Predicted mate selection on the basis of personality characteristic and attachment styles

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ABSTRACT: The existing study aimed was to anticipate the criteria of spouse selection based on personality traits and attachment styles. The subjects of this investigation were 33through multi phase cluster sampling. In order to the data, such questionnaires as 22 questions about the priority criteria of spouse selection , 60 questions about the personality , and 18 questions about adults' attachment were utilized . The data resulted from the research suggested that the spouse selection criteria can be predicted by the personality traits and attachment styles of the people.

Keywords: spouse selection criteria, personality traits, attachment styles.

INTRODUCTION

Mankind's are constantly being exposed to the selection. There are some criteria in their selection, whether they are aware or not. Undoubtedly, spouse selection is one of the most important choices in their life. Further, marriage is the most critical issues in their social life that most of them experience. Birth, death, marriage, and divorce are four important events in the human life. Every one doesn't have any controls on his birth. It is partly true about the death. However, marriage and divorce are not either and the man's decision is quite effective about both of them.

Even & Niles (2001) defined family as a group of people living together and bonding through marriage. Marriage is the beginning of a trip in the life for the two partners. Man and woman both are fellow passengers that can help each other's achievements. They are not intrusive to each other, rather they are able to be the wings of flying in the life in order to create a warm family center together (zahmati huchghan, 2002).

Marriage is the most crucial step in a person's life. This step may make new or may ruin his (or her) life. It may found or may destroy his (or her) personality and existence. Moreover, it can grow each aspect of morality or can result in failure and depression (Dejkam, 2011).

The stage of family formation and marriage is the first and most important phase in the family life cycle in which spouse selection is done. Actually, the success of other stages of the life depends upon this crucial stage. (Fried man, 2003) .It is essential to mention that the appropriate spouse selection plays an important role in an individual's prosperity. Wolcott (1999) believes that the main reasons for divorce are the lack of much attention to the spouse's characteristics and personality traits.

The common preferences and criteria for spouse selection are acceptable in the public. Accordingly, genetics, and evolutionary biology pay much attention to this issue. However, Buss (1989) believes that spouse selection is fundamentally a psychological phenomenon and different majors of psychology survey this phenomenon as the different points of view.

It seems that the spouse selection criteria are affected various psychological variables. Personality traits and attachment styles are the two related variables which have been recently investigated about spouse selection criteria.

Personality can be defined as a permanent and unique collection of traits that maybe varied in different situation. Nowadays, the evolution of personality theories and also the progression of measuring methods and statistical analyses via perspective of traits have led to the advent of the most influential personality theories that have resulted in proposing the model of the big five personality factors. so that many researchers believe that the best conceptualization of personality is the big five model . According to this model, the

personality is explained based on the five stony factors such as extroversion, neuroticism, conscientiousness, openness to experience, and agreeableness (hagh shenas, 2011).

On the other hand according to Bowl by's theory, attachment plays an important role from birth to the death of human being. He wrote "although attachment behavior is more observable in childhood, it can be observed in life cycle especially in exigencies."

Berman & sperling (1994) defined the adults' attitude as well as his (or her) effort to reach and maintain contiguity with the persons providing him (or her) the psychological and physical security. Manely (2001) also believes that the adult's attachment is a person's basic effort and tendency toward obtaining and maintaining the contact with the particular people.

This tendency is regulated by internal, and hypothetical model along with the emotional, cognitive, and motivational schemas (recited by Honarparvaran , 2011).

Sanai (2005) quoted Whitaker laiss (1977) as had stated ((marriage sometimes ends to a situation in which some of the members go mad or make each other commit suicide or heteroclite. It is the most unfortunate that these very nice and pleasant people who are their spouses were changed in the disgusting Satang by each of them. Yet, the overture of the couples' separation is the matrimony conflicts which are begun from simple depute to the harsh verbal entanglement , squabble , brawl , and at times it may lead to the divorce (young and long , 1998, recited by Refahi , 2009).

