

ROMANTIC LOVE AND
MARITAL SATISFACTION:
ADVERSARIES OR ALLIES?

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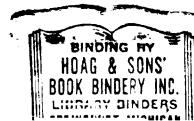
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ABSTRACT

ROMANTIC LOVE AND MARITAL SATISFACTION: ADVERSARIES OR ALLIES?

By

Richard Levine

The main theoretical position of this thesis is that romantic love does not flourish in the context of marriage; that it does not, by itself, constitute a pillar of strength in marriage; and that without being balanced by feelings of liking, it may well be antagonistic to marital satisfaction.

Specifically, it was hypothesized that romantic love would be more prevalent and more intense among unmarried, as opposed to married couples. It was further theorized that married persons would show less discrepancy between the extent of their feelings of romantic love and liking than would unmarried persons; that marital satisfaction would correlate negatively with the extent of discrepancy between levels of love and liking; and that marital satisfaction would correlate positively with the degree of intracouple congruence on the measures of love and liking.

A sample of 19 married couples and 19 unmarried couples, controlled for age and duration of relationships, was drawn from the community of East Lansing and its environs. Rubin's (1970) Romantic Love Scale and Liking Scale were used to operationalize romantic love and liking. The Locke-Wallace Scale (Locke & Wallace, 1959) was used to operationalize marital satisfaction. A t test of significance was employed to test the first hypothesis. Computer-developed product-moment correlation matrices and partial correlation matrices were used to test results pertinent to all of the hypotheses.

The results generally did not confirm the hypotheses. Rather, analysis of the data suggested that marital satisfaction is correlated positively with both romantic love and/or liking independent of the discrepancy between the intensity of the two sentiments. Some support was found for the prediction that there is a positive correlation between marital satisfaction and intra-couple congruence on the measure of liking. This was especially true for men.

In retrospect and in light of the findings, several problems in this study's design were pointed out. Some suggestions were presented regarding future research. The need for developing more sophisticated instruments to measure romantic love and liking was considered. Additionally, deficiencies in the sample

Richard Levine

characteristics and modifications in the theoretical orientation
of this research were discussed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Levine', with a large, stylized initial 'R' and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ROMANTIC LOVE AND MARITAL SATISFACTION:
ADVERSARIES OR ALLIES?

By

Richard Levine

A THESIS

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INTRODUCTION

Statement of Purpose

Although love, in the popular mind, makes the world go around, psychologists befuddled by its mysteries have tended to conduct research in greener pastures. Despite the relative dearth of clinical literature in this area, significant progress has been made in distinguishing the romantic variant in human loving, as well as the sources from which it may flow. This, of course, does not gainsay the fact there may well be common elements among different varieties of love.

In Western culture romantic love traditionally is infused with extraordinary intensity, contingency, and tragedy. Imperfection and finitude, inescapable aspects of the human condition, are adversaries to be surmounted rather than realities to be accepted. Romantic love, in its unalloyed forms, seems to prefer the pain of unrequitedness to the pleasure of pedestrian togetherness. Seen in this light, it is an antagonist rather than a contributor to conjugal love.

The present paper will attempt to make an incision into the problem of how marital satisfaction and romantic love are interrelated. Following a review of the relevant literature, including an eclectic approach to the matter of defining romantic love, a theoretical position will be articulated and assessed by means of a correlational study.

Defining Romantic Love: A Review of the Literature

The first task of this study is to move towards a viable sense of what is meant by romantic love. That psychologists have thus far been unable to arrive at a comprehensive, consensually-accepted definition of romantic love is illustrated by the fact that even the exceedingly down-to-earth therapist, Albert Ellis (1962), has invoked the views of men of letters as much as the speculations of his scientific colleagues in his attempts to capture the meanings of romance and love. The present effort to impart an understanding, however imprecise, of romantic love is undertaken in the belief that poetry and science meet on an equal footing where love's complexities are concerned.

In recognition of the depth of love's mysteries, Harry Harlow (1958) observed, "So far as love or affection is concerned,

psychologists have failed in their mission. The little we know about love does not transcend simple observation, and the little we write about it has been written better by poets and novelists." Although romantic love is, in an ultimate sense, ineffable, distillation of the efforts of psychologists and men of letters to capture its essence does yield a measure of consensus regarding its most salient qualities and characteristics.

Perhaps the most striking general feature of romantic love is the overpowering intensity with which it is experienced (Dean, 1962; Evans, 1953; Harrington, 1969). Even the most prosaic aspects of living may assume the dimensions of a Maslow-type peak experience when they are filtered through the prism of love. Obstacles seem to stoke the fires of romantic love, and may even be essential to its very existence (Beigel, 1951; Dean, 1962; Koenigsberg, 1967; Rougemont, 1956; Slater, 1963). The nature of the obstacles which have been stressed varies from one theorist to another, however.

Thus from somewhat different perspectives both Beigel (1951) and Slater (1963) place considerable importance upon societal factors that act as impediments to romantic love. Faced with the depersonalization and routinization inherent in modern industrial society, the imperative to love may be viewed as an assertion of self-expression

and self-importance through one of the few remaining avenues for gratification of these needs (Beigel, 1951). Also, in creating a world onto themselves, lovers may be regarded as engaging in a dyadic withdrawal from a complex social organism which implicitly or explicitly casts such withdrawal in social terms (Slater, 1963). While there may be some merit in social analyses of the obstacles to romantic love, it is pertinent to recall that the romantic tradition antedates industrialism. This suggests a more personalized framing of the barriers seemingly inherent in romantic love is necessary.

Ambivalence is frequently a central obstacle to the consummation of romantic love (Dean, 1962; Rubin, 1970). Mutual ambivalence can be self-perpetuating in that the resolution of one lover's doubts may catalyze doubts in the other. Variations around the theme of mutual ambivalence may comprise by themselves requisite obstacles for inflaming passion.

Freud and other observers have focused upon the love triangle situation as the quintessential difficulty that paradoxically inspires impassioned love (Dean, 1962; Koenigsberg, 1967). The romantic lover chooses someone who is already attached, is driven into a frenzy by jealousy, and seeks to "rescue" the beloved (Koenigsberg, 1967). The underlying dynamics which help to

explain the compelling power of this archetypal roadblock in the path of love will be considered later.

In his classic study, Love In The Western World, Denis De Rougemont (1956) concurs that whatever obstructs love must ensure, consolidate, and intensify it. He concludes that death is an omnipresent and ultimate obstacle, and that when all is said and done romantic love places a greater value upon the wish to part than upon the passion which it generates (Rougemont, 1956).

Prefigured in the delineation of obstacles as vital in the creation of romantic love is another important feature in its physiognomy, that of suffering (Beigel, 1951; Ellis, 1962; Evans, 1963; Kremen & Kremen, 1971; May, 1969; Rougemont, 1956; Slater, 1971). "Death and delight, anguish and joy, anxiety and the wonder of birth--these are the warp and woof of which the fabric of human love is woven (May, 1969)." Romantic legends are permeated by lack of consummation, unrequitedness, partings, and other permutations of tragedy (Slater, 1971). At its most destructive and extreme part of the spectrum, romantic love seems to contain a strong masochistic element (Evans, 1953). To recapitulate, intensity, impediments, pleasure and suffering all swirl through the ethos of romantic love. But having said this is but a beginning in defining the undefinable.

In a more specific and concrete vein, romantic love is nurtured by idealization of the love object and the concomitant belief

in the exclusiveness of the love object's capacity to satisfy the lover's erotic and affectional desires (Beigel, 1951; Ellis, 1962; Evans, 1953; Hitschmann, 1952; Kremen & Kremen, 1971; Reik, 1944; Rougemont, 1956; Slater, 1971). In Freud's view this unconscious and irrational overvaluation of the love object over and beyond the biological drive to sexual union is accompanied by a selective impairment of the lover's reality-testing powers (Hitschmann, 1952; Koenigsberg, 1967). Howard and Bennett Kremen (1971) assert four primary conditions promote idealization intrinsic to romantic love: 1) partial knowledge of the beloved; 2) obstacles to the attainment of the beloved's affections; 3) discontent with oneself (Reik, 1944); 4) value attributed to the beloved. It is worthy of note that traditionally women much more so than men have been sought after and idealized. Woman has been overvaluated in terms of her "natural" kindness, intuition, nearness to nature, self-recognition, and sensitivity (Beigel, 1951).

Apart from idealization of the love object, there is a strong tendency in romantic love to exalt love itself (Dean, 1962; Ellis, 1962, Koenigsberg, 1967). The Tristan and Iseult myth has been invoked by De Rougemont in support of his contention that romantic love is love of love more than love of another person (Koenigsberg, 1967). Augmenting this view is the observation that while romantic

tradition abounds in sexualizing, little sexual intercourse takes place (Dean, 1962). The romantic lover is antisexual (Ellis, 1962). The suggestion of sex hangs redolent in the air; its substance is notably lacking.

