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Gender Differences Concerning Thoughts on Love Attitudes and Romance

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Which gender has more romantic views on love? Oftentimes, women think of their sex as the more romantic gender and complain that their partners are not romantic enough. Yet, is this truly the case?

Repeatedly it has been found that in matters dealing with selecting a partner, females place more emphasis on education and jobs, whereas with males attractiveness and affection was rated higher. In Davies (2001) research, he noted that women are traditionally more conservative and look to marry a partner who will be a good provider. The majority of females in the animal kingdom's main role is to procreate. Therefore, females seek a male mate for fertilization so that they can bear children. Thus noted, it could be inferred that women are also simply looking for a partner that can give them fulfill their purpose, whether it be children, wealth, or companionship. In one study, it was found that "men were more idealistic and also more cynical about love, whereas women were more pragmatic" (Davies, 2001). Moreover, in Davies (2001) study, he established that more men than women are prone to find Eros (romantic, passionate love) to be socially desirable.

Researchers Knox, Zusman, Kaluzny, Cooper (2000) found in their study about recovery from a love relationship that ended, most women reported "medium difficulty with their recovery with men reporting more difficulty than women." One cannot necessarily say that these men are more romantic simply because they had more difficulty

recovering from break-up. However, it could be implied that committed men may allow themselves to get more emotionally involved in a relationship.

After observation and literature review, the question of which is the more romantic sex was presented. Having found interest in this subject, I decided to research this question. If a random sample of males and females are given a survey on their ideas of love, males will be found to be more romantic.

Method

Participants

Ten males and 10 females from Lindenwood University's Human Subject Pool will be participants in this experiment. Five males and five females from the St. Charles community will be participants as well. In total, there will be 30 participants.

Demographic is not of particular interest in this experiment, but will be noted to look for any possible trends. Participants will be asked their sex, age and to choose a status of single, involved, or married. The participants will be given an informed consent form, which will detail the experiment and explain that, as a participant, they will be asked, in written form, questions about their love attitudes. They will also be informed that at any time they will be free to dismiss themselves from the experiment.

Materials

A quiet room with a table and chair will be provided. The survey will be 30 questions long and typed in 12-point Times New Roman font on standard 8 ½" x 11 white computer printer paper. The survey will ask the participant to rate their feelings concerning questions about love using a coded rating system of "strongly agree" (SA); "mildly agree (MA); undecided (U); mildly disagree (MD); strongly disagree (SD). A

sample question from the survey is “When you fall “head over heels” in love, it’s sure to be the real thing.” The pages of the survey will be stapled together with a single staple in the top left corner. A new and freshly sharpened number two wood pencil with an attached eraser and an unmarked manila folder will also be supplied. On standard 8 ½” x 11 white computer paper in 12-point Times New Roman font a typed informed consent form and feedback letter will be employed as well.

Procedure

The participant will be led into the room by the experimenter and will be asked to be seated on the chair at the table. Already prepared on the table will be an informed consent form, a pencil, and the survey, which will be turned face down. The experimenter will tell the participant that once he or she has left the room, the participant will first read the consent form; if after reading the consent form, the participant chooses not to participate, they may exit the room. If this occurs, the experimenter will thank them for their time and excuse them. The experimenter will also instruct that, upon agreeing to participate by signing the consent form, the participant may turn the survey over. The participant will be instructed to place their completed survey into the unmarked manila folder and exit the room. All of the proceeding instructions must take place while the experimenter is outside of the room to reduce any feelings of being coerced to contribute to the experiment on the participant’s part. The experimenter will wait outside of the room while the participant is completing the survey. Upon the participant exiting the experiment room, the experimenter will then give the participant a feedback letter and ask if they have any questions regarding the experiment. If so, the experimenter will then answer the participants question to the best of his or her

knowledge. Once all explanations are given, the experimenter will thank and excuse the participant.

Implications

To analyze the data of this experiment, I will use a one-tailed, independent t-test. If the hypothesis were found to be true, that males are indeed more romantic than females, the expectation is that it would not be a dramatic difference. If the hypothesis were found to not be supported, the results would, again, only have a slight difference. The results of the study could have a fascinating transformation on societal views, opening the sexes to regard their counterparts in further ways. As mentioned previously, oftentimes, women think of their sex as the more romantic gender and complain that their partners are not romantic enough. If men are found to be more romantic, this research will be useful in an argument. Hopefully this study will facilitate the sexes to better understand each other, their needs, and the way they think and feel about love.

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