

**DARK TRIAD PERSONALITY TRAITS AFFECTING THE FORMATION of  
AGGRESSION BEHAVIOR in UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**  
ÜNİVERSİTE ÖĞRENCİLERİNDE SALDIRGANLIK DAVRANIŞININ OLUŞUMUNA  
ETKİ EDEN KARANLIK KİŞİLİK ÖZELLİKLERİ

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**ABSTRACT**

**Objective:** This study aims to empirically determine whether dark triad personality traits have an effect on aggression behavior in university students.

**Method:** The analysis part of the research was carried out using the survey method. For this purpose, 100 female and 120 male students from Trakya University/Keşan Yusuf Çapraz School of Applied Sciences were surveyed. In the survey, 5 expressions were given to participants to understand the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the participants; Twelve expressions were used to reveal dark triad personality traits and 29 expressions were used to determine aggression behavior.

**Findings:** Factor analysis was applied to the study data primarily. Dark triad personality traits were collected in 3 sub-dimensions; Aggression variable was collected in 1 sub-dimension. The effect of Machiavellian Personality Traits (MPT), which is the independent variable of the study, Perfectionist Personality Traits (PPT) and Narcissistic Personality Traits (NPT) variables on the aggression behavior were investigated. Regression analysis was performed with SPSS package program for testing the research hypotheses.

**Conclusion:** All sub-dimensions of dark triad personality traits were found to be positively and significantly correlated with aggression behavior.

**Key Words:** Dark Triad Personality Traits, Machiavellian Personality Traits, Perfectionist Personality Traits, Narcissistic Personality Traits, Aggression Behavior.

**ÖZET**

**Amaç:** Bu çalışma, üniversite öğrencilerinde Karanlık kişilik özelliklerinin Saldırganlık davranışına etkisini sınamayı hedeflemektedir.

**Yöntem:** Araştırmanın analiz kısmı anket yöntemi kullanılarak gerçekleştirilmiştir. Bu amaç doğrultusunda Trakya Üniversitesi/Keşan Yusuf Çapraz Uygulamalı Bilimler Yüksekokulu'nda öğretim gören 100 kadın ve 120 erkek öğrenci ile anket yapılmıştır. Ankette katılımcıların demografik ve sosyo-ekonomik özelliklerini anlamak için katılımcılara 5; Karanlık kişilik özelliklerini ortaya çıkarmak için 12 ve Saldırganlık davranışını belirlemek için 29 ifade yöneltilmiştir.

**Bulgular:** Çalışma verileri, faktör analizi uygulanarak yeniden boyutlandırılmıştır. Karanlık kişilik özellikleri değişkeni 3; Saldırganlık değişkeni 1 alt boyutta toplanmıştır. Karanlık kişilik özellikleri değişkeni 3 alt boyutta toplanmış ve Makyavelist Kişilik özellikleri (MPT), Mükemmeliyetçi Kişilik özellikleri (PPT) ve Narsist kişilik özellikleri (NPT) olarak adlandırılmıştır. Saldırganlık değişkeni 1 alt boyutta toplanmıştır. Analiz kısmında bağımsız değişken olan Karanlık kişilik özellikleri alt boyutlarının, Saldırganlık davranışına olan etkisi incelenmiştir. Araştırma hipotezlerinin testi için SPSS paket programı kullanılarak regresyon analizi yapılmıştır.

**Sonuç:** Karanlık kişilik özelliklerine ait tüm alt boyutların Saldırganlık davranışı ile pozitif ve anlamlı ilişki içinde olduğu bulunmuştur.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Karanlık kişilik özellikleri, Makyavelist Kişilik özellikleri, Mükemmeliyetçi Kişilik özellikleri, Narsist kişilik özellikleri, Saldırganlık davranışı

**INTRODUCTION**

Personality can be defined as creating psychological processes by providing continuity of emotions, thoughts, behaviors and attitudes that depict the individual. Essentially, personality is the behavioral characteristics of the individual that resembles or differentiates the individual from others. Many

personality models have been developed to group the features that make up personality. The personality models quoted by Başar (2019) are: The five-factor personality model (McCrae and Costa, 1990), the PEN personality model (Eysenck, 1977), the three-factor personality model (Tellegen, 1985), and the temperament and character personality model (Cloninger et al. 1993). However, these models could not address negative, unwanted and avoided features of personality. These personalities, which are evaluated as socially repulsive, are named as dark triad traits of personality.

