



AN EXAMINATION OF ERCIYES MOUNTAIN SUMMIT CLIMBING ROUTES AND THE FORMATION OF ROUTE NAMES

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Abstract:

This study was made to determine the advantages and disadvantages of the Erciyes mountain summit climbing routes and to obtain information about how the route names were formed. Erciyes Mountain has the title of the first mountain in the Central Anatolia Region and the 5th largest mountain in Türkiye. In terms of both winter tourism, mountain climbing, and highland tourism, it maintains its importance in every period of the year and is flooded with visitors. The study consists of interviews with 10 professional mountaineers, aged between 30 and 66, who carry out mountaineering activities in and around Erciyes Mountain. A questionnaire was prepared before the interview with professional mountaineers. In the survey questions, there are questions about the demographic information of professional mountaineers and the advantages and disadvantages of the Erciyes Mountain summit climbing routes. Telephone and face-to-face interviews were conducted with professional mountaineers. In the findings of the study, it is revealed that professional mountaineers have an emotional affinity with Erciyes Mountain. This emotional attachment is expressed as feelings for a lover. In the summit climb; 60% of the participants stated that they want to go out in the summer period. It has been determined that the most used route is the devil creek and the northern great ice routes. During the summer climbs, it has been stated that stone rupture poses a danger because Mount Erciyes is a volcanic mountain. In winter, there are difficulties due to weather conditions such as storms and avalanches. It was determined that 6 different routes were used by the participants in climbing the summit. These routes are indicated as the Devil Creek, the Devil's left lane (Nesrin Topkapi), the ridge, the northern glacier, the snow ice, and angel routes. As a result, Mount Erciyes is a mountain with a difficulty level above the medium level for experience purposes for people who have just started mountaineering. It is recommended that mountaineers with larger summit targets complete their high-altitude acclimation phase by climbing to the Erciyes summit.

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1. Introduction

Mount Erciyes; is the symbol of Kayseri with its peak that pierces the clouds, its snow from its top, and its grandeur that offers divine feelings to people. Erciyes Mountain, which has the title of the first mountain of the Central Anatolia Region and the 5th largest mountain of Türkiye, maintains its importance in terms of both winter tourism, mountain climbing, and highland tourism and is flooded by visitors.

Erciyes (3917m) is an extinct volcano, which enabled the formation of Cappadocia thanks to its eruptions 30 million years ago. Probably because of the unmelted snow, the Hittites gave it a name meaning White Mountain.

Erciyes, one of the most preferred mountains by professional athletes for mountaineering and glacier climbing in Türkiye, stands out as a ski resort with its feature of being one of the few places in the world with high snow quality.

Erciyes, the symbol of Kayseri, is one of the winter sports centers of Türkiye that has gained importance in recent years. In addition to winter sports, there are mountaineering and hiking tourism opportunities on Mount Erciyes (Kayseri Governorship, 2022).

Mount Erciyes, which is an extinct volcano in the category of the highest mountains in the Central Anatolian Region, is located 25 kilometers south of Kayseri province. It has been declared a tourism center in 1989 by the decision of the Council of Ministers.

Erciyes Ski Center, which has ski slopes at an altitude of 1800-3000 meters and the ski slopes vary in slopes of 10% and 30%, provides the opportunity to ski in various disciplines with its powder snowfall feature. The ski center, which has the opportunity to ski in Alpine and Nordic disciplines, has an accommodation opportunity with a capacity of 800 beds (Kayseri Culture, 2022).



Picture 1: Erciyes summit climbing route, devil creek region (Photograph by Kayseri Metropolitan Municipality, 2022)



Picture 2: View of Erciyes mountain with the city of Kayseri (Photograph by Kayseri Metropolitan Municipality, 2022)



Picture 3: Views of Mount Erciyes during the winter (Photograph by Cem Temur)



Picture 4: Views of Mount Erciyes during the summer (Photograph by Cem Temur)



Picture 5: View of Mount Erciyes from Cappadocia region (Photograph by Cem Temur)



Picture 6: View of Erciyes mountain from the ski center (Photograph by Kayseri Metropolitan Municipality, 2022)

As for Mount Erciyes, in all Anatolian civilizations, it has often had a special place in Hittite, Persian, Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman culture. The Persians accepted this mountain as sacred and settled around it, Byzantium and Romans built temples on this mountain and monks carved retreat caves near the summits (Çavuşoğlu, 2004).

Table 1: Geographic information of Erciyes mountain

Mountains	Strato-volcano, (Kayseri)
Mountain and Summit Name	Erciyes
Peak Height (m)	3917
Location (Latitude and Longitude)	38°31' - 38°34' K 35°24' - 35°28' D
Glacier Name	Northwest
Glacial	Valley
Area (km²)	0.11
Length (km)	0.38
Current Permanent snow limit (m) (Wunn permanent snow limit (m))	North Face 3800 (2700) South Face 3400 (3000)
Landforms	Front, ablation and lateral moraines, dead glaciers, cinder

Source: Çiner, (2003).

Aksu Valley glacier (B) to the northwest of Erciyes Volcano (3917 m). Young melting moraines (e) formed during the retreat of the glacier and a side moraine (M) set reaching the main valley and the Sandur plain (A) developing from the glacial streams are observed (Çiner, 2003). The very young-looking moraines observed in some of the icicles without current glaciers can also be attributed to the Little Ice Age. Karagöl in the Black Sea (de Planhol and Bilgin, 1964), Erciyes Volcano in Aksu Valley (Sarıkaya et al., 2003). The recent glacier terminates at 3450 m on the northwest side of the mountain. It is a remnant from the last advance (possibly during the Little Ice Age). Repeated measurements of glacier length between 1902 and 2008 reveal a retreat rate of 4.2 m per year, which corresponds to a warming rate of 0.9-1.2 °C per century (Sarıkaya et al., 2009). Mount Erciyes (38.53°N, 35.45°E, 3917 m), historically known as Mount Argaeus (named after the Macedonian king Argaeus I, 678-640 BC), is the highest mountain in the Central Anatolia, Türkiye. The mountain is located about 20 km south of the city of Kayseri (1068 m) and rises about 2850 m above its base (Sarıkaya et al., 2009).

