



Reasoning skills can be classified as mainly inductive and deductive reasoning skills but there are also additional reasoning skills such as analogical, abductive based on the definitions or classifications. Induction is a way of making inferences about the unobserved object or items from the previous observation or experiences. It makes generalizations regarding the characteristics between objects and species with previous observations and experiences. It is used to formulate relationships and to formulate general statements and rules through limited observations of phenomenal models [11, 9]. Deductive reasoning is the process of extracting a specific result from the general cases. Basically, it can be said that there is a kind of reasoning that makes the condition brought by the assumptions more explicit. Deductive reasoning is monotone and focused on certainty. The expressions such as all men are mortal can be applied to all people without exception. Deductions are mainly related with hypothesis and predictions whereas inductions are chiefly related with experiences and identifications. As for the abduction, it is simply defined as to infer the best explanation among the products of inductive and deductive reasoning and analogical reasoning is simply defined as to make analogy among the products of induction and deduction based on the resemblances of the characteristics of the concepts (Figure 2).

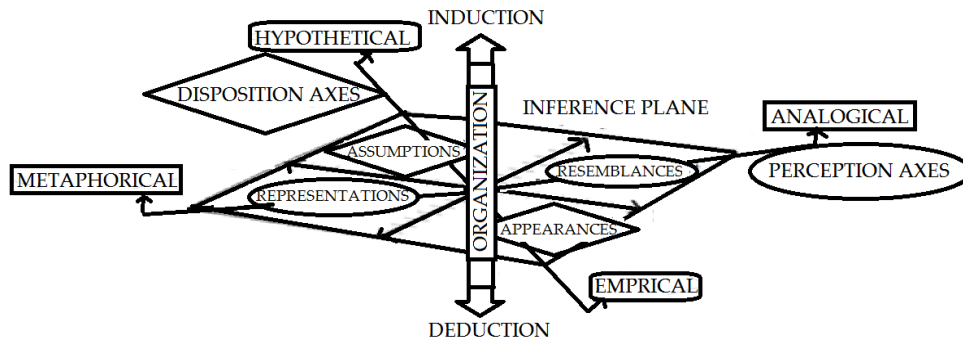


Figure 2. Reasoning styles model [6].

A style of reasoning is a pattern of inferential relations that are used to select, interpret, and support evidence for scientific results or specific phenomena [3]. Reasoning styles model is a model developed by Duran (2019), Duran and Özer (2017), Duran (2014) [6,7,8] classifying reasoning skills in the context of styles. According to this model there is an inference plane consists from four dimensions as representations, assumptions, resemblances and appearances. There are three axes in this model as perception axes, disposition axes and organization axes (Figure 3, 4).

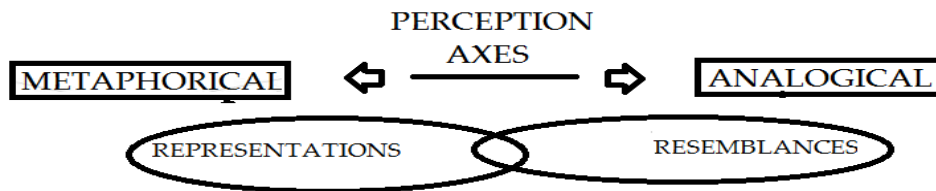


Figure 3. Perception axes

Perception axes include two dimensions as representations or resemblances (Figure 3). The reason why it is called as perception axes is that human cognition is fundamentally either based on sensations –outward orientation- or the ideas –inward orientation-. Therefore, inferences based on representations are defined as metaphorical whereas inferences based on the resemblances are analogical. Those two inferences patterns as metaphorical and analogical are located in the opposite corner of the inference plane because representations are the inferences based on the ideas created in an abstract ways whereas resemblances are mainly based on the data of the through sensations.