The tendency of violence, which is one of the most natural emotions of human beings, leads to aggressive behavior in individual terms. Aggression drives the individual to become socially incompatible and lonely. It corresponds to the English word "Aggression". "Aggression" is formed by the combination of the words "ad" (correct) and "gradi" (step) in Latin. In this case, Aggression can be defined as moving forward.

Aggression behavior among university students is becoming increasingly apparent. Here, only physical aggression comes to mind is wrong in terms of the intelligibility of the subject. Many elements such as gestures, facial expressions, criticism, irony and fantasies can be perceived as aggressive behavior. In particular, with the increase in social media activity, "cyber aggression behavior" has been brought to the agenda. The aim of this study is the relationship between aggression behavior and dark triad personality traits of university students. Taking into consideration the results of the study, methods to reduce aggression can be tried according to the personality characteristics of the students.

## **THEORETIC STRUCTURE**

In this part of the study, theoretical information about Dark Triad Personality Traits will be given.

### **Aggression Behavior**

Aggression behavior is one of the most leading externalized behavior problems (Şahin, 2011). Although the word aggression is generally perceived as a negative behavior, it is defined as aggression in a basic sense to approach a place or anyone, to start something but to rush to attack at the same time, to harm someone physically or indirectly (Seven, 2010). Soyer, Çetin, and Gülle (2018: 58), quoting Ferris and Grisso (1996), described aggression as "*It may be the destructive/damaging behavior that the person exhibits towards himself or others; it may also be conceptualizing the individual as a necessary or alternative form of behavior as well*".

There are many views explaining the causes of human aggression. The oldest of these views is that the aggression exists in the biological structure of humans. Freud comes among the most important defenders of this view. Another approach is the view based on the etiology that advocates the innate possibility of aggression in humans. Most etiologists view aggression as an innate behavior that plays an important role in the survival of the animal. He asserts that aggression behavior in humans is different from animals; because the role of learning in people's aggressive behavior is great (Eroğlu, 2009: 3). Anger, hostility, competition, frustration, fear-induced aggression; any kind of physical, verbal or symbolic behavior that aims to harm, frustrate or self-defense can be evaluated as aggression (Biçkes, 2017: 961). In addition, as a result of administrators' gender discrimination while making decisions, the individual's thinking that he / she is wronged may lead to aggressive behavior in the individual (Atagan Çetin, 2019: 355).

The theoretical views on aggression are generally based on the idea that aggression is innate or acquired later (Başoğlu, 1998: 7).

Instinct Theory was developed by Freud. Freud stated that all behaviors of an individual arise from death and instinct of life. The death instinct (Thanatos) is considered as the shredding power of the individual's life (Bilgin & Özcan, 2012: 43). In addition, Polat and Sönmezoğlu (2016: 473), quoted by Aronson (2012: 676), argued that aggression behavior is innate and is a part of human nature.

He defined the impulse theory, İköz (2007), as the development of a defense mechanism to protect an individual's self as a result of sexual impulses.

Social Learning Theory was explained by Polat and Sönmezoğlu (2016: 474), who quoted from Cüceloğlu (2006: 314), emphasizing that aggression develops through conditioning and observation and that there are no innate behavioral characteristics. According to Social Learning Theory, an individual gains his/her behaviors in a social environment (Dever & Bulut, 2018: 48).

Researchers on the causes of aggression have pointed out the existence of many factors.

While organic or nervous disorders and environmental stimuli exacerbate the impulses that reveal aggression, some chemical disorders in the brain and the ability to easily break the person's mental world weaken the control system (Sekertekin, 2017: 10).

When the literature is examined, it is seen that the causes of aggression are environment, gender, frustration, personality, career choice, rural-urban relationship, sports, socio-economic level and child-rearing style. Çelikkaleli and Tümtaş (2017: 158), on the other hand, emphasized the concepts of learning problems, low academic achievement, discrepancy in discipline, parental exposure to aggressive behavior, maltreatment and staying, domestic violence exposure, hard and punitive child-rearing style, divorced family, drug or substance use, economic inadequacy, lack of social relations, weak emotional and mental development, lack of empathy, difficult temperament and alienation as the causes for aggression.

In addition, Deniz et al. (2018: 3), quoted from Yavuzer (1998), emphasized that children and adolescents learned aggressive behaviors from their parents and revealed the effect of the family. Yılmaz and Mercan (2018: 169) underlined the concept of family as the cause of aggression and added that “*variables such as parent-child relationships, parental attitudes, aggressive models in the family, domestic violence and abuse*” are related to the aggressive behavior of adolescents”. In addition, Doğan, Karacan, and Kayışoğlu (2018: 2) stated that aggression cannot be handled in a certain age, and that it is a behavior that the individual can be exposed to at every stage of his life.

