

## **THE EXTREME RESPONSES AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

**Ass. Prof. Dr. Ahmed Abdul Kadhim Jouni<sup>1</sup>, Leqaa Abdul Khadhim Mijbal<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1,2</sup>, Qadisiyah University/ College of Arts

[Ahmed.johni@qu.edu.iq](mailto:Ahmed.johni@qu.edu.iq)

### **Abstract:**

There is no doubt that individuals differ in their responses to different life changes, as some of them are not strong enough to face those changes, which led them to feel psychological conflicts that led them to revolt at times and to extremism at other times, and all this is followed by psychological stress factors, and such people suffer psychological and social crises that contributed to the formation of types of abnormal behavior, and these abnormal behaviors include inadequate dialogue, weakness and stiffness in attitudes, which are manifested by extremism and distancing from compatibility. Accordingly, this research came to measure the extremist responses of university students, on a sample of (400) students selected in a random and equal manner, and to measure this variable, a measure was prepared according to the integrative approach consisting in its final form of (22) items that are answered according to a five-way answer gradation (Likert method) and after extracting the indicators of validity and reliability for this measure using the appropriate statistical means; The results of the research indicated that university students do not qualify as an extremist response, and that there is a statistically significant difference in the response according to the gender variable (males, females) and in favor of males, with the presence of such a difference according to the specialization variable (scientific, humanitarian) and in favor of the scientific specialization, and the research concluded with some recommendations and proposals.

**Keywords:** Responses, Extreme, University Students

### **□ Research problem**

The crises experienced by societies, especially those that last for a long period of time, are seen as a catalyst for the emergence of people who differ in their social and psychological values and beliefs from what is prevalent in society. Such difference between people increases as society continues to be exposed to more pressure, which makes social and psychological organization go through a state of normalization) Hassan, 1997: 9(.

With the recognition that extremism (Extremeness) regardless of its form or type constitutes one of the most important challenges facing the world today, and that the behaviors of violence and counter-violence have taken place in Iraq in a way that raises fear and concern about the future,

as a result of the continuation of a number of reasons that made these behaviors grow in a way that made them a phenomenon in society, and among those reasons are the existence of extremist movements that seek to retaliate and adhere to their abnormal approach and develop justifications for it, using rigid ideas that have been fed by many means, including material, religious and national, to attract some people and make them serve this approach (Al-Hamrani, 2010 : 2-3).

**So you can identify the problem of this research in answering a key question, which is: Are the responses of university students characterized as extremism?**

□ **Significance of the study:**

Although researchers do not agree with the reasons behind the extreme response of individuals that there is a characteristic of personality that has its cognitive, affective and behavioral dimensions (Issa ,1998: 82 ), and there are those who pointed out that it is a satisfactory symptom that indicates general behavioral delinquency, while others considered it acceptable behavior, but less effective than moderate behavior (Al-Turairi, 1994: 421), while other researchers agreed that it is in its diverse patterns an important variable of personality and mental health variables, so it was used in many studies as a criterion for between normal and abnormal forms of behavior and between social and cultural groups, in the field of distinction between normal and abnormal forms of behavior, it proved useful, effective and efficient in distinguishing between, abnormal, mature, immature, adolescents, adults, nervous, non-tense, anxious, and people with high anxiety and low anxiety, as the results of studies related to this area of extreme anxiety, and people with high anxiety issued more extreme anxiety than people with low anxiety (Berglier, 16534).

The results of the study (Suef, 1968), based on the concept of psychological tension, concluded that extremist responses distinguished between psychologically stressed and non-psychologically stressed, as adolescents showed more extreme psychological tension in their responses than adults who were less psychologically stressed, and delinquents showed more extreme in their responses than non-delinquents (Suef , 1968: 128) . The results of other studies found that psychologically compatible people are less extreme in their responses than psychologically incompatible people (Al-Hamrani, 2010 :18), while the results of other studies found that patients in mental hospitals and individuals with high anxiety and who suffer from psychological mismatch issued more extreme responses than the rest of the community ( Al-Ghurairi , 2001: 5).

