



## Partner Abuse Scale for Woman: Turkish Adaptation and Exploration of the Relationship with Relationship Satisfaction and Depression \*

**Hatice Deniz Özdemir**, Ph.D., İstanbul Esenyurt University, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Türkiye, deniz.dozdemir@gmail.com  0000-0003-3468-2065

**Mehmet Engin Deniz**, Prof. Dr., Yıldız Technical University, Guidance and Psychological Counseling, Türkiye, edeniz@yildiz.edu.tr  0000-0003-0455-7458

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### Abstract

The main purpose of this study was to adapt the Composite Abuse Scale (CAS), a multidimensional instrument measuring partner violence, into Turkish and to examine its validity and reliability. The research employed a relational survey design and followed standard procedures for scale adaptation. A purposive sampling method, one of the non-probability sampling techniques, was used. Data were collected from three separate sample consisting of female students enrolled at Trakya University. In the criterion-related validity analyses, a significant negative correlation was found between the partner abuse and relationship satisfaction ( $r = -.70$ ,  $p < .001$ ), indicating that higher levels of partner violence were associated with lower relationship satisfaction. In addition, a significant positive correlation emerged between the partner abuse and depression levels ( $r = .58$ ,  $p < .001$ ), suggesting that higher levels of violence were linked to increased depression. The internal consistency of the scale was high, with a Cronbach's alpha coefficient of .91. Confirmatory factor analysis demonstrated that the scale exhibited acceptable model fit indices. Overall, the findings indicate that as experiences of partner violence increase, individuals' relationship satisfaction decreases, while their depression levels rise. The results support the Turkish form of the Scale a valid and reliable instrument for assessing partner violence.

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## INTRODUCTION

There is no definition of violence that is acceptable to all people. At the same time, the behaviours considered as violence vary over time. In parallel with sociological and technological changes, the factors included in this concept are constantly evolving. Generally, violence can be defined as a set of intentional attitudes and behaviours that cause psychological and physical harm to an individual and lead to personal destruction (Özcan, 2009). According to the World Health Organisation, violence is the intentional use of physical force against oneself, another person, a group, or a community, either actually or threatened, which results or is likely to result in death, injury, psychological harm, poor development, or deprivation (WHO, 2024). The Turkish Language Association defines violence as “the degree of a movement, a force, intensity, hardness, speed, the use of brute force against those with opposing views; brute force, excessiveness of emotion or behaviour” (TDK, 2024).

Despite different definitions violence, often involves the use of physical force in ways not accepted by law, threats, behaviours against morality, coercion, and destruction of property (Özerkmen, 2012). Violence manifests differently across times and societies, and can vary from person to person. Factors such as family structure, personal experiences, societal norms, and cultural environment influence an individual's tendency toward violent behaviour (Adak, 2012). Among the segments of society exposed to violence, intimate relationships-partners, spouses, or lovers-represent a particularly important context. Violent behaviours or threats within romantic relationships are defined as abuse (Kılınçer & Dost, 2013).

It has been reported that approximately 1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime, with the majority being partner violence (WHO, 2024). Violence against women is any behaviour based on gender that harms women or has the potential to cause mental, physical, or sexual damage. It also includes actions that arbitrarily restrict their freedom or impose pressure in private and social life (Ellsberg & Heise, 2005; Subaşı & Akın, 2003). Such violence is usually perpetrated by individuals close to the victim, such as siblings, fathers, brothers, husbands, or partners, and may target one or more aspects of women's psychological, physical, sexual, or economic integrity (Güven, 2010).

To further understand the dynamics of violence, it is essential to examine intimate partner relationships, as these often constitute the primary context in which women experience multiple forms of abuse. In such relationships, violence refers to a range of behaviours by the partner, including physical and sexual aggression, psychological pressure, and controlling actions. This form of violence is widely recognised as a serious medical and social issue (Dillon et al., 2013; Hamberger et al., 2004).

Violence against women rooted in gender roles can be perpetrated not only by men in a woman's immediate environment, such as her partner or husband, but also by men she may or may not know, as well as by other women within the family or broader social environment (Jansen et al., 2009). In patriarchal societies—where men are regarded as superior and gender roles are strictly defined—women are exposed to higher levels of violence (Page & İnce, 2008). When women resist behaviours or attitudes that conflict with their identities, men may perceive this resistance as a threat to their dominance, which can lead to acts of violence (Özmen, 2004).