Aggression is also a personality trait that shows an inherent predisposition to engage in aggressive actions and should be evaluated in relation to the relevant situation leading to the action (Ramazanoğlu, Canikli, & Saygın, 2017: 37).

It has been shown by the studies that individuals with antisocial personality disorder tend to have aggression tendency. Brownstone and Swaminath (1989), between 1981 and 1985; They investigated the effect of antisocial personality disorder on aggression with 91 female prisoners who received pre-trial treatment at the Thomas Psychiatric Hospital/Forensic Unit. Brownstone and Swaminath have discovered that Antisocial personality disorder in early convicts is one of the reasons that reveal the tendency of violence in individuals, and in addition, violence in convicts in their thirties.

Bland and Orn (1986), in a study conducted in Canada with 1200 people, stated that the tendency to violence is closely related to alcohol use, recurrent depression and antisocial personality disorder.

Fass, Heilbrun, DeMatteo, and Fretz (2008), in their study of 64 convicts who showed psychopathic behavior and agreed to be treated, reported that the severity of criminal behavior was related to low intelligence level.

Hare and McPherson (1984) stated that the level of intelligence of convicted psychopathic individuals gives different results compared to other convicts.

Harris, Rice, and Cormier (1991) reported that 40% of patients discharged from the forensic psychiatric ward continued to have a tendency to violence. It was demonstrated in the studies that

aggressive and antisocial behaviors were observed at early ages and criminal behavior at a later age was observed in patients who continued their tendency to violence.

Aydin and Akgun (2014: 47), quoted from Barry et al. (2007), reported that children with behavioral disorder and moderate-high risk group showed reactive aggression; stated that insensitivity/emotionlessness characteristics were not related to proactive or reactive aggression, and narcissism and self-esteem were unrelated and different structures.

Hare et al. (1990) reported that individuals with dark triad personality traits tend to exhibit aggressive behavior.

**Dark Triad Personality Traits**

Dark triad personality traits were first mentioned by Paulhus and Williams (2002) (Grigoras & Wille, 2017). Dark triad personality traits are that the individual is indifferent to harm others in order to achieve their own goals and does not refrain from exploiting them (Goodboy & Martin, 2015). Dark triad personality traits are accepted as an indicator of fast lifestyle (Birkas & Csatho, 2015: 319).

Dark triad personality traits are examined in two different ways in conceptual literature. First, Narcissism, Machiavellianism and Psychopathy are personality traits. The second is personality disorders in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of DSM-IV Mental Disorders book (Aydoğan & Serbest, 2016: 100). Dark triad personality traits should be defined by abnormal personality traits, not by normal traits (Stead, Cynthia Fekken, Kay, & McDermott, 2012: 1024). Often the emphasis on the definition of dark triad personality traits is that there are three sub-personal characteristics called narcissism, machiavelism and psychopathy (Wisse, Barelds, & Rietzschel, 2015: 158). The main factor in giving narcissism, machiavelism and psychopathy personality traits under the common title is that they consist of individual traits that do not care about others and treat people as insignificant. Narcissism, which explains the dark triad personality traits, defines the individual who is anxious about superiority; Machiavellian, on the other hand, defines the individual who is not afraid of cheating and the individual who is psychopathy, insensitive and impulsive (Marcinkowska, Helle, & Lyons, 2016: 287). Narcissism, Machiavellianism and Psychopathy personality traits, although not recognized quickly, if understood, it has a personality structure that is not welcomed by the environment. (Anderson & Cheers, 2018: 272). Dark triad personality traits, among the five factors of personality traits, are mostly related to emotional imbalance and disharmony behaviors (Rogoza & Ciecuch, 2018: 3). Individuals with dark triad personality traits seek short-term relationships (Birkás, Láng, & Meskó, 2018: 186). Individuals with dark triad personality traits have weak-willed personality, prone to deception, likes to take risks, unhappy, self-centered, aggressive, can rejoice with someone else's sadness and have low morale. (Nicholls vd. , 2017: 114), (Lowe-Calverley & Grieve, 2017: 3), (Hmieleski & Lerner, 2016: 8), (Flexon vd. , 2016: 160), (Porter vd. , 2014: 62), (Noser vd. , 2014: 159).

Behavior patterns related to Narcissism, Machiavellianism and Psychopathy which form dark triad personality traits are given in the table.

