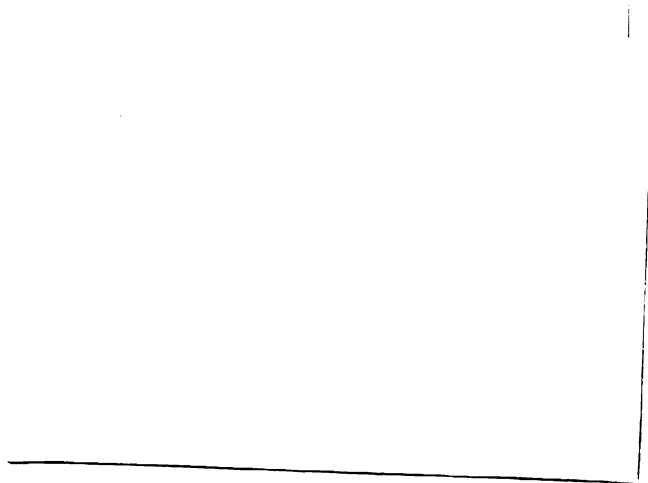


THE EFFECTS OF HOMOGENEITY AND  
HETEROGENEITY OF SELF-ESTEEM ON  
THE INTERACTION PATTERNS OF ENGAGED COUPLES

Thesis for the Degree of M. A.  
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## ABSTRACT

### THE EFFECTS OF HOMOGENEITY AND HETEROGENEITY OF SELF-ESTEEM ON THE INTERACTION PATTERNS OF ENGAGED COUPLES

By

Carol Ann Trufant

The present study was concerned with the difference between couples with homogeneous and heterogeneous self-esteem scores on their pattern of interaction. Competitiveness, dominance, egocentricity, and partnership were measured by (1) Interruptions, (2) Simultaneous speech, (3) Number of times spoken, (4) Length of time spoken, (5) Number of I's, and (6) Number of WE's. The hypotheses were: 1) Couples with homogeneous esteem levels would exhibit more attempts at competing with and dominating each other than the heterogeneous groups. 2) Couples with heterogeneous esteem levels would show more inclinations towards egocentrism evidenced by the number of I's spoken, whereas homogeneous groups will exhibit more partnership feelings shown by the number of WE's spoken. 3) Men would be more dominating than women in their interactions regardless of individual or couple esteem levels.

A total of 22 engaged subjects between the ages of 19 and 23 were studied. All were Caucasian, middle class, and former or present college students. All individuals completed the Tennessee Self-Concept Scale, a self-descriptive measure. A difference score for each couple was derived and couples were designated as having either homogeneous or heterogeneous esteem levels. An experimental situation was derived by Oaklander (1971) in which each couple was required to discuss a questionnaire and arrive at joint answers regarding the questions. These sessions were audio-taped and coded for the interaction measures.

An analysis of variance with repeated measures was conducted for all measures except simultaneous speech on which a one-way analysis was performed. A correlational matrix was also obtained. Results showed that neither the homogeneous or heterogeneous groups dominated more than the other indicating a similar pattern of interaction for both groups. However, the homogeneous group used a significantly higher number of WE's in their discussion than did the heterogeneous group suggesting that people with similar self-esteem levels exhibit more partnership feelings. Other findings suggested that couples generally tend to be concerned with the dominance factor more than any other. In addition, heterogeneous males interrupt most often, and males generally tended to dominate and exhibit more

egocentric behaviors which women did not readily accept. Women tended to attempt thwarting behaviors to offset male dominance and egocentrism. In fact, there is an indication that women resent egocentrism more than other male behaviors.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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By

Carol Ann Trufant

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To Rufus

who has endured and survived

much more than most

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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this project was to study the effects of homogeneity and heterogeneity of self-esteem on the interaction patterns of engaged couples. Most research has studied married couples usually after a few years of marriage. Much of this research concerns marital adjustment, and is based on assumptions, such as "neuroticism" being negatively correlated or socioeconomic status being positively correlated with this adjustment (Barry, 1970). Little research has been conducted on a population of couples who have not yet married.

The engagement period is, of course, one of finalization before marriage and can be a difficult time. Burgess and Wallin (1954) have found that during the engagement period, an attempt to work out many aspects of the dyadic relationship is made. It takes time to find a person one can "get along with"; moreover, it also takes good judgment in choosing the most appropriate partner. Temperament, other personality variables, economic, and social factors are all related to this decision process. Perhaps the most important aspects however are temperamental and personality factors of individuals. Each adult has a way of acting and reacting towards others across situations. He also has learned to act and react in terms of his

prior interpersonal experiences, mainly from relations with the family, and later from those with his peers. Of course, if basic relationships have been faulty, then a problem will arise in later relationships. However, it is these later relationships that will be discussed here. Many young adults today have stereotypic views regarding the desirability of a partner in relation to themselves. Partially due to the influence of mass media, there is an over-emphasis on surface aspects: dress, manner, facial characteristics, money, etc. According to Burgess and Wallin (1954), the courtship system in this day and age is not functional. Young people are made to suffer the repercussions of erroneous judgments in choosing potential partners. The consequences are often overwhelming and can lead to avoidance of any further close interpersonal relationships with the opposite sex even to the extreme of remaining distant for long periods of time. This behavior tends to isolate individuals and fosters a perpetual pattern of escape resulting in a never-ending inability to get along with others--especially those of the opposite sex. It seems here that people could use some guidance in being companions, first; that is, in acquiring knowledge of effective interpersonal relationships with others.

It was the purpose of this research to view engaged rather than married couples in order to discover a way to measure the factors during this period which might hinder a successful marriage.

Differences in individual personality as well as couple differences were emphasized, especially self-esteem. It would be interesting to discover joint or individual differences apparent before marriage that relate to conflict and conflict resolution. These differences then could be useful predictors for couples contemplating long term interpersonal relationships. It would be especially helpful during the teenage period for these young adults to be exposed and given guidance in determining which people are better associates for them relative to their own needs, traits, etc. Many individuals do not realize that effective conflict resolution is important, for it is not emphasized at an early enough age.

For engaged couples, conflict is inevitable. How conflict is handled before marriage could be crucial in predicting future conflict and marital happiness. For during later periods, additional problems specific to marriage itself will arise and will be worked out according to the individual strengths brought to the dyad and ultimately to the strengths of the initial couple relationship.

### Review of Literature

#### Self-Esteem

There have been numerous studies conducted concerning the effects of low self-esteem in general interpersonal interaction, but

only few on the effects of similar or differing esteem levels of engaged couples. Coopersmith (1959) was one of the first to write about different types of self-esteem. Studies done up to that time concluded that self-esteem was a significant contributing variable in different areas--threat, recall ability, etc. He maintained that the term "self-esteem" can be interpreted in many ways, and is vague and difficult to evaluate. He stated:

Underlying the variety of terminology--pride (Baldwin and Lewin, 1957), ego (Freud, 1927; Gough, 1954), dominance (Gough, 1954), self-cathexis (Jourard, 1957)--is a distinction between self-evaluation and the manner in which this self-evaluation is expressed in behavior. Various definitions emphasize short- and long-term, hierarchical, ego, behavioral, social and self states, all of which presumably have in common the ego needs postulated by Freud (1927) and extended and clarified by A. Freud (1938), Horney (1937) and other neo-Freudians, and Rogers (1942).

