

## Social interaction and its relationship to the level of ambition of the elite soccer league players in Iraq

Haidar Offy Ahmed<sup>1</sup> ✉, Hasan Hadi Saleh<sup>2</sup>, Salman Okab Sarhan<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>College of Physical Education and Sports Sciences, Basra University, Iraq

<sup>2</sup>College of Physical Education and Sports Sciences, University of Kufa, Iraq

### ABSTRACT

The player's interaction with others generates his tendencies, motives and ambitions, so the level of ambition is the level that the player yearns to reach or feels capable of reaching as he strives to achieve his sporting goals. In football there are many behaviours that emanate from football players that express the presence of some Psychological problems, such as a feeling of loneliness and isolation among some players and their lack of harmony with other colleagues in light of the frequent movement between teams and instability in one team, which creates a kind of difficulty in social interaction with the players of the new team and this is reflected negatively on the level of their ambition to communicate seriously in exercises and raise the spirit Competition and the effort to achieve victories, competition and some moral features that may be affected as a result of the lack of interaction between players and with the staff Training, the most important objectives of the research are to identify the level of social interaction and the level of ambition to the players of the Elite Football League in Iraq, to identify the relationship between the level of social interaction and the level of ambition on the players of the Elite Soccer League in Iraq, the current research community is the players of the Elite League teams In Iraq for the season (2020-2021), which numbered (20) teams, as for the research sample, it was selected randomly, consisting of (5) teams (Al-Zawra – Al-Najaf - Al-Minaa - Al-Qasim – Al-Talaba). The number of their players covered by the research was (134) Player. The most important conclusions are the high level of social interaction and the level of ambition among Elite Football League players. The high level of social interaction leads to an increase in the level of ambition among Elite Soccer League players and the most important interest in social interaction between players as it leads to a higher level of ambition for them. The level of social interaction and the level of ambition of players of other age groups in football, the application of the measure of social interaction and the level of ambition for the players of other events.

**Keywords:** Social interaction; Level of ambition; Football.

#### Cite this article as:

Ahmed, H.O., Saleh, H.H., & Sarhan, S.O. (2021). Social interaction and its relationship to the level of ambition of the elite soccer league players in Iraq. *Journal of Human Sport and Exercise*, 16(4proc), S1798-S1805. <https://doi.org/10.14198/jhse.2021.16.Proc4.26>



**Corresponding author.** College of Physical Education and Sports Sciences, Basra University, Iraq.

E-mail: [haider.offy@uobasrah.edu.iq](mailto:haider.offy@uobasrah.edu.iq)

Abstract submitted to: Spring Conferences of Sports Science. [Costa Blanca Sports Science Events](#), 21-22 June 2021. Alicante, Spain.

JOURNAL OF HUMAN SPORT & EXERCISE ISSN 1988-5202.

© Faculty of Education. University of Alicante.

doi:10.14198/jhse.2021.16.Proc4.26

## INTRODUCTION

Social interaction is the basis for the engine of social relations, and it develops in the player healthy human characteristics, it has a relationship to mental health, achievement and cognitive abilities as well as has a clear role in innovation, scientific creativity and the level of ambition, the level of ambition is one of the dimensions of personality and one of the variables that influence the activities of the players and has a close relationship with the player's social background and self-confidence, as well as psychological compatibility, as the compatible player sets realistic goals commensurate with his abilities and capabilities unlike the poorly matched player who sets goals that are too high or too low and this indicates the importance of both interaction and ambition, the social interaction is a form of The basic concepts in psychology include the mutual influence of the behaviour of individuals and groups that takes place through contact that takes place between two or more individuals. A human is a social being that is not content with himself only, but rather uses others because the characteristics of human life are social in its manifestations and fields, since the human personality in its many aspects and in any Society is the product of social interaction and that human behaviour. Human behaviour is the basis of this interaction and that it is one of its most important qualities and characteristics is to be a special type of social relations between him and others, and these social relations depend on the actions the player makes and the responses he receives, so that interaction is a major and effective element in social life in all its stages, as a result of the player's interaction with others, he has tendencies, motives and aspirations. Ambition is the level that a player yearns to reach or feels capable of achieving while striving to achieve his sporting goals, and the importance of current research is evident in identifying the relationship between social interaction and the level of ambition of Elite League players in Iraq, which provides coaches and players the information about the interconnection between these two important characteristics of the players.

