

Stadium on Afternoon and Its Players Behavioral Patterns of Social Interaction: Sociological Intuition through Observation. The Case of University of Gondar

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Abstract

This observational study was aimed to explore social behavioral patterns of interactions and its manifestations of football players in field at Tewodros Campus, University of Gondar. The study contained student footballers to this study in the field. The footballer's behavioral patterns seen in field were in two continuum of dimensions. These were constructive and destructive behavioral patterns of interactions. The above two continuum of behavioral patterns had interrelation with philosophical underpinning and sociological theoretical assumptions in which were seen in field. These philosophical underpinnings give insight about how nature of social realities exists in the social spaces/football field and how these realities be understood by scholars in order to gain knowledge with following scientific research procedures and help of rigor of grammatical and logical flow of ideas in search for realities through based up on ethical principles of researches. In which, Ontological, epistemological, axiological, rhetorical, and methodological philosophical assumptions were inter-relatedly used to get sound understanding of observation as was used in the study. Also, symbolic interactionism and phenomenological theoretical assumptions were seen with the situations in the field while the researcher conducted it. Finally, this observational study was concluded with those two constructive and destructive behavioral patterns such as forming team, agreement, having nickname in field, related actions and consensus, building good emotion, and building good physical health condition and hooliganism/ interruption, verbal assaults, racism/technicism (extremism) aggressiveness and conflict respectively.

Keywords: Behavioral patterns, Ontological, Epistemological, Axiological, Rhetorical, Methodological, Destructive, Constructive

1. Background and Rationale of the Study

Globalization is a multifaceted phenomenon and construct that that speak of “acceleration, widening and deepening of cross-border transactions, linking not just economies but governance, cultures and people’s lives” (Rakodi & Nkurunziza, 2007). Though its categorization intermittently vary between authors, the one by Kurdrle (1999) is wide-ranging and quite useful for the current analysis. Kurdrle (1999) distinguishes between *communication*, *market*, and *direct globalization*, aspects of which offer us a composite idea of the occurrence. To him, *communication globalization* involves technological-mediated innovations in telecommunications and transportation such as satellite/cable television, fiber optics, the internet, airplanes, high speed rail, etc. that do accentuate the ‘quantitative differences’ between successive epochs and enable the trans-positioning of events and images in distant places to the recesses of private homes. He also sees this aspect of globalization as the prime mover that has “facilitated market globalization and intensified direct globalization” (p. 4). This is akin to the ‘time-space compression’ notion of Harvey (1989), which Robert Kurdrle like many contemporary globalization scholars believe underpins the operation and movement of multinational corporations. This time-space reduction also shapes the ensuing global financial architecture of *market globalization*, on the one hand, and the accompanying ‘international externalities’ or *direct globalization*, on the other – that is, the “non-marketed actions that palpably affect persons across borders” (Kurdrle, 1999: 4). He distinguishes these ‘externalities’ of communication globalization into the economic, cultural and comparison effects. In effect, the widespread economic and cultural diffusion have accentuated the disposition for bench-marking and opportunities to compare and make choices.

McPhail (2006) perceives global media- space as the era of ‘media colonialism’, which is the existing unequal global media-space in which major media conglomerates are dominating the airwaves and tabloids of less developed countries. According to him, this development phase is preceded by three earlier phases – *military colonialism* (BC-1000), *Christian colonialism* (1000 1600), and *mercantile colonialism* (1600 1950) – all of which involve, one way or the other, some ‘colonization’ of the mind. Contemporary globalization is perceived from the perspective of Western technological/economic and cultural dominance in two contrasting manner, either as ‘improved of everything’ or ‘destroyer of everything’ (Short & Kim, 1999). While some scholars believe that globalization has brought about significant improvement in lifestyle, environmental standards and even political freedom world over, to mention a few, others blame it for deep economic and social

polarization, among other things. In this respect, what is at issue is the extent to which the globalization processes of transnational football broadcasting and electronic fandom in Nigeria is contributing to the falling support for the national league as epitomized the frequency of empty stadiums during matches (Information Nigeria, 2014).