While the results of other studies indicated that there are several variables related to the extremist response, it was found (Marianne et al., 1992) and (Rasmalen et al., 2009) that there is a correlation between the age and the extremist response; as the elderly people showed more extreme responses than people aged ( 20-50) years ( Rosmalen at el , 2009: 16 ) and an inverse correlation between the level of education and the economic level on the one hand and the extremist response on the other hand (Marin et al., 1992:489-509) .

As for the effect of the gender variable on the extreme responses, the results of the studies differed in this. Several studies found statistically significant differences between males and females in the extreme responses, as the results showed that the females are more extreme in their responses than males in the following research samples: normal adults (Soueif, 1958: 49) college students, prisoners (Borgatta & Glass , 1961) abnormal adults, while the results of a study

(Bregelmann, 1959) found that males are more extreme in their responses than females and with statistical significance. The results of other studies indicate that extremism in the response is common in cultures and societies that emphasize firmness, competition and discrimination, while moderation and lack of extremism are common in cultures and groups that emphasize personal harmony, tolerance and trust (Al-Hamrani, 2010 : 14).

Due to the problems of the youth stage in the university, education has become the field of many studies that dealt with the problems of students and various behavioral phenomena, as university students need attention and care because of the privacy of their age and the nature of their environment, which requires interaction with new developments and changes that often lead to psychological stress and exposure to pressure that makes them people in urgent need of psychological follow-up, hence the Significance of this research .

**Research Objectives: The research aims to:**

- 1- Measure extreme responses among university students.
- 2- The significance of the statistical difference in the extreme responses among university students according to gender variables (males ,females) , and-specialization (scientific , humanitarian) .

**The limitations of the research:** The current research is determined by the students of the fourth grades at the University of Qadisiyah - Bachelor stage - morning study - for the academic year 2020-2021 of males and females , and for both scientific and humanitarian disciplines.

**Research Terminology:**

**The Extreme in Responses :**

This term is more than a definition because of the different intellectual sources of the researchers who dealt with it in research and study, including the definition of :

- Farghali (1971 ): “ A response method form responses characterized by a deviation from what is common in the society in which a person lives” (Farghali ,1971: 136).
- Al-Ghurairi (2001): “ A relatively consistent response method that manifests itself in a person 's tendency to give extreme responses to situations or objects that he encounters, which the person issues and continues to issue stiffly whenever he encounters the same or similar situations” (Al-Ghurairi, 2001: 16).

By reviewing the previous definitions, a new definition of extremism in the response can be deduced, which is : "A method or form of response characterized by a deviation from what is common, which implies a consistent, non-volatile trend in which the person does not want to reach any settlement or compromise for the situations in which he is present." Therefore, this definition was adopted, which was deduced as a theoretical definition to measure extremist responses, because this definition is more comprehensive of the characteristics of the concept , and it is defined procedurally through the total degree obtained by the university student when answering the items of the extreme responses scale used in this research .

### **Theoretical background :**

There are a range of views that have tried to explain extremist responses through a set of related concepts, such as: (intolerance, aversion to ambiguity, intransigence). In the theories of intergroup conflict (Group Conflict Theories), these theories focused on knowing and examining when and how extremist responses and intolerance arise in a particular society, culture or group as a result of the different forms of conflict that result from the interaction of these groups. This perspective is closer to the socio-cultural orientation (Cultural Approach). Socio); in which the main concern is with groups as a whole, and not with persons, that is, not with persons as persons, but rather as members of groups with a special and distinct entity (Pettigrew, 1958: 29-42), and it must be noted here that this interest in the group is the reason for naming theories that emphasize the Significance of factors of the cultural environment sometimes in line with the standards of the group, and this point of view that the factors that lead a person to the formation of fanatical trends are functionally related to the process by which a person becomes a member of the group, that is, he belongs to a specific group that adopts its values and standards, which are his primary means of organizing his experiences and behavior (Abdullah, 1989: 90).

