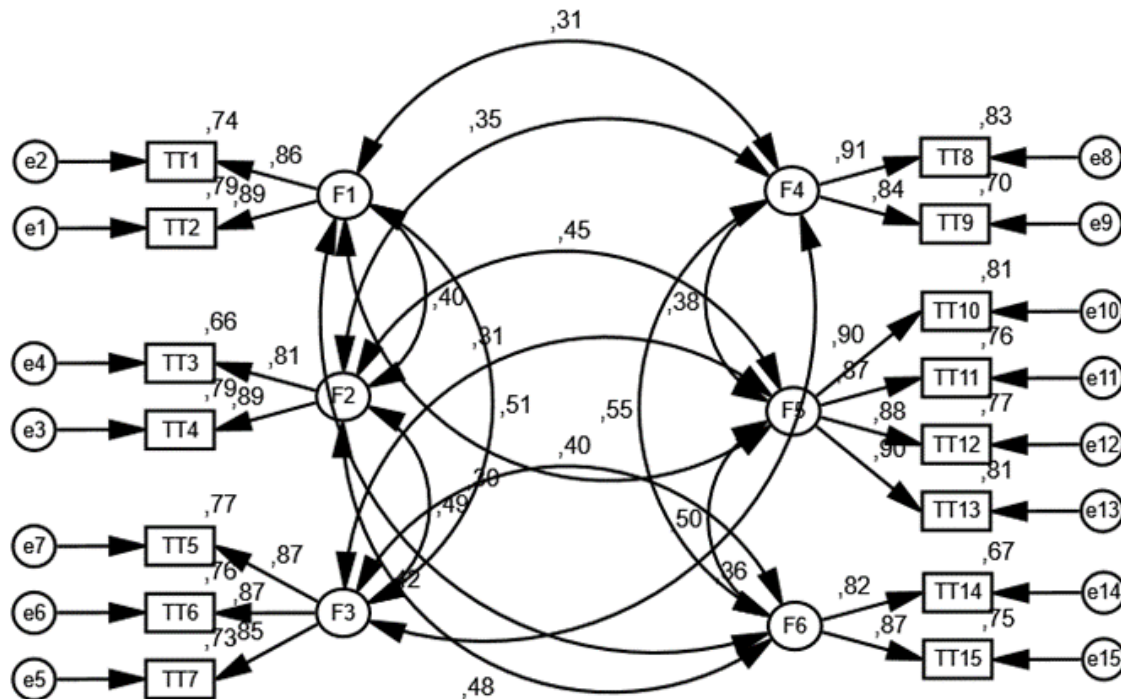


Figure 1. Diagram of Confirmatory Factor Analysis

The factor loadings in the model are shown in Table 3. In CFA, factor loadings are analysed to determine the extent to which each variable represents the relevant factor. In general, factor loadings of 0.40 and above indicate that the variable represents that factor well. Looking at the standardised factor loadings (Std. β), standard errors (S. Error), t-values and p-values in the table, it can be seen that all items have strong and significant relationships with the relevant factors. Factor loadings above 0.80 indicate that the model has a strong factor structure. In addition, t-values above 2 and p-values less than 0.001 support that the factor loadings are statistically significant.

Table 3. Factor loadings

Items and Factors			β	Std. β	S.Error	t	p
TT2	<---	F1	1,000	,887			
TT1	<---	F1	,934	,859	,089	10,495	p<0,001
TT4	<---	F2	1,000	,891			
TT3	<---	F2	,897	,812	,087	10,342	p<0,001
TT7	<---	F3	1,000	,852			
TT6	<---	F3	,990	,870	,062	16,069	p<0,001
TT5	<---	F3	,995	,875	,062	16,180	p<0,001
TT8	<---	F4	1,000	,910			
TT9	<---	F4	,943	,840	,089	10,587	p<0,001
TT10	<---	F5	1,000	,900			
TT11	<---	F5	,902	,869	,047	19,079	p<0,001
TT12	<---	F5	,937	,878	,048	19,527	p<0,001
TT13	<---	F5	,971	,900	,047	20,615	p<0,001
TT14	<---	F6	1,000	,819			
TT15	<---	F6	1,086	,867	,098	11,115	p<0,001

Taken together, the model fit indices and standardized factor loadings provide strong support for the adequacy of the predefined six-factor measurement model in the Turkish sample. The findings indicate that the observed variables represent their respective latent factors well and that the six-factor structure is consistent with the theoretical framework of the original TikTok Addiction Scale.

