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# A STUDY OF THE AGGRESSIVE STATUS OF FOOTBALL FANS

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# ABSTRACT

Football should not be considered only a branch of sports. Football is a sociological phenomenon. Fans being together doesn't always make for a peaceful atmosphere. Those who fail to control their aggressive tendencies create incidents that overshadow football. The purpose of this article is to determine the emergence of aversive social learning in football fans. Football fans are evaluated within the framework of the social learning theory, which is the basis of the aggressive theory. The article reveals the importance of learning by anticipating the behavior of aggressive others and by imitating fan groups and group leaders as well as media personalities.

#### **KEYWORDS**

Football, Fans, Aggression, Fan behavior, Social learning theory.

## **INTRODUCTION**

It is impossible to determine the exact date for the appearance of football. However, the tendency of people to play with round objects in their mental and physical structure, to see themselves, gives rise to the idea that the history of football can be equal to that of humanity. From the past to the present, football has attracted widespread attention around the world and has become the universal language of societies.

Football is a field where people can relax and create their own identity. While football conveys a message of peace and brotherhood, it is a sport of struggle and competition. Players on the field and fans in the stands American Journal Of Social Sciences And Humanity Research (ISSN – 2771-2141) VOLUME 03 ISSUE 11 PAGES: 73-80 SJIF IMPACT FACTOR (2021: 5. 993) (2022: 6. 015) (2023: 7. 164) OCLC – 1121105677 Crossref O S Google S WorldCat MENDELEY

can behave aggressively, which is against the spirit of peace and brotherhood of football. Aggression is generally defined as behavior by a person or group with the intention of harming another.

According to social learning theory, impression is a learned behavior. Learning modeling can be done through observation and imitation. When a person sees that the behavior of the person he is observing is approved and accepted, he imitates that behavior or acts in a similar way. Aggressive behavior and violent behavior can be learned through modeling. Football fans can look to the behavior figures in their family, the leaders of their fan groups, as role models and learn impression from them. First of all, the conceptual framework that includes fans, the factors that play a role in fans' impression and fans' impression are presented. Next, a theoretical framework for explaining impression is created, touching on instinct theory, frustration aggression theory, and social learning theories. Then, within the framework of social learning theory, an evaluation of fans' impression is carried out.

#### Science phenomenon

The concepts of audience and fan can be used interchangeably. In this context, these two concepts should be distinguished from each other. A spectator is someone who watches the game in a stadium or through media such as television. A fan is a person who actively participates in social networks, as opposed to being a passive spectator. It is important for fans to participate in collective grandstand groups or based on social relationships. The concept of a fan includes not only watching the game in those stands on match days, but also a community that has a shared memory, language and attitude and implies a public space created with other fans. Among the most important conditions for fandom is the existence of a social community that experiences joy, sorrow, and solidarity together, and the formation of a collective memory off the field.

There are fans who reach the level of fanaticism and put the team they support in the center of their lives. Fanaticism usually means being loyal to the team you support under any circumstances. This loyalty can lead to intolerance of marginalized competitors and, in its advanced stages, violence. People who use violence in the form of fighting, injuring, destroying people are thugs. Bullying should not be confused with fanaticism. Fanaticism means blindly supporting a team. The most important thing for thugs is to fight and destroy their team, regardless of whether they win.

Bullying increased between World Wars I and II, and although it declined in the late 1950s, it increased again in the 1960s. Today, bullying exists in many countries other than England. The origin of the thugs is England, and they are the children of lower-class working families. They are people who have no job, no social



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support, no position in society, and have problems with themselves, their families, and society. They express their reactions by defying social norms, breaking things. Football provides an environment where hooligans can fan themselves and see football as an arena they can easily exploit.

The trend towards bigotry and hooliganism among football fans makes it difficult for football fans to act impartially and use their own judgment in interpreting sporting events. Football fans are loyal to their teams. Their attachment to the team as a fan provides unity with a proud and respected team and an escape from a life of failure and monotony. Fans who are very identified with their teams expect their team to win. They see the team's success as their success.

## The phenomenon of aggression

Aggression is often seen in connection with the concepts of anger and resentment. However, there are other emotional states besides anger and resentment that can cause impression. Emotional states such as pain, boredom, anxiety, pressure, fear, nervousness, hatred, anger and hostility cause the formation of behavior. There are many definitions of aggression. According to one of these definitions, it is a behavior that causes personal pain or material damage, directly or indirectly calculated by the social and cultural environment. Physically or verbally attacking a person, behavior should not be allowed. The aggression of

football fans can be psychologically divided into three groups: "individual" shown by one fan, "mass" shown by a gathering of several fans, "pure violence" that destroys people and property in front of him.

