



## The Effect of Personality Characteristics of Students on Positive Perception Level: A Study to Hockey Super League Players

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### Abstract

The study was done in order to determine the effect of personality characteristics of students female athletes who participated in Hockey Super League competitions organized in Konya Province between the 15th and the 28th of April, 2018 upon their positive perception level. The study was consisted of 116 students female athletes who participated in hockey super league competitions (Average age= 18.21±2.98). In order to determine students athletes' personality levels; "Eysenck Personality Inventory" designed by Francis *et al.* (1992) and "Positive Perception Scale" adapted by Akın and Kaya (2015) for the Turkish language were used. For the analyses of the data; histogram technique was employed in order to find whether or not data followed a normal distribution and as a result, it was identified that all sub-dimensions of mental endurance and positive perception scale followed a normal distribution. Accordingly, t test and One-Way-Anova tests were employed in order to explore basic differences and Canonical Correlation analyses were performed in order to find the effect between personality and positive perception levels. As a result; it was concluded that athletes demonstrated moderate level of personality and positive perception. It was seen that there was a moderate and significant correlation between sub-dimensions of Eysenck personality inventory and positive perception scale.

**Keywords:** Personality, Positive perception, Sports, Athlete, Student, Female.

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### Contents

1. Introduction .....	270
2. Methodology .....	270
3. Results .....	271
4. Canonical Correlation Findings .....	272
5. Discussion and Conclusion .....	273
6. Recommendations .....	273
References .....	273

## 1. Introduction

Athletes' physical quality and high ability may affect results of competitions positively or negatively. Losing or winning athletes' a competition depends on their performances during the competition. If athletes are physically the same, success is achieved by those athletes with mentally better skills (Weinberg and Gould, 2015). People are living beings that are shaped physically, socially and mentally. People are emotionally, physically and socially a whole. Athletes' sportive skills may be increased to an elite level by bringing these components together, planning and implementing them with the necessary studies and works (Erdoğan and Kocaeksi, 2015). Psychological and mental factors are determinant factors in choosing athletes if they are at the same level in such characteristics as physiological, motor, technical and tactical status. During the season, athletes' mental performance may play a key role in their and teams' achievements and success in pitch (Altıntaş and Akalan, 2008).

In this sense, perception –one of the psychological abilities- is one of the most effective characteristics that greatly influence one's internal and external emotions, thoughts and behaviors. E. Husserl's quote "reality is not what appears but what is perceived" (Öğretir, 2004) puts an emphasis on how important perception is. According to psychologists; perception –regarded as reality- integrates and interprets emotional data transferred by sense organs and is defined as a process by which people make sense of stimuli around them and those stimuli coming from outer world are mentally processed (Arkonaç, 1998; Willimon, 2000; Johansson and Xiong, 2003; Bakan and Kefe, 2012).

Positive perception plays an important role in educational organizations where people spend most of their social and educational lives, too. Actually, peoples' positive or negative perceptions about themselves and others are one of the factors that affect their motivation directly. The difference between people's roles and those given to them by their superiors or ambiguities related to the roles may lead to inner conflicts in individuals or outer conflicts with their social circles (Sütlü, 2007). In this sense, it is important whether or not employers have positive and negative perceptions about employees and how they reflect these positive and negative perceptions towards employees. In the nature of leadership, there is an influence and guidance (Kurt, 2014). This requires employers to have a positive perception towards employees by trusting in them, treating them justly and believing that employees can perform their tasks in the best way.

Generally, positive perception can be defined as a communication style. Actually, styles by which people who are in contact perceive each other determine their attitudes towards each other and quality of their communication (Kepekcioglu, 2015). Positive perception uncovers individuals' assessments of themselves, of others and being assessed by others in general manner. Therefore, using positive perception in every management phase and in motivation management effectively is important in terms of quality of employees. One's perceptions of themselves and others are continual and influence their psychological and daily life depending on these perceptions being positive or negative. Personality is one of the psychological equipments, too. Personality expresses one's distinctive structure regarding all factors that are effective upon their sensing, thinking and behaving styles. Personality –continuously occurring with inner and outer stimuli- includes individuals' all hereditary and acquired skills, emotions, expectations and attitudes in biological and psychological terms (Tınar, 1999). In other words; personality points out a structure that simultaneously includes the basic qualities that come with birth and the dynamics produced by the environment where they are (Tiryaki and Aykaç, 2013).

It is known that personality characteristics reduce anxiety and increase self-confident; thus enhance social relations (Tazegül, 2014). Personality is a spiritual unity that brings one's specific characters together. This unity includes individuals' physical structure, physical appearance, intelligence, abilities, excitement, reactions, emotions, interests and general culture (Adasal, 1979).