Reliability and Item Analysis

The reliability analysis of the scale was conducted by calculating Cronbach's Alpha internal consistency coefficient. According to Field (2018), a scale is deemed reliable when Cronbach's Alpha value exceeds 0.70. The reliability coefficients for the general and sub-dimensions of the scale are presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Reliability and convergent validity indicators of the turkish tiktok addiction scale

Subdimensions	Cronbach's α	CR	AVE	Number of Items
Overall Scale	.894	—	—	15
Salience	.865	.865	.762	2
Mood Modification	.840	.841	.727	2
Tolerance	.900	.900	.749	3
Withdrawal Symptoms	.866	.868	.767	2
Conflict	.936	.936	.787	4
Relapse	.830	.831	.711	2

As shown in Table 4, the overall Cronbach's alpha coefficient of the scale was .894, indicating high internal consistency. The Cronbach's alpha coefficients for the six subscales ranged from .830 to .936, with the Conflict dimension showing the highest coefficient (.936) and the Relapse dimension the lowest (.830). Composite reliability (CR) values ranged from .831 to .936, exceeding the recommended threshold of .70 for all dimensions. In addition, average variance extracted (AVE) values ranged from .711 to .787 and were above the recommended threshold of .50. These findings provide evidence of adequate convergent validity and strong internal

consistency and composite reliability for the six dimensions of the Turkish version of the TikTok Addiction Scale. Corrected item-total correlations were subsequently examined to evaluate the consistency of each item with the overall scale. Item-total correlation coefficients of .40 or higher were considered acceptable (Pallant, 2020). The results of the item analysis are presented in Table 5.

Table 5. Item analysis

Item	Scale Mean if Item Deleted	Scale Variance if Item Deleted	Corrected Item–Total Correlation	Cronbach's α if Item Deleted
TT1	28,42	49,965	,506	,890
TT2	28,41	49,875	,492	,891
TT3	28,97	50,174	,529	,889
TT4	28,94	49,628	,574	,887
TT5	28,71	49,232	,578	,887
TT6	28,69	49,276	,574	,887
TT7	28,74	49,326	,549	,888
TT8	28,80	49,325	,524	,889
TT9	28,77	49,396	,504	,890
TT10	28,72	47,709	,670	,883
TT11	28,76	48,975	,600	,886
TT12	28,74	48,729	,605	,886
TT13	28,77	48,249	,642	,885
TT14	28,80	50,021	,564	,888
TT15	28,83	49,566	,595	,887

An analysis of Table 5 indicates that the item-total correlation values of the scale exceed 0.40, thereby demonstrating a high degree of relationship between the scale and each item. The items exhibiting the highest item-total correlations were TT10 (0.670), TT13 (0.642), and TT12 (0.605), indicating a strong consistency with the overall scale. Conversely, although TT2 item (0.492) exhibited the lowest item-total correlation, it remained within acceptable limits. The removal of any item from the scale did not result in a significant change in Cronbach's Alpha value, thereby affirming the scale's high internal consistency. Furthermore, the variance values of the items demonstrate that the scale manifests a heterogeneous structure, with different individuals providing distinct responses. The obtained results provide evidence in support of the scale's reliability and psychometric soundness. In conclusion, the overall and sub-dimensions of the TikTok Addiction Scale have high reliability coefficients, and it was determined that all items exhibited a strong relationship with the scale. The internal consistency of the scale was high, and it provided a psychometrically reliable measurement tool.

Distinctiveness

The discriminative power of a scale is contingent on its ability to accurately represent the construct it is designed to measure. This is determined by the presence of a significant difference between the lower and upper score groups (Pallant, 2020). In this study, the scale scores of the lower and upper 27% groups were compared, and an independent samples t-test was employed to analyse the data. The results of this analysis are presented in Table 5, which provides a detailed comparison of the scores obtained by the lower and upper 27% groups.

