The Impact of Pre-Competition Estimated Results for Elite Archers on Performance According to Achievement Goal Theory

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Abstract

This study aimed to evaluate the estimated/judged results for elite archers before competitions in the context of Achievement Goal Theory and determine its impact on actual performance. Also, the study assessed the impact of goal orientation on the competition scores to comprehend the relationship between goal orientation and performance. Study participants were 116 elite archers who participated in Adult-Youth Indoor Turkey Championship in Izmir. Before the competition, the participants filled in the "Task and Ego Orientation in Sport Questionnaire". Before this scale, a survey form, developed by the researcher, was given to participants to learn about their personal characteristics. The participants were asked to make a note of the numbers they wore on the chest of their uniforms and the predicted/judged scores on the survey form. They were informed that at the termination of the competition, their actual scores and their predicted scores would be compared. The study presents two important results. The first result is related to the fact that athletes with high goal orientation were significantly more successful than those with low goal orientation in a real competition predictions/estimates of individuals with high goal orientation and their competition performances. This study is significant because it demonstrated that individuals with higher goal orientations have higher performances and that their predictions/estimates for their performance are much more accurate.

Keywords: estimated performance, achievement goal theory, archers

1. Introduction

The term "motivation" points to the force that activates us, helps us sustain our actions and supports the commencement and completion of tasks" (Pintrich & Schunk, 1996). As can be comprehended from the general definition of motivation in the dictionary, level of motivation is very important to complete tasks and achieve good results. Real success is accompanied by high motivation (Agbuga & Xiang, 2008; Agbuga, Xiang, & McBride, 2010). One of the most prominent theories of motivation (Anderman & Wolters, 2006; Ma & Monsma, 2016) is the achievement goal theory (AGT) (Nicholls 1984, 1989). Sports field is the area where the impact of motivation on success can be best observed. During the last half-century, scientists working in the field of sports and exercise psychology have placed achievement goal theory in the center of their work for different purposes. Tok, Dal, Doğan, Yaman and Binboğa (2017) cited that based on AGT; individuals have two different goal perspectives or subjective success perceptions. Therefore, AGT claims that there are two motivational (or goal) orientations and these depend on an athlete's interpretation of success (Moran, 2004). Accordingly, mastery (or task) oriented individuals will feel successful when they develop their own abilities through task mastery and skill development; performance (or ego) oriented individuals will only feel successful when they demonstrate their own competence relative to others (Buch, Nerstad, Aandstad, & Säfvenborn, 2016; Roberts, 2012, Tok et al., 2017). Task-oriented goals allow athletes to develop their skills via knowledge and task mastery. Ego oriented goals strengthens athletes' sense of competence by comparing them with others. While task orientation is related to adaptive motivational designs, ego orientation is associated with maladaptive motivational variables (Ames, 1992a, 1992b; Duda, 1992). Moreover, task-oriented athletes believe that success comes from effort, cooperation and intrinsic interest whereas ego-oriented athletes believe that success is related to deception and superior abilities (Solmon, 1996; Agbuga, 2014).

In recent years, a substantial number of studies have been conducted in the field of education and psychology to compare athletes' or students' judged/estimated performances with their actual performances. Kolovelonis and Goudas (2018) cited that students' awareness for learning and performance are enhanced by metacognitive feelings and estimates (such as learning judgments) in task involvement (before, during, or after) (Efklides, 2011). In this context, judgment of performance is regarded as metacognitive in nature as well and it is believed to result from conscious processing of instructions, task characteristics, and metacognitive knowledge in regards to ability to use effective strategies (Efklides, 2009). Educational contexts mostly use difference scores between estimated/judged performance and actual performance to measure absolute accuracy (Chen & Rossi, 2013). This paradigm is used in sports field as well as in education. Performance estimates in the field of sports may help athletes to assess their performances, know about their abilities and determine their targets more comfortably. Participants' judged and actual performances were compared in different sportive activities such as golf shots (Fogarty & Else, 2005), free shots of recreational basketball players (McGraw, Mellers, & Ritov, 2004), dart shots (Gasser & Tan, 2005) and students' free basketball shots (Kolovelonis & Goudas, 2018). Since metacognitive judgments might demonstrate stable trait-like characteristics (Pieschl, 2009), person related characteristics may also be effective in individual differences in calibration. Similarities between estimates and actual performances may be due to different characteristics of the athletes.