No effort to define romantic love would be complete without allusion to the theme of death which wends its way through unbridled Eros (Ellis, 1962; Lepp, 1968; Marcuse, 1964; Rougemont, 1956; Sadler, 1969; Shneidman, 1971; Slater, 1963). "The dominion of Eros is, from the beginning, also that of Thanatos. Fulfillment is destruction, not in a moral or sociological but in an ontological sense. It is beyond good and evil, beyond social morality, and thus it remains beyond the reaches of the established Reality Principle, which this Eros refuses and explodes (Marcuse, 1964)."

Romantic love bequeaths the illusion of transcendence. Tawdry realities are replaced by ideals. The inexorable march of time is arrested. Sweet paradise replaces bitter earth. But the limits of human existence, including man's mortal nature, rise with the certainty of the tides and sweep away imperiously the most cherished of love's illusions. "Some romantic lovers find the ecstasy of love so extraordinary, so unique, that they find it impossible to live in the shadows of daily life after having known it (Lepp, 1968)." Other romantic poets have expressed envy for those insects that die in copulation (Lepp, 1968).

Although actual suicide in the wake of disappointments in love are relatively rare in contemporary American culture, Ellis (1962) regards romantic ideologies and aspirations as major causes of emotional disturbance. Romantic love's shadow, Thanatos, may assume many forms including the manifold varieties of psychological suffering.

Traditional portraits of romantic love include the precept that the lover would rather die than outlive or live without the loved one (Shneidman, 1971). The human condition ultimately transforms passion's fires into ashes. Much of the pathos, anguish, and fatality which courses through romantic love may be comprehended as man thrashing against the immutable walls which constrain his body and spirit.

Freud's View of Romantic Love: A Resume

Freud believed that human love, in its diverse forms, has a biological foundation (Hitschmann, 1952). Feelings of tenderness and caring, in this view, must be understood as aim-deflected sexual desires (Evans, 1953; Fenichel, 1945; Sullivan, 1965). Falling in love always entails some inhibition of immediate and direct sexual strivings. "Love with an inhibited aim was originally full sensual love and in men's consciousness it is so still (Sullivan, 1965)."

From a developmental perspective, aim-inhibited instincts make their appearance after repression of Oedipal wishes around the age of five (Hitschmann, 1952).

Freud discerned that romantic love is particularly notable for its unconscious and irrational overvaluation of the love object, transcending the biological drive to sexual union (Freud, 1963; Hitschmann, 1952). In the Freudian frame of reference, the quality and intensity of romantic love bespeak the tapping of strongly charged, unconscious contents that flood consciousness and are experienced as special emotions (Hitschmann, 1952). But what specifically is being tapped in the unconscious? What is the Freudian key to unlocking the mystery of romantic sentiments?

Guided by his own observations, Freud delineated four conditions intrinsic to a syndrome that subsumes the primary features of romantic love (Freud, 1963). These four conditions included: 1) the repeated selection of love objects who are already attached; 2) the evoking of heights of passion by jealousy; 3) obsessive overvaluation of the love object regardless of reality; 4) the existence of a strong tendency to feel that one must "rescue" the love object. The peculiar characteristics of romantic love were, for Freud, footprints leading to its sources.

Having shaped the pieces of the puzzle with his insight, Freud assembled them and concluded that romantic love is essentially a

quest to recreate the Oedipal situation and its corresponding affects (Koenigsberg, 1967). "Love at first sight" is fueled not by reality, but by repressed, incestuous longings (Hitschmann, 1952). Romantic passion is one mode of expression of an infantile mother-fixation (Freud, 1963; Hitschmann, 1952; Horney, 1967; Koenigsberg, 1967).

In repeatedly choosing love objects who are already attached, the lover is unconsciously recreating the archetypal triangle--father, mother, and child (Hitschmann, 1952; Koenigsberg, 1967). Jealousy and the passions catalyzed by it grow out of repressed desires for revenge upon the triumphant parent embodied in the Oedipal situation. Overvaluation of the love object, accompanied by selective impairment of reality-testing powers, is attributable to the appearance of mother (first love) by regression in the person of the beloved (Hitschmann, 1952). The rescue fantasy represents unconsciously the longing to give mother a child, the child's wish to be father himself (Freud, 1963). In romantic love, therefore, the love object is forbidden and desire increases as the object is approached, but only to the point where avoidance tendencies become stronger (Koenigsberg, 1967). Ambivalence, unrequitedness, and absence of consummation--basic ingredients of romance--begin to "make sense" in the context of unresolved Oedipal strivings.

Freud explained the persistence and extent of romantic love in terms of the ego's remarkable predilection for reviving infantile traumas and attempting to master them in the present (Koenigsberg, 1967). Repeated efforts to deny and undo the father's original victory run throughout Western culture.

While concurring with Freud that romantic love "is fundamentally incestuous," Philip Slater (1971) focuses on the nuclear family unit as primary in spawning relationships drowned in non-fulfillment, trespass, and tragedy. Slater's critique of capitalist social structure contends that a society founded on more collectivist bases, including the dissolution of the nuclear family unit, would yield less exclusivist, more affirmative forms of loving than have hitherto prevailed (Slater, 1971). Romantic love is unknown in Navaho society, where there is no single feeding mother in a child's upbringing (Hitschmann, 1952). This seems to lend some empirical support to Slater's culture-oriented modification of Freud's explanation for the durability of romantic love in Western societies.

Though Freud, in contrast to Slater, did not advocate the elimination of romantic love, he did recognize that rooted as it was in Oedipal desires, it could never be wholly fulfilling (Freud, 1961). Romantic love is always a substitute for incestuous yearnings (Evans, 1953). Exceptionally destructive romantic involvements may be regarded as deriving from an image of the pre-Oedipal mother upon

which the male is masochistically fixed. In these instances there is a deep, unconscious wish to suffer at the hands of the mother (Evans, 1953).

Kremen and Kremen (1971) accept the essentials of Freud's definition of romantic love, but they reject the Oedipal explanation for it by citing numerous cases in which people have continued to overvalue and idealize their loved ones even after repeated satisfactory sexual relations with them. Of course it can be argued that the degree to which Oedipal conflicts have been resolved is crucially important in determining the content of any given love relationship.

Romantic Love--American Style

It may be objected that the foregoing description of romantic love, derived considerably from literary sources, has little or no relevance to contemporary American society. On the contrary, a persuasive case can be made to buttress the viewpoint that romantic love, however debased and popularized, flourishes like a weed in the American heartland. To be sure, the world of Peyton Place is several galaxies removed from that of Romeo and Juliet. Apart from the idiom, however, each of the strands of romantic love previously delineated is present in the warp and woof of everyday life.

According to Ellis (1962), "if we had adequate statistics on the place of romanticism in the causation of modern neurosis, we would

find literally millions of instances where romantic ideologies have caused or abetted emotional disturbance." What are some of the ways in which the mythology of romantic love makes itself felt in mainstream America?

Obscured perhaps by the recent upsurge in feminist activity and concomitant questioning of traditional norms is the fact that the "silent majority" of Americans continues to subscribe to a conception of marriage that embraces the central tenets of romantic love. That these tenets breed unrealizable expectations is inferentially confirmed by the dramatic increase in the American divorce rate-- now approximately 41 percent (Lederer & Jackson, 1968). What are some of these tenets?

Following an exhaustive survey of the mass media, Ellis (1962) listed the most ubiquitous notions about romantic love to which Americans are subjected day-in and day-out:

1. Romantic love is a feeling that takes you unawares, at first sight or a reasonable facsimile thereof, and quickly cooks your goose.
2. When once you really and truly fall in love, your emotion is deathless, and not even complete rejection by your beloved will serve to make you fall out of love again.
3. Romantic love is more than welcome at any age, and oldsters, as well as youngsters, should hasten to let themselves fall in love.

4. Romantic love, when it is reciprocated and fulfilled, leads to unalloyed, ecstatic happiness.

5. When romantic love is unrequited, or when one's lover deserts, it is the most painful, agonizing feeling possible.

6. Romantic love is a completely irrational, illogical feeling that makes lovers do the maddest things.

7. Romantic love is worth making any sacrifice for, and the greater the sacrifice the greater, presumably, the love.

8. True love is utterly monogamous, and once you fall in love--honest and truly--you can never love another--even though your beloved is worthless, unloving, or already married.

9. Romantic love is an all-important emotion, without which life is dull, pitiful, and meaningless.

10. Love has the power of life and death over men and women and can make them do, or not do, almost anything.

11. Love transforms sexuality and makes it truly good. Sex without love is nasty and worthless.

12. A true lover gives in completely to his beloved, and becomes entirely subservient to her wishes and whims.

13. There may be many types of love, but there is only one true love, which is easily recognizable. When you really and truly love--.