As cited in (Otto M.J. Adang, 2011), every society has intermittent and sometimes violent outbreaks of collective violence, be it in the form of urban riots, soccer hooliganism, escalated protest events or festivities gone out of hand. Over the years, analyses of what are considered to be excesses in “crowd behavior” have generated controversy. In 1972 the American sociologist Richard Berk noted that the by then extensive social-scientific literature about the behavior of crowds and the behavior of people in crowds was mostly based on restricted information and unsubstantiated interpretations (Berk, 1972). Almost twenty years later, American sociologist and collective behavior researcher Clark McPhail (1997) indicates that: “For more than a century the study of crowds was strangled by the methodological stereotype that ‘systematic research can't be done’.” Similarly, in providing an excellent recent overview of the literature on football field conflict, Frosdick & Marsh (2005) note how little of this literature was and is based on direct observations, let alone systematic observations, of football violence. As Frosdick & Marsh (2005) pertinently note: “This lack of objective facts in theory and research on football hooliganism has bedeviled the debate since the 1960s”.

Unlike Berk, 1972 and Clark McPhail, 1997; this study is not aimed to investigate methodological and systematic approach unavailability on behavioral problems of footballers; but, what the behavioral patterns and interaction of them in small football field and the interaction among players seem like in light qualitative philosophical foundations and sociological theories and how much the researcher could express what he has seen in football field. And also, the researcher also wants to try create mental picture of football field seems like and how conflict and harmony arises even from lower level of matches.

Now a days in Ethiopia, here and there sport community, commentators, sport analysts and expertise are complaining about transgressions of players on football fields. The problems in football field were inter-club and intra - club conflicts. Intra - conflicts were not that much took attention of the researchers and escalated to intractable conflict. Whoever, inter-club conflicts were seen as escalating to another form of conflicts. The conflicts which were arises at football field made it to be ethnic and racial conflict without substances related to racial and ethnic background on the conflicts. The amount, content of interaction and communication contributed to the problems those can be seen in football needs to be studied qualitatively to inherently to understand the situations which should not leads to escalation to another form and destructs in the universities. In today's university students, conflicts are escalated because of some students in the football fields which should be understood how it become to whole university students and might gone to interruption of class because of this problem and it gets to be another form of conflict related with socio-political, socio - cultural and others. In contrary to the above reality football is important to create companion among players and other social groups, to form social forms and groups/ team etc.... as constructive social behavior.

1.1 Objective of the Study

The overall aim of this paper was to explore Observational social behavioral patterns of interactions and its manifestations of football players in sociological intuition in field at Tewodros Campus, University of Gondar.

1.2 Methodology of the Study

According to Cooper & White, 2012; qualitative research considers reality not as a fixed, objective, and constant construct but as a more unsolidified, short-lived and ever-changing thing. And also, this research relies on the underlying philosophical assumption of relativist ontology, constructionist and hermeneutic understanding of conflicts in the field of study in line with attuned objectives of the study (Sparkes & Smith, 2014). Hence, this study will see the social behavioral patterns in football field short lived, and everchanging in which the researcher to construct meaning of body movement of the players with the use of necked eye.

1.2.1 Research Approach and Design

Football field violence as social identity and meaningful action, have been touched upon the role of violence in identity formation and the moral and aesthetic values of the game/football matches Spaaij (2007). As can be seen form the study of Spaaij, football matches lose its beauty nature with conflict which arises in the field than entertaining the audiences and sport community.

1.2.2 Data Collection Tool

According to (Fusco 1994; Schwartz and Ryan 2003), photographs were also used to help ‘reconstruct’ visions of the ‘primitive cultures’ that they supposedly depicted in ‘illustrative tableaux’, including indigenous people imported to inhabit them, made for the education and entertainment of the Western public at a series of ‘great exhibitions’ and ‘world fairs’. So, in this research paper the researcher will take photo from the football stadium as firsthand information in addition to field note document and live visual perception by the researcher.

As written by Ciesielska, 2018; understanding players in online games, a researcher may try to combine participant and indirect observation: auto-observation of game playing, observation of other players, asking them for explanations and comments, becoming a member of the game subculture, and so on. And as claimed by (Marcus 1995); if it is methodologically justified, the main area of observation may be a specific locality where interesting events and interactions usually occur, but often the research problem requires a “multi-local” or “trans-local” fieldwork where a researcher can follow people, objects, a specific symbol, a metaphor, story, or biography. Therefore, this study will focus on stadium centered non-observation participant for the conflict arises among players in different group. In so doing, the researcher referred different documents about observation and related methodology in conduction through only observation.