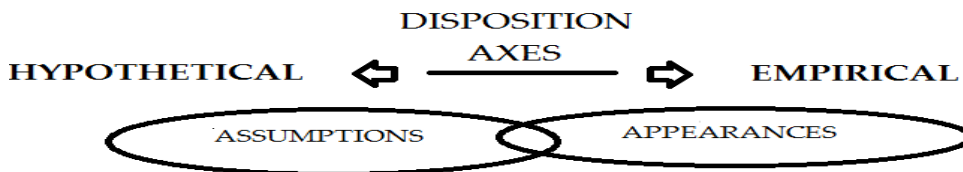


Figure 4. Disposition axes

Disposition axes include two dimensions as assumptions and appearances (Figure 4). The reason why it is called as

disposition axes is that inferences can be structured fundamentally either based on appearances –outward orientation- or the assumptions –inward orientation-. Hence, inferences based on assumptions are defined as hypothetical whereas inferences based on the appearances are empirical. Those two inferences patterns as hypothetical and empirical are located in the opposite corner of the inference plane because assumptions are disposed based on the ideas created in an abstract ways whereas appearances are fundamentally based on the data of the through sensations. To sum up inference plane consists of empirical and analogical part because the analogical and empirical inferences are tangible and concrete and there is an opposite inference dimension as hypothetical and metaphorical because they are abstract and idea-oriented.

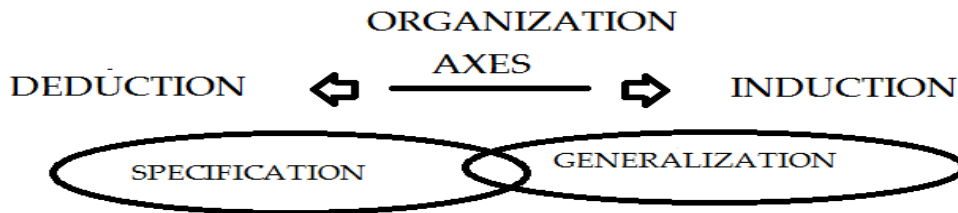


Figure 5. Organization axes

As for the dimension of organization of reasoning is considered as inductive and deductive where it is mentioned above in which reasoning can be mainly classified as two dimensions where induction is based on generalizations whereas deduction based on specification of the inferences (Figure 5).

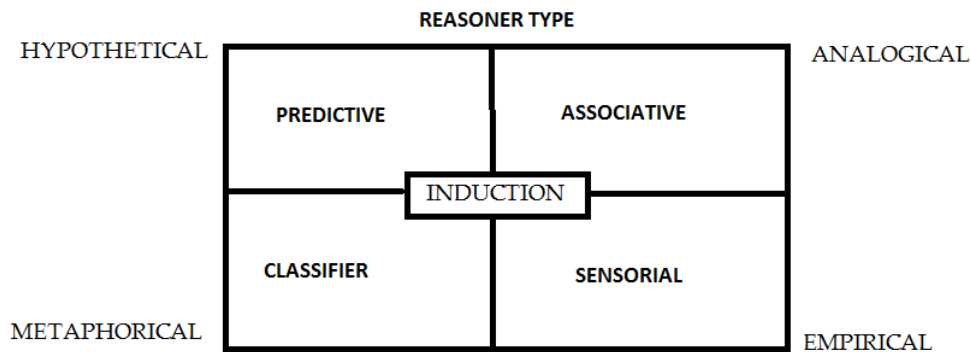


Figure 6. Reasoner type based on induction with inference plane

According to this model, individuals who are hypothetical-inductive are called as predictive reasoners, individuals who are empirical-inductive are called as sensorial reasoners, individuals who are metaphorical-inductive are classifiers, individuals who are analogical-inductive are associative reasoners (Figure 6).

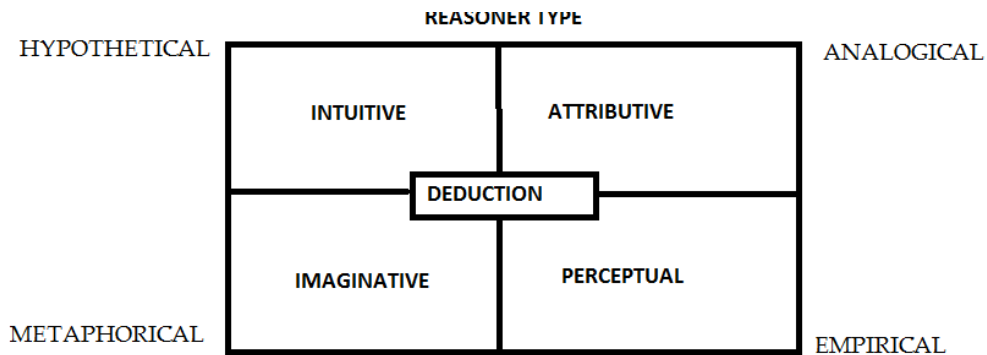


Figure 7. Reasoner type based on deduction with inference plane

According to this model, individuals who are hypothetical-deductive are called as intuitive reasoners, individuals who are empirical-deductive are perceptual reasoners, individuals who are metaphorical-deductive are imaginative reasoners, individuals who are analogical-deductive are attributive reasoners (Figure 7).