Coopersmith (1959) believed that "a subjective evaluation of self-esteem is . . . in substantial agreement with its behavioral expression, despite the stress involved in daily living and the resultant defensive and distorting factors present" (p. 87).

Others espouse the view that self-esteem is a crucial factor in determining the ease with which a dyadic relationship will flow relative to individual factors. According to Gergen (1971), a person's social or interpersonal relationships are significantly determined by his self-concept. In fact, the amount of influence one exerts on others can be determined by his self-esteem level.

In other words, self-esteem can determine whether a person will be a dominant or submissive member of a dyad and therefore more apt to influence or be influenced.

For example, Murstein (1971) studied self--ideal-self discrepancies and choice of marital partners. He evaluated the Edwards Personal Preference Schedule Score of 99 couples, engaged or going steady. The results indicated that people of similar levels of self--ideal-self acceptance tend to become engaged to each other and that the perception of a partner as similar or different is a function of self-acceptance levels. He also found that persons who are low in self-acceptance were forced to settle for potential marriage partners who do not approximate their concept of an ideal spouse as closely as do potential partners for high self-acceptance people. If this last finding is true, then it seems that the basis of conflict for the low-esteem dyads is their dissatisfaction with their respective choices. There is still a struggle for power; however the low esteem pair struggle for non-existent power. Perceiving the absence of power over others, they attempt to gain it from an already defensive position. On the other hand, a couple with differing esteem levels might have less conflict because their positions are more defined, i.e., dominant versus submissive.

Thomas and Burdick (1954) and Cohen (1956; 1959) found that high self-esteem people rated themselves high on attempting to influence



and that the higher the self-esteem level, the more a person will try to maintain his views and will guard against being influenced.

Sex differences of individual partners may be important. Murstein (1971) found that the extent to which men perceive partners as different is a function of differences in their self-concepts. For women, however, the perception of partners as different depends on differences in self-concept and the extent of their perceptions of the fiancé as ideal.

Gergen (1971) warns however that positive correlations between individual self-esteem ratings and ratings of others can not be taken completely as fact. Some psychological research show that people tend to rate extremely or moderately on self-esteem tests and in rating others; extreme scorers rate both themselves and others more positively. Thus, individual styles of rating also contribute to these positive correlations rather than self-esteem alone.

Self-esteem seen from an individual and dyadic point of view is useful for one affects or is affected by the other. In viewing interrelationships and self-esteem generally, similar and differing esteem levels might be more important phenomena than are high or low levels.

Self-esteem is considered an ego-related need, and as such, affects all human relationships. If a need is great enough and

remains unsatisfied, personal relationships will be permeated with struggles. A natural outcome--conflict--shall be discussed now.

### Conflict

Conflict occurs oftentimes as the result of differing values, beliefs, and attitudes. Barry (1970) has completed an extensive review of research on conflict in marriage. Deutsch (1969) and Coser (1956) distinguish between destructive and constructive conflicts. The former are characterized by mutual suspicion and lack of communication and a reliance on power strategies and threats. Coser further classifies destructive conflicts as dysfunctional when conflict is over basic principles. Constructive conflicts, however, permit each partner to find creative solutions to conflict given that trust, and open, honest communication are present and each person's interests are recognized. Coser adds that this situation is characterized by conflict over matters assuming similarity of basic principles and believes this conflict is integrative and a sign of stability of the dyad. Only if the people are secure enough in the relationship can they feel free to express differences and hostile feelings. In any close relationship, hostility and differences emerge. Although these relationships foster positive aspects--like intimacy, and love--they also present opportunity for conflict and hostile feelings which

usually are not openly expressed. According to Boulding (1962) and Coser (1956) as relationships get closer, the whole person becomes involved thereby presenting opportunities for potential conflict; if these are suppressed, the relationship becomes threatened.

Haley (1963) believes that there are two kinds of conflict: disagreements, caused by decisions as to which rules will be followed, and emotional struggles, caused by deciding who will make the decisions. The former is easier to solve by compromise than is the latter; any time there is a preoccupation with who is to define or enforce the rules, there will be trouble. Consequently, the strategies are similar to any power struggle in which helplessness, withdrawal, threats, and/or passive resistance are used.

Some refer to conflict in terms of its causes. Horney (1967) refers to competition as the basis of conflict to the extent that it permeates all human relationships. In marriage, the couple may not be aware of its influence, manifested by a never-ending struggle for the dominant position, and a creation of jealousy towards the dominant and disdain for the submissive.

Much of the work done on dyadic conflict studied married couples and included the importance of "self" in some way. However, there are a few reports which did not. For example, Thibaut and Coules (1952) found that people who were allowed to express anger

and frustration toward the frustrating agent, retained less residual animosity.

More recently, Tinker (1972) studied the effects of dominant behavior in married couples. He discovered that high dominance produced more hostility in dyads no matter who initiated it. Moderate dominance however did not cause hostility and was associated with positive affectionate interaction; indications were that equalitarian marrieds were happier than those with extreme dominance patterns.

If it is reasonable to assume that all lasting relationships have one dominant member, than a negative view need not be taken of them. Apparently such interactions can be positive because of a freer flow of feelings including expressions of anger. Couples who consider themselves as "equals" may be more able to achieve this state.

Power struggles are inevitable between two people. If the decision as to who will hold the dominant position is not solved, a continual round of battles will ensue. Perhaps a clearer understanding of the connection between self-esteem and conflict will be helpful as a preventive measure.

### Self-Esteem and Conflict

The following is an account of some views that causes of dyadic conflict are due to some injury to the "self." Horney (1967)

likens competitiveness to a neurotic conflict which in many manifests itself as fear. By constantly comparing themselves with others and simultaneously measuring up to an ego ideal, these people exhibit a never-ending need for attaching negative associations to competition. Attempting to live up to rigid demands made on the self cause annoyance and despondence, the same factors often emerging from competition with others. The ensuing hostility pervades all relationships and causes several unexplained behaviors of each individual in the pair.

Sanford (1968) refers to an individual as being weak due to forced submission to powers or agencies with which he is not in full agreement; yet, to admit this weakness would be a blow to his self-respect. Consequently, a "front" is developed--an overcompensation--representing power and toughness and an accent on the dominant-strong versus the submissive-weak relationship occurs.

Boulding (1962) describes conflict in terms of inner symbolic images and equates them with values. Barry (1970) interprets images to mean that which is of central value to someone, and depending on the centrality of it, the personality is integrated around the image. One can equate the "core image" with self-identity and self-other images rather than with values; for, this core is related to who one is for others, rather than what one values for himself.

Solomon (1960) viewed the effects of power relationships and game strategies on interpersonal trust. He found that "under conditions of non-communication . . . individualistic oriented subjects were unable to act rationally in the absence of mutual trust . . . . Each player was unable to subordinate immediate self interest for long range group gain and the relationship tended to deteriorate into self-defeating competition" (p. 22).

