

CHAPTER 1

THE EFFECTS OF EXCHANGE RATE VOLATILITY ON FOREIGN TRADE IN TURKEY

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1. INTRODUCTION

It is assumed that exchange rate volatility has a symmetric effect on foreign trade. According to this assumption, an increase in exchange rate volatility leads to decrease trade flows while a decrease in the volatility enhances bilateral trade. However, countries react differently to fluctuations in exchange rates. De Grauwe (1988) stated that the response of a country to exchange rate risk depends on its risk attitude. Risk averse countries prefer to trade less when exchange rate volatility rises while risk tolerant countries will increase trade today in order to decrease any loss of income in the future. The increasing volatility reduces bilateral trade. On the other hand, counterparties feel themselves more confident by means of stabilizing of exchange rate by the central bank and the ability to decrease exchange rate volatility of it. So-called confidence factor may enhance foreign trade volume. Therefore, an asymmetric effect from exchange rates to domestic prices, import and export occurs (Delatte & Lopez Villavicencio, 2012; Bahmani-Oskooee & Afta, 2017).

The aim of this study is to examine the effect of exchange rate volatility on bilateral trade on sectoral basis under different economic cycles. Thus, this study is expected to contribute to the existing literature in several ways:

- We measured the asymmetric response of foreign trade on sectoral basis to exchange rate volatility by using nonlinear econometric methods in Turkey.
- We estimated exchange rate volatility by using Generalized Autoregressive Score Model (GAS) with time varying parameters.

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ture, competitive advantage in industrial products and also structural economic situation reflecting dependence of our exports on imports.

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