Although there are studies about learning styles and thinking styles in literature, it is seen that studies on reasoning styles in education are scarce and there is a gap in the literature on this issue in this regard. Reasoning style model is useful especially for designing the objectives and content of the curriculum as well as the evaluation and assessment part of it. It can be also useful for clarifying the different dimensions of reasoning and how the reasoning styles are related to other components of the didactic system [1, 12, 13]. Therefore, in this study, it is aimed to develop a valid and reliable, Likert-type measurement tool for reasoning styles of individuals. Furthermore, it is thought that the scale to be developed at the end of this study can be used in different courses in different disciplines, because the reasoning styles are at the core of every discipline.

## 2. Materials and Methods

The research was carried out to students in different departments in Samsun Ondokuz Mayıs University in the 2016 -2017 academic year by screening model.

The sample of the study consisted of 300 students who had received undergraduate education, including Ondokuz Mayıs University Dentistry 14, Education 57, Faculty of Science and Literature 61, Theology 55, Communication 37, Economics 38, Engineering 38. The frequency and percentages of the students are 174 Female and 126 male, and the frequency and percentages of the departments they study are given in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Frequency and percentage distributions of student departments

Departments	N	%
Dentistry	14	4,7
Education	57	19
Faculty of Science and Literature	61	20,3
Theology	55	18,3
Communication	37	12,3
Economics	38	12,7
Engineering	38	12,7

### Development of measurement Tool

This section describes the steps for improving the Reasoning Style Scale. The following phases were conducted to develop Reasoning Style Scale.

*1. Literature Review:* Firstly, the related literature was reviewed in detail. Based on the literature review, a total

of 45 scale items were created because of the fact that the number of items in the draft scale should be three or four times or more than the actual desired one [17]. The scale was prepared as Likert type where "5 = Strongly Agree", "4 = Agree," 3 = Undecided, "2 = Disagree = and "1 = Strongly Disagree" and its range with is arranged as "1,00-1,80 = Strongly Disagree 1, "1,81-2,60 = Disagree", "2,61-3,40 = Undecided ", "3,41- 4,20 = Agree" and 4,21-5,00 = Strongly Agree" [16].

*2. Content validity* (expert opinion, conformity analysis): After the creation of the items, the items were presented to the opinion of the Turkish experts and they were finalized by making necessary corrections in line with the suggestions of the experts. The scope validity of the items in accordance with the opinions given by the experts in this process was determined by the scope validity ratio developed by Veneziano and Hooper (1997; cited in Yurdagül, 2005). Expressions were evaluated by experts in terms of clarity, fluency, proper use of language, writing of various expressions and intelligibility criteria [14].

*3. Application phase* (pre-application, pilot application, general application): Three of 45 items were removed in accordance with the expert opinions as of the first application. (16-34-43). In the pilot phase, the scale was conducted to 52 students selected according to the appropriate sampling method. The final scale was conducted to 300 undergraduate students studying in different departments in Ondokuz Mayıs University, which constitutes population group of this study.

*4. Validability analysis* (Factor analysis, KMO Barlett value)

In order to test the validity of the scale, the opinions of the experts about the subject of the scale were taken into account by Lawshe technique. Factor analysis was performed in order to determine the content validity of the scale and to determine the factor loads of the items. Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) coefficient and Barlett Sphericity test were calculated to determine the appropriateness of the data before starting factor analysis. Finally, item-total, substance-residual and substance-discriminatory procedures were performed. [14].

*5. Reliability analysis* (Cronbach Alpha coefficient, Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient)

The scale developed in order to determine students' styles of reasoning is Likert type scale. As the scores in the scale were between 1.00 and 5.00, it was accepted that the students' levels of participation in the propositions were lower as they approached 1.00 were higher as the scores approached to 5.00.

The Cronbach Alpha coefficient was used to measure the reliability of the Likert-type scales. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was calculated for all items, sub-dimensions and scale [14, 16].