Rokeach, from the standpoint of belief systems, and his colleagues in this field focused on the concept of intellectual immobility; a person with rigid thinking (closed-mindedness) cannot accept or understand the ideas of others, while a person with open-mindedness can do so without any difficulties. Accordingly, if we know something about the way a person relates himself to the world of ideas, we will also be able to know the way he relates himself to the world of people and power (Hassan, 2001: 62).

As for (Pandora), the behaviors of people according to the concept of reciprocal determinism; and this determinism confirms, as stated by Pandora, that "the environment shapes behavior and behavior in turn shapes the environment, and that both affect and are affected by the other" (Bandura, 1974: 866), - that is, this determinism focuses on the interaction of each of the internal factors of a person with external conditions, The person influences his environment and shapes it in a way that is consistent with his requirements and the environment in turn shapes him in proportion to its circumstances, conditions and variables, and thus Pandora rejects the determinism that emphasizes the person without taking into account the environment, It also rejects determinism that emphasizes the environment without taking the person into account. Every behavior occurs through a social model and through simulation. It is done through self-support instead of external support (Sears, 1985: 401). Parents unconsciously follow the trends in the culture in which they live. Children therefore take their parents' attitudes and behavior in different situations. The same principle applies to the media as an important channel for the process of socialization. People often tend to simulate the different forms of violence they see through the various means of mass communication, and what media material can involve feelings of hatred or affection for certain persons or groups (Goldstein, 1980: 364).

However, when talking about extreme responses, it is not possible to overlook what the German psychologist Brunswick's theory (Brunswick, 1949) has presented about the concept of ambiguity intolerance (aversion to ambiguity), considering that this concept carries with it the concept of

rigidity , and the latter reveals itself through the extremist responses. The point of view (Brunswick) is a related concept that is located on both sides of two poles: tolerance of ambiguity, and a lack of ambiguity , and what is meant by ambiguity "the desire of a person to face problems that are subject to multiple interpretations, and his sense of comfort or at least his lack of distress when faced with complex social topics, in which the conflicting principles are characterized by overlap , either the other pole of ambiguity, which is intended to bear ambiguity," The person 's a lack of facing problems that are subject to multiple interpretations, and his feeling of distress is lesser, and at least his feeling of discomfort when faced with complex social topics characterized by extremism and conflict (2007: 138 ) .

Therefore, it can be said (Brunswick) that this lack of tolerance of ambiguity reveals itself through the tendency of the person to extremism in belief and his preference for conclusive solutions that choose between black and white, and dividing things into two opposing parties in an exaggerated bilateral division in its simplicity and its quest for absolute acceptance and absolute rejection, which often obscures some aspects of reality.

**Research community:**

The research community is represented by fourth graders undergraduate at Al-Qadisiyah University – Morning Studies – for the academic year (2020-2021), numbering (4561), by (2086) males and (2475) females, including (2929) in the scientific specialization, and(1632) in the humanitarian specialization.

**Research Sample:**

The research sample was selected randomly and in an equal manner, which amounted to (400) male and female students of Al-Qadisiyah University, and by (8.77 0%) of the research community, and Table (1) shows this .

**Table (1) The research sample is distributed according to the gender variable and the academic specialization**

Fourth graders at Qadisiyah University	Gender				Total
	Males		Females		
	scientific	Humanities	Scientific	Humanities	
Total	100	100	100	100	400
	200		200		

**Search tool:**

In order to measure the extremist responses among the students of the fourth grades at the University of Qadisiyah, the researcher prepared a measure to measure this variable according to the integrative approach to the views that dealt with this concept by research and study . It consisted of (22) items divided into four areas , namely : (stiffness , psychological tension, aversion to

ambiguity , authoritarianism), which are answered according to a five-way answer gradient (Likert method), for example, that quickly angered the people who argue with me.