Other observers of America's marital disarray echo Ellis's evaluation of the manner and extent to which long-standing beliefs about romantic love have become embedded in the consciousness of

America's popular mind (Glenn & Kunnes, 1973; Lederer & Jackson, 1968; O'Neill & O'Neill, 1972; Slater, 1971). The ever-glamorous, ever-youthful, ever-smiling, wholly entranced, sweet-smelling couples who people TV commercials (to give but one example) have imprinted through repeated imagery a wholly unrealistic, grotesque vision of what romance, love, and relatedness are all about. The popularization of romantic mythology in America has taken place within the matrix of commercialism to a significant degree. The wreckage of broken marriages that dot the American landscape confirms there is a tragic gap between what millions of people have come to believe a love relationship is supposed to provide and what, in fact, it is capable of providing.

Nor is the Freudian model of romantic love far removed from American realities. The repeated selection of love objects who are already attached (in the form of adulterous relationships) appears to be more widespread in the United States today than in past decades (Friedan, 1963). The promise of attaining heretofore unknown heights of ecstasy through pursuit of the forbidden is a common theme in the deluge of sexual material that has flooded the American marketplace.

The stunning box office success of the film, Last Tango in Paris, lends additional support to the contention that Freud's description of romantic love and theory regarding its origins still strike a

responsive chord in present-day America. In this film, which provided conversational grist for the mills of cocktail parties throughout the land, the heroine becomes enmeshed in a compelling affair with a man old enough to be her father. Overcome by passion, there are no limits to what she will do for her middle-aged, disillusioned lover. He, in turn, comes to shed his armoring of cynicism and world-weariness, and tries to turn their doomed romance into a marriage. The film ends with the heroine shooting her now unwanted suitor. He dies wearing an army cap that belonged to the heroine's father. The Oedipal theme is unmistakable; the content of the impassioned love affair contains all of the aspects of romantic love culled from literary tradition.

In short, romantic love is a potent force in the contemporary American consciousness. Its impact is not reserved, as in the annals of literature, to the exceptional (almost invariably upper-class) few. In the United States romantic love is a mass phenomenon. Most importantly, popularized notions of romantic love have been incorporated into common views of what marriage should be like. This has happened despite the fact that romance and conjugal commitment clash at many levels in the views of numerous writers and psychologists.

Romantic Love and Marriage

Coming to one of the foci of this study, there is lively speculation in the psychological literature about the relationship of romantic love and conjugal love. Reik (1944), for example, contended that romantic love, though more intense, is not qualitatively different from the affectional ties requisite to sustaining marriage. Though he acknowledged overvaluation of the love object and transiency as intrinsic to romantic love, Reik believed romance could lead to marriage as an alternative to burning itself out. Marital love, from his vantage point, entails a more realistic appreciation of the love object and greater potentiality to endure (Reik, 1944). To summarize, romantic love may herald and transmute into a more stable and reality-bound form of devotion institutionalized in marriage.

Other theorists (Dean, 1962; Rougemont, 1956) have maintained that romantic love is different in kind from marital love, and that romantic love's tenets are actually opposed to the marriages that they are supposed to spark in our culture (Ellis, 1962). This theoretical camp depicts romantic love as a futile quest to transcend the limits of human existence (Rougemont, 1956); a feeling rooted in mutual insecurity and glorification of feeling for its own sake (Dean, 1962); and a sentiment infused with unhappiness and tragedy (Rougemont, 1956; Slater, 1971).

Conjugal love, on the other hand, is portrayed as expressive of the need to create a sense of security through an assumption of mutual responsibility (Dean, 1962). As such, it is deeper, firmer, steadier, more reciprocal, and more satisfying than its romantic counterpart (Beigel, 1951; Rougemont, 1956). Whether romantic love differs in degree or in kind from conjugal love, it seems clear that unalloyed passion is distinguishable from more domesticated sentiments.

But more than distinguishable, romantic love in its extreme variants may well be conjugal love's antagonist. Unconscious Oedipal strivings, unrequitedness, obstacles, idealization of the love object, and refusal to acquiesce to human limitations, including change, all seem to fly in the face of those qualities and attributes that enter into a sustained and reasonably successful marital liaison between two people. The relationship between romantic love and conjugal love is still unclear and calls for additional exploration.

Operationalizing Romantic Love

Notwithstanding the complexity of the endeavor, Rubin (1970) has attempted to develop a social-psychological construct of romantic love which incorporates eclectically the perspectives of

Freud, De Rougemont, Slater, and others. His romantic love scale accepts that there may well be common elements among different kinds of love (filial, marital, religious) that have been differentiated.

The specific items that Rubin incorporated into his love scale (see Appendix A) fall under broader definitional headings derived from diverse thinkers that touch upon many of the concepts treated in this paper. The headings include: physical attraction; idealization; a predisposition to help; the desire to share emotions and experiences; feelings of exclusiveness and absorption; felt affiliative and dependent needs; the holding of ambivalent feelings; and the relative unimportance of universalistic norms in romantic love relationships (Rubin, 1970).

At the same time and as a means of validation of his romantic love scale, Rubin (1970) developed a parallel liking scale (see Appendix B) which is a measure of platonic rather than romantic feelings. Rubin (1970) acknowledges that his liking scale conforms closely to earlier measures of "attraction" employed by Byrne and Lindzey in 1968. Rubin's (1970) liking scale includes components of favorable evaluation and respect for the target person, as well as the perception that the target is similar to oneself.

Rubin's work constitutes an important stride in operationalizing and distinguishing between romantic love and liking. The

present study will enlist Rubin's research instruments in order to probe further areas which have only begun to be the objects of clinical investigation.

Summary

As the preceding review suggests, romantic love is an elusive and irreducible aspect of human life. Though it is a vital and profound force in millions of people's lives, research devoted to plumbing love's mysteries has been limited by the vastness of its complexities. Nonetheless, subjective speculation from the domains of literature and psychology has succeeded in communicating something of the flavor of romantic feelings. Zick Rubin's (1970) pioneering work has made available to researchers useful tools, however primitive, with which to study scientifically and extend man's understanding of love.

Even in the absence of controlled experimentation, a lively controversy has developed concerning the relationships among romantic love, liking, and conjugal relationships. Is romantic love, as Reik (1944) believed, transmutable into marital commitment? Or is romantic love an irreconcilable adversary of conjugal stability, as De Rougemont (1956) declaimed? These are the larger questions arching over the specific hypotheses which will be considered in this study.

PROBLEMS AND HYPOTHESES

Problems

The primary problem in conducting an inquiry into the inter-relationships among romantic love, liking, and marital satisfaction is, as previously explained, to obtain valid means of operationalizing these complex phenomena. Once the means for scientific investigation are available, the challenge becomes one of analyzing the data rendered accessible by the tools of research in such a way as to relate meaningfully the focal factors in this study.

From the preceding review it is apparent that no consensus exists within the scientific community regarding the relative roles of romantic love and liking in determining the quality of dyadic heterosexual relationships either within or outside of the institution of marriage. The dearth of empirical data relating to these issues is inversely proportional to the extent they affect most people in their daily lives. Given the relevance of the quest, relatively primitive instruments deserve to be used pending the development of more sophisticated means of exploration. The researcher should dare to investigate where angels fear to tread.

Zick Rubin (1970) has made a beginning in subjecting romantic love to the appraising eye of empirical scrutiny. His romantic love and liking scales have demonstrated a high internal consistency for both men and women. The moderate correlation that Rubin (1970) obtained between his romantic love and liking scales lends support to his contention that the instruments he developed do, in fact, measure two qualitatively different constellations of feeling. The means to measure marital satisfaction are less arcane than in the case of romantic love. For the purposes of this study, the Locke-Wallace Scale (Locke & Wallace, 1959), an instrument which has been widely used, will be employed (see Appendix C).

With scales in hand, it remains to pose salient questions about romantic love, liking, and marital satisfaction in the form of testable hypotheses. Beyond that, careful and exhaustive analysis of the correlational data adduced will be the mortar that holds together qualified conclusions concerning the complicated matters under study.

Hypotheses

It has been suggested that romantic love and liking are two different (if somewhat overlapping) constellations of feeling that

are integral aspects of heterosexual love relationships, whether within or outside of the institution of marriage. Further, the question has been raised regarding the constructive or destructive role of romantic love upon conjugal relationships.

This thesis will attempt to clarify the relative roles of romantic love and liking among unmarried couples (who are romantically involved and who have been going steady for a minimum of three and a maximum of eighteen months) and married couples (who have been wedded a minimum of three and a maximum of seven years). All subjects will be between 22 and 30 years of age. In the case of the married group, marital satisfaction will be examined as a function of the balance between romantic love and liking. From the previous review and discussion of pertinent theoretical issues, the following hypotheses were formulated:

1. Married subjects score lower on the romantic love scale than do unmarried subjects.

It is argued that many aspects of romantic love are incompatible with the reality-boundedness and mutual accessibility characteristic of most marital situations. Conversely, the dynamics which energize romantic love are more likely to exist outside of the institution of marriage. Romantic love may spark a marriage, but marriage does not nurture romantic love.