### ***The research problem***

Through the experience of researchers in the field of football, they noticed that there are many behaviours that emanate from football players that express the presence of some psychological problems such as a feeling of loneliness and isolation among some players and their lack of harmony with the rest of colleagues in light of the frequent movement between teams and lack of Stability in one team, which creates a kind of difficulty in social interaction with the players of the new team, and this is negatively reflected in the level of their ambition to communicate seriously in exercises and raise the spirit of competition and make efforts to achieve victories and competition and some moral features that may be affected as a result of the lack of interaction between players and with staff training and even with the management of the club which promoted the researchers to study this important subject to know the type of relationship and its strength between the social interaction and the level of ambition at the Elite League Players in Iraq.

### ***Research aims***

- Rationing Standards of social interaction and the level of ambition on the players of the Elite League football in Iraq.
- Knowing the level of social interaction and the level of ambition of the Elite Football League players in Iraq.
- Knowing the relationship between the level of social interaction and the level of ambition of the players in the Elite Soccer League in Iraq.

### ***Research hypothesis***

There is no correlation between the level of social interaction and the level of ambition of the Elite Soccer League players in Iraq.

## METHODOLOGY

The researchers used the descriptive method of surveying and correlation Relationships to suit the research objectives and the nature of the problem.

### **Research community and samples**

The current research community was determined by the players of the Elite League teams in Iraq for the season (2020-2021) they were (20) teams, while the sample of the research was selected in a random way consisting of (5) teams (Al-Zawraa – Al-Najaf - AlMinaa - Al-Qasim - Altalaba) the number of players surveyed was (134).

### **Rationing standards social interaction and the level of ambition**

In order to measure the two research variables (social interaction and level of ambition) in the research sample, the researchers codified the two measures used before ( Hassan: 4: 2004) , each scale of social interaction consisted in its initial form from 48 paragraph and the scale of the level of ambition from 42 paragraph , the researchers reformulated some paragraphs and modify and delete some part of them and change other terms to fit the sample they are the players of Elite League of football. after this stage, the scale of social interaction became initial form consisted from (36) paragraph, scale Ambition level (2942) paragraph.

### **Account the honesty of content**

Honesty of content is "*Measure the extent to which the test represents aspects of the measured aspect of its research and analyses the test resources and elements as a logical analysis to determine the functions and aspects represented in it and the ratio of each to the entire test*" (Bahi:5:1999) , In order to show the validity of the paragraphs of the two measures presented in a questionnaire to a group of specialists totalling (15) experts to show their approval or disapproval of the validity of the paragraphs of each scale , the researcher used a test (Ca2) to analyse the opinions of the experts statistically, as each paragraph is returned valid when the value (Ca2) calculated is greater than its scheduled value of 3.84 at the level of significance (.5) and degree of freedom (1) to become the number of valid social interaction scale paragraphs (32) paragraphs and the scale of the level of ambition was (26).

### **The instruction of applying scale**

Before applying the two metrics to the sample should be prepared instructions through which the player can understand what they are required to do when answering the paragraphs of the two scales, this step is done by writing the instructions with note that the instructions and conditions of the implementation of the scale are easy, clear and objective so that they can be adhered to without any difference that can affect the results it is known that the simplicity and clarity of the instructions for applying the scale have a direct impact on its stability and objectives of its results.

### **Exploratory experience**

"*It is a small experiment to test the validity of the main experiment, we determine the community of origin and the vocabulary or quality of the test and a small sample of this community to be conducted on the terms of the main experiment and its importance is to identify the negatives that the researcher will face to avoid in the main experiment*" (Mahjoob: 7: 1988), the two measures were applied to the 54 members of the exploratory experiment.

