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**MARITAL SATISFACTION OVER THE FAMILY LIFE**

**CYCLE AMONG TAIWANESE COUPLES**

by

**Sheng-Te Chang**

**A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment  
of the requirements for the degree**

**of**

**MASTER OF SCIENCE**

**in**

**Family and Human Development**

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First I need to express my gratitude to Dr. D. Kim Openshaw for providing me with unwavering support, encouragement, and assistance throughout the course of my study at U. S. U. I also would like to extend appreciation to him for consenting to be my major advisor, taking extra time to guide my research, and spending numerous hours correcting and recorrecting my thesis. From this experience I have learned not only how to do research, but also how to demonstrate consideration for students. I respect him, and appreciate him.

My sincere thanks to Ms. Roxane Pfister for her help in the various statistical analyses used in the thesis. My thanks is extended to Dr. Glen Jenson and Dr. J. Steven Fulks. Both have provided valuable insights and appropriate encouragement throughout the course of my educational experience and especially with regards to the thesis.

I sincerely thank all the faculty and staff of the Department of Family and Human Development at U. S. U. for having made my stay both productive and pleasurable. To the others who helped, graduate students, friends, and families, I offer my sincere thanks.

Most of all, I wish to thank my husband, parents, and in-laws. They have been a constant source of support to my educational endeavors.

*Sheng-Te Chang*

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## ABSTRACT

Marital Satisfaction Over the Family  
Life Cycle Among Taiwanese Couples

by

Sheng te Chang, Master of Science  
Utah State University, 1993

Major Professor: Dr. D. Kim Openshaw  
Department: Family and Human Development

The purpose of this study was to determine whether or not there were different subjective reports of marital satisfaction or dissatisfaction across the life cycle for Taiwanese couples. In examining this question two of the three selected instruments demonstrated sufficient reliability so as to be included in the overall study, namely, the Marital Adjustment Scale (MAS) and the Spanier Dyadic Adjust Scale (SDAS). These instruments were translated from English to Chinese, then administered to 259 couples volunteering to participate in the study. Couples were grouped according to their placement along the life cycle.

The results of the study indicate that there is indeed a difference in the amount of reported marital satisfaction across the life cycle; however, there is no evidence that males or females differed in their perception of the amount of marital satisfaction

experienced. Multiple regression examined the factors determined from the two scales for their influence on male and female reports of marital satisfaction at varying stages of the life cycle. While many findings were noted, three are of relative significance. First, couples in the first stage of the life cycle and those in the last stage report that companionate behavior is of critical importance. Secondly, in the second stage of the life cycle, female respondents did not identify any variable as significant regardless of the instrument. Finally, there is an interesting dip in marital satisfaction at the point in time when families begin to launch their children and enter the empty nest.

Recommendations include continued research on assessing what variables are related to marital satisfaction in this population. Secondly, marital and family therapy clinical training is viewed as important, especially at this time in this culture. Finally, there are various ways in which enrichment and prevention programs would facilitate the longevity of relationships, thus deterring divorce.

(130 pages)

## INTRODUCTION

Marriage has functioned, and continues to function as an important psychosocial support system for couples (Rhyme, 1981). Understanding the antecedent variables contributing to marital satisfaction is important in enhancing marital quality and thereby reducing the incidence of divorce in society.

While marital satisfaction has been a traditional dependent variable in the study of marriage, it also serves the function of an antecedent condition of marital quality and stability (Kurdek, 1991; Lauer, Lauer, & Kerr, 1990; Spanier & Lewis, 1980; Norton, 1983). Marital satisfaction has been conceptualized as an emotional or affective state evoked in an individual following the subjective appraisal of various substantive areas perceived as critical to the marital relationship. It is a continuous variable ranging from low to high satisfaction and is composed of a myriad of substantive elements (e.g., parenting, sexual activity, communication, household management, financial management, etc.).

Marital satisfaction is most frequently examined from a life cycle perspective (Rollins & Cannon, 1974; Duvall, 1977); that is, it is typically evaluated from the initiation of a marital relationship through retirement and the inevitable death of one of the spouses. Schram (1979) has indicated that, not only is there a continued and growing interest in understanding and describing the changes occurring in marital satisfaction across the life cycle but also in acquiring more knowledge of how marital satisfaction is achieved and how it affects marital quality and stability.



Researcher/theorists have studied marital satisfaction across the life cycle and have basically concluded that marital satisfaction varies in a curvilinear manner (Burr, 1970; Glenn, 1975; Rollins & Feldman, 1970; Anderson, Russell, & Schumm, 1983). In describing this curvilinear function, it is suggested that couples reach a plateau after the birth of the first child (or even show a modest decline), which then reverses as the family researches the "launching" stage (Blood & Wolfe, 1960; Luckey, 1966; Pineo, 1961).

#### Statement of the Problem

While considerable research has and continues to examine marital satisfaction, the majority of such research is being completed in Western society. Little research, if any, specifically focuses on marital satisfaction within the Taiwanese culture. Consequently, the purpose of this study is to identify substantive variables suggested as important to marital satisfaction and to examine the relationship between these hypothesized variables and the actual reporting of marital satisfaction among Taiwanese couples across the life cycle.

#### Definition of Terms

To better communication the intent of this proposal, it is necessary to clarify terms that are used. The terms "marital satisfaction," "family life cycle," and "Taiwanese" are defined in a variety of ways. For the purpose of this study they are nominally defined as follows:

Marital satisfaction. Hawkins' (1968a) definition of "marital satisfaction" will be employed: the subjective feeling of happiness, satisfaction, and pleasure experienced by a spouse when considering all current aspects of marriage. This variable is conceived of as a continuum running from much satisfaction to much dissatisfaction. Marital satisfaction is clearly an attitudinal variable and is thus a property of individual spouses.

Family life cycle. Olson et al.'s (1989) definition of "family life cycle" will be used. Their work was particularly valuable in exploring the nature of family development at different stages of the life cycle. Using this developmental framework, stage divisions were initially located by focusing on the age of children in the family and on corresponding changes that the family encounters as children mature.

Taiwanese. In this research, Taiwanese represents people who live in Taiwan, whether their parents were born in Taiwan or not. All of them are citizens of Taiwan, Republic of China.

### Hypotheses

Hypothesis One: There will be no correlation between the items of the Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale and the Marital Adjustment Scale.

Hypothesis Two: There will be no correlation between the items of the Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale and the Marital Prediction Test.

Hypothesis Three: There will be no difference in the marital satisfaction scores for males and females across the life cycle.

Hypothesis Four: There will be no difference in the substantive variables related to marital satisfaction for males and females across the life cycle.

## REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Historically, marital satisfaction has been of substantive interest to social scientists because of the relationship among marital satisfaction, marital quality, and marital stability. The intensity of interest in these areas of study has been encouraged by the correlation of these variables with divorce, the rate of which has been increasing across time. For more than three decades (Hicks & Platt, 1970; Berardo, 1980; Glenn, 1990), research has attempted to delineate antecedent variables, as well as to identify maintenance conditions of marital satisfaction across the life cycle.

While considerable research has addressed marital satisfaction, within the context of the American marriage, little if any research has assessed those factors associated with marital satisfaction among Taiwanese couples. To most adequately approach the study of marital satisfaction among Taiwanese couples, a review of the area of marital satisfaction across the life cycle among Western couples will be presented, extrapolating from this vast literature bank variables to be hypothesized as relating to marital satisfaction among Taiwanese couples.

### Marital Satisfaction

Understanding the variables associated with marital satisfaction across the life cycle necessitates the conceptualization of the term "marital satisfaction." While a variety of definitions have been espoused, some common threads run through these definitions. Based on the various common elements in the literature, it is possible to conceptualize marital satisfaction as a subjective affective state within an individual

when a comparison is made between what the individual expects within the context of the relationship (ideal) with what the individual perceives he or she is actually receiving (real). If the amount of disparity is large, the individual will experience low marital satisfaction, whereas if the disparity is minimal, then it is most probable that the individual will report positive (high) marital satisfaction. In other words, marital satisfaction is an affectively laden variable ranging in affective intensity according to whether the individual reports low marital satisfaction or high marital satisfaction.

Thus, for the purpose of this study, the term "marital satisfaction" will refer to an affective state that is evoked consequent to the individual's evaluation of his or her expectations regarding substantive areas (e.g., companionship, consideration, affection, sex, in-laws, financial management, household management, parenting, etc.) in the marital relationship.

In sum, it can be concluded that marital satisfaction is a global evaluation of the "state of the marriage" based on the comparison an individual makes between what he or she expects in a variety of substantive areas of the marriage at "key" times across the life cycle. Marital satisfaction can be viewed as a global continuous variable ranging from negative marital satisfaction to positive marital satisfaction with negative satisfaction appearing to be directly related to divorce.

#### Factors Influencing Marital Satisfaction

Of the variety of factors influencing marital satisfaction, a review of the literature indicates three general categories of variables as being most salient, namely,

sociodemographic variables, intrapersonal variables, and interpersonal variables. Attention will be directed towards not only the more general category, but more specifically towards those variables within the category (i. e., substantive variables) which directly correlate with marital satisfaction.

#### Sociodemographic Factors Influencing Marital Satisfaction

A literature review indicates that the most important sociodemographic variables associated with marital satisfaction include (a) age at the time of marriage, (b) socioeconomic status (i. e., education, occupation, and income), (c) religion or more accurately, religiosity, (d) the employment of the wife, and (e) household composition or structure (i. e., family size).

In terms of age at the time of marriage, the extant research (Bahr, Chappell, & Leigh, 1983) suggests that early marriers have less time to learn the skills necessary for adequate and effective marital role performance (skills repertoire deficit; Lee, 1977; Weed, 1974). A shorter acquaintance period could possibly contribute to performance deficit (Lee, 1977; Weed, 1974). In other words, it may be possible that there are those who marry early and have a skills repertoire of sufficient size yet who lack the interpersonal relations necessary to implement and modify those skills.

The issue of repertoire and behavior deficit may be at the basis of research suggesting that individuals who marry in their teens are not as well prepared to perform key marital roles completely as those who marry in their 20's. Without an adequate skills base from which to interact interpersonally, perception and ability

necessary to assess and clarify values, behaviors, characteristics, etc. may be retarded.

Age at the time of marriage is not only related to the evolution of requisite interpersonal skills (i. e., giving positive and negative feedback, accepting positive and negative feedback, negotiation, problem-solving, etc.) (Hazel, Schumaker, Sherman, & Sheldon-Wildgen, 1981, 1982, 1983; Serna, Schumaker, Hazel, & Sheldon-Wildgen, 1986) but also directly affects the level of educational attainment (Locksley, 1982; Bayer, 1969; Lissovoy & Hitchcock, 1965; Moss & Gingless, 1959). One of the primary influences the level of educational attainment has on marital satisfaction is based on the impact that education has on occupational status and income. Mayfield-Brown (1989) has demonstrated that age at the time of marriage is directly related to levels of educational achievement, because marriage interrupts educational aspirations. According to extant research, educational level will affect marital satisfaction, with less education achievement being more adversely related than high education achievement (Bowen & Richman, 1991; Guest, 1992; Kurdek, 1991; Mace, 1987). Furthermore, it is clear from these studies that educational achievement will impact the socioeconomic level by decreasing potential income and interrupting occupational achievement.

Socioeconomic status is conceptualized as a combination of several factors: education, occupation, and income. Turkel (1988), Locksley (1982), Burgess and Cottrell (1939), Burgess and Locke (1953), Cutright (1971), Klein (1988), Menaghan (1967), Galligan and Bahr (1978), and Williamson (1954) are examples of researchers

who examined the relationship between socioeconomic status (SES) and marital satisfaction. Emanating from this body of literature are data suggesting that the more significant the occupational status of husbands (a) the more stable the economic resources and the higher the overall income of the couple, and (b) the greater the likelihood the couple will report being maritally satisfied. Thus it may be concluded that if early marriage interrupts educational pursuits, thereby mitigating opportunities to achieve both the occupational status one may desire, as well as the amount of income hoped for, then marital satisfaction will be adversely affected.

Inasmuch as attention has focused on the occupational status of the male as it affects marital satisfaction, an examination of the occupational status of women and its relationship to marital satisfaction seems to be in order. A review of the literature would suggest that the relationship between wives' occupational achievement and marital satisfaction is more complex than that of husbands' occupational status and marital satisfaction. The literature seems to suggest that unemployed wives (i. e., homemakers by choice) generally report higher marital satisfaction than do employed women (Axelson, 1963; Feinauer, Williams-Evans & Hendrix, 1989; Smith, 1985; Williamson, 1954). Fogarty, Rapoport, and Rapoport (1971) (see also, Benin & Nienstedt, 1985) concluded that there are several important factors to be taken into consideration before drawing a general conclusion that women who do not work have higher marital satisfaction than do those who pursue a career. First, there are those women who chose to work and when involved in an occupation of their choice report positive marital satisfaction. Safilios-Rothchild (1969) suggested that job satisfaction



gives a woman an enhanced sense of meaning and worthiness which may generalize to her marital role.

As such, these women would report positive marital satisfaction. Second, there is a population of women who choose to work but who experience guilt and tension, associating these emotions with the perception that they are in some way, whether they are or not, neglecting their families. These women usually report less marital satisfaction than those of the first group. The third group of women includes those who are employed, yet would choose not to be. Many of these women are employed because of financial impositions or they have been coerced by their husbands to be employed. This population reports significant marital dissatisfaction. The final population of women includes those who do not choose to be employed outside of the home and remain homemakers by choice. These women report levels of marital satisfaction equivalent to those in the first group.

In terms of career-seeking women, the issue of dual careers and marital satisfaction has increasingly become an area of concern. While much research in this area is needed to more definitively sort out the issues associated with marital satisfaction, the general consensus at this juncture is that marital satisfaction is decreased when both spouses pursue careers (Benin & Nienstedt, 1985). While many speculations are in order, one which seems to be predominant is the inequality associated with household management and parenting experienced in the home when the woman chooses to enter a career. For example, assume that a married woman begins an eight hour a day career, thus creating a dual career marriage, and that

previous to the initiation of her career she has been responsible for practically 100% of the household management and parenting. It is suggested that even though the female is now employed full time outside of the home, the partner will assume only about 10% of the household management and parenting, thus, leaving the female with 90%.

Among those couples who are dual-career-oriented, the literature suggests that whether or not marital satisfaction is affected positively or negatively is grounded in whether or not (a) the female has selected to be career-oriented, (b) the decision was mutually agreed upon, and (c) role expectations were revised to account for the alteration in marital and family dynamics created by the woman entering the career of her choice (Fogarty, et al., 1971; Benin & Nienstedt, 1985; Schnittger & Bird, 1990).

Religion, or more specifically religiosity, has been found to be related to marital satisfaction. Religion refers merely to the identification with a particular religious organization (i. e., Catholic, Buddhist, Mormon, etc.), whereas religiosity is defined as the behavioral adherence to the principles and precepts of the religion (i. e., regular attendance at services, practicing principles and precepts in the home, etc.). A review of the literature relative to the relationship between religiosity and marital satisfaction suggests that individuals whose spouses are of a different religious persuasion or who practice their religion in a noncomplementary manner report lower levels of marital satisfaction (Glenn, 1982; Heaton, 1984; Heaton & Goodman, 1985; Heaton & Pratt, 1990) and are more likely to divorce (Bahr, 1981; Bumpass &

Sweet, 1972; Shehan, Bock, & Lee, 1990) than do those who are of the same orientation.

Another sociodemographic variable influencing marital satisfaction is family size. Family size refers to the number of people in the family and more accurately to the number of children in a family. Extant research has indicated that the fewer the number of family members the higher the reported level of marital satisfaction (Chadwick & Albrecht, 1976; Burman & De-Anda, 1987; Christensen & Philbrick, 1952; Abbott & Brody, 1985).

Related to family size is fertility, that is, the ability of the couple to determine and control their family size. Christensen (1969) indicated that the greater the control the couple has over family size, the greater the likelihood that they will report marital satisfaction.

In conclusion, there are a variety of interrelated sociodemographic variables, a few of which have been addressed above, which have been identified as impacting marital satisfaction. It seems appropriate that continued attention be given to these variables which may help to identify "at-risk" identification. Appropriate prevention, intervention, and enhancement programs could then be developed and implemented, thus reducing the overall divorce rate.

#### Intrapersonal Factors Influencing Marital Satisfaction

Research addressing the relationship between marital satisfaction and intrapersonal variables has examined this relationship within the context of such variables as psychological well-being, personality characteristics, and social maturity.

These three principal areas of concentration are general in their conceptualization and must be operationalized through more specific variables which delineate the concept. Consequently, these concepts will be briefly discussed below.

Psychological well-being refers to the absence of psychiatric disorder (e. g., depression, anxiety, personality disorder, psychotic disorder, etc.) and the presence of the ability to cope with daily environmental stressors in such a manner as to facilitate positive intrapersonal and interpersonal growth. Psychological well-being, as presented in the literature (e. g., Swensen, Eskew, & Kohlhepp, 1981), affects marital satisfaction by its facilitation of such elements critical to interpersonal relationships as self-esteem, communication, perception of spouse, etc. In contrast, psychological distress, as manifested in the variety of possible psychiatric disorders of either an acute or chronic nature, will have a malevolent influence on dyadic interaction, inhibiting the above-mentioned substantive elements of a relationship.

Personality characteristics are those attributes which have evolved from childhood temperament and become identified as situationally and contextually stable (Kim, Martin, & Martin, 1989; Kelly & Conley, 1987). As such, the manner in which an individual responds to environmental stimuli is directly related to coping strategies assimilated within the personality. Response patterns are stable and as such, predictable. In addition, personality characteristics tend to be self-perpetuated and reinforced, thus making them difficult to alter (Lester, Haig, & Monello, 1989). In relation to marital satisfaction, it can be noted that personality characteristics of one partner may be concordant or discordant with those of the other partner. It is

suggested that the amount of marital satisfaction reported is directly proportional to the degree of interference that one's personality may have in the interactive process (Avner & Orit, 1989). In addition, it should be noted that personality characteristics can undergo decompensation; it is more likely for an individual's sense of psychological well-being to be affected, in that the presentation of a variety of psychiatric symptoms is likely to evolve as the individual experiences ego-dystonia as a result of the decompensation (Lester, Haig, & Monello, 1989).

Social maturity refers to the acquisition and implementation of those "skills necessary to perform in accordance with role prescriptions" (Burr, 1973, p. 245). The acquisition of social skills (e. g., giving and receiving positive as well as negative feedback, problem solving, negotiation, conversation, etc.) (Hazel, et al., 1981, 1982, 1983) is foundational to a dynamic interpersonal relationship. The lack of such skills is referred to as "repertoire deficit" (Openshaw, Mills, Adams, & Durso, 1992). Social maturity extends beyond the mere knowledge of social skills to that of the actual implementation of these skills in a functional manner. When implementation is incomplete, the individual is referred to as manifesting a "behavioral deficit" (Openshaw et al., 1992). Thus, it is logical to conclude that the effectiveness of one's interaction within a social context, such as a marital relationship, is significantly affected by that individual's knowledge and implementation of skills oriented towards personal and relational growth.

### Interpersonal Factors Influencing Marital Satisfaction

While propinquity becomes a foundational element in providing the opportunity for interaction which may develop rapport, research suggests (Adams, Openshaw, Bennion, Mills, & Noble, 1988) that the factor most likely involved in facilitating and initially maintaining the development of an interpersonal relationship is that of being mutually perceived as physically, socially, and sexually attractive.

As potent as attractiveness is in the initiation of a relationship, the continuance of a stable and mutually satisfying marriage is grounded in communication. Knapp (1984) and Miller, Wackman, Nunnally, and Miller (1988) are among the many researchers who have demonstrated that communication serves as the foundation for marital satisfaction; that is, without a couple being able to satisfactorily communicate one with the other, discrepancies will be noted in the fulfillment of role expectation. Inasmuch as communication includes conflict management skills (e. g., problem-solving, negotiation, giving negative feedback, etc.), should such a discrepancy arise, the couple would not have a way to adequately resolve their differences. Consequently, role conflict would be evoked and dissatisfaction created.

