

GRANDPARENT-GRANDCHILD RELATIONSHIPS IN AN AGING TURKEY:
AN INVESTIGATION OF INTERGENERATIONAL CONTACT AND AGING
ANXIETY

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The Effect of Quality and Frequency of Contact with Grandparents on
Grandchildren's Aging Anxiety in Turkey

Türkiye'de Büyükebeveynlerle İlişki Kalitesi ve Görüşme Sıklığının Torunların
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ABSTRACT

The main objective of this study is to explore the effect of relationship quality and contact frequency between Turkish grandparents and grandchildren on the aging anxiety of these grandchildren. In this study young adult university students were chosen as participants and 208 students participated. Participants' relationships with their emotionally closest grandparents were taken as a base while carrying out this study. The study was carried out with the participants based on their relationship with their emotionally closest grandparent. The results show that there is a relationship between the degree of perceived emotional closeness with the emotionally closest grandparent and with the aging anxiety of the grandchild. Additionally, the results showed that the contact frequency and aging anxiety of grandchildren are related.

ÖZET

Bu çalışmanın temel amacı, Türkiye’de büyük ebeveynler ile torunları arasındaki ilişki kalitesi ve görüşme sıklığının, torunların kendi yaşlanma kaygısı üzerindeki etkisini incelemektir. Bu araştırmada genç yetişkin üniversite öğrencileri ile çalışılmıştır ve araştırmaya 208 öğrenci katılmıştır. Çalışma, katılımcıların, kendilerini duygusal olarak en yakın hissettikleri büyük ebeveynleri ile ilişkileri esas alınarak yürütülmüştür. Sonuçlar, duygusal olarak en yakın görülen büyük ebeveyne duygusal yakınlık derecesi ile torunun yaşlanma kaygısı arasında ilişki olduğunu göstermektedir. Buna ek olarak, belirli düzeylerdeki görüşme sıklığının da, torunların yaşlanma kaygısı ile ilişkili olduğu sonucuna ulaşılmıştır.

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TABLE OF CONTENT

| | |
|---|----|
| INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| 1. DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW IN TURKEY | 2 |
| 2. IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS | 3 |
| 3. PERCEPTIONS TOWARD ELDERLY PEOPLE | 5 |
| 4. FEAR OF OLDER ADULTS AND AGING ANXIETY | 6 |
| 5. GENDERED VIEWS OF AGING | 8 |
| 6. GRANDCHILD'S PERCEPTIONS TOWARD GRANDPARENTS' AGING | 9 |
| 7. THE FACTS WHICH HAS INFLUENCE ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GRANDPARENTS AND GRANDCHILD | 10 |
| 7.1. CONTACT FREQUENCY | 10 |
| 7.1.1. PHYSICAL DISTANCE | 11 |
| 7.1.2. GRANDPARENT-GRANDCHILD CONTACT AND THE NEW MEDIA | 12 |
| 7.2. AGE | 14 |
| 7.2.1. AGE OF GRANDCHILDREN | 14 |
| 7.2.2. AGE OF GRANDPARENTS | 15 |
| 7.3. GENDER | 16 |
| 7.3.1. GENDER OF THE GRANDPARENT | 17 |
| 7.3.2. GENDER OF THE GRANDCHILD | 19 |
| 7.3.3. MATERNAL/PATERNAL GRANDPARENTS | 19 |
| 7.4. PARENTAL ROLE | 21 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| <u>8. INTERGENERATIONAL SOLIDARITY MODEL</u> | <u>22</u> |
| <u>9. STUDY PURPOSE AND RESEARCH QUESTION</u> | <u>24</u> |
| <u>METHOD</u> | <u>26</u> |
| 1. SAMPLE | 26 |
| 2. INSTRUMENTS | 27 |
| 3. PROCEDURE | 29 |
| <u>RESULTS</u> | <u>30</u> |
| <u>DISCUSSION</u> | <u>35</u> |
| <u>REFERENCES</u> | <u>41</u> |
| <u>APPENDICES</u> | <u>47</u> |
| APPENDIX A: THE DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONNAIRE | |
| APPENDIX B: THE CONTACT QUALITY SCALE | |
| APPENDIX C: THE AFFECTUAL SOLIDARITY SCALE | |
| APPENDIX D: THE ANXIETY ABOUT AGING SCALE | |
| APPENDIX E: INFORMED CONSENT | |

INTRODUCTION

When considered from the perspective of interpersonal categorization, age, gender and race are the primary dimensions to categorize people. But among these, age is the only category each person would potentially pass throughout his/her lifetime (North, 2012).

Miller who has done research on the topic of aging, defines aging as: "Aging is a process that converts healthy adults into frail ones, with diminished reserve in most physiological systems and an exponentially increasing vulnerability to most diseases and death" (Solomon, 1999, p. 134). The definition of aging may change with respect to person, society and culture. Aging is also unique to the social and cultural situation in which it is lived. In Turkey, according to Konak and Çiğdem (2005), aging is defined as a period of losses where plenty of problems are experienced such as a general impairment in physical and cognitive functions, a decrease and loss in health, income, respect, role and status, independency, social life and social support (Konak & Çiğdem, 2005).

Aging being a 'local' fact makes it a more important situation in Turkey's conditions. Turkey, because of its location as being in the middle of Eastern and Western countries and because it has cultural similarities both to Eastern and Western countries, shows diversity from both of them. Because of this, there is a high probability that the findings of the research that have been done in Eastern or Western countries and the theories that have been developed in those countries are not sufficient for Turkey (T.C.

Aile ve Sosyal Politikalar Bakanlığı Aile ve Toplum Hizmetleri Genel Müdürlüğü, 2011).

1. Demographic Overview in Turkey

According to data from the World Health Organization, there are over 650 million people age 60 and older (Hazer, 2012).

The percentage of the population in Turkey age 60 and older is not as high as in many western countries and Japan, a similar demographic change is occurring in Turkey. According to Güleç & Tekbaş (1997), communities are categorized into four groups in regard to elderly population: 1) Young communities: population of 65 years and above is less than 4 percent. 2) Adult communities: population of 65 years and above is between 4 to 7 percent. 3) Old communities: population of 65 years and above is between 7 to 10 percent. 4) Very old communities: population of 65 years and above is more than 10 percent (Güleç & Tekbaş, 1997).

According to the data of World Bank in 2008-2009, Turkey has 6 % of 65 years and above population and belongs to 'adult community' group. According to the estimations of the Turkish Statistics Institution for 2025, this rate will increase to 8.8% and Turkey will go into 'old community' group. According to the estimations for aging process, what France experienced in 115 years or Switzerland in 85 years will be realized in Turkey in 15-20 years (T.C. Aile ve Sosyal Politikalar Bakanlığı Aile ve Toplum Hizmetleri Genel Müdürlüğü, 2011).

Today the population of Turkey is young but it is getting older rapidly. Demographic studies demonstrate that there is no big increase in the percentage of the population above 65 years between the years 1935-

1990 (Duyar & Özener, 2001). The number of elderly in 1960 was one million and has increased to 7 times of that number in 2001. In addition, while the life expectancy for women was 54 years and for men 51 years in 1960, it is anticipated that in 2030 it will be 74 years for men and 79 years for women (T.C. Aile ve Sosyal Politikalar Bakanlığı Aile ve Toplum Hizmetleri Genel Müdürlüğü, 2011). According to the CIA World Factbook, (2013), the population of Turkey aged 0-14 years is 25.9 percent; 15-24 years is 17 percent; 25-54 years 42.7 percent; 55-64 years 7.9 percent; and 65 and above is 6.6 percent.