Table 6. Differentiation of scale scores according to lower-upper 27% groups

Groups	Belowe %27 (n=62)		Above %27 (n=62)		t	sd	p
	Mean	Sd.	Mean	Sd.			
Tiktok Addiction Total	21,629	2,795	40,032	4,097	-29,218	122	0,000
Caution	3,565	1,210	5,807	1,389	-9,585	122	0,000
Mood Change	2,661	0,848	4,823	1,235	-11,358	122	0,000
Tolerance	4,468	1,388	8,242	1,696	-13,564	122	0,000
Withdrawal Symptoms	2,710	0,930	5,194	1,389	-11,700	122	0,000
Conflict	5,307	1,574	10,887	2,430	-15,176	122	0,000
Recurrence	2,919	0,911	5,081	1,205	-11,266	122	0,000

Independent Groups T-Test

Within the scope of the discriminant analysis, an independent samples t-test was employed to examine whether the scale exhibited a significant difference between the lower and upper 27% groups. The findings revealed a substantial discrepancy between the lower and upper 27% groups across all sub-dimensions and the total score of the TikTok Addiction Scale ($p < 0.001$). This finding indicates that the scale is capable of effectively differentiating between individuals with low and high addiction levels. The results of this study demonstrate that the TikTok Addiction Scale possesses a robust psychometric structure and is an effective tool for measuring addictive behaviours, particularly in individuals with high addiction levels. It has been observed that TikTok use is associated with increased conflict, withdrawal, and the development of tolerance in these individuals. The scale's ability to differentiate between individuals with low and high addiction levels supports its validity and reliability as a measurement instrument.

Test-Retest

A test-retest analysis was conducted in order to evaluate the consistency and stability of the scale over time. In this context, the same scale was reapplied to 32 participants after a certain period of time following the initial measurement, and the differences between the two measurements were analysed using a dependent groups t-test. Additionally, the Intraclass Correlation Coefficient (ICC) was calculated in order to evaluate the agreement between the measurements. The findings of the test-retest analysis are presented in Table 7.

Table 7. Test-retest

Measurements	Test		Repeat		N	t	p ^a	ICC ^b	p
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD					
Tiktok Addiction Total	29,938	6,345	29,531	5,640	32	1,490	0,146	0,928	0,000
Caution	5,125	1,264	5,094	1,254	32	0,571	0,572	0,913	0,000
Mood Change	3,688	1,120	3,625	1,008	32	0,626	0,536	0,921	0,000
Tolerance	6,375	2,152	6,313	2,117	32	0,466	0,645	0,906	0,000
Withdrawal Symptoms	4,000	1,626	3,938	1,564	32	0,626	0,536	0,909	0,000
Conflict	7,281	2,630	7,250	2,553	32	0,297	0,768	0,918	0,000
Recurrence	3,469	1,077	3,313	1,061	32	1,305	0,201	0,922	0,000

An analysis of Table 7 reveals that there is no statistically significant difference ($p>0.05$) between the initial and subsequent measurements of the TikTok Addiction Scale. This finding indicates that the scale possesses a stable structure, as evidenced by the absence of a significant difference between the total scale score ($t=1,490$, $p=0.146$) and all sub-dimensions. Furthermore, the Intraclass Correlation Coefficient (ICC) value calculated for the total score of the scale was 0.928, thereby supporting the conclusion that the scale possesses high test-retest reliability ($p=0.000$). Additionally, the IC

C values of the sub-dimensions are above 0.90, indicating that the scale is highly consistent over time. These findings indicate that the TikTok Addiction Scale provides reliable results in retest applications and can be utilised as a reliable measurement tool in long-term research.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The present study evaluated the psychometric properties of the Turkish adaptation of the TikTok Addiction Scale (TTAS) among adult TikTok users. Overall, the findings provided support for the six-factor structure of the original instrument and indicated satisfactory evidence regarding internal consistency, item discrimination, and temporal stability. Rather than merely reproducing the statistical results, these findings should be considered in relation to previous research on TikTok-specific addictive or problematic use.

The confirmatory factor analysis supported the established six-factor structure of the original TikTok Addiction Scale (TTAS), comprising salience, mood modification, tolerance, withdrawal symptoms, conflict, and relapse. This finding is consistent with the original validation study by Galanis et al. (2024), in which the 15-item TTAS demonstrated a six-factor structure reflecting the core components of addictive behavior. The replication of this predefined factor structure in the present Turkish sample suggests that the theoretical organization of the original scale is also applicable within the Turkish cultural context. Similarly, an independent Turkish validation study reported support for the original 15-item, six-factor structure using confirmatory factor analysis (Cokmus et al., 2026). Taken together, these findings provide additional evidence supporting the factorial validity of the TTAS in Turkish-speaking samples.

Nevertheless, TikTok-related problematic use has not always been conceptualized using the same dimensional structure. Günlü et al. (2023), for example, validated the Problematic TikTok Use Scale and identified a three-factor structure consisting of obsession, escapism, and lack of control. The difference between this structure and the six-factor structure of the TTAS may reflect differences in the theoretical foundations and item-development strategies of the instruments. Whereas the TTAS is organized around addiction-related components such as salience, mood modification, tolerance, withdrawal, conflict, and relapse, the Problematic TikTok Use Scale focuses more specifically on problematic engagement patterns. Therefore, the six-factor solution obtained in the present study should be interpreted as support for the

theoretical model underlying the TTAS rather than as evidence that all instruments assessing problematic TikTok use should display an identical factorial structure.

