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# DOMINANT ATTENTION AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO MAKING SOUND DECISIONS AMONG THE REFEREES OF STRIKING SALIVA IN IRAQ

***Dr. Ahmed Allawi Saadoun, **Dr. Hayder Kadhum Issa**
**University of Al Qadisiyah, Iraq*
***Ministry of Education, Iraq*

## ABSTRACT

*The current study aimed to prepare a tool to measure the dominant attention of the first-class referees in the two games (table tennis and tennis), as well as to identify the level of dominant attention of the first-class referees in the two games (table tennis and tennis). The study also aimed to know the effect of the dominant attention on making sound decisions among the first-class referees in the two games (table tennis and tennis), assuming that the level of dominant attention among the first-class referees in the two games (table tennis and tennis), as well as there is no significant relationship between the dominant attention and decision-making The soundness of the first-class referees in the two games (table tennis and tennis) and that there is a percentage of the contribution of the dominant attention to making sound decisions among the first-class referees in the two games (table tennis and tennis) in Iraq. The researchers identified a research community, and they are the tennis players in Iraq for the year 2019, who numbered 50 distributed among 18 tennis game referees and 38 table tennis referees. The experience of the rulers was greater the less they relied on mental processes to make sound decisions. While the referees of the table tennis game depend their correct decisions on the extent to which they possess the dominant attention, and it was also concluded that the percentage of the contribution of the attentional control of the referees with experience less than 5 years is greater than their peers who have more than 5 years of experience in making sound decisions, while the percentage of the contribution of control was The attention of the referees to the game of table tennis is greater than their peers in the game of tennis in making sound decisions.*

***Keywords :*** **Controlling Attention, Bat Play Referees, Decision Making.**

## INTRODUCTION AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The field of knowledge is one of the most important magazines that contributed to the development of the human mind because of its role in acquiring experiences and giving a clear picture of how to perform motor or mental duties, which contributes to identifying the strengths and weaknesses at the level of the individual, and sports is one of the important fields that contribute significantly to developing the knowledge of its practitioners, whether they are players, coaches, or referees. The concept of dominant attention is one of the cognitive concepts that refer to mental processes (attention and focus of attention) and their role in performing motor duties. Rothbart and his

colleagues believe that the decline in dominant attention is not only associated with academic performance, but also interferes with various job problems, because this type of decline results in poor performance when facing controlled or threatening tasks such as curbing routine behaviors, and finding quick solutions to the problems faced. And since the poor performance of mental operations does not enable the individual to succeed in performing his duties and daily tasks, and does not help him in facing risks, it raises feelings of fear, anxiety and frustration, and living in a state of danger or mismatch (Al-Jabari, 2017, pg. 2-3). From this point of view, the researcher studies the cognitive behaviors, including the dominant attention of the first-class table tennis referees, and stands on its level and its relationship to making arbitrary decisions appropriate to the different playing situations.

## RESEARCH PROBLEM

The game (table tennis and tennis) is one of the games that need referees with a high degree of mental operations, as it deals with players with a fast pace and a small ball that requires a great nervous effort to control the course of the match and take sound decisions, by showing the field researcher to the racket play tournaments in some The provinces noticed that there are some simple control errors, especially in the balls that are close to the outer lines of the playing table, due to the speed of performance, which prompted the researcher to study some mental processes associated with sound decision-making, including (controlling attention) and knowing their impact on the level of first-class referees' performance in racket games.

## RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

1. Preparing a tool to measure the dominant attention of the first-class referees in the two games (table tennis and tennis) in Iraq.
2. To identify the dominant level of attention of the first-class referees in the two games (table tennis and tennis) in Iraq.
3. To realize the effect of dominant attention by making sound decisions for the first-class referees in the two games (table tennis and tennis) in Iraq.

## RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

1. What is the level of attention of the first-class referees in the two games (table tennis and tennis) in Iraq?
2. There is no significant relationship between the dominant attention and sound decision-making of the first-class referees in the two games (table tennis and tennis) in Iraq.
3. The percentage of the contribution of the dominant attention to making sound decisions among the first-class referees in the two games (table tennis and tennis) in Iraq.