While there are various studies conducted with AGT framework in sports psychology in different fields with different methods (Allen, Taylor, Dimeo, Dixon, & Robinson, 2015; Tok et al., 2017; Elferink-Gemser et al., 2016; Vieira et al.2015; Lee, 2014; Pelletier, Rocchi, Vallerand, Deci, & Ryan, 2013; Machida, Ward & Vealey,2012; Gomes, Martins, & Silva, 2011; Silva, Gomes, & Martins, 2011; Elbe, Madsen, & Midtgaard, 2010; Stuntz & Weiss, 2015); there are only a handful of studies where calibration has been used. Goal orientation is associated with self-regulation and metacognition (Efklides, 2011). Task-oriented students who focus on skill mastery may be involved in metacognitive processes (such as self-monitoring) while ego-oriented students who mostly focus on performing better than others may not be engaged in these processes at all (Pintrich, 2000; Vrugt & Oort, 2008). Bring aware of their own skills is one of the most important advantages for athletes in achieving their objectives and when they try to realize these objectives. The literature review conducted in this framework has determined that a limited number of studies that investigates the relationship between AGT and calibration exits in the field of sports (Kolovelonis & Goudas, 2018; Chao, 2014). Also, comparative studies mostly focused on amateur athletes and students and they used experimental designs rather than actual competitions.

This study aimed to evaluate the estimated/judged results for elite archers before competitions in the context of Achievement Goal Theory and determine its impact on actual performance. Also, the study assessed the impact of goal orientation on the competition scores to comprehend the relationship between goal orientation and performance.

2. Method

2.1 Participants

Study participants were 116 elite archers who participated in Adult-Youth Indoor Turkey Championship in Izmir (Mean age =33.29, SD= 1.26, 82 males and 34 females). Athletes that compete in the Turkey Championship are the athletes who have been successful in competitions held regionally. All participants were informed of the study and their participation was voluntary.

2.2 Motivational (Goal) Orientation Measures

A Turkish version of the Task and Ego Orientation in Sport Questionnaire (TEOSQ) was used to measure participants' motivational orientations. The TEOSQ consists of a series of 13 questions: 7 questions evaluate task orientation and 6 questions evaluate ego orientation. Participants responded on a 5- point Likert-type scale with anchors of not at all (1), strongly disagree (2), disagree (3), neutral (4), and strongly agree (5). The TEOSQ was adapted into Turkish by Toros (2004).

Before the competition, the participants filled in the "Task and Ego Orientation in Sport Questionnaire". Before this scale, a survey form, developed by the researcher, was given to participants to learn about their personal characteristics. The participants were asked to make a note of the numbers they wore on the chest of their uniforms and the predicted/judged scores on the survey form. They were informed that at the termination of the competition, their actual scores and their predicted scores would be compared. The athletes who did not want to share their competition numbers or their predicted scores were excluded from the study.

2.3 Statistical Analyses

The obtained data were analyzed using descriptive statistical methods such as frequency and percentage in accordance with the aims of the study and also inferential statistical methods were utilized. The hierarchical and non-hierarchical clustering analysis was used to classify the target orientation levels of the athletes. Ward Method was applied in hierarchical clustering methods. The squared euclidean distance was used in the Ward method. One-Way Anova test was used to reveal the differences between the clusters. Linear regression analysis was utilized to examine the effect of the predicted score on the outcome of the competition.

3. Findings

The agglomeration table obtained by using the squared Euclidean distance coefficients in the hierarchical clustering analysis was investigated. The distance coefficients in the agglomeration table can be considered as a measure to determine the number of sets in the clusters. (Nakip, 2006). In this direction, results of analysis demonstrated two large jumps in the last two steps of the coefficients. Although the two clusters were thought to be appropriate based on this finding, the tree diagram (dendrogram) was also carefully examined with the reason that it is used as a means to determine the number of clusters (Nakip, 2006).

As shown in the tree diagram below, 166 participants were clustered in two groups in general. Therefore, the optimal number of clusters was found to be two based on the agglomeration table and tree diagram(see Appendix).



