



A Review On Companies Export Performance From The Points Of View Of Export Market Expansion Strategy, International Product Adaptation Strategy and Standardization Of International Strategy

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Abstract : This research aims at reviewing the factors which contribute to the success of a company's penetration to the international market. It comprehensively review on companies' Export Performance From The Points Of View Of Export Market Expansion Strategy, International Product Adaptation Strategy and Standardization Of International Strategy . The method used in this research is the Systematic Literature Review. We attempt to gather literatures which correlate with export performance and the factors that influence and analyze current actual strength and issues. there are many researches which found that Export Market Expansion Strategy, International Product Adaptation Strategy and Standardization Of International Strategy correlate and influence a company's export performance. Finally, open problems for future research are also comprehensively discussed.

Keywords: Export Performance, Export Market Expansion Strategy, International Product Adaptation Strategy and Standardization Of International Strategy.

I. Introduction

Cross-border marketing refers to different cross-border marketing programs, particularly with regard to product offerings, promotional mix, pricing and distribution channel structure. Marketing mix refers to the mix of product, distribution, promotion, and pricing strategies. This strategy is unique and designed to satisfy the target market. Companies must determine which countries to enter, how to enter each market segment in a country, how to adjust product prices in different countries, and how to harmonize communications or promotions in different cultures.

In the Macroeconomic Perspective, exports are a company's strategy to internationalize to foreign markets, the expansion of a country's exports can increase the accumulation of foreign exchange reserves, increase employment, increase national productivity, and encourage economic growth. In the current era of globalization, increasing international trade causes the importance of exports to the national economy. Exports become a tool to ensure the survival of enterprises and achieve competitiveness. Export

performance is considered by the company through international marketing to increase revenue and greater productivity.

Export performance is one of the most widely researched but least understood and most contentious areas of international marketing. To some extent, this problem can be ascribed to difficulties in conceptualizing, operationalizing, and measuring the export performance construct, often leading to inconsistent and conflicting results. This study reviews and evaluates more than 100 articles of pertinent empirical studies to assess and critique export performance measurements. Based on gaps identified in this evaluation, guidelines for export performance measure development are advanced, suggesting, however, a contingency approach in their application. Several conclusions and implications for export strategy and future research are derived from this analysis.

Following the recommendations of Cavusgil and Zou (1993) and Matthyssens and Pauwels (1996), among others, we measured aspects of the firm's exportsales and export profits. Our 'sales performance' measure contained items designed to capture the firm's (a) sales growth relative to the industry average, (b) degree of satisfaction with the export volume, (c) degree of satisfaction with the market share in its export markets, and (d) degree of satisfaction with its rate of new market entry. Our 'profit performance' measure assessed (a) its degree of satisfaction with its export profits over the last three years, and (b) the overall profitability of its exporting operations during the previous financial year. The third performance measure, 'sales efficiency performance', captured (a) the ratio of the firm's total annual export sales turnover to the total number of employees working in it, and (b) the ratio of its total annual export sales turnover to the total number of countries it exported to.

Aaby and Slater (in Cavusgil and Zou, 1994) suggest that export performance is directly influenced by business strategy. Indrawanto (2003) in his research shows a positive relationship between export marketing strategies and export performance of exporting companies. This is similar to the findings obtained in the research conducted by Muafi (2008) which showed that the company's strategic orientation showed positive and significant results on export performance. Likewise, the findings obtained by Riyanto (2008) show that the company's strategy affects export performance. Hitt, Ireland and Stadter (1982) reported a negative relationship between firm performance and strategy emphasizing engineering, research and development activities for internal firms.

2. Rudimentary and Literature Selection

2.1. The Theory of Export Performance

This is particularly true for the widely researched topic of export performance and the factors related to firms' export success (Cavusgil and Zou 1994). Superior export performance is of vital interest to three major groups: public policy makers, who view exporting as a way to accumulate foreign exchange reserves, increase employment levels, improve productivity, and enhance societal prosperity (Czinkota 1994); business managers, who see exporting as a tool to boost corporate growth, increase capacity utilization, improve financial performance, strengthen competitive edge, and even ensure company survival in a highly globalized marketplace (Kumcu, Harcar, and Kumcu 1995; Samiee and Waiters 1990); and marketing researchers, who consider exporting a challenging but promising area for theory building in international marketing (Zou and Stan 1998).

The literature on export performance is similar: despite widespread research, it has remained one of the least understood areas of international marketing. To some extent, this can be explained by problems conceptualizing, operationalizing, and measuring the export performance construct, often leading to inconsistent and even conflicting results (Axinn 1994; Waiters and Samiee 1990). Ultimately, it is almost impossible to ascertain whether variations in research findings are due to the independent variables or the great number of different export performance measures employed (Zou, Taylor, and Osland 1998).

Several measures of export performance used in the previous empirical studies can be classified into one of the following three dimensions of export performance: export level, export growth and export profitability (Reid, 1982). Export level has been regarded as a traditional indicator of the overall importance of exports to a firm, while export sales growth and profitability are the dynamic and crucial indicators of export performance respectively. Bilkey (1982) has suggested that relative measures of export performance would be more reliable than traditionally used absolute measures of export performance. Therefore, this study included one absolute measure of export level and three relative measures of export growth and profitability respectively.