Role expectation fulfillment refers to the realization of expectations imposed on one party by the other party within a variety of substantive marital areas such as: communication, consideration, companionship, affection, sex, in-laws, household management, financial management, parenting/childcare, occupation/education, self-independence, conflict management, personal habits, etc. Levinger and Snoek (1972) observed that marital satisfaction is based not only on the rewards and costs

experienced as a consequence of role expectation fulfillment or non-fulfillment but also on the anticipation of rewards or costs in future role interactions (see also Spanier & Lewis, 1980).

In conclusion, it has been suggested that socioeconomic, intrapersonal, and interpersonal factors have been correlate with marital satisfaction. While it is important to identify the specific variables associated with each of the factors, another relevant consideration must be acknowledged; that is, the variables from these factors may be contextualized to the stage of the life cycle the couple find themselves in. For example, discrepancy in parenting expectations will be influential in the initial phase of the life cycle where there are no children, as well as having minimal influence during the launching and postlaunching stages. Thus it becomes important to delineate "key" variables from each of the above factors according to the life cycle phase of the couple.

#### Pertinent Marital Satisfaction Variables Across the Life Cycle

Various descriptions of the life cycle have been espoused in the literature (Rodgers, 1964; Walsh, 1982; Olson, et al., 1989). The description selected for use in this study is that proposed by Olson et al. (1989). Olson and his colleagues indicated that inclusion into a particular stage of the life cycle would be based upon three criteria, namely, (a) age of the oldest child, (b) amount of transition or change required in response to changing developmental needs of the family members, and

(c) changes in family goal orientation and direction. Based upon these criteria, seven stages were delineated.

The life cycle has taken a prominent place in the empirical literature addressing marital satisfaction (Kilbourne, Howell, & England, 1991). It has been suggested, through several decades of studies addressing the relationship between marital satisfaction and stage of the life cycle, that a curvilinear relationship can be noted for males and females (Glenn & McLanahan, 1982; Rollins & Galligan, 1978; Spanier & Lewis, 1980; Spanier, Lewis, & Cole, 1975; Schumm & Bugaighis, 1986). That is, there tends to be a trend associated with the introduction of children into the family system wherein a decrease in marital satisfaction is reported. This decrease is most significant at stages four and five of the life cycle. Beginning with the transition from stage five to six, an increase in marital satisfaction is reported by husbands and wives. Figure 1 depicts this trend for males and females and is derived from the research of Olson et al.

As depicted in Figure One, there does tend to be a mild curvilinear trend across the life cycle for both males and females, with females consistently reporting greater marital satisfaction than males expect at stage five, where it appears as if they are equally satisfied.



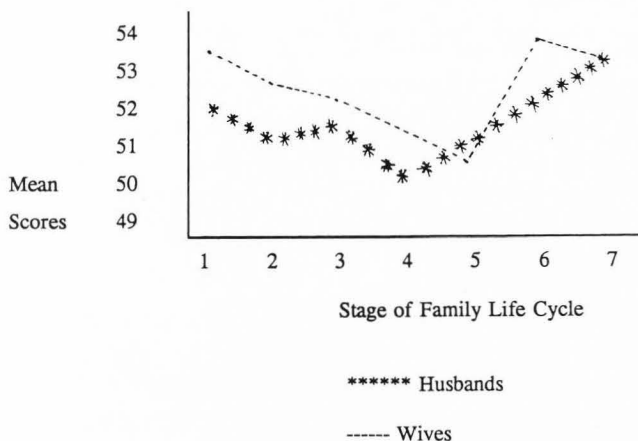


Figure 1: Marital satisfaction over the family life cycle for male and female.

Swensen, et al. (1981) reported that affection expressed between husband and wife declines across the life cycle. They further note that with this decline comes increased conflict and marital discord. It is their conclusion that the average marriage in America seems to become increasingly devitalized over the course of the marriage. Consequently, marital interaction--foundational to marital happiness--declines, and couples report an increasing sense of marital dissatisfaction.

If the life cycle and marital satisfaction are related, a pertinent question to examine is, "what are some of the 'key' variables which may affect marital satisfaction at various stages of the life cycle?" With this in mind, attention is turned to a brief examination of each of the stages of the life cycle and those variables which appear to be most likely to affect marital satisfaction at a given stage.

Stage one: young couples without children. Couples in this stage are "childless" by definition of the stage, thus the variety of demands and needs exhibited by children would not be a factor associated with adjustment and marital satisfaction. It appears that this stage is most commonly noted as a time period of adjustment to one another with an emphasis on (a) "formulating and negotiating individual and couple goals"; and (b) deriving a "mutually acceptable life style." (Olson et al., 1989, p. 22).

If one were to examine the relative level of marital satisfaction during this stage of the life cycle, it could be generally concluded that it is a time in which both husbands and wives would report a positive overall level of satisfaction. In fact, Olson et al. (1989) indicated that 40% of both husbands and wives report being "very satisfied" and that nearly as many report being "satisfied." Only 10% of their sample reported that they had considered separation or divorce.

Of the factors which seem to be associated with marital satisfaction during this stage of the life cycle, communication seems to be the most critical. The rationale is that communication seems foundational to adjustment, and reconciliation and ultimately to the assimilation of the various substantive role expectations associated with marital satisfaction (e. g., affection, sex, conflict management, financial management, household management, in-laws, religion, employment/education, self-independence, spouse-independence, consideration, companionship, coupling activities, personal idiosyncracies, etc.).

Personality adjustment is another significant variable in the overall consideration of marital satisfaction. It is during this initial stage of the life cycle that time is allotted for the couple to merge their personality characteristics with one another, integrating those characteristics which are similar and reconciling the differences into a mutually acceptable personality style.

Stage two: childbearing families and families with children in preschool years.

The factors that seem to correspond with families within this stage of the life cycle are: (a) children in the family spend most of their waking hours in the home; (b) family is principally centered towards the child's growth and nurturance; and (c) parents are the primary source of information and discipline. Overall, it can be concluded that the family at this point in time is "child centered" (Olson et al., 1989).

Studies investigating marital satisfaction during this stage of the life cycle note that there tends to be, on the average, lower marital satisfaction after the transition into this stage than before the transition (Belsky & Rovine, 1984; Belsky, Spanier, & Rovine, 1983; Feldman & Nash, 1984; Miller & Sollie, 1980; Udry, 1983; Waldron & Routh, 1981).

It appears that the number one factor influencing the level of reported marital satisfaction was the introduction of children into the family system. Anderson, Russell, and Schumm (1983) have suggested that the total number of children in the family is a significant factor in the determination of the level of marital satisfaction. The influence that the size of the family has on marital satisfaction was also related to the number of years between each child (Christensen, 1969; Abbott & Brody, 1985).

Thus, it might be concluded that the more children in the family and closer these children are, in terms of spacing, to one another, the greater the focus must be on care of the children and, concomitantly, decreased attention to self and the relationship.

With the above in mind, attention is drawn to the work of Houseknecht (1979) and Ryder (1973). These studies indicate that the more children there are in the family, the lesser the likelihood that the woman will take time for herself outside of the family for purposes of rejuvenation and enjoyment. In addition, the increased amount of time and energy associated with child care seems to decrease the amount of time and energy available to the relationship.

Rollins and Feldman (1970) indicated that the larger the number of minor children in the home, the higher the economic and psychological costs. These costs, however, were directly related to day care for the children when the mothers of the children were employed outside of the home. Employment of some women was related to increased economic hardships placed on the family due to expenses not previously encountered (e. g., pregnancy, delivery, medical, etc.). The psychological cost was related to the guilt felt by mothers who wanted to be with their young children but were in the work force.

The literature leads the reader to conclude that, as children are introduced into the family system, there is an increase in a variety of demands on time, finances, family relationships, etc. (Olson et al., 1989). Consequently, unless the family is

prepared for these stressors, the result is a sense of distress intrapersonally, as well as interpersonally.

Stage three: families with school-age children. Families with school-age children share two important factors in common with one another. The first is that considerable focus is directed towards the socializing of the children. Second is the emphasis placed on education, especially with the children now entering the school system.

While a modest increase in marital satisfaction may be noted among the husbands in the Olson et al. study, there continues to be a downward trend for the wives of the study. This may be due to the direction of invested efforts for males and females. It is suggested, somewhat stereotypically, that the male ego is more directed outside of the family than is that of the female. As such, the male is not "shuttling" children around, helping them with homework, etc. and thus he is fulfilling his ego needs at a level which may detract from the fact that the relationship with his spouse is not as intense as it previously was. On the other hand, the wife is fulfilling the role of mother, helping the child accomplish various developmental tasks, get to lessons, etc., but does notice that her relationship with her husband has declined in intensity. Since the husband is a significant part of the family environment and her life, any decline in the relationship could be noticed by her and thus affect her reporting of marital satisfaction.

Along with the day-to-day routines associated with raising school-age children, a variety of life stressors is introduced, some at an exacerbated level and others as

novel to the family. An example of a stressor exacerbated is that of family finances. Where previous finances had been stretched, this stretching is now enlarged upon by additional medical expenses, loans for a home or car, and the increased amount of expenditures associated with a family. Some of the novel stressors include outside activities for the children (e. g., soccer, piano lessons, etc.), the management of the household (e.g., chores needing to be done but not being accomplished), sibling conflicts, and issues surrounding parenting. These increased responsibilities necessitate a refocusing of efforts; unfortunately, a decrease of marital-focused energies is generally noted.

Stage four: families with adolescents in the home. Transition from childhood to adolescence brings with it some common elements. Socialization is directed towards individuation and separation, preparatory to moving into an adult status.

Couples report less satisfaction with their marriage in this stage than in any of the previous stages of the life cycle. In fact, it is noted that in the curvilinear pattern, that this stage demonstrates the lowest level of satisfaction (Anderson et al., 1983; Menaghan, 1983).

It is suggested that one of the common sources of dissatisfaction lies in the area of parenting. As noted above, one of the critical developmental tasks associated with adolescence is that of separation and individuation. However, it should be noted that the process of separation and individuation brings with it its own stressors and demands, which may introduce conflict into the parent-adolescent dyad. This conflict

tends to exacerbate rapidly into triangulation, wherein one parent is pitted against the other with the adolescent pairing with the parent of choice.

Steinberg and Verberg (1987) suggested that one basis for parent-adolescent conflict is the interaction of novel biological, cognitive, and social changes of early adolescence acting in such a manner so as to have a destabilizing effect on the family system. For example, Montemayor (1983) noted that with cognitive change, adolescents note the fallacies of parental rules and begin to challenge these rules. Unless parents have an open communication style and strategies to deal with such conflict (Noble, Adams, & Openshaw, 1989; Openshaw et al., 1992), there will be both a direct and an indirect negative impact on the marital dyad. Thus, because new parenting concerns arise during the transition into adolescence over such issues as curfew, dating, etc., this stage of the life cycle can be an extremely stressful period of adjustment and adaptation for parents (Steinberg & Verberg, 1987).

In addition, the financial status of the family is again subject to demands not previously recognized. Medical and dental expenses, food and clothing expenditures, home care, educational costs, etc. increase, leaving the family budget stretched and strained (Olson et al., 1989) in many families.

Stage five: launching families. As the oldest adolescent prepares to leave the home, the family transits into this new stage of life. The adolescent's identity has taken on a more crystallized nature and a number of the roles parents played in the past become antiquated for the new family system. Thus, roles and rules undergo change to accommodate the successful launching of the adolescent into adult status.

This period of time is of considerable interest because the research suggests that it is during this period of time that the couple can begin to re-orient their energies towards themselves and each other. It is during this period that a noticeable increase in marital satisfaction is reported. Perhaps it is reported because those couples who stayed together have been able to facilitate their own relationship over the course of the life cycle, though perhaps not as significantly as they would have liked. Now their attention, energies, and behaviors towards the relationship can be increased. It is also possible that this upswing in marital satisfaction may be an artifact of those who remain, having weeded out the couples who reported contemplating separation or divorce during previous stages of the life cycle. Regardless of the reason, Olson et al. (1989) reported that only 18% of the wives and 16% of the husbands indicate that they had contemplated either separation or divorce.

Glenn and Weaver (1988) have suggested that the mid-life couple have less need to compete in their career and more freedom to limit responsibilities. With this increased sense of freedom, initiated in the previous stage, couples can refocus energies towards the relationship with greater enthusiasm. In addition to the freedom of time, there is a decreased demand on family resources, in particular financial resources, which may now be directed towards the self or marital relationship (Schnittger & Bird, 1990). Consequently, marital satisfaction in this stage is reported as being greater than that of the previous stage. As such, the curvilinear effect is now taking place.



Stage six: empty nest families. This stage is initiated when the children are launched and the couple are, once again, by themselves. While parents may still hold some of their previous roles, though modified significantly, the family is more "oriented toward couple needs and establishing more differentiated relationships with children and grandchildren" (Olson et al., 1989, p. 22).

In terms of marital satisfaction, Olson et al. (1989) noted that far fewer of the spouses reported that they had considered divorce or separation (4% of the husbands and 9% of the wives) thus leading them to the conclusion that most of those married couples were either "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with their marital relationship. As with the previous stage, the trend was an increase in the level of marital satisfaction reported by couples in the Olson et al. (1989) study.

With a redirected focus on themselves and their relationship initiated during the previous stage, couples during this phase find considerably more time and financial resources available to put into their own endeavors individually and collectively. Thus, it can be stated, the couple is able to assume new couple-oriented roles and responsibilities which allow them additional time and space for themselves and the relationship.

Stage seven: families in retirement. Noticeable to families in this stage of life is the fact that children have been raised and supervision of these children has been terminated. In addition, Olson et al. indicated that the couple have "completed major career contributions and are occupied with couple maintenance as well as relationships with extended family and friends." (1989, p. 22).

Few couples at this stage, according to Olson et al. (1989), report consideration of either separation or divorce. The frequency is lower than at any of the previous stages of the life cycle. For the most part, couples report a relatively positive degree of satisfaction with their quality of life, amount of couple cohesion, the degree of couple adaptability, and the decreased incidence of conflict of either a personality or instrumental nature.

In sum, satisfaction in a variety of domains is pivotal in the understanding of stress, family resources, and family dynamics. Satisfaction with one's marriage, family, and overall quality of life are interwoven and interrelated. These measures of satisfaction also vary by stage of the family life cycle, and certain patterns are consistent across these different measures.

#### Marital Satisfaction and the Family Life Cycle: The Taiwanese Family

Minimal research has examined the issue of marital satisfaction among Taiwanese couples. As a matter of fact, this is not specific to the Taiwanese marriage but seems to be the case among all Asian couples regardless of their homeland. Chu (1955, 1962, 1965, and 1966) is credited as having initiated some of the first studies associated with marital adjustment and happiness among Taiwanese couples. According to his research, there are fifteen factors which seem to be related to marital satisfaction; these include:

1. Geographical proximity is positively related to the mate selection process; however, there is no relationship with marital happiness. This, however, is

qualified by the fact that those who mate from the "hometown" are "bonafide" Taiwanese (see Definition Section).

2. Marital happiness in the family of orientation is positively related to reported marital happiness.
3. Reported childhood happiness is positively related to reported marital happiness.
4. Premarital emotional and affective bondedness is positively related to marital happiness.
5. The greater the approval of the partner's mate by the partner's parents, the greater the marital happiness.
6. Length of engagement is positively related to marital adjustment.
7. A formal marital ceremony is related to marital happiness; however, the absence of a formal ceremony is negatively related.
8. Age, for the male, at the time of marriage is related to marital happiness and this may be a curvilinear relationship. Associated with this particular finding is that there seems to be a "best" age difference between males and females; that difference being between 5 and 9 years.
9. Educational proximity is positively related to marital happiness.
10. There is no relationship between religion and marital happiness.
11. First time marriage is positively related to marital happiness. Second time (or more) marriage for one or both spouses is negatively related to marital happiness.

12. Being from a one-child family is negatively related to marital happiness.
13. Living with parents/parents-in-law is positively related to marital happiness.
14. Childlessness is positively related to marital happiness.
15. Intimacy is positively related to marital happiness.

While some of the above correlate with findings in Western society, there are others which deviate significantly. It must be remembered, however, that the above data are now at least 24 years old and many significant changes have taken place in the Taiwanese family system. Indeed, more recent research would help clarify the state of the Taiwanese marriage. A review of the literature provides only one study since that of Chu. Chia, Chong, and Cheng (1986, translated into English) completed a study which included 220 male and 158 female students enrolled in four national universities in Taiwan, the Republic of China, using the Jacobson Marriage-Role Inventory (Jacobson, 1950, 1952) and the Traditionality-Modernity Scale (T-M Scale, Yang & Hchu, 1974).

Hampson and Beavers (1989) in their study of subjects from the People's Republic of China found that: (a) the family unit is still the basis for identification, housing, and enculturation; (b) among urban families, while there still is a strong sense of tradition, an emphasis on upward mobility and materialism is notable; (c) the majority of urban families have only one child (NOTE: by mandate there are penalties for having more than one child.); (d) abortions are commonplace; (e) the

incidence of infanticide is high, especially with female children; (f) since the institution of a new and more liberal divorce law, there has been an increase in the divorce rate; (g) the divorce rate is greater among dual-career couples; (h) egalitarian roles of males and females is noted in the work force due to the labor law emphasizing equality.

Chan, Chan-Ho, and Chan (1984) indicated that the data obtained through the use of the Paykel, Prusoff, and Uhlenhuth Life Event Schedule (1971) and relationship satisfaction are inversely related. That is, as the number of reported life event stressors is identified, there is a concomitant decrease in relationship satisfaction. Secondly, they note that there is a strong emphasis placed on education and career, both of which affect relationship satisfaction. Thirdly, couples with school age children report less satisfaction than other couples. Finally, culture and other group differences affect the reported perception of the sample used in their study.

#### Summary of the Research Addressing Marital Satisfaction among Taiwanese Couples

In summary, it appears that there is a dearth of such research to date which examines marital satisfaction among Taiwanese couples. Reliance on the examination of findings associated with other Asian cultures, however, is also problematic in that there are also only a few studies to be used.

While one could surmise that marital satisfaction is important to those of the Taiwanese culture and could associate those variables found to be significant of

on the Taiwanese couple does not truly permit an understanding which would account for the cultures' uniqueness. Consequently, one of the major purposes of this study is to identify variables which are related to marital satisfaction in the Chinese culture.

The relative lack of understanding of the Taiwanese couple and family is even more evident when one considers the fact that in Western research it has been noted that those variables effecting marital satisfaction at one point in time (i. e., stage of the family life cycle) may not be significant at another. A review of the literature in both English and Chinese indicates that while Chu (1966) introduced the idea of the family life cycle, no follow-up studies have been found. Thus, the second major focus of this research study is to examine and identify variables significant to marital satisfaction at various stages of the family life cycle. With such little information on both the variables associated with marital satisfaction and the family life cycle, no speculation can be made as to which variables affect Taiwanese couples at each stage of the family life cycle.

## METHODS

### Sample

Inasmuch as no previous study has been conducted examining marital satisfaction across the life cycle in Taiwan, this study will be considered a preliminary investigation of the area. A convenience sample, which facilitates availability, convenience, and accessibility, will be used to acquire 300 Taiwanese couples. The 300 couples acquired for this study will be equally divided into seven groups, with each group representing one of the seven life cycle stages.

### Procedures

Twenty-six friends, family members, and former teachers were identified by the researcher. Each of the twenty-six individuals was asked to identify as many couples to participate in the study as possible. These twenty-six individuals were able to identify between 5 and 20 couples to participate in the study, the aggregate being at least 245 subject-couples identified.

Approximately 245 couples, equally divided into seven groups (35 couples per group), were identified to complete two instruments selected for this study; namely, the Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale (Spanier, 1976), and the short Marital-Adjustment and Prediction Test (Locke & Wallace, 1959). In addition, each couple was also to complete an instrument to provide the researcher with sociodemographic data.

Couples volunteering to participate in the study were required to read and sign an informed consent form. This form, as well as the overall project, had been submitted to the Utah State University Institutional Review Board for human subjects approval.

Couples were administered the instruments during January and February of 1993. All data were received by February 15, 1993.

### Instruments

Sociodemographic data sheet. The sociodemographic sheet consisting of gender, age, marital status, age at the first marriage, family size, family income, education, etc. was developed by the researcher to provide data for sociodemographic effects which may be related to marital satisfaction. The sociodemographic sheet is comparable to that which is used in many studies assessing socio-economic status (Kelly & Conley, 1987; Andrew, Martin, & Martin, 1989).

Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale (Spanier, 1976). The Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale consists of 32 questions assessing subjective areas of marital expectations identified as important to marital satisfaction.

Short Marital-Adjustment and Prediction Test (Locke and Wallace, 1959). The marital-adjustment and prediction tests are comprised of 15 items and 35 items, respectively. Scores calculated from the adjustment items from the prediction range from 29-81 for men, and from 30-81 for women.

The reliability coefficient of the adjustment test computed by the split-half technique was .90. The mean adjustment score for the "well-adjusted" groups was



135.9, whereas the mean score for the "maladjusted" group was only 71.7. Based on the reliability coefficient and the significant difference between the two groups, Locke and Wallace (1959) suggest that the "test has validity, since it seems to measure what it purports to measure--namely, marital adjustment."

Reliability of the Prediction Test was computed by the split-half technique and corrected by the Spearman-Brown formula ( $r = .84$ ). The prediction scores were corrected with the adjustment scores and resulted in a coefficient of correlation between the prediction and adjustment scores of .47.

Each of the above instruments was translated from English to Chinese (see Appendix A). Mr. Everett W. Savage, an ordained pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church who serves as a missionary in Taiwan, worked with the researcher to translate and verify the translation of the instruments from English to Chinese. The translations were corrected so as to reflect the same ideas and nuances as the original instruments (see Appendix A).

### Analysis

Descriptive statistics. Descriptive statistics (e. g., frequency, mean, mode, etc.) will be calculated for each of the instruments as well as for sociodemographic data acquired.

Reliability. Reliability coefficients (Chronbach's alpha) will be calculated for each of the instruments. This is an important part of the study since no previous marital instruments have been used with a Taiwanese population.

Validity. Face validity will be demonstrated by a selected group of experts who will read and comment on the instrument to ascertain if the items seem to suggest correctly what is being measured.

Content validity, while more difficult to assess in Taiwan than in countries which have substantial investment and research in marital satisfaction, will be examined.

Criterion-related or predictive validity would be difficult to assess at this time due to the fact that little research in the area of marital satisfaction has been completed in Taiwan. Thus, there does not appear to be sufficient evidence against which to correlate the three marital satisfaction instruments to ascertain criterion-related validity.

Concurrent validity will be assessed in this study by comparing the result of the three instruments. Though the instruments do not assess, in totality, the same substantive dimensions, they do all assess general marital satisfaction.

An examination of construct validity will be accomplished through an analysis of the interrelation or association between the items comprising the scale. It is assumed that items measuring communication will be, for example, more highly correlated with one another than with items measuring financial management, even though both are related to marital satisfaction.

Testing of the hypotheses. Hypotheses one and two pertain to the ascertaining of the reliability and validity of the instruments used in this study. Statistical methods necessary for the assessment of reliability and validity have been discussed above. As

previously indicated, this is a most important aspect of the study because of the lack of attention to the area of marital satisfaction among Taiwanese couples. Such an analysis will permit the researcher to begin ascertaining which substantive areas of a marital relationship are perceived as important to Taiwanese couples. This can ultimately be compared to the literature in Western cultures concerning the couple's understanding of similarities and differences. Furthermore, the understanding acquired from these analyses will serve as a foundation for future research examining other substantive areas of marital satisfaction which may not have been identified in this research.

Hypothesis three states there will be no difference in the marital satisfaction scores for males or females across the life cycle. Global marital satisfaction scores will be computed for males and females at each stage of the life cycle. The calculation method for deriving the satisfaction score will be based on the method suggested by the authors of the instruments. The  $t$  test will be employed to examine whether or not there are differences between males and females at each specific stage of the life cycle, as well as across the life cycle. In addition, the  $t$  test will be used to examine, independently, male and female reported level of marital satisfaction across the life cycle.

There will be no difference in the substantive variables related to marital satisfaction for males or females across the life cycle. This fourth hypothesis is designed to examine which variables are most specifically related to the reported marital satisfaction of males and females at varying stages of the life cycle. Items

from each of the three instruments will be the factor analysis program. Two factor analyses, one for males and one for females, will be conducted. New variables will be created from selected factors. Factors (new variables) will be selected on marital satisfaction for males and females at differing stages of the life cycle.

## RESULTS

The purpose of this study was to examine marital satisfaction among Taiwanese couples across the life cycle. Very limited research has previously addressed this topic. With the increasing divorce rate and interest in marital satisfaction and stability among Taiwanese couples, regardless of their position in the life cycle, it is important to examine characteristics pertinent to their satisfaction for interventive, as well as preventive purposes.

This study was divided into several portions because of the dearth of research on the topic. First, descriptive statistics pertinent to the sample are briefly discussed. Second, reliability and validity analyses were performed to examine whether or not the instruments used were appropriate to this sample. Third, the relationship of the Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale was examined relative to the Marital Adjustment Scale and the Marital Prediction Scale. Fourth, marital satisfaction for males and females at the different stages of the life cycle was examined. Finally, an analysis was performed to determine whether or not there were differences in factors influencing marital satisfaction between males and females across the life cycle.

### Descriptive Statistics

Presented in Appendix C is the descriptive statistics relative sample used in this study.

### Reliability of the Instruments

Reliability estimates for the three marital satisfaction scales are reported in Table 1. An examination of the results clearly indicates that the alpha coefficient for the Marital Prediction Scale ( $\alpha = .3769$ ) is sufficiently low and therefore it must be concluded that this particular instrument does not have adequate reliability for further analysis.

Table 1

#### Reliability Estimates (Alpha Coefficient) For the Three Instruments

<b>Instrument</b>	<b>Alpha</b>	<b>N of cases</b>	<b>Items</b>
Marital- Adjustment Scale	.4987	456	15
Marital- Prediction Scale	.3769	402	35
Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale	.9168	460	32

The Marital Adjustment Scale has an alpha of .4987. This particular alpha is marginal and caution must be observed when interpreting results based on this scale.

The Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale, however, demonstrates exceptional reliability with an alpha coefficient of .9168. This level of reliability will provide results which can be interpreted with a degree of certainty.

Factor analysis of the Marital Adjustment Scale and the Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale. While it is important to assess the overall reliability of an instrument, it is equally important to assess the reliability of the subscales comprising the instrument. The Marital Adjustment Scale was factor-analyzed to determine

whether or not there were appropriate subscales associated with this instrument. The factor analysis resulted in four factors; however, only three were theoretically relevant (see Table 2). The first factor, accounting for 34% of the variance, was titled "role expectations." The alpha coefficient for this particular factor was .7695 and was based on six items. The second factor, comprised of three items, was "life style congruence" (alpha= .7877). This factor accounted for 11% of the variance. The final factor of theoretical significance, "marital stability," (alpha= -.5035) was comprised of three items and accounted for 8% of the overall variance.

A factor analysis (see Table 3) was completed on the Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale. Results of the factor analysis suggest that there were seven factors derived from the analysis. However, based on a review of the factor loadings and the theoretical interpretations possible, only four of the derived factors were conceptually appropriate for further analyses. The first factor, accounting for 31% of the overall variance, had items which, when theoretically interpreted, appeared to represent "companionate behavior." The alpha coefficient for the seven items comprising this subscale was .9290. The second factor, entitled "role expectation" (alpha=.8421), is comprised of seven items and accounts for 15% of the variance. The third factor, comprised of five items and an alpha of .8419, was entitled "marital stability." This factor accounted for 10% of the variance. Life style congruence, the final factor, had an alpha of .9793 and accounted for 5% of the variance. This factor comprised three items.

Table 2

Varimax Rotated Factor Matrix of the Marital Adjustment Scale (MAS) Items

	F1	F2	F3	F4
<u>Role Expectation (F1)</u>				
Sex relations (SEXLIF1)	<u>.74</u>	.26	.10	.63
Demonstrations of affection (WEXF1)	<u>.71</u>	.17	.25	.60
Friends (FRIEND1)	<u>.65</u>	.09	.00	.57
Ways of Dealing with inlaws (INLAWS1)	<u>.64</u>	.36	.13	.58
Do you and your mate engage in outside interests together (TLEIS1)	<u>-.57</u>	-.06	-.25	.41
Handling family finances (ARRF1)	<u>.56</u>	.53	.05	.61
<u>Life Style Congruence (F2)</u>				
Conventionality (JUDGE1)	.32	<u>.82</u>	.06	.78
Matters of recreation (REACT1)	.11	<u>.81</u>	.05	.68
Philosophy of life (VALUE1)	.35	<u>.63</u>	.24	.59
<u>Marital Stability (F3)</u>				
Do you ever wish you had not married (HNM)	.06	.12	<u>.78</u>	.62
If you had your life to live over, do you think you would marry . . . (LRY)	.10	-.01	<u>.72</u>	.59
When disagreements arise, they usually result in . . . (QO)	-.28	.02	<u>-.71</u>	.77
Eigenvalues (after rotation)	5.11	1.70	1.26	9.07
Alpha (reliability coefficients)	.77	.79	-.50	



Table 3

## Varimax Rotated Factor Matrix of the Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale (SDAS)

## Items

	F1	F2	F3	F4	H2
<u>Companionate Behavior (F1)</u>					
Have a stimulating exchange of ideas (COURTH)	<u>.90</u>	.07	.02	.01	.84
Discuss together (DIST)	<u>.87</u>	.09	-.01	-.05	.80
Work together on a project (WT)	<u>.87</u>	.05	.05	.08	.80
Laugh together (LAF)	<u>.86</u>	.10	.00	.02	.80
Do you kiss your mate (KISS)	<u>.83</u>	.06	.02	-.01	.73
In general, how often do you think that things between you and your mate are going well (BETTER)	<u>.70</u>	.07	.43	.08	.69
Do you confide in your mate (CONFID)	<u>.62</u>	.08	.53	.17	.72
<u>Role Expectation (F2)</u>					
Leisure time interests and activities (LEAC)	.16	<u>.72</u>	-.04	.21	.60
Demonstration of affection (WEXF2)	.02	<u>.68</u>	-.15	.12	.52
Handling family finances (ARRF2)	-.05	<u>.65</u>	.03	.29	.57
Ways of dealing with parents or in-laws (INLAWS2)	.14	<u>.64</u>	.07	.21	.57
Household tasks (HOUSE)	.12	<u>.63</u>	.08	.49	.70
Friends (FRIEND2)	-.03	<u>.63</u>	.04	-.11	.52
Sex relations (SEXLIF2)	.26	<u>.57</u>	-.03	.15	.54
<u>Marital Stability (F3)</u>					
Do you ever wish you had not married (HNM)	.03	.02	<u>.85</u>	.08	.83
How often do you or your mate leave the home after a fight (LEVEH)	.06	.02	<u>.84</u>	.09	.82
How often do you or your mate quarrel (HLQ)	-.03	.12	<u>.79</u>	.12	.68
How often to you and your mate "get on each other's nerves" (HOYMU)	.17	.06	<u>.67</u>	.09	.59

(table continues)

	F1	F2	F3	F4	H2
<u>Life Style Congruence (F4)</u>					
Philosophy of life (VALUE2)	.03	.28	.16	<u>.88</u>	.95
Aims, goals, and things believed important (IMPOT)	.04	.29	.14	<u>.87</u>	.94
Career decisions (DISF)	.05	.30	.16	<u>.85</u>	.89
Eigenvalues (after rotation)	9.77	4.75	3.00	1.59	19.11
Alpha (reliability coefficients)	.92	.84	.84	.98	

### Validity

An important element of any study is an assessment of the relative validity of the instrument within the sample used for analytic purposes. **Face validity** was deemed to be of critical importance in that there has been no previous interpretation of the instruments used in this study for use with Taiwanese couples. The instruments were translated from English to Chinese by the researcher. The translation was verified as correct by Everett W. Savage (153 Ren Yi Street, Kaohsiung, Taiwan), an American missionary who has lived in Taiwan for 35 years (see Appendix A). Mr. Savage speaks fluent English and Chinese as well as Taiwanese. It is assumed that the intent of the questions in the instruments, which have face validity in the United States, carried the same meaning through the translation.

**Content validity** is concerned with the degree to which a measure taps the domain of content being assessed (Miller, 1986). An examination of items comprising the factors derived from the factor analyses (see Tables 2 and 3) suggests that the items are closely correlated one with the other. For example, if the items

associated with factor two are examined from a theoretical perspective, it can be concluded that each item address a substantive aspect of what is more generally referred to in the literature as "role expectation." It is posited that the factors derived from the two instruments retained for the study have content validity.

**Construct validity**, the assessment of the degree of accuracy "in measuring the underlying elements of a scale" (Messick, 1981 cited in Adams & Schvaneveldt, 1985, p. 84), was assessed by comparing the correlations of the factors derived from the Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale with those of the Marital Adjustment Scale. Three of the factors from the Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale were theoretically similar to those of the Marital Adjustment Scale, namely, Role Expectation, Marital Stability, and Life Style Congruence. Table 4 depicts the correlations between these factors. As can be seen, both role expectation and life style congruence are significantly correlated ( $r = .7774$  and  $.6342$ , respectively). While the correlation between the two stability factors is significant, this is probably an artifact of the correlation and represents a large sample ( $r = .1842$ ). Companionate behavior, the fourth factor from the Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale, is not significantly correlated with any of the other factors and thus stands alone. It is also important to note that the stability factor is also correlated ( $r = .4933$ ) with the life style congruence factor. This adds some confusion and may suggest that these factors are not as valid from a construct perspective as would be desired.

It is suggested, in terms of **concurrent validity**, that the factors derived from the two marital satisfaction instruments do correlate with each other (see Table 4) and

that these factors do account for varying degrees of variance associated with marital satisfaction.

Table 4

Correlations Between the Factors of SDAS and Those of MAS

	F1 (M.A.S.)	F2 (M.A.S.)	F3 (M.A.S.)
F1 (D.A.S.)	.2704**	-.0372	.2055**
F2 (D.A.S.)	.7774**	.1834**	-.0785
F3 (D.A.S.)	.0652	.4933**	.1842**
F4 (D.A.S.)	-.0223	.6342**	-.1262**

\* - Signif. LE .05

\*\* - Signif. LE .01

(2-tailed)

@ F1(M.A.S.)- Role Expectation

F2(M.A.S.)- Life Style Congruence

F3(M.A.S.)- Marital Stability

@ F1(D.A.S.)- Companionate Behavior

F2(D.A.S.)- Role Expectation

F3(D.A.S.)- Marital Stability

F4(D.A.S.)- Life Style Congruence

Analysis of the Hypotheses

Hypothesis one: There will be no correlation between the items of the Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale and the Marital Adjustment Scale. Presented in Table 5 are the correlations of the items composing the Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale and those of the Marital Adjustment Scale. As noted from the correlation matrix, many correlations are significant. For the purpose of this study, only those correlations

which are greater than .40 will be considered significant. These results suggest that hypothesis one is rejected.

Table 5

Correlation Matrix of the Items of Each Factor from the MAS Correlated with the Items of Each Factor from the SDAS

	LEAC	WEXF2	ARRF2	SEXLIF2	INLAWS2	HOUSE
SEXLIF1	.51**	.47**	.34**	.81**	.43**	.39**
WEXF1	.44**	.89**	.37**	.33**	.43**	.41**
FRIEND1	.37**	.37**	.28**	.35**	.34**	.27**
INLAWS1	.52**	.46**	.37**	.41**	.86**	.46**
TLEIS1	-.38**	-.25**	-.26**	-.35**	-.19**	-.31**
ARRF1	.58**	.44**	.82**	.42**	.47**	.82**
JUDGE1	.37**	.30**	.35**	.41**	.40**	.50**
REACT1	.34**	.26**	.42**	.33**	.30**	.40**
VALUE1	.40**	.32**	.41**	.30**	.39**	.54**
HNM	.08	.20**	.12**	.05	.13**	.12**
LRV	-.14**	-.35**	-.12**	-.17**	-.19**	-.15**
QO	.22**	.05	.25**	.17**	.13**	.13**

\* - Signif. LE .05

\*\* - Signif. LE .01

(2-tailed)

(table continues)

	FRIEND2	VALUE2	IMPOT	DISF	LEVEH	HLQ
SEXLIF1	.40**	.27**	.28**	.28**	.12**	.11**
WEXF1	.37**	.31**	.32**	.32**	.13**	.03
FRIEND1	.89**	.17**	.19**	.19**	.11**	.04
INLAWS1	.46**	.34**	.34**	.34**	.15**	.09
TLEIS1	-.25**	-.25**	-.25**	-.27**	-.06	-.06
ARRF1	.44**	.52**	.52**	.50**	.18**	.15**
JUDGE1	.30**	.54**	.53**	.52**	.21**	.16**
REACT1	.26**	.40**	.38**	.38**	.19**	.12**
VALUE1	.32**	.90**	.90**	.86**	.23**	.20**
HNM	.29**	.21	.21**	.23**	.49**	.45**
LRV	-.35**	-.19**	-.21**	-.25**	-.24**	-.24**
QO	.05	.09*	.08	.13**	.14**	.09**

\* - Signif. LE .05

\*\* - Signif. LE .01

(2-tailed)

	HOYMU	DRM	DIVOCE	CONFID
SEXLIF1	.18**	.13**	.13**	.26**
WEXF1	.13**	.21**	.20**	.20**
FRIEND1	.04	.12**	.12**	.06
INLAWS1	.21**	.19**	.20**	.22**
TLEIS1	-.08	-.14**	-.14**	-.23**
ARRF1	.17**	.20**	.20**	.22**
JUDGE1	.22**	.21**	.20**	.18**
REACT1	.12**	.16**	.14**	.06
VALUE1	.17**	.25**	.26**	.24**
HNM	.48**	.86**	.89**	.42**
LRV	-.26**	-.35**	-.24**	-.20**
QO	.09*	.08	.14**	.13**

\* - Signif. LE .05

\*\* - Signif. LE .01

(2-tailed)

(table continues)

	COURTH	DIST	WT	LAF	KISS	BETTER
SEXLIF1	.35**	.38**	.32**	.38**	.29**	.27**
WEXF1	.21**	.15**	.18**	.17**	.17**	.22**
FRIEND1	.10**	.14**	.07	.13**	.15**	.10*
INLAWS1	.25**	.21**	.18**	.28**	.19**	.20**
TLEIS1	-.23**	-.29**	-.28**	-.23**	-.23**	-.25**
ARRF1	.16**	.20**	.21**	.17**	.12**	.24**
JUDGE1	.19**	.15**	.16**	.21**	.17**	.24**
REACT1	.01	-.00	-.01	.04	.01	.10*
VALUE1	.19**	.09*	.12**	.18**	.14**	.24**
HNM	.12**	.14**	.18**	.13**	.15**	.35**
LRV	-.24**	-.22**	-.18**	-.19**	-.28**	-.22**
QO	.06	.09*	.05	.10*	-.01	.07

\* - Signif. LE .05

\*\* - Signif. LE .01  
(2-tailed)

Hypothesis two: There will be no correlation between the items of the Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale and the Marital Prediction Test. Due to the fact that the Marital Prediction Test was not found to be reliable in this sample of Taiwanese couples, no further analyses were deemed relevant. Further research will be necessary to answer this particular hypothesis.

Hypothesis three: There will be no difference in the marital satisfaction scores for males and females across the life cycle. The presentation of the findings will be in two ways. First, mean scores were calculated for males and females at each stage of the life cycle for both the Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale and the Marital Adjustment Scale. Means and standard deviations calculated for males and females are reported in Tables 6 and 7 for the Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale and the

Marital Adjustment Scale, respectively. Figures 2 and 3 diagrammatically depict the results presented in Tables 6 and 7.