# Fan violence

A fan is a person who loves his team, is emotionally attached to his team and its colors. Fans can be violent. If the fans exhibit the behavior, it is not about the personality of the fans, but about the identity of the thug or bigot. Football fans and hooligans play a major role in violence, and violence increases as violent fans participate in violent incidents by bigots and hooligans. In one study, 20 out of 83 self-described fans, 28 out of 62. self-described fans. Out of 31 people who identified themselves as bullies, 28 reported that fights took place on the day of the match. As a type of behavior of football fans, violations are known as football fanaticism. The label of football fanaticism includes onfield activities that are deliberately designed to disrupt the game and may involve violence, but are violent and destructive between rival fan groups. also refers to field battles. In the context of football, fanaticism becomes an integral part of life for fans who engage in hooliganism, going to matches and fighting.

The behavior of fans and fan groups can create an atmosphere of strife and fighting. However, it does not manifest itself in the form of attacking fans of the opposing team with sticks, knives or weapons, or



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simply engaging in physical combat. Verbal attacks may be committed by fans, such as referees, players and fans of the opposing team, club presidents, fans throwing foreign objects onto the field, tearing down seats in the tribune, damaging the bus of athletes and fans of the opposing team. Fan groups praise their teams, rave about their victories, and identify with the team as if they had achieved those victories themselves. Fans gain pride and superiority from victory. They belittle their opponents and even talk about them as if they are not human. Fans of the opposing team are also identified with the opposing team and become the object of attack. Fan groups direct their anger and sadness at a losing game or a refereeing error onto the other team's fans.

# Factors that play a role in fans being aggressive

Aggressive fan behavior is influenced by demographic factors such as age, gender, socio-cultural factors, family, education, subculture, social class and other factors, alcohol consumption, media, referees, managers, cheerleaders and racism and extreme nationalism. makes a secret. Gender variability is an important factor in the development of aggression. Men have more aggressive tendencies than women. Compared to women, men try to resolve their differences by fighting. Football is a sport that generally attracts the attention of men.

## **Theoretical basis**

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Research aimed at explaining the causes of aggression focuses on three theories. The first of them is based on Freud's views. Accordingly, aggression is an instinctive trait and an innate tendency. According to another theory called socialization or learning theory, aggression is a result of learning processes. According to the hypothesis-based theory of frustration and aggression, aggression is a reaction to frustration. The reaction given in this way can be congenital or later acquired.

# Fan aggression and social learning

According to social learning theory, aggressive behavior is learned. Another finding relevant to social learning theory is that aggression, like other learned responses, is sensitive to reinforcing contingencies. In this context, the family and social environment in which a person grows up and the media can be effective in learning about his aggressive behavior. If an attack by a person exhibiting aggressive behavior is positively reinforced, the person may continue to engage in aggressive behavior. Children born into environments where violence is the norm are no strangers to violence. They witness domestic violence or parents abuse a child. These children are bullied at school by their teachers and by their friends on the street. Essentially, Shahin found in his research that violent football fans had been abused by their families as children. People who accept living with violence in the family, neighborhood, school as a matter of course,

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as a result, become people who commit violence in the stands.

### CONCLUSION

Football plays an important role in social life. Football is a way for people to escape from the mundanity and tension of everyday life. By going to the games or watching the games on TV, you want your favorite team to win and be the best. This seemingly innocent desire can turn into a struggle. Fans who feel that they belong to their team and to the fan group they are a part of, with the ambition to win, may display aggressive attitudes and behaviors to help their team win. Football matches, which should be peaceful and friendly, turn into violent events with violent and aggressive behavior by fans and groups.

The scope of research includes how family, fan group, fan leaders, and media influence fan aggression. The results show that aggressive fans are produced by environmental factors, aggressive behavior is learned and mastered by fans in the process of social learning, which suggests that fans think that football inherently involves aggression. and fans associate aggressive behavior with success. It provides insight into the aggressive tendencies of fan behavior inherent in soccer, shows that soccer fandom is a result of learning from the environment rather than an innate characteristic of soccer fans, and shows that aggressiveness is transmitted by fans. It is important that the behaviors they learn towards new members, especially those within fan groups, cause the aggressiveness to continue.

Football is not just a game played in a stadium by 22 players and three referees. Undoubtedly, the referees, players and coaches who manage the players on the field. Off the pitch, the fans, the media and the board of directors that run the club are also key elements of football. Violence is a social wound. For this wound to heal, all the above-mentioned elements in football must be sensitive. The language used by football commentators. especially in newspapers and television programs, should not be violent. Because fans can learn about violence and aggression from the publications that glorify violence media, and aggression should not be released in the media and images of violence should not be included. The way to end violence and aggression in football is for all sides of football to come together with common sense around the principles of friendship, struggle and sportsmanship.

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