2.2. the Theory of Export Market Expansion Strategy

This study first presents an operationalisation scheme to classify exporters into different strategic export market expansion groups, based on the three dimensions of export market expansion (Ayal and Zif, 1979; Piercy, 1982). Next, multiple measures of export performance are discussed, followed by the description of null hypotheses for empirical tests. Types of Export Market Expansion Strategies Since classifying exporters into the two strategic groups fails to differentiate firms that are in transition between market concentration and diversification, three types of export market expansion strategies — market concentration, concentric diversification and market diversification — were considered, based on the following variables: (1) the level of export experience measured by the number of years of exporting, (2) the level of market diversification measured by the number of countries a firm exports to, and (3) the level of marketing efforts allocated to the major markets measured by the ratio of the percentage of marketing efforts allocated to the top five markets over the percentage of export sales in the top five markets. In grouping the exporters into three strategic groups, a three-stage classification scheme was developed as follows. Stage One. Exporting firms were initially divided into less experienced and more experienced exporters based on the number of years in exporting. The cut-off point of five years was selected considering two years or less of experimental exporting (Bilkey and Tesar, 1977) and the survival probability of small to medium-sized firms. Stage Two. Researchers have used several cut-off points as the geographical criterion that ranges from six to 20 countries.

International Marketing Review incorporate the time dimension of exporting (Ayal and Zif, 1979), three cut-off points of the number of export country markets were selected. First, among less experienced exporters, firms with markets in up to five countries were categorised as the market concentration group, while firms with markets in more than 12 countries were categorised as the market diversification group. Second, among more experienced exporters, firms with markets in more than 20 countries were categorised as the market diversification group, while firms with markets in up to 12 countries were categorised as the market concentration group. Stage Three. Firms that were not categorised at the second stage were further classified using the ratio of the percentage of marketing efforts allocated to the top five markets over the percentage of export sales in the top five markets. Among the less experienced exporters with markets in six to 12 countries, firms with a ratio above one were categorised as the market concentration group, while firms with a ratio below one were categorised as the concentric diversification group. Among the more experienced exporters with markets in 13 to 20 countries, firms with a ratio above one were categorised as the concentric diversification group, while firms with a ratio below one were categorised as the market diversification group. Export Performance Several measures of export performance used in the previous empirical studies can be classified into one of the following three dimensions of export performance: export level, export growth and export profitability (Reid, 1982). Export level has been regarded as a traditional indicator of the overall importance of exports to a firm, while export sales growth and profitability are the dynamic and crucial indicators of export performance respectively. Bilkey (1982) has suggested that relative measures of export performance would be more reliable than traditionally used absolute measures of export performance. Therefore, this study included one absolute measure of export level and three relative measures of export growth and profitability respectively.

The issue of selecting a specific export market expansion strategy has received considerable research attention on both conceptual and empirical levels (Lee and Yang 1990). This research interest is motivated by a number of factors. If the decision-making process pertaining to the choice of export market expansion strategy can be effectively modelled, this allows for assessment of future export behaviour. Simultaneously, those critical variables that underlie the selection of a certain approach can be isolated and considered in the design and implementation of appropriate corporate and public export policies.

2.3. The Theory of International product adaptation strategy

We define product adaptation strategy as a firm's consistent and planned activities to meet local consumers' preferences and values (Cavusgil and Zou, 1994). This strategy is primarily determined by characteristics of the firm and external business environments (Cavusgil et al., 1993; Johnson and Arunthanes, 1995; Leonidou et al., 2002; Menguc, 1997). Some researchers report that a firm's international product adaptation strategy leads to sales growth but not market share or profits (Johnson and Arunthanes, 1995; Leonidou et al., 2002). Nevertheless, most multinationals believe that their strategy facilitates not only sales growth but also return on investment and profitability (Zou and Cavusgil, 2002). We use the firm's product adaptation strategy as a marketing strategy that affects export performance positively (Cavusgil and Zou, 1994; Johnson and Arunthanes, 1995; Leonidou et al., 2002; Zou and Cavusgil, 2002). Both RVB and IO theory support this view by claiming that a firm's strategy driven by a firm's internal and external characteristics helps perform-ance better in the market (Bain, 1951; Barney, 1991).

According to Calantone et al. (2004), the adaptation of the physical product and packaging has been very seldom investigated. Most academic debate seems to have been of textbook kind, and the studies made can be roughly divided into two main categories: studies of managerial perceptions of the factors that affect the choice (Calantone et al., 2004, 2006) and theoretically based arguments to one side or the other (Douglas and Wind, 1987; Walters and Toyne, 1989; Yip, 1989). Also studies of the extent of changes in real, successful products for different markets do exist, even if they seem to be very rare (Cateora and Graham, 1999 report just one made by researchers at Harvard Business School). Many firms however have an appreciation for the nature and degree of competition in one or more foreign markets. From a buyer viewpoint, there are also numerous reasons for considering imported rather than domestic products (Overby and Servais, 2005).