### 3. Findings

Table 2. KMO and Bartlett's Test

<b>Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO)</b>		,783
	<b>Chi-Square Value</b>	1448,054
<b>Barlett's Test of Sphericity (BTS)</b>	<b>Degree of freedom</b>	253
	<b>p</b>	,000

In order to determine the sub-factors and reliability level of the measurement tool, the data loss was checked firstly. After confirming that there is no missing or incorrect data, Kaiser-Mayer-Olkin (KMO) and Barlett's Test of Sphericity (BTS) tests were performed to measure the adequacy of the sample used in the study. Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) and Bartlett values were determined in the factor analysis process; The principal components analysis was carried out and the varimax rotation was performed. The KMO test result of the measurement instrument was 0.783. The findings of KMO and Bartlett's Test are given in Table 2.

In the KMO statistics, the values between "0.50-0.70" regarded as moderate the values between "0.70-0.80" regarded as good, the values between "0.80-0.90" regarded as very good and the values between "0.90 and above" regarded as excellent [10] and the sample size and data obtained in this study is appropriate and sufficient for the selected analysis (0.78). The significance of the Bartlett's test values ( $p < .005$ ) also supports the hypothesis that the data comes from the multivariate normal distribution. This value which is statistically significant as a result of Bartlett's Test Sphericity analysis ( $B = 1448.05$ ,  $p < .005$ ) indicates that the sample is sufficient and the data shows normal distribution (Geçgil and Tikici,

2015). Thus, it can be said that the factor analysis on these data gives reliable results. Due to the very small number of substances being loaded into some factors related to the substances of the measuring instrument, the scree plot is shown in Figure 8, which shows the factor structure of the Reasoning Styles Scale.

Although it seems that the scale has two main factors, considering the model of reasoning styles from here, it is thought that the scale may consist of 4 factors. In order to make factor selection, Kaiser Normalization and Varimax methods have been analyzed [10]. Although the factor load value of a substance should not be less than .30, there are also theorists who argue that this magnitude should be .40 (Çokluk et al., 2012: 194). In this study, in varimax rotation, the items having a factor loading of 0,40 as the lower cut-off point of the factor loadings were processed and the items with a factor load of less than 0,40 were neglected. Therefore, in the general practice, the item load 9-23-36-39-8-12-40-44 was removed due to the fact that it remained below 40. According to these findings, it was determined that the four factors that emerged at the end of the analysis explained the total variance and 42% of the variance together. According to Kline, this value is higher than 40% [5]. The variance amounts explained by the factors were 19.947% for the first factor, 9.264% for the second factor, 7.740% for the third factor and 5.854% for the fourth factor. The higher the variance rates obtained at the end of the factor analysis, the stronger the factor structure of the scale. It is not possible to reach very high variance rates in social sciences, and variance rates varying from 40% to 60% are accepted as sufficient [15]. The results of Varimax vertical rotation analysis to determine the distribution of substances to factors are presented in the table below.

Figure 8. Scree plot

**Table 3.** Total Variance

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction of Sums of Square Loads			Rotating Square Totals	
	Total	Variance %	Cumulative %	Total	Variance %	Birikimsel %	Total	Variance %
1	4,588	19,947	19,947	4,588	19,947	19,947	3,989	17,345
2	2,131	9,264	29,211	2,131	9,264	29,211	2,103	9,144
3	1,780	7,740	36,951	1,780	7,740	36,951	1,973	8,577
4	1,347	5,854	42,806	1,347	5,854	42,806	1,780	7,740
5	1,213	5,273	48,079					
6	1,015	4,412	52,491					
7	,982	4,271	56,762					
8	,952	4,140	60,902					
9	,851	3,702	64,604					
10	,822	3,574	68,178					
11	,797	3,464	71,643					
12	,783	3,404	75,047					
13	,697	3,030	78,077					
14	,666	2,894	80,971					
15	,637	2,769	83,740					
16	,589	2,562	86,302					
17	,559	2,431	88,733					
18	,527	2,292	91,025					
19	,521	2,265	93,290					
20	,442	1,922	95,212					
21	,391	1,698	96,910					
22	,376	1,634	98,544					
23	,335	1,456	100,00					

In order to determine the factor pattern of the study, varimax was chosen as the principal component analysis and the rotation method was used as the rotation method. Considering the distribution of items by using Varimax Steep Rotation Technique, it was found that the scale was collected in 4 factors having the eigenvalues larger than 1, all items had acceptable load values (the lowest item load value was 0.480; the highest item load value was 0.726).