In order to ascertain the clarity of the items of the scale, its instructions , its alternatives and the clarity of its language in addition to calculating the time taken to answer it , this scale was applied to a random sample of (30) students from the fourth grades at Qadisiyah University, and from this procedure it was found that the instructions were clear and the items were understandable , and that the time taken to answer the items was an average of (10) minutes.

#### **Statistical analysis of the scale items :**

Specialists in the field of psychometrics confirm that conducting the statistical analysis of items is one of the basic requirements in psychometrics because the logical analysis of them may not reveal their validity or validity in the accurate form (Ebel, 1972:408). On it, the exploratory factor analysis (Exploratory factor analysis) was adopted because it derived the areas of the scale through the theoretical framework and the definition of the concept. The question that arises in this field : Can new areas (factors) formed for the concept of extreme responses be derived in proportion to the characteristics of society in light of the formulation of the items of the current scale ?

□ **To test the adequacy of the sample size for these tests, the following are used:**

#### **- Kaiser-Mayer-Ulken ( KMO Test )**

This test is used to find out the adequacy of the sample size in explaining the studied phenomenon and its value ranges between zero and one. The closer its value is to the correct one, this indicates the adequacy of the sample size. Looking at Table (2), we find that the value of the KMO test is equal to (0.796), which indicates the adequacy of the research sample size.

#### **- Bartlett Test :**

It is used to test whether the original correlation matrix is a unit matrix or not. If the original correlation matrix is not a unit matrix, this indicates that there are relations between the variables and this is what is required when using the main components method, and Table (2) shows the fulfillment of the condition for using exploratory factor analysis.

**Table (2) Testing the adequacy of the sample size and the correlation matrix**

<b>Kaiser-Mayer-Ulken test and Bartlett test</b>		
0.796	Scale ( KMO) of sampling efficiency.	
3892.532	Approx. Chi-Square	Bartlett test
231	Df	
0.000	Sig.	

After the procedures of analyzing the items of the scale and testing the adequacy of the sample size and the correlation matrix , the researcher conducted an exploratory factor analysis to identify the factors behind the psychological phenomenon of the items of the 22-item scale, using the basic components method developed by Hotling (Ferguson & Takane, 1989: 533) on the analysis

sample of ( 400 ) male and female students from Al-Qadisiyah University, resulting from the analysis process (22) factors that were arranged in descending order in terms of their contribution to the calculated variations.

The factors in this method are the factors whose underlying root is equal to or greater than one (1) , and that the size of the saturation in that factor is not less than ( 0.30 ) according to the Threston criterion. If it is less, it is excluded , that is, the factor whose underlying root is less than one indicates a small amount of variation in the original variables themselves , it is better to exclude it because it is not significant ( Gorsuch , 1983 : 133 ) , and this action will take a standard in the factor analysis of this measure , and since the factors that appear through this procedure are not flexible for any psychological explanation; so the researcher intended to rotate the axes to new positions, as the rounded factors will be a description of the attributes (Ferguson & Taken, 1989 : 538) , This means obtaining the largest number of high positive saturations and near-zero saturations, and thus obtaining new derivative factors to which the meaning is assigned, that is redistributing the values of the saturations so that the sectarian groupings of the slave factors become clear (2002 :168).

Therefore, the rotation process used the Farimax method proposed by (Kaiser), which resulted from new saturations for each of the four factors, and table(3) shows this.

**Table (3) Factors resulting from the process of rotating the axes of the scale of extreme responses ( after rotation )**

Item's No.	Factors after rotation			
	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	Factor 4
16	0.793			
14	.764			
13	0.755			
17	0.744			
15	726			
12	0.611			
8		.776		
7		759		
9		0.742		
10		661		
11		0.585		
6		555		
1			.789	
2			784	
3			0.720	
4			0.673	
5			0.534	

19				0.830
20				798.
21				750.
18				0.734
22				0.334
Latent root	3.806	3.435	2.892	2.817
Explanatory variance	17.301	15.613	13.144	12.806
Aggregate variance	17.301	32.913	46.057	58.863

Table (3) shows that the first factor is saturated with (6) items and the second factor with (6) items , while the third factor was saturated with (5) items , while the fourth factor is saturated with (5) items .