Goodrich and Boomer (1963) studied coping behavior of fifty husbands and wives in attempting to solve marital conflict. They found that most couples exhibited "a sense of helplessness and discouragement which is expressed in disparaging comments about the self or about the spouse . . . often when this happens, the discussion changes from rational exploration of alternatives to a power struggle; the aim is to defend the self and prove the other wrong" (p. 22). The authors felt that if the task was met with humor or a bitter attack, mutual esteem was indicative of that couple.

Most relevant to the present research, Oaklander (1971) studied the effects of diversity of background, communication, and self-esteem on the interaction patterns of engaged couples. He found that the more homogeneous a couples' self-esteem, the more dysfunctional were the communication patterns; in fact, homogeneity of couple self-esteem produced significantly more different kinds of dysfunctional communications than heterogeneity of couple self-esteem.

He discussed the possibility that homogeneous versus heterogeneous levels of self-esteem were common factors influencing a couple's differing dysfunctional communication. These differences were equated with the concepts of symmetrical and complimentary relationships, respectively, discussed by Haley (1963). In the symmetrical relationships, two persons have equal levels of power, and tend to behave similarly and to struggle for control. Whereas in a complimentary relationship the individuals have unequal levels of power, the familiar "one up" and "one down" syndrome. These couples tend to behave differently, and do not struggle about who controls as the relationship is clearly defined along definite lines. Oaklander noted:

Couples whose levels of self-esteem are similar also perceive each other more as equals and are thus more likely to come into conflict over the definition of different areas of their relationship than couples whose level of self-esteem differ and thus perceive each other as unequals. These "unequal" couples would more readily work out a definition of their relationship when in the situation where the higher self-esteem member [is on top and the lower is not].

Therefore, couples with similar self-esteem levels could be seen to have symmetrical relationships and those with different esteem levels have complimentary ones. If the above is true then homogeneous couples have established symmetrical relationships as evidenced by the various dysfunctional interaction patterns they supposedly exhibit.

Again, similar and differing esteem levels are as important as is individual esteem. Apparently, in situations where mutual trust is lacking, protection of self becomes of paramount importance. People lose control at times and exhibit various behaviors from debasement of self and other to preoccupation with self interests to the exclusion of the group. This type of behavior is clearly debilitating for any human relationship.

### Interaction Measures of Conflict

The importance of measuring dyadic conflict through interaction measures has been expressed by Raush, Goodrich, and Campbell (1963) and Scanzoni (1965). Satir (1967) believes that whenever a person communicates, he is not only making a statement, he is also asking something of the receiver and trying to influence the receiver to give him what he wants--usually control.

The present author chose six variables which illustrate style rather than content of interaction. It is believed that viewing the style of couple interaction will indicate how they handle problems and thereby show whether they as a pair are effective. The variables are: 1) Interruptions, 2) Simultaneous Speech, 3) Number of Times Spoken, 4) Length of Time Spoken (Farina and Dunham, 1963; Farina, 1960); 5) Number of I's, and 6) WE's spoken (Raush, Marshal and Featherman, 1970; Rausch, et al., 1963). The first four variables



could be seen to represent competitiveness and dominance. The number of I's could represent an egocentric feeling and the number of WE's a feeling of partnership. The rationale for both can be obtained from the above sources. The following are studies illustrating the use of these measures.

A study completed by Leighton, Stollak and Ferguson (1971) found "normal" and clinic families significantly different in their ways of communicating during completion of a series of family tasks. They found "normal" families showed fewer instances of simultaneous speech suggesting a clearer style of communicating and less conflict. The "normal" fathers spoke more times, spoke longer, and interrupted more. The first two measures suggested that he was the dominant member of the family, and the last that in order to maintain his position, the father stifled any attempts by the other family members to violate or gain it. Clinic families showed more instances of simultaneous speech suggesting that there were less clear interaction patterns and more conflict. The clinic mothers spoke more times, spoke longer, and were interrupted more. These results suggested that although she dominated family interaction her position was not readily accepted by the rest of the family. An individual interrupting can be either the dominant one whose position is not being accepted or the other struggling to have his say or gain the power position.

In a study done by Cross and Aron (1971) on relationships between marital conflict and differences between parents, some similar variables which represented competitiveness and dominance were used. Forty married student couples were interviewed, and the sessions were taped. Interruptions, simultaneous speech, percentage time spoken, and I-WE ratio were measures of conflict very indicative of the interview behavior. As in the preceding study, various power ploys were evident.

In an earlier study, Raush et al. (1963) studied communication in an open marital structure using two married couples. They interviewed them numerous times paying specific attention to their responses to various tasks and found that the couples who were most relaxed and spontaneous with each other used the words we and us often. However, the couple who was inhibited, defensive, and strained with each other used I and me prominently. These variables seem to reflect different patterns of couple interaction.

In a study by Yamanaka, Stollak and Messe (1970), the effects of personality differences on "free" interaction were examined during several acquaintance sessions. College students were paired according to mixed or matched views on dogmatism determined by their scores on the Rokeach Dogmatism Scale. They used two variables relevant here, units of speech and counter-check (interruptions). The results indicated that those pairs with matching views on dogmatism had lower

counter-check scores than did those with mixed views. They found that low dogmatic subjects spoke and counter-checked more at the first session with high dogmatic partners. Although the same was true for counter-checking with low dogmatic partners, their speaking occurrences were more frequent at later sessions. High dogmatic subjects counter-checked more often with low dogmatic partners during this time period. However, high dogmatic partners were found to accept interruptions from each other as it seemed easier than trying to out-talk the other. It appears that low dogmatic subjects felt threatened by high dogmatics and attempted to gain the power position or at least insure their own integrity. When the position was not relinquished, the lows retreated--a person could be forced to speak more in order to interrupt. As low dogmatic partners found each other willing to share the power, the frequency of interruptions decreased.

Some interesting sex differences emerged from the interruption data. High dogmatic males counter-checked more often than high dogmatic females if the partners were low dogmatics; the low dogmatic females interrupted high dogmatic partners more often than low dogmatic males; however, the low dogmatic males counter-checked low dogmatic partners more than low dogmatic females. These results suggest generally that males are initially more active in defining the seat of power than are women. Opinionated males need to maintain

their positions of influence, but have more difficulty doing this with a less opinionated female than with a male.

These data were presented here to illustrate the usefulness of specific interaction variables--interruptions, simultaneous speech, number and length of time spoken, number of I's and We's spoken. Some of these findings suggest that dyads with similar characteristics differ in behavior from those pairs with dissimilar characteristics.

### Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were tested:

- I. Couples with homogeneous esteem levels will exhibit more attempts at competing with and dominating each other than will couples with heterogeneous esteem levels as shown by number of interruptions and simultaneous speaking and the number and length of time spoken.
- II. Couples with heterogeneous esteem levels will show more inclinations toward egocentrism whereas those with homogeneous esteem levels will exhibit more partnership feelings evidenced by the number of I's and WE's spoken.