Different forms of partner violence can be categorised as physical, sexual, and emotional. Physical violence includes any attack against the body, such as pushing, slapping, punching, kicking, shaking, beating, tying, pulling hair, biting, choking, scratching, throwing objects, using firearms or cutting instruments, forcing unhealthy living conditions, torturing, preventing access to health services, and killing (Adak, 2012; Foshee et al., 2007). Sexual violence involves using sexuality as a means of intimidation, threat, control, or forcing an individual into non-consensual sexual acts. It also includes forcing abortion or birth control (Miller et al., 2007; Rickert et al., 2004). Sexual violence, often

rooted in traditional gender roles, is mostly hidden due to societal taboos, making it difficult to detect. Victims often struggle to disclose such abuse (Adak, 2012).

Emotional violence is a type of violence that targets mental health rather than physical healthy. Mostly, behaviors that have a continuity rather than one-time actions are defined as psychological violence (Uluocak et al., 2014). While the effects of emotional violence are generally underestimated because they are not observable, they can cause severe wounds in the individual's world (Vahip & Doğanavşargil, 2006). Emotional violence is the behaviours that do not involve physical violence, such as scolding, humiliating, humiliating the person emotionally and psychologically (Offenhauer & Buchalter, 2011). Although emotional violence is included in all types of abuse, it is sometimes not accepted as emotional abuse depending on the social and cultural environment in which the person lives. Sometimes, although there is an element of emotional violence in the established communication, the person does not perceive this element as emotional violence and the concept of emotional violence can be normalised (Erşanlı et al., 2013).

Building on these forms of violence, partner violence encompasses multiple dimensions. Couples may perpetrate emotional, verbal, physical, and sexual violence against each other, as well as impose social restrictions (Aslan et al., 2008). When analysing partner violence, the physical, emotional, and sexual dimensions are especially prominent (Kılınçer & Dost, 2013; Kılınçer & Dost, 2014). But It is also possible to come across behavioral motives related to other types of violence while mentioning about one type of violence (Damka, 2009). Cases of violence against women within families are often treated as private and concealed from authorities, making it difficult to determine prevalence. Violence in intimate relationships is unacceptable under any circumstances. Measuring attitudes toward violence is therefore crucial. While existing violence attitude scales have been developed in various languages (Adıbelli, Saçan, & Türkoğlu, 2018; Çetin, 2011; Fernández-González et al., 2017; Yumuşak, 2013; Yumuşak & Şahin, 2014), Despite this multidimensional structure of violence, it seems that the existing measurement tools are insufficient to capture all dimensions. This highlights the need to adapt a domain-specific scale that can fully measure all dimensions of violence. The current study was conducted to address this need.

The aim of our study is to adapt the Partner Abuse Scale (PAS), which will determine the partner violence of women exposed to violence in their partner relationships, into Turkish and to conduct a validity and reliability study. According to this purpose, our hypotheses are:

1. Partner Abuse Scale is a valid instrument.
2. Partner Abuse Scale is a reliable instrument.
3. There is a significant positive relationship between partner violence and depression.
4. There is a significant negative relationship between partner violence and relationship satisfaction.

## METHOD

In this section of the study, the research design, ethical permission, data collection process, data collection tools and data analysis of the study are presented.

### RESEARCH DESIGN

In order to adapt the Composite Abuse Scale (CAS) into Turkish and to conduct validity and reliability studies, the necessary permissions were obtained firstly from Hegarty, then from Trakya University Social and Human Sciences Research Ethics Committee (Decision 12.09.2018/2018.08.06) and Trakya University Rectorate. For the validity and reliability study of the Partner Abuse Scale (PAS), the original form of the scale was translated into Turkish by five academicians. In the next stage, it was examined by three academicians who are experts in the field and turned into a single form. This form was first analysed in terms of language equivalence, and then test-retest, construct and criterion-

related studies were conducted. The data obtained throughout the research were then transferred to the relevant package programmes. In the analysis of the data, firstly descriptive statistics were used. The conformity of the variables to normal distribution was evaluated by Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro Wilk test, skewness and kurtosis coefficients. While Spearman Rho was used to evaluate the relationship between variables, Wilcoxon t test was used for language equivalence and test-retest evaluation, and confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was used to evaluate construct validity. In addition, the reliability analyses of the scales were examined with Cronbach's Alpha coefficient. SPSS 22.00 and LISREL 8.80 were used in the study.