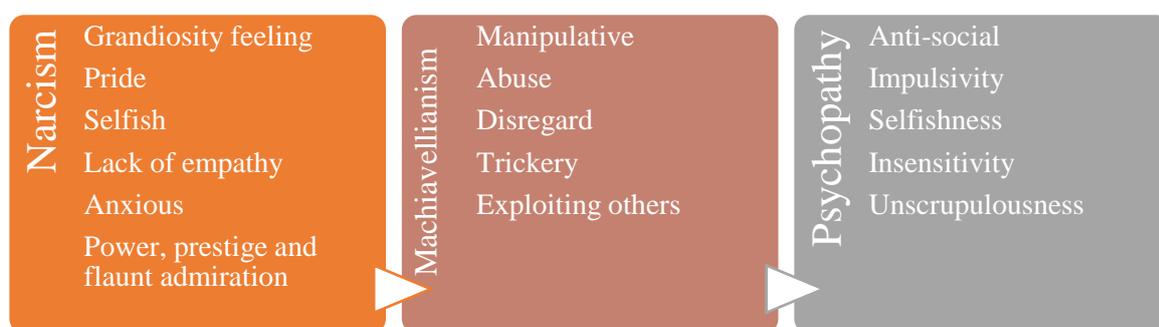


Figure 1 Dark triad personality traits behavior patterns, Resource: Epstein ve Ramamoorti (2016)

The personality traits given in the table are explained in detail below.

### **Narcissism**

Narcissism is used for the personality traits of individuals who have excessive emotional feelings and who are exaggeratedly aware of their importance, right and superiority (Amiri & Behnezhad, 2017: 135). Narcissistic individuals are considered to be more normal than other Dark Triad Personality Traits and are known for showing off (Bucknall, Burwaiss, Charles, MacDonald, & Clement, 2015: 1359). Persons with narcissism personality traits like being in the limelight, are highly arrogant, have problems of focus, are far from empathy, are in a structure that does not stand back from exploiting their surroundings (Endriulaitienė, Šeibokaitė, Žardeckaitė-Matulaitienė, Markšaitytė 201, & Slavinskienė: 36, 201: 36).

### **Machiavellianism**

Machiavellianism comes from the ideal ruler described by Niccollo Machiavelli in his book *Prince*, a renowned Renaissance writer (Burtaverde, Chraif, Anitei, & Mihaila, 2016: 2). Machiavelli, with the famous words “ends justify means” and translated into Turkish as “purpose legitimizes the instrument”, stated that the important thing is the purpose of the individual.

Machiavellianism is used for personality traits that individuals develop manipulative, insensitive, superficial and strategic behavior patterns (Akram et al., 2018: 212). Machiavellian individuals do not mind fooling or guiding others in order to achieve personal gain focused on social situation (Baughman, Dearing, Giammarco, & Vernon, 2012: 572). Machiavellian individuals can exhibit hypocritical, insincere and extroverted behaviors in their relationships (Carter, Campbell, & Muncer, 2014: 58).

### **Psychopathy**

Psychopathy is used for personality traits that individuals do not feel guilty, do not empathize with others and have no remorse in the face of events (Arvan, 2013: 52). While psychopathic individuals exhibit hostile and dominant behavior in interpersonal relationships, they are far from self-control (Birkas, Gacs, & Csatho, 2016: 135). They are highly impulsive due to their low level of anxiety (Cairncross, Veselka, Schermer, & Vernon, 2013: 691). Individuals with psychopathy personality traits are in search of excitement and do not get the feeling of remorse in the face of the excitement obtained (Campbell et al., 2009: 132).

Psychopathy is divided into primary psychopathy and secondary psychopathy. Primary psychopathy behaviors can be shown as insensitivity, cheating, selfishness, lack of self-control, empathy and remorse. Secondary psychopathy behaviors can be shown as being anti-social and acting without thinking, in addition to primary psychopathy behaviors (Dahmen-Wassenberg, Kämmerle, Unterrainer, & Fink, 2016: 61).

## **METHOD**

In this part of the study, demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the participants will be discussed; information about scales, data collection methods and analysis will be explained.

### **Sampling and Data Collection Method**

The sampling method of the study was chosen as convenience sampling. The expressions of the scales used were directed to the participants with the 5-point Likert method (1: Strongly Agree, 5: Strongly Disagree). The sample of the study consists of students studying at Keşan Yusuf Çapraz School of Applied Sciences. There are a total of 1407 students, 908 boys and 409 girls. As this study was written at the end of the academic year, the questionnaires were sent to the students online. 220 questionnaires were completed by the students completely and accurately.

