The comparison of the identity description of the students and their political tendencies

Meryem Bulut

Abstract

This survey was conducted with a total of 249 university students (125 female, 124 male) aged between 17-26. Almost the whole sample group consisted of undergraduate students from Ankara University. The survey was conducted using interview method. According to the findings of the survey, it was found that 58.5% of the female students described themselves only as ‘human being’ and they didn’t need any other identity description. 17.1% described their identity only as ‘woman’. It was also found that 71.9% of the male students described themselves only as ‘human being’, 13.5% described themselves as ‘nationalist’. 47.3% of the students who described their identity as ‘human being’, showed interest in CHP (Republican Public Party), 22.3% showed interest in AKP (Justice and Development Party) while 77.8% of the students who described their identity as ‘Atatürkist’, showed interest in CHP and 73.7% who described their identity as ‘nationalist’, showed interest in MHP (Nationalist Action Party). 42.9% of the students who described their identity only as ‘woman’ showed interest in ÖDP (Liberty and Solidarity Party), 21.4% showed interest in CHP.

Keywords: Identity, Political, Student’s Preferences

1. Introduction

Identity is the recognition of a person by others, as well as describing himself. It is the answer to the questions related with the existence of a human being. Even though identity is one of the most studied subjects in the developmental field, it was built socially. As its boundaries extend, the perceptions of identity diversify, differentiate and reproduce. The meaning of the concept today, is social and political (Emiroğlu, Aydın 2003).

Since the development of a person cannot be independent from his environment, the period of identity development will be different in different fields and cultural environments. The factors affecting the identity are characteristics like culture, economy, population, politics, physical environment, social class, race and ethnical origin, in a broad sense. These factors feed the development of identity by common values, norms and expectations (Demir, 2009). Besides, the identity of a person is related with who he is against (Güvenç, 1994). The concept of identity can be described as the conscious comprehension of the person or the society of its qualifications, values, position and origin.

E-mail address: mbulut@ankara.edu.tr.

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The phenomenon of identity is based on the synthesis of the constituents that are chosen from numerous symbols, value systems, stimuli and many qualifications in a very variable environment or among the environments (Bilgin, 1994). Identity has become a prism which is useful for illuminating, understanding and looking into the controversial aspects of the world. The problems which are the subjects of social analysis have started to revolve around identity (Bauman, 2005). The demands of cultural identity which are on the basis of religious and ethничal origin, but also forming in the sexual, cultural life spaces cause conflicts. The political attitude which aims to implement the differences which appear on this basis, cause breaks, changes and transformations (Keyman, 2007). The processes of globalization that put people and goods, ideas, images etc. along with them in motion, due to their unequal and equalizing dynamics, bring more clarity to the emphasis on identity (Özbudun, 2005). Has the description of identity, which is the way people express themselves, made the political preferences of the students become apparent? Therefore, answers to these questions were being searched: a) Is there a significant correlation between the gender of the students and the identity that they describe themselves and b) Is there a significant correlation between the identity of the students that they describe themselves as and the political parties in which they show interest?

2. Method

2.1. Method:

The research was conducted using the screening model.

2.2. Work group

The survey was conducted in 2009 in 3 months, with 249 undergraduate students that visited the service to attend the cultural activities. It was conducted using interview method, with the students that visited Ankara University Cultural Service to attend cultural activities in 3 months. It was found that 60% of the students read newspapers on a daily basis and 35% of them preferred to read political news. 60% of them read books which were novels, poems and political books. It was found that 33,9% of the students showed interest in one of the present political parties. Female students are shown to be less interested in politics than male students.

3. Finding and Results

3.1. Data analysis

At data evaluation stage, the data obtained from open-ended questions are encoded and the comparison tables are given.

| Table 1. The description of the students’ identities according to gender |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
|                         | Female          | Human being | Atatürkist | Nationalist | Revolutionist | Total |
| Female                  | 17,1            | 58,5       | 11        | 8,5      | 4,9      | 100   |
| Male                    | -------         | 71,9       | 10,1      | 13,5     | 4,5      | 100   |
| Total                   | 8,2             | 65,5       | 10,5      | 11,1     | 4,7      | 100   |

P= .002<.05 The differences between the percentages of the groups were significant

171 of the 249 interviewed students described their identities, different than being a student. It was found that most of the female students described themselves as ‘human being’ and they didn’t need any other identity, 17,1% described themselves as ‘woman’, 11% as ‘Atatürkist’, 8,5% as ‘nationalist’ and 4,9% as ‘revolutionist’. It was understood from the tables that the majority of the male students (71,9%) described themselves as ‘human being’,
13.5% as ‘nationalist’, 10.1% as ‘Atatürkist’ and 4.9% as ‘revolutionist’. The biggest difference between the genders and identity description occurred considering the description as ‘human being’. This difference is caused by the female students, describing themselves as ‘woman’. There are no significant differences between the genders when describing identity.

Table 2. Political party tendencies of the students according to their identity description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>AKP</th>
<th>CHP</th>
<th>MHP</th>
<th>ÖDP</th>
<th>OTHER</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>42.9</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human being</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>47.3</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atatürkist</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>77.8</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nationalist</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>73.7</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revolutionist</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>43.3</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It was found that the majority (42.3%) of the female students who described themselves only as ‘woman’ showed interest in ÖDP, since they thought that there was no gender discrimination. The majority of the students that described themselves only as ‘human being’ showed interest in CHP (47.3%). Most of the students that described themselves as ‘Atatürkist’ (77.8%) showed interest in CHP. It was understood from the tables that most of the students that described themselves as ‘nationalist’ (73.7%) showed interest in MHP. The majority of the students that described themselves as ‘revolutionist’ showed interest in ÖDP. The same proportion of students showed interest in both AKP and CHP. The students that described themselves as ‘revolutionist’ showed interest in AKP because it was open to change and they showed interest in CHP due to the progressive forces existing within the party. The ones that showed interest in others pointed out various leftist organizations.

4. Results and Conclusions

It was understood from the tables that the majority of the female and male students described themselves as ‘human being’. There is no significant difference between genders, considering identity description. There is only difference considering gender identity.

It was found that the majority (42.3%) of the female students who described themselves only as ‘woman’ showed interest in ÖDP, since they thought that there was no gender discrimination. The majority of the students that described themselves only as ‘human being’ showed interest in CHP (47.3%), due to the fact that they needed no other identity description. Most of the students that described themselves as ‘Atatürkist’ showed interest in CHP (77.8%) since they thought that CHP was the most suitable party to represent Atatürk. It was understood from the tables that the majority of the students that described themselves as ‘nationalist’ showed interest in MHP as the representative of the ‘national opinion’. Half of the students who described themselves as ‘revolutionist’ showed interest in ÖDP. It was also found that the same proportion of the students who described themselves as ‘revolutionist’ showed interest in both AKP and CHP. The women show less interest in political parties due to the behavior that the society expects from men and women, and cultural conditioning (Ilbars, 1987). The cultural prejudice against women who are interested in politics, rushes up the lack of interest (McGlen/O’Connor, 1995). But in this survey, it’s possible for us to say the opposite. It is seen that all of
the female and male students that described themselves as constituents of the various identities, have political tendencies.

As a result, it is seen that there are no significant differences between genders except gender identity, when describing the identity. From the findings, it is understood that the students showed interest in the political parties which suited the identities they described themselves as and they were conscious about this. It is also possible for us to point out that the identities that the students describe themselves as are related with either taking a political stand or a political attitude.

References


Demir, İ. (2009), *Çocuk ve Gençlik Ruh Sağlığı* Dergisi, 16 (3)