The changes in the demographics of Turkey bring along with the increase in the number of elderly individuals (Öztop, Şener, Güven & Doğan, 2009). Accordingly, when there is a decrease in fertility level and an increase in health conditions, there occurs a change from 'young population structure' into 'old population structure' (Türkiye'de yaşlılık dönemine ilişkin beklentiler, 2011).

2. The Importance of Studying Intergenerational Relationships

“There have always been elderly people, but what is new today is that they now form the largest sector of the population in industrialized societies” (Hernandez, 2008, p. 292). Industrialization has affected social life in every respect. In this context, on the one hand it became the cause of decrease in baby deaths, on the other hand it lead to an increase in lifespan. This new social life witnesses a longer period of living together of different generations. Alongside of these, in the 20th century, with the women participating in the working life, the problem of childcare appeared. So, grandparents took to the stage as the most reliable subjects

of childcare (Canatan, 2009). In the basic intergenerational triangle of the family, the grandparent-grandchild bond represents one of the three relationships alongside parent-child, parent-grandparent, and grandparent-grandchild (Monserud, 2008). With the increase in life expectancy, the age of becoming grandparent for the first time mostly begin with middle age (Monserud, 2010). When old age, which is starting with 65 years come, the grandchildren almost already reach the end of adolescence (Canatan, 2009). Today, grandparents experience a longer period of grandparenthood than in the past (Ando, 2005). They have a longer life expectancy which increases the opportunity for them to see their grandchildren as they reach adulthood. With this trend a new issue arises which is related to the development of the grandparent-grandchild relationship over the life course (Monserud, 2010). Baranowski found that there are three areas where grandparents influence adolescent grandchild: 1) Identity development- conveying cultural knowledge and history of the family, 2) Relationship with parents- telling stories and giving information about parents and acting as a mediator when relations with parents become tense, 3) Attitudes toward aging- Developing positive attitudes toward aging and older adults (Wood & Liopsis, 2007).

In Turkey, because of the sociocultural structure, residential care of elderly is widespread. This is a fact which is preferred both by elderly as well as by adult children. The reason why elderly people prefer living in the same environment with their children is thought to be a sign in most research that traditional family bonds are important (T.C. Aile ve Sosyal Politikalar Bakanlığı Aile ve Toplum Hizmetleri Genel Müdürlüğü, 2011).

In a social structure where family bonds are powerful, it is very important to understand the influence of grandparent- grandchild relationship.

3. Perceptions Towards Elderly People

In contemporary society, elderly adults are often excluded. They are deemed to be incompetent and they are not given any responsibilities. This is totally different from previous societies where elderly were showed a much higher respect due to their experiences. They were thought to be wise and the teachers who guard customs and traditions (Hernandez, 2008).

In United States, people often have a rather negative attitude towards old age. Young people often express negative attitudes towards older adults, thinking that they are pessimistic, conservative and petulant (Hernandez, 2008). Elders are regarded as less attractive and less competent than young adults and they are assumed to have a lot of other negative characteristics, such as being dependent on others, narrow-mindedness, being frail, angry, and irritating (Barrett & Rohr, 2008). There are negative perceptions of the elderly, such as that they are sad, inflexible, pessimistic and complaining (Hernandez, 2008). Research suggests that these negative stereotypes about the elderly are mainly media-based. Related to this, Miller found that decrease of positive portrayals and increase of negative portrayals of elderly can be observed in print advertisement from 1956 to 1996 (Kimuna & Knox, 2005).

Young people see intergenerational relationships as less conflictive than often thought. They are satisfied both with the relationships with their relatives, and also with elderly people outside the family (Postigo, 2010).

However, there is an inconsistency which may be the result of social stereotype. That is, even though individually young people thought that they had a good relationship with elderly people (90%), they thought that the rest of the young people did not think in the same way (83%). Their self-perception did not coincide with the perception they have of the rest of the young people (Postigo, 2010). Outside the family, research shows that the way younger people perceive older adults' communication competence as well as stereotypes is influenced by negative attitudes which may cause intergenerational miscommunication (Barker, 2007). Intergenerational miscommunications in many instances are related to differing values, pre-dispositions, and problems which are experienced between older and younger generations (Barker, 2007). Knowledge about aging among college students is low, and misconceptions about older people are high (Kimuna & Knox, 2005). Kimuna & Knox (2005) examined differences in students' beliefs about what they think is the age of an old person. Older students perceived an older age to be old. According to this result, it might be suggested that older students might have a more realistic view of aging. The results of research about the effect of intergenerational experiments which are designed to promote more positive, less stereotyped attitudes toward old age are contradictory. We can assume that these contradictory results could be related to lack of knowledge about aging (Hernandez, 2008).

4. Fear of Older Adults and Aging Anxiety

According to Lasher & Faulkender (1993) "Aging anxiety, the fear of one's own personal aging, is the combination of concern and

anticipation of losses associated with the aging process” (as cited in McGuinn & Mosher-Ashley, 2002, p. 561). Direct contact and experience with elderly people is associated with students’ attitudes and beliefs about aging, but there are other studies disagree with these results (Kimuna & Knox, 2005). Hoffman indicates that exposure to older people comes first from the contact with the members of one’s own family, especially with grandparents. In a similar manner, attitudes toward older adults are learned from family and friends (McGuinn & Mosher-Ashley, 2002). Marks, Newman and Onawola found that even though the views of children about aging process were negative, they viewed older adults positively. Children with a negative view of the aging process or of older adults may fear their own aging (McGuinn & Mosher-Ashley, 2002). Fears of older adults were compared in relation to gender, relationship with grandparents, and age. It was found that males reported more fear of older adults than did females. The reason may be that males are threatened by older adults since their self-esteem is generally defined by physical skillfulness. The physical declines related with aging may reinforce their perception of helplessness in older adults. It seems that personal experience with an older adult is also generalized to other older adults (McGuinn & Mosher-Ashley, 2002). Kornhaber and Woodward (1981) found that grandparents determine the way the young feel about the old in society (McGuinn & Mosher-Ashley, 2002).

Images of older adults and attitudes towards older adults, as well as personal aging anxieties are affected by gender. Evidences suggest that aging anxiety is more common in women than is in men (Barrett & Rohr,

2008). According to the findings of Barrett & Rohr (2008), decline in cognitive and physical abilities cause greater anxiety in women than in men. Although women tend to have more anxiety about their own aging than men do, this gender difference does not apply to all sources of anxiety (Barrett & Rohr, 2008). Findings also imply that personal fears of aging are associated with younger men and women's subjective age (McGuinn & Mosher-Ashley, 2002).

5. Gendered Views of Aging

Gender and aging are linked in a complex manner. When expressed at the simplest level, the probability of reaching old age is influenced by gender. Women are twice as likely as men to reach their 85th birthday (Barrett & Rohr, 2008). Gender also affects attitudes toward elderly people. Elderly women are perceived more positively than are elderly men (Barrett & Rohr, 2008). Women are seen as more active in their communities as they age, while older men are seen as untidy and incompetent. On the other hand, there are other works which draw a more positive image of elderly men who are perceived as more attractive than elderly women (Barrett & Rohr, 2008).

Some studies are interested in the attitudes of students towards elderly people, and in these studies it is extrapolated that gender affects these attitudes. According to the findings of Hawkins, elderly women were rated more negatively by male than female students. In a similar way, Laidtka and colleagues reported that elderly female targets were rated more favorably by female college students than elderly male targets (Barrett & Rohr, 2008). In Turkey, according to the findings of a study

done by Ayşe Canatan (2009) young people have a positive attitude toward aging and toward the elderly, and that females show a more positive attitude than males (Canatan, 2009). Additionally, sociocultural constructions of aging are shaped by gender. Both genders are devalued as they reach older ages. Women face greater losses because age spoils their most highly valued social asset, physical attractiveness, while it boosts men's earning potential and achievement in the public sphere (Barrett & Rohr, 2008). While signs of aging such as wrinkles and gray hair are seen more acceptable for men, elderly women are considered as less productive and more dependent on others than are older men (Barrett & Rohr, 2008).