## WORKING GROUPS

The data of the validity and reliability study were collected from woman students studying at Trakya University. The purpose of the study was explained to the students and their participation was ensured by adhering to the principle of voluntary participation. The study group was selected by purposive sampling method from 12 faculties, four colleges, six vocational schools, social, health and science institutes located in Edirne Centre of Trakya University.

A linguistic equivalence study was conducted to measure the equivalence of the original test items and the items translated into Turkish and to determine the extent to which the scale items reflected their meanings. First, the English form and then the Turkish form of the scale were administered to 90 graduate students and research assistants at Trakya University Faculty of Medicine, fluent in both languages, two weeks apart. Pre-test and post-test data were collected from a total of 86 individuals. Five individuals were excluded from the study data due to incomplete information, and the data of 81 individuals were evaluated.

The test-retest reliability study of the second group scale was administered to first- and second-year female students studying in various departments at Trakya University Vocational School of Health Services at a 15-day interval. In the test-retest reliability study, data were collected from 100 individuals in the first administration, and 85 of these individuals were contacted in the second administration. In the criterion-related validity and construct validity study, data were collected from 350 female students at Trakya University who were married or in a partner relationship in the last 12 months. Because of 5 data are missing and Z score of 16 data are lower or high than 3.70, 21 data are excluded from the evaluation, In total criterion-related validity and construct validity studies were conducted with the data collected from 329 female students.

## THE DATA COLLECTION TOOLS USED IN THE STUDY

**Composite Abuse Scale (CAS):** It is a comprehensive, reliable and valid, short, self-report scale that analyses violence in four sub-factors: physical, sexual, psychological and harassment. CAS was created by Hegarty et al. (1999) and revised by Hegarty et al. (2005). It was then re-developed by Loxton et al. in 2013 (Hegarty et al., 1999; Hegarty et al., 2005; Loxton et al., 2013). The scale consists of 30 items in total and  $\alpha=.85$ . When the sub-dimensions are analysed, it has been found that serious violence  $\alpha=.91$ , and emotional violence  $\alpha=.93$ , physical violence  $\alpha=.94$  and harassment sub-dimension  $\alpha=.87$  (Hegarty et al., 2005). The scale consists of 30 items according to it's sub-dimensions such as Serious violence consists of 8 items (2,4,7,15,18,22,25,26), emotional violence 11 items (1,5,8,9,12,19,20,21,24,28,29), physical violence 7 items (6,10,14,17,23,27,30) and harassment 4 items (3,11,13,16) (Hegarty et al., 2005). The total score of the CAS ranges from 0 to 150. The test developers and adaptors recommend using the total scale score rather than the subscale scores (Ford-Gilboe et al., 2016; Hegarty et al., 1999; Hegarty et al., 2005; Loxton et al., 2013).

**Beck Depression Inventory (BDI):** It was developed by Beck to determine the depression levels of individuals (Beck et al., 1961). It is a unidimensional scale consisting of 21 items with scoring ranging from 0-3. Its adaptation into Turkish, validity and reliability study was conducted by Hisli (Hisli, 1988;

Hisli, 1989; Ulusoy et al., 1998). In the study, the Cronbach's alpha coefficient of this scale was found to be .92.

**Relationship Satisfaction Scale (RSS):** It was developed by Hendrick in 1988 to measure the level of relationship satisfaction in romantic relationships (Hendrick, 1988). The scale, whose 4th and 7th items are reverse scored, is a 7-item, 1-factor, 7-point Likert-type self-report scale. In 2001, Curun conducted the Turkish adaptation of the RSS. He found the Cronbach's alpha coefficient of the scale as .86 in the factor analysis (Curun, 2001). In the current study, Cronbach's alpha internal consistency coefficient was found to be .93.