III. Men will be more dominating than women in their interactions regardless of individual or couple esteem levels.

## METHOD

### Instruments

The subjects were required to complete a Revealed Differences Task. According to Oaklander (1971), "Ten RDT's were used . . . . These ten tasks deal with varying situations that could occur in a marriage or intimate relationship. Each task has a list of eight solutions. S's were instructed to individually rank these solutions in order of preference. After this had been done, S's were instructed to answer three of the same tasks jointly . . . . The discussion which ensued was tape recorded and typed" (pp. 108-9).

The Tennessee Self Concept Scale (TSCS) was used to measure the self-esteem level of the subjects. The TSCS is a subjective measure of self-esteem. The purpose of the scale is the measurement of individual self-concept in order to study and understand human behaviors. It has been found that an individual's concept of himself is highly influential in a great deal of this behavior; i.e., those who see themselves as "bad," undesirable, etc. tend to act accordingly. Likewise, those who have unrealistic concepts of self tend to behave in unrealistic ways in their approach to life and to other people (Fitts, 1965).

The scale is self-administering and consists of 100 statements. Administration is about 13 minutes on the average. The validity of the TSCS has been supported by Fitts who has published correlations with scales of the MMPI and EPPS.

The total P score reflects the overall level of self-esteem. This is the most important score. It is broken down into the internal and external frames of references. The former consists of subject's description of his identity, self-satisfaction, and behavior. The latter consists of physical, social, moral, personal, and family self.

Oaklander (1971) assigned couple self-esteem scores by averaging their total P scores. It was felt that little information would be lost in combining scores. Hofman (1969) showed that those with low self-esteem tend to marry others with low esteem and those with high self-esteem others with high self-esteem. A copy of ten RDT's and instructions for taking the TSCS are in Appendix (A).

### Subjects

The data from twenty-six of the original 29 couples studied by Oaklander (1971) were used. He recruited the couples by placing an advertisement in the college newspaper. All couples were paid ten dollars for participating in the study. All the subjects were

either presently in college or graduate school or were recent college graduates. Ages ranged from nineteen to twenty-three years and all subjects were Caucasian.

Subjects were separated into two groups--homogeneous and heterogeneous based on the P scores of each individual in the pair. A procedure different than Oaklander's was followed. Those assigned to the homogeneous group had a P score difference of 20 and below ( $\bar{X} = 10.9$ ). Couples were considered heterogeneous when their differences scores were 30 and above ( $\bar{X} = 42.9$ ). Four couples whose scores fell between 20 and 30 were deleted from the research leaving 22 couples. It was felt that the groups would be better differentiated if such cut-off points were established; furthermore, the four couples deleted had scores showing that they fit into neither group comfortably. The difference between groups was significant ( $t = 10.14$ ,  $df = 20$ ,  $p < .001$ ).

### Procedure

Oaklander (1971) stated, "All task completion took place in a room in the Psychology Building at Michigan State University. SS were seated in a small room across from each other. The room was 8' x 12' and furnished with two chairs situated across from each other and a table off to the side of the chairs with a tape recorder,



clearly visible on it. Ss, when seated, were presented with a booklet which included a general introduction and instructions . . . . Tasks . . . consisted of the 10 RDT's . . . and . . . the TSCS. Ss were instructed to complete the tasks separately from each other without consulting each other, suggesting or discussing the answers. They were informed that the visible tape recorder would be used later.

The E asked each spouse to turn in to him the . . . tasks upon their completion . . . . Upon receiving the first ten tasks from both members of a couple, the E chose the three tasks in which the couple's answers were the most discrepant. This was done in order to maximize disagreement in the ensuing discussion that followed in the joint session. After Ss finished all . . . tasks, they notified E who quickly checked their booklets to ensure that these had been completed properly. E then engaged the tape recorder and instructed Ss that they had disagreed considerably in their choices for three tasks and to again complete these three tasks, but to produce a ranking of solutions for each of these tasks which would be satisfactory or acceptable to both . . . . Upon this joint completion of these three tasks, the Ss . . . notified E. This marked the end . . . ."

(pp. 112-3).

Audio-tapes of couple interaction were rated on 6 variables:

- 1) interruptions, 2) simultaneous speech, 3) number of times spoken, 4) length of time spoken, 5) number of I's and 6) WE's spoken. Two

of four undergraduate coders\* read typed manuscripts of each tape. The coders worked in pairs so that there would be a check and balance system for each variable. One pair of coders rated interruptions, and simultaneous speech from tapes, and number of times spoken and number of I's and WE's from the transcripts. The other pair of coders rated the length of time spoken. Each had a time clock. They assigned scores to males and females on each variable, except simultaneous speech; one score for each couple was recorded here. All coders rated the same group of variables throughout the experiment. The author felt this was justifiable since they would become more familiar with their tasks. Pearson r's were conducted and inter-rater reliabilities of at least .90, for each measure, were obtained.

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\*The coders were: Richard Huber, Dora Rogers, Don Weston, and Larry Suggs.

## RESULTS

### Methods of Analysis

A 2 (homogeneous-heterogeneous) X 2 (male-female) analysis of variance with repeated measures was conducted for each of the variables. Means were obtained for each group, males and females separately and across groups (See Table 1).

The same analysis of variance was not conducted for simultaneous speech because only a single score was obtained for couples on this variable. Rather a one-way analysis of variance was performed (See Table 1).

Finally, a multivariate correlational matrix was obtained. The purpose was to explore any important relationships between dependent variables and to discuss trends. The matrix was viewed here in two sections thought to be most interesting. One was couple interaction measures and the other was male-female correlational measures. Since the sample size was small, 22, it was decided to combine groups to possibly obtain more significant results. Only the most relevant research is presented here; the remainder of tables is in Appendix (B).

TABLE 1.--Means for Couples and Male-Females; Summaries of Analysis of Variance for Main Effects and Simultaneous Speech.

Variable	Means			F	p
	Couple	Males	Females		
Interruptions					
HO	8.00	3.60	4.40	.132	NS
HE	7.24	4.58	2.66		
Number of Times Spoken					
HO	216.60	108.20	108.40	2.03	NS
HE	172.91	87.08	85.83		
Length of Time Spoken (Seconds)					
HO	666.80	355.40	311.40	1.44	NS
HE	553.63	292.67	260.96		
Number of Is					
HO	118.10	63.90	54.20	1.60	NS
HE	93.75	44.58	49.17		
Number of WEs					
HO	53.90	29.00	24.90	5.62*	< .05
HE	29.83	15.83	14.00		
Simultaneous Speech					
HO	18.70	--	--	.98	NS
HE	14.58	--	--		

### Findings

The first hypothesis stated that couples with homogeneous esteem levels would exhibit more attempts at competing with and dominating each other than the heterogeneous groups as shown by interruptions, simultaneous speaking, number and length of time spoken. The means can be found in Table 1. The couple means showed that the homogeneous group were more active than the heterogeneous group on all variables. This follows the direction of the hypothesis. However, the analysis of variance on these variables did not yield results substantiating this (See Table 1 and Appendix B).