2. Married subjects show less discrepancy between their romantic love scale scores and liking scale scores than do unmarried subjects.

It is more likely that subjects who have undertaken the commitment to marriage have affiliative feelings drawn from the

domains of romantic love and liking in closer balance than is the case with their unmarried counterparts. Romantic love is distinguishable from liking and is more likely to show relative predominance in heterosexual love relationships carried on outside of the framework of marriage.

3. Marital satisfaction correlates negatively with the extent of discrepancy between scores on the romantic love scale and liking scale.

A balance between feelings of romantic love and liking is conducive to marital satisfaction. Impassioned romantic love is ephemeral by definition. As such, when it is devoid of the steadier feelings of liking, it is less likely to yield marital satisfaction than in the case of a blending of these two sentiments. Likewise, intense liking unwarmed by the fires of romantic love is less likely to yield marital satisfaction than such a blending. The more equally weighted the blend, the more intense marital satisfaction will be.

4. Marital satisfaction correlates positively with intracouple congruence on romantic love scale scores and liking scale scores.

In general, a marriage is likely to be more successful if the intensity of each partner's sentiments is in balance with that of his (or her) mate's feelings. The closer the scores of a husband and wife on both the romantic love scale and liking scale, the more likely they are to be satisfied with their conjugal union.

METHOD

Description of Instrument

Rubin's Romantic Love Scale and Liking Scale

Zick Rubin's romantic love scale (Rubin, 1970) adheres to the following considerations: it is grounded in existing theoretical and popular conceptions of love; responses to its items must be highly intercorrelated if it is, in fact, tapping a single underlying attitude; its discriminant validity is established by a parallel and internally consistent scale of liking with which it correlates only moderately (see Appendices A & B).

The items which Rubin (1970) ultimately included in his romantic love scale were eclectically drawn from the speculations of Freud, De Rougemont, Fromm, Slater, and other prominent thinkers. These items refer to physical attraction, idealization, a predisposition to help, the desire to share emotions and experiences, feelings of exclusiveness and absorption, felt affiliative and dependent needs, the holding of ambivalent feelings, and the relative unimportance of universalistic norms in the relationship (Rubin, 1970).

The liking scale items were suggested by existing theoretical and empirical literature on interpersonal attraction and include references to the desire to affiliate with the target in various settings, evaluation of the target on several dimensions, the salience of norms of responsibility and equity, feelings of respect and trust, and the perception the target is similar to oneself (Rubin, 1970).

After intensive screening of 70 items and factor analyses of responses to them, Rubin (1970, 1973) administered the fruits of his labor (the thirteen item romantic love and liking scales) to 158 dating (but non-engaged) couples at the University of Michigan. Appendices C and D present the mean scores and standard deviations for the items, together with the correlations between individual items and total scale scores (Rubin, 1970).

Locke-Wallace Scale

The Locke-Wallace Marital Adjustment Scale, developed in 1959 and widely used since then, was utilized in the present study as a means of measuring marital satisfaction. This instrument is designed to operationalize the degree of accommodation of a wife and a husband to each other at a given time (Locke & Wallace, 1959). Specific items on the Locke-Wallace Scale (see Appendix C) were culled from several more extensive instruments for measuring marital satisfaction (Locke & Wallace, 1959). Through careful

selection procedures, Locke and Wallace have constructed a short test of marital adjustment whose reliability and validity equals the more elaborate scales from which it was drawn (Locke & Wallace, 1959).

Subjects

The subjects used in this study were drawn from the student population of Michigan State University and the general populace of East Lansing, Michigan and its environs. The subject sample included nineteen married couples who have been wedded from three to seven years, and nineteen unmarried couples who have been going steady from three to eighteen months. All subjects were between 22 and 30 years of age. They were obtained through the use of advertising in the State News, a student newspaper, and the posting of flyers in disparate places all over town. Each couple received \$3 for participating in the study.

Biographical Information

In addition to obtaining scores on Rubin's romantic love and liking scales and, in the case of married subjects, a marital satisfaction rating on the Locke-Wallace scale, the following additional information about each subject was secured.

sex
age
educational level
duration of marriage or relationship
number of children

Subject variables are shown in Table 1.

Procedure

The subjects (Ss) were contacted by telephone, and an appointment time was arranged when both husband and wife or unmarried partners would be present. At the prearranged time, the examiner (E) called at the Ss' apartment or some other mutually convenient spot. Ss were informed that the experiment concerned the study of heterosexual, love relationships. Ss were given instructions about the rating procedure. The Ss sat in different areas of the room, worked separately, were told they could not compare responses when finished, and did not observe or confer with each other about the answers to the test items.

Predictions in Terms of Instruments Employed

To test the hypotheses previously outlined, the following specific predictions were conceptualized in terms of the scores obtained on Rubin's (1970) Romantic Love Scale and Liking Scale, as well as the Locke-Wallace Scale (Locke & Wallace, 1959) in

TABLE 1 -- Sample Variables (Total N = 76)

Variable	Married		Unmarried	
	Men (N = 19)	Women (N = 19)	Men (N = 19)	Women (N = 19)
Age:				
Range	24-30	23-28	22-28	22-26
Mean	26.6	25.5	23.1	22.8
Duration of Marriage (Years) or Relationship (Months):				
Range	3-7	3-7	3-18	3-18
Mean	4.96	4.96	10.1	10.2
Number of Children:				
Range	0-2	0-2	-	-
Mean	.9	.9	-	-
Education (N):				
High School	0	3	0	0
University Undergrad	8	14	13	12
University Graduate Student	11	2	6	7

the case of married Ss. Each corresponds with the aforementioned hypothesis with the same number.

The variable of romantic love (more specifically its intensity) is operationally defined as the score obtained on Rubin's (1970) Romantic Love Scale. The variable of liking is operationally defined as the score obtained on Rubin's (1970) Liking Scale. The variable of marital satisfaction is operationally defined by the score obtained on the Locke-Wallace Scale (Locke & Wallace, 1959).

1. Married subjects score lower on the romantic love scale than do unmarried subjects.
2. Married subjects show less discrepancy between their romantic love scale scores and liking scale scores than do unmarried subjects.
3. Marital satisfaction correlates negatively with the extent of discrepancy between scores on the romantic love scale and liking scale.
4. Marital satisfaction correlates positively with intracouple congruence on romantic love scale scores and liking scale scores.

STATISTICAL TREATMENT OF DATA

In the case of Hypothesis 1, the means and standard deviations of Romantic Love Scale scores obtained from married and unmarried subjects were computed. Fisher's method of tests of significance for small, uncorrelated samples was then employed.

Additionally, Hypotheses 1 through 4 were tested by means of a correlational analysis which consisted of intercorrelation matrices and partial correlations. This was carried out on the Control Data Corporation 6500 Computer using PACKAGE (Hunter & Cohen, 1971) and an updated version, FACTRB (Hunter, 1974). Package consists of a system of Fortran routines designed to compute means, standard deviations, and correlations among a set of variables, plus a variety of other correlational analyses.

For Hypotheses 1 through 4, product moment (r) correlations were computed between each pair of variables to be compared. Each r was tested for significance by referring to Table 1, Critical Values of the Correlation Coefficient (Glass & Stanley, 1970). All hypotheses were stated in a one-directional manner, hence all tests were one-tailed.

Correlation matrices with the variable of liking partialled out were computed in order to better determine whether the

variable of discrepancy between Romantic Love Scale scores and Liking Scale scores (Hypotheses 2 and 3) was correlated with marital satisfaction in the predicted direction in a manner not attributable to a correlation between liking and marital satisfaction alone.

Liking was also partialled out of correlation matrices pertinent to Hypothesis 4 in order to better determine whether the variables of intracouple congruence on Romantic Love Scale scores and Liking Scale scores were correlated in the predicted direction with marital satisfaction in a manner not attributable to a correlation between liking and marital satisfaction alone.

RESULTS

Hypothesis 1. Married subjects score lower on the romantic love scale than do unmarried subjects.

Hypothesis 1 was tested by using Fisher's method of tests of significance for small, uncorrelated samples. The t test produced a value of $t = .28$. t was not significant though married subjects did have a slightly lower mean score on the Romantic Love Scale than did unmarried subjects (see Table 2). Thus Hypothesis 1 was not confirmed.

Using an intercorrelation matrix, the equivalent to a 2-way ANOVA between Sex and Marital Status with the dependent variable, Romantic Love Score, was carried out. The correlation for Sex with Romantic Love Score was $-.03$. This is equivalent to an F of $.07$ for the main effect, Sex, in the 2-way ANOVA. The correlation for Marital Status with Romantic Love Score was $-.03$. This is equivalent to an F of $.07$ for main effect of Marital Status. In neither instance was significance obtained.