three arguments underlie exporter's adaptation of strategies. First, segmentation and positioning considerations drive firms to adapt (Baalbaki and Malhotra 1993, 1995; Samiee and Roth 1992). Segmentation requires a division of markets into homogeneous sub-markets. Many national markets are more homogeneous within than across countries. Thus, a high degree of adaptation leads to more accurate positioning, enabling exporters to charge high prices via price discrimination (Samiee and Roth 1992). In sum, as nations diverge, a high level of adaptation improves performance via price discrimination. A second adaptation driver is the need to maintain strategic flexibility, which can be a competitive advantage (Fiegenbaum and Karnani 1991). With the advent of advanced manufacturing techniques (e.g., flexible manufacturing), economies of scale in batch production enable firms to match mass-production on costs while producing many product variations (Sriram and Gupta 1991). Mass customization also enables exporters to market high-quality products, allowing them to create and maintain a competitive advantage over mass-production rivals. Such an advantage is an outcome of accurate positioning which is made possible as mass-customized products eliminate the quality gap with mass-produced products (Gilmore and Pine 1997). In short, by using advanced production systems to replace standardization as a driver of quality, exporters can enjoy the added benefit of accurate positioning without damaging quality and cost consequences. Third, there is friction between exporter's headquarters and their local representatives (Shoham and Albaum 1994). Agents, distributors, and subsidiaries are close to the market. Thus, local managers may believe that they are better equipped to adapt marketing strategies. If head-

quarters tries to enforce standardized strategies (Nohria and Ghoshal 1994), friction may ensue. Additionally, exporter's and local representative's goals may differ, especially when independent agents or distributors represent the focal firm. Moreover, monitoring a subsidiary's behavior may be a difficult task in light of cultural differences between the home and target markets (Erez and Early 1993). In such cases, friction may increase exporter's cost of operation, further reducing the benefits of a high degree of standardization.

2.4. The Theory of Standardization Of International Strategy

The issue of standardization was first raised with respect to international advertising policy (Elinder, 1961; Fatt, 1964; Roostal, 1963). Since then, the scope of the discussion has expanded to include the entire marketing programme (Buzzell, 1968) and marketing process (Sorenson and Wiechmann, 1975). Among the elements of the marketing programme, the product and advertising variables have received most of the research attention in the literature (Hill and Still, 1984; Jain, 1989; Keegan, 1969; Levitt, 1983; McGuinness and Little, 1981; Walters and Toyne, 1989). Standardization has been conceptualized in different ways. For instance, it can mean the same marketing strategy is applied in all markets (e.g. Samiee and Roth, 1992), or it can mean the domestic marketing strategy is applied to a foreign market (e.g. Cavusgil et al., 1993). In this study, the later conceptualization is used. Numerous publications on the topic have revealed at least three dominant perspectives: the total standardization perspective, the total adaptation perspective, and the contingency perspective. In a broad sense, the total standardization perspective emphasizes the trend towards the homogenization of markets and buyer behaviour and the substantial benefits of standardization. In contrast, the total adaptation perspective stresses the persistent differences between nations and the competitive and regulatory necessity to customize marketing strategy to individual markets. The contingency perspective allows for various degrees of standardization which are contingent on the internal organizational characteristics (goals, resources, commitment, and international experience) and external environmental forces (market demand, nature of product/industry, competitive pressure, government regulations, and technology). In an extreme case, a total standardization of the marketing programme would entail offering identical product lines at identical prices through identical distribution systems with identical promotional programmes (Buzzell, 1968). Two premisses underlie the arguments for standardization. One is that the markets around the world are becoming homogeneous, making standardization feasible. Another is that there are significant benefits associated with a standardization strategy.

The major benefits of international marketing standardization include significant cost savings, consistency with customers, improved planning and distribution, and greater control across national borders (Buzzell, 1968). Levitt (1983) provided the most compelling case for international marketing standardization. He argued that advanced technology in communication and transportation has homogenized markets around the globe. As a result, global consumers have emerged who demand high-quality products at low prices. These changes in the global marketplace have led to changes in the competitive dynamics between companies. One key source of competitive advantage has become the ability to produce high-quality products at a low cost. Since standardization of products and international marketing strategy facilitates the realization of economies of scale in production and marketing, Levitt argued that firms must pursue a standardized product and international marketing strategy to be successful in the global market. Similarly, Ohmae (1985) contended that, in the triad of the USA, Japan, and Europe, consumer demand has become fairly homogeneous. Firms must not be blinded by the seemingly heterogeneous cultures, economies, and political systems across countries. They must seek the opportunities to rationalize their worldwide operations and treat the world as a single global market. Hamel and Prahalad (1985) also stressed the increasing interdependence between country markets. To be effective global competitors, firms have to overcome national fragmentation of markets and cross-subsidize their operations in different parts of the world. One way to facilitate cross-subsidization is to standardize the products and the marketing strategy, since global brand domination and the benefits of global channels can be enhanced.