This study was carried out to provide information about the Erciyes Mountain summit climbing by including the thoughts of mountaineers who carry out professional mountaineering activities, the name of the Erciyes Mountain summit climbing routes, and the advantages and disadvantages of these routes.

2. Material and Method

The study is in a descriptive survey model using qualitative research methods. It consists of interviews with 10 professional mountaineers, aged between 30 and 66, who carry out mountaineering activities on and around Erciyes Mountain. A questionnaire was prepared before the interview with professional mountaineers. In the survey questions, there are questions about the demographic information of professional mountaineers and

the advantages and disadvantages of the Erciyes Mountain summit climbing routes. Telephone and face-to-face interviews were conducted with professional mountaineers. The data obtained are shown in the tables in the findings section without changing the main lines. The answers given to the questions were evaluated in their category and grouped according to percentage distributions.

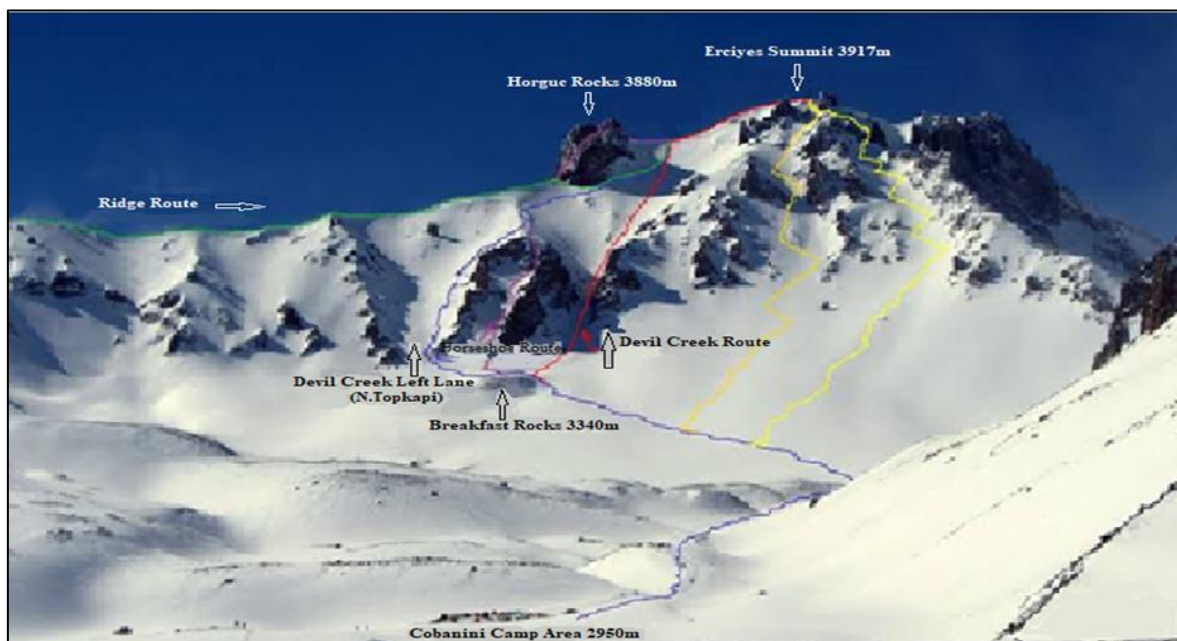
3. Results

In this section, the findings obtained as a result of interviews with professional mountaineers are given.

Table 2: Demographics information of professional climbers

Variables	Category	F	%
Gender	Male	10	100
	Female	-	-
Education	Primary school	1	10
	Middle school	-	-
	High school	3	30
	University	6	60
How many years have you been a mountain climber?	1-10 years	-	-
	11-20 years	5	50
	21-30 years	2	20
	30 years and above	3	30

3.1 Erciyes Mountain Climbing Route



Picture 7: Erciyes Mountain Climbing Routes (Photograph by Ramazan Bozkurt)

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Picture 8: Erciyes Mountain Climbing Routes (Photograph by Ramazan Bozkurt)

Table 3: The answers of professional mountaineers about climbing to the Erciyes summit

Question 1: <i>How do you feel when Erciyes mountain is mentioned?</i>	Mountaineer 1	Mountaineer 2	Mountaineer 3	Mountaineer 4	Mountaineer 5
	<i>Something like happiness, peace, love and love.</i>	<i>Pride, material and spiritual satisfaction, unique scenery.</i>	<i>A part of my life.</i>	<i>The happiness of reaching the summit.</i>	<i>Shining like pearls, like a girl in a wedding dress.</i>
	Mountaineer 6	Mountaineer 7	Mountaineer 8	Mountaineer 9	Mountaineer 10
	<i>Exciting, giving happiness.</i>	<i>It is a place where I find peace and forget everything.</i>	<i>A place where I feel special, a place where I reach material and spiritual satisfaction.</i>	<i>Integrated with our city, it excites us with its grandeur and appearance.</i>	<i>Erciyes is an addictive passion for me. During the climb there is an incredible relief.</i>
Question 2: <i>Would you like to climb the Erciyes summit in summer or winter?</i>	Mountaineer 1	Mountaineer 2	Mountaineer 3	Mountaineer 4	Mountaineer 5
	<i>I generally enjoy spring and winter climbing.</i>	<i>In summer, June is the period I want to go out.</i>	<i>I always want to go out, it doesn't matter.</i>	<i>It is more enjoyable to go out in the winter months.</i>	<i>The pleasure of watching in winter is more beautiful and more enjoyable.</i>
	Mountaineer 6	Mountaineer 7	Mountaineer 8	Mountaineer 9	Mountaineer 10
	<i>Both have their enjoyment. I generally prefer the summer months.</i>	<i>Both climbs that I enjoy separately. It is very difficult to distinguish.</i>	<i>I prefer to go to the summit in winter.</i>	<i>I prefer the summer period as it is safer to climbs the summit.</i>	<i>I usually prefer to go out during the summer months.</i>
	Mountaineer	Mountaineer	Mountaineer	Mountaineer	Mountaineer

