

TATTOO ARTWORK OF BODY DECORATION AMONG THE FOOTBALL PLAYERS: GLAMOUR, EFFECTS, EXCITEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

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Abstract

Tattoos are ways through which people send messages about themselves or someone they know. They can easily set you apart from your peers by showing off sense of individuality. This study gave a critical look at the stylistic artwork of body ink called tattoos on the glamorous effect of the game of football and the performance of the footballers on the pitch. A survey was conducted on the football fans and football players in Ibadan metropolis which comprises of five local governments which include Ibadan North, Ibadan North East, Ibadan North West, Ibadan South East and Ibadan South West. One hundred football fans were picked from ten football viewing centres and 50 football players with tattoos were purposively chosen for interview on the effect of tattoos on the glamour in the game of football and the performance of footballers on the field using questionnaires. Demographic profile of the football viewers and players was conducted. Four-point likert scale was used for rating the response option, and any rating above 2.5 acceptable level showed agreement. Demographic results showed that the majority of football viewers (80.0%) and players (76.0%) have secondary education; 60.0% of viewers and 68.0% of players have been watching and playing football between 11 and 15 years respectively. The results showed that football viewers agreed that tattoos in the game of football make the game more colorful (2.8) glamorous, exciting (2.9) and increase the aesthetic value of the game (3.1). The footballers agreed that tattoo made them attractive and acceptable (3.3) and served as a source of strength (2.94), courage (2.98), motivation (3.20), identity and self- esteem (3.18). They neither give pain (1.9), discomfort (1.68) nor skin mutilation (1.82).

Keywords: Stylistic, Football players, Football fans, Ibadan meteropolis

Introduction

A tattoo is a form of body modification where a design is made by inserting ink, dyes and pigments, either indelible or temporary, into the dermis layer of the skin to change the pigment (Thompson, 2015). Tattoo falls into three broad categories with decorative (with no specific meaning), symbolic (with a specific meanings pertinent to the wearer)

and pictorial (a depiction of a specific person or item) (Thompson, 2018). The practice of tattoo is known as skinvertising (Hines 2013). Tattoo requires breaking the skin barrier, since it carries health risks which include infection and allergic reaction.

Infections from the use of unfiltered tattoo equipment or contaminating ink include surface infections of the skin, fungal

infections, some form of hepatitis, HIV and tuberculosis Hines (2012). Occasionally, when the blood vessel is punctured during the tattooing procedure, a bruise may appear and mixed with inks that may contain hazardous substances, Boynton (2013) and Rosenbaum (2016).

Many tattoos serve as rites of passage, marks of social status and rank, symbols of religions and spiritual devotion, devotions for bravery, sexual lures and marks of fertility, pledges of love, amulets and talismans, protection and punishment like the marks of outcasts, slaves and convicts. The symbolism and impact of tattoos vary in different places and culture. Today, people choose to be tattooed for artistic, cosmetics, sentimental/immemorial, religious and magical reasons, and to symbolize their belongingness or identification with particular groups. Tattoos have also been used in marketing and advertising with companies paying people to have logos of brands like Red bull and Sailor Jerry's run tattooed in their bodies Allen (2013).

Despite the health risk associated with the tattoo, sporting enthusiasts are seriously attracted to soccer tattoos, and the allure is intrinsically obvious. Soccer tattoos are worldwide wonders that keep gaining attraction in the sporting world. They possess an unrivaled rate of noble swaggers in such a way that no other activity ignites passion more than soccer tattoo. Body ink has provided a much clearer portal into the soul of soccer. Looking and reading of the tattoos, the murkiest corners of the player psyche are instantly revealed.

More often, players get homesick and frequently experience feelings of wistful melancholy. Players are doing their bit to combat relocation depression via tattoos. There couldn't be a better way to counteract homesickness than to contemplate image of one's hometown movements on one's own body. On Aaron Ramsey's right leg, there is a touching depiction of Caerphilly castle, along with St. Michael and other symbols of Welshness. Judging from the face value of tattoo, players derive emotional comfort from them and show the players to be full of dream. The left hand of Marcos Reus who is the attacking midfielder for Borussia

Dortmund is inscribed with the string Oprah quote "The biggest adventure you can have is to like your dreams" (Klinger & Ahava, 2021)

Tattoos have also shown that players like foreign languages. David Beckham's right arm is inscribed with Latin language "*perfection in spiritie*" meaning protection in the spirit. Olivier Giraud's right arm is inscribed "*Dominus regit me et mihi decrit*" meaning The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. There are tattoos among the players showing that they remember death. Steven Fletcher, a striker from Sheffield Wednesday has a terrifying and horror death skull and roses tattooed on his leg. Daniel Agger of the same football club also has entire Nordic graveyard rendered on his back (Simon *et al.*, 2020)