2.5.Publication Selection

Table 1: Data sources and result for literature search

No	Data source	Total Result	Primary Selection	Final Selection
a	IEE Explore	434	52	17
b	ACM Digital	522	35	2
c	Science Direct	734	67	13
d	Google Scholar	5698	87	18

3.1 A Review on Companies' Export Performance from the Export Market expansion strategy Point of View

No	Author	Model/Method	Advantage	Limitation
1	Chong S. Lee Yoo S. Yang, (1990)	Existing Theoretical and Empirical Studies on the Impact of Export Market Expansion Strategy on Export Performance	his has two implications for future research and for small and medium-sized exporters. First, it is important for future researchers to use multiple export performance measures in order to understand better the effect of export market expansion strategy on export performance. Second, firms may follow different export market expansion strategies depending on their goals.	in order to investigate the causality between the choice of an export market expansion strategy and export performance, longitudinal research is recommended for the future.
2	Constantine S.Katsikeas1 and Leonidas C.Leonidou2	Multiple Discriminant Analysis (MDA)	the development of extensive exporter profiles in relation to the two export market expansion strategic alternatives.	First, the ability to rule out causal inferences is limited by the cross-sectional character of the data Secondly, the relatively small size of the sample might, prima facie, cast some doubts on the conclusive power of our empirical findings based upon the use of MDA.
3	Evangelia S.Katsikea, Marios Theodosiou, Robert E. Morgan, and	Multiple Discriminant Analysis and Multivariate Analysis of Variance Results	Our research findings indicate that market spreaders tend to control their export sales activities	the findings may suffer from limited external validity. Further research should consider the nature of our findings

	Nikolaos Papavassiliou		through a behavior-based system (in which export executives are actively involved in monitoring, directing, evaluating, and rewarding their export sales managers) to a greater extent than do firms that adopt a market concentration strategy.	in the context of other developed as well as developing countries.
4	Antonio Navarro-García *, Jorge Arenas-Gaitán 1 , F. Javier Rondán-Cataluña	Structural equation modeling via PLS (partial least squares)	this paper contributes significantly to filling an important gap in the research field of exporting.	The final limitation has to do with the potential effect of other factors this study overlooks. Thus, in future works researchers could consider, for example, characteristics of the export product, the sector of activity, the quality of the relationships with the international distributors, or the organization's dynamic capabilities
5	Paul W. Beamish, Ron Craig and Kerry McLellan	structured questionnaire that addressed a set of hypotheses was developed	Statistical tests were carried out to determine if performance was correlated to the export characteristic variables measured. The results of the Pearson Correlations were then analyzed to determine whether they met the predetermined significance levels	The authors recognize the limitations of their regional concentration
6	Yongki Perdana Putra Zainul Arifin M. Kholid Mawardi	Viewed from the objectives, this study was a descriptive study with qualitative approach.	Result of this study revealed implemented marketing mix strategy to improve its export volume through its innovated product, price strategy would	Can develop research on more innovative marketing mix strategy using new methods to be able to research strategies, especially for mobile small and medium business

			adjusted production cost and tax price, promotion strategy is implementing mass selling and direct marketing, and distribution strategy is using cargo service.	industry in the export sector.
7	Muafi	The examining of configuration and contingency approach used regression euclidience distance	The result of configuration and contingency approach explained that there is fit between strategic orientation and the elements of contingency such as external environment, export channel structure and organizational culture	there is no fit between the strategic orientation of entrepreneur and contingency variable such as external environment. There is also no fit between strategic orientation of conservatif and export channel structure approach contingency.
8	Gerald Albaum and David K. Tse	The authors develop hypotheses and propositions and test them with a sample of 183 export firms in Hong Kong	This study provides several implications for managers. Of paramount importance is the recognition that globalized or customized strategies are means rather than ends of international marketing strategy	this study attempts to investigate internal organizational processes that underlie firms' strategic formation process
9	John W. Cadogan Adamantios Diamantopoulos Judy A. Sigauw	the study of market orientation into the international arena by developing and testing hypotheses relating to the antecedents to and consequences of market-oriented activities in firms' export operations	export market-oriented activities were positively associated with aspects of export performance.	Additional antecedents could also be examined in future studies. Potential antecedents could include managerial philosophy regarding standardization or adaptation of export strategy or the relative emphasis given to the use of country of origin designations.
10	John W. Cadogan, Sanna Sundqvist, Risto T. Salminen, Kaisu Puumalainen,	STRUKTURE EQUATION MODELS	The result indicate the Export Market Oriented behaviour may be more appropriate under certain environment condition and less appropriate under other	Are there factor spesific to service expoter which impede the development of hight level of market orientation?

3.2 Discussion on Companies' Export Performance from the Export Market expansion Strategy Point of View

The overall performance of each strategic group seems to provide partial evidence against the traditional theoretical and empirical arguments recommending the market concentration strategy as the ideal route for all exporting firms, as far as small and medium-sized exporters are concerned. The market concentration group showed the poorest performance in all export performance measures except the perceived export growth measure, while the market diversification group showed the best performance in all seven export performance measures. Moreover, the concentric diversification group was slightly better in most export performance measures (except the perceived export growth measure) than the market concentration group. This supports the argument that smaller exporters with limited internal resources and export experience can be profitable and grow by taking low market shares in a relatively large number of markets (Hamermesh et al., 1978; Piercy, 1981a)

The mixed results of this study are due to the use of multiple export performance measures. This has two implications for future research and for small and medium-sized exporters. First, it is important for future researchers to use multiple export performance measures in order to understand better the effect of export market expansion strategy on export performance. Second, firms may follow different export market expansion strategies depending on their goals. For instance, if a firm is concerned about its export sales growth, it is desirable to follow a market diversification strategy. However, if a firm is concerned about its export profitability, export market diversification is not the only alternative to achieve its export profitability goal (Lee,1990)