The study aimed at determining the effect of personality characteristics of athletes who participated in Hockey Super League competitions upon their positive perception level.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1. Research Model

This study is a descriptive method aimed to investigate the various variables of students athletes. Descriptive method is a method to aim to define existing event without intervention of researcher (Karasar, 1995). Descriptive studies are to define typical characteristics of a particular group and to make conclusions about how people in a particular group will behave in response to certain situations (Borg and Gall, 1989).

### 2.2. Research Group

Research group; There were 1116 students female athletes who participated in Hockey Super League competitions in Konya Province on 15-28 April 2018 (Age = 18,21 ± 2,98). The research scale was voluntarily applied on athletes face to face by being interviewed where they played.

### 2.3. Data Collection Tools

The data collection tools required to reach the determined objectives related to the research are given below:

### 2.4. Personal Information Form

In order to collect information about the personal characteristics of the participants and to establish the independent variables of the research, an information form consisting of 3 variables (income status, sport year and difficulty in leisure time) were prepared by the researcher.

### 2.5. Revised Eysenck Personality Questionnaire-Abbreviated Form (EPQ-REPQ)

Francis *et al.* (1992) Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (Eysenck and Eysenck, 1975) and the short form of the same questionnaire (48 items) (Eysenck *et al.*, 1985) were formed by reviewing the EPQ-REPQ. The questionnaire consists of 24 items, evaluating personality in 3 main factors: neuroticism, extraversion, psychoticism. In addition, with the lying subscale, it is aimed to prevent bias during the implementation of the questionnaire and to check its validity. In this survey, where each factor is evaluated with 6 items, the participant is asked to respond to the 24

questions in the format Yes (1) - No (0). for items 3, 5, 7, 10, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, Yes = 0 point , No = 1 point and aslo for items 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 21, 23, 24 Yes = 1 point , No = 0 point. The score for each personality trait varies are from 0 to 6.

The internal consistency (Cronbach Alpha) reliability coefficients of this study; .82 for Neuroticism, .86 for Extraversion; .74 for Psychoticism was found.

**2.6. Positive Perception Scale**

The validity and reliability of the Turkish version of the Positive Perception Scale was performed by [Akin and Kaya \(2015\)](#). As a result of the confirmatory factor analysis applied for the construct validity of the scale, The scale was found to conform to the three dimensions of the original form (Self in Past, Self-Ability and Human Nature) ( $\chi^2=24.28$ ,  $sd=16$ ,  $RMSEA=.045$ ,  $NFI=.96$ ,  $NNFI=.97$ ,  $IFI=.99$ ,  $RFI=.93$ ,  $CFI=.99$ ,  $GFI=.98$  and  $SRMR=.032$ ). Factor loads of the items are listed between .57 and .95. The Cronbach alpha internal consistency coefficients of the Positive Perception Scale were found to be .80 for Self in Past , .71 for Human Nature and .75 Self-Ability from sun dimensions' of the Positive Perception Scale. Corrected item-test correlations of the Positive Perception Scale are listed between .55 and .65. There is no reverse coded substance as the Self-Ability = 6,8; Self in Past = 1,2,4,7; human nature = 3.5.

The internal consistency (Cronbach Alpha) reliability coefficients of this study; .71 for Self-Ability, .80 for Self in Past, and .72 for Human Nature.

**2.7. Data Collection**

Firstly, the available information on the purpose of the research was given in a systematic way by searching the literature. Hence, a theoretical framework has been established. Secondly, " Positive Perception Scale-PPS developed by [Akin and Kaya \(2015\)](#) revised Eysenck Personality Questionnaire-Abbreviated Form (EPQ-REPQ developed by [Francis et al. \(1992\)](#) and information form to gather the participants' personal information were used.

**2.8. Data Analysis**

During the analysis and evaluation of the data; the data were analyzed using the Spss 25.0 for Windows package program. Percentage and frequency methods were used to determine the distribution of the personal information of the participants. In order to test whether the sub-dimensions of both scales show normal distribution, histograms were examined, and finally, and Positive Perception Scale and Eysenck Personality Questionnaire all sub-dimensions were found to have normal distribution. Accordingly, One Way Anova and t-Test analysis were performed to determine the main differences. POST HOC Tukey and Tamhane T<sub>2</sub> were examined to determine the source of the difference. Pearson moment product correlation and independent regression analysis were used for the relationship between independent variables, personality characteristics and dependent variable positive perception levels.

**3. Results**

**3.1. Personal Characteristics of the Research Group**

The data and comments on the demographic characteristics of the students are given below.