Table 6

Mean Marital Satisfaction Scores and Standard Deviations

Created from the Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale for

Male and Female

Stage	N	Mean	Ste. Dev
1	M 39	103.08	15.07
	F 39	101.95	13.63
2	M 45	92.31	14.47
	F 45	90.13	13.05
3	M 37	89.30	14.44
	F 37	88.80	13.76
4	M 38	91.05	14.30
	F 38	87.84	17.48
5	M 33	96.79	11.45
	F 33	91.88	19.89
6	M 37	85.68	16.14
	F 37	84.24	15.02
7	M 30	100.34	18.05
	F 30	100.33	14.59



Table 7

Mean Marital Satisfaction Scores and Standard DeviationsCreated from the Marital Adjustment Scale forMale and Female

Stage	N	Mean	Ste. Dev
1	M 39	62.38	9.27
	F 39	57.64	8.06
2	M 45	57.36	8.98
	F 45	55.58	7.51
3	M 37	58.51	8.60
	F 37	55.30	6.07
4	M 38	60.61	8.95
	F 38	57.87	19.79
5	M 33	59.12	5.38
	F 33	61.36	6.95
6	M 37	53.81	7.16
	F 37	56.19	8.84
7	M 30	59.10	10.08
	F 30	56.97	7.01

Clarification of the mean scores presented in table and figure format

necessitated the use of one-way analysis of variance and a  $t$  test. Presented in Tables 8, 9, and 10 are the findings related to whether or not there was a difference in the marital satisfaction scores for male and females across the life cycle. The analyses

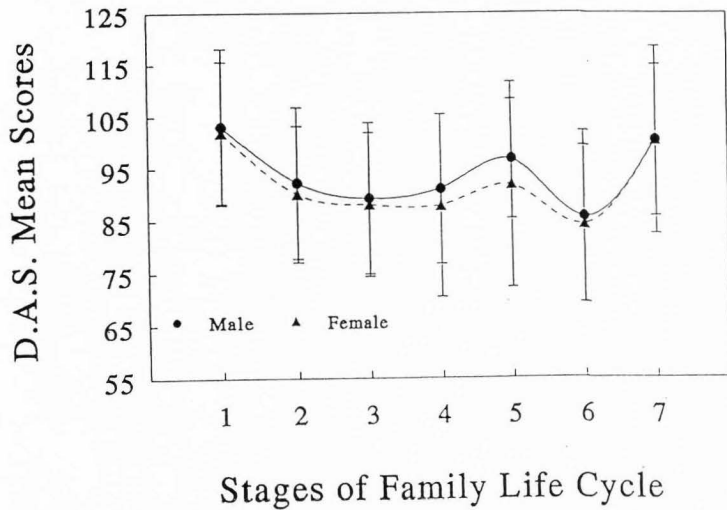


Figure 2. Mean marital satisfaction scores and standard deviations created from the SDAS for male and female.

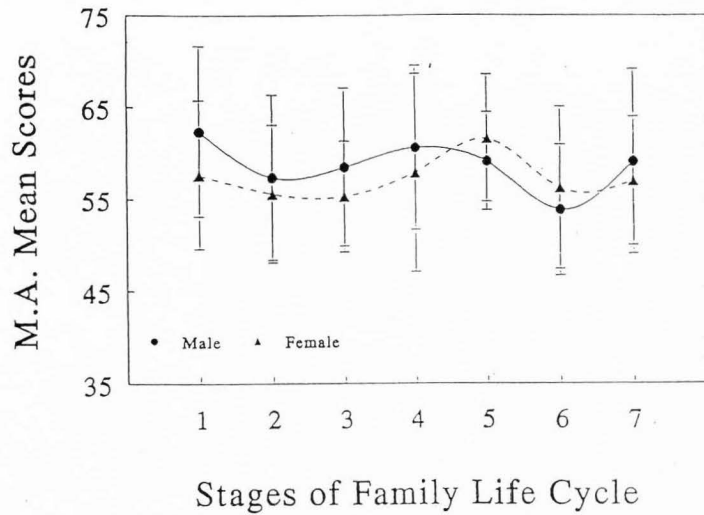


Figure 3. Mean marital satisfaction scores and standard deviations created from the MAS for male and female.

described below are for the Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale and the Marital Adjustment Scale.

Findings pertinent to the Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale. It was found that there was a difference between the respondents' report of marital satisfaction dependent on the stage of the life cycle. **Stage six** is significantly different from **stages one, two, three, four, five, and seven.** **Stage three** is significantly different from **stages one, four, five, and seven.** **Stages two, four, and seven** are all significantly different from **stage one.**

Table 8

One-way Analysis of Variance of Marital Satisfaction Scores by Life Cycle Stage for the SDAS

	Stage	Sta 6	Sta 3	Sta 2	Sta 7	Sta 4	Sta 5	Sta 1
Empty Nest Families	Stage 6							
Families with School-age Children	Stage 3	*						
Families with Preschool Children	Stage 2	*						
Families in Retirement	Stage 7	*	*					
Families with Adolescents	Stage 4	*	*					
Launching Families	Stage 5	*	*					
Young Couple without Children	Stage 1	*	*	*	*	*		

\* Denotes pairs of stages significantly different at the 0.050 level.

Findings pertinent to the Marital Adjustment Scale. In terms of whether or not there is a significant difference in marital satisfaction across the life cycle, the

findings suggest that marital satisfaction of the respondents at **stage six** is significantly different from **stages one, two, three, four, five, and seven**. **Stage three** is significantly different from **stages one, four, five, and seven**. **Stage two** is significantly different from **stages one and seven**. Finally, **stages five and four** are significantly different from **stage one**.

Table 9

One-way Analysis of Variance of Marital Satisfaction Scores by Life Cycle Stage For the MAS

	Stage	Sta 6	Sta 3	Sta 2	Sta 7	Sta 4	Sta 5	Sta 1
Empty Nest Families	Stage 6							
Families with School-age Children	Stage 3	*						
Families with Preschool Children	Stage 2	*						
Launching Families	Stage 5	*	*					
Families with Adolescents	Stage 4	*	*					
Families in Retirement	Stage 7	*	*	*				
Young Couple without Children	Stage 1	*	*	*	*	*		

\* Denotes pairs of stages significantly different at the 0.050 level.

In conclusion, both adjustment scales indicate that marital satisfaction varies according to the stage of the life cycle an individual finds him- or herself in.

It was important to examine whether or not marital satisfaction varied across the life cycle according to the gender of the respondent. The findings, illustrated in

Table 10, demonstrate that there were no significant differences in the level of marital satisfaction reported by males and females.

Table 10

T-test Analyses Examining for Differences in Amount of Marital Satisfaction by Gender for Each Stage of the Life Cycle MAS and SDAS

Variable	F Value	2- tail prob.	T Value	DF	2-tail prob.
MAS					
MALE	1.02	.902	.85	516	.397
FEMALE					
SDAS					
MALE	1.14	.301	.53	515	.596
FEMALE					

Hypothesis four: There will be no difference in the substantive variables related to marital satisfaction for males or females across the life cycle. The analyses associated with Hypothesis Three, as seen in Table 11, were divided by instrument, stage of the life cycle, and gender. The first part of the results reported will focus only on the factors derived from the Marital Adjustment Scale.

In **stage one** of the life cycle (young couples without children), the regression analysis for the males suggests that the most significant variables related to marital satisfaction were life style congruence ( $R^2 = .53$ ) and role expectations ( $R^2 = .15$ ). These two variables account for 68% of the overall variance. For females in this stage of the life cycle, the most pertinent variables related to marital satisfaction were

role expectations ( $R^2=.20$ ) and life style congruence ( $R^2=.10$ ). Only 30% of the variance is accounted for by these variables. In contrast to the males, it appears as though the MAS does not predict as well for females as it does for males.

Table 11

Amount of Variance Accounted for by Each Variable, and in Total, of the MAS by Gender at Each Stage of the Life Cycle

Stage		Role Expectation	Life Style Congruence	Marital Stability	Total $R^2$
1	M	.15	.53		.68
	F	.20	.10		.30
2	M	.17		.20	.37
	F				
3	M	.08	.07	.12	.27
	F			.60	.60
4	M			.46	.46
	F	.32	.11	.09	.52
5	M		.23	.22	.45
	F		.12		.12
6	M	.46	.09	.31	.86
	F	.70	.08	.03	.81
7	M	.12	.12	.52	.76
	F	.51		.17	.68

Relative to **stage two** (couples with preschool children), the results suggest that for males, marital stability ( $R^2=.20$ ) and role expectations ( $R^2=.17$ ) are important to their perception of overall marital satisfaction; whereas for females no

variables were found to be significantly related to marital satisfaction. Thirty-seven percent of the variance is accounted for, but this is only for males. The MAS does not appear to assess the important characteristics associated with the females of this stage.

For findings associated with families with school age children (**stage three** of the life cycle) males report that marital stability ( $R^2 = .12$ ), life style congruence ( $R^2 = .07$ ) and role expectation ( $R^2 = .08$ ) are significantly related to marital satisfaction. A total of 27% of the variance is accounted for by these variables. For females, the findings suggest that only marital stability is related to marital satisfaction ( $R^2 = .60$ ). Sixty percent of the overall variance is accounted for the female at this stage.

At **stage four**, families with adolescents in the home, males report that marital stability is the only significant variable, accounting for 46% of the variance. The single significant variable accounts for 46% of the overall variance. This appears to be an important variable in and of itself for the males' perception of marital satisfaction. Among the female sample at this stage of the life cycle, role expectations ( $R^2 = .32$ ), life style congruence ( $R^2 = .11$ ), and marital stability ( $R^2 = .09$ ) are all significantly related to marital satisfaction. The overall variance is 52%.

Findings relevant to **stage five**, launching families, indicate that marital satisfaction for males is related to marital stability ( $R^2 = .22$ ) and life style congruence ( $R^2 = .23$ ); whereas females report life style congruence ( $R^2 = .12$ ) as the only



significant variable related to their marital satisfaction. The overall variance accounted for the male is 45% whereas only 12% of the variance is noted in the female sample.

Males in **stage six**, empty nest families, report that role expectations ( $R^2=.46$ ), life style congruence ( $R^2=.09$ ), and marital stability ( $R^2=.31$ ) are important variables in the assessment of their level of marital satisfaction. Eighty-six percent of the variance is found to be associated with these three variables among the male sample. Females report that their marital satisfaction is significantly related to role expectations ( $R^2=.70$ ), life style congruence ( $R^2=.08$ ) and marital stability ( $R^2=.03$ ). For the female sample the three variables account for 81%.

Results from **stage seven**, families in retirement, suggest that marital stability ( $R^2=.52$ ), role expectation ( $R^2=.12$ ) and life style congruence ( $R^2=.12$ ) are important to the males' perception of marital satisfaction. Overall variance in marital satisfaction accounted for by these variable is 76%. For females, however, role expectation ( $R^2=.51$ ) and marital stability ( $R^2=.17$ ) were the only two that were related to marital satisfaction. In female marital satisfaction, the variables account for 68% of the variance.

In examining the variables associated with marital satisfaction for males and females, the findings of this portion of the study suggest that the null hypothesis must be rejected in favor of the conclusion that there are differences accounting for marital satisfaction dependent on whether the respondent is male or female.

Table 12

Amount of Variance Accounted For by Each Variable, and in Total, of the SDAS by Gender at Each Stage of the Life Cycle

Stage	Companionate Behavior	Role Expectation	Marital Stability	Life Style Congruence	Total R <sup>2</sup>
1 M	.36				.36
F	.27				.27
2 M		.07			.07
F					
3 M		.33	.15	.09	.57
F	.06	.41	.26	.03	.76
4 M	.22	.09	.15		.46
F	.44	.19		.08	.71
5 M	.40	.25	.05	.21	.91
F		.07	.06	.18	.31
6 M		.53			.53
F	.13	.52	.03	.05	.73
7 M	.38				.38
F	.30				.30

**Stage one** (couples without children) males and females report that their marital satisfaction is significantly related to companionate behavior ( $R^2 = .36$  and  $.27$ , respectively). This is the only variable of significance at this stage of the life cycle and accounted for 68 and 30% of the overall variance, respectively.

For **stage two**, families with preschool children, males report that role expectation ( $R^2 = .07$ ) is important to their marital satisfaction; however, females do not report any of the variables as significant. Overall variance accounted for among

the male sample is 37%. Again, the marital satisfaction must not have been associated with any of the variables in this scale. Further clarification is necessary to better understand those factors which are associated with the marital satisfaction of the female.

Among males in **stage three**, families with school age children, the findings suggest that role expectation ( $R^2 = .33$ ), marital stability ( $R^2 = .15$ ), and life style congruence ( $R^2 = .09$ ) are all important to a sense of marital satisfaction. The overall variance accounted for by these three variables is 57%. For females, role expectation ( $R^2 = .41$ ), marital stability ( $R^2 = .26$ ) companionate behavior ( $R^2 = .06$ ) and life style congruence ( $R^2 = .03$ ) are all critical marital satisfaction variables. Seventy-six percent of the variance is accounted for among the female sample at this stage of the life cycle.

In **stage four**, families with adolescents, for males three variables were found to be significant to their marital satisfaction, namely, companionate behavior ( $R^2 = .22$ ), marital stability ( $R^2 = .15$ ) and role expectations ( $R^2 = .09$ ). Forty-six percent of the overall variance associated with marital satisfaction is accounted for males. For females, companionate behavior ( $R^2 = .44$ ), role expectation ( $R^2 = .19$ ), and life style congruence ( $R^2 = .08$ ) are significantly related to their perception of marital satisfaction. These three variables account for 71% of the overall variance.

At **stage five**, launching families, males report that companionate behavior ( $R^2 = .40$ ), life style congruence ( $R^2 = .21$ ), role expectation ( $R^2 = .25$ ), and marital stability ( $R^2 = .05$ ) are all important determinants of marital satisfaction. A significant

At **stage five**, launching families, males report that companionate behavior ( $R^2 = .40$ ), life style congruence ( $R^2 = .21$ ), role expectation ( $R^2 = .25$ ), and marital stability ( $R^2 = .05$ ) are all important determinants of marital satisfaction. A significant amount of the variance related to marital satisfaction is accounted for with these variables (91%). Females indicate that their marital satisfaction is dependent on life style congruence ( $R^2 = .18$ ), marital stability ( $R^2 = .06$ ), and companionate behavior ( $R^2 = .07$ ). In contrast to the overall variance found for the male, only 31% is accounted for in the female sample.

During **stage six**, empty nest families, males report only one variable as significantly related to marital satisfaction, namely role expectation ( $R^2 = .53$ ). This one variable accounted for 53% of the overall variance. On the other hand, females indicate that four variables are critical: companionate behavior ( $R^2 = .52$ ), life style congruence ( $R^2 = .13$ ), marital stability ( $R^2 = .05$ ), and role expectation ( $R^2 = .03$ ). These four variables account for 73%.

In the **final stage** of the life cycle, retirement families, both males and females report the same variable as significantly related to their marital satisfaction, namely companionate behavior ( $R^2 = .38$  and  $.30$ , respectively). Respectively, 38% and 30% of the overall variance is accounted for.

In stage one and seven it is interesting to note that companionate behavior is reported by both males and females as significant to their perception of marital satisfaction. This is consistent with the hypothesis and therefore the null hypothesis is not rejected relative to the variable "companionate behavior." However, an

hypothesis for the remainder of the variables. These conclusions are specific to the Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale.

## DISCUSSION

Increasing interest in the area of marital satisfaction, stability, and enrichment has been noted among Taiwanese couples, especially due to factors such as the desire for couples to be happy, not just live their life in tradition and amidst the increasing divorce rate. Unfortunately, even though there is research addressing marital satisfaction and stability among Chinese couples in America, minimal research (Chu, 1955, 1962, 1965, and 1966) on the topic has been undertaken directly with Taiwanese couples. The purpose of this thesis was to examine antecedents of marital satisfaction, selected from well-respected Western instruments, among Taiwanese couples across the seven stages of the life cycle.

### Validating Marital Satisfaction Instruments

Because no previous research has attempted to validate marital satisfaction instruments for the Taiwanese population, three common Western instruments were selected, translated, and administered to the sample. These instruments included the Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale, Marital Adjustment Scale, and the Marital Prediction Test. These instruments were used in two important ways in this study. From each of these instruments the researcher has the ability to derive a marital satisfaction score and from this score make some comment on the level of satisfaction for males and females. The second reason for using these instruments was to

determine what variables, derived from subscales from each instrument, would be related to marital satisfaction.

Reliability analyses indicated that the Marital Prediction Test was not reliable for this sample and consequently was dropped from further investigations. The Marital Adjustment Scale, while having only a moderate reliability coefficient, was retained. It was felt that the reliability was sufficient to permit for comparisons with the Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale, which was found to be reliable for the sample.

Validity analyses were completed for the Marital Adjustment Scale and Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale. The results of these analyses suggest that these instruments, even through translated from English to Chinese, maintained face, content, and construct validity.

Inasmuch as only two of the instruments demonstrated sufficient validity and reliability across all seven of the life cycle stages for males and females, the discussion surrounding the hypotheses will focus exclusively on the results derived from these two instruments and their subscales.

### Discussion of the Results

Hypothesis one: There will be no correlation between the items of the Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale and the Marital Adjustment Scale. From the correlation matrix it can be seen that there are many of the items composing the factors derived from the MAS which are significantly correlated with those items comprising the factors from the SDAS. First, caution is warranted. Even though there are a number of significant correlations, it is suggested that some are an artifact of the large sample

size. This is suggested because there are many correlations that are very small ( $r < .40$ ) and, therefore, contribute only slightly to the overall variance.

Of the correlations which can be clearly distinguished as significant ( $r > .40$ ), it is logical to conclude that there are correlations between the items of the SDAS and the MAS.

Hypothesis two: There will be no correlation between the items of the Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale and the Marital Prediction Test. As noted in the Results Section, the reliability of the Marital Prediction Test was so low that it was deemed inappropriate to attempt to advance conclusions from the data from this instrument. Consequently, it was decided not to include the data in any of the analyses to follow.

Hypothesis three: There will be no difference in the marital satisfaction scores for males or females across the life cycle. The intent of this hypothesis was to determine whether or not males and females differed in terms of their level of reported marital satisfaction at the various stages of the life cycle. The findings from the data suggest that for both the MAS and the SDAS, there is variation in the amount of reported marital satisfaction from one stage of the life cycle to the next. As depicted in Figures 2 and 3, at one stage of the life cycle the level of marital satisfaction is greater than it is at other times. While this variation is evident across the life cycle, the difference in the reported level of marital satisfaction between males and females was negligible and thus it must be concluded that there is no difference in the level of reported marital satisfaction for males and females across the life cycle. The null hypothesis is accepted.



Hypothesis four: There will be no difference in the substantive variables related to marital satisfaction for males or females across the life cycle. This hypothesis was designed to permit the research to examine which, if any, substantive variables derived from the factor analyses of the Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale and the Marital Adjustment Scale were significantly related to marital satisfaction. Commonalities and differences in report by gender were considered of greatest relevance. A discussion of the results derived from the Marital Adjustment Scale (MAS) will be presented first, followed by the discussion of the results obtained from the Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale (SDAS). The discussion will proceed from stage one through stage seven.

During **stage one**, that stage of the life cycle when couples are first assimilating and accommodating with one another as a couple, the findings from the MAS suggest that both males and females reported that life style congruence and role expectations were important factors to their overall impression of their marital satisfaction. For males, life style congruence was ranked as most important and role expectations were second. This was the opposite for females. The important element of this analysis is that both are in the process of assimilating values, beliefs, ideologies, extracurricular activities, etc. into a unity. This necessitates considerable focus and attention, accommodating to one another's backgrounds in such a manner that harmony is achieved. In terms of role expectations, both bring perceptions as to the roles their spouse is to engage in. Unfortunately these roles tend to be left unspoken and masked. The literature on role expectations (e.g., Burr, 1973) indicates

that conflict is a product of role discrepancy. Consequently, if roles are not congruent, conflict will eventually evolve. It is ongoing conflict which undermines both marital satisfaction and eventually the stability of the relationship.

From the findings of the SDAS, companionate behavior is essential to both males and females. This is a most important finding and is related to the finding noted above. Companionate behavior, or commonly referred to as behaviors which facilitate companionship, is an expression of unity and harmony within the relationship. It is difficult to imagine that assimilation and accommodation to one another could proceed positively unless the couple are companionate. It is suggested that companionate behavior facilitates the couples' ability to work through the issues of integrating background interests and expectations, serving as a buffer to the conflict which naturally emerges as differences are encountered and encouraging rapprochement, which "occurs when one spouse summarizes what he or she has learned and the other acknowledges the lesson and agrees to a prophylactic change" (Stuart, 1980, p. 300).

