The Open Sore of Football: Aggressive Violent Behavior and Hooliganism

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- A) conception and design of the study
- B) acquisition of data
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- D) manuscript preparation
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ABSTRACT

Aggression and violence have been a customary part of life that mankind has had to live with from the beginning of time; it has been accepted by society even though it expresses endless negativity. Aggression and violence can find a place in sports events and football games because of the social problems of the audience watching the competitions or games, which sometimes fall into the category of hooliganism. Turkey is one of the countries that should consider this problem to be a serious social problem. Even during 2014 and 2015, a relatively short period of time, there were significant hazardous acts committed by hooligans. In February 2014, one supporter was killed after a game between Liverpool and Arsenal in England; in March 2014, a game between Trabzonspor and Fenerbahce was left half-finished because of violent acts in the stadium that caused players in the pitch to believe that they could not leave stadium alive, although they finally left after a few hours; in another incident in March 2014, one supporter was killed after a game between Helsingborg and Djurgarden in Sweden; in November 2014, one supporter was killed and 14 supporters were injured before the game between Atletico Madrid and Deportivo in Spain. These are all examples of aggression, violence, and hooliganism in football. This paper aims to discuss aggression, violence, and hooliganism in football, especially in recent years, and investigate what can be done to prevent these acts from occurring again in the future by examining them in hindsight.

KEYWORDS

football, aggression, violence, hooliganism, fair play

Introduction

Aggression and violence have been part of human history from the very beginning of time; they are accepted and ordinary aspects of society despite their negativity. However, some events that happen from time to time can be especially shocking.

The word “aggression” is derived from a Latin word meaning “moving to a direction”. It also consists of adopting a particular attitude, reacting, and causing destruction (Koknel, 2000; Oda, 2014, p. 28). In addition, aggression can be defined as disturbing attitudes that an individual reveals to himself or to others; it can also be defined as an alternative way of behaving in order to protect oneself from dangers (Nair, 2014, p. 3). Again, aggression can be identified as physical, verbal, and any other kind of behavior caused by hostile attitudes like anger, fear, frustration, and targeting to protect oneself from harm (Koc, 2011, p. 5).

In addition, at the sensitive level of aggressive behavior, other than anger and furiousness, all destructive behaviors including holding grudges and embracing hate, hostility, and violence can also be found at different

levels. In all of these sensations, aggression occurs as anger and furiousness. On the other hand, it can be interpreted as an intention to harm an individual or object (Acet, 2005, p. 43). No matter how it is interpreted, it reveals a way of behaving that damages oneself or others and shows unacceptable and negative social ability (Afyon, & Metin, 2014, p. 7).

Theories related to aggression are instinct theory, biologic theory, frustration-aggression theory, cue-arousal theory, and social learning theory. The explanation of aggression in terms of instincts has again gained currency with the book called *On Aggression* published by K. Lorenz in 1966. Claiming that aggression is a behavior that has its own instinctive energy source and is independent, Lorenz asserts that this fighting impulse concentrates until it finds a way out. According to this view, the target of aggression cannot be the true cause of it (Erden, 2007, p. 18). In the biologic theory, it is asserted that aggression is caused by the human organism. In searching for the principal factors that cause aggression, it observes the testosterone hormone, chromosomes, and organs like the brain. It claims that instincts and the process of evolution are not enough to clarify aggression. It emphasizes that aggressive behaviors are not independent from biologic and genetic factors. According to the supporters of this theory, human beings can come on strong not only through their instincts but also through the effects of their biologic surroundings (Sanli, 2014, p. 23; Tremblay et al., 2005, p. 40). In sports, for example, in volleyball, this is prevented by a hitter's attempt to spike with a block; in football, the single center forward's attempt to score a goal around the defense; in boxing, the opponent's attempt to punch with fakes and fints or a suitable guard. In this theory, as the impediments rise, aggressive impulses also rise, and this risen impulse causes open aggressive behavior. For instance, a single center forward who cannot pass the defensive player might intentionally kick or elbow the opponent; in addition, open aggressive behavior can be seen in the title fight of the world heavyweight boxing championship in which Mike Tyson bit the ear of his opponent, Holyfield (Kosiewicz, 2014, s. 36). Thus, according to this theory, frustration always causes aggressiveness in some way, and aggressiveness is a result of frustration (Tiryaki, 2000). In Berkowitz's opinion, frustration can cause an acceleration of sensitive arousal called anger. However, anger may not cause sudden aggressiveness. If a frustrated person suddenly becomes aggressive, he may believe that he might be punished, and thus he might wait to show an aggressive attitude at a different time, when the environmental conditions are suitable (Acet, 2005, p. 51; Topuz, 2009, p. 11). According to the social learning theory, one's former learning is the reason for one's behavior traits. If one has an aggressive attitude, it should be considered that this is caused by former experiences. One who has achieved goals thanks to some form of aggressiveness will show additional strong behavior and likely continue to be aggressive (Cuceloglu, 2000; Togan, 2005, p. 11).

