



The role of language criterion in the sustainability of scholarly journals: Analysis of psychiatry journals in Turkey

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INTRODUCTION

In this study, the effect of the publication languages of the journals in the field of Psychiatry in Turkey on the sustainability of the journal was investigated. The necessity of preserving local languages is on the agenda. This is clearly stated in item 3 of the Leiden Manifesto (Hicks et al, 2015). Open access has allowed small scientific communities to publish in their own language. As a result, the issues of balanced multilingualism, sustainable multilingualism and equitable multilingualism were opened for discussion (14th Conference, EASE 2018). However, due to the pressure of important indexes and the aim of increasing international stations and the obligation to broadcast in English for academic upgrades in many countries, the broadcast language is switched to English in countries whose native language is not English (Uzun, 2018).

MATERIAL and METHOD

In order to minimize the confounding factors, 20 journals in the field of psychiatry published in Turkey between 2010 and 2020 were reviewed. Even if these journals were published for at least 1 year between 2010-2020, they were taken into account. These journals were examined by taking into account the information on the DergiPark platform, TR Index and their own web pages. Our main research criteria, the beginning of publication life, the years of using DergiPark, the number of clicks, the number of downloaded articles were obtained from the DergiPark platform, the languages of the journals, the number of articles in Turkish, the number of articles in English, the number of articles of the same study published in both Turkish and English, the total number of published articles, the number of annual citations, annual he number of clicks and index coverage from TR Index, the common volume, the common issue and the issue published in the year from the Turkish Psychiatry Index and the web pages of the journals. We have completed the criteria for scanning the journals in DOAJ, ESCI, SCOPUS and SCI-Expanded by AVES publishing. Then, it was evaluated whether there is a relationship between the language of publication and sustainability parameters.

RESULTS

Twenty Turkish psychiatry journals published between 2010 and 2020 were taken as the research sample and range. Five (25%) of these journals ceased publication during the study period (3 of which 60% were published only in Turkish, 1 in English, the other in both Turkish and English; none of them were indexed) (Figs 1-2). The remaining 15 (75%) journals continue to be published: The only one journal (7%) published in Turkish language is covered by both TR Index and DOAJ. The publication language of 4 journals (27%) was English (one was covered by SCI-Expanded and one was covered by TR Index). Both Turkish and English articles were published in 9 (60%) journals (one SCI-Expanded, one SCI-Expanded and TR Index, one both TR Index and DOAJ, one TR Index and 2 only by DOAJ). There was only one journal published in biligual (Turkish and English) covered by both SCI-Expanded and TR Index (Fig. 2). Young journals, which started their publication life after 2010, mostly published articles in Turkish or English (Fig. 3).