**Table-1. Distribution of Demographic Characteristics of the Sample Group Participated in the Study.**

		n	%
Sports Year	0-1500 TL	60	51,7
	1501-3000 TL	56	48,3
Difficulty in Leisure Time	3-5 Year	63	54,3
	6-8 Year	31	26,7
	9 and +	22	19,0
Income Statue	Always	27	23,3
	Sometimes	46	39,7
	Never	43	37,1

According to [Table 1](#), 60% of the total income is between 0-1500 TL and 56% is between 1501 3000TL. According to sports year of the athletes, %54,3 of the athletes is between 3-5 years, %26,7 between 6-8 years and %19,0 between 9 and over years. According to the difficulty in leisure time, 23.3% of the athletes is always, %39,7 sometimes and %37,1 never.

**Table-2. Results of The Participants' Personality and Positive Perception on Total Score and Sub-Dimension Levels.**

		n	$\bar{X}$	Ss	Min	Max
Personality	Neuroticism	116	3,52	1,399	1,00	6,00
	Extraversion	116	3,67	1,538	,00	6,00
	Psychoticism	116	2,28	1,296	,00	5,00
Positive Perception	Self-Ability	116	11,26	2,381	6,00	14,00
	Self in Past	116	20,80	5,399	10,00	28,00
	Human Nature	116	10,45	2,599	6,00	14,00

Source: This table is about the result of participants' min. and max. points.

In [Table 2](#), the mean scores of personality level sub-dimensions of the participants were examined. As a result of this review; it can be said that the participants', included in the study, level of neuroticism with 3.52 is over the mid-level, level of Extraversion with 3.67 is over the mid-level and level of Psychoticism with 2.28 is under the mid-level

Mean scores of positive perception sub-dimensions of the participants were examined. As a result of this review; it can be said that the participants', included in the study, level of Self-ability with 11.26 is over the mid-level, level of Self in Past with 20.80 is over the mid-level and level of Human nature with 10.45 is the mid-level

**Table-3.** Personality Scale Sub-Size Scores Independent Group F Test Results to determine whether athletes differ according to Sports Year variable.

		n	Mean	Ss	Sd	F	p-Value	Meaningful Difference
Neuroticism	3-5 Year	63	3,48	1,306	113	5,899	,004*	2-3
	6-8 Year	31	4,10	1,300				
	9 and +	22	2,82	1,500				
Extraversion	3-5 Year	63	3,41	1,455	113	2,271	,108	-
	6-8 Year	31	3,81	1,701				
	9 and +	22	4,18	1,435				
Psychoticism	3-5 Year	63	2,38	1,300	113	,959	,386	-
	6-8 Year	31	2,00	1,291				
	9 and +	22	2,36	1,293				

\*p<.05.

In Table 3, the average of the sub-dimension scores of the athletes according to the sports year variable was examined by the F test. As a result of the review; There was a significant difference in Neuroticism from personality sub-dimension according to income status variable(F:5.90 P=0.004<0,05).

**Table-4.** Independent Group F Test Results for Determining if the Positive Perception Scale Sub-Size Scores differ according to Sports Year Variables.

		n	Mean	Ss	Sd	F	p-Value	Meaningful Difference
Self-ability	3-5 Year	63	10,95	2,485	113	1,630	,201	-
	6-8 Year	31	11,35	2,288				
	9 and +	22	12,00	2,116				
Self in Past	3-5 Year	63	19,95	5,726	113	1,969	,144	-
	6-8 Year	31	21,38	5,383				
	9 and +	22	22,41	4,008				
Human nature	3-5 Year	63	9,84	2,503	113	4,250	,017*	1-2
	6-8 Year	31	11,39	2,319				
	9 and +	22	10,86	2,867				

\*p<.05.

In Table 4, the F test was used to determine whether the mean scores of the positive perception sub-dimension scores of the players differ according to the sports year variable. As a result of the review; There was a significant difference between the positive perception scale sub-dimension according to sports year variable in terms of positive perception subscale of human nature (F:4.25 P=0.017<0,05).

**Table-5.**Independent Group F Test Results for Determining if the Positive Perception Scale Sub-Size Scores differ according to the difficulty in leisure time Variable.

		n	Mean	Ss	Sd	F	p-Value	Meaningful Difference
Self-ability	Always	27	10,37	2,273	113	2,882	,060	-
	Sometimes	46	11,32	2,348				
	Never	43	11,74	2,381				
Self in Past	Always	27	17,33	5,385	113	8,709	,000*	1-2 1-3
	Sometimes	46	21,35	5,104				
	Never	43	22,40	4,826				
Human nature	Always	27	9,81	2,704	113	1,290	,279	-
	Sometimes	46	10,46	2,656				
	Never	43	10,84	2,449				

\*p<.05.

In Table 5, the F test was used to determine whether the average of the positive perception subscale scores of the players differ according to the difficulty in leisure time. There was a significant difference between the positive perception scale sub-dimension according to the difficulty in leisure time in terms of positive perception subscale of Self in Past (F:8.71 P=0.000<0,05).