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Question 3: Which route do you use most when climbing Erciyes Peak?	1	2	3	4	5
	<i>I prefer devil's creek and north great ice route.</i>	<i>I prefer the northern glacier route, the steeper the slope, the higher the degree of difficulty.</i>	<i>I prefer the ridge route and the northern glacier route.</i>	<i>Northern glacier route for enjoyment.</i>	<i>Devil's Creek route.</i>
	Mountaineer 6	Mountaineer 7	Mountaineer 8	Mountaineer 9	Mountaineer 10
	<i>Devil's left lane (Nesrin Topkapi route)</i>	<i>I prefer devil's creek and north ice lane</i>	<i>I also prefer the Devil Creek, freezing milk (Süt donduran) route.</i>	<i>I prefer the ridge route as it is long and safe.</i>	<i>In the summer, I prefer to follow the water channels to the top of the devil's left lane, under the hump area.</i>
Question 4: <i>How many different routes are there for climbing the Erciyes summit?</i>	Mountaineer 1	Mountaineer 2	Mountaineer 3	Mountaineer 4	Mountaineer 5
	<i>There are 5 different routes. These routes; are Devil creek, devil left lane (Nesrin Topkapi), ridge, northern glacier, and snow ice routes.</i>	<i>There are 5 different routes. These routes; are Devil creek, devil left lane (Nesrin Topkapi), ridge, snow ice, and northern glacier routes.</i>	<i>There are 5 different routes. These routes; are Ridge, devil creek, devil left lane (Nesrin Topkapi), northern glacier, and snow ice routes.</i>	<i>There are 6 different routes. These routes; are Ridge, devil creek, devil left lane (Nesrin Topkapi), north glacier, snow ice, and south routes. There are 6 different routes. These; are ridge, devil creek, devil left lane (Nesrin Topkapi), and northern glacier.</i>	<i>There are 6 different routes. These routes; are Ridge, devil creek, devil left lane (Nesrin Topkapi), angel, snow ice, and northern glacier routes.</i>
	Mountaineer 6	Mountaineer 7	Mountaineer 8	Mountaineer 9	Mountaineer 10
	<i>There are 7 different routes. These routes; are Ridge, devil creek, devil left lane (Nesrin Topkapi), angel, northern glacier, snow ice, and mule routes.</i>	<i>There are 6 different routes; Devil creek, devil left lane (Nesrin Topkapi), ridge, snow ice, angel, and horseshoe routes.</i>	<i>There are 5 different routes. Ridge, northern glacier, devil creek, devil left lane (Nesrin Topkapi), snow ice</i>	<i>There are 4 different routes. The ridge, the devil creek, the devil left lane (Nesrin Topkapi), snow ice, and northern glacier routes.</i>	<i>5 different routes are used. These routes; are ridge, devil creek, devil left lane (Nesrin Topkapi), snow ice, and northern glacier routes.</i>
Question 5: <i>How did the Erciyes route names come about?</i>	Mountaineer 1	Mountaineer 2	Mountaineer 3	Mountaineer 4	Mountaineer 5
	<i>For the Devil's Creek, it is called the devil because it is expressed as the devil throwing stones. After all, there are too many stones to break</i>	<i>It is called because the rocks in the Devil's creek are likened to the devil. It is called snow-ice because some parts of the snow ice route are hard with ice and</i>	<i>It is likened to the devil because the rocks are too steep for Devil's Creek. Due to the curved route for the Devil's left lane, the belly dancer is likened</i>	<i>Devil creek left lane also called famous belly dancer Nesrin Topkapi, because it is a very curved route like the belly dancer. Devil creek is difficult and</i>	<i>The devil's left line is likened to the belly dancer Nesrin Topkapi because the route curved a lot.</i>

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	<i>from above. The Devil's left lane is called because it is on the left of the Devil's Creek. It was also named after the famous belly dancer Nesrin Topkapi in the 1980s. Due to the curved route, it is called because it bends like a belly dancer.</i>	<i>some parts are soft with snow. For the Devil's left lane, the belly dancer is likened to Nesrin Topkapi because of the high number of turns on the route.</i>	<i>to Nesrin Topkapi. The angel route is called the angel route because it is a new route and it is untouched.</i>	<i>steep, it is called the Devil creek route.</i>	
	Mountaineer 6	Mountaineer 7	Mountaineer 8	Mountaineer 9	Mountaineer 10
	<i>The devil's left line is likened to the belly dancer Nesrin Topkapi because the route curved a lot.</i>	<i>Devil's creek is called the devil's creek because the rocks in it are high and dangerous. For the devil's left lane (Nesrin Topkapi), the hallucination of a dancing woman seen by mountaineers when this lane was used on New Year's Eve in the 1980s. After that moment it is likened to the famous belly dancer of that period, Nesrin Topkapi.</i>		<i>Because it is likened to the back of a camel, they are named ridge and hump. Mountaineers claimed that they saw belly dancer Nesrin Topkapi dancing, the famous belly dancer of that period, as a result of a mountaineer hallucinating at midnight on a summit climbed in 1980, from that day on this route was named the Nesrin Topkapi.</i>	<i>It is called Devil's Creek because it is the place where the stone falls are high and the mountain accidents are the most.</i>
Question 6: <i>Which route is the most preferred during the summer period and what is the reason?</i>	Mountaineer 1	Mountaineer 2	Mountaineer 3	Mountaineer 4	Mountaineer 5
	<i>Devil's left lane (Nesrin Topkapi) route is used. It is used for less stone breakage and a safe exit.</i>	<i>Devil left lane (Nesrin Topkapi) route is used. It is preferred because of fewer stone falls and less slippage of the ground.</i>	<i>The ridge route is used. It is preferred because the route is easy, the risk is low and there is no rock breakage.</i>	<i>The ridge and devil's left lane (Nesrin Topkapi) route is used. It is preferred because it is safe.</i>	<i>The ridge and devil's left lane (Nesrin Topkapi) route is used. It is preferred to be safe and to go comfortably on the trail.</i>
	Mountaineer 6	Mountaineer 7	Mountaineer 8	Mountaineer 9	Mountaineer 10
	<i>Since the Devil's left lane (nesrin Topkapi) route is shorter, local people generally</i>	<i>Devil's left lane (Nesrin Topkapi) route is used. It is used because fewer stones are falling.</i>	<i>The ridge route is used. Stone is preferred because it has less falling and slipping.</i>	<i>The ridge route is used. It is preferred because it has less danger.</i>	<i>I prefer the Devil's left lane (Nesrin Topkapi) as it is both shorter and safer.</i>