In terms of reliability of the clustering solutions; K-means cluster, which is a non-hierarchical clustering method, was applied after the hierarchical clustering analysis and the optimal number of clusters was decided after this analysis. In this method, observations are placed in different clusters with the greatest variability among the clusters and the smallest in-cluster variability. The aim of this method is to divide the observations into a number of clusters determined by the researcher (Alpar, 2011). Since the number of clusters in the hierarchical clustering method was found to be two, the number of clusters was set to two when K-means clustering was applied and the analysis is performed.



Graph 1. Groups Obtained as a Result of Cluster Analysis

	Cluster 1		Cluster 2			
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	F	Sig.
S1	25,084	5,22	0,866	0,32	28,951	0,000
S2	22,892	4,19	0,590	0,25	38,802	0,000
S 3	24,737	4,46	0,654	0,43	37,804	0,000
S4	56,327	9,87	0,494	0,21	113,915	0,000
S5	17,164	3,86	0,615	0,49	27,910	0,000
S6	17,999	3,72	0,482	0,24	37,352	0,000
S7	7,925	1,89	0,419	0,11	18,920	0,000
S8	7,537	1,15	0,464	0,18	16,247	0,000
S9	4,260	1,62	0,592	0,29	7,200	0,000
S10	15,204	3,14	0,434	0,19	35,021	0,000
S11	7,428	1,78	0,525	0,23	22,823	0,000
S12	11,709	2,28	0,418	0,13	28,028	0,000
S13	6,975	1,12	0,615	0,33	11,347	0,000

Table 1. The Average of the 13 Questions in Clusters and the Results of the One-Way Variance Test.

The Table demonstrates the results of the analysis: the average of the 13 questions in clusters, the results of the one-way variance test and the number of observations in each cluster. Examination of one was variance analysis that was conducted to see whether there was a meaningful difference between the clusters in terms of the questions shows that there were differences in the questions based on clusters (p < .05); which is a desirable result and is natural. Clustering analysis created this difference itself and maximized the difference between clusters. In other words, the distribution of observations in these clusters was not random (Kalaycı, 2010; Nakip, 2006). Therefore, there were 34

(29.3%) and 82 (70.7%) participants in the first and second clusters respectively and the difference between the clusters was found to be significant at .05 level (p < 0.05).

Table 2. Athletes	with Low (Goal Orientation
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Variable	В	SE	Beta	t	р
(Constant)	221,214	257,779		0,858	0,406
Pre-competition Estimated Score F=.825; R2:160; p>0,05	0,169	0,241	0,257	0,704	0,494

Table 3. Athletes with High Goal Orientation

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Variable	В	SE	Beta	t	р
(Constant)	456,823	68,768		6,643	0,000
Pre-competition Estimated Score	0,986	0,292	1,659	3,374	0,002
F:4,173; R=603; R2:305; p<0,05					

While pre-competition estimates of participants with low goal orientations had no impact on their performances (F=,825; R=400; R²=160; p>0,05), clustering analysis results show that pre-competition score estimates of participants with high goal orientations affected competition results (F=4,173; R=603; R²=305; p<0,05). The scores predicted by the participants prior to the competition alone account for 30% of the total variance for the result of the competition.



Graph 2. Competition Results Based on Participants' Goal Orientation Levels

There was also a significant difference between the scores of participants with low and high goal orientation at the end of the competition (t = 2,849; p <0,05). The athletes with higher goal orientations had significantly higher averages compared to the athletes with lower competition scores.

4. Discussion

This study aimed to investigate pre-competition estimated scores for elite archers in terms of Achievement Goal Theory on determine its impact on performance. Additionally, the study aimed to present the impact of goal orientation levels on post-competition scores to determine the relationship between goal orientation and performance.

The study presents two important results. The first result is related to the fact that athletes with high goal orientation were significantly more successful than those with low goal orientation in a real competition environment. There are recent studies which focused on the influence of goal orientation on business performance in addition to sports

performance (Domingues, Vieira, & Agnihotri, 2017; Blau, Petrucci, & Rivera, 2018; Johnson et al.,2018; Zhang, Jex, Peng, & Wang, 2017; Shin, Kim, & Lee, 2016). Positive impact of high goal orientation levels on achievement in students has also been investigated by educators in different aspects (Nasiri, Pour-Safar, Taheri, Pashaky, & Louyeh, 2017; Poondej & Lerdpornkulrat, 2016; Akpur, 2016; Kaur, Noman, & Awang-Hashim, 2018). The current study is significant since it presents the positive impact of goal orientation on performance can easily be observed. Many investigators have studies the positive impact of athletes' goal orientation levels on their performances.