### Extracting the scientific foundations

A / Honesty: The researcher calculated the truthfulness related to an internal test (internal consistency) by finding the correlation coefficient between the score of each paragraph and the total score of the scale and the differential validity by the method of the two extremes of the results of the exploratory experiment sample, and as shown in Table 1:

Table 1. Shows the differential honesty and honesty related to an internal test (internal consistency).

Social Interaction scale						Ambition level scale					
Paragr aph N <sup>o</sup> .	Internal consist ency	Different iated honesty									
1	0.83 *	0.78	17	0.84 *	5.29 *	1	0.19	-	17	0.79 *	6.11 *
2	0.84 *	5.11 *	18	0.86 *	5.34 *	2	0.80 *	7.34 *	18	0.87 *	6.27 *
3	0.79 *	4.12 *	19	0.80 *	5.87 *	3	0.87 *	6.89 *	19	0.82 *	7.27 *
4	0.81 *	0.97	20	0.82 *	5.11 *	4	0.86 *	5.21 *	20	0.88 *	6.26 *
5	0.78 *	5.45 *	21	0.79 *	6.67 *	5	0.84 *	5.38 *	21	0.86 *	6.20 *
6	0.16	-	22	0.81 *	5.89 *	6	0.80 *	4.65 *	22	0.74 *	0.11
7	0.88 *	6.89 *	23	0.82 *	4.67 *	7	0.82 *	5.67 *	23	0.84 *	7.21 *
8	0.80 *	4.56 *	24	0.88 *	5.47 *	8	0.85 *	5.61 *	24	0.81 *	5.23 *
9	0.81 *	7.86 *	25	0.84 *	7.23 *	9	0.87 *	4.62 *	25	0.80 *	6.03 *
10	0.79 *	4.45 *	26	0.80 *	6.78 *	10	0.88 *	4.59 *	26	0.82 *	7.23 *
11	0.88 *	5.23 *	27	0.84 *	7.34 *	11	0.81 *	6.83 *			
12	0.86 *	4.67 *	28	0.82 *	6.73 *	12	0.88 *	7.39 *			
13	0.15	-	29	0.89 *	4.12 *	13	0.83 *	5.81 *			
14	0.80 *	4.46 *	30	0.85 *	4.34 *	14	0.85 *	5.83 *			
15	0.84 *	6.23 *	31	0.87 *	4.78 *	15	0.82 *	4.11 *			
16	0.85 *	6.48 *	32	0.82 *	4.67 *	16	0.83 *	5.12 *			

\* The significance level of the statement is less than (.05) significant.

It can be seen from Table 1 that the number of paragraphs of the Social Interaction Scale that achieved internal consistency and differential honesty is (28) items, and the number of paragraphs of the scale of ambition is (24) items.

B - Stability: The researcher extracted the stability of the two scales through the Cronbach's alpha stability factor, as it was found that the stability factor of the social interaction scale was (0.82) and the stability factor value of the ambitious level scale was (0.84), which are good stability factors.

### Set up the two scales correction key

For the purpose of correcting each of the paragraphs of the two scales, there must be a key to correct through which we can compare the player's answer to the corresponding grade in order to obtain the overall score for each scale, since the answer alternatives consist of five alternatives (always - often - sometimes - rarely - never) so correcting the positive term is (4-3-2-1-0) and correcting the negative paragraph is (0-1-2-3-4), The total score of the scale is calculated by summing the degrees of alternatives that the subject indicates in all the statements of the two scales, noting that the highest theoretical score that can be obtained for the social interaction scale is equal to (112) and the lowest theoretical score of (zero), and the highest theoretical score that can be obtained for the scale of the level of ambition. It is equal to (96) and the theoretical minimum score is (zero).