The correlation of the product of the Bernoulli variables, Sex and Marital Status, with Romantic Love Scores was $-.16$. This is equivalent to an F of 1.895 for the interaction of Sex with Marital Status, and was also insignificant.

TABLE 2 -- Mean Scores and Standard
Deviations on Romantic Love Scale for
Married and Unmarried Ss

Unmarried Ss (N = 38)		Married Ss (N = 38)	
Mean	S. D.	Mean	S. D.
89.605	11.018	88.842	12.567

To summarize, Hypothesis 1 was disconfirmed. No significant differences were discernible between the Romantic Love Scale scores of married, as opposed to unmarried subjects. Consideration of the additional variable, Sex, also failed to produce any significant results.

Hypothesis 2. Married subjects show less discrepancy between their romantic love scale scores and liking scale scores than do unmarried subjects.

Hypothesis 2 was tested by a product-moment correlation test between Marital Status and the Absolute Difference Between Romantic Love Scale Scores and Liking Scale Scores (i. e., the Discrepancy). The correlation obtained of $r = .01$ was insignificant. No relationship was found between the magnitude of discrepancy between Romantic Love and Liking Scale Scores and Marital Status. The hypothesis was thus not confirmed.

Hypothesis 3. Marital satisfaction correlates negatively with the extent of discrepancy between scores on the romantic love scale and liking scale.

Hypothesis 3 was tested by a product-moment correlation test between Marital Satisfaction and the Absolute Difference Between the Romantic Love Scale Score and Liking Scale Score

for all married subjects (see Table 3). The data was also appraised in a second manner which involved obtaining a correlation between Marital Satisfaction and the Ratio of the Absolute Difference Between the Love Scale Score and Liking Scale Score Over the Total Love and Liking Score compiled by each married subject (see Table 3).

The ratio, $\left| \frac{\text{Romantic Love Score} - \text{Liking Score}}{\text{Romantic Love Score} + \text{Liking Score}} \right|$, permitted taking into account the absolute levels of love and liking scores, as well as the discrepancy between these two scores for each married subject.

For Absolute Difference Between Love Scale Score and Liking Scale Score versus Marital Satisfaction, a correlation of $r = -.20$ was obtained. This indicated a trend in the direction predicted by the hypothesis, though it fell short of being significant at the .05 level of confidence ($\alpha = .275$).

For the ratio, $\left| \frac{\text{Romantic Love Score} - \text{Liking Score}}{\text{Romantic Love Score} + \text{Liking Score}} \right|$, versus Marital Satisfaction, a correlation of $- .28$ was obtained. This result was in the direction predicted by the hypothesis, and was significant at the .05 level of confidence. Thus before partialling out liking and loving, Hypothesis 3 tended markedly to be confirmed by the data.

TABLE 3 -- Coefficients of Correlation for Discrepancy Between
Love and Liking Scores versus Marital Satisfaction

(N = 38)

Hypothesis	Variables	r
3	Love Score - Like Score vs. Marital Satis. (absolute difference)	- .20
3	$\frac{ \text{Love Score} - \text{Like Score} }{ \text{Love Score} + \text{Like Score} }$ vs. Marital Satis.	- .28

(In this table the correlation must be .275 or higher to be
significant at the .05 level)

However, since the ratio was correlated with the Love and Liking Scales, the observed r could be just an indirect reflection of that correlation. Partial r 's were calculated to test for this, and the partial r 's were virtually 0. Thus the observed r 's of $-.20$ and $-.28$ were artifacts of the correlation between the ratio and the simple scales themselves (see Tables 3A and 3B). The apparent support for Hypothesis 3 was thus wiped out.

Hypothesis 4. Marital satisfaction correlates positively with intracouple congruence on romantic love scale scores and liking scale scores.

Hypothesis 4 was tested by a product-moment correlation test between Marital Satisfaction and Intracouple Congruence. Intracouple Congruence was looked at in five different ways (see Table 4). These approaches included: Absolute Difference Between the Liking Scale Scores of Husbands and Wives; Absolute Differences Between the Love Scale Scores of Husbands and Wives; Absolute Differences Between Liking Scale Scores of Spouses and Absolute Differences Between Love Scale Scores of Spouses Totalled Together; the Ratio of Absolute Differences Between Spouses on the Liking Scale Over Their Total Scores on the Liking Scale; and the ratio of Absolute Differences Between Spouses on the Love Scale Over Their Total Scores on the Love Scale. Note that

TABLE 3A -- Same as Table 3 but with Liking Partialled Out

(N = 38)

Hypothesis	Variables	r
3	Love Score - Like Score vs. Marital Satis. (absolute difference)	- .08
3	$\frac{\text{Love Score} - \text{Like Score}}{\text{Love Score} + \text{Like Score}}$ vs. Marital Satis.	- .12

(In this table the correlation must be .275 or higher to be significant at the .05 level)

TABLE 3B -- Same as Table 3 but with Liking and Loving Partialled Out

(N = 38)

Hypothesis	Variables	r
3	Love Score - Like Score vs. Marital Satis. (absolute difference)	+ .07
3	$\left \frac{\text{Love Score} - \text{Like Score}}{\text{Love Score} + \text{Like Score}} \right $ vs. Marital Satis.	+ .05

(In this table the correlation must be .275 or higher to be significant at the .05 level)

TABLE 4 -- Coefficients of Correlation for Intracouple Congruence Measures versus Marital Satisfaction

	Correlation Coefficients (r)	
	Males (N = 19)	Females (N = 19)
Marital Satisfaction vs. the Absolute Differences Between Husbands and Wives on the Liking Scale	- .39	- .23
Marital Satisfaction vs. the Absolute Differences Between Husbands and Wives on the Love Scale	- .11	- .19
Marital Satisfaction vs. the Sum of the Absolute Differences Between Husbands and Wives on the Liking Scale and Love Scale Totalled	- .32	- .28
Marital Satisfaction vs. $\frac{\text{Absolute Differences Between Spouses on the Liking Scale}}{\text{Total Score on Liking Scale}}$ For Couples	- .42	- .27
Marital Satisfaction vs. $\frac{\text{Absolute Differences Between Spouses on the Love Scale}}{\text{Total Score on Love Scale}}$ For Couples	- .14	- .19

(In this table the correlation must be .389 or higher to be significant at the .05 level)

intracouple congruence is being handled statistically in terms of absolute differences between marriage partners on the Liking and Love Scales (i. e. , the greater those differences, the less the intracouple congruence).

Without partialling, all of the correlation coefficients obtained (see Table 4) were in the direction predicted by the hypothesis--as intracouple congruence declined (i. e. , intracouple differences increased), marital satisfaction likewise decreased. This apparent trend in support of Hypothesis 4 did not, however, hold up after partialling.

Specifically, with respect to the original matrix, the data were broken down in such a way as to permit separate appraisal of male and female (husband and wife) marital satisfaction as correlated with intracouple congruence. For husbands, a correlation coefficient of $-.39$ was obtained when Marital Satisfaction was correlated with the Absolute Difference Between Them and Their Wives on the Liking Scale. When placed in the form of a ratio, this r climbed to $-.42$ ($\alpha = .389$ at the .05 level of confidence). For both husbands and wives, intracouple congruence on the Liking Scale correlated more strongly with marital satisfaction than did intracouple congruence on the Love Scale (see Table 4).

When male liking was partialled out (in effect, held constant) of the original matrix (see Table 4A), the trend in support of Hypothesis 4 was virtually eliminated. For males, however, marital satisfaction and intracouple congruence on the Liking Scale continued to be correlated in the direction predicted at the .10 level of confidence (see Table 4A). For females, there continued to be a slight trend between marital satisfaction and intracouple congruence on the Liking Scale after male liking was partialled out.

When female liking was partialled out (in effect, held constant) of the original matrix (see Table 4B), the apparent trend in support of Hypothesis 4 disappeared. Nonetheless, for males, an anomalous trend persisted in support of the predicted correlation between marital satisfaction and intracouple congruence on the Liking Scale (see Table 4B).

To summarize, the data pertinent to Hypothesis 4 taken as a whole suggest that contrary to what was predicted, marital satisfaction is independent of intracouple congruence on measures of love and liking. The only suggestion that this is not the case came from one correlation significant at the .10 level between intracouple liking congruence and marital satisfaction for males. Standing alone, this anomaly is of dubious importance. Nonetheless it is worthy of further investigation.