The second hypothesis stated that couples with heterogeneous esteem levels would show more inclinations towards egocentrism and the homogeneous group towards partnership feelings as evidenced by the number of I's and WE's spoken. There were no significant results yielded by the analysis for the number of I's. However, the results of the analysis of the number of WE's spoken (See Table 1 and Appendix B) were significant for the main effect--groups ( $F = 5.62$ ;  $df = 1, 20$ ;  $p < .05$ ). Couples in the homogeneous group used the term "we" significantly more often than couples in the heterogeneous group. Thus, only part of the hypothesis was substantiated.

The last hypothesis stated that men would dominate more than women regardless of the individual or couple esteem levels.

There were no significant results of the analysis for the dominance measures, number and length of time spoken (See Appendix B). Consequently, this hypothesis was not substantiated. However, significant results were obtained for the sex X group interaction ( $F = 6.57$ ;  $df = 1, 20$ ;  $p < .05$ ). An analysis of simple effects was done in order to clarify the findings (See Appendix B). There was a significant difference between males and females only within the heterogeneous group ( $F = 6.02$ ;  $df = 1, 20$ ;  $p < .05$ ). No significant results were found for homogeneous pairs or groups within males and females ( $F = 1.25$ ;  $df = 1, 20$ , and,  $.71$  and  $2.24$ , respectively;  $df = 1, 40$ ). The results indicate that heterogeneous males interrupt more than their women. The means, however, for males and females (see Table 1) show, interestingly enough that the heterogeneous males interrupt more ( $\bar{X} = 4.58$ ) than homogeneous males ( $\bar{X} = 3.60$ ) and homogeneous females ( $\bar{X} = 4.40$ ). However, heterogeneous females ( $\bar{X} = 2.66$ ) interrupt less than all the others.

Other findings yielded significant correlations ( $r = .70$  or above) for couples between the length of time spoken and the number of times spoken (.81) and the number of interruptions (.73). Also, highly correlated was the number of I's spoken and the number of times spoken (.82) and the length of time spoken (.86). Some lesser findings ( $r = .60-.70$ ) were: the number of interruptions was related to instances of simultaneous speaking (.60) and the

number of I's spoken (.62). Simultaneous speech was related to number (.64) and length of times spoken (.64) and the number of I's spoken (.65). The number of WE's spoken was somewhat correlated with the number of times spoken (.60) and the number of I's spoken (.60).

The male-female matrix (See Appendix B) yielded interesting correlations. Female-number of times spoken was highly correlated with the male-number of times spoken (.99) and the male-length of time spoken (.73) and the male-number of I's spoken (.85). Also, the length of times spoken for females correlated highly with M-number of times spoken (.72). F-interruptions was highly correlated with M-number of I's spoken (.75). Some lesser correlations were: F-interruptions with the number (.65) and length of time spoken for men (.64); M-length of times spoken and F-length of times spoken (.61); and M-number of WE's spoken and F-number of I's (.65).

### Summary of Results

In summary, these results suggest that homogeneous and heterogeneous groups interrupt, speak simultaneously, talk (amount and length), and say I equally as much. However, the homogeneous

group exhibits more instances of saying WE than does the heterogeneous group indicating more of a partnership feeling in this situation.

Heterogeneous men generally interrupt more often than their women who tend to interrupt least of all. Women in the homogeneous group tend to interrupt more than those in the heterogeneous group indicating that homogeneous women may be allowed more freedom here by their men than heterogeneous women.

The last findings suggest that the more a couple struggle for power, the more it will be discovered that males tend to exhibit dominating behaviors which women seem forced to counter.



## DISCUSSION

The lack of significant results concerning the first hypothesis is perhaps explained in light of Coser's (1956) destructive and constructive conflict, and, an idea of expenditure of energy. Relative to the homogamy principle (Burgess and Wallin, 1954), it is assumed that homogeneous pairs possess the same basic principles and heterogeneous pairs differing ones. The difference suggests dissimilar kinds of power struggles, yet utilization of the same behaviors, i.e., interruptions, simultaneous speaking, talking more and longer. The homogeneous group has conflict which generally lends itself to better understandings, quicker solutions and a general working through emphasis. On the other hand, the heterogeneous group's actions tend to become confused, yield insoluble situations, and are generally self and couple defeating. (Goodrich and Boomer, 1963; Raush et al., 1963; Solomon, 1965). The fact that the groups in this study showed no significant differences in dominating or competing is perhaps due to the similar amount of energy expended in either situation. It is not being suggested that these group behaviors do not overlap. On the contrary, one may experience very rough interchanges in either situation. At times, it not only takes

much energy to "work through" conflict, but also to employ defensive and therefore useless means for conflict resolution.

Clearly both groups suffer from egocentric tendencies as indicated by the number of "I's" spoken. After all, it is difficult to adjust to another's ways and to an unfamiliar feeling of togetherness. Again, both groups exhibit conflict and utilize similar modes of interaction. Yet, homogeneous groups demonstrated a partnership feeling more readily than did the heterogeneous group. People alike in esteem, attitudes, etc. might achieve this state at a much faster pace than a group with differing esteem levels. Couples using the word WE often show alignment and allow individualism in the dyad (Raush, 1963; 1970). These people are naturally more relaxed and more inclined towards spontaneity. The heterogeneous group has more difficulty here because their interactions are oriented individualistically, which indicates an eventual splitting of the dyad.

The results of the last hypothesis indicate both men and women talked a great deal and a long time in this situation. Neither dominates. However, the fact that heterogeneous males are generally more competitive is apparent. These males interrupted to gain their position of power or, once established, to maintain it. What could be crucial is a male's perception of differences between his partner and himself and the importance he attaches to the perceived differences with regard to his self-concept. An assertive male, not

wishing to relinquish a strong position interrupts more often with less assertive partners (Yamanaka et al., 1970). In addition, a male who feels his self-esteem has been threatened becomes more competitive very unnecessarily (Horney, 1967). Thus, one would expect to find these types as heterogeneous partners indeed more likely to interrupt than accepting males.

The tendency for homogeneous women to interrupt more than heterogeneous ones can possibly be explained in two ways. Men in the homogeneous group are accepting and therefore can allow women free expression including that of competitiveness. In addition, a woman in this group initially considers herself "equal" to the male and consequently feels less restrained in her behaviors. On the other hand heterogeneous women clearly interrupt less often than all others which suggests that they are not given the opportunity to compete openly; coupled with the fact that they may themselves be defensive, they would be less inclined to compete. Women generally perceive the differences between themselves and their partners relative to the extent of their self-acceptance and their perception that a particular male fits the ideal husband role. The Tennessee Self-Concept Scores were examined and most of the heterogeneous women found to have much lower scores than the males. Appendix (C) includes TSCS and difference scores for each group. This coupled with the presence of a non-accepting type of male would cause them to be very threatened by and

therefore recoil from competitive acts. Yamanaka et al. (1970) indicated that assertive women restrain their competitiveness if their partners are less assertive than they are. Thus, women possessing assertive characteristics would also restrain any behaviors tending to aggravate the situation.