Soccer tattoos have shown players to be in touch with feelings as it is shown in the inscription on the lower-left torso of Liverpool center back, Dejan Lovren, which says "you don't choose your family, they are God's gift to you, and you are to them". Feelings and emotions are lovingly inked onto players' bodies, surrounded by cascading hearts and Lalou on their legs and the bottom of their back, there is inscription showing the summary of their family life, including their children's birthdays, his wedding, his wife's name. Philippe Coutinho, from Liverpool, explained he got a tattoo when he had his daughter and could have another tattoo when he gets another child. This is a touching display of parental commitment using tattoo. Tattoo makes players to be impulsive; most things for football players is to get linked with the logo of his current or former club. Lukas Podolski's old Cologne club tattoo is always with him even in his present club, Arsenal. Many players impulsively adorn their bodies with decoctions of the mother of their children. Tattoo shows display of fashion in a game of football. This was shown in Welshman, Robbie Savage, a pundit and former players who commissioned a tattoo of the Armani logo on his arm. Tattoo has revealed that players are identified with angels as shown in Lionel Messi who has tattoo of a wing of angel on his leg and portrait of Jesus Christ inscribed on his right arm. Players like Djibril Cisse, Skirrel, Beeks

Stephen Ireland, Marco Marterazzi, Gregory van der Will inscribe wing of Angel Gabriel on their backs, Del, Diego, Victor, Vavie&Richado (2020), Klinger & Ahava, (2021).

Generally, tattoos offer players opportunities for unbridled self expression. They give motivation to players in spite of every other odd for a player there is an expression that "you can't stop me from adorning my back with poems. Tattoos serve as anti-hate measures for players. They offer a way to push back against the haters. Players attempt to immunize themselves against corrosive, emasculating, diminishing social media. This is shown in Marcos Rojo's huge blaring "pride and glory" inscribed on his leg, this adds to the player virility and bravery. Soccer tattoo helps to maintain notion of fearlessness and ferocity. On Beckman's left arm it is inscribed "let them hate as long as they fear" (Virenet *et al.*, 2015).

There are also personal reasons for using tattoo by different players. The players are the only ones that have the meaning behind the tattoo they put on. England footballer, Raheem Sterling has been forced to defend the tattoo of an assault rifle on his arm; he said it reflected his pledge to never touch a gun after his father was shot dead when he was two years old. Sergio Ramos, a defender for Real Madrid and Spanish team, has the tattoo of Virgin Mary on his arm, an icon on his back, and in his knuckles, he has the number 35, 90, 32 and 19 in red ink. He later interpreted all those numbers as follows. He said 32 and 35 were his shirt numbers in his first club, Seville, while 90 represents the goal he scored at injury time (after 90 minutes) in 2014 champions league against Atletico Madrid. As for 19, it showed that he started playing for Spanish team at 19 years of age (Simon *et al.*, 2018). It is evidently clear that tattoos and football games are two inseparable entities. Therefore, it will be interesting to investigate the effect of tattoo among the Nigerian players at the local levels and the football lovers or fans in Nigeria.

Purpose of study

- i. To investigate effect of tattoo on the glamour and excitement in the game of football.
- ii. To examine effect of tattoo on the quality and performance of the footballers with tattoo on the field.
- iii. To identify effect of tattoo on the well-being and comfort of the footballers with tattoo on field of play

Research Questions

1. Does tattoo add more to the glamour and excitement of football game?
2. Does tattoo improve the performance and quality of the footballers with tattoo on the football pitch?
3. Does tattoo give pain or discomfort to the footballer using them?

Methodology

Research Design

The study made use of descriptive survey research design. Questionnaire was used to get the response of football fans and football players in Ibadan metropolis to assess the effect of tattoo on football and performance of the football players on the pitch. The study was carried out in Ibadan metropolis which comprises of Ibadan North, Ibadan North West, Ibadan North East, Ibadan South West and Ibadan South East of Oyo State. For the purpose of this study, four football viewing centres were purposefully selected in each of the five local governments to make twenty football viewing centres chosen in each of the five local governments to make twenty football viewing centres.

Population of the study

The population of the study comprises all football fans and viewing centres in five local governments of Ibadan metropolis. The sample of the study comprised of 100 football fans from the 20 viewing centres and fifty football players with tattoos from the 5 local governments in Ibadan metropolis. The football fans chosen are regular viewers and hardened supporters of various football clubs in Europe, while the chosen football players

are regular players in various registered and recognized clubs in Ibadan metropolis.