### **Scales Used in Research**

The survey part of the study consists of three parts. In the first part, 5 statements were directed to determine the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the participants. In the second part,

12 statements were used to determine whether an individual has Dark triad personality traits or not, and which Dark triad personality traits he/she possesses. In the third part, the 29-item Buss-Perry Aggression Scale was used to analyze the individual's susceptibility to aggression behavior. The original name "Dark Triad Dirty Dozen" scale was used to measure the dark triad personality traits of the participants. The Turkish version of the scale was prepared by Özsoy and Ardiç (2017). The Turkish version of the Buss-Perry Aggression Scale (BPSÖ) developed by Buss and Perry (1992) was used to measure the aggression characteristics of the participants. The Buss-Perry Aggression Scale was developed using the Buss-Durkee Hostility Inventory (Buss and Durkee, 1957). The Turkish version of the scale was edited by Madran (2012).

### Analysis Method

SPSS program was used in the analysis part of the study. The analysis of demographic and socio-economic data and validity, reliability studies were evaluated with SPSS program. Regression analysis was used to analyze the relationships between the variables of the study for the testing of hypotheses. Demographic data of the participants are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Demographic Factor

Demographic Factor	Subgroup	N	% Frequency	Demographic Factor	Subgroup	N	% Frequency
Age	18-19	36	16,4	Number of siblings	1 sibling	68	30,9
	20-21	48	21,8		2 siblings	60	27,3
	22-23	112	50,9		3 siblings	44	20,0
	24 years and older	24	10,9		4 siblings and more	48	21,8
Gender	Female	100	45,5	Grade	1st Grade	24	10,9
	Male	120	54,5		2nd Grade	32	14,5
Allowance	0-300 TL	32	14,5		3rd Grade	28	12,7
	301-500 TL	72	32,7		4th Grade	80	36,4
	501-800 TL	68	30,9		5th grade and above	56	25,5
	801 TL and more	48	21,8				

According to Table 1, the majority of the students participating in the survey were in the 22-23 age group (50.9%); gender equality is almost attained (45.5% female-54.5% male); 501-800 TL is the majority of students receiving allowance (45%); the majority of students had 1 or 2 siblings (30.9% 1 sibling- 27.3% 2 siblings) and the majority of students in 4th and subsequent grades (36.4% 4th Grade- 25.5% 5th Grade and above).

### Validity and Reliability of Scales

The validity of the study data was obtained by factor analysis (Table 2).

Table 2 Factor and Reliability Analysis

	Factor	Phrase	Described Variance (%)	KMO Value	Cronbach Alpha
Dark triad Personality Traits	Machiavellianism	DTT1 DTT2, DTT3, DTT4	39,25	0,944	0,953
	Perfectionism	DTT5, DTT6, DTT7, DTT8	19,52		0,917
	Narcissism	DTT9, DTT10, DTT11, DTT12	23,57		0,941
Aggression	Aggression	A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, A10, A11, A12, A13, A14, A15, A16, A17, A18, A19, A20	72,83	0,937	0,956

According to Table 2, in terms of KMO test results, the adequacy coefficient of Dark triad personality traits variable was 0.944; The sufficiency coefficient of the aggression variable was found to be 0.937 and the variables were found suitable for factor analysis.

As a result of Factor Analysis, Dark triad personality traits variable was gathered into three sub-dimensions and these dimensions were named as Machiavelism, Perfectionism and Narcissism.

Machiavellian sub-dimension explained 39.25% of the total variance of the Dark triad personality traits variable; Perfectionism sub-dimension explained 19.52% of the total variance and Narcissism sub-dimension explained 23.57% of the total variance. The cumulative variance of the 3 factors is 79.34%. Expressions directed to measure the aggression variable were clustered under a factor as a result of factor analysis. The variance of the aggression variable was 72.83%. In the factor analysis, the factor load for the Dark triad personality traits and Aggression variables under 0.5 was not found. Cronbach Alpha coefficient was interpreted for reliability analysis.

Cronbach's alpha coefficient of all obtained variables was found to be over 0.800 as a result of reliability analysis. The scales are very reliable in this state.

The research hypotheses are determined in the light of the theoretical information obtained from the literature review and are given below:

- H1: There is a positive and significant relationship between dark triad personality traits and aggression.
- H1a: There is a positive and significant relationship between Machiavellian Personality Characteristics and Aggression Behavior.
- H1b: There is a positive and significant relationship between Perfectionist Personality Traits and Aggression Behavior.
- H1c: There is a positive and significant relationship between Narcissistic Personality Traits and Aggression Behavior.

## FINDINGS

Following the hypothesis of the study, a model should be established to determine the research findings. The model is given below.