Additional findings yielded some interesting information about couples, and males and females regardless of group. Couples tend to use dominance more than any other variable. In fact, talking more and longer seems to be crucial to their interactions as previously indicated. Egocentrism as measured by the number of I's spoken is directly related; that is, the more dominant couples are also more egocentric. This is reasonable, for all this behavior is diametrically opposed to that of moving toward partnership. Once the power force is established, that is, when each person discovers his own position, the couple seems to concentrate on competing and testing the meaning of their new relationship. Such behavior is indicated by lower but yet a somewhat significant cluster of variables--interruptions, simultaneous speaking, number of WE's. Couples seem to approach their problems in an interesting manner. The decision as to who will hold power is determined. If both individuals discover that workable solutions are possible or that neither is willing to compromise, competitiveness ensues. Either dyadic togetherness or separatism results. The former is the ultimate goal of couple relationships and indicate smooth

functioning. The latter indicates the presence of a cyclical pattern of power fights which most likely remained the major issues throughout.

Findings from the matrix suggest that males tend to dominate much more than women; however, women do not accept this position. In fact, the women's behavior patterns follow those of anyone forced into influencing another to his position by coercion. Not only do they utilize various means, but also show their dislikes for certain male behaviors in a delineated fashion. When males try to dominate by talking a great deal, women match this by attempting to talk more themselves. In addition, women tend to talk a long time and exhibit more tendencies toward countering male dominance. Apparently, women also dislike egocentrism in partners for this is the next factor they attempt to handle. If males seem oriented towards this attitude, women attempt to sway them towards their own orientation. Women first interrupt and then proceed in attempting to talk more and longer thereby trying to emphasize the supposed "couple" aspect of the relationship. Probably somewhat discouraged by the male's continued persistence in his own direction, women give up and revert to their own egocentric tendencies.

Homogeneous and heterogeneous couples generally do not differ in their behavioral approach to interpersonal problem solving. Both have conflict, yet it differs for each group. Since homogeneous groups tend to be alike in attitude, desires, goals, etc. their

actions towards positive achievement of the same ends are inevitable. Homogeneous couples exhibit strong partnership behaviors in their relationships evidenced by frequent use of the word WE. These couples are more open, relaxed, and, very importantly, possess the ability to allow the other to express his own individualism without either perceiving a threat to his own self-concept. The heterogeneous couples however are more predisposed towards destructive kinds of conflict. The fact that heterogeneous men interrupt more than their women strongly suggests that these couple interactions are overtly determined by them. Heterogeneous males interrupt more than all other groups. On the other hand, heterogeneous females tend to interrupt much less than all. This information coupled with that on females generally suggest that women's reactions to male behaviors reflect frustration, intimidation, or a purposeful restraint related to role acceptance and to an idea that her partner is her ideal; heterogeneous women may fit this role more than others. Unfortunately for these women, heterogeneous males are very competitive and find it difficult to concede the "top position" in the relationship. Various theories suggest that the protection of their self-concept is the precipitator of this behavior. Homogeneous women tend to interrupt more than others. This is reasonable for homogeneous males are more accepting and allow their women more opportunities for free expression.

Interrelationships between variables shed more light on dyadic interactions and indicate that couples utilize dominance

measures more than other measures suggesting that working out problems in this area is a continuous phenomenon and is given priority by engaged couples. What is more interesting and seems to substantiate the theory about women's actions are the interrelationships between male and female variables. Women do indeed seem to adjust their behavior to that of men, and actively counteract the man's attempts to dominate and his tendencies to maintain his egocentrism. Moreover, it is suggested that the homogeneous esteem level women reject this egocentrism the most.

Some interesting studies were conducted by Barry (1968) and Swain (1969) who viewed newlywed male-female interactions and found that women make the greatest adjustment in new marriages. In this situation, a man's responsibilities change little. A woman's do for she accumulates additional and different responsibilities--taking care of a home, raising children, etc. The ease with which she adjusts depends on the understanding of the male. In light of this and the present study, engaged women would do well to prepare themselves for a series of personal adjustments.

#### Limitations of the Study

The subjects were limited to middle class Caucasians ranging in age from 19 to 23 who at one time had attended or graduated from

college. Thus these results can not, of course, necessarily be generalized to other races, social classes, or age groups. In addition, the sample size was very small and restricted the validity of the findings many of which could have been due to chance. The self-esteem scores were generally low for all couples having fallen below the mean in the lower third of Fitt's (1965) sample. Subjects with more varying scores should be used. Possibly more extreme groupings should be attempted; i.e., homogeneity would mean 5 points or less and heterogeneous 50 points or more. An ideal design would include couples whose members (1) both have very high individual self-esteem scores, (2) both have very low individual self-esteem scores, (3) include males with very high individual self-esteem scores and females with very low self-esteem scores, and (4) include females with very high self-esteem scores and males with very low self-esteem scores. Although the matrices were obtained by a multivariate procedure, a complete correlational analysis was not done. Finally, although subjects seemed to act in a real and relaxed manner on tapes, since the situations were experimentally induced, their correspondence with real life situations is somewhat questionable.

#### Future Research

Since women show tendencies toward inhibiting male dominance, more work is needed on determining which esteem level group



females are most active on which variables in countering these male behaviors. That heterogeneous men are more competitive and tend to be more dominant provide groundwork for new studies concerned with discovering whether high or low heterogeneous esteem males exhibit these tendencies. More work on unmarried couple interactions should be studied. There are various adjustments necessary for the pair to work out before marriage. It would be interesting to discover if there is a progression of changes through which a couple must go during this period in preparation for a new situation. More comparisons between male-female interactions, respective of high or low self-esteem levels, in and outside of marriage, should be done in order to provide more useful information regarding adjustments necessary in marital and other dyadic relationships.

## CONCLUSION

Findings of this study suggest that homogeneous and heterogeneous groups do not differ in their patterns of interactions. However, the homogeneous group clearly exhibit more partnership orientation than does the differing esteem group. Apparently, this factor is crucial to smooth relationships in some situations (Solomon, 1960; Goodrich and Boomer, 1963). If couples do indeed "fall apart" when a feeling of mutual trust is absent, then it seems reasonable, contrary to Oaklander's (1971) idea, that the heterogeneous group would show these tendencies. Mutual trust and partnership feelings seem to parallel each other. In line with this idea is one regarding different types of conflict for different kinds of esteem groups. Any dyad with an unequal power split is predisposed to constriction and defensiveness, thus, suggesting conflict will likely destroy that dyadic relationship. The point is that homogeneous group power struggles are handled in light of a partnership orientation as opposed to an individualistic orientation characterizing the heterogeneous group.

As suggested by this study, males and females react in different ways. Heterogeneous males interrupt a great deal, and, males

generally for whatever reasons seem to elicit various patterns of counteraction from the females. Generally, men tend to dominate and women were found to respond selectively to his domination. The way women counteract this depends on their individual orientation and on the type of male with which she becomes engaged.

As stated before, young people need guidance in choosing the right partners for themselves. What is needed is a predictive tool to aid the young in learning about and dealing with conflict resolution. The more research done in this area of dyadic relationships before and after marriage, the closer that goal will become.

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## APPENDICES



## **APPENDIX A**

### **TASKS ADMINISTERED TO SUBJECTS**

## REVEALED DIFFERENCES TASKS

This task consists of ten different situations. They most likely will never occur in your life, but they do happen to some people. Please imagine that the situations described actually are happening to you. Your task is to try to imagine how you would feel in each situation and how you would most likely react or try to solve the problem. To make it somewhat easier, each situation includes a list of possible solutions or preferences. Your task is to rank these preferences; i.e., put a number 1 by your first preference which you feel you most likely would do, a number 2 by the next preference, etc. until all possible solutions have a number.