These findings are in accordance with the contingency approach, stating that the success of an export market expansion strategy depends on many different situational factors as well as the alignment between these factors and strategy. Findings show factors as gaining more market share as an export objective, product adaptation to customer needs in target markets, solving logistic problems, management international outlook, production capabilities, competitive pricing and regular visits to target markets to be the determinants that fit the market concentration strategy. On the other hand, more sales volume, coping with pricing constraints, production capabilities and marketing capabilities are the factors that fit the market spreading strategy (Rahman, 2008)

3.3 A Review on Companies' Export Performance from the International Product Adaptation Strategy Point of View

No	Author	Model/Method	Advantage	Limitation
1	Gerald Albaum and David K. Tse	The authors develop hypotheses and propositions and test them with a sample of 183 export firms in Hong Kong	This study provides several implications for managers. Of paramount importance is the recognition that globalized or customized strategies are means rather than ends of international marketing strategy	this study attempts to investigate internal organizational processes that underlie firms' strategic formation process
2	Roger J. Calantone a , Daekwan Kim b , Jeffrey B. Schmidt c , S. Tamer	Develop and empirically test a model of the antecedents of product adaptation strategy and export performance using data collected from 239, 205, and 145 managers in	The results show that product adaptation strategy is positively associated with export performance in all three countries.	First, there are issues with measurement. Some constructs have a composite reliability below the generally accepted level of .70 in some

	Cavusgil a,	the United States, Korea, and Japan, respectively		countries. Second, the model can be expanded to incorporate additional internal and external firm factors
3	Chol Lee David A. Griffith	Regression analysis was used to test the influence of export marketing strategies on performance. Correlations and descriptive statistics are presented	Results indicate that the adaptation of products to foreign customers' tastes, adjustment of export prices to foreign market conditions, direct exporting, and trade promotions toward overseas distributors positively influence the performance of Korea exporters. Expenditure on overseas advertising was not found to influence export performance	Further, although the study included four control variables in the regression analysis, a limitation exists in reflecting the full effects of the control variables on the relationship between export marketing strategy and export performance. Future research encompassing a larger sample size could explore more fully the effects of each variable.
4	Harcharanjit Singha,*, Rosli Mahmood	Quantitative survey method was employed and data were collected from 201 exporting SMEs registered with the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers. Descriptive statistics were reported, followed by reliability analysis, factor analysis, and hypothesis testing using multiple regressions	The finding suggests that there is significant and positive relationship between manufacturing strategy and export performance of manufacturing SMEs. The finding emphasizes the importance of adopting the manufacturing strategy among the owner/managers of manufacturing SMEs for their success and these firms would gain in terms of competitive advantage over their rivals and reap higher export performance	The study limitations, managerial and theoretical implications are discussed as well as a number of directions for further research
5	Anthony C. Koh	Chi-square analysis was used in investigating the associations between organisational characteristics and export	The combined findings indicate that perceived relative profitability from exporting is	Finally, attempts should be made to study the relationships among structure, export marketing

		marketing strategy variables because the scales used to measure these variables were mainly categorical in nature.	significantly related to variations in three export marketing strategy variables (export pricing strategy, direct buyer strategy, and export channel strategy) and two organisational characteristics (formal training in international business and export policy)	strategy, and export performance in settings other than industrial product firms
6	Clay Dibrell, Justin Craig, and Eric Hansen	the regression analysis,	Our findings suggest ventures characterized as being early in the organizational life cycle are more likely to have a positive environmental policy toward the natural environment leading to a competitive advantage through firm innovativeness.	As with any empirical study, our limitations are for the most part based on our use of mail questionnaires to study SMEs, such as the use of single respondents. To help limit the potential effects associated with the competency of the single respondent, we only included respondents (i.e., owner or CEO) that we recognized to be actively engaged in the strategic processes of the SME
7	S. Tamer Cavusgil & Shaoming Zou	The authors propose a conceptual framework of export marketing strategy and performance and test it by path analysis.	The results support the contention that export marketing strategy, firm's international competence, and managerial commitment are the key determinants of export performance. Export marketing strategy is influenced by internal (firm and product characteristics) and external factors (industry and export market characteristics).	First, the strategy-performance relationship can be investigated by a longitudinal design spanning longer than the first five years of the ventures, thus gaining a richer understanding of the dynamics and complexity of the relationship. Second, despite the large number of variables included in the study, not all potentially relevant variables have been explored.
8	Jean L. Johnson Wiboon Arunthanes,	The research setting for this study consisted of US manufacturers who export their products to	For actual product adaptation (Table III), the interaction terms significantly increased	While we offer some measurement advances, several measures still need improvement. For