At **stage two**, couples with preschool children, a family has been born. It is most critical that the couple has permitted sufficient time to assimilate and accommodate to one another. It has been suggested that this is a period when marital satisfaction may begin to wane. The data from this study suggest that this conclusion is consistent with theory. With this in mind the MAS would suggest that at this stage marital stability and role expectations are pertinent to the males' perception of marital satisfaction. It is interesting to note that none of the MAS subscale variables were

significant for the female. It is likely that this is due to the fact that there are other important antecedents not addressed by this particular instrument. Further research is warranted.

Relative to the findings of the SDAS, males indicate that role expectation is significantly related to their level of marital satisfaction. Again, however, there were no variables which were significant for the females.

These findings are not unlikely considering the fact that the literature would suggest that with the entrance of a child into the family and the amount of time dedicated to the child by, in a traditional sense, the wife/mother, the male may begin to feel a sense of jealousy and insecurity. The stability of the relationship serves as a foundation upon which the male can more easily accept the alteration of the dyad into a triad and the amount of time required by the child. Roles will shift to accommodate to the changes, initially as well as ongoing, and a new role, parenthood, will emerge. Clarification of the shift to bring about more equitable role functioning and discussion of the parenthood expectations are necessary for marital satisfaction.

Families with school-age children, **stage three** of the life cycle, will be experiencing a new and exciting time in their life. For some, a degree of independence may be felt, especially if there is an only child or the family has progressed to the point that all children are in school; however, for some, this time period, especially with large families, offers some sense of independence from child care, yet at the same time they will still be child care responsibilities for children in the home. According to the findings of the MAS analyses, males indicate that marital

stability, life style congruence, and role expectations are related to their perception of marital satisfaction, whereas females report that marital satisfaction is associated with only marital stability<sup>1</sup>.

An examination of the findings from the SDAS suggests that for males, marital satisfaction is dependent, in part, on role expectations, marital stability, and life style congruence. These findings are consistent with those derived from the MAS. As to females, they report that marital satisfaction is related to all four of the variables derived from the SDAS, namely, role expectation, marital stability, companionate behavior, and life style congruence.

General marital stability is founded on marital satisfaction; consequently, it is important to note that males and females both report that a sense of stability in their marriage is important at this time. Perhaps further analyses, e.g., path analysis, would suggest that marital stability is a consequence of the other variables. Future research should address not only the variance accounted for by each of the variables, but also attempt to derive some causal model which may help explain the relationship between the variables for males and females. It is interesting to again note that females indicate that companionate behavior is important to their overall perception of marital satisfaction. It is suggested that male self-esteem, during this stage of the life cycle, is significantly related to their employment and less so to their relationship.

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<sup>1</sup>It should be remembered, and will not be mentioned again until the limitations section, that while it is stated that marital satisfaction is related to this variable or some combination of variables, the universe of antecedents is clearly not being reported on. This is evidenced by the amount of variance accounted for (see Tables 11 & 12). Thus, considerable attention must be given in future studies to address this concern.

On the other hand, the female self-esteem, especially if she is a "homemaker," is grounded in her relationship. This would not be an illogical conclusion to make considering the literature on symbolic interaction and self-esteem (see for example, Blumer, 1969; Manis & Meltzer, 1978). The husband continues to provide the role of significant other to the wife; however, the husband has sufficient diversity provided by his job that the employment can actually become a substitute significant other.

At **stage four**, families with adolescents in the home, issues of separation and individuation are awakened. These issues frequently bring about conflict, not only between the parent and the child but also between the parents as they attempt to parent these adolescents. Males, according to data from the MAS, report that marital stability is important to marital satisfaction, whereas females report role expectations, life style congruence and marital stability to be of significance. In examining the results of the SDAS, males suggest that marital satisfaction is related to companionate behavior, marital stability, and role expectations. For females, companionate behavior, role expectation, and life style congruence are significantly related.

This is a difficult time period for many parents. Adolescents are, through the process of separation and individuation, challenging values and beliefs of their parents while at the same time attempting to establish their own identities independent of the parents. Consequently, it is logical to see the findings as noted above. For example, companionate behavior is important to both males and females. Companionship offers a point of refuge from the turmoil which may be experienced by the couple at this time. Because of the potential individual stress and distress to the relationship, a

strong companionate bond is important. Life style congruence is also a logical finding in that as the adolescent attempts to individuate through challenging parental expectations, parents attempt to maintain some element of control through asserting life style congruence within the family system. Finally, role expectations, especially those associated with parenting, seem critical. Unity in each of these areas permits the couple to maintain some semblance of harmony in the family system, while addressing the challenges brought on by the adolescent and assisting and facilitating proactive development. It is difficult to imagine marital satisfaction to exist if these factors are not consistent with each of the parties. Marital stability will be challenged if these factors are not in harmony.

As couples begin to launch their children, **stage five** of the life cycle, males report that a sense of marital stability and life style congruence is important to their assessment of marital satisfaction. Females indicate that their perception of marital satisfaction is related to life style congruence. Based on the findings of the SDAS, males' companionate behavior, life style congruence, role expectation, and marital stability are important factors. Females indicate that companionate behavior, role expectation, and life style congruence are the most critical variables.

From both instruments, life style congruence is identified by both males and females as an important factor in their marital satisfaction. It is difficult to maintain life style congruence in the face of the challenges of adolescents. However, it is suspected that life style congruence, or the embeddedness of the values, beliefs, social activities, etc. within the relationship, serves as a reminder to the couple that their

lives are not only unified but also that their goals and directions continue in a positive path. This should not be construed to mean that there have not been changes, but rather that any changes adopted by the couple have been through consensus or compromise, thus establishing a win-win opportunity.

Further it should be noted that companionate behavior and marital stability are reported as significant to both parties. In terms of companionate behavior, it is suggested that regardless of all of the stressors, from accommodating and assimilating to each other at stage one through the difficulties of launching the children, that the closer the couple feel toward one another the greater the likelihood that they will experience marital satisfaction and perceive their relationship as stable.

Finally, males continue to be more concerned about role expectations at this stage of the life cycle than do females. Perhaps females have settled into a pattern of role behaviors which are consistent with their perceived roles, whereas males may still find it difficult to make the transitions involved in fulfilling the variety of roles they are engaged in (e.g., employee, father, and even grandfather).

According to the findings from the MAS, males and females at **stage six** (empty nest families) report, though not necessarily in this order, role expectations, life style congruence, and marital stability as important to marital satisfaction. Data from the SDAS indicate that only role expectation is important to the male, but companionate behavior, life style congruence, marital stability, and role expectations are all important to their assessment of marital satisfaction.

Role expectations for males and females are a consistent finding regardless of the instrument employed. This time period is one in which the couple is making the transition back to being a couple without children in the home. Responsibilities once delegated to the children must now be assumed by one or both spouses. Additionally, the couple may now be grandparents and their role in parenting is re-examined, not only from the perspective of their own children but also relative to the grandchildren.

Life style congruence and marital stability are also noted as important to both males and females. This is a period of maintaining a focus on the future with goals consistent with that future. Stability of the marriage may be questioned if the couple has not maintained an intimate companionate relationship. It logically follows that as the children launch from the family, the relationship of the female to the male, in particular if she has not been employed outside the family, becomes a critical factor in her self-esteem and assessment of marital satisfaction. It is more likely for Taiwanese couples to have retained traditional roles which have encouraged females to remain in the home rather than to be employed.

The findings associated with the **final stage** of the life cycle, families in retirement, are most interesting. Data from the MAS suggest that marital stability, role expectation, and life style congruence are important to the male's perception of marital satisfaction. However, only role expectation and marital stability are reported by females. According to the SDAS, both males and females report companionate behavior as the only significant variable.



Of interest is what appears to be the evolution of the couple, coming full cycle from placing importance on the development and implementation of behaviors which encourage companionship during the first stage of the life cycle to the return to this emphasis in the final stage of the life cycle. Again, it is suggested that companionship and the behaviors associated there are of critical importance. While this variable does not necessarily show up at each stage for males and females, its continued appearance serves as an indicator of its relative importance. This interesting finding should not overshadow the fact that marital stability, role expectations, and life style congruence are also essential factors.

#### Limitations Associated with the Study

Several limitations have been identified during the course of the study which may affect the generalizability of the results. The first limitation is that of sampling. Due to the nature of this study and since it was a first of its kind, a convenience sample was selected to ensure as many participants as possible. The lack of randomization will affect the generalizability of the results in that it is not assured from the sample associated with this study that it is a "true" representation of the population.

A second limitation, also related to the sample, deals with the cultural diversity of Taiwan. Taiwan is composed of Japanese, Chinese, and Taiwanese cultures. These cultures may affect the results by the varying interpretations of marital satisfaction. Future research should distinguish the influence of these various cultures on marital satisfaction at each stage of the life cycle.

Third, the operationalization of marital satisfaction among the couples in Taiwan needs further investigation. For example, as noted in the Results, at stage two of the life cycle female respondents did not perceive any of the variables as significantly related to their perception of marital satisfaction. It is important to continue conceptualizing marital satisfaction within this population and not to merely rely on Western instruments.

Also related to operationalization is the manner in which the MAS and SDAS have been created. While they encompass a variety of singular items associated with marital satisfaction, at least from a Western perspective, it is difficult to draw much information about the substantive areas they are to assess. For example, only one item specifically addresses communication. To understand the relationship between communication and marital satisfaction it would be important to have a variety of items specifically related to communication rather than to rely solely on one item.

Finally, the low reliability of the MAS made it difficult to ensure that the results derived were salient across time and samples. It is important that one investigate whether the low reliability was a consequence of the sample, the translation of the instrument, or the ability to truly assess dimensions of marital satisfaction.

### Conclusions and Recommendations

The results of this study, even though generalizability may be weakened by the convenience nature of the sample, can be interpreted in a manner which would permit recommendations to be implemented and assessed.

Research recommendations. The first recommendations deal with future research. It is recommended that more specific operationalization of the concept, marital satisfaction, be addressed. This can be done with the use of current instruments; however, it would be useful to consider new items based on interviews with Taiwanese couples at various stages of the life cycle. As the instruments are designed for these couples, researchers are encouraged to develop validity scales to assess the level of "answer truthfulness." This seems to be an element of psychometric development missing even among most of the commonly used Western marital and family instruments. Needless to say, validity and reliability assessment must continue throughout the conceptualization process. Finally, as the concept is more accurately conceptualized, the research method employed in the investigation of the specified variables should be causal in nature. Causal modeling would permit the researcher to assess the nature and direction of influence of the variables (e.g., marital stability a consequence of other variables, such as life style congruence, companionate behavior, etc., or antecedent thereof).

Clinical/psychoeducational recommendations. As the scientific method more accurately delineates the nature of the antecedents of marital satisfaction among Taiwanese couples, clinical strategies and psychoeducational programs can be developed. It is felt, however, that the results of this study have been of sufficient help that some general recommendations in these areas can be made at this time. First, it is highly recommended that some form of marriage and family therapy clinical training be initiated to begin intervening in marital and family issues presently

existing. The knowledge advanced from this study can serve as a beginning point in understanding some of the changes couples may experience at varying stages of the life cycle. In addition, it is suggested that as clinicians intervene in marital and family issues that their knowledge can be shared with researchers interested in this topic for empirical investigation. The coordinated efforts of the researcher with the clinician are invaluable.

Second, based on the data from this study and that which could be assimilated from clinicians, marital and family enrichment strategies and curriculum could be developed. Paraprofessionals, under the supervision of a marriage and family therapist, could be trained to present and assess these programs. Governmental agencies, employers, and religious organizations would be encouraged to facilitate the enrichment seminars.

Finally, it is recommended that a preventive program be developed. Inasmuch as the divorce rate among Taiwanese couples has increased dramatically, several points of prevention could be implemented. One logical point of prevention would be premaritally. That is, prior to the initiation of marriage, couples would be encouraged to participate in premarital seminars designed to enhance communication, effective sexual interaction, assimilation and accommodation of values, beliefs, and ideologies, etc. The other point of prevention intervention would be in the schools. Children through adolescence could be taught relationship skills commensurate with proactive and productive interaction. These skills would be age-specific and

contextualized to the needs at that particular age (e.g., social skills to younger children, dating skills and sexual information to adolescents, etc.).

Overall, this study has proved to provide considerable enlightenment relative to marital satisfaction among Taiwanese couples. While only the "tip of the iceberg" has been addressed in this study, it must be considered as seminal in that there is only minimal information related to this topic at this time. It is hoped that this research is only the beginning of our understanding of marital satisfaction within this population and that other interested scholars will continue the work which has been begun.

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## APPENDICES

Appendix A

Letter of Verification  
Mr. Everett Savage

153 Ren Yi St.  
Kaohsiung, Taiwan  
Dec. 31, 1991

To Whom it may Concern:

This is being written to certify that I have worked with Miss Sheng-Te Chang to prepare survey questionnaires to be used in social surveys on marriage. These questionnaires were translations of survey questionnaires used in the United States. Miss Chang translated them into Chinese and I checked and corrected them to reflect the same ideas and nuances as the original. For the few questions where that was impossible, we used an appropriate question reflecting local backgrounds.

I am an ordained pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America serving as a missionary in Taiwan. During thirty- three years of living and working in Taiwan I have been involved with congregational activities, with many social service agencies (suicide prevention, services to minority and displaced populations, employment assistance, etc.), educational units (especially kindergarten and nursery schools) and charity institutions (serving two years as superintendent of an orphanage-old folks home with a census of 150 for 2 years and as chaplain and then superintendent of a 75 bed hospital from its inception 23 years ago). Leadership of this hospital includes direct supervision of its counseling center which provides one of very few effective services for rape/incest/abuse victims and which conducts a strong in-service training in Transactional Analysis for people (about 55 individuals at present.) involved in psychotherapy or counseling. I have served on numerous boards and planning commissions for such agencies and institutions. I am presently the initiator and board chairman for an association dedicated to addiction recovery. I have had courses in sociology at the University of Washington on the graduate level. I participated in the study which culminated in the book Taiwan Value Survey.

I will be very appreciative of any assistance given Miss chang as I look forward to receiving data and interpretations that come out of this survey. It should be very valuable to those in counseling here in taiwan, as marriage attitudes and situations are undergoing great change and great stress.

Cordially,

  
Everett W. Savage

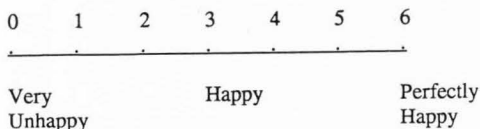
Appendix B

Marital Adjustment Scale  
Marital Prediction Test  
Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale  
English and Chinese Translations

## Appendix B

## Marital- Adjustment Test

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.



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	Occasionally Disagree	Frequently Disagree	Almost Always Disagree	Always Disagree
2. Handling family finances	5	4	3	2	1	0
3. Matters of recreation	5	4	3	2	1	0
4. Demonstrations of affection	5	4	3	2	1	0
5. Friends	5	4	3	2	1	0
6. Sex relations	5	4	3	2	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 :

1. husband giving in, 2. wife giving in, 3. agreement by mutual give and take.

**Marital- Adjustment Test**

11. Do you and your mate engage in outside interests together? 1. all of them, 2. some of them, 3. none of them.
12. In leisure time do you generally prefer to be 1. "on the go", 2. stay at home;  
Does your mate generally prefer to be 1. "on the go", 2. stay at home.
13. Do you ever wish you had not married? 1. Frequently, 2. occasionally, 3. rarely,  
4. never.
14. If you had your life to live over, do you think you would 1. marry the same  
person, 2. marry a different person, 3. not marry at all.
15. Do you confide in your mate 1. almost never, 2. rarely, 3. in the most things, 4.  
in everything.



### The Short Marital-Prediction Test

1. Circle the number which represents the highest grade of schooling which you had completed at the time of your marriage:
  1. elementary school,
  2. junior high school,
  3. high school,
  4. college of two years,
  5. college of three years,
  6. university,
  7. graduate school.
2. Check the number which represents your age at the marriage, 1. 19 and under, 2. 20- 24, 3. 25-30, 4. 31 and over.
3. How long did you "keep company" with your mate before marriage? 1. 1 to 3 months, 2. 3 to 6 months, 3. 6 months to 1 years, 4. 1 to 2 years, 5. 2 to 3 years, 6. 3 years or longer.
4. How long had you known your mate at the time of your marriage 1. 1 to 3 months, 2. 3 to 6 months, 3. 6 months to 1 years, 4. 1 to 2 years, 5. 2 to 3 years, 6. 3 years or longer.
5. My father had mother 1. both approved my marriage, 2. both disapproved my marriage, 3. father disapproved, 4. mother disapproved.
6. My childhood and adolescence, for the most part, were spent in 1. open country, 2. a town of 2,500 population or under, 3. a city of 2,500 to 10,000, 4. 10,000 to 50,000, 5. 50,000 and over.
7. Did you ever attend Sunday school or other religious school for children and young people 1. yes, 2. no.  
If answer is yes, at what age did you stop attending such a school? 1. 10 years old, 2. 11 to 18 years, 3. 19 and over, 4. still attending.
8. Religious activity at time of marriage 1. never attended church, 2. attended less than once more per month, 3. once per month, 4. twice, 5. three times, 6. four times, 7. more than four times.
9. Indicate the number of your friends of the same sex before marriage 1. almost none, 2. a few, 3. several, 4. many.
10. Before your marriage how much conflict was there between you and your father 1. none, 2. very little, 3. moderate, 4. a good deal, 5. almost continuous.

### The Short Marital-Prediction Test

11. Before your marriage how much attachment was there between you and your father 1. none, 2. very little, 3. moderate, 4. a good deal, 5. very close.
12. Before your marriage how much conflict was there between you and your mother 1. none, 2. very little, 3. moderate, 4. a good deal, 5. almost continuous.
13. Before your marriage how much attachment was there between you and your mother 1. none, 2. very little, 3. moderate, 4. a good deal, 5. very close.
14. Give your appraisal of the happiness of your parents' marriage 1. very happy, 2. happy, 3. about averagely happy, 4. unhappy, 5. very unhappy.
15. My childhood on the whole was 1. very happy, 2. happy, 3. about averagely happy, 4. unhappy, 5. very unhappy.
16. In my childhood I was 1. punished severely for every little thing, 2. was punished frequently, 3. was occasionally punished, 4. never.
17. In my childhood the type of training in my home was 1. exceedingly strict, 2. firm but not harsh, 3. usually allowed to have my own way, 4. had my own way about everything, 5. irregular.
18. What was your parents' attitude toward your early curiosities about birth and sex 1. frank and encouraging, 2. answered briefly, 3. evaded or lie to me, 4. rebuffed or punished me, 5. I didn't disclose my curiosity to them.
19. My general mental ability, compared to my mate's is 1. very superior to his (hers), 2. somewhat greater, 3. about equal, 4. somewhat less, 5. considerably less.
20. Before marriage what was your general attitude toward sex 1. one of disgust and aversion, 2. indifference, 3. interest and pleasant anticipation, 4. eager and passionate longing.
21. Do you often feel lonesome, even when you with other people 1. yes, 2. no, 3. ?.
22. Are you usually even-tempered and happy in your outlook on life 1. yes, 2. no, 3. ?.
23. Do you often feel just miserable 1. yes, 2. no, 3. ?.
24. Does some particular useless thought keep coming into your mind to bother you 1. yes, 2. no, 3. ?.

**The Short Marital-Prediction Test**

25. Do you often experience periods of loneliness 1. yes, 2. no, 3. ?.
26. Are you in general self-confident about your abilities 1. yes, 2. no, 3. ?.
27. Are you touchy on various subjects 1. yes, 2. no, 3. ?.
28. Do you frequently feel grouchy 1. yes, 2. no, 3. ?.
29. Do you usually avoid asking advice 1. yes, 2. no, 3. ?.
30. Do you prefer to be alone at times of emotional stress 1. yes, 2. no, 3. ?.
31. Do your feelings alternate between happiness and sadness without apparent reason  
1. yes, 2. no, 3. ?.
32. Are you often in a state of excitement 1. yes, 2. no, 3. ?.
33. Are you considered critical of other people 1. yes, 2. no, 3. ?.
34. Does discipline make you discontented 1. yes, 2. no, 3. ?.
35. Do you always try carefully to avoid saying anything that may hurt anyone's  
feelings 1. yes, 2. no, 3. ?.

## Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale

	Always Agree	Almost Always Agree	Occasionally Disagree	Frequently Disagree	Almost Always Disagree	Always Disagree
1. Handling family finances	5	4	3	2	1	0
2. Matters of recreation	5	4	3	2	1	0
3. Religious matters	5	4	3	2	1	0
4. Demonstrations of affection	5	4	3	2	1	0
5. Friends	5	4	3	2	1	0
6. Sex relations	5	4	3	2	1	0
7. Conventionality (correct or proper behavior)	5	4	3	2	1	0
8. Philosophy of life	5	4	3	2	1	0
9. Ways of dealing with parents or inlaws	5	4	3	2	1	0
10. Aims, goal, and things believed important	5	4	3	2	1	0
11. Amount of time spent together	5	4	3	2	1	0
12. Making major decision	5	4	3	2	1	0
13. Household tasks	5	4	3	2	1	0
14. Leisure time interests and activities	5	4	3	2	1	0
15. Career decisions	5	4	3	2	1	0

## Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale

	All the Time	Most of Time	More Often Than Not	Occasionally	Rarely	Never
16. How often do you discuss or have you considered divorce, separation, or terminating your relationship?	0	1	2	3	4	5
17. How often do you or your mate leave the house after a fight?	0	1	2	3	4	5
18. In general, how often do you think that things between you and your partner are going well?	5	4	3	2	1	0
19. Do you confide in your mate?	5	4	3	2	1	0
20. Do you ever regret that you married?	0	1	2	3	4	5
21. How often do you and your partner quarrel?	0	1	2	3	4	5
22. How often do you and your mate "get on each other's nerves"?	0	1	2	3	4	5

	Almost Every Day	Every Day	Occasionally	Rare	
23. Do you kiss your mate?	4	3	2	1	0

	All of Them	Most of th.	Some of th.	Very few	None of them
24. Do you and your mate engage in outside interests together?	4	3	2	1	0

## Spanier Dyadic Adjustment Scale

How often would you say the following events occur between you and your mate?

	Never	Less Than Once a Month	Once/ Twice a Month	Once/ Twice Week	Once a Day	Often
25. Have a stimulating exchange of ideas	0	1	2	3	4	5
26. Laugh together	0	1	2	3	4	5
27. Discuss something	0	1	2	3	4	5
28. Work together on a project	0	1	2	3	4	5

These are some things about which couples sometimes agree and sometimes disagree. Indicate if either item below caused differences of opinions or were problems in your relationship during the past few weeks (check yes or no).

	Yes	No	
29.	0	1	Being too tired for sex.
30.	0	1	Not showing love.

31. The dots on the following line represent different degrees of happiness in your relationship. The middle point, "happy," represents the degree of happiness of the most relationship. Please circle the dot that best describes the degree of happiness. All things considered of your relationship.

0      1      2      3      4      5      6

---

- 0 = EXTREMELY UNHAPPY  
 1 = FAIRLY UNHAPPY  
 2 = A LITTLE UNHAPPY  
 3 = HAPPY  
 4 = VERY HAPPY  
 5 = EXTREMELY HAPPY  
 6 = PERFECT

32. Which of the following statements best describes how you feel about the future of your relationship?

- 5 I want desperately for my relationship to succeed, and would go to almost any length to see that it does.  
 4 I want very much for my relationship to succeed, and will do all I can to see that it does.  
 3 I want very much for my relationship to succeed, and will do my fair share to see that it does.  
 2 It would be nice if my relationship succeeded, but I can't do much more than I am doing now to help it succeed.  
 1 It would be nice if it succeeded, but I refuse to do any more than I am doing now to keep the relationship going.  
 0 My relationship can never succeed, and there is no more that I can do to keep the relationship going.

敬啟者：好，我是一正就讀於美國猶它州立大學 (Utah State University) 的 Family and Human Development 系學生。我想來探討您與您的配偶在婚姻中的滿意度，以及您對婚姻的看法。這項研究是為一項關於婚姻滿意度的研究。如果您能抽出幾分鐘的時間來填寫這份問卷，將對我的研究大有裨益。這份問卷是匿名的，您的回答將被嚴格保密。如果您有任何問題，請隨時與我聯繫。我的電話號碼是 (07) 5816294。謝謝您的合作。

張聖德 敬上

P.S. 對研究結果有興趣，或對問卷有問題的受試者可和我直接聯絡，我的電話是：(07) 5816294。

基本資料 (請圈選正確的選項)：

- 您的性別是：1. 男，2. 女
- 您今年幾歲：1. 20 歲以下，2. 25 歲，3. 26-30 歲，4. 31-35 歲，5. 36-40 歲，6. 40-45 歲，7. 46-50 歲，8. 51-55 歲，9. 56-60 歲，10. 61-65 歲，11. 66-70 歲，12. 71-75 歲，13. 76-80 歲，14. 81 歲以上
- 您結婚多久了：1. 一年以下，2. 一年至五年之間，3. 五年至十年之間，4. 十年至十五年之間，5. 十五年至二十年之間，6. 二十年至二十五年之間，7. 二十五年至三十年之間，8. 三十五年至四十年之間，9. 四十年至四十五年之間，10. 五十年以上
- 您有幾個孩子：-----，各幾歲-----
- 您全家每月的收入大約是：1. 一萬元以下，2. 一萬至一萬五千元之間，3. 一萬五千元至二萬元之間，4. 二萬至二萬五千元之間，5. 二萬五千元至三萬元之間，6. 三萬至三萬五千元之間，7. 三萬五千元至四萬元之間，8. 四萬至四萬五千元以上
- 您每一星期花在工作上的時數有多少？1. 45 小時以下，2. 45 至 50 小時之間，3. 50 至 55 小時之間，4. 55 至 60 小時之間，5. 60 至 65 小時之間，6. 65 至 70 小時之間，7. 70 至 75 小時之間，8. 75 至 80 小時之間，9. 80 小時以上

## 婚姻調適問卷

1. 請圈選下列表格上的數字，這些數字是代表快樂的程度，請就你目前婚姻中人致的情況來加以考慮。中間分數（15分）是代表一般人對婚姻覺得快樂的程度；最左邊的分數（0分）則代表少數人對婚姻覺得非常不快樂的程度；最右邊的分數（35分）則代表另一些人對婚姻感覺非常滿意的程度。

0	2	7	15	20	25	35
◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎	◎
非 不快樂			快樂		非 快樂	

- 圈選出一個足以代表你和你另一半在討論下列事務時彼此看法相同或不相同的數字，每個數字代表的意義如下：0 = 總是不相同；1 = 幾乎常常不相同；2 = 時常不相同；3 = 偶而不相同；4 = 幾乎常常相同；5 = 總是相同。

2. 安排家庭財務	5	4	3	2	1	0
3. 休閒活動	5	4	3	2	1	0
4. 感情的表達	5	4	3	2	1	0
5. 朋友	5	4	3	2	1	0
6. 性生活	5	4	3	2	1	0
7. 對行為好壞，對錯和恰當與不恰當的判定	5	4	3	2	1	0
8. 價值觀	5	4	3	2	1	0
9. 和岳父母相處的方式	5	4	3	2	1	0

◎ 請仔細考慮下列問句，就最符合你心目中的答案，以打勾方式選擇出來。

10. 當爭執發生時，它們通常都是以什麼方式結束？

先生先放棄；  
太太先放棄；  
以成熟的方式討論，彼此作合理的讓步。

11. 你和你的另一伴有一起從事休閒活動麼？

有，全部的活動都一起從事；  
有，但只是一些活動一起從事；  
沒有，都沒有一起從事活動。

12. 在休閒時間裏，你通常比較會：

走走動動；  
待在家裏；  
在休閒時間裏，你的另一伴比較喜歡：  
走走動動；  
待在家裏。



13. 你希望你自己沒結過婚麼？  
常常如此希望；  
有時如此希望；  
很少希望；  
從沒希望。
14. 如果你能使你的生命重新來過，你會和.....  
同一個人結婚；  
同一個人完全不同的人結婚；  
不再結婚。
15. 當你心中有事時，你會不會跟你的配偶講呢？  
從不講；  
有時會講；  
大部份會講；  
什麼事都會講。

### 婚姻預測問卷

請仔細考慮下列問句，就最符合你心目中的答案，以打勾或圈選的方式選擇出來。

- 你結婚時的學歷是.....  
 小學 1 2 3 4 5 6; 年級。  
 中學 1 2 3; 年級。  
 高中(商,工) 1 2 3; 五專 1 2 3 4 5; 年級。  
 二專 1 2; 三專 1 2 3; 年級。  
 大學 1 2 3 4; 年級。  
 研究所。
- 你結婚時的年紀是.....  
 十九歲(含以下);  
 二十到二十四歲;  
 二十五到三十歲;  
 三十一歲(含以上)。
- 在你結婚前,你和你的配偶較親密的往來,持續了多長的時間?  
 一 到三個月;  
 三到六個月;  
 六個月到一年;  
 一年到二年;  
 二年到三年;  
 三年以上。
- 直到結婚時,你與你的配偶相識有多久?  
 一 到三個月;  
 三到六個月;  
 六個月到一年;  
 一年到二年;  
 二年到三年;  
 三年以上。
- 你的父母親對你的婚姻都持支持的態度嗎?  
 父母都支持;  
 父母都不支持;  
 父親支持;  
 母親不支持。
- 你的童年和青少年期,大部分是生活在.....  
 鄉村;  
 一個人口只有2500或更少的小鎮;  
 一個人口介於2500到10000的城市;  
 一個10000到50000人口的城市;  
 一個50000人以上的城市。
- 你曾經上過教會或去過寺廟嗎?  
 有的; 沒有;  
 如果有的回答是有的,那麼在幾歲時你便不再上教會或去寺廟了?  
 十歲以前;  
 十一歲到十八歲;  
 十九歲以後;  
 到現在仍然有上教會或去寺廟。

8. 到你結婚的時候，你多次上一次教會或去一次拜廟？  
 從沒去過；  
 一個月少於一次；  
 一個月一次；  
 一個月二三次；  
 一個月三、四次；  
 一個月四、五次；  
 一個月四次以上。
9. 在結婚前，你有幾位要好的同性朋友？  
 沒有；  
 二位；  
 一些；  
 很多。
10. 在你結婚前，你和你父親之間有沒有發生衝突？  
 沒有；  
 一點；  
 適中；  
 很多；  
 一直都有。
11. 在你結婚前，你和你父親的關係是.....  
 親近；  
 少親近；  
 適度親近；  
 比較多親近；  
 很親近。
12. 在你結婚前，你和你母親之間有沒有發生衝突？  
 沒有；  
 一點；  
 適中；  
 很多；  
 一直都有。
13. 在你結婚前，你和你母親的關係是.....  
 親近；  
 少親近；  
 適度親近；  
 比較多親近；  
 很親近。
14. 對你父母的婚姻作評估，你覺得他們的婚姻是.....  
 非常幸福；  
 幸福；  
 還好；  
 不幸福；  
 非常不幸福。
15. 大說說來，你的童年是.....  
 非常快樂；  
 快樂；  
 還好；  
 不快樂；  
 非常不快樂。

16. 在你的童年，你.....  
 常常被處罰的很嚴厲；  
 常常被處罰；  
 很少被處罰；  
 從未  
 被處罰。
17. 在你的童年，你的父母雙親以何種方式管教你？  
 非常嚴酷；  
 嚴格但不嚴；  
 允許自己有自己意見表達；  
 任何事都隨我意思；  
 沒有管我（放任我）。
18. 你父母對於你有關生育和性的好奇，有什麼反應？  
 坦白的鼓勵；  
 坦白的回答我；  
 迴避或對我說謊；  
 拒絕或對我說謊；  
 我對它們並不好奇。
19. 我的心智能力，和我的另一伴相比.....  
 高他（她）許多；  
 高他（她）一些；  
 彼此大約一樣；  
 有些遜色；  
 嚴重落後。
20. 婚前，你對於性有什麼樣的態度？  
 壓抑和反感；  
 無所謂；  
 有與興趣並高與期待著；  
 渴望和熱切期待著。
21. 你會常常覺得寂寞嗎，即使是在群眾中？  
 是的；  
 沒有；  
 無意見。
22. 你是否常常覺得平靜快樂呢？  
 是的；  
 沒有；  
 無意見。
23. 你是否常常會覺的自己很不幸？  
 是的；  
 沒有；  
 無意見。
24. 是否會有一些特別但卻無聊的思緒總是困擾著你？  
 是的；  
 沒有；  
 無意見。
25. 你是否常常會經歷一段時間的孤單？  
 是的；  
 沒有；  
 無意見。

26. 一般而言，你對你的能力有信心嗎？  
是的；  
沒有；  
無意見。
27. 有沒有特別的事情，是一提到就會使你很介意（生氣）的？  
有的；  
沒有；  
無意見。
28. 你會常常覺得情緒不佳嗎？  
是的；  
沒有；  
無意見。
29. 你是否總是避免去詢問他人的意見？  
是的；  
沒有；  
無意見。
30. 在你情緒有壓力時，是否比較喜歡衝動？  
是的；  
不是；  
無意見。
31. 情緒的轉變是否通常是無任何明顯的理由？  
是的；  
不是；  
無意見。
32. 你總是常常處於興奮狀態嗎？  
是的；  
不是；  
無意見。
33. 你會常批評別人嗎？  
是的；  
會；  
不會；  
無意見。
34. 被管教和受責備會使你覺得不舒服嗎？  
是的；  
不會；  
無意見。
35. 你是否總是小心翼翼地避免去傷害別人的感情？  
是的；  
不是；  
無意見。



==請仔細考慮下列問句，就最符合你心目中的答案，以打勾方式表式出來。

	總是會 想到	常常會 想到	時常會 想到	偶而會 想到	很少會 想到	從不 想到
16. 你多常會考慮到要以離婚、分居來終止你們之間的婚姻關係？	___	___	___	___	___	___
17. 你或你的配偶多常在一場吵架後離家而去？	___	___	___	___	___	___
18. 一般而言，你多常會想到你們之間的關係會愈來愈好？	___	___	___	___	___	___
19. 你對你的配偶有信心嗎？	___	___	___	___	___	___
20. 你是否曾後悔結婚了？	___	___	___	___	___	___
21. 你多常和你的配偶吵架？	___	___	___	___	___	___
22. 你們之間多常會使彼此不愉快？	___	___	___	___	___	___

每天      幾乎天天      時常      很少      從不

23. 你親吻你的配偶嗎？	___	___	___	___	___	___
	所有活動 一起從事	大部份活動 一起從事	部份活動 一起從事	很少活動 一起從事	從不一 起從事	

24. 你和你的配偶一起從事戶外休閒？	___	___	___	___	___	___
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==你和你的配偶會多常從事下列事情：

	從不	一個月一次	一個月一次 或兩次	一個星期 一或兩次	常常
25. 鼓勵性地交換著彼此的想法	___	___	___	___	___
26. 一起大笑	___	___	___	___	___
27. 共同討論事情	___	___	___	___	___
28. 為一目標共同工作	___	___	___	___	___

- 同意      不同意
- 
29. \_\_\_\_\_ 對性事感到疲倦了。
30. \_\_\_\_\_ 沒有表現愛意。
31. 請圈選下列直線上的數字，這些數字是代表你在你目前的婚姻關係中感到快樂與否的程度。每一數字都代表著一種快樂與否的程度。

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
非常 不快樂	時常 不快樂	有些 不快樂	快樂	很快樂	非常 快樂	太完美

32. 下列敘述句，那一句最能描述你對你未來的婚姻狀況的感受？

- \_\_\_\_\_ 我會不計任何代價盡力做好任何對我婚姻有利的事，好使我的婚姻美滿。
- \_\_\_\_\_ 我會盡我最大的努力做好任何對我婚姻有利的事，好使我的婚姻美滿。
- \_\_\_\_\_ 我會盡我努力做好任何對我婚姻有利的事，好使我的婚姻美滿。
- \_\_\_\_\_ 能使婚姻更美滿是很好的，但我覺得我未來不可能做的比現在更好。
- \_\_\_\_\_ 能使婚姻更美滿是很好的，但我拒絕做些改變，因為現在已經很好了。
- \_\_\_\_\_ 我的婚姻永遠不會美滿，我對這關係也不會再做什麼努力。



## Appendix C

Descriptive Statistic  
Eighty Nine Variables of the Study

### Descriptives of All Variables

Stages	N	N <sub>M</sub> N <sub>F</sub>	AGE M <sub>i</sub> (RANGE)	HLGM M <sub>i</sub> (RANGE)	INCOME M <sub>i</sub> (RANGE)	HMHW M <sub>i</sub> (RANGE)
1	78	39 39	3.49(2-6) 3.05(2-4)	1.46(1-3) 1.56(1-3)	4.03(2-8) 3.95(1-8)	2.62(1-7) 1.85(1-4)
2	90	45 45	4.04(2-6) 3.56(2-5)	2.29(1-4) 2.29(1-4)	4.24(1-8) 4.31(1-8)	2.78(1-7) 2.47(1-10)
3	74	37 37	4.92(3-6) 4.54(3-6)	3.27(3-4) 3.19(3-4)	5.11(3-8) 4.78(3-8)	2.50(1-6) 2.08(1-10)
4	76	38 38	6.21(4-8) 5.61(4-7)	4.50(4-6) 4.47(4-5)	4.63(3-7) 4.76(3-8)	2.59(1-8) 3.21(1-8)
5	66	33 33	8.18(6-10) 6.94(6-8)	6.39(6-8) 6.48(6-8)	4.58(3-6) 4.82(3-6)	3.45(1-7) 1.79(1-4)
6	74	37 37	9.41(8-10) 7.95(7-9)	8.19(7-9) 7.86(7-9)	5.35(3-8) 5.31(3-8)	2.73(1-6) 3.11(1-7)
7	60	30 30	11.60(10-13) 10.77(10-12)	10.67(9-12) 10.57(9-12)	1.70(1-3) 1.70(1-3)	1.03(1-2) 1.03(1-2)

\* AGE- How old are you 1.below 20y, 2.21-25y, 3.26-30y, 4.31-35y, 5.36-40y, 6.41-45y, 7.46-50y, 8.51-55y, 9.56-60y, 10.61-65y, 11.66-70y, 12.71-75y, 13.76-80y, 14.above 81y.

\* HLGm- How long have you married 1.below 1y, 2.1-5y, 3.5-10y, 4.10-15y, 5.15-20y, 6.20-25y, 7.25-30y, 8.30-35y, 9.35-40y, 10.40-45y, 11.45-50y, 12.above 50y.

\* INCOME- Whole family's income 1.below 15000NT, 2.15000-30000NT, 3.30000NT-55000NT, 4.55000-80000NT, 5.80000-105000NT, 6.105000-130000NT, 7.130000NT-150500NT, 8.above 155000NT.

\* HMHW- How many hours you spend on work in a week 1.below 45h, 2.45-50h, 3.50-55h, 4.55-60h, 5.60-65h, 6.65-70h, 7.70-75h, 8.75-80h, 9.80-85h, 10.above 85h.

Stages	NFC M,(RANGE)	EDBG M,(RANGE)	WYGM M,(RANGE)	MS M,(RANGE)	ARRF1 M,(RANGE)	REACT1 M,(RANGE)
1	0(0-0) 0(0-0)	5.74(3-7) 4.95(3-7)	3.23(3-4) 2.90(2-4)	4.79(3-6) 4.79(2-6)	3.59(1-5) 3.62(0-5)	3.08(0-5) 2.79(11-5)
2	1.31(1-3) 1.21(1-3)	5.11(3-7) 4.80(2-7)	3.13(2-4) 2.96(2-4)	4.22(1-6) 4.02(1-6)	3.42(1-5) 3.27(0-5)	3.38(1-5) 3.18(0-5)
3	2.03(1-3) 2.03(1-3)	5.22(3-7) 4.71(2-7)	2.92(1-4) 3.03(2-4)	3.95(3-5) 3.68(2-6)	3.51(1-5) 3.65(2-5)	3.46(2-5) 3.24(2-5)
4	2.34(1-4) 2.34(1-4)	5.05(3-7) 4.35(3-6)	2.92(2-4) 2.70(2-4)	4.47(2-6) 4.26(2-6)	3.55(2-5) 3.42(0-5)	3.32(1-4) 3.39(2-5)
5	2.91(2-5) 2.91(2-5)	5.09(1-7) 3.55(1-6)	2.79(2-4) 2.30(2-3)	4.42(2-6) 4.18(0-6)	3.88(2-5) 3.33(2-5)	3.79(2-5) 3.39(2-5)
6	3.59(2-5) 3.59(2-5)	4.65(3-6) 3.35(1-6)	3.05(2-4) 2.16(2-4)	3.19(2-5) 3.27(2-5)	3.16(1-5) 3.43(2-5)	3.08(2-5) 3.14(1-5)
7	4.80(2-7) 4.80(2-7)	2.00(1-6) 1.37(1-3)	3.17(3-4) 2.80(2-4)	4.40(2-6) 4.70(3-6)	3.43(1-5) 3.53(0-5)	3.03(0-5) 3.30(2-4)

\* NFC- Number of children you have.....