6. Grandchild's Perceptions Towards Grandparents' Aging

Most of the contact between adolescent/ young adults and older adults take place in the family, and this kind of contact is generally more satisfying than intergenerational contact that occurs outside the family (Harwood, Hewstone, Paolini & Voci, 2005).

As both generations grow older, grandchildren do not leave their grandparents, but their relationships takes on a different dimension. Young children who have a close relationship with a grandparent have a more positive attitude about aging (McGuinn & Mosher-Ashley, 2002). The findings of Pecchioni and Croghan suggest that about stereotypical behaviors and communicative ability, young adults thought about their closest grandparent more positively than they did to their least close grandparent (Barker, 2007). Other researchers give their consent to these confirmations, observing that young peoples' perceptions of elderly people depend very much on how often they have contact with them, as their

perceptions are notably better when there is communication (Hernandez, 2008).

7. The Factors, Which Influence The Relationship Between Grandparent and Grandchild

The child's relationship to his grandparents may be explained as a function of several factors. "The factors include the extend of his/her contact with them, the grandparents' behavior toward grandchild, the parents' relationship with the grandparents, the child's perceptions of old people in general, and of his grandparents in particular." (Kahana & Kahana, 1970, p. 99). The more the child's needs and those of the grandparent are in line with each other, the more rewarding the relationship is expected to be (Kahana & Kahana, 1970).

According to data of early anthropological investigations made among 51 societies, the roles of grandparents differed cross-culturally. In societies where grandparents did not play a role in family authority their relationship with grandchildren were more easygoing and warm than in societies where the grandparents had economic power and prestige. Studies found that the main variables in terms of the ways in which grandparents and grandchildren connect can be identified as family life stage, gender, marital status, geographical place, ethnicity, and education (Lumby, 2010).

7.1. Contact Frequency

Contact is a medium that forms the basis for social interaction and communication. Social interaction also forms the basis for experiencing

emotions in a relationship by leading to the transfer of knowledge and skills (Hurme, Westerback & Quadrello, 2010).

There are several variables which control the frequency and forms of contact between grandparent and grandchild such as the age of both grandparents and grandchildren, the gender of both these groups, the education of grandparents, proximity, and the middle generation's actions (Hurme, Westerback & Quadrello, 2010).

7.1.1. Physical Distance

Living close to each another is one of the main factors that help to develop better contact between grandchild-grandparent. Geographical distance is the most obvious example, which influences the chance to meet frequently. When distance between grandparents and grandchildren increases, it becomes more difficult to have extended and frequent face to face contact with each other (Uhlenberg & Hammill, 1998).

In United States, it is very important for grandparents to have contact with their grandchildren, and most grandparents see their grandchildren at least once a month, or sometimes much more often, and they wish to keep regular contact with them (Hurme, Westerback & Quadrello, 2010). According to Saşto & Yasuda (2009) over 70% of grandparents are not able to have contact with their grandchildren as much as they would like to mainly because not living close enough to their children's homes. According to data collected from studies made on grandparents in Turkey, 80% of adults with grandchildren have contact with their grandchildren at least once a week. Grandparents in cities meet

their grandchildren more frequently than grandparents living in country side (Türkiye’de yaşlılık dönemine ilişkin beklentiler, 2011).

Sařto & Yasuda (2009) found that children living close to their grandparents are more likely to have frequent contact. From the grandchildren’s point of view, the increase of contact frequency is positively related to their perceived emotional closeness with grandparents, more prosocial behavior, and fewer emotional problems (Hurme, Westerback & Quadrello, 2010). When grandparents and grandchildren have more frequent contact, their relationship becomes closer even though causality cannot be inferred in this situation (Davey, Savla, Janke & Anderson, 2009).

Some studies concluded that, there is a relationship between proximity and gender of the grandparent. Silverstein and Long found that grandmothers are more likely to have frequent contact and live in closer proximity to their grandchildren than grandfathers. According to Drew and Smith, maternal grandparents chose to live closer to their grandchildren than paternal grandparents. Contrary to this, in their study Chan and Elder found that paternal grandparents actually live nearer to their grandchildren but grandchildren still report closer relationships with their maternal grandparent (Davey, Savla, Janke & Anderson, 2009).

7.1.2. Grandparent-Grandchild Contact and the New Media

There are few studies about the usage of new media forms such as mobile phones, short messaging service (SMS, or text messaging), and computers by grandparents and grandchildren to communicate (Hurme, Westerback & Quadrello, 2010).

Harwood (2000) studied the frequency of communication between grandparents and grandchildren and found that the most preferable form of communication is face-to-face contact followed by telephone contact or a combination of telephone contact and face-to-face contact. In United States only 9% of grandparents is found to use some other form of communication, e-mail included. According to the study of Carpenter and Buday, 81% of older adults use computer for staying in touch with people and 56% of them using it with their children, and 44% with their grandchildren. Hertzberg Kaare, Brandtzaeg, Heim, and Endestad report that Norwegian grandparents often use e-mail when communication with their grandchildren. It is found that in Asian-Indian immigrant families living in the United States 7.1% of grandchildren use e-mail in order to communicate with their grandparents by sending e-mails every week (Hurme, Westerback & Quadrello, 2010).

In the study Quadrello et al. done in four European countries, among different forms of new media communication (mobile phone talk, SMS, e-mail) grandparents and grandchildren use mobile phone most frequently to communicate (Hurme, Westerback & Quadrello, 2010). Generally it is found that the use of new media devices differ according to the gender of the grandparent. Block found that telephone calls as well as visits are more common by grandmothers than by grandfathers (Hurme, Westerback & Quadrello, 2010). Even though there are few studies done in Turkey on this topic, the percentage of communication between grandparent and grandchild is higher in cities than in rural areas (Türkiye’de yaşlılık dönemine ilişkin beklentiler, 188).

7.2. Age

7.2.1. Age of Grandchildren

The frequency of intergenerational contact may be predicted by the age of grandchildren, but depending on the age range, differing results are found from different studies (Sasto & Yasuda, 2009). In their longitudinal study Silverstein and Long found that with the increase of grandchild's age, their frequency of contact with their grandparents declined (Hurme, Westerback & Quadrello, 2010). According to the grandchildren's reports, with passing years their closeness to their grandparents was more likely to decrease than increase. Their parents on the contrary, report that their relationships with their parents are more likely to improve than deteriorate. Generally, results of some studies show that ties between those three generations (grandparent-grandchild, parent-grandparent, parent-child) vary across time (Monserud, 2010).

When grandchildren move through adult years, their relationships with their grandparents may change (Monserud, 2010). When grandchildren become adults they generally start to feel a stronger emotional bond to their grandparents (Wood & Liopsis, 2007). Their relationship becomes characterized by expressive as well as instrumental support and both parties actively give and receive (Wood & Liopsis, 2007). They start to realize that their grandparents have an important influence in their lives, especially in the field of transmission of heritage (Wood & Liopsis, 2007). Alongside of these, it has been found that family dynamics have an important influence on the closeness of grandparent-grandchild relationship. "Kennedy and Kennedy found that compared to young adult

grandchildren from intact families, grandchildren from single-parent families had consistently closer and more active relationships with their closest grandparent“(Wood & Liopsis, 2007, p. 384).