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## RESEARCH FIELDS

1- **The human field**: First-class referees for the two games (table tennis and tennis) in Iraq for the year 2019The spatial field: tennis courts and halls in Al-Rafidain Sports Club in Al-Qadisiyah Governorate.
2- **The spatial field**: the headquarters of the sub-associations of the clubs participating in the table tennis tournaments
3- **The time frame**: From 10/2019 to 11/25/2019.

## TERMS DEFINING

**Attentional Control:**

- The individual's ability to focus attention on sensory perceptions and shift attention flexibly between tasks and thoughts and control them.
- It is represented in the ability to select and organize conscious cognitive attention and implement the appropriate response in conflicting situations and is related to the mechanisms of self-regulation [1].

**The Main Research Procedures:**

The researchers have chosen the descriptive approach with correlational relations due to its suitability to the nature of the current research problem.

**Sample and Community of the Study**

The researcher identified a community and a research sample, and they are the first- and second-class referees in the Central Federation of Racket Games, who numbered 50 male referees who wished to participate in the research procedures, distributed over 5 provinces, namely (Baghdad, Hilla, Maysan, Qadisiyah, and Wasit), and they were contacted through an acrobat procedure in the means of communication for easiness of reporting and providing information to them, as shown in Table (1).

| **Provinces** | **No. of Referees** | | **Yeas of Experience** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Tennis** | **Table** | **From 1-5** | **From 5 and above** |
| *Baghdad* | 3 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| *Diwaniyah* | 5 | 10 | 7 | 10 |
| *Hilla* | 2 | 4 | - | 6 |
| *Maysan* | 3 | 7 | 3 | 7 |

[1] *Farah Mazen Salih (2018): Attentive control and its relationship to three-dimensional intelligence among university students, master's thesis (unpublished), University of Baghdad, College of Education, Iraq. p. 30*

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Wasit* | 7 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| *Total* | 20 | 30 | 18 | 32 |

A tool was prepared to measure the variable of attentional control according to the theory (Isaac 1992), as this tool consists of 20 items distributed over two areas: focusing attention by 9 items and the field of diverting attention by 11 items. In Appendix (1).

**The validity of Research Instrument**

The researchers resorted to extracting the validity of the research performance by presenting the tool to a group of experts and specialists in the field of cognitive psychology and personality psychology using a questionnaire form for the purpose of expressing their opinions about the validity of the scale on the research sample. Thus, the dominant attention tool enjoys high validity, and its results can be relied upon, as shown in Table (2).

**Research Instrument Consistency**

The researchers extracted the stability of the dominant attention scale by applying the scale on a sample of 10 second-degree judges from outside the main sample, and after a period of two weeks had passed from the first application, the researcher applied the scale on the same sample and in the same physical conditions. After extracting and tabulating the results, the researcher used the simple correlation coefficient (Pearson) to extract the stability of the research tool over time. The stability index appeared, which is the correlation coefficient between the average of the two applications.

***Table (2) The Validity and Reliability Indicators of The Research Instrument***

| Variable | Validity | Consistency |
|---|---|---|
| *Focus Attention* | 100% | 0.865 |
| *Divert Attention* | 90% | 0.844 |
| *Attentive Control* | 95% | 0.854 |

**Making sound decisions in arbitration**

The researcher resorted to making a video that contains 15 positions in the table tennis game in various local, Arab and international tournaments, and he presented it to a research sample of 40 first-class referees and "developed an answer form distributed with arbitration cases for each position so that it contains two answers It is (true or false) and as in Appendix (1), where the respondent (the referee) chooses one of the two answers in each of the situations presented to him if he is given a degree (1) for the correct answer and a degree (0) for the wrong answer if it is "the

highest degree he gets" The laboratory is 15 degrees, and the lowest score is zero. In order to reach the highest degree of credibility for this procedure, the researcher presented it to a group of referees who bear an international sign  to ensure the validity of the control solutions. All positions obtained a validity rate of 100%, and thus the followed procedure is considered sound and its results can be relied upon.

**The Main Experiment**

After preparing the current research tools according to the scientific foundations, the researcher, with the help of the assistant staff, applied them to the main research sample for the period from 1-10-2021 to 11-15-2019, with a governorate rate every week. analysis and interpretation of its results.

## PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF THE STUDY RESULTS

**The First Hypothesis:**

What is the level of attention of the first-class referees in the two games (table tennis and tennis) in Iraq? The researchers analyzed the results using the T law for one sample, as shown in Table (3).

| Variables | No. of Individuals | Mean | Std Dev. | Hypothetical Mean | T-Value | Sig. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| From 1-5 years | 18 | 63.45 | 3.674 | 60 | 3.453 | 0.023 |
| From 5 years and above | 32 | 72.57 | 5.382 | 60 | 6.275 | 0.000 |

It is clear from the above table that the arithmetic mean of the group (1-5) experience amounted to (63.45) with a standard deviation of (3.674), and when compared with the hypothetical mean of (60) using the T law for one sample, the coefficient of difference between the two means is (3.453), which is a function at the level of (0.023), while the arithmetic mean of the group (5) and above with experience reached (72.57) with a standard deviation of (5.382), and when compared with the hypothetical mean of (60) using the T-law for one sample, the coefficient of difference between the two means is (5.275), which is a function of level (0.000). This shows that the two samples have a good level of attention, and the researcher attributes this to the fact that most of the referees participated in developmental and training courses over the years of their experience, which contributed greatly to lowering their attention skill, which was evident in the tests applied to them.

So mental ability (attention) can be developed rapidly if it is trained in the same environment as its management[2].

**The Second Hypothesis**

"There is no significant relationship between the dominant attention and sound decision-making of the first-class referees in the two games (table tennis and tennis) in Iraq." To answer this hypothesis, the researcher applied the simple correlation coefficient (Pearson) and what is shown in Table (4).

| Main Variables | Subsidiary Variable | No. of Individuals | Correlation Coefficient | Standard Error | Sig. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Years of Experience* | From 1-5 | 18 | 0.453 | 1.3424 | 0.031 |
| | From 5 and above | 32 | 0.412 | 1.4462 | 0.023 |
| *According to Game Type* | Tennis | 20 | 0.365 | 1.7354 | 0.041 |
| | Tennis Table | 30 | 0.548 | 1.3852 | 0.001 |

It is clear from the above table that the correlation coefficient between the variables of dominant attention and making sound decisions for a sample that has experience (1-5) years was (0.453) and for a sample (5 years or more) it was (0.412), while the correlation coefficient for the sample according to the type of game was (0.365). for the ruler of the tennis game and (0.548) for the rulers of table tennis, all of which are significant at the level of significance of 0.05. This shows that "there is a direct significant correlation between dominant attention and making sound decisions, and this is confirmed by the sources of experimental psychology, as it showed that taking the right action depends primarily on the individual's ability to pay attention and transform it.[3]" Some studies also showed that most of the correct actions depend to a large extent on the individual's ability to control and develop his mental processes, including attention, "which significantly reduces error behavior. It is worth noting that any skill, no matter how complex, can be performed and control its joints greatly if the appropriate attentional environment is available to learn it. The referees of the table depend on the decision-making skill to a large extent on their dominant attention.

**The Third Hypothesis**

Third, "The percentage of the dominant attention's contribution to sound decision-making among first-class referees in the two games (table tennis and tennis) in Iraq." To answer this hypothesis,

[2] Muhammad Hafez Suwaidan (2001): Motor Learning and Mental Abilities, 1st Edition, Dar Al-Fikr Al-Arabi, Cairo, pg. 69

[3] - Hussein Al-Sharifi (2010) Experimental Psychology, Contemporary Studies, 1st Edition, Dar Al-Diyaa, Al-Najaf Al-Ashraf, p. 189

the researcher applied the regression coefficient to find out the percentage of the contribution of the independent variable to the dependent variable, as shown in Table (5).