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	<i>prefer the ridge route because it is safer.</i>				
Question 7: <i>Which route is most preferred in winter and what is the reason?</i>	Mountaineer 1	Mountaineer 2	Mountaineer 3	Mountaineer 4	Mountaineer 5
	<i>The Devil Creek route is used. Since the exit is steep, it is easier to cut snow, and exit by making small curves.</i>	<i>The Devil Creek route is used. The summit is reached by making small curves perpendicularly. It is preferred because it is safer.</i>	<i>The Devil Creek route is used. You can get out faster by making curves on the snow.</i>	<i>Devil's creek is used. It is preferred because the summit is climbed more steeply.</i>	<i>The Devil Creek route is used. It is preferred because it is climbed to the summit in the shortest time and vertically.</i>
	Mountaineer 6	Mountaineer 7	Mountaineer 8	Mountaineer 9	Mountaineer 10
	<i>Professional mountaineers use the snow and ice route; it is preferred because of the difficulty level of the route. According to the snow condition, the Devil Creek route is used to get out faster.</i>	<i>Devil's creek is used. It is preferred because it is reached to the top by using crampons vertically.</i>	<i>Devil's creek is used. It is preferred because it exits vertically.</i>	<i>Devil's creek is used. It is steeper, it is faster in descents and ascents compared to other routes. Hard snow makes the exit easier.</i>	<i>During this period, devil creek and snow ice routes are preferred. The hard snow makes climbing easier.</i>
Question 8: <i>What are the advantages and disadvantages of summer summit climbing?</i>	Mountaineer 1	Mountaineer 2	Mountaineer 3	Mountaineer 4	Mountaineer 5
	<i>Advantages; Less material is used during this period. In this case, it lightens the load. It is not very dangerous in the summer period; the summit is reached as if walking from the path. Disadvantages; Stone falls, sprained feet, unevenness of the floor.</i>	<i>Advantages; Since there is no snow, it can be exited faster, less material is used. Disadvantages; Stone falls, sprains and minor injuries with bleeding.</i>	<i>Advantages; During this period, the weather conditions are more favorable and less material is used. Disadvantages; Stone falls, being hot, and unexpected weather conditions on the mountain.</i>	<i>Advantages; It does not require a lot of technical equipment, a longer and more comfortable climb is performed. Disadvantages; During this period, a large number of stone falls occur.</i>	<i>Advantages; Less material is used. Weather conditions are favorable and less clothing is available. Disadvantages; There are difficulties such as falling stones and slipping in the epoch.</i>
	Mountaineer 6	Mountaineer 7	Mountaineer 8	Mountaineer 9	Mountaineer 10
	<i>Advantages; During this period, the weather conditions are suitable, shelter is easy.</i>	<i>Advantages; Use of less material, suitability of weather conditions and usability of all routes.</i>	<i>Advantages; Good weather conditions, less material is used. Disadvantages; Stone falls and slips.</i>	<i>Advantages; weather conditions are better, less material needs to be carried. Perfect visualization.</i>	<i>Advantages; There is little risk of falling, there is no snow and storm, the weather conditions are</i>

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	<i>Disadvantages; There are difficulties due to falling stones, landslides and age.</i>	<i>Disadvantages: Due to the high air temperature, stone falls occur.</i>		<i>Disadvantages; Stone falls, the ground being contemporaneous. The separation of heat and ice from stone where the sun sees it.</i>	<i>suitable. It is necessary to use less material. Disadvantages; Stone falls, slips, crowding.</i>
Question 9: <i>What are the advantages and disadvantages of winter peak climbing?</i>	Mountaineer 1	Mountaineer 2	Mountaineer 3	Mountaineer 4	Mountaineer 5
	<i>Advantages; Stone falls do not happen, it is difficult for the mountaineers in the front as they make a trail, but it is easy for the mountaineers coming from behind because the trail is cleared. The viewing pleasure is very good. Disadvantages; There may be situations such as avalanche risk, storm, blizzard, hypothermia risk, chills.</i>	<i>Advantages; The view is very beautiful; it is very easy to get out in the hard snow gutter. Disadvantages; Conditions such as snow, blizzard, storm, sweating and cooling, avalanche risk, excess equipment.</i>	<i>Advantages; If the snow on the ground has hardened, it is easier to climb out. Disadvantages; In the period when the snow is soft, it is difficult to climb, slip and sink. Weather conditions, storm, affect the type.</i>	<i>Advantages; Since the climbs are made by making a trail in the hard snow, a short and steep climb is performed. Disadvantages; Avalanche risk and other weather conditions affect it.</i>	<i>Advantages; It takes a shorter time to climb because it is vertical. Disadvantages; The material weight is too high. Weather conditions; situations such as cold, storm, blizzard may occur.</i>
	Mountaineer 6	Mountaineer 7	Mountaineer 8	Mountaineer 9	Mountaineer 10
<i>Advantages; During this period, it is faster to climb up because it is upright. Disadvantages; Usually there are difficulties due to weather conditions.</i>	<i>Advantages; When the snow is hard, it comes out faster. There is no slipping by going out with crampons. Disadvantages; More material is needed. Weather conditions are harsh.</i>	<i>Advantages; When the snow is hard, it comes out fast. Disadvantages; Weather conditions, storm, blizzard, avalanche. There is icing in very cold weather.</i>	<i>Advantages; Short routes, steep climbs, fewer climbers. Disadvantages; difficult weather conditions such as weather conditions, avalanche, blizzard.</i>	<i>Advantages; The harder the ground, the faster the vertical climb. Disadvantages; Weather conditions, storm, blizzard, avalanche.</i>	
Question 10: <i>Is there any interesting event that happened to you during the climb?</i>	Mountaineer 1	Mountaineer 2	Mountaineer 3	Mountaineer 4	Mountaineer 5
	<i>Loss of consciousness due to high altitude. Therefore, changes are observed in</i>	<i>During the winter climbing, we did not reach the summit due to the crampons we did not buy before the last 30 meters to the summit.</i>	<i>During the solo climb, I heard a (azan) call to muslim prayer coming from the summit, which made me a little nervous, but</i>	<i>Since I forgot my sleeping bag during the exit, I went inside the backpack to be protected.</i>	<i>With the loss of consciousness during the summit climb, I saw animals such as horses and dogs as</i>