	(1995)	foreign markets. The United States Importers and Exporters Directory (Journal of Commerce, 1990) provided the sampling frame. After deletion of firms inappropriate for our study, we selected a random sample of 1,300.	explained variance; therefore the interaction hypotheses for actual adaptation can be tested (Cohen and Cohen, 1983).	example, local market competitive intensity lends itself well to objective measures such as simply observing the number of offerings in a product category or accessing secondary information on the number of competitors in local markets.
9	Roger J. Calantonea, Daekwan Kimb, Jeffrey B. Schmidtc, S. Tamer Cavusgila,	In this investigation, we develop and empirically test a model of the antecedents of product adaptation strategy and export performance using data collected from 239, 205, and 145 managers in the United States, Korea, and Japan, respectively.	The results show that product adaptation strategy is positively associated with export performance in all three countries. In addition, export dependence, which has received relatively little attention in the literature, is an important antecedent of product adaptation strategy. The similarity between the home and target market generally is considered an important factor in choice of export market, but its relationship with product adaptation strategy and export performance varies across the three countries.	First, there are issues with measurement. Second, the model can be expanded to incorporate additional internal and external firm factors. Examples are firm's technology, international business experience, market share, industry leadership, and consumer brand loyalty
10	Aviv Shoham* and Gerald Albaum	The data were obtained from a random sample of companies selected from a national directory of Danish companies. To be included, a company had to be a manufacturing firm and engaged in export activities. In all, 1200 companies	The level of adaptation versus transference of the marketing-mix strategies and activities as measured is related to export performance for most measures of export performance. Companies that transfer marketing strategies and activities from one market to another do not perform as well as companies that adapt for each market separately. The	this study has some limitations regarding measures of export performance and marketing transference. Some important measures of export performance were not included in the study - e.g. measures of profitability. We believe that managerial performance perceptions partially account for financial performance, but they probably take in account other factors as well. Future research could include direct and

			importance of accurate positioning, friction, and flexibility outweighs that of economies-of-scale for this sample. This relationship holds regardless of the cultural distance between the countries and the type of product.	objective measures of performance.
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3.4 Discussion on Companies' Export Performance from the International Product Adaptation Strategy Point of View

Past research has found a positive association between the level of product adaptation and export market performance. Cavusgil and Zou (1994) reported a strong empirical link between product adaptation and export marketing performance for U.S. exporters. Cooper and Kleinschmidt (1985) found that Canadian firms performed better when they engaged in discretionary product modifications. Cavusgil (1984) found a small, though significant, positive relationship between adaptation and performance. Conversely, Samiee and Roth (1992) and O'Casey and Julian (2003) found no significant relationship between adaptation and perceived performance.

Three arguments underlie the decision to adapt international strategies: segmentation and positioning (Baalbaki and Malhotra 1993; Samiee and Roth 1992), strategic flexibility (Fiegenbaum and Karnani 1991), and friction (Shoham and Albaum 1994). Segmentation requires a division of market into homogeneous submarkets. When national markets are more homogeneous within than between countries, adaptation results in more accurate positioning. Accurate positioning enables the firm to charge high prices because of price discrimination (Samiee and Roth 1992). Because of divergence among nations, adaptation would improve performance through price discrimination. If higher prices do not result from price discrimination, adaptation still may be preferred if it yields higher sales at similar prices, given comparable costs.

This study is based on two tenets: (1) Firms adapt their marketing strategies in overseas markets through purposeful processes, and (2) firms' strategy adaptation needs to be studied in the context of their strategic positions in the overseas market. The article proposes and supports a model that builds on ideas from recent international marketing studies. Several points warrant further discussion.

The indirect effect of market similarity through product adaptation strategy, however, is significant across all three countries. According to our results, product adaptation strategy is driven by market similarity, export dependence, and industry adaptation. Therefore, it is plausible to conclude that firms adapt products to cater to market differences, compete with others in the market, and reach their internal goals more effectively. That is, product adaptation is an international marketing tool that serves a variety of strategic needs.

3.5 A Review on Companies' Export Performance from the Standardization Of International Strategy Point of View

No	Author	Model/Method	Advantage	Limitation
1	Jeffrey J. Loyka, Nova Southeastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL Thomas L. Powers,	The literature proposes a number of factors to be associated with global product standardization	This paper has reviewed the history and background of global product standardization, and summarized the factors associated with it. By conceptualizing global product standardization in terms of market, industry and company factors, a better understanding of their association with the multidimensional aspects of global product standardization is possible.	Additional study is needed to evaluate the significance and relative importance of factors associated with global product standardization.
2	AVI FIEGENBAUM and ANEEL KARNANI	the empirical analysis of over 3000 companies representing 83 industries during the 1979-97 time period supports our theoretical perspectives	First, small firms are more willing to fluctuate their output. As a result: second, small firms can trade cost inefficiency with volume flexibility to increase their profits; third, output flexibility is a more viable source of competitive advantage in volatile and capital-intensive industries, and less viable in profitable industries.	Future research directions that combine firm flexibility and other strategic dimensions are discussed in the context of providing a general strategic framework for small firms competing against large ones.
3	Shaoming Zou David M. Andrus D. Wayne Norvel	A random sample of 550 firms was taken from the National Trade Data Bank of 1992. This sample represented Colombian firms with 250 or more employees that are involved in exporting.	The factor analysis was performed for the items measuring each marketing mix element, respectively, to facilitate interpretation of the resulting factors. The factor structures of the product, distribution, promotion, and pricing elements of the marketing mix	First, the current study has examined the Colombian firms' perspective of marketing standardization, rather than the direct comparison of the US firms with Colombian companies. Second, the sample size of 51 companies is relatively small and the response rate is relatively low. This reflects the difficulties of conducting