\* EDBG- What's the highest grade of schooling which you had completed at the time of your marriage 1.elementary school, 2.junior high school, 3.high school, 4.2y's college, 5.3y' college, 6.university, 7.graduate school.

\* WYGM- your age at the time of marriage 1.19 and under, 2.20-24y, 3.25-30y, 4.30 and over.

\* MS- Marital satisfaction 0.very unhappy-1-2-3.happy-4-5-6.perfectlyhappy.

\* ARRF1- Handling family finances 0.always disagree, 1.almost always disagree, 2.frequently disagree, 3.occasionally disagree, 4.almost always agree, 5.always agree.

\* REACT1- Matters of recreation 0.always disagree, 1.almost always disagree, 2.almost always disagree, 3.frequently disagree, 4.occasionally disagree, 4.almost always agree, 5.always agree.

Stages	WEXF1 M,(RANGE)	FRIEND1 M,(RANGE)	SEXLIF1 M,(RANGE)	JUDGE1 M,(RANGE)	VALUE1 M,(RANGE)	INLAWS1 M,(RANGE)
1	3.67(1-5) 3.72(2-5)	3.15(1-5) 2.95(0-5)	4.21(3-5) 3.87(3-5)	3.64(1-5) 3.46(1-5)	3.90(1-5) 3.36(0-5)	3.82(1-5) 3.64(2-5)
2	3.49(1-5) 3.13(0-5)	3.33(0-5) 3.29(1-5)	3.87(1-5) 3.64(2-5)	3.36(1-5) 3.13(1-5)	3.36(1-5) 3.20(0-4)	3.70(1-5) 3.48(1-5)
3	3.38(1-5) 3.16(0-5)	2.76(0-4) 2.68(1-4)	3.30(1-5) 3.38(1-5)	3.62(2-5) 3.19(2-5)	3.68(2-5) 3.51(2-5)	3.51(2-5) 3.41(2-5)
4	3.61(1-5) 3.03(1-5)	3.45(2-5) 3.24(1-5)	3.66(2-5) 3.51(1-5)	3.45(1-5) 3.42(2-5)	3.63(1-5) 3.47(1-5)	3.56(2-5) 3.29(2-5)
5	3.76(3-5) 3.27(1-5)	3.67(3-5) 3.18(0-5)	3.97(1-5) 3.79(2-5)	3.70(2-5) 3.66(2-5)	3.39(1-5) 3.70(3-5)	3.75(3-5) 3.50(2-5)
6	3.08(2-5) 3.54(1-5)	2.89(2-5) 3.03(2-4)	2.92(0-5) 3.19(2-5)	3.05(2-4) 3.05(1-5)	3.54(2-5) 3.20(2-4)	3.00(0-5) 3.62(1-5)
7	3.63(1-5) 3.50(1-5)	3.27(1-5) 2.90(0-4)	4.00(1-5) 3.67(1-5)	3.30(1-5) 3.40(2-5)	3.63(1-5) 3.24(0-5)	3.73(1-5) 3.53(2-5)

- \* WEXF1- Demonstrations of affection 0.always disagree, 1.almost always disagree, 2.frequently disagree, 3.occasionally disagree, 4.almost always agree, 5.always agree.
- \* FRIEND1- Friends 0.always disagree, 1.almost always disagree, 2.frequently disagree, 3.occasionally disagree, 4.almost always agree, 5.always agree.
- \* SEXLIF1- Sex relations 0.always disagree, 1.almost always disagree, 2.frequently disagree, 3.occasionally disagree, 4.almost always agree, 5.always agree.
- \* JUDGE1- Conventuality 0.always disagree, 2.almost always disagree, 3.frequently disagree, 3.occasionally disagree, 4.almost always agree, 5.always agree.
- \* VALUE1- Philosophy of life 0.always disagree, 1.almost always disagree, 2.frequently disagree, 4.almost always agree, 5.always agree.
- \* INLAWS1- Ways of dealing with inlaws 0.always disagree, 1.almost always disagree, 2.almost always disagree, 3.frequently disagree, 4.occasionally disagree, 4.almost always agree, 5.always agree.

Stages	QO M,(RANGE)	TLEIS1 M,(RANGE)	YLSL M,(RANGE)	HNM M,(RANGE)	LRV M,(RANGE)	TYS M,(RANGE)
1	1.95(1-3) 2.21(1-3)	1.49(1-2) 1.74(1-2)	14.33(11-22) 14.31(11-22)	3.00(1-4) 2.95(2-4)	1.45(1-3) 1.31(1-3)	3.13(2-4) 3.10(2-4)
2	2.19(1-3) 2.29(1-3)	1.71(1-3) 1.60(1-3)	14.71(11-22) 14.80(11-22)	2.91(1-4) 2.62(1-4)	1.18(1-3) 1.61(1-3)	2.84(1-4) 3.02(1-4)
3	2.00(1-3) 2.26(1-3)	1.79(1-3) 1.84(1-3)	16.41(11-22) 14.41(11-22)	2.97(1-4) 2.59(1-4)	1.89(1-3) 1.79(1-3)	2.73(2-4) 2.78(2-4)
4	2.39(1-3) 2.45(1-3)	1.87(1-3) 1.79(1-3)	17.31(11-22) 15.84(11-22)	3.16(1-4) 2.87(1-4)	1.56(1-3) 1.47(1-3)	2.95(2-4) 2.82(2-4)
5	2.67(1-3) 2.30(1-3)	1.73(1-2) 1.70(1-2)	13.73(11-22) 18.73(11-22)	3.24(1-4) 2.94(1-4)	1.37(1-2) 1.30(1-2)	2.67(2-4) 3.09(2-4)
6	1.92(1-3) 1.81(1-3)	2.03(1-3) 1.84(1-3)	14.19(11-22) 16.00(11-22)	3.54(3-4) 3.03(2-4)	1.34(1-3) 1.64(1-3)	2.73(1-4) 2.62(1-4)
7	2.03(1-3) 2.30(1-3)	1.53(1-3) 1.67(1-2)	15.70(11-22) 14.07(11-22)	2.97(1-4) 2.93(1-4)	1.30(1-3) 1.27(1-3)	3.13(2-4) 3.07(2-4)

\* QO- When disagreements arise, they usually result in 1.husband giving in, 2.wife giving in, 3.agreement by mutual give and take.

\* TLEIS1- Do you and your mate engage in outside interests together 1.all of them, 2.some of them, 3.none of them.

\* YLSL- In leisure time do you generally prefer, does your mate generally prefer 11.both on the go, 12.on the go, stay at home, 21.stay at home, on the go, 22.both stay at home.

\* HNM- Do you ever wish you had not married 1.frequently, 2.occasionally, 3.rarely, 4.never.

\* LRV- If you had your life to live over, do you think you would marry 1.the same person, 2.a different person, 3.not marry at all.

\* TYS- Do you confide in your mate 1.never, 2.rarely, 3.in most things, 4.in every things.

Stages	BMHLKI M,(RANGE)	HLKEO M,(RANGE)	PSYM M,(RANGE)	CHILD M,(RANGE)	RELIG M,(RANGE)	HOGC M,(RANGE)
1	4.87(2-6) 4.82(2-6)	5.10(3-6) 5.28(1-6)	1.23(1-4) 1.13(1-4)	3.79(1-5) 4.10(1-5)	14.33(11-20) 14.33(12-20)	1.56(1-5) 1.84(1-2)
2	3.84(2-6) 3.96(1-6)	4.64(2-4) 4.82(1-6)	1.22(1-4) 1.12(1-4)	3.40(1-5) 3.87(1-5)	13.78(11-200) 13.98(11-20)	2.33(1-7) 2.58(1-7)
3	3.57(1-6) 4.08(1-6)	4.24(1-6) 4.30(1-6)	1.31(1-4) 1.81(1-4)	3.27(1-5) 3.84(1-5)	13.46(11-14) 14.30(12-20)	2.35(1-5) 2.22(1-6)
4	3.82(1-6) 3.84(1-6)	4.47(1-6) 4.43(1-6)	1.41(1-4) 1.19(1-3)	3.62(1-5) 3.94(1-5)	13.92(12-20) 14.27(12-20)	2.31(1-6) 2.00(1-4)
5	3.36(1-6) 3.34(1-6)	3.97(1-6) 3.72(1-6)	1.38(1-3) 1.61(1-3)	3.33(2-5) 2.91(2-5)	13.55(11-14) 13.76(12-14)	2.77(1-7) 2.91(1-7)
6	4.11(2-6) 4.28(2-6)	4.41(2-6) 4.16(2-6)	1.09(1-2) 1.35(1-4)	3.41(2-5) 3.81(2-5)	14.14(11-20) 14.38(13-20)	1.89(1-2) 1.97(1-3)
7	4.48(1-6) 4.87(1-6)	4.97(1-6) 5.27(1-6)	1.20(1-4) 1.07(1-3)	3.93(1-5) 4.00(1-5)	14.73(11-20) 14.03(12-20)	1.79(1-5) 1.90(1-2)

\* BMHLKI- How long did you "keep company" with your mate before marriage 1.1-3m, 2.3-6m, 3.6m-1y, 4.1-2y, 5.2-3y, 6.3y and longer.

\* HLKEO- How long had you known your mate at the time of your marriage 1.1-3m, 2.3-6m, 3.6m-1y, 4.1-2y, 5.2-3y, 6.3y and longer.

\* PSYM- My parents 1.both approved my marriage, 2.both disapproved my marriage, 3.father disapproved, 4.mother disapproved.

\* CHILD- My childhood and adolescence, for the most part, were spent in 1.open country, 2.a town of 2500 population or under, 3.a city of 2500 to 10000, 4. 10000-50000, 5.50000 and over.

\* RELIG- Do you ever been to church or temple, if answer is yes, at what age you stop going, 11.yes, before 10y; 12.yes, 11-18y; 13.yes, after 19y; 14.yes, still go; 20.never go.

\* HOGC- Religious activity at time of marriage 1.never attended, 2.less than once per month, 3.once per month, 4.twice per month, 5.three times, 6.four times, 7.more than four times.

Stages	CODFID M,(RANGE)	FQ M,(RANGE)	FR M,(RANGE)	MQ M,(RANGE)	MR M,(RANGE)	PM M,(RANGE)
1	3.13(1-4) 3.33(2-4)	1.82(1-5) 2.10(1-5)	3.44(1-5) 3.35(1-5)	1.44(1-3) 1.97(1-4)	3.97(1-5) 4.11(2-5)	2.13(1-5) 2.38(1-4)
2	3.02(1-4) 3.16(2-4)	1.93(1-4) 1.75(1-5)	3.14(1-5) 3.05(1-5)	1.59(1-4) 1.91(1-5)	3.56(2-5) 3.98(2-5)	2.59(1-4) 2.82(1-5)
3	2.91(2-4) 2.89(1-4)	1.91(1-5) 1.97(1-5)	2.94(1-5) 3.00(1-5)	1.54(1-4) 2.19(1-5)	3.76(2-5) 3.76(2-5)	2.89(1-5) 2.49(1-5)
4	3.13(1-4) 3.00(1-4)	1.84(1-5) 1.41(1-4)	3.42(1-5) 3.32(1-5)	1.66(1-4) 1.57(1-5)	3.63(2-5) 3.92(3-5)	2.29(1-5) 2.65(1-5)
5	2.97(1-4) 2.94(1-4)	1.59(1-3) 1.52(1-2)	3.41(1-5) 3.85(2-5)	1.69(1-3) 1.70(1-3)	3.72(1-5) 4.24(3-5)	3.03(2-4) 2.73(1-4)
6	2.97(2-4) 2.38(1-3)	1.35(1-3) 1.73(1-4)	3.43(2-5) 3.08(1-5)	1.51(1-3) 1.16(1-2)	3.59(1-5) 3.50(1-5)	2.00(1-3) 2.68(1-4)
7	2.97(1-4) 3.33(1-4)	1.86(1-5) 1.93(1-5)	3.61(1-5) 3.69(1-5)	1.57(1-3) 1.80(1-4)	3.90(1-5) 3.97(2-5)	1.97(1-4) 2.27(1-4)

\* CODFID- Indicate the number of your friends of the same sex before marriage 1.almost none, 2.a few, 3.several, 4.many.

\* FQ- Before your marriage how much conflict was there between you and your father 1.none, 2.very little, 3.moderate, 4.a good deal, 5.almost continuous.

\* FR- Before your marriage how much attachment was there between you and your father 1.none, 2.very little, 3.moderate, 4.a good deal, 5.very close.

\* MQ- Before your marriage how much conflict was there between you and your mother 1.none, 2.very little, 3.moderate, 4.a good deal, 5.almost continuous.

\* MR- Before your marriage how much attachment was there between you and your mother 1.none, 2.very little, 3.moderate, 4.a good deal, 5.very close.

\* PM- Give your appraisal of the happiness of your parents' marriage 1.very happy, 2.happy, 3.about averagely happy, 4.unhappy, 5.very unhappy.

Stages	CHOOD M,(RANGE)	YP M,(RANGE)	CHPT M,(RANGE)	PATS M,(RANGE)	SIQCS M,(RANGE)	BMYS M,(RANGE)
1	1.79(1-4) 2.15(1-4)	2.33(1-3) 2.69(1-4)	2.24(1-4) 2.46(1-4)	3.57(1-5) 2.84(1-5)	2.41(1-5) 3.21(2-4)	2.79(1-4) 2.34(1-3)
2	2.29(1-4) 2.18(1-4)	2.71(1-3) 2.87(1-4)	2.49(1-5) 2.43(1-5)	3.37(1-5) 3.70(1-5)	2.52(1-3) 3.22(2-4)	2.86(2-4) 2.45(1-4)
3	2.54(1-4) 2.38(1-4)	2.81(1-4) 2.78(1-4)	2.16(1-3) 2.50(1-5)	3.83(1-5) 3.12(2-5)	2.69(1-4) 2.81(1-4)	2.86(2-4) 2.33(1-4)
4	2.08(1-3) 2.32(1-4)	2.71(1-4) 2.70(1-4)	2.50(2-5) 2.27(1-4)	2.26(1-5) 3.35(1-5)	2.61(1-4) 3.27(2-5)	3.00(1-4) 2.22(1-3)
5	2.39(1-4) 2.27(1-3)	2.91(1-3) 3.18(3-4)	2.47(1-5) 2.52(2-4)	3.41(1-5) 2.94(1-5)	2.61(1-4) 2.91(1-4)	2.61(1-4) 2.10(1-3)
6	2.16(1-3) 2.51(2-4)	3.03(2-4) 2.70(1-4)	2.51(1-5) 2.67(1-5)	3.12(1-5) 3.14(1-5)	2.49(1-4) 3.19(1-4)	2.78(2-4) 2.11(2-3)
7	1.83(1-5) 2.20(1-4)	2.30(1-3) 2.77(1-4)	2.27(2-4) 2.47(1-4)	3.14(1-5) 2.63(1-5)	2.62(1-5) 3.10(2-4)	2.80(1-4) 2.40(1-4)

\* CHOOD- My childhood on the whole was 1.very happy, 2.happy, 3.about averagely happy, 4.unhappy, 5.very unhappy.

\* YP- In my childhood I was 1.punished severely for every little thing, 2.was punished frequently, 3.was occasionally punished, 4.rarely, 5.never.

\* CHPT- In my childhood the type of training in my home was 1.exceedingly strict, 2.firm but not harsh, 3.usually allowed to have my own ways, 4.had my own way about everything, 5.irregular.

\* PATS- What's your parents' attitude toward your early curiosities about birth and sex 1.frank and encouraging, 2.answered briefly, 3.evaded or lied to me, 4. rebuffed or punished me, 5.I didn't disclose my curiosity to them.

\* SIQCS- My general mental ability, compared to my mate's is 1.very superior to his (hers), 2.somewhat greater, 3.about equal, 4.somewhat less, 5.considerably less.

\* BMYS- Before marriage what was your general attitude toward sex 1.one of disgust and aversion, 2.indifference, 3.interest and pleasant anticipation, 4.eager and passionate longing.



Stages	YFLIP M,(RANGE)	YFPH M,(RANGE)	YFUH M,(RANGE)	YFBB M,(RANGE)	YFL M,(RANGE)	YSC M,(RANGE)
1	2.13(1-3) 1.97(1-3)	1.67(1-3) 1.41(1-3)	2.23(1-3) 1.92(1-3)	1.74(1-3) 1.97(1-3)	1.77(1-3) 1.56(1-3)	1.26(1-3) 1.43(1-3)
2	2.02(1-3) 2.00(1-3)	1.80(1-3) 1.81(1-3)	2.07(1-3) 2.13(1-3)	2.00(1-3) 1.75(1-3)	1.82(1-3) 1.62(1-3)	1.36(1-3) 1.36(1-3)
3	2.06(1-3) 1.97(1-3)	1.56(1-3) 1.78(1-3)	2.08(1-3) 2.11(1-3)	2.00(1-3) 1.73(1-3)	2.00(1-3) 1.95(1-3)	1.47(1-3) 1.97(1-3)
4	2.11(1-3) 1.86(1-3)	1.44(1-3) 1.57(1-3)	2.00(1-3) 2.05(1-3)	1.97(1-3) 1.92(1-3)	2.11(1-3) 1.78(1-3)	1.08(1-3) 1.16(1-3)
5	2.15(1-3) 2.09(2-3)	1.94(1-3) 1.42(1-3)	1.70(1-3) 1.79(1-2)	2.09(1-3) 2.00(1-3)	1.91(1-3) 1.67(1-3)	1.41(1-3) 1.45(1-3)
6	1.84(1-3) 1.97(1-3)	1.43(1-3) 1.59(1-3)	1.78(1-2) 2.14(1-3)	1.68(1-3) 1.54(1-2)	1.65(1-3) 1.54(1-3)	1.44(1-2) 1.16(1-3)
7	2.03(1-3) 2.13(1-3)	1.53(1-3) 1.23(1-3)	2.10(1-3) 2.03(1-3)	1.63(1-3) 1.93(1-3)	1.73(1-3) 1.67(1-3)	1.77(1-3) 1.31(1-3)

- \* YFLIP- Do you often feel lonesome, even when you are with other people 1.yes, 2.no, 3.?
- \* YFPH- Are you usually even-tempered and happy in your outlook on life 1.yes, 2.no, 3.?
- \* YFUH- Do you often feel just miserable 1.yes, 2.no, 3.?
- \* YFBB- Does some particular useless thought keep coming into your mind to bother you 1.yes, 2.no, 3.?
- \* YFL- Do you often experience periods of loneliness 1.yes, 2.no, 3.?
- \* YSC- Are you in general self-confident about your abilities 1.yes, 2.no, 3.?