Violence includes activities such as terrorization, intimidation, and frightening and beating others; it is intentionally and willingly done in order to, for example, survive, master one's environment, or meet one's desires and needs (Wekerle, & Wolfe, 1999, p. 438; Tozlu, & Solak, 2006). If we look at this subject etiologically, we can see that the word "violence" is derived from Arabic. In *Kamus-ı Türki*, as the equal to violence, toughness means tough and bad behavior, and the use of brute force. Violence is a word that is used in the meaning of tough and violent (Unsal, 1996, p. 29; Gokulu, 2008, p. 149). The reasons that one is pushed to violence include lack of love and care in the family, violence in the family, crowded classes, problems with friendship, the social environment's lack of protection for the individual, concerns for the future, films and television series that show violence, violent video and computer games, alcohol abuse, and the use of drugs that encourage abusive behavior. It is possible to divide violence into five categories: cosmic violence, unconscious violence, brute force, full-conscious violence, and sordid violence (Acet, 2001, p. 57).

Sports often provide a suitable place for nationalism, racism, politics, power challenges, and conflicts that have become widespread. We can consider sports as commoditized human activities that include a combination of spectators, champions and medals, prominent visual traits, and advertisements of politics and ideologies. The important element that shapes the core of a community is the area that is interested in sports. Research on built-in sports that are dominant in certain communities provides significant clues about these communities and their culture (Yetim, 2000). Aggression in sports activities can be defined as stretching the

rules of a certain sport and intentionally showing disrespectful attitudes towards the opponent. Aggressive behaviors in sports can be shown by verbal language, body language, and signs. Movement against the opponent or the referee to hurt and make them angry or mock them are examples of aggressiveness (Ikizler, & Karagozoglu, 1997). Aggressive behavior in sports can be divided into two groups. The first one includes “individual arena sports”, which give advantages to those who act aggressively. Close body contact is in the nature of sports like boxing, wrestling, judo, and taekwondo. Team sports (basketball, football, volleyball, etc.) that allow body contact to some extent are in the second group (Demirel, 2013, p. 23).

Football has become a massive industry with its employees and employers in every corner of the world nowadays. It has become a sector with a financial frame that is drawn by trillions. Most people around the world are closely concerned with its consumption and production (Tasgin, 2000, p. 15). Football is considered the most exciting game and an important part of life for many people; however, other people believe that it has deeper meanings that go beyond its place as a game and hobby. Especially in the 1970s in Europe, the rising number of supporter groups, prominent organizations that worked together with Turkey in the 1880s, indicated such a situation in real terms (Aydin et al., 2008, p. 292; Bilir, & Sangun, 2014, p. 57).