TABLE 4A -- Same as Table 4 but with Male Liking Partialled Out

Variables	Correlation Coefficients (r)	
	Males (N = 19)	Females (N = 19)
Marital Satisfaction vs. the Absolute Differences Between Husbands and Wives on the Liking Scale	- .38	- .20
Marital Satisfaction vs. the Absolute Differences Between Husbands and Wives on the Love Scale	+ .01	- .10
Marital Satisfaction vs. the Sum of the Absolute Differences Between Husbands and Wives on the Liking Scale and Loving Scale Totalled Together	- .25	- .20
Marital Satisfaction vs. $\frac{\text{Absolute Differences Between Spouses on the Liking Scale}}{\text{Total Score on Liking Scale}}$ For Couples	- .40	- .20
Marital Satisfaction vs. $\frac{\text{Absolute Differences Between Spouses on the Love Scale}}{\text{Total Score on Love Scale}}$ For Couples	- .03	- .09

(In this table the correlation must be .389 or higher to be significant at the .05 level)

TABLE 4B -- Same as Table 4 but with Female Liking Partialled Out

Variables	Correlation Coefficients (r)	
	Males (N = 19)	Females (N = 19)
Marital Satisfaction vs. the Absolute Differences Between Husbands and Wives on the Liking Scale	- .30	- .04
Marital Satisfaction vs. the Absolute Differences Between Husbands and Wives on the Love Scale	+ .06	- .04
Marital Satisfaction vs. the Sum of the Absolute Differences Between Husbands and Wives on the Liking Scale and Love Scale Totalled Together	- .16	- .05
Marital Satisfaction vs. $\frac{\text{Absolute Differences Between Spouses on the Liking Scale}}{\text{Total Score on Liking Scale}}$ For Couples	- .30	- .03
Marital Satisfaction vs. $\frac{\text{Absolute Differences Between Spouses on the Love Scale}}{\text{Total Score on Love Scale}}$ For Couples	+ .03	- .01

(In this table the correlation must be .389 or higher to be significant at the .05 level)

Additional Results

Some additional results which fall outside of the confines of the original hypotheses are worth noting briefly. Marital satisfaction was correlated positively with higher scores on both the Romantic Love Scale and Liking Scale for all married subjects to the .01 level of confidence (see Table 5). Males tended to score lower on the marital satisfaction measure than did their wives, compiling a mean score of 98.842 on the Locke-Wallace Scale, as opposed to their wife's 108.000. The correlation of .30 between husband's and wife's marital satisfaction scores was surprisingly low. At least with reference to the sample used in this study it seems possible for one marital partner to be satisfied while their spouse is dissatisfied, a remarkably personalized phenomenon considering the integral nature of marriage. In general the mean score compiled by the married subjects in this study on the marital satisfaction scale (103.421) was lower than comparable samples who have been tested in the past (discussion with Dr. John Hurley, Michigan State University). The origins of this anomaly are obscure.

There was a positive trend between marital satisfaction and having more children. This trend was more pronounced for wives

TABLE 5 -- Correlation Coefficients for Liking Scale Scores and
Loving Scale Scores Versus Marital Satisfaction
(All Married Subjects N = 38)

Variables	Correlation Coefficients
Liking vs. Marital Satisfaction	.46
Love vs. Marital Satisfaction	.50

(In this table the correlation must be .418 or higher to be significant at the .01 level, two-tailed)

than for husbands, and it should be kept in mind that no couple in the sample had more than two children. This trend was contrary to those of Hurley and Polonien (1967) who found marital satisfaction to be negatively correlated with child density (the number of living children divided by number of years married).

Finally, there was a correlation between Love Scale scores and Liking Scale scores among married subjects at the .01 level of significance (see Table 6). For unmarried subjects this correlation dropped below the .10 level of significance. The data thus tend to suggest that there is a much stronger positive relationship between feelings of love and of liking for married people in comparison to their unmarried counterparts.

TABLE 6 -- Correlation Coefficients for Liking Scale Scores
Versus Love Scale Scores

Variables	Married Ss (N = 38)	Unmarried Ss (N = 38)
Liking vs. Love	.42	.27

(In this table the correlation must be .275 or higher to be significant at the .10 level, two-tailed; the correlation must be .418 or higher to be significant at the .01 level, two-tailed)

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

Overall support of the predictions did not take place. The following several paragraphs explore the implications of the results taken as a whole. A critical assessment of some of the problems relating to design and sample will be included in the chapter.

The Findings

Hypothesis 1, that married subjects score lower on the romantic love measure than do unmarried subjects, was not substantiated by this research. No significant differences emerged between married and unmarried subjects with respect to Romantic Love Scale scores. This result tends to contradict those theorists (see Review of the Literature above) who have cast romantic love and marriage in the roles of unremitting adversaries. It appears possible that romantic love can be sustained within the institution of marriage at a level comparable to that which prevails during courtship.

On the other hand, it is possible that the scales which were used to measure romantic love and liking failed to discriminate adequately between these two sentiments which do seem to overlap

and which are difficult to define and to operationalize with precision. Even a cursory look at the specific items that Rubin (1970) included in his Romantic Love and Liking Scales (see Appendices A & B) reveals considerable overlap of love and liking on both scales. Though there is in the real world no pure love "uncontaminated" by liking, just as there is no pure liking "uncontaminated" by love, researchers must endeavor to refine their instruments in order to capture the essential qualities of each blend of sentiments. The work in this area has only just begun.

Also, with reference to the Romantic Love Scale, its items do not adequately tap many of the primary irrational beliefs that feed into romantic love (see Review of the Literature above).

It is possible, as far as Hypothesis 1 is concerned, that marriages of longer duration (fifteen to thirty years) would produce the lower Romantic Love Scale scores that were predicted. The spark of romantic love may lead to marriage (Rubin, 1973); it also may burn much longer than was anticipated in this study.

Finally, it is worth considering whether the parity that emerged between the Love Scale scores of married and unmarried subjects indicates there is less romanticizing among young adults in America today than in the past. Freud viewed romantic love as being fueled by aim-deflected sexuality (see Review of the Literature above). The

relaxation of sexual constraints which has marked the past decade may be depleting the sources of aim-deflected sexuality by social sanctioning of direct sexual expression. In this context, it would be interesting to compare unmarried couples who engage in premarital sexual relations with those who desist to see whether the latter score higher on measures of romantic love.

Hypothesis 2, that married subjects would show less discrepancy between their Romantic Love and Liking Scale scores than unmarried subjects, also was not confirmed. There seems to be no basis for presuming that the decision to marry betokens more of a balance between the sentiments of romantic love and liking than there would be in its absence. Nor does the data support the view that the state of marriage promotes greater equilibrium between love and liking. The motivations for getting married and staying married would appear to reside elsewhere.

In discussing Hypothesis 1 (see above), it was suggested that more sophisticated instruments for measuring romantic love and liking and a sample group of persons with substantially longer marriages would have improved its testing. The same critique is applicable to Hypothesis 2. It is possible that in marriages which endure for over twenty years, the sentiments of love and liking tend to balance out. On the other hand, it may be that regardless of duration, marriages embody the same diversity of needs and expectations as do love relationships outside the pale

of marriage. In this case there would be no reason to doubt what the data adduced in the present study tend to suggest, namely that there is no relationship between marital status and the extent of discrepancy between Love Scale scores and Liking Scale scores.

The absence of corroboration for Hypothesis 2 further places in doubt the viability of theories which contend romantic love and conjugal love differ in kind. To recapitulate, married couples and unmarried couples showed no significant differences with respect to the absolute scores on the Romantic Love Scale; they likewise showed no significant differences with respect to the discrepancy between Love Scale scores and Liking Scale scores.

Some apparent support for Hypothesis 3, that marital satisfaction correlates negatively with the extent of discrepancy between scores on the Love Scale and Liking Scale, emerged in the trend of the data before liking and love were partialled out.

The fact that the trend tending to confirm the hypothesis was reduced to insignificance when, at first, liking and then love were held constant through partialling demonstrates that the original correlation coefficients reflected significant correlations between liking and marital satisfaction and love and marital satisfaction, rather than the discrepancy between these two sentiments and marital satisfaction.

As noted previously (see Additional Results above), there were significant correlations between Liking Scale Scores versus Marital Satisfaction and Love Scale Scores versus Marital Satisfaction in a positive direction. Partialling revealed that it was these correlations which produced the apparent correlations between Discrepancy and Marital Satisfaction in the data collected as part of the present study.

The theoretical import of these findings is simple and unremarkable. Marital satisfaction correlates positively with the extent of liking. Marital satisfaction correlates positively with the extent of loving. The difference or discrepancy between the intensity of these two sentiments does not in itself correlate at all with marital satisfaction. Thus either sufficient love or sufficient liking may make for a good marriage. Contrary to what was hypothesized, a balance between love and liking in-and-of-itself means little or nothing.

These results tend to controvert the argument that romantic love is intrinsically incompatible with or antagonistic to the institution of marriage. On the contrary, it seems likely that romantic love is the mortar which binds and strengthens certain conjugal unions. In other marriages, liking appears to be primary in creating marital satisfaction. There does appear to be a

strong correlation between contentment in marriage and the presence at a sufficient level of intensity of at least one or the other of these constellations of feeling (love or liking). To say more than this would be to reach beyond the data at hand.