2. Findings of the Study

2.1 Description of the Social Space: Detailed Description of the Space Observed

University of Gondar was found before some 60 years ago. University of Gondar was organized with five campuses. These are Tseda, Fasil, Tewodros, Maraki and GC campuses. Among these, three campuses were under umbrella of main campus which means Tewodros, Maraki and Fasil campuses were in the compound but different locations. Among these mains campus only Tewodros Campus had Stadium to which both staffs and student of both sexes to entertain within it. The stadium was constructed very well and had fill many things in it. The stadium is located at the central part of the campus behind main registrar and staff residence and on southern direction of classrooms of the campus. With in the stadium there were back stage and front stages from the back stages of the stadium constructed for playing we can find that there were cafeterias, gymnasium, sport show rooms (sport tv rooms), pool houses, coffee houses, meeting hall yet unfinished, bath rooms, clothing rooms yet not functional with in campus playing times, shops, clothes repairing shops etc. The Front stage there were many things for instance, audience sits older and not yet finished newer, running truck, parallel bar, horizontal bar, step jumping field, and football field.

Well with seeing the organization of the stadium it is better to focus on the social behavioral prompts and usual traffic of in this social space (stadium). By principle, players were expected to engage on the football and any of physical exercise activities 2-3 time per week for their good physical fitness. And the timing had its own implication to do our exercise. Morning and afternoon are preferable for exercise to be practiced by the people. It seems with this reason might made the students at Tewodros campus stadium engaged most of the time on afternoon which caught the attention of the researcher. Most of the time while I am going with in the campus I saw that many students were playing in the stadium and then planned to conduct my observation. Among many sports types I was interested to observe Football because it players interaction and population number impressed me to conduct it. Among the types of interaction of the players were greeting each other, warming up with ball or with out ball, counting opponents and proponent game teams and starting it. Not all players do the above-mentioned interaction before interning to football field. However, some players inter to the field without greeting, and warming up exercises.

Most of the time while I conducted my observation almost all clubs involved male players in the field. Up to have some misconception of ‘*football is for Males*’; females were not playing on my 3 phases observations. The players use the stadium consensually one with other teams with dividing the field in to 5 to 6 parts. In a single stadium because of the presence of many students and clubs, they divided deliberately in to 5 to 6 including running track and jumping zones for football playing. This implies, there were many students interested to play football, absence of additional football stadium for these 3 campus students, football playing might signify more pleasure by most of male students.

Also, in the stadium there were many students doing many other exercises like dig up, pull up, push up and on another side of the stadium there were basketball, handball, and Net ball field which can be used most of the times with disciplinary students (sport science students).

While I choose stadium for my observation, I expected to see how much students interested in football and what behavior could be seen while they playing in the field. And also, there were many challenges I faced while I was observing the situations in the football field. In ability to identify who belongs to which team/club and where is the delineated mark for each-others on field to play because the single field contained many clubs while they were play. To identify the players as if I am conducting observational study I used phone video and photo to record the players behavioral patterns and interactions.

2.1.1 Patterns of Social Interactions

As can be minimized and analyzed from the 3 session of each 30 minutes records of the behaviors of players at stadium of Tewodros campus; the following main behavioral patterns were identified category of behaviors of players. The following variables were few those can be understood from seeing behavior of people on social interaction.

2.1.1.1 Constructive Social Behavioral Patterns

Constructive Behavior seen in the field were: forming team, agreement, having nickname in field, related actions and consensus, building good emotion, and building good physical health condition.

Forming a team: is a kind of forming social group in order to be competent on that specific game. It is one form of creating social organization in sociological aspect. The players might form this group with ability to play, passion with each-others, and/or accordingly with batch, religion, race and language they were speaking. Forming a team is equally counted and before starting of the game.

Agreement: is one of the aspects among the two matching clubs with their capability and other forms of consensus to continue their playing. While I was observing the teams on the field those who formed agreement continue their playing until evening and those who cannot agree each-others intra-group disagreement and inter-group disagreement interrupted immaturely before attuned time.