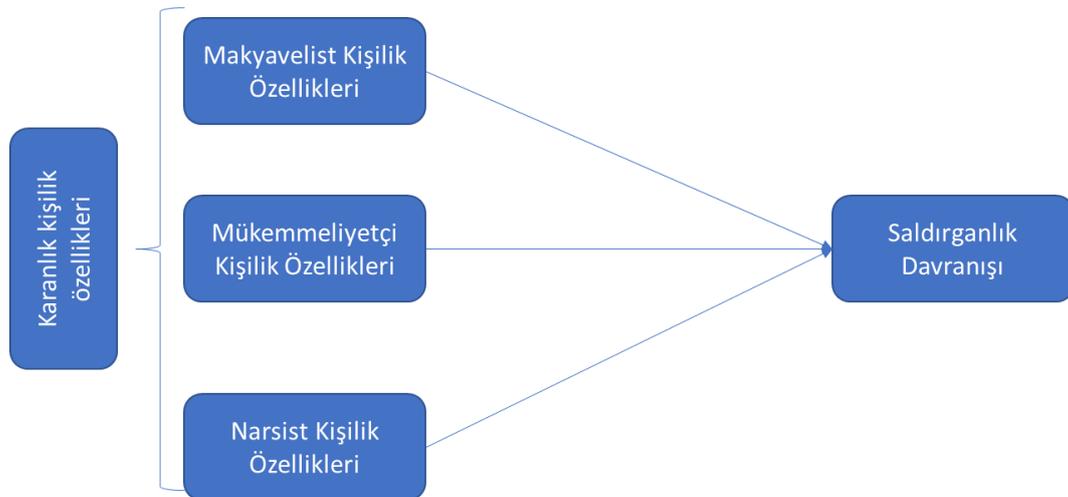


Figure 2 Research Model

When Figure 2 is examined, it is seen that Dark triad personality traits are independent and aggressive behavior is dependent variable. It is understood that Machiavelist, Perfectionist and Narcissistic personality traits, which are sub-dimensions of dark triad personality traits, affect aggression behavior. In this case, students who exhibit aggressive behavior are expected to have Machiavellian, Perfectionist and Narcissist Dark triad personality traits.

Regression analysis was used to test hypotheses. For this purpose, the relationships between the Machiavelist, Perfectionist and Narcissist personality traits sub-dimensions of the Dark triad personality traits variable have been analyzed by enabling them to interact separately with the Aggression variable.

In this study, simple linear regression analysis was performed to determine the effect of dark triad personality traits on aggression behavior as follows:

Model:  $[y = b_0 + b_1x; \text{Aggression Behavior} = b_0 + b_1 \text{ dark triad personality traits}]$

Primarily Machiavellian personality traits and Aggression variable were analyzed.

**Table 3 MPT-AGB Relationship**

Model 1	R=.083	R <sup>2</sup> =.007	Corrected R <sup>2</sup> =.004	SE=8.64	F=2.757	p .000
Model 1	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients			
	B	SE	Beta	t	p	
Constant	48.984	3.496	.083	13.984	.000	
MPT	.028	.017		1.660	.000	
a. Dependent Variable: AGB						

According to the table, the 07% change in the participants' aggression behavior is explained by Machiavellian personality traits. As a result of the regression analysis, F (F = 2.757, p: .000) was found to be significant and H1a hypothesis was accepted. Accordingly, one point increase in Machiavellian personality traits will increase .028 point of aggression behavior. If the estimated result of the model is formulated, the following conclusion will be reached.

Model: It will be  $[ \text{Aggression Behavior} = 48.984 + 0.028x \text{ Machiavellian personality traits} ]$ . In this case, students with Machiavellian personality traits, can show aggression behavior.

Secondly, Perfectionist personality traits and Aggression variable were analyzed.

**Table 4 PPT-AGB Relationship**

Model 2	R=.091	R <sup>2</sup> =.008	Corrected R <sup>2</sup> =.005	SE=7.64	F=4.475	p .000
Model 2	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients			
	B	SE	Beta	t	p	
Constant	29.364	1.366	.055	10.654	.000	
PPT	.016	.010		1.162	.000	
a. Dependent Variable: AGB						

According to the table, 08% change in participants' aggression behavior is explained by perfectionist personality traits. As the F (F = 4.475, p: .000) value was found to be significant as a result of regression analysis, H1b hypothesis was accepted. Accordingly, one point increase in perfectionist personality traits will increase the aggression behavior by .016 point. If the estimated result of the model is formulated, the following conclusion will be reached.

Model: It will be  $[ \text{Aggression Behavior} = 29.364 + 0.016x \text{ Perfectionist personality traits} ]$ . In this case, students with perfectionist personality traits can show aggression behavior.