				<p>international marketing research in a developing country.</p> <p>Third, there was no direct comparison of the responding firms to non-responding firms. This must be kept in mind when one attempts to generalize the findings to the whole population of Colombian firms.</p> <p>Fourth, only one performance indicator, export intensity, is used in this study, and other potentially relevant measures of performance such as profits, market share, or sales growth are not assessed.</p>
5	Subhash C. Jain	A frame work for determining marketing program standardization is introduced.	In the final analysis, the decision on standardization should be based on economic pay off, which includes financial performance, competitive advantage, and other aspects.	Instead of simply implying that multinational companies should aim at standardization, the frame-work helps in identifying the specific problem areas. Hence it should aid in resolving the controversy on the subject and provide a much-needed base for empirical research.
6	Thomas L. Powers Jeffrey J. Loyka	The study is based on a survey of executive level managers in US-based companies that market products both domestically and internationally.	Significant relationships were found between specific market, industry, and company factors and global product standardization.	future research is warranted to further investigate these results and the possible reasons for them.
7	Isabelle Schuilgand Jean-Noël Kapferer	the authors reanalyzed the Young & Rubicam database Brand Asset Valuator and examined more than 744 brands across the four largest countries in Europe: the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and Italy.	We also recommend that in their strategies, international firms acknowledge the recent trends toward more regionalism in the different parts of the world, including Europe, and account for the effects of the antiglobalization	In addition, firms' providing local marketing teams the opportunity to build local brands has an impact on the teams' motivation and skill level.

			<p>movement. It might be critical for international firms to offer more diversity in their brand portfolio to avoid overloading consumers with the same international brands in all categories everywhere.</p>	
8	Imad B. Baalbaki and Naresh K. Malhotra	<p>The choice of the variables by which to segment the global market is crucial. Traditionally, purely environmental bases (geographic, political, economic, and cultural) were used as bases for international market segmentation.</p>	<p>Derives number of propositions with direct implications for international marketing strategy and segmentation with respect to these bases. Highlights the managerial implications of the variables encompassed by these bases.</p>	<p>Proposes the empirical investigation of the derived propositions as a research agenda for the future.</p>
9	Marios Theodosiou and Constantine S. Katsikeas	<p>Multiple regression analysis</p>	<p>The findings suggest that the extent to which multinationals standardize their international pricing strategies depends on the level of similarity between home and host countries in terms of customer characteristics, legal environment, economic conditions, and stage of the product life cycle.</p>	<p>First, the empirical inquiry focused on a specific international market framework (i.e., the United Kingdom), which suggests that the results may suffer from limited external validity. Second, the study employed a cross-sectional research design that prevents us from making cause/effect inferences. Third, because of the descriptive nature of the present study, combined with the limited amount of available empirical evidence, a relatively limited number of potential independent variables have been examined. Fourth, the present study looked only into the content aspect of standardization with reference to pricing. Finally, a natural extension of the present study would be to consider performance outcomes of international pricing</p>

				stan-dardization.
10	G.M. Naidu**S. Tamer Cavusgil* and Shaoming Zou**	Unit of Analysis and Personal Interviews	An examination of the intercorrelations between the independent variables indicates that these independent variables are not highly correlated (the highest intercorrelation is .39), suggesting the clear presence of discriminant validity of the measures [Churchill 1987].	First, the current study was undertaken in the context of export ventures. The findings can be validated in other international business situations such as licensing or franchising. Second, the current study used responding executives' perceptions to operationalize the variables in the framework. While the use of retrospective perceptions for organizational research has been found to be valid and reliable [Schwenk 1985]

3.6 Discussion on Companies' Export Performance from the Standardization Of International Strategy Point of View

The results of the research can be used both to understand and to manage global products in light of the market, industry, and company factors that influence their existence. This study investigated the relationship between market, industry and company factors and the product, pricing, advertising and distribution dimensions of global product standardization. Researchers have suggested that not all factors are equally important with respect to global product standardization (Buzzell, 1968; Levitt, 1983; O'Donnell and Jeong, 2000; Walters, 1986; Zou and Cavusgil, 1996). The findings of this study provide empirical results that can help to clarify this issue. In many cases we found results consistent with the literature, and where we found the opposite we believe that there are plausible reasons for these results. Of particular interest are: the findings that the impact of some market, industry, or company factors affected some but not all dimensions of global product standardization; the possible impact of price as a differentiator in competitive markets; and the time dimension whereby global product standardization has become so widespread that factors that are thought to have a negative influence on it are no longer applicable.

if international companies eliminate strong local brands, they might be throwing away opportunities. Strong local brands represent strategic advantages that are worth consideration, and they enjoy strong brand franchises that are real assets for any company. When brands are eliminated from their market, it is difficult to relaunch them successfully. Therefore, there are many reasons to encourage the development of brand portfolios that contain a balanced mix of strong local and international brands.

it is clear from the preceding discussion that the possibility for, and attractiveness of standardization strategies is very situation-specific. With regard to international marketing programs, key variables will include the nature of the product and the nature of the operating environment as described in terms of the number of foreign markets entered and their degree of homogeneity on such key factors as consumer characteristics and behavior, legal environment and conditions of product use. Less obvious, but equally important will be factors concerning the firm's strategy and resources. Thus the firm with ambitious sales and market share goals, operations in many foreign markets, extensive financial and managerial resources,

a global production network and significant joint-venture operations will be very likely to adopt non-uniform inter-national marketing programs.