Do these one at a time; do not read ahead in the directions before you have finished each task.

Also please remember that the more seriously you do each of these tasks, the more value it will have.

Imagine that you have been married five years and that one day you come home and find a letter in your mailbox which informs you that you have won ten thousand dollars cash in a sweepstakes. You are of course elated and very excited, especially since you had already forgotten that you had entered the contest. Below you will find a list of what people might do with ten thousand dollars. Your task is to put a number 1 by the item most attractive to you, a number 2 by the next most attractive, etc., until all items have a number indicating your order of preference. Imagine that your general financial situation, living quarters, and bank account is similar to the standard of living that you have been accustomed to all your life. Be sure that each item has a number from 1 to 8, where 1 is the most and 8 the least attractive item.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Take a vacation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Invest the money
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pay overdue bills
- \_\_\_\_\_ Buy sporting equipment
- \_\_\_\_\_ Buy a boat
- \_\_\_\_\_ Redecorate
- \_\_\_\_\_ Build a den in your basement
- \_\_\_\_\_ Use it for a downpayment on a new house

Imagine that you have been married for 15 years and have 2 children, a boy and a girl aged 12 and 10 respectively. Both of them have been receiving some information about human reproduction in the classroom as well as from other children. You accidentally overhear them discussing it and you realize that their information is quite incorrect and misleading. They are not aware that you overheard them. How would you handle this situation? Please answer this question by ranking the possible alternatives listed below. Place a number 1 by the alternative you feel would be the best way to handle it, a number 2 by the next best way, etc., until all 8 items have a number from one to eight.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Do nothing; ignore it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Reprimand them, and forbid them to talk about such subjects.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Walk away, but tell your spouse and ask him/her to talk to them later.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Walk in and tell them how they are incorrect and explain it to them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attempt to find out which teacher gave them the incorrect information and report it to the principal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Walk away but later talk to your son/daughter and ask your husband/wife to talk to the other child.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ignore it but tell your spouse what you heard.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Buy some books on the subject and leave them where the children could easily find them, so that they could get better information on their own.

Imagine that you have been married for 10 years and have 3 children. There were some complications with the last birth and your doctor, after having taken a number of tests, advises you that if you have another child the chance is very high that it will be physically deformed or mentally retarded. He advises strongly that you not have anymore children. A list of methods of birth control and other possibilities is below. Please place a number 1 by the method you would most likely pick, a 2 by the next most acceptable method, etc., until you have rated all eight choices in terms of how likely you would be to use it.

- \_\_\_\_\_ An intra-uterine device, or "loop," or "coil" (an artificial device installed by your doctor in the female and must be removed by him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Birth control pills (to be taken almost every day by the female for the rest of her years--or until past menopause).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Surgery on the female (sterilization).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Refuse his advice and continue in a normal sexual relationship and take the chance of another pregnancy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Go to another doctor.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Use contraceptive jelly or foam.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Use prophylactics (also known as "rubbers" or "condoms").
- \_\_\_\_\_ Relatively minor surgery for the male (sterilization).

Imagine that you have a close friend whose wife is dying of cancer. A druggist has just discovered a new drug that, while it doesn't cure cancer, prolongs the life of the individual a few years. The druggist can only manufacture a limited supply and so, because he is out for a profit, he sells the drug to only very rich people who can afford to pay a lot for it. You overhear your friend saying to his wife that he is going to steal the drug for her. What would you do? A list of alternate possibilities is below. Please place a number 1 by the alternative you would most likely pick, a 2 by the next most acceptable alternative, etc., until you have rated all 8 choices in terms of how likely you would be to choose it.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Warn the proper authorities of a possible burglary attempt.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sit down with your friend and discuss with him all the sides to the story to see if he has carefully thought out the possible consequences of breaking the law.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Not say anything, but if he goes ahead with the robbery, inform the police of what you overheard.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Offer your life savings to help buy the drug for your friend's wife.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Inform your friend that you overheard his plans and advise him against breaking the law.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Warn your friend that you overheard his plans and will have to inform the police if he goes ahead with the crime.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pretend you didn't hear anything and not get involved.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Offer to help your friend steal the drug for his wife.

Imagine that you have been married 20 years and have a 19 year old son. You and your husband/wife have been out of town on vacation but have suddenly cut it short and returned home. Upon returning home you discover that your son is having a "pot" party. You are shocked as you had no idea that your son smokes marijuana. Your son owns up to it and says he smokes marijuana all the time and loves it. What would you choose to do in such a situation? A list of alternate possibilities is below. Please place a number 1 by the alternative that you would most likely pick, a 2 by the next most acceptable alternative, etc., until you have rated all 8 choices in terms of how likely you would be to choose it.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Let him continue to do what he wants as he is old enough to decide for himself.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Take away any special privileges, such as driving the car, till he stops.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Seek help by taking him to a school counselor or a psychologist.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Cut off his allowance so he won't be able to afford it anymore.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Turn him over to the police for his own sake before he starts to take the hard narcotics.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Try to explain the possible ill-effects of taking drugs to him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Try to understand his side of the story and try smoking marijuana yourself to see what it is like.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Throw him out of the house.





Imagine that you have been married 20 years and have an 18 year old daughter who is going to an out of town college. By accident you come across a contraceptive (birth control) device in her drawer while visiting her at college. She has been dating this "hippie" college student a lot recently. What would you do in such a situation? A list of alternate possibilities is below. Please place a number 1 by the alternative you would most likely pick, a 2 by the next most acceptable alternative, etc., until you have rated all 8 choices in terms of how likely you would be to choose it.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Take her home immediately.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Admonish her for her promiscuousness.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sit down and listen to her side.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pretend you didn't find anything.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Offer her your advice as to what you think is best, but leave the choice up to her.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Talk to both the boy and her about what are their plans.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Force your daughter into getting married to someone else right away.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Try to bribe the boy into breaking off with your daughter.

Imagine that for your wedding present your parents give you \$1000. What would you do with this money? A list of alternate possibilities is below. Please place a number 1 by the alternative you would most likely pick, a 2 by the next most acceptable alternative, etc., until you have rated all 8 choices in terms of how likely you would be to choose it.

\_\_\_\_\_ Put it in the bank and save it for a rainy day.

\_\_\_\_\_ Use it on a down payment on a car.

\_\_\_\_\_ Spend it on fixing up your apartment (house).

\_\_\_\_\_ Use it as a down payment on a house.

\_\_\_\_\_ Spend it on an exciting honeymoon.

\_\_\_\_\_ Use it to buy the major appliances, such as a television, washing machine, and refrigerator, for your home.

\_\_\_\_\_ Invest the money in either stocks or bonds.

\_\_\_\_\_ Thank your parents for the thought but not take the money as you want to make it on your own.