It has been found that the factors resulting from the recycling process have psychological meanings according to the saturation of the items . The following is an evaluation of the factors that resulted after the recycling process:

**Factor I:**

This factor is one of the most important factors , as the value of its contribution (3.806), which represents the highest value of the total socialism , which explains (17.301) of the explained variation and from reading the content of those items can be called this factor (aversion to ambiguity).

**Second Factor:**

The Significance of this factor comes in the second place, as the value of its contribution to the total of socialism was (3.435) and explained (15.613) of the explained variation, we can call this factor (psychological tension).

**Factor 3**

The Significance of this factor came in the third degree, as the value of its contribution to the total of socialism was (2.892) and explained (13.144) of the explained variation, and we can call this factor (hardening).

**Factor 4 :**

This factor came fourth in terms of Significance , as the value of its contribution to the total socialism was (2.817) and explained (12.806) of the explained variation, and we can call this factor (authoritarianism).

**Relationship of the field to other fields and the overall score:**

This was verified in light of the use of the Pearson correlation coefficient to find the relationship between the scores of students on each dimension and the overall score of the scale. To achieve this, the researcher adopted (400) forms , and the results indicated that the correlation coefficients of each dimension with the overall score are statistically significant when compared to the critical



value of the significance of the correlation coefficient of (0.098) at the level of significance (0.05) and the degree of freedom (398), and Table (4) shows this.

Table (4) Correlation coefficients between the total score for each dimension in other dimensions and the total score of the scale

No.	Dimensions	Aversion to ambiguity	Psychological tension	Rigidity	Authoritarianism	Total
1	Aversion to ambiguity	1	0.313	0.533	0.444	.8450
2	Psychological tension	-	1	.5410	0.502	.8070
3	Rigidity	-	-	1	.4580	.7210
4	Authoritarianism	-	-	-	1	.5660

From Table (4), it is clear that the values of correlation coefficients are almost relatively high, which indicates that these dimensions are coherently and homogeneously linked together, that is, they measure a single concept that the measure aims to measure, as they all represent extreme responses. In this regard, Anastasi (Anastasi, 1976) pointed out that the correlations of the sub-domains with each other and with the overall degree of the measure are basic scales of homogeneity and help determine the area of behavior to be measured (Anastasi, 1976:155).

Validity and consistency indicators:

Specialists in the field of psychometrics emphasize the need to verify the characteristics of the scale whatever the purpose of its use and the most important of these characteristics is validity and reliability , as these characteristics provide the conditions of validity and accuracy of what the scale is interested in knowing and measuring (Abdul Rahman, 1998: 159).

(1) - **Validity:**

Validity is one of the broad concepts and means that the scale measures what it is designed to measure. The honest scale measures the function it is designed to measure and does not measure other things (Milhem, 2000: 287). The researcher verified that the validity of the scale of extreme responses through the aforementioned confirmatory factor analysis procedures (**construct validity**).

(2) **Reliability :**

The objective of the reliability calculation is to estimate scale errors and propose methods to reduce these errors. The reliability of psychological measures can be verified in multiple ways, including what measures internal consistency, such as (Alpha Cronbach coefficient) (Eble, 1972: 412). Therefore, the reliability of the scale of extreme responses was verified in the way of Alpha Cronbach , as the extraction of reliability in this way depends on the consistency in the

responses of the examiners on each of the items of the scale as it depends on the standard deviation of the scale as a whole and the standard deviation of each item of the scale alone (Return, 1993: 254). The results showed that the value of the reliability coefficient of the scale was (0.742), which is a good reliability coefficient indicating the homogeneity of the items of the scale.

**Scale correction:**

The measure of extreme responses in its final form consists of (22) items that are answered according to a five-degree answer gradient (applies to me very much, applies to me to a large degree, applies to me to a medium degree, applies to me to a small degree, does not apply to me), and thus the theoretical range of the highest degree that a student can obtain (110) and the lowest degree is (22) and the mean of my hypothesis (66) .