7.2.2. Age of Grandparents

In previous studies, it is stated that contact frequency in relationships with grandchildren is influenced by the age of the grandparent (Davey, Savla, Janke & Anderson, 2009). According to Hagestad, the expected age to become a grandparent for men is 52 while this is 51 for women. Mills, Wakeman & Fea, (2001) concluded that most Americans become grandparents in an average age of 45 years.

Conflict between grandparent and grandchild increases as the grandparent gets older (Davey, Savla, Janke & Anderson, 2009). According to the findings of Johnson, grandparents under age of 65 see their grandchildren twice as much as older grandparents (Hurme, Westerback & Quadrello, 2010). Consistent with this finding, Davey, Savla, Janke & Anderson (2009) found that the closeness of the relationship between grandparent and grandchild decreases with the age of the grandparent. On the other hand, other studies (Kennedy, 1992) do not find any age differences regarding this topic (Hurme, Westerback & Quadrello, 2010). In their longitudinal study of grandparents, Silverstein and Long reported divergent findings. According to their conclusions, older grandparents feel more affection toward their grandchildren when compared to younger grandparents.

Results in Turkey suggest that with increase in socioeconomic status, contact frequency with grandchildren increases. Additionally, with the

increase in age, people move from the family they are born in to the family they build up themselves. With increasing age, while contact frequency with sibling's decrease, the contact frequency with grandchildren starts to increase (T.C. Aile ve Sosyal Politikalar Bakanlığı Aile ve Toplum Hizmetleri Genel Müdürlüğü, 2011).

7.3. Gender

The aging on grandparenthood should not only be seen as a physical condition but also in terms of gendered dimensions of aging (Ando, 2005).

In previous studies it is shown that grandparent-grandchild closeness is affected by gender (Davey, Savla, Janke & Anderson, 2009). The results of the study of Wise (2010) clearly support the idea that gender difference plays an important role in referent relationships (Wise, 2010). Gender of the children, maternal/paternal grandparents, grandparents, and parents are the elements which has effect on the closeness of relationship between grandparent-grandchild (Saşto & Yasuda, 2009).

Monserud (2010)'s study shows evidence that in intergenerational relationships same-gender dyad/triad may be more influential. There may be some different explanations to this situation, such as, cultural norms on gender relations, gender role characteristics, and traditional views of male and female roles (Monserud, 2010). Silverstein and Long (1998) on the contrary, did not find any evidence to this assertion in their longitudinal study of grandparent-grandchild relationship (Davey, Savla, Janke & Anderson, 2009).

7.3.1. Gender of the Grandparent

According to Hurme, Westerback & Quadrello, (2010), one of the most consistent findings is that gender of the grandparent influences the relationship quality between grandparent and grandchild (Hurme, Westerback & Quadrello, 2010). Since generally men and women have unequal roles in families, grandmothers and grandfathers should have unequal roles in the relationship with their grandchildren (Eisenberg, 1988). When making a caregiving hierarchy among nonparent caregivers, studies show that grandmothers take the first place followed by aunts (Kropf & Kolomer, 2004). As a conclusion it can be said that grandmothers are closer to and have more contact with their grandchildren in contrast to grandfathers (Boon & Brussoni, 1996).

According to Hoffman (1979)'s findings, adult grandchildren feel themselves closer to maternal than paternal grandparents. Additionally, young adult grandchildren feel themselves emotionally closer to their maternal grandmothers more than any of the other grandparents (Mills, Wakeman & Fea, 2001).

From a cultural perspective, women live longer than men and they are prone to marry men older than themselves. From this point of view, because of this age difference, maternal grandparents will generally be younger and healthier than their paternal counterparts (Davey, Savla, Janke & Anderson, 2009). While a child gets older, the probability of having all four grandparents alive is not high, but because of the above mentioned condition they are most likely to have their maternal grandmother alive. So, they will have the closest relationships with their

grandmothers (Davey, Savla, Janke & Anderson, 2009). Chan and Elder (2000) also support this assumption and conclude that if the relationship between mothers and maternal line is close, the probability of having a good relationship between grandchild and maternal grandparents is higher (Mills, Wakeman & Fea, 2001). There are many studies (Hurme, Westerback & Quadrello, 2010) which confirm that grandchildren and grandmothers have more frequent contact than that of with grandfathers, especially with maternal grandmothers (Hurme, Westerback & Quadrello, 2010). According to the results of the studies done in Turkey, paternal and maternal grandmothers have greater opportunity to be with their grandchildren and see them going through their adult years than grandfathers, because of their possibility of longer life expectancy (Canatan, 2009)

From a gender role characteristics point of view, according to many studies it is concluded that there are role differences between grandmothers and grandfathers. According to Hagestad, (1985: 39), "The older men emphasized task-oriented involvements in spheres outside the family; the women were more likely to emphasize interpersonal dynamics and the quality of ties in the family." (Ando, 2005, p. 34). What indirectly affects grandchildren in relationship with grandparents is the contact of grandparents with parents while grandmothers provide emotional support; grandfathers tend to give more financial support (Ando, 2005).

7.3.2. Gender of the Grandchild

Results of previous studies show that gender of the grandchild has also an important influence on the intergenerational relationship (Hurme, Westerback & Quadrello, 2010). Granddaughters have closer relationships with their grandparents (Davey, Savla, Janke & Anderson, 2009). Dubas (2001) implies that granddaughters see their favorite grandparent more often than boys do (Dubas, 2001).

Since female children have closer relationship with their parents than their male counterparts, they tend to have more frequent contact with their grandparents than male children (Saşto & Yasuda, 2009).

According to the social learning theory, same-gender parent is taken as a role model by the child more than opposite gender parent (Monserud, 2008). So, daughters are more likely to imitate their mothers while sons are more likely to imitate their fathers. When children build up strong bonds with their parents, they are more likely to develop close ties with other relatives such as grandparents (Monserud, 2008). Contrary to this, according to Giarrusso, Feng, Silverstein, and Bengtson and some other studies, other factors held equal, grandsons feel more affection toward their grandparents than that of their female counterparts (Davey, Savla, Janke & Anderson, 2009).

7.3.3. Maternal/Paternal Grandparents

Hoffman (1979) found that kin position of the grandparent in the family influences emotional closeness (Wood & Liossis, 2007). Adult grandchildren feel closer to maternal than paternal grandparents (Davey, Savla, Janke & Anderson, 2009), and between them they feel closer to

their grandmothers than their grandfathers (Wood & Liossis, 2007).

According to Dubas (2001) while grandchildren generally feel themselves closer to their maternal grandparents there is actually no one family line as matriarchal or patriarchal to which the grandchildren feel closest, either is possible. Actually it depends more on the relationship between their parent and their grandparent (Dubas, 2001).

When examined from the grandfathers' point of view, both maternal and paternal grandfathers' closeness is the same to their grandchildren. The mentioned lineage seems to be important for grandmothers as grandchildren report that they feel closer to their maternal grandmothers (Davey, Savla, Janke & Anderson, 2009). Kennedy showed that grandchildren are prone to feel closer to their maternal grandparents more than the paternal ones, but generally they perceive their grandparents as important role models and see them as loving, helping and comforting (Lumby, 2010). Mills et al. (2001) found similar results. Affect and consensus in the relationship between grandparents and grandchildren appeared to be similar for maternal grandfathers, paternal grandmothers, and paternal grandfathers. The same facts are higher for maternal grandmothers (Davey, Savla, Janke & Anderson, 2009).

As a conclusion, regardless of the sex of the child, the relationship between grandchildren and maternal grandmothers is the closest and the most influential in the lives of grandchildren. When closeness is put into a hierarchical order maternal grandmothers are followed by maternal grandfathers, paternal grandmothers, and paternal grandfathers (Wise, 2010).