Imagine that it's your first wedding anniversary. What would you choose to do on this day? A list of possible alternatives is below. Please place a number 1 by the alternative you would most likely pick, a 2 by the next most acceptable alternative, etc., until you have rated all 8 choices in terms of how likely you would be to choose it.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Go out to a fancy restaurant and then to a show.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Buy your spouse something he/she has really wanted for a long time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spend the evening home alone with your spouse.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Go out with friends to celebrate the occasion.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Throw a big party and invite all your friends and relatives.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spend a quiet evening together with your immediate family.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Treat your spouse extra nice the whole day.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ask your spouse what he/she would like to do and do whatever he/she chooses.

Imagine that you have been married for 15 years and have 3 children, ages 14, 10, and 5. You and your spouse have been working very hard to save up some money to send the kids to college and haven't been able to take a vacation together in a number of years, but now you both have some time off together. What would you do? A list of alternate possibilities is below. Please place a number 1 by the one you would most likely pick, a 2 by the next most acceptable alternative, etc., until you have rated all 8 choices in terms of how likely you would be to choose it.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Just loaf around the house so as not to spend much money and to relax.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Go for a vacation to the country with the kids.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Go for a vacation but leave the kids with their grandparents.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Take a part time job to earn a little extra money.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Stay around the house but send the children off to their grandparents.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Consult the children as to what they would like to do.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Catch up on some odds and ends that you fell behind on while busy working.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Stay around the house and spend much more time with the children than normally.

Imagine that you have just gotten married and have to decide where to live. Money is no problem as you have just received a large inheritance from a long lost uncle that will keep you comfortable for a very long time. Where would you choose to live? A list of alternate possibilities is below. Please place a number 1 by the alternative you would most likely pick, a 2 by the next most acceptable alternative, etc., until you have rated all 8 choices in terms of how likely you would be to choose it.

\_\_\_\_\_ In your hometown.

\_\_\_\_\_ As far away from your hometown as possible.

\_\_\_\_\_ In a penthouse in a big city like New York.

\_\_\_\_\_ Off in the country on a remote farm, in a quiet, peaceful setting.

\_\_\_\_\_ In the suburbs of a big city in a ranch house.

\_\_\_\_\_ Out west somewhere on a big ranch.

\_\_\_\_\_ In a small town where everyone knows everyone else.

\_\_\_\_\_ In a house, with a beach, near the sea.

This task is in the blue booklet with Tennessee Self-Concept Scale printed on the front page. Please do not write anything in this booklet. Other people will have to use it also. Inside the booklet you will find a form which is to be used for your answers. Along the right hand side of the form you will find a space for your name, age, and education. Please fill in these spaces. There is also a space for timing but you need not time yourself on this task. The directions are on the inside of the front cover of the test booklet; please read these carefully. When you have completed this task, please wait until your fiancée is finished and then signal the assistant.

APPENDIX B

ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE FOR MAIN EFFECTS

ANALYSIS OF SIMPLE EFFECTS

CORRELATION MATRICES

TABLE 2.--Analysis of Variance = Interruptions.

Source	DF	SS	MS	F	p
HO/HE	1	1.53	1.53	.132	NS
Error <sub>b</sub>	20	233.12	11.66		
Male/Female	1	5.11	5.11	1.67	NS
M-F/HO-HE	1	20.13	20.13	6.57	< .05
Error <sub>w</sub>	20	61.26	3.06		
Total	43	321.15			

TABLE 3.--Analysis of Variance = Number of Times Spoken.

Source	DF	SS	MS	F	p
HO/HE	1	5,204.27	5204.27	2.03	NS
Error <sub>b</sub>	20	51,196.66	2559.83		
M/F	1	3.84	3.84	.30	NS
M-F/HO-HE	1	5.73	5.73	.44	NS
Error <sub>w</sub>	20	257.92	12.90		
Total	43	56,668.42			



TABLE 4.--Analysis of Variance = Length of Time Spoken.

Source	DF	SS	MS	F	p
HO/HE	1	34932.49	34932.49	1.44	NS
Error <sub>b</sub>	20	483957.08	24197.85		
M/F	1	15300.46	15300.46	2.23	NS
M-F/HO-HE	1	412.05	412.05	.06	NS
Error <sub>w</sub>	20	137067.61	6853.38		
Total	43	671669.69			

TABLE 5.--Analysis of Variance = Number of I's Spoken.

Source	DF	SS	MS	F	p
HO/HE	1	1617.06	1617.06	1.60	NS
Error <sub>b</sub>	20	20241.58	1012.09		
M/F	1	40.09	40.09	.14	NS
M-F/HO-HE	1	556.40	556.40	1.98	NS
Error <sub>w</sub>	20	5633.51	281.68		
Total	43	28088.64			

TABLE 6.--Analysis of Variance = Number of WE's Spoken.

Source	DF	SS	MS	F	p
HO/HE	1	1579.65	1579.65	5.62	< .05
Error <sub>b</sub>	20	5616.28	280.81		
M/F	1	90.20	90.20	.95	NS
M-F/HO-HE	1	14.01	14.01	.15	NS
Error <sub>w</sub>	20	1900.28	95.01		
Total	43	9200.42			

TABLE 7.--Analysis of Simple Effects--Interruptions.

	DF	MS	F	p
Homogeneous				
Male-Female	1	3.84	1.25	NS
Error	20	3.06		
Heterogeneous				
Male-Female	1	18.43	6.02	< .05
Error	20	3.06		
Males				
HO-HE	1	5.24	.71	NS
Error <sub>pooled</sub>	40	7.36		
Females				
HO-HE	1	16.51	2.24	NS
Error <sub>pooled</sub>	40	7.36		

TABLE 8.--Correlation Matrix--Couples.

	INTR	SISP	NTSP	LTSP	NO-I	NO-WE
INTR	1.00					
SISP	.60	1.00				
NTSP	.56	.64	1.00			
LTSP	.73	.64	.81	1.00		
NO-I	.62	.65	.82	.86	1.00	
NO-WE	.01	.23	.60	.46	.60	1.00

TABLE 9.--Correlation Matrix--Males-Females.

	M-Intr	M-NTSP	M-LTSP	M-I	M-WE
F-Intr	.59	.65	.64	.75	.17
F-NTSP	.37	.99	.73	.85	.56
F-LTSP	.33	.72	.61	.56	.46
F-I	.19	.58	.54	.56	.65
F-WE	.10	.48	.10	.16	.49

**APPENDIX C**

**RAW DATA ON ENGAGED COUPLES**

**TENNESSEE SELF-CONCEPT SCORES**

**DIFFERENCE SCORES**

TABLE 10.--Tennessee Self-Concept Scores and Difference Scores for Homogeneous and Heterogeneous Couples.

Variable	TSC Scores		Difference Scores
	M	F	
Homogeneous Couples			
Number 2	328	309	19
Number 8	309	313	4
	347	327	20
	341	329	12
	354	339	15
	338	347	9
	331	341	10
	365	351	14
	350	353	3
	319	322	3
Heterogeneous Couples			
	352	296	56
	272	332	60
	385	330	55
	349	402	53
	338	370	32
	269	321	52
	357	327	30
	359	328	31
	383	348	35
	370	336	34
	367	332	35
	311	353	42

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