In addition, exploratory factor analysis was applied to ensure the construct validity of the scale. As a result of exploratory factor analysis, factor load weights of 19 items were found to be low. Therefore, some items were excluded from the measurement tool by the researchers to limit the factor number of the scale and to increase the reliability level.

**Table 4.** Transformed Components Matrix after Factor Analysis

	1	2	3	4
Item 4	.712			
Item 2	.673			
Item 28	.645			
Item 1	.643			
Item 3	.627			
Item 5	.600			
Item 31	.583			
Item 7	.562			
Item 45	.512			
Item 6	.480			
Item 26		.700		
Item 17		.564		
Item 25		.542		
Item 38		.524		
Item 24		.514		
Item 20			.726	
Item 41			.695	
Item 10			.588	
Item 15			.526	
Item 35				.678
Item 12				.612
Item 37				.559
Item 30				.517

As shown in Table 4 and Table 5, a scale having a total of 23 items having 4 factors where the first factor having 10 items (1-2-3-4-5-6-7-28-31-45); the second factor consists of 5 items (Articles 17-24-25-26-38); the third factor is 4 items (10-15-20-41); the fourth factor consists of 4 items (items 12-30-35-37). Sub-dimensions were formed and named by examining the items in each factor. In this context, the first subdimension is named as the Induction sub-dimension; the second dimension is named as sub-dimension Hypothetical sub-dimension; third sub-dimension is named as as Empirical sub-dimension; and the fourth sub-dimension is named as deductive sub-dimension (Table 6, Table 7, Table 8).

**Table 5.** Sub-dimensions determined as a result of factor analysis

Factors	Number of Items	The Item Numbers
1	10	1-2-3-4-5-6-7-28-31-45
2	5	17-24-25-26-38
3	4	10-15-20-41
4	4	12-30-35-37

In Table 6, the statistical values of the total questions are presented. These values are supposed to be generally not negative and are expected to be greater than 0.30. Items that do not comply with this rule were removed from the scale. However, since confirmatory factor analysis will be performed, the items were not excluded from the scale.

**Table 6.** Descriptive Values Related to Items Determined as a Result of Factor Analysis

	Average Values When Item Deleted	Variance When Item Deleted	Total Correlation	Multi-Squared Correlation	Cronbach's Alpha When Item Deleted
Item1	73,5749	90,882	,421	,399	,775
Item2	73,4549	91,033	,470	,410	,773
Item3	73,5549	90,319	,474	,397	,772
Item4	73,6316	90,185	,509	,446	,770
Item5	73,8016	91,636	,480	,329	,773
Item6	73,9882	93,769	,286	,224	,783
Item7	73,6482	92,384	,380	,319	,777
Item28	73,3349	91,044	,436	,437	,774
Item31	73,5549	90,721	,428	,341	,774
Item45	73,9349	89,697	,470	,279	,772
Item17	74,4916	98,536	,066	,187	,794
Item24	74,1282	94,434	,281	,224	,783
Item25	74,0249	93,397	,302	,229	,782
Item26	73,9049	94,830	,307	,279	,781
Item38	74,1816	94,666	,263	,214	,784
Item10	73,8867	92,984	,365	,259	,778
Item15	74,1416	92,983	,367	,263	,778
Item20	74,1249	94,389	,303	,326	,782
Item41	74,0149	94,130	,300	,340	,782
Item12	74,4049	94,818	,261	,230	,784
Item30	74,6482	95,675	,174	,196	,790
Item35	74,4416	96,429	,160	,195	,790
Item37	74,9349	96,046	,157	,262	,791

Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis was performed to determine whether there was a significant relationship between the factors. These results show that all factors are in the same structure because there is a low but significant correlation among the dimensions of the scale. If all the dimensions are highly correlated, they couldn't be regarded as separate dimensions. However, if there was no correlation among them, it indicates they are totally distinct from each other. Low positive correlation indicates those dimensions are related in each other in a coherent structure.