The internal consistency findings also support the reliability of the Turkish adaptation. The overall Cronbach's alpha coefficient in the present study was .894, and the coefficients for the six subdimensions ranged from .830 to .936. These findings are comparable with those of Galanis et al. (2024), who reported an overall Cronbach's alpha of .911 for the original TTAS, with reliability coefficients varying across its subdimensions. Similarly, Günlü et al. (2023) reported a Cronbach's alpha coefficient of .90 for the total Problematic TikTok Use Scale. Thus, despite differences in scale structure and study populations, the reliability estimates obtained in the present study are consistent with previous research demonstrating high internal consistency among instruments designed to assess problematic or addictive TikTok use.

Item-level findings provide additional support for the internal coherence of the Turkish version. Corrected item-total correlations in the present study ranged from .492 to .670, and the removal of individual items did not substantially improve the overall internal consistency coefficient. In the original TTAS study, Galanis et al. (2024) reported corrected item-total correlations ranging from .333 to .756. The values obtained in the present study therefore fall within the range observed in the original validation and suggest that each item contributes meaningfully to the construct measured by the total scale.

The test-retest findings further indicate that the Turkish adaptation provides stable scores over time. The ICC for the total scale was .928, while the coefficients for the subdimensions were all above .90. This pattern is consistent with the strong temporal stability reported for the original TTAS, for which Galanis et al. (2024) found an ICC of .994 for the total score and ICC values ranging from .930 to .992 across the six factors. Günlü et al. (2023) also reported acceptable test-retest reliability for their measure of problematic TikTok use, although the coefficients were lower than those observed for the TTAS. Because different instruments, samples, reassessment intervals, and reliability statistics may affect these estimates, direct numerical comparisons should be made cautiously. Nevertheless, the current results provide evidence that the Turkish TTAS yields relatively stable measurements across repeated administrations.

The significant differences observed between the lower and upper 27% score groups provide additional evidence regarding the discriminative capacity of the scale. These results indicate that the items and subdimensions are capable of distinguishing respondents located at different ends of the observed TTAS score distribution. However, this finding should not be interpreted as establishing a clinical or diagnostic cut-off for TikTok addiction. Rather, it supports the psychometric discrimination of the scale within the study sample. Establishing clinically meaningful threshold scores would require additional studies involving external diagnostic criteria and appropriate sensitivity and specificity analyses.

From a broader perspective, the availability of a culturally adapted TikTok-specific measure is important because TikTok differs from conventional social networking platforms in several respects, including its short-form video format, continuous content stream, and highly

personalized algorithmic recommendations. Previous research has emphasized that problematic TikTok use should be examined with instruments capable of capturing platform-specific patterns rather than relying exclusively on general social media addiction measures (Galanis et al., 2024; Günlü et al., 2023). The Turkish adaptation of the TTAS may therefore facilitate further research examining the relationships between TikTok use and psychological, behavioral, social, and health-related variables among Turkish-speaking populations.

The present findings should also be considered in light of several limitations. Participants were recruited voluntarily through an online Google Forms survey, and the sample was restricted to TikTok users aged 18–27 years; therefore, the findings should not be generalized to all Turkish adults or to individuals from different age groups. In addition, the study relied on self-report data, which may be influenced by recall and response biases. Test-retest reliability was evaluated in a relatively small subsample of 32 participants. Future studies should evaluate the scale in larger and more heterogeneous populations, examine its measurement invariance across demographic groups, and investigate its relationships with theoretically relevant variables such as general social media addiction, psychological distress, well-being, and patterns of TikTok use.

The findings of this study provide evidence supporting the reliability and factorial validity of the Turkish adaptation of the 15-item, six-factor TikTok Addiction Scale among young adult TikTok users. The preservation of the original six-factor structure, together with satisfactory internal consistency, item discrimination, and test-retest reliability, suggests that the Turkish version can be used as a research instrument for assessing TikTok-related addictive behaviors in Turkish-speaking young adults. However, given the characteristics of the present sample and the absence of a clinically established diagnostic threshold, the scale should primarily be regarded as a psychometric research instrument rather than a diagnostic tool. Further validation in larger, more diverse, and independent samples is warranted.

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