There was virtually no support for Hypothesis 4, that marital satisfaction correlates positively with intracouple congruence on Romantic Love Scale elevations and Liking Scale elevations. The overall trend of the data before male liking and female liking were partialled out was apparently in the direction predicted. The strongest correlation coefficient obtained correlated intracouple congruence on the Liking Scale with marital satisfaction for males.

After partialling out male liking and female liking (in effect, holding them constant), the data strongly suggested that marital satisfaction is independent of intracouple congruence on the love and liking measures. However, one correlation was not 0: for males there was a negative correlation ($r = - .30$) between marital satisfaction and incongruence on liking even after liking was partialled out. That correlation is not significant in itself ($p = .10$, one tail); and as the largest of six correlations pertaining to the hypothesis, it is statistically quite marginal ($p = .47$, one tail). Thus it is not likely to cross-validate. But until a later study shows it to be 0, the hypothesis of the independence of marital satisfaction to intracouple congruence must be held with a caveat.

In the absence of more definitive data, it seems reasonable to presume that two people with differing needs, expectations, and capacities to give may complement each other even though the strength of their respective feelings for each other are not in balance.

Theory and Design

The theoretical thread which ran through the hypotheses in the present study was drawn from the position most outspokenly pronounced by De Rougemont (1956) and echoed by others (see Review of the Literature above), that romantic love is an ephemeral, unrealistic, obstacle-ridden sentiment that is inimical to conjugal stability. The results of this investigation do not confirm this viewpoint. Rather, romantic love, as well as liking, seem to play important roles in binding couples together both within and outside of the framework of marriage.

Seen in this light, the rising divorce rates in this country may be due to a waning of romantic love rather than its overabundance. To be sure, the increase in sexual freedom has removed one of the primary sources of energy which flows into romantic love--aim-deflected sexuality. The belief in marriage and concomitant

satisfaction with being married may be contingent upon a social context that promotes sexual scarcity. The ubiquitous romanticism that pervades the American media (Ellis, 1962) is accompanied at present by popularized emphasis on sexual mechanics rather than feelings. It is at least possible that marital satisfaction and the marriage institution itself rest upon subjective beliefs, many of them akin to those in romantic legends (idealization, exclusiveness, etc.), whose foundations are being undermined by sexual abundance where there was once artificially created scarcity. Romantic love may be a threatened ally rather than an irreconcilable enemy of marital satisfaction.

There were serious flaws in the design of the present study that precluded a more thorough enquiry into the theoretical issues that have been raised. Though Rubin (1970, 1973) is due considerable credit for undertaking a most difficult task, there are notable defects in his Romantic Love Scale and Liking Scale.

With respect to the Love Scale (see Appendix A), at least five of the thirteen items (Nos. 1, 2, 7, 8, and 12) seem content-wise to get more at feelings of strong friendship than romantic love. Also, as noted earlier, the Love Scale fails to incorporate many of the primary beliefs that sustain romantic love. Many of the liking items are focussed on admiration and respect, rather

than trust and understanding. In short, it is unclear exactly what the two scales are measuring, and whether they are discriminating successfully between the two sentiments they purport to measure.

The task of developing more sophisticated means of operationalizing romantic love and liking is complex and burdensome. There are many varieties of loving and liking and no clear demarcation line exists between the two constellations of feeling. This very elusiveness at the definitional level probably explains in large measure the relative dearth of scientific research in the area which was focussed upon in the present study.

Other deficiencies in the design of this research were embedded in the nature of the sample which was used. First, it would have been desirable to increase the size of the sample population apart from modifying its characteristics. Secondly, it is possible that unmarried couples who have been going together for as long as eighteen months (and who may well be cohabitating) do not differ significantly in life situation and expectations from married couples who have been wedded for as few as three years. It therefore seems advisable in future research to include in the sample a group of married couples who have been together for as long as twenty or thirty years, and a group of unmarried couples who have been romantically involved for no more than four months.

Turning away from the factor of duration of relationship, the sample population in the present study (see Table 1) was not representative of society at large with respect to social class and education. Virtually all of the subjects had received at least some university training. Many were graduate students. It is probable that working-class attitudes towards romantic love differ significantly from those of the middle-class. Likewise, minority groups, such as Blacks, may hold subculturally-specific notions of love and liking. Because of the non-representative nature of the sample group, the variables of social class, race, and sub-culture affiliations as they relate to the concerns of this research could not begin to be assessed. Finally, a correlation was noted between marital satisfaction and number of children (see Additional Results above). Yet the range of the number of children among married couples in the sample was extremely narrow (0 to 2). This range should be broadened in future research.

Recapitulating some of the major conclusions regarding the theory and design of this study, the investigation was built upon what well may be an erroneous theoretical presumption that romantic love and marriage do not strengthen, and indeed may enervate each other. The hypotheses rested to a large degree upon the validity of this presumption. The instruments used to measure romantic love

and liking were rather primitive and subject to criticism. They constitute only a beginning in the task of defining, differentiating, and operationalizing the sentiments of romantic love and liking. The sample population which was used was too small, and could have been more refined in discriminating between the married and unmarried subjects on the dimensions of duration of relationship and life situation. In addition, the factors of social class and sub-cultural affiliation were bypassed as a result of the non-representative character of the sample population. Since a correlation did emerge between marital satisfaction and number of offspring, the range of the latter among sample couples should be broadened in future research.

SUMMARY

This study was designed to explore the relationship of romantic love to marital status and marital satisfaction. The role of liking in marital satisfaction was also considered.

At base, this paper started from the tenet enunciated by many theorists that romantic love is in many ways incompatible with the institution of marriage, and that it may pose a threat to marital satisfaction and stability.

It was hypothesized that the sentiment of romantic love would be markedly more prevalent and intense among unmarried couples in comparison with married couples. Also, it was predicted that married couples would exhibit more of a balance between their feelings of romantic love and liking than would unmarried couples.

It was further theorized that marital satisfaction was positively correlated with a balance between the intensity of romantic love and the intensity of liking, and that the more closely the two members of a couple matched in terms of the extent of their love and liking for each other, the more content they would be with their marriage.

To test the above hypotheses, Rubin's (1970) Romantic Love Scale and Liking Scale were used as measures of romantic love and

liking. The Locke-Wallace Scale (Locke & Wallace, 1959) was used to measure marital satisfaction. These instruments were rated by nineteen married couples between the ages of 22 and 30, who were married for three to seven years, and nineteen unmarried couples within the same age range who had gone together for three to eighteen months.

Contrary to the major theoretical premise of this study--that romantic love is somehow antagonistic to marriage--the results tended to suggest quite the contrary--that romantic love contributes to marital satisfaction.

In retrospect, several major problems in this study's design were delineated, as well as implicit suggestions for future research. The need to develop more sophisticated and reliable means for measuring romantic love and liking was discussed. Additionally, deficiencies in sample characteristics were considered, and modifications in the theoretical orientation of this research were suggested.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

The following items are concerned with attitudes you have about your spouse or dating partner. In the answer space provided after each item, fill in the number from 1 to 9 which best describes the approximate extent of agreement you feel with respect to each statement. Note carefully, a response of (1) indicates you are in total disagreement with what the item says (i. e., it is completely untrue). A response of (9) indicates you are in total agreement with what the item says (i. e., it is completely true). The midpoint (5) indicates you are in moderate agreement with what the item says (i. e., it is moderately true). Try to find the number on the 1 to 9 continuum which best represents the approximate extent to which you agree with each statement. Remember, the continuum runs in the following direction:

Totally Disagree					Moderate- ly Agree					Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		

Answer 1 to 9										

1. If _____ were feeling badly, my first duty
would be to cheer him (her) up. _____

2. I feel I can confide in _____ about virtually
everything. _____

3. I find it easy to ignore _____'s faults. _____

4. I would do almost anything for _____. _____

5. I feel very possessive toward _____. _____

6. If I could never be with _____, I would feel
miserable. _____

7. If I were lonely, my first thought would be to
seek _____ out. _____

8. One of my primary concerns is
_____ 's welfare. _____

Answer 1 to 9

9. I would forgive _____ for practically anything. _____
-
10. I feel responsible for _____'s well-being. _____
-
11. When I am with _____, I spend a good deal of time just looking at him (her). _____
-
12. I would greatly enjoy being confided in by _____. _____
-
13. It would be hard for me to get along without _____. _____
-

APPENDIX B

The following items are concerned with attitudes you have about your spouse or dating partner. In the answer space provided after each item fill in the number from 1 to 9 which best describes the approximate extent of agreement you feel with respect to each statement. Note carefully, a response of (1) indicates you are in total disagreement with what the item says (i. e., it is completely untrue). A response of (9) indicates you are in total agreement with what the item says (i. e., it is completely true). The midpoint (5) indicates you are in moderate agreement with what the item says (i. e., it is moderately true). Try to find the number on the 1 to 9 continuum which best represents the approximate extent to which you agree with each statement. Remember, the continuum runs in the following direction:

Totally Disagree										Totally Agree
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
***** <u>Answer 1 to 9</u>										
1. When I am with _____, we are almost always in the same mood.									_____	
<hr/>										
2. I think that _____ is unusually well-adjusted.									_____	
<hr/>										
3. I would highly recommend _____ for a responsible position.									_____	
<hr/>										
4. In my opinion, _____ is an exceptionally mature person.									_____	
<hr/>										
5. I have great confidence in _____'s good judgment.									_____	
<hr/>										
6. Most people would react very favorably to _____ after a brief acquaintance.									_____	
<hr/>										
7. I think that _____ and I are quite similar to each other.									_____	
<hr/>										

Answer 1 to 9

8. I would vote for _____ in a class
or group election.

9. I think that _____ is one of those people
who quickly wins respect.

10. I feel that _____ is an extremely
intelligent person.

11. _____ is one of the most likable
people I know.