Stages	STYFA M,(RANGE)	YFB M,(RANGE)	YDTAP M,(RANGE)	YSLL M,(RANGE)	YFCNR M,(RANGE)	YIEX M,(RANGE)
1	1.69(1-3) 1.79(1-3)	1.79(1-3) 2.08(1-3)	1.95(1-3) 2.10(1-3)	1.59(1-3) 1.38(1-3)	1.92(1-3) 1.92(1-3)	1.92(1-3) 2.0591(1-3)
2	1.58(1-3) 1.56(1-3)	1.96(1-3) 1.82(1-3)	2.04(1-3) 2.07(1-3)	1.49(1-3) 1.53(1-3)	1.98(1-3) 1.93(1-3)	2.07(1-3) 2.02(1-3)
3	1.65(1-3) 1.46(1-3)	2.03(1-3) 1.70(1-3)	1.95(1-3) 2.05(1-3)	1.76(1-3) 1.73(1-3)	2.11(1-3) 1.92(1-3)	2.11(1-3) 2.06(1-3)
4	1.82(1-3) 1.59(1-3)	2.11(1-3) 1.97(1-3)	2.21(1-3) 2.11(1-3)	1.61(1-3) 1.49(1-3)	1.97(1-3) 1.73(1-3)	2.13(1-3) 2.11(1-3)
5	1.80(1-3) 1.67(1-3)	1.79(1-3) 2.09(1-3)	2.15(1-3) 2.21(1-3)	2.27(1-3) 1.79(1-3)	1.85(1-3) 2.15(1-3)	2.03(1-3) 2.09(1-3)
6	1.41(1-3) 1.73(1-3)	2.22(1-3) 2.00(1-3)	2.03(1-3) 1.78(1-3)	1.16(1-3) 1.46(1-3)	1.89(1-3) 1.70(1-3)	1.97(1-3) 2.03(1-3)
7	1.57(1-3) 1.83(1-3)	1.73(1-3) 2.00(1-3)	1.97(1-3) 2.03(1-3)	1.60(1-3) 1.33(1-3)	1.87(1-2) 2.00(1-3)	1.87(1-3) 2.13(1-3)

- \* STYFA- Are you touchy on various subjects 1.yes, 2.no, 3.?
- \* YFB- Do you frequently feel grouchy 1.yes, 2.no, 3.?
- \* YDTAP- Do you usually avoid asking advice 1.yes, 2.no, 3.?
- \* YSLL- Do you prefer to be alone at time of emotional stress 1.yes, 2.no, 3.?
- \* YFCNR- Do your feelings alternate between happiness and sadness without apparent reason 1.yes, 2.no, 3.?
- \* YIEX- Are you often in a state of excitement 1.yes, 2.no, 3.?

Stages	YLTBP M,(RANGE)	PYUH M,(RANGE)	YNTH M,(RANGE)	ARRF2 M,(RANGE)	REACT2 M,(RANGE)	RELIGA M,(RANGE)
1	1.82(1-3) 2.03(1-3)	1.41(1-3) 1.26(1-3)	1.41(1-3) 1.08(1-2)	3.00(0-4) 3.33(0-4)	2.97(0-4) 3.26(1-4)	2.36(0-4) 2.33(0-4)
2	2.16(1-3) 2.20(1-3)	1.32(1-3) 1.31(1-3)	1.40(1-3) 1.27(1-3)	3.27(1-5) 3.27(1-4)	3.33(1-4) 3.07(0-5)	1.91(0-4) 3.08(0-4)
3	2.03(1-3) 1.86(1-3)	1.22(1-3) 1.14(1-3)	1.43(1-3) 1.35(1-3)	3.35(1-4) 3.54(2-5)	3.43(2-5) 3.19(2-5)	2.92(1-4) 2.92(1-4)
4	2.06(2-3) 2.19(1-3)	1.31(1-3) 1.27(1-3)	1.29(1-3) 1.30(1-3)	3.47(2-5) 3.26(0-4)	3.29(1-4) 3.32(2-5)	2.91(1-4) 2.78(1-4)
5	1.88(1-3) 2.21(1-3)	1.58(1-3) 1.42(1-2)	1.30(1-3) 1.52(1-3)	3.88(2-5) 3.33(2-5)	3.82(2-5) 3.34(2-5)	2.91(1-4) 3.18(1-4)
6	1.97(1-2) 1.92(1-3)	1.00(1-1) 1.08(1-2)	1.16(1-3) 1.27(1-3)	3.16(1-5) 3.43(2-5)	2.97(2-4) 3.05(1-5)	3.68(2-5) 3.73(2-5)
7	1.70(1-2) 2.20(1-3)	1.27(1-3) 1.37(1-3)	1.23(1-2) 1.10(1-3)	2.93(0-4) 3.40(0-4)	2.87(0-4) 3.20(2-4)	2.37(0-4) 2.37(0-4)

\* YLTBP- Are you considered critical of other people 1.yes, 2.no, 3.?

\* PYUH- Does discipline make you discontented 1.yes, 2.no, 3.?

\* YNTH- Do you always try carefully to avoid saying anything that may hurt anyone's feelings 1.yes, 2.no, 3.?

\* ARRF2- Handling family finances 0.always disagree, 1.almost always disagree, 2.frequently disagree, 3.occasionally disagree, 4.almost agree, 5.always agree.

\* REACT2- Matters of recreation 0.always disagree, 1.almost always disagree, 2.frequently disagree, 3.occasionally disagree, 4.almost always agree, 5.always agree.

\* RELIGA- Religious matters 0.always disagree, 1.almost always disagree, 2.frequently disagree, 3.occasionally disagree, 4.almost always agree, 5.always agree.

Stages	WEXF2 M,(RANGE)	FRIEND2 M,(RANGE)	SEXLIF2 M,(RANGE)	JUDGE2 M,(RANGE)	VALUE2 M,(RANGE)	INLAWS2 M,(RANGE)
1	3.21(1-4) 3.44(2-5)	2.87(1-4) 2.97(0-4)	3.87(3-5) 3.59(3-4)	3.44(1-5) 3.31(1-4)	3.62(1-5) 3.13(0-5)	3.59(1-5) 3.39(2-4)
2	3.33(1-4) 3.04(0-5)	3.22(1-5) 3.16(1-5)	3.67(1-5) 3.60(2-5)	3.38(1-5) 3.18(1-5)	3.29(1-5) 3.09(0-5)	3.58(1-5) 3.45(1-5)
3	3.24(1-4) 3.03(0-4)	2.76(0-4) 2.68(1-4)	3.32(1-5) 3.38(1-5)	3.43(2-5) 3.17(2-5)	3.57(2-5) 3.51(2-5)	3.48(2-5) 3.38(2-5)
4	3.50(1-5) 2.84(0-5)	3.34(2-4) 3.14(1-5)	3.39(2-4) 3.35(1-5)	3.29(1-4) 3.34(2-5)	3.53(1-5) 3.37(1-5)	3.36(1-5) 3.18(2-5)
5	3.76(3-5) 3.27(1-5)	3.76(3-5) 3.12(0-5)	3.94(3-5) 3.61(2-5)	3.70(2-5) 3.84(3-5)	3.39(1-5) 3.70(3-5)	3.70(3-5) 3.47(2-5)
6	3.14(1-5) 3.32(1-5)	2.81(2-5) 2.70(0-4)	2.59(0-5) 2.70(1-5)	3.89(2-4) 2.85(1-5)	3.38(2-5) 2.85(1-4)	2.59(0-5) 3.27(1-5)
7	3.17(1-4) 3.23(1-4)	3.07(1-4) 2.97(0-4)	3.70(1-5) 3.43(1-4)	3.14(1-5) 3.27(2-4)	3.47(1-5) 3.17(0-5)	3.50(1-5) 3.47(2-5)

- \* WEXF2- Demonstrations of affection 0.always disagree, 1.almost always disagree, 2.frequently disagree, 3.occasionally disagree, 4.almost always agree, 5.always agree.
- \* FRIEND2- Friends 0.always disagree, 1.almost always disagree, 2.frequently disagree 3.occasionally disagree, 4.almost always agree, 5.always agree.
- \* SEXLIF2- Sex relations 0.always disagree, 1.almost always disagree, 2.frequently disagree, 3.occasionally disagree, 4.almost always agree, 5.always agree.
- \* JUDGE2- Conventianality 0.always disagree, 1.almost always disagree, 2.frequently disagree, 3.occasionally disagree, 4.almost always agree, 5.always agree.
- \* VALUE2- Philosophy of life 0.always disagree, 1.almost always disagree, 2.frequently disagree, 3.occasionally disagree, 4.almost always agree, 5.always agree.
- \* INLAWS2- Ways of dealing with parents or inlaws 0.always disagree, 1.almost always disagree, 2.frequently disagree, 3.occasionally disagree, 4.almost always agree, 5.always agree.

Stages	IMPOT M,(RANGE)	TIMTG M,(RANGE)	DECS M,(RANGE)	HOUSE M,(RANGE)	LEAC M,(RANGE)	DISF M,(RANGE)
1	3.62(1-5) 3.23(0-5)	3.85(1-5) 4.05(2-5)	3.44(1-5) 3.41(1-4)	3.56(1-5) 3.23(0-4)	3.36(1-5) 3.28(0-5)	3.56(1-4) 3.08(0-4)
2	3.29(1-5) 3.13(1-6)	3.73(1-5) 3.62(1-5)	3.33(1-4) 3.16(1-5)	3.31(1-5) 3.20(1-5)	3.31(1-5) 3.20(0-5)	3.30(1-5) 3.07(0-5)
3	3.57(2-5) 3.49(2-5)	3.43(3-4) 3.14(2-5)	3.46(2-5) 3.16(2-4)	3.41(1-5) 3.59(2-5)	3.41(2-5) 3.43(0-5)	3.46(2-5) 3.38(2-5)
4	3.53(1-5) 4.34(1-5)	3.32(1-5) 3.24(1-5)	3.21(1-4) 3.29(2-5)	3.47(2-5) 3.32(1-4)	3.29(2-5) 3.08(1-5)	3.45(1-5) 3.32(1-5)
5	3.39(1-5) 3.70(3-5)	3.70(2-5) 3.42(0-5)	3.70(2-5) 3.66(2-5)	3.70(2-5) 3.24(2-5)	3.24(2-5) 3.15(2-5)	3.45(1-5) 3.45(2-5)
6	3.38(2-5) 2.85(1-4)	2.43(1-4) 2.19(1-3)	2.89(2-4) 3.05(1-5)	2.76(1-5) 3.03(1-5)	2.54(0-5) 2.89(1-5)	3.38(2-5) 2.84(1-4)
7	3.43(1-5) 3.10(0-5)	3.47(1-5) 3.93(2-5)	3.17(1-5) 3.33(2-4)	3.43(1-5) 3.40(0-4)	3.50(1-5) 3.30(0-5)	3.40(1-4) 3.07(0-4)

- \* IMPOT- Aims, goals, and things believed important 0.always disagree, 1.almost always disagree, 2.frequently disagree, 3.occasionally disagree, 4.almost always agree, 5.always disagree.
- \* TIMTG- Amount of time spent together 0.always disagree, 1.almost always disagree, 2.frequently disagree, 3.occasionally disagree, 4.almost always agree, 5.always agree.
- \* DECS- Making major decisions 0.always disagree, 1.almost always disagree, 2.frequently disagree, 4.almost always agree, 5.always agree.
- \* HOUSE- Household tasks 0.always disagree, 1.almost always disagree, 2.frequently disagree, 3.occasionally disagree, 4.almost always agree, 5.always agree.
- \* LEAC- Leisure time interests and activities 0.always disagree, 1.almost always disagree, 2.frequently disagree, 3.occasionally, 4.almost always agree, 5.always agree.
- \* DISF- Career decisions 0.always disagree, 1.almost always disagree, 2.frequently disagree, 3.occasionally disagree, 4.almost always agree, 5.always agree.

Stages	DIVOCE M,(RANGE)	LEVEH M,(RANGE)	BETTER M,(RANGE)	CONFID M,(RANGE)	DRM M,(RANGE)	HLQ M,(RANGE)
1	3.00(1-4) 2.95(2-4)	3.10(2-4) 2.87(2-4)	3.95(3-5) 4.21(3-5)	4.05(2-5) 4.08(3-5)	2.95(1-4) 2.95(2-4)	3.15(2-4) 3.18(2-5)
2	2.80(1-4) 2.60(1-4)	2.80(2-4) 2.71(2-4)	3.38(2-5) 3.38(2-4)	3.31(2-5) 3.44(2-5)	2.82(1-4) 2.49(1-4)	3.04(1-4) 2.87(2-4)
3	2.92(1-5) 2.78(1-5)	3.16(1-4) 3.19(2-4)	3.14(2-4) 3.25(1-4)	3.22(2-4) 3.27(2-4)	2.84(1-4) 2.70(1-4)	3.11(2-4) 3.24(3-4)
4	3.34(0-5) 2.87(1-5)	3.24(2-5) 3.55(2-5)	3.03(2-5) 2.95(2-5)	3.21(1-5) 3.05(2-5)	3.26(0-5) 2.97(1-5)	3.00(2-4) 2.97(1-4)
5	3.33(1-4) 3.03(0-5)	3.61(2-5) 3.64(1-5)	3.15(2-4) 3.52(1-5)	3.33(1-5) 3.33(1-5)	3.52(1-5) 3.03(0-5)	3.58(2-4) 3.24(1-4)
6	3.62(2-4) 3.27(1-5)	3.51(3-4) 3.57(2-5)	3.11(2-4) 3.49(2-4)	3.65(2-5) 3.46(2-5)	3.73(2-4) 3.32(1-5)	3.35(2-4) 3.19(2-4)
7	3.17(1-4) 2.93(1-5)	3.27(2-4) 3.00(2-4)	3.87(1-5) 4.27(3-5)	4.03(1-5) 4.13(3-5)	3.00(1-4) 3.00(1-5)	3.20(2-4) 3.13(2-5)

- \* DIVOCE- How often do you discuss or have you considered divorce, separation.... 0.all the time, 1.most of the time, 2.more often than not, 3.occasionally, 4.rarely, 5.never.
- \* LEVEH- How often do you or your mate leave the home after a fight 0.all the time 1.most of the time, 2.more often than not, 3.occasionally, 4.rarely, 5.never.
- \* BETTER- In general, how often do you think that things between you and your mate are going well 0.never, 1.rarely, 2.occasionally, 3.more often than not, 4.most of the time, 5.all the time.
- \* CONFID- Do you confide in your mate 0.never, 1.rarely, 2.occasionally, 3.more often than not, 4.most of the time, 5.all the time.
- \* DRM- Do you ever regret that you married 0.all the time, 1.most of the time, 2.more often than not, 3.occasionally, 4.most of the time, 5.all the time.
- \* HLQ- How often do you and your mate quarrel 0.all the time, 1.most of the time, 2.more often than not, 3.occasionally, 4.rarely, 5.never.

Stages	HOYMU M,(RANGE)	KISS M,(RANGE)	TLEIS2 M,(RANGE)	COURTH M,(RANGE)	LAF M,(RANGE)	DIST M,(RANGE)
1	3.46(2-4) 3.59(3-4)	2.49(2-4) 2.51(2-4)	2.70(1-4) 2.51(1-4)	3.33(2-4) 3.41(2-4)	3.44(2-4) 3.41(2-4)	3.51(2-4) 3.41(2-4)
2	3.20(2-4) 3.13(2-4)	1.64(1-2) 1.67(1-2)	2.38(1-3) 2.38(1-3)	2.11(0-4) 2.13(0-4)	2.24(0-4) 2.36(0-4)	2.31(0-4) 2.42(0-4)
3	3.27(3-4) 3.05(1-4)	1.16(1-2) 1.19(1-2)	2.16(1-3) 2.38(1-3)	1.35(1-2) 1.46(1-2)	1.73(1-3) 1.51(1-3)	1.41(1-2) 1.34(1-2)
4	3.00(2-4) 3.16(2-4)	1.24(1-2) 1.24(1-3)	2.08(0-3) 2.05(0-3)	1.56(1-3) 1.42(1-3)	2.03(1-3) 1.79(1-4)	1.45(1-3) 1.47(1-3)
5	3.27(2-4) 3.39(2-4)	1.12(0-2) 1.00(0-2)	2.45(2-3) 2.55(1-3)	1.30(0-2) 1.18(0-2)	1.36(0-3) 1.64(0-3)	1.67(1-3) 1.63(0-3)
6	3.38(3-4) 3.32(2-4)	1.08(0-2) 1.08(1-2)	2.22(1-3) 2.51(1-3)	1.51(1-3) 1.32(0-2)	1.22(0-2) 1.26(0-2)	1.22(0-3) 1.25(0-2)
7	3.47(2-4) 3.57(2-4)	2.50(1-4) 2.40(0-4)	2.67(1-4) 2.67(2-4)	3.30(0-4) 3.27(0-4)	3.33(0-4) 4.30(1-4)	3.47(1-4) 3.27(1-4)

\* HOYMU- How often do you and your mate "get on each other's nerves" 0.all the time, 1.most of the time, 2.more often than not, 3.occasionally, 4.rarely, 6.never.

\* KISS- Do you kiss your mate 0.never, 1.rarely, 2.occasionally, 3.almost every day, 4.every day.

\* TLEIS2- Do you and your mate engage in outside interests together 0.none of them 1.very few of them, 2.some of them, 3.most of them, 4.all of them.

\* COURTH- Have a stimulating exchange of ideas 0.never, 1.less than once a month, 2.once or twice a month, 3.once or twice a week, 4.more often.

\* LAF- Laugh together 0.never, 1.less than once a month, 2.once or twice a month, 3.once or twice a week, 4.more often.

\* DIST- Discuss together 0.never, 1.less than once a month, 2.once or twice a month, 3.once or twice a week, 4.more often.

Stages	WT M,(RANGE)	TRSEX M,(RANGE)	NSLOVE M,(RANGE)	MHOT M,(RANGE)	MFF M,(RANGE)
1	2.92(1-4) 3.08(2-4)	1.00(1-1) 1.00(1-1)	1.00(1-1) 1.00(1-1)	4.69(1-6) 4.69(2-6)	3.92(1-5) 3.87(1-5)
2	2.02(0-3) 2.31(1-4)	0.93(0-1) 0.95(0-1)	0.93(0-1) 0.95(0-1)	4.24(1-6) 4.07(1-6)	3.39(0-4) 3.36(0-5)
3	1.30(1-2) 1.51(0-2)	1.00(1-1) 1.00(1-1)	1.00(1-1) 1.00(1-1)	4.08(3-5) 3.78(3-6)	3.56(2-4) 3.51(2-5)
4	1.39(1-4) 1.42(1-4)	1.00(1-1) 0.95(0-1)	1.00(1-1) 1.00(1-1)	4.37(2-6) 4.29(2-6)	3.34(2-4) 3.47(3-5)
5	1.33(0-2) 1.15(0-2)	1.00(1-1) 0.70(0-1)	1.00(1-1) 0.82(0-1)	4.58(3-6) 4.33(1-6)	3.55(3-4) 3.12(0-4)
6	1.32(0-2) 1.16(0-2)	1.00(1-1) 0.81(0-1)	1.00(1-1) 0.78(0-1)	2.95(2-5) 3.19(2-5)	3.22(2-4) 3.14(2-4)
7	2.77(0-4) 2.97(1-4)	1.00(1-1) 0.93(0-1)	0.97(0-1) 0.97(0-1)	4.20(1-6) 4.43(2-6)	3.77(1-5) 3.73(1-5)

- WT- Work together on a project 0.never, 1.less than once a month, 2.once or twice a month, 3.once or twice a week, 4.more often.
- TRSEX- Being too tired for sex 0.yes, 1.no.
- NSLOVE- Not showing love 0.yes, 1.no.
- MHOT- Degrees of happiness in your marriage 0.extremely unhappy, 1.fairly unhappy, 2.a little unhappy, 3.happy, 4.very happy, 5.extremely happy, 6.perfect.
- MFF-Which statements best describes how you feel about the future of your relationship 0.My relationship can never succeed, and there is no more that I can do to keep relationship going, 1.It would be nice if it succeeded, but I refuse to do any more than I am doing now to keep the relationship going, 2.It would be nice if my relationship succeeded, but I can't do much more than I am doing now to help it succeed, 3.I want very much my relationship succeed, and will do my fair share to see that it does, 4.I want very much for my relationship to succeed, and would go to almost any length to see that it does, 5.I want desperately for my relationship to succeed, and would go to almost any length to see that it does.



Stages	? MG M, (RANGE)	HKCW M, (RANGE)
1	1 (1-1) 1 (1-1)	2 (2-2)
2	1 (1-1) 1 (1-1)	1.93 (1-2)
3	1 (1-1) 1 (1-1)	1.87 (1-2)
4	1 (1-1) 1 (1-1)	1.62 (1-2)
5	1 (1-1) 1 (1-1)	1.33 (1-2)
6	1 (1-1) 1 (1-1)	1.06 (1-2)
7	1 (1-1) 1 (1-1)	1 (1-1)

- \* ? MG- It is your \_\_\_ marriage, 1. the first,  
2. the second,  
3. the third and more.

- \* HKCW- You are a 1. housekeeper,  
2. career woman.  
(This question only female answers)