## FINDINGS

A linguistic equivalence study was conducted to measure the equivalence of the original test items and the items translated into Turkish and to determine the extent to which the scale items reflected their intended meanings. First, the English form and then the Turkish form of the scale were administered to 90 graduate students and research assistants at Trakya University Faculty of Medicine, fluent in both languages, two weeks apart. Pre-test and Post-test data were collected from a total of 86 individuals. Five individuals were excluded from the study data due to incomplete information, and the data of 81 individuals were evaluated. The data were examined for normal distribution using skewness and kurtosis coefficients, and the Shapiro-Wilk test revealed that the quantitative data were not normally distributed. Therefore, Spearman's Rho correlation analysis and the Wilcoxon t test were used as nonparametric tests. Statistical findings of Spearman's Rho Correlation and Wilcoxon Paired T Test for CAS and PAS are given in Table 2.

**Table 1.** Spearman's Rho Correlation and Wilcoxon Paired T Test Results for CAS and PAS

		Item	Items	r	p	z	p
Serious	English	8	2, 4, 7, 15, 18, 22, 25, 26	.88	.001	.535	.593
	Turkish						
Emotional	English	11	1, 5, 8, 9, 12, 19, 20,	.93	.001	1.908	.560
	Turkish		21, 24, 28, 29				
Physical	English	7	6, 10, 14, 17, 23, 27, 30	.88	.001	.141	.888
	Turkish						
Abuse	English	4	3, 11, 13, 16	.92	.001	.420	.675
	Turkish						
Cas-Pas Total	English	30	1-30	.93	.001	.738	.461
	Turkish						

When Table 1 is examined; the relationship between the English and Turkish applications for the linguistic equivalence of the scale was analysed by Spearman's Rho correlation and Wilcoxon Paired t test. It was observed that the relationship between the items in the Turkish and English forms ranged between ( $r=.88-.93$ ,  $p<.001$ ). At the same time, the t-test showed that there was no statistically significant difference between the total scores ( $z= -.738$ ,  $p>.05$ ). As a result, it can be said that there is a high level of positive relationship between the English form and the Turkish form and there is no significant difference. In all sub-dimensions of CAS and PAS (serious, emotional, physical, harassment), a very high level of significant correlation was found between English and Turkish applications ( $r=.88-.93$ ,  $p<.001$ ). There was also a very high correlation between CAS and PAS total severity scale scores ( $r=.93$ ,  $p<.001$ ). In the light of all the findings, we can say that the linguistic equivalence of the scale was fully achieved, that is, the Turkish scale fully represents the original English form.

The test-retest reliability study was conducted with first- and second-year female students from various departments of Trakya University Vocational School of Health Services, with a 15-day interval between administrations. Data were collected from 85 participants, with a mean age of  $20.52 \pm 2.20$

years. The normality of the data from both administrations was assessed using the Shapiro-Wilk test, along with skewness and kurtosis coefficients. As the data did not meet the assumptions of normality, Spearman's Rho correlation analysis and the Wilcoxon signed-rank test were employed. The results are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Test-Retest Reliability of the Partner Abuse Scale: Spearman's Rho Correlation and Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test Results

		<i>N</i>	$\bar{X}$	<i>SD</i>	Mean (Min-Max)	<i>r</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>T</i>	<i>P</i>
PAS	1. App	85	5.57	11.034	1.00 (0.00-58.00)	.945	0.001	-1.236	0.216
	2.App		5.15	9.933	1.00 (0.00-59.00)				

In reliability studies conducted with test-retest method, it is expected that there is a significant relationship between the two applications of the measurement tool according to the result of Spearman's Rho correlation analysis and that there is no significant difference between the two applications as a result of Wilcoxon t test (Hergüner, 2010 ). When Table 5 is analysed, it is seen that there is a very high correlation between the total scores of PAS ( $r = .95$ ,  $p < .001$ ) and there is no statistically significant difference between the two measurements ( $z = -1.236$ ,  $p > .05$ ).