Instrument for the Data Collection

The instrument used was a structured questionnaire to collect data for this study. The items were generated based on the information gathered from the purpose of the study. The instrument used was a four-point Likert type scale for rating the response options as strongly agreed (SA), Agreed (A), strongly Disagreed (SD) and Disagreed (D) as well as numerical values of 4,3,2 and 1 respectively. Therefore, response with means 2.5 and above was regarded as agreed while means less than 2.5 was regarded as disagreed.

Validation and reliability of instrument

The instrument was subjects to validation. The reliability of the instrument was established using person's product movement correlation coefficient formula to find out the internal constituency of the validated instruments.

Data Collection

The instrument was administered to the respondent's 100 copies and 50 copies of the

questionnaires were administered and retrieved to the chosen football viewers and football player respectively.

Data Analysis

The data collected for the study were analyzed using mean and grand mean to answer the questions.

Results

Demographic profile of the interviewed football fans and football players showed that the majority of them are youth. 84% of the football fans and 100% of the football players are in the range of 20-40 years. The majority of football fans (88.0%) and football players (70.0%) are men and single with 76.0% for football fans and 92.9% for football players (Table1). The majority of the football fans (80.0%) and football players (76.9%) are having secondary education. Many of the football fans (60.0%) have been following one club or the other and 68.0% of the football players have been playing for one club or the other for one 10 years. They majority of the football fans (52.0%) and football players (74.0%) are supporters of English football clubs (Table 1).

Table 1: Demographic Profile of the Interviewed Football Viewers and Football Players.

AGE (YEARS)	FOOTBALL FANS FREQUENCY	%	FOOTBALL PLAYERS FREQUENCY	%
20 - 40	84	84.0	50	100.0
40 - 60	15	15.0	0	0.0
60 - 100	1	1.0	0	0.0
TOTAL	100	-	50	100

Source: Field Survey 2020

S E X	FOOTBALL FANS FREQUENCY	%	FOOTBALL PLAYER FREQUENCY	%
Male	88	88.0	35	70.0
Female	12	12.0	15	30.0
TOTAL	100	-	50	100

Source: Field Survey 2020

Marital Status	FOOTBALL FANS FREQUENCY	%	FOOTBALL PLAYER FREQUENCY	%
Married	24	24.0	4	8.0
Single	76	76.0	46	92.0
Divorce	0	0.0	0	0.0
Widower	0	0.0	0	0.0
TOTAL	100	-	50	100

Source: Field Survey 2020

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND	FOOTBALL FANS FREQUENCY			%	FOOTBALL PLAYER FREQUENCY			%
No formal Education	0	.	0	0 . 0	0	.	0	0 . 0
Primary Education	5	.	0	5 . 0	0	.	0	0 . 0
Secondary Education	8	0	.	0 8 0 . 0	3	8	.	0 7 6 . 0
Tertiary Education	1	5	.	0 1 5 . 0	1	2	.	0 2 4 . 0
T O T A L	1	0	0	1 0 0	5		0	1 0 0

Source: Field Survey 2020

YEARS OF VIEWING/PLAYING FOOTBALL					FOOTBALL FANS FREQUENCY				%	FOOTBALL PLAYER FREQUENCY				%			
1	-				5	1	2	.	0	12.0	5	.			0	10.0	
5	-				1	0	1	8	.	0	18.0	1	1	.	0	22.0	
1	1	-	1	5	6	0	.	0	60.0	3	4	.	.			0	68.0
15 years above					1	0	.	0	10.0	0	.			0	0.0		
T	O	T	A	L	1	0			0	100	5	0			0	100	

Source: Field Survey 2020

SUPPORTING FOOTBALL CLUBS	FOOTBALL FANS FREQUENCY			%	FOOTBALL PLAYER FREQUENCY			%
N o T e a m	2	.	0	2 . 0	0	.	0	0 . 0
L o c a l t e a m	6	.	0	6 . 0	0	.	0	0 . 0
S p a n i s h t e a m	2	2	.	0 2 2 . 0	1	0	.	0 2 0 . 0
E n g l i s h T e a m	5	2	.	0 5 2 . 0	3	7	.	0 7 4 . 0
G e r m a n T e a m	1	2	.	0 1 2 . 0	2	.	0	4 . 0
F r e n c h t e a m	6	.	0	6 . 0	0	.	0	2 . 0
O t h e r s	0	.	0	0 . 0	-			100.0
T O T A L	1	0	0	1 0 0	5		0	1 0 0

Source: Field Survey 2020

Table 2 showed modal rating of the response of the football fans to the effect of tattoo on the glamour and excitement of football game. The modal response of the football viewers from different viewing centers across the 5 local governments showed that in item 1, it is agreed that tattoo makes football game more lively and colorful. The modal rating of items 2 is either strongly agreed or agreed while item 3 is agreed which showed the football fans agreed that

tattoo makes football game more interesting and add flavor to the game, while item 4 shown strongly agreed responses which means tattoo brings more excitements to the game of football. And lastly, item 5 shows modal responses of agreed; this shows that tattoo increases the beauty and aesthetics value of the game.