Nick Naming: nick naming is one of the interesting kinds of fun creation from the football field. If a player acting alike as European player (England premier league) player style then his co-players give the name of the England footballer. While I was observing in the field almost all who worn football play shirts which was named by European vs. England player number with name. for instance, Salah, Messi, Rolando, Eto'o etc... this implies an ambition of the players for nick naming. Wearing of European football team players shirts bears in my mind that the players can use nick name for local players with those professionals.

Emotion: in the football field it is obvious that the players become emotional/ motivational emotion to own goals and help the team to win the game. As per my observations, the players face become hot with emotion to attack the opponent to keep up goal and come over them with success. Here the emotions that the players exhibit was constructive with the aim of attaining the goal of success.

Physical goodness: after each terms of the games over the student players seems as they were tired enough. Which means, from my observation experience if they were burning unnecessary fats and fatigue acids from their body the students are building their good physical appearance and health.

Generally, the players contribute very important behavioral interactional actions while they were in the field. These constructive types of behavior were not always or usually be seen in every team or a team might not fold these behaviors always. Because, from day to day and interactional level and mood of the student players matters for the effective relationship of the players. If there is mismatch of conduct of behavior of the players it leads to destructive aspect of the game to which the following elaborated as follows.

2.1.1.2 Destructive social Behavioral Pattern

Destructive Social Behavior were: hooliganism/ interruption, verbal assaults, racism/technicism (extremism) aggressiveness and conflict.

Hooliganism/interruption: the players misconduct which is related with adolescence behavior. This kind of behavior was seen on observation as they bearing their physical experiences and gesture. Hooligan players can be easily identified with their physical expression as they were superior of other with their playing ability, ethnic majority, religious officiators wide number. Such kind of behaviors were related expression with extreme feeling of us-ness and other-ness feeling.

Ethnic Extremism: Ethnic exposure of one with other and among themselves is natural. But, based on ethnic identity and extreme activities like forming unconsciously club to attack others and to get others under control of their power were destructive activities on Universities in our country today. While I was observing the players, it was seen and perceived as they were formed based on their ethnic group to which other could not participate on their game this was gained through when everyone could not go to any one of the clubs to play

this implies that the players may not be only from ethnic extremism might be based on department, Religion, language and/or administrative regions. So, whatever what it is, if it gone to any of the extreme it is serious problem in higher institutions.

Aggression: aggression is one of the emotional behavioral aspect of players in the field. However, the magnitude of the aggression level matters either the behavior is constructive or destructive. If the players aggression is too extreme it led the match to another form of interaction which is escalated conflict. In my observation, I have seen that the players who were very anxious in the field from their facial expression they mostly clash with the opponent players and get conflict. When the one very anxious begin conflict with the opponent; then the other also conflict with the other with supporting the one who priory started conflicting. The situation also might lead to another forms of conflict like Ethnic, religious, departmental, etc.

Conflict: in any form of social situation in general and football matches in particular, those clubs or games formed with the form of presence of socio-political and ethnic tensions; people may arise conflict very easily through hooligan, ethnicity, hatred developed one on the other, and takes another form which can damage many people. While I am observing the teams in the field those who are formed may be based on ethnicity was better interactive than those based on departmental, religiously or any other social forms. Hence, nowadays with the advocacy of ethnic politics for many years which fragmented immature minds of new generation which take wider opportunity for the up rise of conflicts in any of the country. When I observe in the field other teams also interrupted their playing while conflict arises on one of the team playing in the stadium. This is a kind of taking part of others; if a specific kind of social problem arises in one side of the society can disturb the other corner of the society. To this illustration, if a kind of problem arises in one of public university in the country; most of other universities become disturbed and get in turmoil with rumor occurred even without any logical problem occurred in its origin. In many of my observation I could not see even police that can handle if the problems occur in the field. So, one of the social spaces to which conflict might arise because of multifaceted origin which could led the university in disturbance. So, this I am informing the university to plan to owe police in the stadium in the future.