Criterion-related validity study is conducted to examine the relationship between the scores obtained from a scale and one or more criterion (Hergüner, 2010). Criterion-related validity and construct validity studies were conducted with data collected from 329 female students. Since the data evaluated for the Criterion-related validity study did not meet the normality assumptions, non-parametric analyses were used. The Descriptive statistical findings and Internal Consistency Coefficients of PAS, Relationship Satisfaction Scale and Beck Depression Inventory are given in Table 3

**Table 3.** Descriptive Statistics and Internal Consistency Coefficients for the Partner Abuse Scale, Depression, and Relationship Satisfaction Scale

	<i>N</i>	$\alpha$	Mean $\pm$ SD
PAS Total	329	.944	14.22 $\pm$ 19.50
Depression	329	.919	15.25 $\pm$ 11.26
Relationship Satisfaction	329	.932	30.86 $\pm$ 12.01
Serious	329	.749	1.71 $\pm$ 3.61
Emotional	329	.896	7.22 $\pm$ 9.78
Physical	329	.943	3.24 $\pm$ 5.89
Abuse	329	.845	2.06 $\pm$ 3.65

The means and standard deviations of the scales used in the criterion-related validity study of the PAS ranged from  $1.71 \pm 3.61$  to  $30.86 \pm 12.01$ . Reliability analysis indicated that the Cronbach's alpha coefficients of the scales ranged between .84 and .94, demonstrating that the data obtained from the scales are reliable. Subsequently, the criterion-related validity of the scale was examined. Spearman's Rho correlation coefficients were computed between the Partner Abuse Scale (PAS), its subscale scores, and the criterion variables (Depression and Relationship Satisfaction). The results are presented in Table 4.

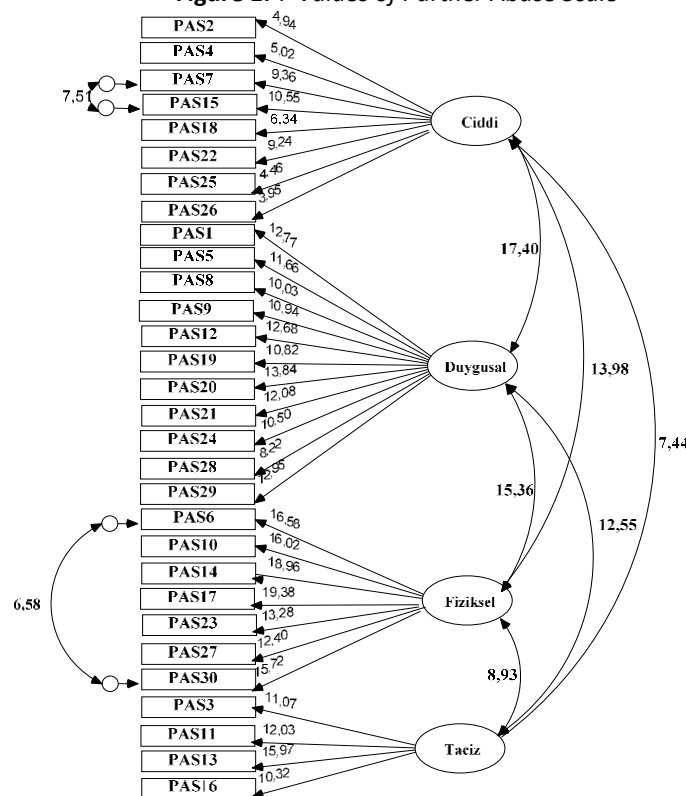
**Table 4.** Spearman's Rho Correlation Coefficients Between the Partner Abuse Scale, Its Subscales, Depression, and Relationship Satisfaction

		PAS	Serious	Emotional	Physical	Abuse
Depression	<i>r</i>	.58	.38	.55	.42	.35
	<i>P</i>	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001
Relationship Satisfaction	<i>r</i>	-.70	-.44	-.65	-.51	-.45
	<i>P</i>	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001	<.001