**Table 7.** Pearson Product Moment Correlation Analysis Results for Determining Relationships Between Factors

	Hypothetical	Empirical	Deduction
Induction	,241**	,320**	,107**
Hypothetical		,206**	,143**
Empirical			,265**

As a result of the reliability studies, Cronbach Alpha internal consistency coefficient of the whole scale was determined as .788. At the end of these analyzes the Cronbach Alpha reliability coefficients of the sub-factors were below .350. Low correlations between variables suggest that formative measurement models may be more appropriate for scales having more than 1 factors. The measurement model is expressed in two different forms as reflective and formative. In the reflective structure, the direction of causality is true of the variables observed from the implicit variable. The variables observed in this structure have the same or similar content. In the formative model, the observed variables do not have to have the same or similar content, and the direction of causality is from the observed variables to the implicit variable. In the formative measurement model, variables determine the concept. Cause-and-effect relationship emerges from variables. Therefore, Cronbach Alpha reliability coefficient for the



scale is acceptable in this regard [2, 18]

**Confirmatory Factor Analysis**

The 23-item scale was applied to 109 students from different departments of Ondokuz Mayıs University. Confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was used to test the construct validity of the original structure of the scale. In the first analysis,  $\chi^2/sd$  is less than 3, indicating that the model is in good agreement as a result of the analysis. However because the CFI and GFI values are above .90 and the RMSEA value is between 0.05 and 0.08, and it can be said that the compatibility of the model is not sufficient given as in Table 8 [4].

**Table 8.** Results of the first confirmatory factor analysis of the reasoning styles scale

$\chi^2/sd$	2,454
CFI	,574
GFI	,716
RMSEA	,116

As can be seen, the values were not sufficient and 5<sup>th</sup> item in induction dimension having the lowest value, the standard regression weight as ,072, 22<sup>th</sup> item in deduction dimension having the standard regression weight, as .182 and 10<sup>th</sup> item in Empirical dimension having the standard regression weight as .000 were removed in the analysis. The following values were obtained again as follows:

**Table 9.** Results of the second confirmatory factor analysis of the reasoning styles scale

$\chi^2/sd$	2,343
CFI	,665
GFI	,759
RMSEA	,111

As can be seen, the values were not sufficient and 2<sup>th</sup> item in induction dimension having the lowest value, the standard regression weight as ,202, 6<sup>th</sup> item in induction dimension having the standard regression weight, as ,273 and 13<sup>th</sup> item in hypothetical dimension having the standard regression weight as ,329 , 16<sup>th</sup> item in empirical dimension having the standard regression weight, as ,283, removed in the analysis. The following values were obtained again as follows:

**Table 10.** Results of the third confirmatory factor analysis of the reasoning styles scale

$\chi^2/sd$	2,169
CFI	,783
GFI	,823
RMSEA	,104

As can be seen, the values were not sufficient and 4<sup>th</sup> item in induction dimension having the standard regression

weight as ,341, 3<sup>th</sup> item in induction dimension having the standard regression weight, as ,341 and 11<sup>th</sup> item in hypothetical dimension having the standard regression weight as ,498, 7<sup>th</sup> item in Empirical dimension having the standard regression weight, as ,560. were removed in the analysis. In addition, modification are done between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> items in induction dimension and between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> items in empirical dimension. The following values were obtained again as follows:

**Table 11.** Results of the last confirmatory factor analysis of the reasoning styles scale

$\chi^2/sd$	1,377	A value of 2 or less indicates the goodness of the model.
CFI	,943	Values greater than 0.95 indicates the model fit is very good.
GFI	,906	The GFI values greater than 0.90 indicates that the model is a good model.
IFI	,945	Values between 90 and 0.95 indicates that the model is acceptable.
TLI	,930	The value between 0.90 and 0.95 indicates the acceptability of the model.
RMSEA	,059	If it is below 08, it is an acceptable goodness value.
RMR	,061	The value above 0.50 indicates acceptable model-data compliance.

The Cronbach Alpha internal consistency coefficient of the whole scale was found to be 0.70. At the end of these analyzes, the Cronbach Alpha reliability coefficients of the sub-factors were; 0.674 for Factor-1, 0.799; For Factor-2, 0.760 for Factor-3 and 0.647 for Factor-4. When the exploratory factor analysis is repeated, it is seen that there is a four-factor structure explaining 68,085% of the variance.

As a result of confirmatory factor analysis, standardized regression weights of items can be given as follows.