### The main experiment

The social interaction scale consisting of (28) items and the level of ambition scale consisting of (24) items were applied to the main experiment sample of (80) players for the period from (2-28 / 1/2021).

### Statistical methods

The researcher used a statistical program and the necessary means within the statistical bag (SPSS) and some statistical treatments using a manual calculator.

## RESULTS ADND DISCUSSION

The researcher presents in Table 2 the results that were reached through the application of two scales to the sample of the main experiment:

Table 2. Shows the comparison between the arithmetic mean and the hypothetical mean of the two scales.

Variable	Measuring unit	M	Hypothesized mean	Significant
Social interaction	Degree	74	56	high
Ambitious level	Degree	62	48	high

It is evident from Table 2 that the mean values of the two variables of social interaction and the level of ambition were greater than the corresponding hypothetical mean values, indicating that the levels of the research sample, namely the Elite Football League players, were high.

Table 3. Shows the results of the arithmetic mean, the standard deviation, and the value of the correlation coefficient for (Pearson).

Variable	Measuring unit	M	P	Value (t)	Significant level	Significant
Social interaction	Degree	74	13	.86	.000	moral
Ambitious level	Degree	62	8			

It is evident from Table 3 the following: It appears that the value of the arithmetic mean of social interaction reaches (74) degrees with a standard deviation of (13) degrees, while the arithmetic mean of the level of ambition is (62) degrees with a standard deviation of (8) degrees. The coefficient of correlation between the two variables was (0.86), which is a high direct moral correlation coefficient, which indicates that the high social interaction between the players contributes to raising their level of ambition. Therefore, administrators and coaches working in the field of football, especially the Elite League, must work to create an atmosphere of interaction with the players especially the newcomers who are newly organized to the team with two transfer periods for the players, this increases the movement of players between the teams because this raises the level of ambition for them to fulfil achievements and creates high motivation to exert more effort in training and matches, since social interaction as a social variable plays an important role in unison players inside and outside the stadium, as sources indicate that "social interaction as an approach that deals with individuals or groups with each others have been frequent social processes and codified standards are governed by the goals and Means and these processes taking different aspects positive or negative complement each other and play a prominent role in determining the type of social relations that prevail interacting" (Marhi:6: 2003), "the weakness in social interaction led to disharmony among individuals and groups, weaken social ties and relationships and falls below the number of partial such as competition operations, conflict and oppression" (AIRashdan:1: 2006), and This, in turn, is linked to the aspect of ambition that escalates among the players as "The level of ambition is a feature that arises as a result of the dynamic interaction in different aspects of the personality cognitive, emotional and propensity, as each individual has

his own biological composition and at the same time does not live isolated from social interactions in the environment in which he lives and it can be said that the level of ambition in each individual is influenced by the formative factors and factors of training, education and upbringing different” (Abdel Fattah:2: 2009), sources indicate that “The level of ambition grows and develops with age and with the presence of encouraging factors, as it stops or decreases with continuous failure and frustration. As it shifts and changes depending on what the individual encounters in his life and coincides with the achievement of his goals of success or failure, as success elevates this level, failure frustrates the individual and reduces the level of ambition, and ambition, either positive or negative. Positive ambitions may be directed towards success, while negative ambitions are centred towards the goal of avoiding failure. If the aspirations of the person are positive, he will be satisfied with himself, appreciated, successful and seeks to improve his current position, but if the ambitions are negative, his efforts will be focused on sustaining his current status and avoiding any deterioration in the social hierarchy, i.e. he will be happy if things do not go any further than they are”. (3: 2007: Hurlock)

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Rationing Standards of social interaction and the level of ambition for the players of the Elite Football League.
- High the levels of social interaction and ambition for the Elite Football League players.
- High level of social interaction leads to an increase in the level of ambition of the Elite Football League players.

### Recommendations

- Paying attention to social interaction between players, as it leads to a high level of ambition.
- Knowing the level of social interaction and the level of ambition of football players of other age groups.
- Applying the social interaction scale and the level of ambition to the players of other events.