7.4. Parental Role

Although the middle generation plays an important role in the quality of contact and closeness between grandparent and grandchild, its importance lessens as the grandchild gets older (Davey, Savla, Janke & Anderson, 2009). The middle generation acts like a bridge or gatekeeper for the grandparent-grandchild relationship either facilitating or preventing the frequency of contact and closeness. Parents' ties to their children, to their own parents and to their parents-in-law have an important influence on the relationship of grandparent and grandchild among other factors (Monserud, 2010).

The degree of closeness within the relationship between parent and grandparent is positively correlated with the degree of closeness within the relationship between grandparent and the grandchild (Michalski & Shackelford, 2005). If parents have a close relationship with their parents, it is expected that grandchildren will see their grandparents more frequently than when parent-grandparent relationship is not as good (Uhlenberg & Hammill, 1998). However, it is not clear yet to what extent parents' relationships with grandparent and grandchild generations affect and shape the development of grandparent-grandchild relationship over time (Monserud, 2010).

It is found that the availability of parent plays an important role for intergenerational relationship. Parental time as well as physical distance is important. Normally, maternal grandparents have more frequent contact with their grandparents (Institute for Research on Household Economics, 2000; as cited in Saşto & Yasuda, 2009). According to Saşto & Yasuda

(2009), if fathers were more available at all, they would also have more time for their parents which would in turn make it possible for their children to have more contact with their paternal grandparents (Saşto & Yasuda, 2009). In one available cross-sectional study, the effect of the father-child relationship on young adult grandchild's closeness to paternal grandparents is found to be stronger for male than female grandchildren (Monserud, 2008).

8. Intergenerational Solidarity Model

The influence of grandparent both within and outside the relationship is affected by various factors. Bengtson and colleagues (Bengtson & Silverstein, 1997) developed the intergenerational solidarity model to identify these factors. This model originates from a combination of classic sociological and family theories and forms a basis in order to understand intergenerational relationships (Zohar, 2011).

According to intergenerational solidarity model, family interaction and family functioning is multidimensional (Wise, 2010). Silverstein and colleagues (1998) says that "grandparents and grandchildren are linked through roles, through interactions, through sentiments, and through exchanges of support" (Wise, 2010, p. 55), therefore intergenerational relationships should be examined multidimensionally investigating the various ways in which grandparents and grandchildren interact (Wise, 2010).

The causal links among those dimensions of solidarity have been tested by Lawton and others (Lawton, Silverstein & Bengtson, 1994). This model is composed of six dimensions which are; affectual solidarity,

consensual solidarity, structural solidarity, associational solidarity, functional solidarity, and normative solidarity (Zohar, 2011).

Affectual solidarity measures the emotional closeness of the relationship between grandparent and grandchild such as feelings of emotional closeness, affirmation, and intimacy among family members (Bengtson & Silverstein, 1997). It is defined as “type and degree of positive sentiments held about the family members, and the degree of reciprocity of these sentiments” (Wise, 2010). According to Boon and Brussoni (1996), grandchildren who experience high levels of emotional closeness to their grandparents report that their grandparents have more influence on their lives as well (Wise, 2010). Consensual solidarity measures similarity of beliefs and values between generations. It represents real and imagined agreements in opinions, values and lifestyles among family members (Bengtson & Silverstein, 1997).

Associational solidarity is about the frequency of contact and shared activities between generations. Although there occurs some changes in family structure and family life, grandchildren and grandparents still report to engage in various shared activities (Wise, 2010). Functional solidarity describes the amount of help and assistance grandparents and grandchildren give and receive (Wood & Liossis, 2007). This includes exchanges of instrumental and financial assistance and support among family members (Bengtson & Silverstein, 1997). Normative solidarity is a measure of perceptions and expectations about intergenerational connections where some grandparents may start to play surrogate parenting roles (Wood & Liossis, 2007). This may happen when

grandparents feel a strong obligation toward other family members (Bengtson & Silverstein, 1997). Structural solidarity measures “the factors that enhance or reduce the opportunity for social interaction between grandparents and grandchildren” (Wise, 2010, p. 56). These factors include geographic distance that limit or enhance interaction among family members (Bengtson & Silverstein, 1997). There are several structural elements which affect the quality of grandparent-grandchild contact (Wise, 2010). Age, gender of both of the grandparent and grandchild and family structure exert an influence on grandparent-grandchild relationship (Eisenberg, 1988).

9. Study Purpose and Research Question

Previous studies in literature about grandparenthood are usually focused on the grandparent and their views of the grandparental role. This study examines grandparenthood from the perspective of grandchildren who are the other partner of this relationship. The aim of this study is to explore the roles of the grandparents on their young adult grandchildren’s perceptions toward their own aging in Turkey.

Extending previous research in intergenerational relationships, this research study examines grandparent-grandchild relationships and aging anxiety using select dimensions from the intergenerational solidarity model: affectual solidarity (contact quality) and associational solidarity (contact frequency) in a sample of young adults from Istanbul, Turkey. Given the review of the literature, the following research questions were developed and tested in the following analyses:

Research Question 1: What is the relationship between grandchildren's aging anxiety and their perception of emotional closeness with their grandparents?

Research Question 2: What is the relationship between grandparent-grandchild contact frequency and perceptions of emotional closeness?

Research Question 3: What is the relationship between grandchildren's aging anxiety and grandparent-grandchild contact frequency?

Research Question 4: What is the relationship between grandchildren's perception of adulthood status and aging anxiety?

Research Question 5: What is the relationship between grandchildren's living condition and grandparent-grandchild contact frequency?

Research Question 6: What is the relationship between grandchild-grandparent age differences and perceived emotional closeness?

METHOD

1. Sample

The sample comprised 208 undergraduate students. There were 177 female (85.1%) and 31 male (14.9%) participants. The majority ($n = 197$, 94.7%) of the participants were studying psychology and 5.3% ($n = 11$) were studying other courses at İstanbul Bilgi University. The students were aged between 18 and 32 years ($M = 21.37$, $SD = 1.9$) and participated in the study for partial fulfillment of course requirements. Some of the students were given extra credit for their participation. At the time of data collection all participants had at least one grandparent alive and they were experiencing a close grandparent-grandchild relationship with that grandparent.

Most of the participants mentioned that their maternal grandmothers are the closest grandparent (See Table1)

Table1

Descriptive Statistics for The Closest Grandparents

| | Frequency | Percentage |
|----------------------|-----------|------------|
| Maternal grandmother | 115 | 55.3 |
| Paternal grandmother | 48 | 23.1 |
| Maternal grandfather | 30 | 14.4 |
| Paternal grandfather | 14 | 6.7 |
| Total | 207 | 99.5 |
| Missing | 1 | .5 |
| Total | 208 | 100.0 |

2. Instruments

Demographic Questionnaire

In the demographic questionnaire, firstly participants were asked to answer questions about their age, gender, their major on which they are studying and their year of study. They were also asked whom they are living with and are they seeing themselves as adults. There were ten different choices for living condition such as living with nuclear family, living with husband/wife and living with a single parent. In the demographic questionnaire there were asked some other questions about the participants' grandparents. Which grandparent is their closest one and age of the target grandparent were expected to answer in those questions.

Contact Frequency Questionnaire

In this study, contact frequency was divided into two different types, which are face-to-face contact frequency and contact frequency using new technology devices. The researcher composed the two questions about contact frequency of grandchild and grandparent. One of those questions was intended to ask face-to-face contact frequency and the other one was intended to ask their contact frequency using new technology devices such as telephone, short messaging system (SMS), video call and e-mail.