2.2 Speculations of the Researcher about the Patterns of Behaviors Seen in the Field with Philosophical Underpinnings and Sociological Theories

2.2.1 Philosophical Foundations

As can observed in the field, the researcher saw that there were about 6 teams in the stadium those are playing. The player's team seem as founded based on ethnic, religious, departmental or interest groups to play in the field. Form the above 4 category of formation of players group was not expected.

Minimum of 6 and maximum of 8 individual players were included in each team (pair of play) was seen in the stadium per. Which means? From 36-48 players might be in the field at a time. In this case, it can be comprehensibly that how much the field might be overcrowded to which it was constructed to keep only 22 players in the field. It is respectably to see conflict can arise in the field.

Relationship of football field claimed social behaviors by the researcher is taken as realities which can occur among University students was taken as *Ontological* aspect. In which feature of social realities which exist among human being when they interact with others in social space could be related with ontological philosophical underpinning. Hence, as can be seen in the football field which categorized in the above destructive and constructive behaviors as social facts of situations which can give responsible bodies of the university to know about such occurrences.

The way that I used to understand, and perceive the behavior that players in the field through use of my naked eye considered as the way of *constructing knowledge*. My inspiration to know about what are the behaviors and how these behaviors could be interpreted and constructed in my mind in relation with the realities gained from the field i.e. knowledge interpreted as either constructive or destructive behavior is considered as *Epistemological philosophical* aspect of knowledge gained from conducting the research.

Also, as a researcher I used somewhat *procedures* to be used in researches in this specific study. Hence, I was engaged of *methodological* aspect of research as one of philosophical underpinning of research.

Furthermore, I used the ethical aspects those could be done by researchers in the field while conducting data collection, minimizing and interpreting it. In this instance, I also engaged on valuing field as social behavior can

be seen, research is a good scholarly power of mental aspect about social realities, and considering football field as aesthetic issue of life of youths. Thus, I related these aspects of the issues of stadium which was constructed for football, researcher value of the social behavior and its pattern of interactions of the players, disciplinary aspects of the players seen as *axiological* aspect of researches. The researcher using principles of data collections, minimizing of it and interpretation through only a sense organ with ethical which is axiological philosophical aspects to be done by researchers.

Lastly, I used *grammatical* and *logical* flow of ideas in this min research to persuade reader of this study even from stating title to the conclusions and recommendations could be considered as Rhetorical issues in my study. Not only what I used in my research as logical and grammatical flow of ideas; the players themselves persuade their playing capability in field which might be expected from the audience in the tribble and the way they resolve conflict in the field could be considered as *Rhetorical* aspects in the football field.

2.2.2 Sociological Theories

Sociologists are differing from other scientists through critical observation of social behavior and interpreting it with sound sociological perspective. So this, the researcher impressed with the above observational aspects of the footballers with the following theoretical point of views.

2.2.2.1 Symbolic Interactionism in Football Field

Student going to football field with forming teams associating football team as social organization which can leads to success, ball as a symbol of interaction and which can give their pleasure with entertaining in public spheres. And also, association of football as means of symbol for developing social capital. Hence, this study considered ball as symbol which can help for the interactions of players.

2.2.2.2 Phenomenology and interaction of football players in the field

Phenomenology is the aspect of situational occurrences among and between individuals and behaviors. The behaviors that players show with the tension of situation of game which might be constructive or destructive to the campus or the people hopefully talk about those behavior in the field.

3. Conclusions

In conducting this rapid evidence assessment on behavioral patterns of footballer at Tewodros Campus stadium, University of Gondar, I have sought to understand two questions: What are violent and antisocial behavior takes place at football matches as destructive behaviors and what are Normal pro-social behavior takes place at football matches as constructive behaviors. The report describes the key antisocial and violent behaviors that may be witnessed in relation to football events, such as verbal abuse, physical attacks, acts of vandalism and other criminal activities, while also noting that football environments can also foster positive behaviors and social dynamics.

This observation then presented findings from the review of the field note on the destructive behaviors which may drive violent and antisocial behavior in football fans and fields are: hooliganism/ interruption, verbal assaults, racism/ethnicity (extremism) aggressiveness and conflict. In contrary to these destructive behaviors the players may construct good behaviors for the fans in football fields. These are: forming team, agreement, having nickname in field, related actions and consensus, building good emotion, and building good physical health condition.

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