In Table 4, the relationship between the total scores of PAS and relationship satisfaction and depression scores was analysed by Spearman's Rho correlation analysis. While The relationship between PAS total score and relationship satisfaction was found to be ( $r = -.70, p < .001$ ), the relationship between depression level score was found to be ( $r = .58, p < .001$ ). In addition, the relationship between the sub-dimensions of PAS and relationship satisfaction and depression was analysed. While the relationship between the serious violence sub-dimension of PAS and depression was found to be ( $r = .38, p < .001$ ), the relationship between relationship satisfaction was found to be ( $r = -.44, p < .001$ ). The relationship between the physical violence sub-dimension of PAS and depression is ( $r = .42, p < .001$ ) and the relationship between relationship satisfaction is ( $r = -.51, p < .001$ ). At the same time, the relationship between the emotional violence sub-dimension of PAS and depression was found to be ( $r = .55, p < .001$ ) and the relationship between relationship satisfaction was found to be ( $r = -.65, p < .001$ ). In addition, the relationship between the harassment sub-dimension of PAS and depression was found to be ( $r = .35, p < .001$ ), while relationship satisfaction was found to be ( $r = -.45, p < .001$ ). After the criterion-related validity study of the scale, CFA was conducted.

In this study, the data were evaluated directly through CFA without exploratory factor analysis. In the evaluation of the construct validity of the PAS, the sample size for CFA was In this study, the data were evaluated directly through CFA without exploratory factor analysis. In the evaluation of the construct validity of the PAS, the sample size for CFA was evaluated by Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy (KMO). It was found that the sample size was sufficient (KMO=.85). The suitability of the sample was analysed by Bartlett's Test of Sphericity (Chi-Square: 4365.29,  $p < .001$ ) and it was found that this test result was significant and the sample was suitable for CFA. There is a 4-factor structure in the original scale of PAS and accordingly, CFA was conducted according to the 4-factor structure without exploratory factor analysis. The CFA t-values are given in Figure-1.

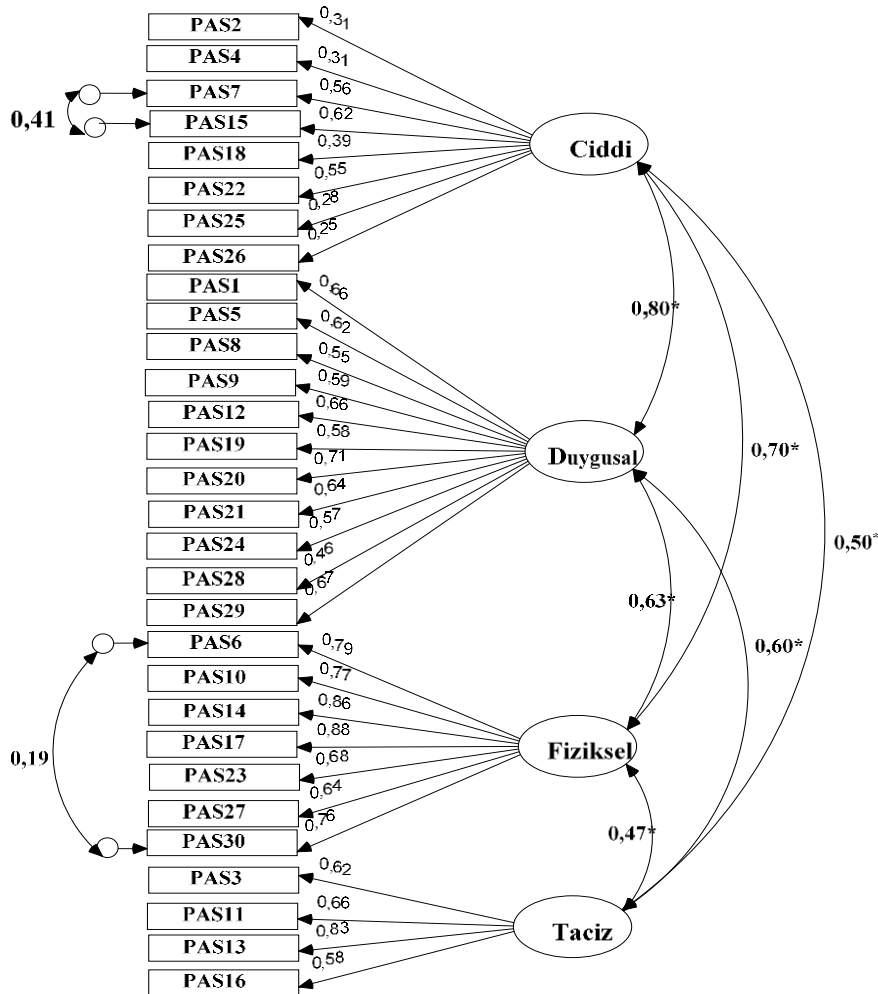
**Figure 1. T-Values of Partner Abuse Scale**



