

**Title:** Investigation of Variables Predicting Forgiveness in Romantic Relationships of University Students

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**Abstract:**As a result of conflicts in romantic relationships, the individual's behavior of forgiveness may be related to many variables. The individual can exhibit behavior of forgiveness by evaluating himself/herself, the person with whom s/he has a romantic relationship and his/her relationship. It is thought that the thoughts and relationship satisfaction of the individual are important in the process of forgiveness. It is expected to show less forgiveness when the individual’s general irrational beliefs and irrational beliefs about the romantic relationship are high and relationship satisfaction is low. The purpose of this study is to examine the relationship between general irrational beliefs, irrational beliefs about romantic relationships, relationship satisfaction and forgiveness of university students who have romantic relationships.

Relational screening model was used in this research. Study group of the research; it is a total of 185 university students, aged between 17 and 32 (X= 21.22; Sd= 1.98) of which 155 are women (84,9%) and 30 are men (15,1%). Data collection tools were Irrational Romantic Relationship Beliefs Inventory, Irrational Beliefs Test, Heartland Forgiveness Scale and Relationship Satisfaction Inventory. After that the normality and linearity analyzes showed that parametric tests can be applied on the data.

In the correlation analysis performed to determine the relationships between variables on the data, it was seen that forgiveness showed a statistically significant positive correlation with relationship satisfaction (r= .38; p< .001), while the irrational beliefs about romantic relationship (r= -.33; p< .001) and general irrational beliefs (r= -.46; p< .05) were found to show a significant negative correlation. According to the results of the regression analysis performed to determine the predictive effect of independent variables on forgiveness of the university students, the irrational beliefs about romantic relationship general irrational beliefs and relationship satisfaction together predicted 31% of forgiveness significantly (F(3,181)= 27,297, p < .001). The relative importance order of predictive variables describing forgiveness is general irrational beliefs (β = -.36; p< .001), relationship satisfaction (β = .26; p< .001) and the irrational beliefs about romantic relationship (β = -.15; p< .05).

According to the findings of this research, there is a significant relationship between the levels of forgiveness of university students with romantic relationships and their general irrational beliefs, irrational beliefs about romantic relationships, and relationship satisfaction levels. In addition, general irrational beliefs, irrational beliefs in romantic relationships and relationship satisfaction were found to significantly predict forgiveness. Accordingly, it is possible to say that the behavior of forgiveness decreases when individuals' irrational beliefs about both general and romantic relationships increase and their satisfaction with their relationships decreases. Therefore, it is considered important to emphasize the role of cognitions in studies on forgiveness.

**Biography:** The researcher continues to work as a research assistant at Gaziantep University, Faculty of Education, Department of Guidance and Psychological Counseling. He is also continuing his PhD education at the same university.

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