**Table 12.** Standardized regression weights of items

			Estimate
VAR00001	<---	Induction	,584
VAR00008	<---	Induction	,586
VAR00009	<---	Induction	,510
VAR00012	<---	hypothetical	,772
VAR00014	<---	hypothetical	,829
VAR00015	<---	hypothetical	,694
VAR00019	<---	Empirical	,920
VAR00018	<---	Empirical	,762
VAR00017	<---	Empirical	,711
VAR00020	<---	Deduction	,593
VAR00021	<---	Deduction	,690
VAR00023	<---	Deduction	,624

The result of confirmatory factor analysis can be given as follows in Figure 9:

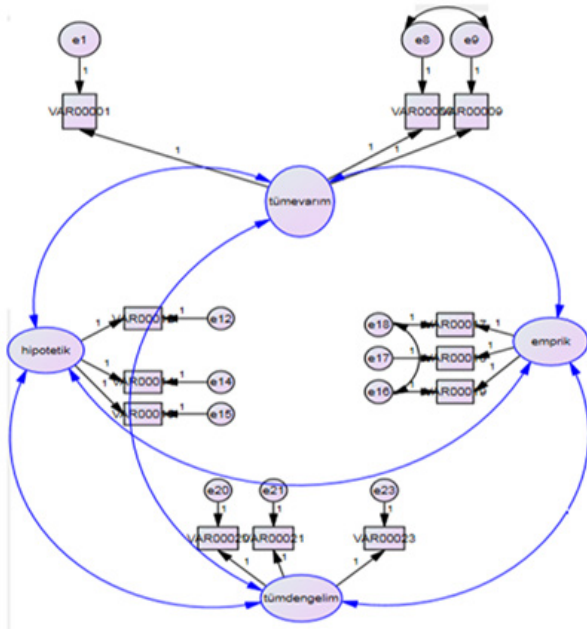


Figure 9. The structure of the confirmatory factor analysis

## 4. Conclusions

The results of these analyzes are given below.

- The total variance explained by four factors according to the eigenvalue scale in the developed reasoning style scale is 42%. As a result of varimax rotation, the factor loadings of the substances varied between 0.480 and 0.726.
- Determined factors were named as in induction “,” hypothetical”, “empiric” and “deductive” respectively.
- For the whole scale, cronbach  $\alpha_T = .788$  and the cronbach  $\alpha$  coefficients for each sub-dimension found to be over 0.70 indicating that the scale and the sub-dimensions of the scale are consistent within themselves.
- Differences in all groups were found to be statistically significant ( $p < .001$ ) in the discriminant analysis in terms of factors, indicating that the subscale and total scores of the scale were distinguishable.
- As a result of the correlation analysis conducted to determine the relationship between factors, a significant positive relationship among all factors shows that they are in the same structure but low relationships indicates that they are separate to the some extend that is compatible with scales having factor structure.

In the light of all these explanations, it can be said that this scale for determining the reasoning styles of the students has reliable results in terms of the validity and reliability tests. The scale can then be used to determine reasoning styles.

## 5. Suggestions

The Reasoning Styles scale developed in this research can be used in many ways.

Firstly, it can be used to evaluate reasoning skills and tendencies of the students in every grade. Educational materials prepared based on reasoning styles can enrich the content of the courses and provide more elaborated courses to enhance the thinking and reasoning skills of the students.

Secondly, reasoning styles scales can be used in many different researches in different designs and different samples. Reasoning styles are at least conceptually thought to be related with many cognitive and affective skills such as critical thinking, problem solving or motivation. Whether or not there are empirical correlations among those variables can be useful for preparing courses based on scientific evidence as well as proposing more healthy recipes for educational endeavors.

Thirdly, reasoning is very core concept at the hearth of any discipline. Therefore, it is very important to investigate reasoning styles for the improvement of the educational and scientific base of every discipline. Additionally, thinking skills are of having significance for information age. Information pollution is one of the important problems of our age and it is important to select “the best information” based on “the best reasoning” in fruitful ways. Therefore, reasoning styles gain importance for 21<sup>st</sup> century skills where the thinking and reasoning skills are preferred rather than memorization or repetition of previous information in a mechanistic way. Finally, humans will need reasoning skills as never before in which artificial intelligence technologies will emerge. Although it is very difficult to predict whether or not artificial reasoning is possible, it can be foreseen that humans need more those skills in order not to get drowned by the huge amount of information surrounding them.

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