Anxiety About Aging Scale

To assess aging anxiety, the 20-item Anxiety About Aging Scale (Lasher & Faulkender, 1993) was used. The scale is divided into four subscales including Fear of Old People, Psychological Concerns, Physical Appearance and Fear of Losses. Items of the subscale of fear of old people

composed of the questions concerning what the person feels when he/she is in a relationship with an elderly person. Items of the psychological concerns subscale included questions about what the person thinks that he/she would feel about him/herself when he/she gets old. Physical appearance subscale composed of the questions about what he/she thinks that he/she would feel about his/her physical appearance when he/she gets old. Finally, the items of fear of losses subscale intended to explore the person's thoughts on what he/she would be feeling when he/she gets old and starts to lose some skills that he/she had before. Higher scores indicate less aging anxiety. Lasher and Faulkender (1993) reported high internal consistency in their administration of the AAS ($\alpha = .82$). In this study, the AAS demonstrated acceptable reliability ($\alpha = .81$).

Affectual Solidarity Scale

The affectual solidarity variable was measured through the adult grandchild's perceptions of emotional closeness. Affectual Solidarity is a summed scale composed of five items, with higher scores indicating greater emotional closeness and lower scores less emotional closeness. Each item uses a 6-point likert-type scale for the response categories (Mills, Wakeman & Fea, 2001). An example of the type of the questions from this scale is "How well do you feel you understand your grandparent?"

3. Procedure

Data collection was conducted in a one month period, between February 2013 and March 2013. Data collection was conducted in a silent classroom setting. Every session lasted approximately 20 minutes and during that period the participants completed the surveys without talking to each other. In every data collection session there were approximately 20 students in the classroom. Before the data sheets were given, the participants were asked to sign an informed consent form. They wrote their names onto that form but not onto the data sheets. The informed consent forms and the data sheets were separate. After collecting the informed consents, data sheets were given to the students. Any questions about the items of scales were answered by the researcher during the data collection.

RESULTS

The first research question explored the relationship between aging anxiety and emotional closeness. Participants' results were divided into two as low and high emotional closeness groups using a median split. Results indicate that the mean aging anxiety score of the low emotional closeness group was 47.98 ($SD = 9.77$), while the mean aging anxiety score of the high emotional closeness group was 52.89 ($SD = 7.71$). Results indicate equality of variances should not be assumed and a two tailed independent groups t test indicated that the two means were significantly different, $t(180.32) = -3.87, p = .00$. These results indicate that when there is high emotional closeness to the grandparent there occurs less aging anxiety than when there is low emotional closeness.

A series of independent groups t tests was conducted to determine which of the subdimensions of aging anxiety is affected by emotional closeness. According to the results, the mean fear of old people score of the low emotional closeness group was 3.26 ($SD = .89$), while the mean score of the high emotional closeness group was 3.93 ($SD = .73$). Results indicate equality of variances should not be assumed and a two tailed independent groups t test indicated that the difference between these two means was significant $t(184.22) = -5.67, p = .00$.

For the psychological concerns component, results indicated that the mean score given to low emotional closeness was 3.6 ($M = 3.60, SD = .92$), while the mean score given to high emotional closeness was 3.85 ($M = 3.85, SD = .66$). Results indicate equality of variances should not be assumed and that a two tailed independent groups t test

indicated that the difference between these two means was significant $t(175.89) = -2.2, p = .029$. When the perception of emotional closeness to the grandparent is high participants demonstrate fewer psychological concerns about their own aging than that of grandchildren with low emotional closeness. Analyses of the results indicate that equality of variances should not be assumed and that there were no significant differences between participants' perception of physical appearances $t(187.81) = -1.27, p = .205$, and fear of losses $t(188.38) = .308, p = .758$. This suggests that emotional closeness did not demonstrate a relationship with grandchildren's perceptions of physical appearances and losses in old age.

Research question two asked about contact frequency and emotional closeness. An analysis of the data indicated that participant responses grouped into three major categories (once or twice a year, once a month, once a week) with few participants marking the "never" or "everyday" categories. Thus I combined the "never" category with the "once/twice a year" to form one category; similarly, the "once a week" and "everyday" categories were also combined. A one-way between subjects analysis of variance was conducted to determine whether grandchildren's perception of emotional closeness is influenced by their face-to-face frequency of contact. The results of the participants indicating face-to-face contact frequency with their target grandparent were divided into three groups. The low group consisted of never and once or twice a year answers. The medium group consisted of once a month answers and the high group consisted of once a week and everyday answers. Results of the

analysis indicated that emotional closeness is related with frequency of contact $F(2,194) = 11.02, p = .00$. Since the relationship is found to be significant, post hoc Tukey HSD analysis was conducted to determine which specific means are different from others. Results indicate that the low ($M = 21.67, SD = 7.61$) and medium ($M = 25.42, SD = 5.56, p < .05$) frequency of contact groups differed significantly in their emotional closeness scores. Likewise, there are significant mean differences on emotional closeness between the low and high ($M = 27.09, SD = 6.66$) frequency of contact groups.

An independent groups t test was conducted to determine whether perception of emotional closeness is related with the frequency of contact using new media devices. Results are divided into two groups as low and high media contact in order to form similar sized groups. Results indicate that the mean emotional closeness score given to low media contact group was 22.2 ($SD = 6.90$), while the mean emotional closeness score given to high media contact group was 27.9 ($SD = 5.69$). A two tailed independent groups t test indicated that equality of variances should not be assumed and that the difference between these two means was significant $t(193.05) = -6.4, p = .00$.

Research question three stated that grandchildren's aging anxiety is related with their contact frequency with their grandparents. A one-way between subjects analysis of variance was conducted to determine if aging anxiety is related with frequency of contact. Results indicated that face-to-face contact frequency doesn't have a significant relationship with aging anxiety $F(2,192) = .22, p = .80$.

Research question four stated that perception of adulthood status is related with aging anxiety. An independent groups t test was conducted to determine whether aging anxiety is affected by the perception of seeing oneself as an adult. Participants' answers to the question of that are they seeing themselves as adult had three choices as yes, no and sometimes. For analyses we combined "no" and "sometimes" answers into one group. Results demonstrated that the mean aging anxiety score given to the "adult" group was 50.9 ($SD = 8.75$), while the mean aging anxiety score given to the "not an adult" group was 48.9 ($SD = 9.96$). A two tailed independent groups t test indicated that the difference between these two mean scores were not significant $t(193) = 1.38, p = .171$. According to these results, it can be concluded that one's perception of adulthood status is unrelated with aging anxiety.

Research question five stated that grandchildren's living condition is related with grandchildren's frequency of contact with their grandparents. An independent groups t test was conducted to determine whether the frequency of contact with the closest grandparent is affected by the living condition of the grandchild. Results show that the mean frequency of contact score of the group who are living with their parents was 2.21 ($SD = .82$), while the mean frequency of contact score of the group who are not living with their parents was 1.69 ($M = 1.69, SD = .68$). Results indicate equality of variances should not be assumed and that the difference between these means are significant $t(102.05) = 4.54, p = .000$. Accordingly, living with parents is related with higher frequency of contact with grandparents than that that of not living with parents.

Research question six stated that, grandparent-grandchild age difference is related with emotional closeness. A Pearson correlation was calculated in order to determine the association between grandparent-grandchild age difference and emotional closeness between them. Results indicate that the grandchild-grandparent age difference was not related to their emotional closeness $r(202) = .012, p = .865$.