Finally, Narcissistic personality traits and Aggression variable were analyzed.

**Table 5 NPT-AGB Relationship**

Model 3	R=.095	R <sup>2</sup> =.003	Corrected R <sup>2</sup> =.002	SE=6.53	F=1.158	p .000
Model 3	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients			
	B	SE	Beta	t	p	
Constant	59.384	2.386	.095	15.784	.000	
NPT	.046	.010		2.052	.000	
a. Dependent Variable: AGB						

According to the table, 03% change in participants' aggression behavior is explained by perfectionist personality traits. As the F (F = 1.158, p: .000) value was found to be significant as a result of regression analysis, H1c hypothesis was accepted. Accordingly, one point increase in Narcissistic personality traits will increase the aggression behavior by .046 point. If the estimated result of the model is formulated, the following conclusion will be reached.

Model: It will be [ $Aggression\ Behavior = 59.384 + 0.046 \times Perfectionist\ personality\ traits$ ]. In this case, students with narcissistic personality traits, can show aggression behavior.

As a result of the analysis, the data about the latest status of the research hypotheses are as follows.

Table 6 Test Results of Research Hypotheses

Hypotheses	Accepted / Rejected
H1: There is a positive and significant relationship between dark triad personality traits and aggression.	Accepted
H1a: There is a positive and significant relationship between Machiavellian Personality Traits (MPT) and Aggression Behavior (AGB).	Accepted
H1b: There is a positive and significant relationship between Perfectionist Personality Traits (PPT) and Aggression Behavior.	Accepted
H1c: There is a positive and significant relationship between Narcissistic Personality Traits (NPT) and Aggression Behavior.	Accepted

As can be seen from Table 6, it has been proved that there are positive and significant relationships between Dark triad personality traits and Aggression behavior. When the projection of the obtained results in the literature is examined, it will be seen that parallel results are obtained.

Paulhus, Curtis, & Jones (2018) They examined dark triad personality traits under four headings. They added Sadistic personality to Machiavellian, Perfectionist and Narcissistic personality traits. Paulhus et al. Conceptually discussed the relationship between dark triad personality traits and aggression. Perfectionist personality is often positive with physical aggression and hostile aggression of Machiavellian personality; They suggested that narcissistic personality had a negative relationship with hostile aggression.

Van Geel, Goemans, Toprak, & Vedder (2017) conducted a survey with 1568 young people between the ages of 16 and 21, 61.9% of whom were women. Machiavellian, Perfectionist and Narcissist personality traits were positively correlated with aggression behavior. In addition, it was put forward in the study as an annex that sadistic personality was directly influenced by antisocial behavior.

Tokarev, Phillips, Hughes, & Irwing (2017), in their study with 508 participants in the leading position, suggested that there is a relationship between perfectionist and narcissistic personality traits and workplace aggression.

Carton & Egan (2017), in a study conducted with 128 participants (105 women and 23 men), discovered that Perfectionist personality positively triggers physical aggression.

Westhead & Egan (2015) conducted an online survey with 305 adults, suggesting that relatively young people exhibit more aggressive behavior than older ones and that individuals with perfectionist personality traits are more likely to be aggressive.

Pilch & Turska (2015), in their study with 117 employees in Poland, concluded that participants with Machiavellian personality traits tendency to show aggression behavior is high.

Pabian, De Backer, & Vandebosch (2015) found a positive and strong relationship between perfectionist personality traits and cyber aggression in a study conducted in Belgium with 324 participants aged 14-18.

Jones & Neria (2015), in a study conducted with 192 Amazon users, 57% of whom were women and the average age was 35, the perfectionist personality was positive with physical aggression; They concluded that narcissistic personality had a negative relationship with hostile aggression and Machiavellian personality had a positive relationship with hostile aggression.

Goodboy & Martin (2015) stated that all Dark triad personality traits were positively associated with aggression in a study conducted with 227 university students.

Pailing, Boon, & Egan (2014) found a positive relationship between perfectionist and machiavellian personality traits and tendency to violence in a survey conducted with 159 participants (116 women and 43 men).

Kavanagh, Signal, & Taylor (2013) conducted an online survey with 227 participants, revealing a positive relationship between all Dark triad personality traits, age and sex, and aggression towards animals.

Holly M Baughman, Sylvia Dearing, Erica Giammarco, & Philip A Vernon (2012) A total of 657 participants (203 males and 454 females) conducted a study and found no relationship between Dark triad personality traits and Aggression.

Jones & Paulhus (2010), in their study with 82 undergraduate students, revealed that participants with narcissistic personality traits exhibited aggression behavior, while participants with perfectionist personality traits showed no aggressive behavior.