People who support football teams and watch football have been the most important factor in industrializing football. By evaluating the people who watch football in terms of support and pressure of involvement, we can categorize them as spectators, supporters, fans, or hooligans. A person who watches a match or competition is a spectator. On the other hand, groups of people who were not organized earlier, but have the same intent and react the same in a sports match are spectators. From a sociological standpoint, spectators can be defined as an unorganized community or social groups that do not have a real unity (Acet, 2003, p. 128). While people who watch matches (neutral) are defined as people who follow sports events in their free time, supporters are defined by their degree of dedication to a particular team or footballer, and can thus be separated from spectators (Trail et al., 2000, pp. 154-180). Supporters have been identified as social masses that support the organizations of sport clubs, buy the services of the club for a certain sum of money, and form the fundamental part of the club (Aycan et al., 2009, p. 170). Fanaticism is one’s extreme feelings about any field, including religion, politics, entertainment, and fashion, or one’s dedication to a concept or person. In Latin, *fanaticus* means “inspired by God, madly excited, enthusiastic” (Eker, 2010, p. 176). Hooligans are defined as groups who support the minorities in a community and individuals who are warped psychologically; however, it is an understatement to call this warping. Hooligan groups that are part of sports spectators are also the people who act in these kinds of activities (Kuru, 2000). It is not important whether a hooligan’s team wins or loses. The important thing for them is fighting and vandalizing. There are many different theories about the origins of hooliganism (Kuru, 2009, p. 143). It has been thought that the concept of the hooligan was derived from the fact that the *Daily News* gave this name to the fans that fought in the matches in 1898 and picked a fight in London because of a drunken man who lived in London named Patrick Hooligan (Toklucu, 2001). A hooligan is a person who sees favorableness beyond violence, harms the environment around him, and displays wild behavior (Sahin, 2003). Even though football hooligans are seen as being dependent on a particular team, the team’s score or achievement is not important at all. Rather, their main aim is to kick up a fuss (Kerr, & Kock, 2002, p. 3).

Even if the problem of aggressiveness that occurs continuously in football starts with the movement of the fans related to a certain sub-culture, an important social fact is being formed in every individual, hence the community that focuses on the achievement of the team as their own success (Kilcigil, 2003). Individual unhappiness, disappointments, and failures are turned into hope thanks to football. The reason that an individual supports a team is because he is trying to find an identity and promissory of identity. When the person who sees himself as ordinary plays the role of a supporter, he believes that he has achieved the dignity and success that he never achieved in his normal life (Eker, 2010). According to Spaaij, the hooliganism of football is neither a social or scientific fact, nor is it considered a subject that is talked about by the media or politicians (Spaaij, 2006, p. 4). In sports, especially in football, violence and hooliganism are not seen as a problem to be postponed or ignored. The failures of the recommendations of solutions in the short term have been sabotaging realistic solution plans in the long run (Gumusgul et al., 2014).

Methodology

This study was applied as a review by discussing acts of aggression, violence, and hooliganism in football, especially in recent years. The study investigates what can be done to prevent future acts from occurring by exploring past incidents in hindsight. In this case, incidents involving hooliganism and violence in football in 2014 and 2015 and incidents involving fair play in football in 2014 and 2015 were examined.

Results

During 2014 and 2015, significant acts of hooliganism in football occurred in Turkey and other countries around world. The acts of hooliganism and violence that took place are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Hooliganism and violence in football in 2014 and 2015