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	<i>human attitudes and behaviors.</i>		<i>when I got to the top, I saw another mountaineer like me chanting the call to prayer, and I was relieved.</i>		<i>hallucinations during the climb.</i>
	Mountaineer 6	Mountaineer 7	Mountaineer 8	Mountaineer 9	Mountaineer 10
	<i>During a summit climb, a piece of stone the size of a house broke off and rolled down. I found wolf tracks on the summit.</i>	<i>I shared my camping tent and blankets with other mountaineers who had insufficient supplies. We stayed overnight at the campsite. When we got up in the morning, we woke up with our tent buried in the snow.</i>	<i>I gave my trail stick to another mountaineer, because of that I fell into the water channel on the Erciyes summit climbing route during an extreme storm.</i>	<i>During the climb, a beginner mountaineer saw the difficulty of climbing and said, "I did not come here to die," and returned.</i>	<i>There was only one male and 8 female mountaineers in a foreign group I encountered when I was out alone. I was very surprised by this situation.</i>

Question 11: <i>Have you ever had an accident while climbing?</i>	Mountaineer 1	Mountaineer 2	Mountaineer 3	Mountaineer 4	Mountaineer 5
	<i>While returning from the snow-ice route, part of the team was left behind, and a mountaineer broke his foot as a result of the aftershocks not reporting the stone's arrival. With our own means, we took the mountaineer down from 3000 meters with a stretcher.</i>	<i>On the way back from the summit climb, a climber slipped and injured due to missing equipment. Paramedics provided first aid. However, the emergency rescue helicopter failed to land on the area. The injured were transported to the ski resort.</i>	<i>I have witnessed many times that there are people floating on the glacier at individual exits.</i>	<i>As a result of a stone falling during the summit climb, a woman was hit by a stone and her arm was broken.</i>	<i>During the winter, a mountaineer slipped and suffered minor injuries.</i>
	Mountaineer 6	Mountaineer 7	Mountaineer 8	Mountaineer 9	Mountaineer 10
	<i>There were some minor injuries due to falling stones and slips.</i>	<i>While we were climbing on hard snow in June 1984, together with 4 mountaineers, we slid for meters towards the Devil's Throat.</i>	<i>There were some minor injuries from slipping and falling.</i>	<i>We treated a mountaineer in the group with asthma with the drugs I had as a precautionary measure upon her illness.</i>	<i>In July, while taking a picture on the hump rock, I slipped and slipped into the devil's creek.</i>

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		<i>We were able to stand on the soft formed after a certain point.</i>			
Question 12: <i>Is it necessary to camp at a certain altitude on the day of the climb?</i>	Mountaineer 1	Mountaineer 2	Mountaineer 3	Mountaineer 4	Mountaineer 5
	<i>Absolute camping is essential. You can reach the summit by camping at intervals of every 1000 meters. For Mount Erciyes, you should camp at 2800 m and reach 3917 m.</i>	<i>It is necessary to camp a day before at a certain point in order for the human body to get used to the high altitude.</i>	<i>It is absolutely necessary for adaptation to high altitude.</i>	<i>Before climbing the mountains above 3000 m, it is absolutely necessary to camp in order to adapt to the high altitude.</i>	<i>It is necessary to adapt to high altitude.</i>
	Mountaineer 6	Mountaineer 7	Mountaineer 8	Mountaineer 9	Mountaineer 10
	<i>It is absolutely necessary; 2800 m is considered high altitude. Mount Erciyes is a steeply rising mountain. For those coming from sea level, it is recommended to camp at 2000-2600 m.</i>	<i>It is absolutely necessary, 2500m camp is set up to get used to the high altitude. It is absolutely necessary to camp when climbing 3000 m and above mountains.</i>	<i>Camping is a must, especially for those who come at sea level.</i>	<i>It is absolutely necessary to camp at a certain altitude. It is important for the body's adaptation to high altitude.</i>	<i>There are definitely benefits to camping. There are camping areas in "Çoban ini" area.</i>
Question 13: <i>Is it easy to access mountaineering sports equipment?</i>	Mountaineer 1	Mountaineer 2	Mountaineer 3	Mountaineer 4	Mountaineer 5
	<i>Our access to mountaineering equipment is easier than in previous years. Especially after 2005 it became easier.</i>	<i>Nowadays, we have easy access to every equipment. However, most of the products are imported.</i>	<i>Access to mountaineering equipment varies according to the price.</i>	<i>Access to mountaineering equipment is easier nowadays.</i>	<i>It is much better today than in the past, it can be bought immediately if your budget allows.</i>
	Mountaineer 6	Mountaineer 7	Mountaineer 8	Mountaineer 9	Mountaineer 10
	<i>Under normal conditions, it is a bit difficult, but mountaineering is easier through sports clubs.</i>	<i>It's easy in the times we live in. It is more diverse.</i>	<i>It usually consists of imported products, beer is hard to find.</i>	<i>Nowadays, it is easier to find mountaineering sports products.</i>	<i>Access to material is now easy everywhere.</i>
Question 14: <i>Do you think mountaineering sports equipment is expensive?</i>	Mountaineer 1	Mountaineer 2	Mountaineer 3	Mountaineer 4	Mountaineer 5
	<i>I think mountaineering gear is too expensive. 90% of</i>	<i>It is very expensive.</i>	<i>I think mountaineering gear is expensive.</i>	<i>Mountaineering sports equipment is very expensive.</i>	<i>It is usually very expensive.</i>