Jonason & Webster (2010), in a study conducted with a total of 1085 participants in 4 studies, suggested that there was a relationship between Dark triad personality traits and Aggression.

W. K. Campbell, Goodie, & Foster (2004) conducted three studies with 104 participants, 78 females and 26 males with an average age of 18 years. Particularly in their study focused on narcissistic personality traits, they found a positive relationship between narcissism and risk taking and self-confidence.

Williams, McAndrew, Learn, Harms, & Paulhus (2001), in their study with 356 undergraduate students, showed that participants with perfectionist personality traits prefer violent films, sports and games.

It is clear from the studies given above that there is a positive relationship between Dark triad personality traits and Aggression behavior. In this study, as a result of the verification of the hypotheses, the results obtained in the literature are parallel.

## **CONCLUSION**

In this study, the effect of Dark triad personality traits on the emergence of aggression behavior among university students was tested. The Dark triad personality traits are that the individual is indifferent to harm others in order to achieve their goals and does not refrain from exploiting them. Dark triad personality traits should be defined by abnormal personality traits, not by normal traits. Dark triad personality traits have three sub-personality characteristics called Narcissism, Machiavellianism and Psychopathy. Narcissism defines the individual who is in a state of superiority anxiety; Machiavellian refers to the individual who is not afraid of cheating and the individual who is psychopathic, insensitive and impulsive. Although the word aggression is generally perceived as a negative behavior, it is basically defined as aggression to approach a place or person, to start something but dash to attack at the same time, to harm someone physically or indirectly. The theoretical views on aggression are generally based on the idea that aggression is innate or acquired later. Instinct Theory was developed by Freud. Freud stated that all behaviors of the individual arise from the instinct of death and life. The death instinct (Thanatos) is considered as the shredding force of the individual's life. The causes of the

aggression were reported as environment, gender, frustration, personality, career choice, rural-urban relationship, sports, socio-economic level and child-rearing style.

For the purpose of the study, a survey was conducted with 220 students, of which 100 were female and 120 were male. In the survey, 5 statements were directed to demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the participants; Twelve expressions were directed to reveal dark triad personality traits and 29 expressions were directed to determine aggression behavior. Factor analysis was applied to the data set obtained from the surveys. As a result of the analysis, Dark triad personality traits variable was collected in 3 sub-dimensions; Aggression variable was collected in 1 sub-dimension. The sub-dimensions of dark triad personality traits were called Machiavellian traits, perfectionist traits and narcissistic traits. After reliability analysis, regression analysis was used to test the relationships between variables. As a result of the analysis, It was concluded that there was a positive and high correlation between Machiavellian personality traits and aggression variables at the level of 0.083; there was a positive and high correlation between perfectionist personality traits and aggression variables at the level of 0.091; there was a positive and high correlation between the narcissistic personality traits and aggression variables at the level of 0.095. All hypotheses of the study are thus verified.

Machiavellian Behavioral patterns that manifest in personality traits such as manipulative, abuse, indifference, deceit and exploitation of others can easily reach the level that causes the individual to exhibit aggressive behavior. People do not like to be deceived by cheating by someone else and they want to keep the individual with this behavior away from them. In this case, the individual who turns to loneliness sharpens his Machiavellian personality traits and tends to aggression.

Perfectionist Persons with personality traits exhibit anti-social, impulsivity, selfishness, insensitivity and unscrupulous behaviors will lead to an individual being distinguished in society. Insensitivity and anti-sociality, such as features that distract the individual from society, will come to the forefront as Dark triad personality traits that will play a first role in the individual's aggression.

An individual with narcissistic personality traits will exhibit behaviors such as sensation of magnificence, pride, lack of empathy, anxious, power, prestige and admiration. These behaviors, which will not be accepted by the society, will result in an individual applying for Aggression behavior to manifest himself.

Understanding the dark triad personality traits of university students and following the steps according to this personality trait can be used to prevent an individual's aggression. When the stress experienced by the students taken into consideration, especially during the orientation periods, exam times and graduation stage they have just started, the periods during which aggression behavior intensifies can be determined. In this process, taking into consideration the Dark triad personality traits of the student, it can be prevented from tending to aggressive behavior.

Limitations of the study can be evaluated as conducting the research with a single school and limited sample. Qualitative research methods can be used for future studies. Graduate and associate degree students can be selected as samples. The effects of dark triad personality traits and five factors personality traits on aggression behavior can be compared. Thus, it can be assessed whether aggression is the result of only the dark characteristics of the individual.

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