Date	Country	Match	Summary
01.18.2014	Germany	Köln - Schalke 04	Before the friendly match between the German first group team, Köln, and one of the strongest teams in Bundesliga, Schalke 04, a fight broke out among the fans of both teams in the streets of Köln. The result of the fighting was that one of the fans was severely injured, and many others received less severe injuries. In addition, some of them were arrested.
02.08.2014	England	Liverpool - Arsenal	Before the match, one of Arsenal's fans argued with and severely injured a Liverpool fan named Anthony Muteitha. It was announced that the fan who was hospitalized lost his life.
03.10.2014	Turkey	Trabzonspor - Fenerbahce	The match that was played between Trabzonspor and Fenerbahce in the 24 th week of Sport Toto Super League was postponed at 45+9 minutes. The events took place between the police and the spectators. The football players of both teams were stuck in the stadium and were not able to leave until very late.
03.30.2014	Sweden	Helsingborg - Djurgarden	A fight occurred before the match between Helsingborg and Djurgarden in the first week of the Swedish First League, and a fan of the visiting team lost his life.
05.03.2014	Italy	Fiorentina - Napoli	Before the match between Fiorentina and Napoli that resulted in the victory of Napoli (3-1) in the Rome Olympics Stadium, three Napoli supporters received gunshot wounds.
08.24.2014	Turkey	Galatasaray - Fenerbahce	Before the Super Cup match between Galatasaray and Fenerbahce on behalf of the families who lost relatives in the Soma disaster in Manisa, the supporters of both teams who came to the city fought with each other. Two Fenerbahce fans were severely injured.
10.14.2014	Serbia	Serbia - Albania	Serbian supporters threw fireworks into the pitch. The Albanian supporters were not allowed to enter the stadium, but reflected their flag onto the sky with a laser. When they also started to fly the flag with the help of a toy helicopter, chaos broke out. While the flag was being landed by two Serbian football players, Ivanovic and Mitrovic, Serbian supporters rushed onto the pitch and attacked the Albanian football players. Two football players were injured in the events.
10.18.2014	Switzerland	YoungBoys - FC Bale	Before the match, the spectators fought in front of the stadium. A total of 14 people were injured, and 17 people were arrested.
10.19.2014	Brazil	Palmeiras - Santos	In the events before the match between Palmeiras and Santos in Brazil, one of the spectators lost his life.
11.30.2014	Spain	Atletico Madrid - Deportivo	One of the fans lost his life in a conflict among the fans before the match, and 13 people were injured.
12.06.2014	Turkey	Yolspor - Kilis Belediyespor	In the 90 th minute of the match between Yolspor and Kilis Belediyespor played by the Regional Amateur League in Elazig, an argument that started when the referee pointed to the penalty spot turned into a fight. While people were throwing punches at each other in the fight, the referees left the pitch in a rush. The match was postponed after the fight was ended by the police force.
12.11.2014	Greece	Panathinaikos - Olympiakos	After the manager of Olympiakos, Evangelos Marinakis, entered the stadium, a fight broke out between the police and Panathinaikos fans. The police brought him to the changing rooms by encircling him. The Greek Super League was cancelled for a week because of the events that happened in the match between Panathinaikos and Olympiakos.

Source: own study

Despite all of these acts of aggressiveness, violence, and hooliganism in the past two years in Turkey and the world, some occurrences of fair play remind us of the good sides and fun aims of football. We can categorize them as follows in Table 2.

Table 2. Occurrences of fair play in football in 2014 and 2015

Date	Country	Match	Summary
02.22.2014	Turkey	Galatasaray - Besiktas	Initially, in the Galatasaray derby, the referee decided that the ball was out due to its position at the point close to the penalty area between Olcay Sahin and Semih Kaya. However, Semih Kaya warned the referee and said that the ball was out because of him and it should have been a corner kick. Upon hearing this warning, the referee, Cuneys Cakir, changed his mind by correcting it to a corner kick and congratulated Kaya by shaking his hand.
11.23.2014	Turkey	Bergama Gencerbirligi - Dikili Candarligucu	Behram Ustun, the coach of one of the teams in the Izmir First Amateur League, Bergama Gencerbirligi, U14, which was the hosting team against Cavdarlispor, learned that before Cavdarlispor arrived, they had just nine football players for the match. Upon learning this information, he excluded two of his players from the list, believing that it would be better to challenge the opposing team under the same conditions.
12.05.2014	Germany	Turkspor - VfB Breitenbronn	In Germany, the Turkspor Mosbach Club was awarded the "fair play" prize in the Public Amateur Football League (Kreisliga). Turkspor Mosbach was to play against VfB Breitenbronn, but eight players of the opposing team got sick. Turkspor would have won the match by the decision of the referee in the circumstance that the opposing team would not play. The administrators of Turkspor postponed the match to a further date rather than winning the match on paper. In the end, Turkspor was defeated (2-1) by the German team. Turkspor missed the championship by two points, and thus lost the chance to join the league. However, this attitude was awarded with the "fair play" award by the Baden Football Federation and Germany in general.
01.22.2015	Turkey	Adana Demirspor - Besiktas	The referee made a decision for a corner kick late in the first half of the match. A Besiktas player who was in the middle of the position, Necip Uysal, warned the referee by saying that the ball was out because of him, and he made the referee change the decision.
02.20.2015	Germany	Sandhausen - Furth	In the match played in the Bundesliga Second League, Florian Trinks, from the Furth team, talked to the referee about the goal that he scored with his hand and asked for it to be canceled.
03.13.2015	Turkey	Konyaspor - Kasimpasa	In the 24 th week of the Super League, Donk from Kasimpasa scored a goal against the opposing team, Konyaspor, when the team left the match because one of the players was injured. By the instruction of the Kasimpasa coach, the Kasimpasa players let the opposing team score a goal.
03.22.2015	Turkey	Fenerbahce - Besiktas	In the ceremony before the match between Fenerbahce and Besiktas, a child standing in front of a Besiktas player, Necip Uysal, said "You got me but I am supporting Fenerbahce. Am I supporting Besiktas now?". Necip answered the child by saying "No. Do not worry! You are a fan of Fenerbahce and I am supporting it too because I am holding your hand now". Then, he consoled the child. After that, the father of the child, who was a member of the Fenerbahce congress, wrote him a letter to say thank you.