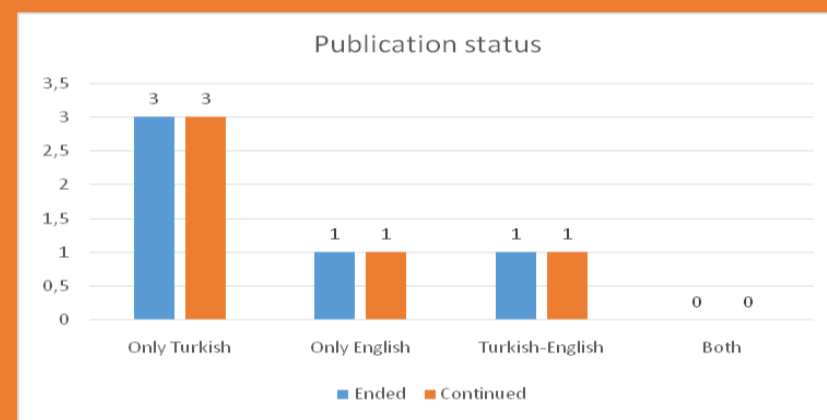


Fig. 1. Publication status

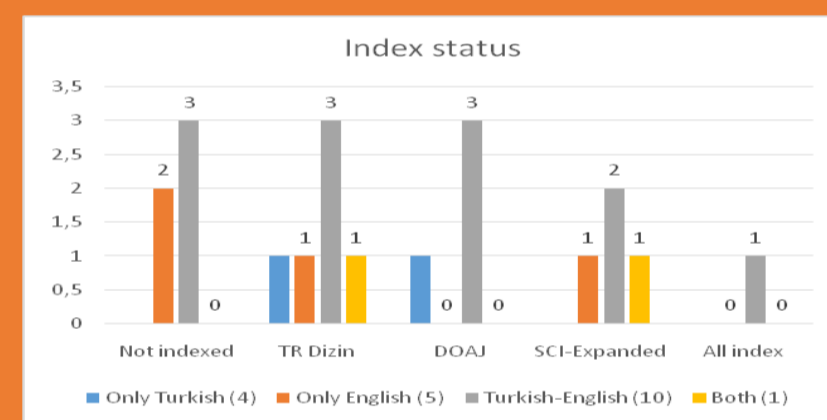


Fig. 2. Index status

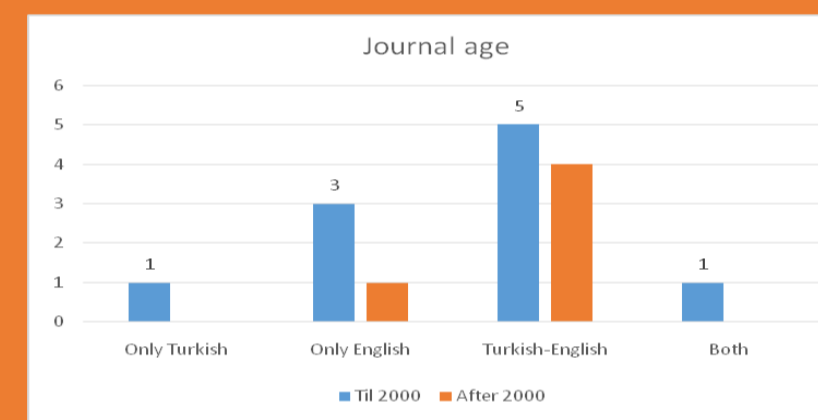


Fig. 3. Journal Age

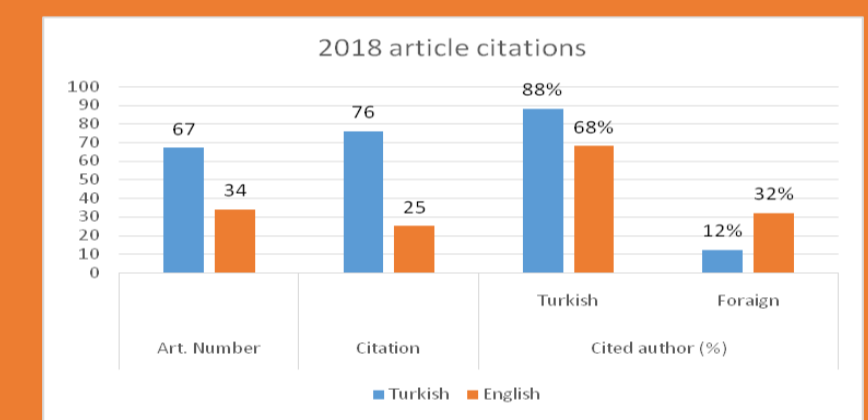


Fig. 4. 2018 Article citations

We wondered if language had an effect on the Impact Factor. Experience has shown that the best journals in each specialty are the journals in which an article is most difficult to accept, and these are high-impact journals (Garfield, 2006). There was only one journal in our research area that was covered in the SSCI index and published both Turkish and English publications. We compared the citation performance of Turkish and English articles published by this journal in two consecutive years. Of the published publications, 67 were in Turkish and 34 were in English, and the total citations to them were 76 (impact: 1.134) and 25 (impact: 0.735), respectively. All of the Turkish and English articles (except one) were written by Turkish authors. When the citations are investigated by whom; We found that 12% of citations for Turkish articles and 32% of citations for English articles were made by foreign authors (Fig. 4).

DISCUSSION, LIMITATIONS and CONCLUSION

The fact that English is a language of science, however, the fact that the studies conducted with local funds are written in English in a way that the people there cannot understand, and the need to share the existing information with researchers from all over the world, makes the transition from the local language to the common language in the journals questionable. Many journals prefer to publish in both languages. However, the simultaneous publication of an article in both languages has not become widespread due to high costs and the potential to cause some confusion in journals. This problem may disappear due to the increase in automatic translation opportunities in time, but it should not be forgotten that there is a potential for scientific meaning to be lost or inaccurate when translating in scientific studies (Uzun, 2018). Some editors think that there will be a significant difference in journals with the change of publication language. However, as seen in our study, the change in publication language may not make a difference on its own. The important thing is to provide an ethical and reliable publication environment.

Impact factors can be manipulated and have several limitations. The primary aim of a scientific journal should not be having a high impact factor but to become a high quality journal through appropriate editorial processes and publishing high-quality, ethical articles. If the scientific quality of the articles published in a journal, as well as the visibility of the journal, are increased, the impact factor will rise (Uzun, 2017).

In this study, we see that writing an article in English does not indicate that it will receive high citations. Journals can ensure their sustainability by increasing their quality, adding value to authors and readers, and increasing their visibility by entering important indexes as a result. Although switching to English will make it accessible to many parts of the world, it will cause local people to not adequately understand the researches done with their own funds. In addition, it is obvious that this language change cannot be made as effectively and as easily as it should be, both financially and due to the inadequacy of the copy editors who are competent in the field to make their translations.

Among the limitations of this study; Not being able to reach the data of the psychiatry journals researched in a 10-year period in a healthy way, as well as not being able to obtain healthy data in TR Index and DergiPark. Some journals do not use DergiPark, some of them started using it late, some were not in the TR index and their web pages did not contain healthy data. For this reason, it was not possible to reach the correct data and we conducted this research as much as we could. However, we were able to analyze the data because it was largely completed. The archives of some journals were insufficient, for example, the archive of a journal covered by an SCI-Expanded lacked information. There were only English titles in the archive of a journal, whereas the articles were published in Turkish. In this study, we have also detected such errors. As a result, local publication language may have a negative impact on a journal's sustainability, but not its indexing and citation by major indexes. Also, publishing in English does not guarantee citations from international journals or the sustainability of the journal.

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