Chi-Square=1195.14, df=397, RMSEA= .080

An examination of Figure 1 reveals that *t* values ranged from 3.95 to 19.38. Two modifications were made to improve model fit in the CFA of the PAS, between PAS 6 and PAS 30 and between PAS 7 and PAS 15. When CFA is performed, the RMSEA value is expected to be less than 0.05, and statistically significant parameters on the diagram are expected to be greater than 1.96, meaning that the *t*-values are significant (Çelik and Yılmaz, 2016). In our study, the *t* value was found to be significant for all PAS items ( $p < .05$ ). The RMSEA value was greater than .050, but the acceptable fit value was .080. The standardized path coefficients of the scale are presented in Figure 2.

**Figure 2.** Standardized Solution Values of Partner Abuse Scale



Chi-Square=1195.14, df=397, RMSEA= .080

When the standardised path coefficients of PAS are examined in Figure 2, it is seen that they vary between .25 and .88. In the study, the goodness of fit values of the scale were analysed using  $\chi^2/df$ , SRMR, RMSEA, RMR, NFI, NNFI, CFI, IFI, GFI and CFA. The goodness of fit values of the scale are given in Table 5.

**Table 5.** Goodness of Fit Values for Partner Abuse Scale

$\chi^2$	<i>df</i>	$\chi^2/df$	RMSEA	SRMR	CFI	NFI	NNFI	IFI	GFI	RMR
1195.14	397	3.010	.080	.071	.94	.91	.93	.94	.80	.05



The CFA goodness of fit values of the PAS are  $\chi^2=1195.14$ ,  $df=397$ ,  $p<0.001$ ,  $RMSEA=.080$ ,  $NFI=.91$ ,  $NNFI=.93$ ,  $CFI=.94$ ,  $IFI=.94$ ,  $GFI=.80$ ,  $RMR=.05$ ,  $SRMR=.071$ . When the goodness of fit values in CFA for PAS in Table 5 are examined, it is seen that most of them have acceptable fit level (Çokluk et al., 2021; Şimşek, 2007). As a result of the validity study of the scale, it was found that PAS is a scale with a high validity level that can measure partner violence.

## DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

In this study, Cronbach's alpha analysis was conducted to determine the internal consistency reliability of the adapted scale. Cronbach's alpha coefficient reveals the similarity of items within a measurement tool while measuring a specific conceptual quality (Kalaycı, 2009; Şencan, 2005; Şenocak, 2009). In this study, the Cronbach's  $\alpha$  coefficient values for the PAS were found to be consistent with those for its original form, the CAS (Hegarty et al., 2005). Similarly, in similar studies conducted in our country, the Cronbach's  $\alpha$  coefficient for sexual violence was found to be .52 (Kaya & Bilgin, 2012). In this study, it was observed that only the Cronbach's  $\alpha$  coefficient for the serious violence sub-dimension was lower than the Cronbach's  $\alpha$  coefficient value for the serious violence sub-dimension in the original form. This may be due to women in Turkish society hiding this type of violence or to sample differences. The sample difference between the studies can be explained by the fact that the sample in this study was not a clinical sample and did not consist of women who presented to judicial authorities or the emergency room. When the Cronbach's  $\alpha$  coefficients of the sub-dimensions of the scale were examined, the Serious Abuse subscale was found to have acceptable but relatively lower reliability, the Abuse subscale showed good reliability, and the Emotional and Physical Abuse subscales, as well as the total scale, demonstrated high reliability (İslamoğlu & Alniaçık, 2016; Özdamar, 2004). These results indicate that the internal consistency of the PAS is comparable to that of the original CAS scale.