Source: own study

Discussion

According to Kosiewicz (2015, pp. 73-74), the aggression of fans is of an amoral character both at the venue and beyond it. It is amoral in the context of aggression. It should be considered only in the context of social and individual harm. The moral context is irrelevant in this case. Rather, the following tasks are primarily important: skillful prevention of aggressive and harmful behaviors; and the neutralization of these behaviors so that their effects are minimalized; deterrent, consistent, and effective penalizations for such manifestations by law (according to their seriousness), i.e., criminal law procedures (imprisonment or fines), civil law procedures (among other things, financial remedies to institutions or victims), and administrative law procedures (stadium bans).

It is a serious and solemn matter that many people have died because of hooliganism in football since the start of the sport. When we look at the chronology of hooliganism in football, we can see many incidents of violence. In the match between Peru and Argentina in 1964, 600 people died and 300 people were injured; in the 1967 match between Kayserispor and Sivasspor, 40 people died and 600 people were injured; finally, in 1969, a match between the Honduras and El Salvador national teams turned into a war that lasted four days and resulted in the deaths of several people from both countries. We can also mention the 1971 match between Celtic and Glasgow Scotland, in which 66 people died, and the 1985 match between Liverpool and Juventus in the Europe Championship Cup Final, in which 39 Italian spectators died and more than 400 people were injured. Unfortunately, these are only a few of the many violent events that have occurred in the history of football (Acet, 2005, pp. 66-73).

While the concept of sports was once associated with words like entertainment and physical and mental desire, nowadays it has become a supremacy challenge focused on success rather than on enjoyment. Especially in our country, every year in each and every branch of sports, sports clubs, administrations, technical groups, footballers, and their supporters are aiming to win, and they do so without accepting the probability of three scores that are involved in several sports. An officer accused of a bribe, a banker accused of stealing money from his own cashier, or a referee, administrator, or sportsman accused of unethical deceit is considered to be disrespectful. However, footballers inside the stadium who fight with each other or are provoked by the spectators, fake the referee by throwing their bodies on the pitch, or bicker with other players and the referee all the time, or even administrators who create a tense atmosphere by putting the referee under pressure are not considered to be acting disrespectfully. Instead, these kinds of actions are considered to be natural.

In Turkey, in addition to several events that have taken place individually or among groups, after the match played between Caykur-Rizespor and Fenerbahce in Rize on April 4, 2015, the Fenerbahce sports club was attacked when they were back on the road. This caused the teams not to play in Super League and World Cup during the following week. Leagues were postponed for a week. If the assailants had achieved their aims in this incident, the team bus would have fallen off a cliff, and it is possible that all of the footballers could have been killed. This event, which will be remembered as a disgrace, could cause football to be banned for years in our country and internationally. After this event, the President, Super League captains, and the Minister of Youth and Sports met at a summit.

We have observed that impracticable laws related to aggressiveness and violence in sports are carried out by the government with empty determinations. The ones who are involved in the circle of sports and especially in football think that the precautions that have been taken are not intended to be a form of protection, but rather are to restrict the desire to watch sports and block spectators from entering the stadium.

Conclusion

Since April 14, 2014, decisions have been made concerning Turkish football. The Passolig card, which provides for the welfare and peacefulness of the stadium, is now being used. However, spectators prefer to protest this application to support their teams. We can say that the quality of football has decreased because of the fact that this card has not been positively presented to the public, and deceitful incidents occurred during its implementation process. Rather than using this card and taking these kinds of precautions, precautions should be taken that also encourage football in Turkey and in the world.

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