In their study conducted with ice hockey athletes, Jaakkola, Ntoumanis, & Liukkonen (2016) found that groups with higher sports skills had higher task related motivational climate and that motivational climate was positively associated with personal development and improvement as well as individual effort. Similar to the current study, Wang, Chatzisarantis, Spray, & Biddle (2002) reported that high motivation, high task orientation and high ego orientation for physical activity were related to high levels of perceived competence. Professional athletes were found to be aware that goal orientation levels had significant impact on their achievement (Fernández-Río, Cecchini, Méndez-Giménez, Terrados, & García, 2018). The current study did not examine the effect of task and ego orientations on individual performance separately. Studies in various fields have pointed that goal-oriented individuals display higher performance compared to ego oriented individuals. It is known that task-oriented goals support positive outcomes in conceptual learning as well (Mupira & Ramnarain, 2017). However, goal orientation involves both ego and task orientation and the athletes usually encounter both motivational climate conditions in sporting environments. In this sense, it is more meaningful to study the influence of the (high or low) goal orientation alone on performance.

The other result of in the current study was the significant relationship between the pre-competition predictions/estimates of individuals with high goal orientation and their competition performances. In other words, predictions/estimates of athletes with high goal orientation positively influenced the actual competition scores. Studies in literature separately investigated task and ego orientations to find which orientation led to better estimates. It was found that feedback was provided by task-oriented students to develop themselves and become aware of their learning (Pintrich, 2000) and they could judge their performance objectively and perform calibration better (Stone, 2000). Ego-oriented students tended to demonstrate their abilities and therefore they were expected to have higher performance estimates (Kroll & Ford, 1992). In their study with 236 elementary school students, Kolovelonis & Goudas (2018) found that students with higher task orientation performed better than students with higher ego orientation in estimating free shots in basketball. Also, in Choa's (2014) study; correlational analyses showed that high-mastery oriented players were more accurate in their estimates of performance (better calibrated), while high-performance oriented players were more confident in their estimates.

This study is significant because it demonstrated that individuals with higher goal orientations have higher performances and that their predictions/estimates for their performance are much more accurate. Since students' and athletes' goal orientations are affected by the behaviors of coaches and parents (Schwebel, Smith, & Smoll, 2016), their role in the path to success is crucial. In today's world, where students and athletes have to perform multiple tasks, it is necessary to consider their predictions/prejudices in regards to their performance in specific tasks. While goal orientation is not necessarily related to achievement, calibration bias may be an important factor in regulating students' and athletes' achievement goals (Muis, Winne, & Ranellucci, 2016).

5. Conclusion

Predicting and being aware of performance will lead to much more realistic planning in regards to performance. In this manner, athletes will be able to design their work and training plans based on these facts. Future goals of students and athletes with no awareness of their performances will not be very realistic and easy to achieve. The goal orientation and motivational climate level are keys in this respect since they can demonstrate this awareness clearly.

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Appendix

	Dendrogram using Ward Linkage				
0 5	Rescaled Dista 10	nce Cluster Combine 15	20	25	
		1		Ĩ	
812 809					
821					
812 206					
810 692					
345 362 307					
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483 408					
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546 184					
⁴⁹⁵ 725					
538 455					
634 795					
841					
⁴⁶¹ 399 353					
73 65					
72 364					
234					
369 371 268					
873 727					
311 601 525					
130 584 559					
408 345					
170 576					
6/5					
543 21 116					
558 474					
775 276					
582					
373 791 281					
269 241				1	
365 264					
324 225					
433 367					
435 289					
241					
896 679 526					
333 286					
556 676					
411					
344 218					
320 235					
649 245	1				
232					
636 528 421					
611 521					
93 16					
631					
578 337 697					
220 201					
883 306					
519					
773 639 385					
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