12. _____ is the sort of person whom I
myself would like to be.

13. It seems to me that it is very easy for
_____ to gain admiration.

APPENDIX C

TABLE 7 -- Means, Standard Deviations, and Correlations with Total Scale Scores of Love-Scale and Liking-Scale Items (Rubin, 1970)

Love-scale Items	Women				Men			
	X	SD	r ^a Love	r Like	X	SD	r ^a Love	r Like
1. If _____ were feeling badly, my first duty would be to cheer him (her) up.	7.56	1.79	.393	.335	7.28	1.67	.432	.304
2. I feel I can confide in _____ about virtually everything.	7.77	1.73	.524	.274	7.80	1.65	.425	.408
3. I find it easy to ignore _____'s faults.	5.83	1.90	.184	.436	5.61	2.13	.248	.428
4. I would do almost anything for _____.	7.15	2.03	.630	.341	7.35	1.83	.724	.530
5. I feel very possessive toward _____.	6.26	2.36	.438	-.005	6.24	2.33	.481	.342
6. If I could never be with _____, I would feel miserable.	6.52	2.43	.633	.276	6.58	2.26	.699	.422

7. If I were lonely, my first thought would be to seek ____ out.	7.90	1.72	.555	.204	7.75	1.54	.546	.328
8. One of my primary concerns is ____'s welfare.	7.47	1.62	.606	.218	7.59	1.56	.683	.290
9. I would forgive ____ for practically anything.	6.77	2.03	.551	.185	6.54	2.05	.394	.237
10. I feel responsible for ____'s well-being.	6.35	2.25	.582	.178	6.67	1.88	.548	.307
11. When I am with ____, I spend a good deal of time just looking at him (her).	5.42	2.36	.271	.137	5.94	2.18	.491	.318
12. I would greatly enjoy being confided in by ____.	8.35	1.14	.498	.292	7.88	1.47	.513	.383
13. It would be hard for me to get along without ____.	6.27	2.54	.676	.254	6.19	2.16	.663	.464

Note. -- Based on responses of 158 couples. Scores on individual items can range from 1 to 9, with 9 always indicating the positive end of the continuum.

a Correlation between item and love scale total minus that item.

APPENDIX D

TABLE 8 -- Means, Standard Deviations, and Correlations with Total Scale Scores of Love-Scale and Liking-Scale Items (Rubin, 1970)

Liking-scale Items	Women				Men			
	\bar{X}	SD	r Love	b_r Like	\bar{X}	SD	r Love	b_r Like
1. When I am with _____, we are almost in the same mood.	5.51	1.72	.163	.270	5.30	1.77	.235	.294
2. I think that _____ is unusually well-adjusted.	6.36	2.07	.093	.452	6.04	1.98	.339	.610
3. I would highly recommend _____ for a responsible position.	7.87	1.77	.199	.370	7.90	1.55	.281	.422
4. In my opinion, _____ is an exceptionally mature person.	6.72	1.93	.190	.559	6.40	2.00	.372	.609
5. I have great confidence in _____'s good judgment.	7.37	1.59	.310	.538	6.68	1.80	.381	.562

6. Most people would react very favorably to _____ after a brief acquaintance.	7.08	2.00	.167	.366	7.32	1.73	.202	.287
7. I think that _____ and I are quite similar to each other.	6.12	2.24	.292	.410	5.94	2.14	.407	.417
8. I would vote for _____ in a class or group election.	7.29	2.00	.057	.381	6.28	2.36	.299	.297
9. I think that _____ is one of those people who quickly wins respect.	7.11	1.67	.182	.588	6.71	1.69	.370	.669
10. I feel that _____ is an extremely intelligent person.	8.04	1.42	.193	.155	7.48	1.50	.377	.415
11. _____ is one of the most likable people I know.	6.99	1.98	.346	.402	7.33	1.63	.438	.514
12. _____ is the sort of person whom I myself would like to be.	5.50	2.00	.253	.340	4.71	2.26	.417	.552
13. It seems to me that it is very easy for _____ to gain admiration.	6.71	1.87	.176	.528	6.53	1.64	.345	.519

Note. -- Based on responses of 158 couples. Scores on individual items can range from 1 to 9, with 9 always indicating the positive end of the continuum.

^b Correlation between item and liking scale total minus that item.

APPENDIX E

Encircle the dot on the scale below which best describes the degree of happiness, everything considered, of your present marriage. The middle point, "happy," represents the degree of happiness which most people get from marriage, and the scale gradually ranges on one side to those few who are very unhappy in marriage, and on the other, to those few who experience extreme joy or felicity in marriage.

.
Very			Happy		Perfectly
Unhappy					Happy

State the approximate extent of agreement between you and your mate on the following items. Please encircle the appropriate dots.

	Always Agree	Almost Always Agree	Occa- sionally Disagree	Fre- quently Disagree	Almost Always Dis- agree	Always Dis- agree
Handling family finances
Matters of recreation
Demonstrations of affection
Friends
Sex Relations
Conventionality (right, good or proper conduct)
Philosophy of Life
Ways of dealing with in-laws

When disagreements arise, they usually result in: husband's giving in _____, wife giving in _____, agreement by mutual give and take _____.

Do you and your mate engage in outside interests together? All of them _____, some of them _____, very few of them _____, none of them _____?

In leisure time do you generally prefer: to be "on the go" _____, to stay at home _____?

Does your mate generally prefer: to be "on the go" _____, to stay at home _____?

Do you ever wish you had not married? Frequently _____, occasionally _____, rarely _____, never _____.

If you had your life to live over, do you think you would: Marry the same person _____, marry a different person _____, not marry at all _____?

Do you confide in your mate: almost never _____, rarely _____, in most things _____, in everything _____?

Locke, H. J. and Wallace, K. M. Journal of Marriage and Family Living, 1959, 21:3, 251-255.

APPENDIX F

Locke-Wallace Scale Scoring Key

1. Check the dot on the scale line below which best describes the degree of happiness, everything considered, of your present marriage. The middle point, "happy," represents the degree of happiness which most people get from marriage, and the scale gradually ranges on one side to those few who are very unhappy in marriage, and on the other, to those few who experience extreme joy or felicity in marriage.

0	2	7	15	20	25	35
.
Very Unhappy			Happy			Perfectly Happy

State the approximate extent of agreement or disagreement between you and your mate on the following items. Please check each column.

	Always Agree	Almost Always Agree	Occa- sionally Disagree	Fre- quently Disagree	Almost Always Dis- agree	Always Dis- agree
2. Handling family finances	5	4	3	2	1	0
3. Matters of recreation	5	4	3	2	1	0
4. Demonstrations of affection	8	6	4	2	1	0
5. Friends	5	4	3	2	1	0
6. Sex relations	15	12	9	4	1	0
7. Conventionality (right, good or proper conduct)	5	4	3	2	1	0
8. Philosophy of Life	5	4	3	2	1	0
9. Ways of dealing with in-laws	5	4	3	2	1	0

10. When disagreements arise, they usually result in: husband giving in 0 , wife giving in 2 , agreement by mutual give and take 10 .

11. Do you and your mate engage in outside interests together? All of them 10 , some of them 8 , very few of them 3 , none of them 0 .

12. In leisure time do you generally prefer: to be "on the go" _____, to stay at home _____? Does your mate generally prefer: to be "on the go" _____, to stay at home _____? (Stay at home for both, 10 points; "on the go" for both 3 points; disagreement, 2 points.)

13. Do you ever wish you had not married? Frequently 0 , occasionally 3 , rarely 8 , never 15 .

14. If you had your life to live over, do you think you would: marry the same person 15 , marry a different person 0 , not marry at all 1 ?

15. Do you confide in your mate: almost never 0 , rarely 2 , in most things 10 , in everything 10 ?

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