Table2

Pearson Correlation Matrix among Age Difference, Emotional Closeness and Aging Anxiety

| | Age Difference | Emotional Closeness | Aging Anxiety Score |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Age Difference | | .012 | .002 |
| Emotional Closeness | | | .352* |
| Aging Anxiety Score | | | |

* $p < .05$

DISCUSSION

Turkey is generally seen as a collectivistic country that places great importance on family (Öztop et al., 2009). It is not uncommon in Turkey to find many grandparents living with children and grandchildren. And because of their age, grandparents are often afforded considerable respect and authority. Due to changes in life expectancy, grandchildren and grandparents can potentially spend many more years together than in the past. Moreover, as grandchildren maintain intergenerational relationships into their twenties and thirties, new pathways open up for grandparents to affect their lives, attitudes, and beliefs. This study investigated how grandparents are related with grandchildren's aging anxiety.

It has been found that young adult grandchildren are typically more emotionally close with their grandmothers than with other grandparents. When a sorting is made among grandparents from emotionally closest to more distant, paternal grandmother comes next after maternal grandmother followed by maternal grandfather and lastly by paternal grandfather. As Canatan (2009) explains, this finding can be explained as grandmothers being generally younger than the grandfathers with a relatively longer life expectancy. Also because of less age difference they are able to have a closer relationship with their grandchildren. Furthermore, according to evolutionary psychologists, maternity certainty and paternity uncertainty across generations resulted in differing degrees of relational uncertainty between grandparents and grandchildren. Maternal grandmothers had no relational uncertainty: they would have greater certainty of a genetic

relationship to their daughter her offspring” (Michalski & Shackelford, 2005, p. 294).

The current research tested six research questions. The first research question stated that, aging anxiety of grandchildren is influenced by the perceived emotional closeness with their grandparents. Considering the results from tests of the first research question, it is observed that, in the grandparent- grandchild relationship, when the perceived emotional closeness of the grandchild towards the grandparent is low, the aging anxiety towards their own aging is high. According to McGuinn & Mosher-Ashley (2002), children who have a negative attitude toward aging process or towards older adults may fear their own aging. Previous findings indicate that first contact with older adults is realized in the family. Hoffman (1979) and Baranowski (1982) say that one of the three areas where grandparents have influence over grandchildren are declared as attitudes toward aging, developing positive attitudes toward aging and older adults (Wood & Liopsis, 2007). Setting out from these, it is thought that this hypothesis is supporting the previous findings (Schwartz & Simmonsi, 2001; Hamon & Koch, 1993).

The second research question stated that grandchildren’s frequency of contact with their grandparents is related with their perception of emotional closeness with their grandparents. According to the results obtained from the participants who joined this study, the degree of emotional closeness of the grandchild to the closest grandparent is associated with contact frequency. With reference to this, the conclusion is attained that there is a distinctive difference in the perceived emotional

closeness of grandchildren who never have contact with their closer grandparents and who have contact with them once or twice a year, or once a month. Additionally, a distinctive difference regarding the perceived emotional closeness is found between the grandchildren who never meet with their closer grandparents and who meet with them once a week or everyday. Hurme, Westerback & Quadrello (2010) stated that, from the perspective of grandchildren, when the contact frequency increases, the perceived emotional closeness with grandparents increases as well. According to Davey, Savla, Janke & Anderson (2009), the more frequent the contact, either via traditional face-to-face interactions or through new forms of communication (Facebook, email, Skype, SMS, etc.) between grandparents and grandchildren, the closer the relationship is emotionally.

The third research question stated that aging anxiety of grandchildren is related with contact frequency with their grandparents. Results indicated that the frequency of contact of grandchild with grandparent is not related to degree of aging anxiety that the grandchild experiences. Previous studies have found that contact frequency is positively related to their perceived emotional closeness with grandparents (Hurme, Westerback & Quadrello, 2010). Connected to this subject, the result of the study does not overlap with the findings of previous studies. When the two search questions of this study are observed, it is extrapolated that there is a correlation between aging anxiety and emotional closeness and between emotional closeness and frequency of

contact. In this case, it is expected that the aging anxiety of grandchild will be related with the amount of contact frequency with the grandparent.

The fourth research question investigated whether the perception of adulthood status and aging anxiety are related. Results indicated that perceived adulthood status does not have an effect on the degree of aging anxiety that young adult grandchildren experience. Previous studies have put emphasis on age of grandchildren regarding this subject. According to findings of Hernandez (2008), young people in the United States show generally a negative attitude towards elderly. Barrett & Rohr (2008) found that elderly people have characteristics which young people do not have such as being dependent on others, narrow-mindedness, being frail, angry, and irritating. This study concentrated on the perception of young adults, and the aim was to find out if their perception of the degree of their adulthood also had any relationship with their aging anxiety. As this subject is outside the frame of this study, it is only explored in order to prepare a ground for future research on this subject.

According to the fifth research question in the study, grandchildren's living condition is related with grandchildren's frequency of contact with their closest grandparents. As Monserud (2010) stated, in grandchild-grandparent relationship, when parents are thought of gatekeeper it was observed that the frequency of contact of parents with their families affected frequency of contact of grandchildren with their grandparents. In this study, a conclusion has been reached which supported previous findings (Uhlenberg & Hammill, 1998) and it is found that grandchildren who live together with parents or with only one of the

parents have a higher frequency of contact with their grandparents than their counterparts who do not live with any of the family members. This finding may explain that parents establish a bridge between grandchild and grandparent being the intermediary generation and play an important role forming this intergenerational contact.

The last research question stated that grandparent-grandchild age difference is related with emotional closeness. According to findings, the age difference between young adult grandchild and closest grandparent does not related to the perceived emotional closeness between them. When looked at previous studies, it is observed that there are divergent findings on this subject. Accordingly, some studies came to the conclusion that when the grandparents are older, the relationship with the grandchild becomes less close (Davey, Savla, Janke & Anderson, 2009). Others (Cherlin & Furstenberg, 1986; Kennedy, 1992) found that the age difference between them does not have any effect on emotional closeness.

Several limitations to this study should be noted. Some young adult grandchildren have several grandparents among which to choose from, whereas others have only one living grandparent. In a study where only living grandparents could be included, grandchildren with few living grandparents have to choose one grandparent as close and the others as less close, so they have fewer choices. A second limitation is that in this study gender of the grandchildren is not included as a variable because of the inequality of the number of male and female participants. Because of this the results may potentially only apply to females. Further research should include more representative samples.

The third limitation is that the data collection is performed only at İstanbul Bilgi University. Therefore the participants of this university do not represent Turkey in general, especially regarding socio-economic status (SES).

Future research for this line of study should investigate the grandparent perspective on the young adult grandchild-grandparent relationship. According to this study and previous research it is concluded that grandchildren feel emotionally closer to certain grandparents. In studies where grandparents are included, some questions that can be asked to the grandparents are as follows: Do they feel closer to some of their grandchildren more than the others? Toward which of their children's children do they feel emotionally closer? There are many unanswered questions to explore when examining the grandparent's perspective on this relationship. Additionally, there may be some questions about their perception towards aging. Parents' perspectives about their relationships with their own parents and with their children should be investigated as they are thought as the gatekeepers in intergenerational relationships.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Demographic Questionnaire

(8-items)

Lütfen verdiğiniz cevapların doğruluğunu yansıttığına dikkat ediniz.

1. Yaş :

2. Cinsiyet : Kadın Erkek

3. Okumakta olduğunuz bölüm: Psikoloji Sosyoloji Diğer

4. Okumakta olduğunuz sınıf:

5. Kiminle yaşıyorsunuz? Size en uygun olan cevabı, cevabın yanında bulunan sayıyı daire içine alarak işaretleyiniz.

- 1) Çekirdek Aile (anne, baba ve varsa kardeş)
- 2) Geniş aile (anne, baba, kardeş ve diğer aile üyeleri)
- 3) Eş
- 4) Sadece Kardeş
- 5) Arkadaş
- 6) Boşanmış Ebeveyn (anne ya da baba)
- 7) Yurt
- 8) Akraba
- 9) Yalnız
- 10) Diğer

6. Kendinizi bir yetişkin olarak görüyor musunuz ?

Evet Hayır Bazen

(Aşağıdaki tüm soruları, şu anda hayatta olan büyüklerinizi düşünerek cevaplayınız.)