Table 2: Response of Football fans on glamour and excitement effect of tattoo in football

S/N	I	T	E	M	S	S	A	A	S	D	D	MODAL CLASS	REMARK AGREED
1	.	Tattoo in the game of football marks if more lively and colorful	1	5	2	0	5	1	0			A	A g r e e d
2	.	Tattoo in the game of football make if more interesting and glamorous	1	8	1	8	5	9				S	A A g r e e d
3	.	Tattoo adds more flavor to the game of football	1	5	2	2	3	6				A	A g r e e d
4	.	Tattoo brings more excitement to the game of football	2	2	1	6	5	7				S	A A g r e e d
5	.	Tattoo increases the beauty and aesthetic value of the game	2	0	3	0	5	5				A	A g r e e d

The modal rating of the response of football players in relation to tattoo on their quality and performance on the football pitch showed that item 1 is strongly agreed, 2 is agreed with. These response levels indicated that the footballers with tattoos agreed that tattoo makes them look good, more attractive

and acceptable to their fans. The modal rating for items 3 and 4 are strongly agreed. These two items above indicated the agreement of the interviewed footballers on tattoo in increasing their strength, physical fitness and courage.

Table 3: Response of the football players to the effect of tattoo on their quality and performance on the field

S/N	I	T	E	M	S	S	A	A	S	D	D	MODAL CLASS	REMARK AGREED
1	.	Tattoo makes you good looking and add to your beauty	4	0	3	0	1	0	2	0		S	A S Agreed
2	.	Tattoo makes you look attractive and acceptable by fans during the football match	5	0	4	0	5	5				A	A g r e e d
3	.	Tattoo makes you strong and physically fit during the football matches	4	0	3	5	5	2	0			S	A S Agreed
4	.	Tattoo makes you brave and courageous when playing football	6	0	2	5	1	0	5			S	A S Agreed
5	.	Tattoo makes you emotional stable when playing matches	4	0	4	5	5	1	0			A	A g r e e d
6	.	Tattoo gives you inspiration and self motivation fulfillment	4	0	5	0	5	5				A	A g r e e d
7	.	Tattoo gives you identify and self recognition	3	5	4	0	1	5	1	0		A	A g r e e d
8	.	Tattoo gives you pain and discomfort	1	0	1	0	4	0	5	0		S	D S Disagreed
9	.	Tattoo gives you fatigue and directness	5		2	0	3	5	4	0		D	Disagreed
10	.	Tattoo causes you skin mutilation and disfigure of you approach	1	0	1	0	2	5	4	5		D	Disagreed

The result also showed modal rating of items 5 and 6 respectively. This shows that the players agreed that tattoo makes them emotionally stable, gives them inspiration and self-fulfillment when playing football. The players showed their agreement on item 7, which indicates that tattoo gives them identity and self-recognition.

However, modal rating of items 8, item 9 and item 10 showed disagreement from the players. They showed disagreement that tattoo causes pain, discomfort, fatigue, mutilation of skin and disfigure of their appearance. That is the players feel comfortable without any pain or fatigue with their tattoos in playing football.

Discussion

The demographic study showed that younger age strictly dominated by men is involved in playing and supporting game of football. This agrees with the findings of Alberto *et al.* (2018) who reported male dominance among the people with tattoo in their demographic study. The majority of them have secondary education and have been playing and following football for over ten years. Many of them are supporters of English football clubs. The findings of the study revealed that the factors of the items presented for analysis were proved to be the factors that could relate tattoo to the glamour effect of football and the performance of footballers. The footballers with tattoo feel satisfied, look good, full of strength, courageous, motivated,

deaf recognized and self-fulfilled when playing football matches. This is in agreement with the findings of De Coso *et al.* (2020) who reported higher speed and better performance among the players having tattoo in their body than the other players without tattoo in 2019 Spanish Laliga. The footballers did not feel pain, discomfort or fatigue with their tattoos when playing matches.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, tattoos in the game of football make it more glamorous, colorful and exciting. Tattoos also give satisfaction, comfort and courage to the football players which improve their performance on the football pitch. It is concluded that tattoos manage the aesthetic value of the football game and improve the quality the performance of the Hyperion footballers.

Recommendations

Based on the rate at which football lovers are embracing the use of tattoos in this game, it is recommended that more of youth should go into the business of tattoo making as a source of employment and income. It is also recommended that more investigations should be conducted on health risk associated with the use of tattoo in the body

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