Research Findings:

**1. Measuring extremist responses among university students:**

Statistical treatments indicate that university students do not have extreme responses, and Table (5) shows this.

Table(5) The significance of the difference between the arithmetic and theoretical means of university students' grades on the scale of extreme responses

students.	* Arithmetic Mean	Deviance Standard	* Theory	Degree Of freedom	Calculated T-value	Table T-value	level Significance 0.05
400	62.974	10.311	66	399	5.860-	1.96	significant

This result can be explained by the decrease in the intensity of conflict between groups, whether ethnic, sectarian or ethnic, due to the awareness of society in general and university students in particular of the futility of narrow alignments. The university student is an open-minded, flexible and uncompromising person who has the ability to accept and understand the ideas of others, even if they differ in their content with him. Therefore, the idea of tolerance and acceptance of the other has become clearer , as well as his emotional responses are balanced and have the ability to adapt to the environment and others and have the ability to withstand the ambiguity that surrounds some social situations and explain that ambiguity logically, making him step in his responses away from solutions that choose between white and black .

**2. The significance of statistical differences in the extreme responses of university students according to gender variables (males , females) , and specialization (scientific, humanitarian) :**

The zero hypothesis was tested: There are no statistically significant differences at the level of significance (0.05), among university students according to gender variables (males, females), and specialization (scientific, humanitarian).

For the purpose of identifying the significance of the differences between the arithmetic circles of university students' grades on the scale of extreme responses according to the gender variable (males, females), and specialization (scientific, humanitarian), the researcher used the analysis of binary variation (Tow way Anova) at the level of significance (0.05) , and Table (6) shows that.

**Table (6) Significance of differences in students' grades in extreme responses according to gender and specialization variables**

Source of variance	Squares Total	Degree of freedom	Mean squares	Calculated T value	Tabular Value	Level of Significance
Gender	3835.370	1	3835.370	40.276	3.84	0.05
Specialization	371.234	1	371.234	3.898		
(Genderx Specialization)	490.012	1	490.012	2.146		
Error	37615.111	396	95.228			
Total	1624689.000	400				

The previous results in Table (6) show the following :

**Difference by gender variable (males, females) :**

There is a difference between males and females in the extremist response and in favor of males, and this can be due to the low level of extremist responses in the total research sample because the Iraqi society is a male society that tolerates males more than females, which gives males more flexibility in responding even if they are extremist .

**Differences according to specialization (scientific, humanitarian) :**

There is a difference between university students with regard to extreme responses according to the variable of the academic specialization and in favor of the scientific specialization, despite what the results showed in the first goal that university students generally do not have an extreme response, but this statistically significant difference can be due to the students of the scientific specialization who are less open to others because of the nature of their curricula, while students of the humanitarian specialization enjoy more freedom and curricula that enable them to learn about many of the characteristics and cultures of different societies.

**Relavance between Gender and academic specialization:**

There is no interaction between Gender and academic specialization in influencing extreme responses.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

In order for a person to conform to the environment well and have the ability to modify his behaviors and make a more compatible relationship between him and himself on the one hand and between him and the environment ( physical and social ) on the other; he must not feel isolated, alone and withdrawn from the activities of the group , but must interact with others constructively and have self-confidence and the ability to take responsibility , and to feel belonging and realize that there are commonalities between him and others, and does not suffer from ambiguity and seeks information that enables him to respond to ambiguous situations appropriately .

**Recommendations:**

- Urging the counseling units in the faculties of Al-Qadisiyah University to continue to work to identify the serious effects of extremism and encourage living in a mentally open society.
- Enriching the educational curriculum ( for pre-university levels) with aspects that increase the acceptance of the other .

**Suggestions:**

- Conducting research similar to current research in other age groups.
- Conducting research on uncovering the relationship between extremist responses and prevailing values among university students.

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