4. Open Problems

4.1. Open Problems Export Performance from the Export Market expansion strategy

in order to investigate the causality between the choice of an export market expansion strategy and export performance, longitudinal research is recommended for the future. his study has tried to increase our knowledge of the influence of diversification strategy of overseas expansion on the performance, it suffers from various limitations which restrict the generalisation of its results. First, the lack of sufficient information prevented us from examining other group of determining factors of the performance. Second, we need a greater number of empirical studies that use different size samples, industries, and geographical areas in order to validate the results of this work, which is the only empirical research supported by the use of data from the stock market. Finally, we would recommend that future research of a longitudinal nature be carried out in order to examine the causal relationship between choice of overseas diversification and its performance (Maz Ruiz, 2002).

4.2. Open Problems Export Performance from the International Product Adaptation Strategy

However, this study has some limitations regarding measures of export performance and marketing transference. Some important measures of export performance were not included in the study - e.g. measures of profitability. We believe that managerial performance perceptions partially account for financial performance, but they probably take in account other factors as well. Future research could include direct and objective measures of performance. Another important and fruitful direction for future research is to expand the specific determinants of the feasibility of transference. Possible variables for this purpose include the firm's market position, and the environment (Jain, 1989). Transference may very well be more feasible under some levels of these variables and not others.

4.3. Open Problems Export Performance from the Standardization Of International Strategy

Additional study is needed to evaluate the significance and relative importance of factors associated with global product standardization. In unstable markets, decision making comprehensiveness will lead to reduced performance. Because the markets studied here are in herently unstable, decision making comprehensiveness will decrease performance. To the extent that managers recognize this relationship (from experience or prior education), they will use a limited set of variables in making standardization strategy decisions, as was found here. This line of reasoning suggests future research directions. First, a direct assessment of managers' recognition of the relationships between environmental stability, decision making comprehensiveness, and export performance is needed. Second, it would be illuminating to test the extent to which this relationship, established in domestic strategy making, also holds in international markets. Third, to what extent does stability moderate the relationship between decision making comprehensiveness and performance. Additional research should examine the strategy performance link in different international markets. Ideally, these markets would differ in both objective and subjective management perceived stability measures. In addition, seven environmental constructs were included here, (Baalbaki and Malhotra, 1995).

5. Conclusion

This study has added to our understanding of the impact of export market expansion strategy on export performance, several limitations restrict the generalisation of the findings. First, although this study attempted to develop a scheme to differentiate the strategic groups, further research is required in order to develop a more refined typology of export market expansion strategy. Second, more empirical studies using samples of different size firms, industries and regions are needed in order to validate the findings of this study which is the first empirical investigation based on small and medium-sized firms.

There should be many potential benefits for a firm following a born-global pathway to internationalization, such as increased sales, profits and market presence. However, the relationship between international expansion/DOI and performance is often context-specific and there are contradictory results (Grant, 1987). Furthermore, we do not know much about the performance consequences of the true born-global strategy based on the earlier research as some extant studies which have focused on scope of internationalization among rapidly internationalized firms have not taken performance effects into consideration (McNaughton, 2003; Preece et al., 1999). However, in this study, there were significant differences in export performance between the true born-global and the born-international firms: the former performed better than their less international counterparts on all three measures (sales, profit and sales efficiency). These results support the notion that increased multinationality is for most of the time beneficial for a firm in the form of superior performance (Contractor, Kundu, & Hsu, 2003)

The relationship between standardization of pricing and performance is positive and significant for the change in performance. Thus, the various elements of pricing (e.g., currency and payment security) should be standardized across local markets. These results are opposite the findings reported by Shoham (1996b). Such inconsistencies should be viewed in light of the positive and negative effects of standardization of pricing on international performance reported by Kohand Robicheaux (1988) and Bilkey (1982). Shoham (1995) observes that adapted prices enhance performance when adjusted to levels that are higher than domestic prices. As noted by a reviewer, it may be that stronger price pressures in international markets result mostly in downward price adaptation, thus hurting performance. This argument raises an important issue for additional research, which should recognize the direction of price adaptation. In other words, measures should account for the extent and direction of adapted prices. If prices are standardized on a world wide (or regional) basis, performance in the various markets should not be affected by pricing. Pricing creates a differential effect on international performance only when prices are at least somewhat adapted to country markets.

Finally, the set of marketing activities can be broadened beyond the seven items used in this study. For example, product adaptation was measured here by three items (product, quality, and service), whereas other strategic dimensions, such as distribution, were measured by one item only. Future research might expand the coverage of price transference to account for credit and payment terms, the coverage of distribution transference to account for Marketing Methods on length of channels, types and quality of intermediaries, and the coverage of advertising transference to account for promotion budgets.

Transference of marketing activities is, for the most part, related negatively with export performance. This finding substantiates the positioning perspective, which is driven by price discrimination, flexibility, and the theory of friction. The relationship holds even after controlling for the cultural distance to the major export markets, for the type of export product, and for firm size suggesting that adaptation and customization are superior to transference.

Similar considerations will come into play when considering the viability of standardizing marketing processes internationally, though more emphasis will need to be placed on such variables as managerial characteristics and behavior, and the acceptability of new concepts and techniques in overseas markets.

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