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	<i>the products consist of imported products.</i>				
	Mountaineer 6	Mountaineer 7	Mountaineer 8	Mountaineer 9	Mountaineer 10
	<i>Mountaineering sports equipment is expensive.</i>	<i>Products sold in Türkiye are expensive. It is due to the fact that most products are imported from abroad.</i>	<i>The materials are expensive, many of them are imported. Domestic production is very small.</i>	<i>Quality sports equipment is very expensive.</i>	<i>It consists of expensive products.</i>
Question 15: <i>How is the domestic interest in mountaineering?</i>	Mountaineer 1	Mountaineer 2	Mountaineer 3	Mountaineer 4	Mountaineer 5
	<i>I think there is very little interest. There is a bit of interest from the cities of Istanbul, Izmir, Ankara, Antalya and Bursa.</i>	<i>The population of Türkiye is 85 million, there is little interest in this population ratio.</i>	<i>There is a high interest in Mount Erciyes from Türkiye.</i>	<i>Interest has been increasing in recent years.</i>	<i>There has been a lot of interest in the last 5-6 years.</i>
	Mountaineer 6	Mountaineer 7	Mountaineer 8	Mountaineer 9	Mountaineer 10
	<i>In the last 7-8 years, interest has been increasing gradually. There are many mountaineers coming especially in the city centers.</i>	<i>In the last six, it has increased with the work of the new Mountaineering Federation.</i>	<i>Interest from abroad is more than domestic.</i>	<i>Interest continues to increase day by day.</i>	<i>Interest is high in the summer.</i>
Question 16: <i>How is the interest in mountaineering from abroad?</i>	Mountaineer 1	Mountaineer 2	Mountaineer 3	Mountaineer 4	Mountaineer 5
	<i>There is little interest for Mount Erciyes, but a lot of interest for Mount Ararat. Christians, Jews and Armenians have a high religious interest in Mount Ararat.</i>	<i>Interest in Mount Erciyes is very low, interest in mountain skiing has started to increase a little.</i>	<i>There is less interest today than in the past. There was much more interest in the past.</i>	<i>There is a partial interest in Erciyes and Aladağlar.</i>	<i>Every time I go out in the summer, I definitely encounter a foreign mountaineer. However, this is not enough.</i>
	Mountaineer 6	Mountaineer 7	Mountaineer 8	Mountaineer 9	Mountaineer 10
	<i>It has not reached the expected level yet, but it exists, albeit partially.</i>	<i>Currently, there is intense interest only in Mount Ararat.</i>	<i>Interest from abroad continues to increase day by day.</i>	<i>In some periods, it is seen that foreign mountaineer groups come. But</i>	<i>In recent years, interest from abroad continues to increase.</i>

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				<i>it is not sufficient.</i>	
Question 17: <i>Why is climbing the Erciyes summit important for mountaineers?</i>	Mountaineer 1	Mountaineer 2	Mountaineer 3	Mountaineer 4	Mountaineer 5
	<i>Before climbing the 7, 8 thousand metre mountains, it is absolutely necessary to go to Erciyes. It should be preferred because it is perpendicular to adapt to high altitude. A mountaineer who climbs Erciyes Mountain can easily climb to 5 thousand mountains.</i>	<i>Erciyes Peak climbing is important for training purposes, because it is steep, the height is suitable, and it is easy to reach Erciyes Mountain.</i>	<i>It is preferred because it is easy to reach Erciyes Mountain and it appeals to mountaineers of all levels.</i>	<i>Being close to the city center is important as there are climbing routes with varying degrees of difficulty.</i>	<i>It is an important summit climbing region because it is the largest mountain in Central Anatolia and the 5th largest mountain in Türkiye.</i>
	Mountaineer 6	Mountaineer 7	Mountaineer 8	Mountaineer 9	Mountaineer 10
	<i>Erciyes summit climbing is important for technique and experience.</i>	<i>Having routes of different difficulty, being a medium height mountain with 3917 m, it is a good summit climbing route for the beginning.</i>	<i>It is one of the most important high mountains of Türkiye with 3917 m. Therefore, it is important to gain experience.</i>	<i>It is always a preferred climbing route among Turkish mountaineers. The Cappadocia region also has an influence.</i>	<i>It is a pleasant route to climb, it does not tire people too much, it should definitely be preferred in terms of experience.</i>
Question 18: <i>Is climbing Erciyes peak preferred among mountaineers?</i>	Mountaineer 1	Mountaineer 2	Mountaineer 3	Mountaineer 4	Mountaineer 5
	<i>90% of mountaineering athletes make the summit climb to Erciyes.</i>	<i>It is a preferred mountain among Turkish mountaineers in summer and winter.</i>	<i>Erciyes summit climbing is a recommended route among mountaineers.</i>	<i>It is a mountain that must be climbed to the summit among mountaineers.</i>	<i>It is one of the popular summit climbing routes among mountaineers. Climbing is done by the Mountaineering Federation on important days.</i>
	Mountaineer 6	Mountaineer 7	Mountaineer 8	Mountaineer 9	Mountaineer 10
	<i>Most of the mountaineers in Türkiye prefer to climb Mount Erciyes. Especially on some special days, climbing activities are</i>	<i>It is among the mountains where summit climbing is made among mountaineers. Those who do not climb the Erciyes summit are not yet considered a mountaineer.</i>	<i>It is one of the most preferred summit climbing routes among mountaineers.</i>	<i>In general, almost all of the mountaineers want to climb the Erciyes summit.</i>	<i>It is a preferred mountain among mountaineers.</i>