#### 4. Canonical Correlation Findings

In the study, the correlation between sub-dimensions of Eysenckpersonality inventory (neuroticism, extraversion, psychoticism, lying) and positive perception scale [self-ability (SA), self in past (SP), human nature (HN)] was examined. Canonical correlation coefficient ( $r_c$ ) was calculated as .57; which indicated an above-moderate level of significant correlation between sub-dimensions of Eysenckpersonality inventory and positive perception scale. According to these findings; first canonical variable was found to be .41 while second variable .55. According to these findings, first canonical coefficient accounted for % 41 of personality variables while the second canonical coefficient accounted for % 55 of positive perception scale. Besides, personality variables accounted for % 41 of total variance of positive perception scale.

**Table-6.** Correlations between Personality Level and Positive Perception levels Variations Standardized Equivalent Variances, Canonical Correlations and Variance Percentages Table.

Canonic Variate	Correlation	Coefficient
<b>Personality</b>		
Neuroticism	,411	,078
Extraversion	-,217	,874
Psychoticism	,498	-,696
Percentage of Variance	,41	-
Redundancy	,13	-
<b>Positive Perception</b>		
Self-ability	-,091	-1,176
Self in Past	-1,053	,547
Human nature	,222	,652
Percentage of Variance	,55	-
Redundancy	,18	-
Canonical Correlation	,57	-

Source: The table is about the Canonical Correlations of the study

As for the positive perception scale variables, it explained % 55 of personality variables. According to first canonical variable, there was a statistically significant correlation between personality inventory and positive perception scale variables ( $F_{(12, 288.68)} = 4.80, p < .05$ ). Extraversion (-.22) placed in the first variable set was found negatively to be lower than critical threshold of .30 while neuroticism (.41) and psychoticism (.49) were found positively to be higher than  $\geq .30$  (Tabachnick and Fidell, 2013). In the second canonical variable; self in past (-1.05) was found negatively to be higher than the critical threshold and human nature (.22) was found positively to be lower than the critical threshold while self-ability (-.09) was found negatively to be lower than the critical threshold (Tabachnick and Fidell, 2013). According to the findings, it was identified that sub-dimensions of Eysenck personality inventory placed in the first variable set affected significantly sub-dimensions of positive perception scale placed in the second variable set.

## 5. Discussion and Conclusion

According to the findings of the study, it was concluded that hockey athletes' neuroticism, extraversion and psychoticism sub-dimensions of personality inventory was at a moderate level. The study of Sar (2016) which -we think- concurred with our study, looked at those doing sports and those not doing sports and found that the participants' personality levels were higher. The study of Cameron *et al.* (2006) identified that ice hockey attackers showed higher level of extraversion than defensemen and centers in terms of ice hockey position; which supported the current study, too. It is also important for the current study in the sense that the study of Shariati and Bakhtiari (2011) found that sports influenced personality positively.

It may also be suggested that participants' sub-dimensions of positive perception scale -self-ability, self in past and human nature- were at moderate level and above-moderate level.

There was no statistically significant difference between hockey athletes' personality inventory-sub-dimensions and income level and difficulty spending free time productively whereas statistically significant difference occurred between their personality inventory-sub-dimensions and duration to do sports (in years). Accordingly, it may be argued that hockey athletes who did sports for 6-8 years were angrier or more anxious than those who did sports for  $\geq 9$  years in terms of neuroticism subscale. On the other hand, it may be concluded that those who did sports for  $\geq 9$  years were calmer than others. The reason may be that longer duration to do sports (in years) may have produced experience.

There was no statistically significant difference between hockey athletes' positive perception scale-sub-dimensions and income level while statistically significant difference was found between hockey athletes' positive perception scale-sub-dimensions and difficulty spending free time productively and duration to do sports (in years). Accordingly, it may be argued that hockey athletes who did sports for 6-8 years demonstrated higher positive perception levels in terms of human nature as compared to those who did sports for 3-5 years.

Again, it may be argued that those who always had difficulty spending free time positively had lower scores in terms of self in past subscale than those who sometimes or never had difficulty spending free time positively. This may be due to the possibility that using free time productively made positive contributions to personal growth.

According to canonical correlation findings, it may be concluded that an above-moderate level of significant correlation was found between Eysenck personality inventory-sub-scales and positive perception scale-sub-scales. Canonical variable accounted for 41% of personality variable but second canonical variable accounted for 55% of positive perception scale variables. In light of the findings, Eysenck personality inventory-sub-dimensions placed in the first variable set affected positive perception scale-sub-dimensions placed in the second variable set at a statistically significant level.

## 6. Recommendations

More studies are needed to examine the relationship between variables in this area. Because the lack of empirical studies in the related literature has made it difficult to interpret the findings.

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