*Table (5) Shows the Percentage of The Contribution of Dominant Attention to Making Sound Decisions*

| **Variables** | **Consistent** | **Residuals** | **Standard Error** | **Correlation Coefficient** | **Contribution Percentage** | **Sig.** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Years of Experience* | From 1-5 | 1.784 | 0.686 | 0.453 | 0.205 | 0.021 |
| | From 5 and above | 2.478 | 0.292 | 0.412 | 0.170 | 0.044 |
| *According to Game Type* | Tennis | 2.315 | 0.473 | 0.365 | 0.133 | 0.015 |
| | Tennis Table | 2.094 | 0.491 | 0.548 | 0.300 | 0.000 |

It appears from Table (5) that the percentage of the contribution of the dominant attention in decision-making was for the rulers who have experience up to 5 years amounted to (0.205), while the percentage of the contribution of the dominant attention in decision-making was for the rulers who have more than 5 years it amounted to (0.170), as well the percentage of the contribution of the dominant attention in decision-making was for the referees, the game of tennis, amounted to (0.133). The researchers attributed the superiority of the percentage of the contribution of the dominant attention to the referees who have experience of less than 5 years, to the fact that their experience is low, and thus relying heavily on his mental processes is greater than relying on their experience in similar situations during arbitration. Kamal Al-Badawi (2001) believes that the accumulated experience of the individual contributes greatly to the performance of his duties in a smooth manner and with zero errors."[4] This confirms what the results of the current study showed, that is, the less years of experience an individual has in dealing with different situations, the more he needs his mental processes to control and make appropriate decisions. Also, from the above table, we see that the percentage of the dominant attention contribution to the tennis referees was less than the percentage of his contribution with the referees of the table tennis game, and the researcher attributes this to the fact that the table tennis game has a small area and quick salivation that needs to focus attention. And transforming it in a large and fast way, and this means relying on the capabilities of mental processes, including the attention that controls the speed of the course of the match, which contributes greatly to sound decision-making, and this reinforces what was stated in the study "(Hay Allah Al-Dakhili 2009) that attention is one of the mental processes that find greater activities whenever the stimulus is Confined to a specific place, "that is, the tennis ball

[4] - Kamal Murad Al-Badawi (2001): Technical management is based on its principles. Its steps, 1st edition, Dar Al-Fikr Al-Arabi, Cairo, 2001, p. 29.

game is characterized by its pristine area, and therefore the dominant attention in it, the percentage of its contribution to making the right decisions is less compared to the game" table tennis ball.

## CONCLUSIONS

1. The Iraq batsmen have a good level of attentional control.
2. The greater the experience of the rulers, the less they rely on mental processes to make sound decisions.
3. Table tennis referees base their correct decisions on how much attention they have
4. The percentage of attentional control contribution of judges with experience less than 5 years was greater than their peers who had experience of more than 5 years in making sound decisions.
5. The contribution of the attentional control of the referees to the game of table tennis was greater than that of their peers in the game of tennis in making sound decisions.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Work on developing the different mental capacities of the referees for tennis games in Iraq.
2. Involve them in continuous arbitration sessions aimed at making sound decisions.
3. A study of some other mental variables for the referees of racket games in Iraq.

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***Appendix (1) Attentive Control Test***

[1]. It is difficult for me to focus on a difficult task when there is noise around me
[2]. When I need to focus on a problem and solve it, I find it difficult to focus my attention.
[3]. I am working hard on something, I am still distracted by the events around me.
[4]. My concentration is good even with music in the room around me.
[5]. When concentrating, I can focus my attention so that I am not aware of what is happening in the room around me.
[6]. When I am reading or studying, I get easily distracted if there are people talking in the same room.
[7]. When I try to focus my attention on something, I find it difficult to block out distracting thoughts.
[8]. I find it hard to focus when I get excited about something.
[9]. When concentrating, I ignore feelings of hunger or thirst.
[10]. I can quickly switch from one task to another.
[11]. It takes time to really engage with a new task.
[12]. It is difficult for me to coordinate my attention between listening and writing required when taking notes during lectures.
[13]. I can become interested in a new topic very quickly when I need to. 14 It is easy for me to read or write while on the phone.
[14]. I find it difficult to have two conversations at once.
[15]. I find it hard to come up with new ideas quickly.
[16]. After being interrupted or distracted, I can easily switch my attention back to what I was doing before.
[17]. When a distracting thought comes to mind, it is easy for me to turn my attention away from it.
[18]. It is easy for me to alternate between two different tasks.
[19]. It's hard for me to get out of the way of thinking about something and looking at it from another point of view.