## REFERENCES

- Abdullah Zahi Al-Rashdan. (2006). Educational Sociology, 1st Edition, Dar Ammar for Publishing, Amman, P.O.
- Camellia Abdel Fattah Al - Rashdan (2009). A Level of Ambition and Personality, Modern Cairo Library, Dar Al-Hamami for Printing, Cairo.
- Hurlock, EB. (2007). Personality development, New Delhi, McGraw - Hill publishing company. P265.
- Ihsan Mohammed Hassan. (2005). Sports science meeting, 1st Edition, Dar Wael for Publishing.
- Mustafa Hussein Bahi. (1999). Scientific transactions between theory and practice (stability -honesty - objectivity -standards), Cairo, book publishing center.
- Tawfiq Merhi and Belqis Ahmad. (2003). Facilitator in Social Psychology, 2nd Edition, Dar Al-Furqan, Amman.
- Wagih Mahjoob. (1999). Styles of scientific research and its methodology. 2nd Edition. Almousel. Dar Al-Kotub for printing and publishing. P 143.



**ANNEXE**

## Annexe 1. Social interaction scale in its final form.

Seq.	The paragraphs	Appreciation				
		Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
1	It difficult to express my thoughts in front of the players and coaches					
2	Feel pleased to mix with the players and coaches					
3	I enjoy joking with the players .					
4	I disclose to my colleagues my personal wishes.					
5	I get annoyed when my classmates watch me during training					
6	I create positive relationships with my colleagues easily.					
7	I praise of the players with a high level .					
8	The players and coaches greet or speak.					
9	talk to my colleagues about the problems of my family .					
10	A annoyed of the players being superior to me.					
11	Talk to my colleagues about painful memories.					
12	Attend social events of my colleagues.					
13	I easily adapt to new social situations.					
14	I shared with my colleagues the thoughts that worried me.					
15	Listening with interest to my colleagues talk about their own problems .					
16	bothering to spend free time lonely					
17	Make sure to sit alone after the match					
18	refused to reveal my injuries .					
19	I'm upset by my coach's criticism of me.					
20	ask my trainers opinion and advice when I am having a problem.					
21	Talking to managers about the economic difficulties that I face.					
22	I shy away from merging with my team-mates when I move to a new team					
23	I stick to my opinion, even if it is contrary to the opinion of the majority.					
24	I take the initiative to make donations and gifts.					
25	I miss my friends and acquaintances					
26	I took the initiative to smooth out the conversation with my colleagues					
27	I take part in group travel.					
28	I don't mind making an effort to help my colleagues get their work done..					

## Annexe 2. Ambition level scale in its final form.

Seq.	The paragraphs	Appreciation				
		Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
1	I strive to succeed and surpass my colleagues.					
3	I feel tired and bored of training.					
4	I can overcome the obstacles that I face					
5	I hope to get away from playing.					
6	I want a high level of athleticism that will contribute to the advancement of my team					
7	I am determined to reach my goal of representing the national team					
8	I feel the need to master the skills.					
9	I'd like to be in contact with high-level teams					
10	I spend most of my time training and playing					
11	I think it is necessary to learn everything new in football.					
12	I expect to fulfil my aspirations and ambitions for the future.					
13	I am interested in new exercises that raise motivation in training					
14	May difficult circumstances prevent me from realizing my ambitions					
15	I believe my capabilities are limitless.					
16	I really pay attention to every piece of information that the trainer says					
17	I really want to improve my level					
18	My self-confidence drops when I am faced with failure					
19	When there is a better player than me, that pushes me to double my effort to improve my level.					
20	I sacrifice my comfort to achieve my sporting goals					
21	I don't care about my low participation fundamentally					
22	Enjoy making difficult meals.					
23	I live for my day and I don't care about tomorrow.					
24	I would like to pursue a career other than football					
25	Feel fresh and energized when you exercise					
26	I am not satisfied with playing except at a distinguished level					



This work is licensed under a [Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/) (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0).