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	<i>definitely carried out.</i>				
Question 19: <i>Does mountaineering have economic benefits in Türkiye?</i>	Mountaineer 1	Mountaineer 2	Mountaineer 3	Mountaineer 4	Mountaineer 5
	<i>Except for Mount Ararat, the economic return of other mountains is very low.</i>	<i>There are very few.</i>	<i>It is not enough right now.</i>	<i>It has little to no economic return.</i>	<i>It has economic returns in regions such as Mount Ararat, but it is not at a sufficient level in Erciyes.</i>
	Mountaineer 6	Mountaineer 7	Mountaineer 8	Mountaineer 9	Mountaineer 10
	<i>It is somewhat limited though.</i>	<i>It currently has very little economic return.</i>	<i>There are very few.</i>	<i>There are very few.</i>	<i>Its economic return is very low.</i>
Question 20: <i>Is there enough interest from Kayseri, Türkiye for mountaineering?</i>	Mountaineer 1	Mountaineer 2	Mountaineer 3	Mountaineer 4	Mountaineer 5
	<i>Unfortunately, there is not enough interest from "Kayseri" yet.</i>	<i>There is not enough interest for "Kayseri" yet.</i>	<i>Young people are more interested than before.</i>	<i>Unfortunately, interest is not enough.</i>	<i>Interest has been increasing in recent years. Many different teams perform exits.</i>
	Mountaineer 6	Mountaineer 7	Mountaineer 8	Mountaineer 9	Mountaineer 10
	<i>Interest has been increasing for the last 5-6 years.</i>	<i>There are many groups that are insufficient within the scope of mountaineering activities, but that do trekking activities.</i>	<i>Interest from the center of Kayseri is low. However, interest is high from "Hacılar", "Develi" and "Hisarcık", which are the other districts of "Kayseri".</i>	<i>Interest has been increasing in recent years. We can say that the use of social media and "Kayseri" municipalities have an impact on this increase.</i>	<i>It is not enough yet.</i>

Reference Mountaineers: İsmail Yılmaz, Yakup Yılmaz, Mehmet Özkan, Kemal Bayır, Mustafa Karaahmet, Ziya Sakarya, İbrahim Kiraz, Sadık Doğru, Nazmi Yücel, Bilal Güvercin.

3.2 All of the Questions Results

Question 1; 100% of the mountaineer have strong emotional relief about Erciyes Mountain. All of them mention that Erciyes Mountain is part of their life.

Question 2; 40% of the mountaineer want to climb the Erciyes summit during the winter time, also mountaineers prefer the climb the Erciyes summit during the summer and winter time. 30% of the mountaineer want to climb the Erciyes summit during the summer period.

Question 3; 30% of the mountaineer climbs the Erciyes summit devil creek and devil left lane (Nesrin Topkapi) routes, and 20% of the mountaineer climbs the Erciyes summit northern glaciers and ridge (back) routes.

Question 4; 50% of the mountaineer mentioned in the interview 5 different routes names. The most known routes names are; Devil creek, devil left lane (Nesrin Topkapi), ridge (back), and northern glacier and snow ice routes. 30% of the mountaineer

mentioned 6 different routes to climb the Erciyes summit. Different from the above routes only angel routes.

Question 5; For the Devil creek, 60% of the mountaineers participating in the study stated that the creek is very steep and dangerous, and falling stones from the rocks that the reason they called the Devil's creek. For the Devil Creek left lane (Nesrin Topkapi); 60% of the mountaineers participating in the research stated that there are too many turns and bends during the climb and that it is referred to as such because it is likened to the famous belly dancer Nesrin Topkapi in the 1980s. At the same time, 20% of mountaineers saw a dancing woman as a hallucination of a mountaineer while climbing on New Year's Eve 1980. This dancing woman was likened to the famous belly dancer Nesrin Topkapi. Since this date, this lane is also known as the Nesrin Topkapi route.

Question 6; 50% of the mountaineers participating in the study prefer the devil left lane (Nesrin Topkapi) during the summer period. As a reason for preference, they stated that this lane is short, stone falls are low and it is safe. 30% of the mountaineers participating in the study prefer the ridge route in the summer period. As a reason for preference; they stated that this lane is an easy route, there is less risk of falling stones and it is a long route. 20% of the mountaineers participating in the study prefer the ridge route and the devil's left lane (Nesrin Topkapi) during the summer period. As a reason for preference; they stated that these lanes are the routes that can be applied safely and comfortably.

Question 7; 80% of the mountaineers participating in the study prefer the devil creek route during the winter period. The reason for the preference is to climb the peak steeply, cut snow, make small turns, and climb quickly. 20% of the mountaineers participating in the study prefer the devil creek and snow-ice routes in the winter period. As a reason for preference, the difficulty level of the snow-ice route is high, and the Devil Creek route is steep and fast with small turns to reach the summit.

Question 8; 100% of the mountaineers participating in the study as climbing advantages in the summer, they stated that less material is used, the load is less, it is not dangerous, the weather conditions are good, the view is beautiful, and it is easy to get out of the paths. As a disadvantage in the summer; they gave statements such as excessive rock falls, slips, hot weather, and falls.

Question 9; 100% of the mountaineers participating in the study as climbing advantages in the winter, they stated that there are no rock falls, the view is very beautiful, it is easy to go on hard snow, it is fast and steep by making turns in hard snow, the ones following behind can easily get out of the trail after the leader makes a trail, there are fewer slips due to the use of crampons, and there are fewer mountaineers. As a disadvantage in the winter, they gave statements such as bad weather conditions such as snow, cold, avalanche, blizzard and storms, risk of hypothermia, soft snow making climbing difficult, and excessive use of materials.

Question 10; The interesting events experienced by the mountaineers participating in the study are given in (Question 10, Table 3).

Question 11; There are many climbing accidents experienced by the mountaineers participating in the study. Climbing accidents encountered by mountaineers are listed in (Question 11, Table 3).

Question 12; 100% of the mountaineers participating in the study stated that camping is necessary to adapt to the high altitude of each 1000 m. For Mount Erciyes, it was stated that it is appropriate to camp at the Çobanini location, which is 2800 m.

Question 13; It was stated by 100% of the mountaineers who participated in the study that access to mountaineering equipment is easier today than in the past. However, since most of the mountaineering materials are imported products, it is sometimes stated that it is difficult to find the desired material.

Question 14; It was stated by 100% of the mountaineers participating in the study stated that mountaineering equipment is expensive.

Question 15; The mountaineers participating in the study; 60% of them stated that their interest in mountaineering has been increasing rapidly in recent years, 30% of them stated that their interest in the domestic is low, and 10% of them stated that there is more interest from abroad.

Question 16; The mountaineers participating in the study; 40% of them say that there is a partial interest in mountaineering from abroad, but that it is not at a sufficient level, and 30% of them say that the interest in Erciyes Mountain is low, but the religious interest of Christians, Jews, and Armenians in Mount Ararat is high, 20% of them continue to seek interest from abroad and 10% stated that the interest is lower today than in the past.