In a scale adaptation study, a high correlation is expected between the scores of the original form and the adapted form administered to the same individual. Spearman's Rho Correlation and Wilcoxon Paired T-tests were used in the language equivalence study. A high positive and significant correlation was observed between the English and Turkish forms, and there was no significant difference between the scores of the English and Turkish forms. It was concluded that these two scales were perceived similarly by the respondents. A test-retest study conducted 15 days apart to examine the scale's score invariance revealed a very high, statistically significant positive correlation between the scores of both administrations, while the Wilcoxon T-test found no statistically significant difference between the scores. Statistical evaluations demonstrated that the PAS is a reliable measurement tool. Our hypothesis that the Partner Abuse Scale is a reliable scale has been confirmed.

Validity studies determine the extent to which a measurement tool accurately and completely measures the characteristic it is expected to measure (Ercan & Kan, 2004; Seçer, 2015; Sönmez & Alacapınar, 2011). Criterion-related validity contributes to both validity and reliability. It is a technique that examines the relationship between test scores and one or more external criteria (Hergüner, 2010). The criterion-related validity study of the scale examined the relationships among partner violence, relationship satisfaction, and depression. In our study, consistent with the literature (Kılınçer & Dost, 2013), a moderate negative relationship was found between violence and relationship satisfaction, and a moderate positive relationship was found between violence and depression. This finding is consistent with the literature (Brown et al., 2016; Cleveland et al., 2003; Cutter-Wilson & Richmond, 2011; Denhof & Spinaris, 2014; Devries et al., 2013; Exner-Cortens et al., 2013; Flannery et al., 2004; Gilchrist et al., 2010). Accordingly, a significant and positive relationship was found between partner violence and depression, while a significant and negative relationship was found between partner

violence and relationship satisfaction. As the level of violence increases, individuals' relationship satisfaction decreases and their depression levels increase. The findings indicate that the scale meets criterion-related validity (Seçer, 2015; Sönmez & Alacapınar, 2011). The third and fourth hypotheses of the study were confirmed.

In the CFA analysis of the PAS, factor loadings ranged from .88 to .25. These factor loadings were found to be significantly different from the original form (Hegarty et al., 2005). Despite the low factor loadings and R2 values, no item was removed from the scale because the T values were statistically significant. These results were associated with dominant views and myths in Turkish culture ( Breaking an arm and keeping it in a sleeve, vomiting blood and drinking cranberry sherbet, isn't it a husband? He beats and curses, what happens in the family stays in the family, there is privacy in this matter, etc.). We also believe this is due to sample differences between the studies. Furthermore, because our sample did not consist of clinical samples presenting to judicial authorities or emergency services, we can interpret this as indicating low factor loadings. Hypothesis 2, which states that the Partner Abuse Scale adapted to Turkish is a valid scale, was confirmed.

When the confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) results for the PAS were examined, it was observed that the goodness-of-fit values ( $\chi^2/df$ , NFI, NNFI, CFI, IFI, RMR, SRMR, and RMSEA), with the exception of the GFI, were within the limits accepted in the literature (Çokluk et al., 2021; Şimşek, 2007; Hu & Bentler, 1999; Kline, 2016). Based on these findings, it was concluded that the PAS reliably measured the intended construct and that its factor structure was valid.

The findings of the validity and reliability study conducted on the scale indicate that the PAS is a valid and reliable measurement tool that can be used in various studies. Therefore, it was concluded that the PAS is a valid and reliable scale that can be used in the Turkish population. Furthermore, the literature indicates that the researchers who developed and adapted the scale recommended using the total scale score rather than the subscale scores (Ford-Gilboe et al., 2016; Hegarty et al., 1999; Hegarty et al., 2005; Loxton et al., 2013).

## **LIMITATIONS OF THE RESEARCH**

This study, like many other studies, has some limitations. The fact that the sample consisted only of Trakya University students and that the age groups of the women included in the study were not equal are among the important limitations of the study. In addition, during the period when the study was conducted, the fact that partner violence was a crime punishable by imprisonment was given in public service announcements affected the participation of women who were subjected to violence in the study. This situation constituted the biggest limitation of our study.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the validity and reliability study of the scale be conducted on other sample groups, paying attention to the age range. It is also recommended that a safe environment be provided in which women will not be afraid or hesitant to express the violence they experience. In addition, considering that it is quite unrealistic to say that partner violence is a type of violence that only women are exposed to, it is recommended that scales be developed or adapted to measure the type and level of violence that men are also subjected to.

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