7. Ailenizdeki, kendinizi duygusal anlamda en yakın hissettiğiniz büyükanne/büyükbabanız hangisidir ? Size en uygun olan cevabı, cevabın yanında bulunan sayıyı daire içine alarak işaretleyiniz.

- 1) Anneanne (Annenin annesi)
- 2) Babaanne (Babanın annesi)
- 3) Dede (Annenin babası)
- 4) Büyükbaba (Babanın babası)

8. *(Bu soruyu, bir önceki soruda verdiğiniz cevaba göre yanıtlayınız.)*

Ailenizdeki, kendinizi duygusal anlamda en yakın hissettiğiniz büyükanne/büyükbabanız'ın yaşı:

APPENDIX B

Contact Frequency Scale

(2-items)

9. Büyükanne/Büyükbaba'nızla yüzyüze olarak ne sıklıkta görüşürsünüz ? Size en uygun olan cevabı, cevabın yanında bulunan sayıyı daire içine alarak işaretleyiniz.

- 1) Hiçbir zaman
- 2) Yılda 1 ya da 2 kere
- 3) Ayda bir
- 4) Haftada bir
- 5) Her gün

10. Büyükanne/Büyükbaba'nızla, iletişim araçları (telefon, kısa mesaj, görüntülü konuşma, posta/elektronik posta) üzerinden ne sıklıkta görüşürsünüz? Size en uygun olan cevabı, cevabın yanında bulunan sayıyı daire içine alarak işaretleyiniz.

- 1) Hiçbir zaman
- 2) Yılda 1 ya da 2 kere
- 3) Ayda bir
- 4) Haftada bir
- 5) Her gün

APPENDIX C

Affectual Solidarity Scale

(6-items)

Aşağıdaki tabloda bulunan herbir durum cümlesini, yanında bulunan ölçekte değerlendiriniz. Ölçekte 1 en düşük, 6 en yüksek değerdedir. Buna göre, 1=Çok kötü, 6=Çok iyi anlamlarını taşımaktadır. Her cümlenin yanında bulunan kutucuklardan size en uygun olan değer in altındaki kutuya (x) işareti koyunuz.

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| İlişkinizdeki herşeyi dikkate aldığımızda, büyükanne/büyükbaba'nızla aranızdaki ilişkiyi ne kadar yakın buluyorsunuz? | | | | | | |
| Büyükanne/büyükbaba'nızla aranızdaki iletişim nasıldır? | | | | | | |
| Sizi ilgilendiren meseleler hakkında büyükanne/büyükbabanızla ne kadar iyi fikir alışverişi yapabilir ya da konuşabilirsiniz? | | | | | | |
| Büyükanne/büyükbaba'nızın sizi ne kadar iyi anladığını düşünüyorsunuz? | | | | | | |
| Büyükanne/büyükbaba'nızı ne kadar iyi anladığınızı düşünüyorsunuz? | | | | | | |
| Genel olarak, büyükanne/büyükbabanızla ne kadar iyi anlaşsınız? | | | | | | |

APPENDIX D
Anxiety About Aging Scale
(20-items)

Aşağıdaki tabloda bulunan herbir durum cümlesini, yanında bulunan ölçekte değerlendiriniz. Ölçekte 1 en düşük, 5 en yüksek değerdedir. Buna göre, 1=Hiçbir zaman için geçerli değil, 5=Her zaman için geçerli anlamlarını taşımaktadır. Her cümlelerin yanında bulunan kutucuklardan size en uygun olan değerin altındaki kutuya (x) işareti koyunuz.

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yaşlı insanlarla konuşmaktan keyif alıyorum | | | | | |
| Aynaya bakıp gri saçlar göreceğim günden hiçbir zaman korkmadım | | | | | |
| Yaşlandığımda kendim için hala birçok şeyi yapabiliyor olacağıma inanıyorum | | | | | |
| Yaşlandığımda kendimle ilgili iyi hissetmeyi bekliyorum | | | | | |
| Yaşlandığımda birinin benim yerime kararlar verecek olacağını düşündüğüm zaman asabileşiyorum | | | | | |
| Yaşlı insanlar için birşeyler yapmaktan keyif alıyorum | | | | | |
| Aynaya baktığım zaman, yaşla birlikte fiziksel görünüşümün ne kadar değiştiğini görmek beni rahatsız eder | | | | | |
| Yaşlı insanların etrafında olmaktan keyif alıyorum | | | | | |
| Yaşlandığımda insanlar beni yoksayacak diye endişeleniyorum | | | | | |
| Yaşlı görünmekten hiçbir zaman korkmadım | | | | | |
| Yaşlandığımda arkadaşlarım hayatta olmayacaklar diye korkuyorum | | | | | |

Aşağıdaki tabloda bulunan herbir durum cümlesini, yanında bulunan ölçekte değerlendiriniz. Ölçekte 1 en düşük, 5 en yüksek değerdedir. Buna göre, 1=Hiçbir zaman, 5=Her zaman anlamlarını taşımaktadır. Her cümlenin yanında bulunan kutucuklardan size en uygun olan değer altındaki kutuya (x) işareti koyunuz.

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yaşlı akrabalarımı ziyaret etmeyi seviyorum | | | | | |
| Yaşlı bir insanın yakınındayken kendimi çok rahat hissediyorum | | | | | |
| Yaşlandığımda hayatla ilgili iyi hissetmeyi bekliyorum | | | | | |
| Yaşlandığımda zamanımı dolduracak birçok şeyim olacak | | | | | |

APPENDIX D

Informed Consent

Katılmak üzere olduğunuz araştırma, İstanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi Klinik Psikoloji Yüksek Lisans Programı öğrencisi Aslı Önel'un tez çalışması kapsamında uygulanmakta ve Yrd. Doç. Dr. Ryan Macey Wise danışmanlığında yürütülmektedir. Araştırmanın amacı, büyükanne ya da büyükbaba ile torun arasındaki ilişkiyi incelemektir.

Araştırmada öncelikle, size verilen formdaki kişisel bilgiler kısmını doldurmanız ve ardından, çoktan seçmeli olan iki soruda, size en uygun cevabın yanında bulunan sayıyı daire içine almanız beklenmektedir. Araştırmanın bundan sonraki kısmındaki cümleleri, herbir cümlenin yanında bulunan ölçeklerde değerlendirmeniz gerekmektedir.

Katılımcıların bu araştırmaya katılımları sonrasında, büyükanne ya da büyükbabalarıyla ilişkileri üzerinde farkındalık sahibi olmaları beklenmektedir. Araştırma yaklaşık olarak 20 dakika sürecektir ve araştırma sırasında vermiş olduğunuz bilgileriniz ve cevaplarınız gizli tutulacaktır. Araştırmaya olan katılımınız gönüllüdür ve dilediğiniz zaman araştırmadan çekilme hakkınız vardır.

Araştırma ile ilgili sorularınız için aşağıdaki kişilerle iletişime geçebilirsiniz;
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Yrd. Doç. Dr. Ryan Macey Wise, rmw13244@gmail.com

Bu belgeyi imzalayarak, bu araştırmada yer almayı kabul etmiş olacaksınız. Lütfen araştırmayla ilgili olarak sizden ne beklendiğini anladığınızdan emin olun.

Araştırmanın amacı ve yöntemi ile ilgili olan yukarıdaki yazıyı okudum ve bu araştırmaya katılmayı kabul ediyorum.

Ad-Soyadı:

Tarih:

İmza