Question 17; In general, mountaineers stated that Erciyes Mountain is a medium-high mountain for climbing and that it would be good to climb Erciyes Mountain to adapt to the high altitude before climbing the mountains at 5-6 thousand heights. It is recommended for mountaineers who have just started mountaineering because it is convenient and easy to access. They stated that there are various climbing routes on Mount Erciyes according to the degree of difficulty.

Question 18; In general, mountaineers want to climb Mount Erciyes. There are climbing activities on Mount Erciyes by mountaineers in summer and winter periods.

Question 19; 100% of the mountaineer have mentioned that Mount Erciyes does not have enough economic return right now.

Question 20; The interest in Mount Erciyes is not enough from the city of Kayseri, where the mountain is located. However, the interest of young people has been increasing in recent years.

3.3 How are the route names given?

Devil's Creek; it is called the devil's creek because of the rock falls, the steep exit, and the likeness of the rocks in the region to the devil.

Devil's left lane (Nesrin Topkapi); is a route to the left of the devil. In the 1980s, the famous belly dancer of the period Nesrin Topkapi appeared on television on New Year's Eve night in single-TV channel times. Since one of the mountaineers saw the hallucination

of belly dancer Nesrin Topkapi during a summit climb on new year's eve, this route has been called under this name since that day.

Ridge; it is the longest route to climb to Mount Erciyes.

Snow Ice; it is called because some parts are snow and soft, and some parts are glacial.

Northern Glacier; because of the glacier located in the northern part of Erciyes Mountain, this route was called the northern glacier.

Angel; it is called the angel route because it is a new route and is not well known. It is known by mountaineers that there are more than 10 routes in climbing to the summit of Erciyes. Within the scope of this study, the most used routes are included.

4. Discussion and Conclusion

In the study, questions asked mountaineers how they felt about Mount Erciyes, and mountaineers stated that they had strong feelings, such as feelings for a lover (Table 3). The concepts most often mentioned with Erciyes are Whiteness and purity; time and date; love; majesty and majesty. No matter which poem you look at from past to present about this mountain, you will always see that these concepts are used, or at least these concepts are also pointed out (Çavuşođlu, 2004). One of the concepts most evoked by Erciyes is love. The lover pours out his troubles to *Erciyes* and opens his secrets. He likens the wife on his head to his lover's wedding dress and cools the love inside him with it. Sometimes, he becomes attached to this white mountain with a pure love that he does not know (Çavuşođlu, 2004).

Among the study questions, you can tell about an event that happened to you during the summit climb. According to the mountaineers' accounts, they made statements about hallucinations and some personality changes caused by high altitude (Table 3). It is known that high altitude affects personality, as well as physical performance, which is affected by psychological stresses and personality structure (Takemura et al. 1999; Sofuođlu, 1993).

All of the mountaineers stated that it is necessary to camp and adapt to the high altitude between 2500-2800 m (Table 3). Except for a few of the mountains known to be climbed in our country, almost all of them are at altitudes below 5000 meters. For this reason, although it is accepted that these altitudes do not cause significant changes in mountaineers during climbing, the fact that statistically significant differences were detected despite the altitude being 2970 m in our study reveals that neuropsychiatric changes may occur at lower altitudes as well (Mazıcıođlu et al, 2000).

The answer to the question, "Is the interest of foreign and local mountaineers in Erciyes sufficient," which is among the study questions, was answered that the mountaineers are at a moderate level in general (Table 3). Notably, Mount Ararat, Aladađlar, Cilo and Sat Mountains, Erciyes Mountain, Süphan Mountain, and Kaçkar Mountains were the mountains that attracted the most attention. This is also the period when foreign tourism related to mountaineering started to increase (Kaya, 2016).

As a result, the summer period climbing advantages; less material is used during this period and, it lightens the load. It is not very dangerous in the summer period and, the summit is reached as if walking from the path. Summer period disadvantages: there may be cases such as falling stones, sprained feet, and unevenness of the floor. Advantages of climbing to the top of the winter period; stone falls do not happen, it is difficult for the mountaineers in the front as they make a trail, but it is easy for the mountaineers coming from behind because the trail is cleared. The viewing pleasure is very good. Winter period climbing disadvantages: there may be situations such as avalanche risk, storm, blizzard, hypothermia risk, and chills. It has been stated by all mountaineers that it is necessary to camp both period summer and winter at an altitude of 2500 meters.

On Mount Erciyes, some routes appeal to every mountaineer's level of difficulty. Before going on routes of 5000 meters and above, a summit climb must be done on a mountain such as Mount Erciyes. The economic return of the Erciyes summit climbing region is not yet at the desired point. However, there are signs that it will increase in the future.

Conflict of Interest Statement

The author declares no conflicts of interest.

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Interviewed Mountain Climbers

- İsmail Yılmaz, a face-to-face meeting was held on October 10, 2021. (Kayseri, Türkiye)
- Yakup Yılmaz, a face-to-face meeting was held on October 10, 2021. (Kayseri, Türkiye)
- Mehmet Özkan, a face-to-face meeting was held on October 10, 2021. (Kayseri, Türkiye)
- Kemal Bayır, a telephone interview was made on January 5, 2022. (Kayseri, Türkiye)
- Mustafa Karaahmet, a phone interview was made on January 5, 2022. (Kayseri, Türkiye)
- Ziya Sakarya, a phone interview was made on January 10, 2022. (Kayseri, Türkiye)
- İbrahim Kiraz, a phone interview was made on January 10, 2022. (Kayseri, Türkiye)
- Sadık Doğru, a phone interview was made on January 11, 2022. (Kayseri, Türkiye)
- Nazmi Yücel, a phone interview was made on January 12, 2022. (Kayseri, Türkiye)
- Bilal Güvercin, a phone interview was made on January 13, 2022. (Kayseri, Türkiye)

Photographies

- Cem Temur, personal photos, 2022 (Kayseri, Türkiye)
- Ramazan Bozkurt, personal photos, 2022 (Kayseri, Türkiye)

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