The research results of kachadorein , fincham & Davila (2004), about the relationship between adults' attachment style and the control rate of feeling and affection , highlighted that insecurely attached people who has little calmness , lack of close relationship ,and the increased anxiety in their relationships rather incline to control their positive feeling and affection than secure people . In a research, lounsbory (2007) concluded that neurosis is a streak of personality continuum in which high affection stability and low anxiety are at one side and the affection instability and high anxiety are at the other side.

In another research titled by (the most important spouse selection criteria) with a sample of Iranian youths, the findings of fini and nooler (2005) suggested that the people with avoidant and ambivalent attachment style showed the lowest limit of wedding satisfaction than the others.

The research results of Shiot & levenson indicate that the spouses' similarity in such dimensions as social and economic status, educational background, and age predict higher levels of wedding satisfaction and lower probability of divorce. The research results of Davila and Brad bury (2010) suggest the positive comprehension of spouses which is the characteristic of people with the secure attachment style predict couple's supportive behavior and wedding satisfaction. The existing research aimed to study the category of spouse selection and influential factors on it o Therefore two aspects of spouse selection criteria, content and process model, and also three dimensions of attachment styles; secure, avoidant, and anxiety; as well as five aspects of personality traits; neuroticism, extroversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, and openness to experience; along with the effect of each of them on the others were studied.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Method
The statistical method of this study is descriptive and corelational. That included 324 students of Shiraz University. The multi phase randomly cluster sampling was utilized in order to choose the subjects.

The inventory of giving priority to the spouse selection criteria
A 22-item inventory about spouse selection was prepared by Refahi, Sanai and Pasha sharifi (2008). The responses were arranged according to five – degree liker scale from the most important to the least important ranges. Two process and content criteria were investigated by these items. The validity of total test, and the inventory in the process and content dimensions were calculated respectively 0.88 , 0.85 , and 74 % The results of cronbach' s alpha for the total scale , process , and content dimensions have been obtained respectively 0.73 , 0.75 , and 0.74 It was used to determine the reliability of the test.

The inventory of NEO personality traits
The inventory of NEO personality traits is the revised form of (NEO-FFI) and it studies the precise traits of personality. Further, the main purpose of this questionnaire is to investigating of the personality and the traits related to them. Alpha coefficients have been computed for this scales between   0.71 to 0.83 .nevertheless, the results of the studies carried out by Mckerri & kasta (1992) suggested that the correlation of the five subscales of short and long form were respectively 0.77 and 0.22. In addition , the internal similarity of these subscales has been estimated in the ranges of 0.68 to 0.78 In the existing research , the cronbach's alpha method has been utilized to determine the reliability of the test .The results of cronbach's alpha were gotten 0.85 for the total scale.

The inventory of adults' attachment styles

The inventory of adults' attachment styles of Collins & Rid (RAAS), (1990) was used in this research. This test includes 18 materials which are graded from zero to four degree through signing on the five – degree likert's scale. This test has three subscales which are become specified by six materials for each subscale. The reliability of the test in Collins & Rid has been reported more than 0.88 in 1990. The cronbach's alpha method has been utilized in this research in order to determine its reliability the results of it has been attained 0.78 for the total scale.

Findings:

Table 1. The standard Deviation and Mean of the research variables

Variables	Dimensions	Mean	Deviation
Personality traits	Neuroticism	24.79	7.99
	Extroversion	28.55	5.80
	Openness to Ex	28.18	6.21
	Agreeableness	29.66	6.02
	Conscientiousness	34.39	6.08
Attachment styles	Secure	15.15	3.22
	Anxious	17.89	4.54
	Avoidant	17.72	3.12
Spouse selection Criteria	Comment	49.63	8.80
	Process	50.17	13.18

Table 2. Correctional Matrix of research variables

Variables		Dimensions	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Personality traits	1-	Neuroticism	1								
	2-	Extroversion	0.12	1							
	3-	Openness to Ex	0.06	0.42**	1						
	4-	Agreeableness	09	0.36**	0.28	1					
	5-	Conscientiousness	0.7	0.06	0.10	0.09	1				
Attachment styles	6-	Secure	0.02	0.41**	0/69	0.45**	0.34**	1			
	7-	Anxious	0.40**	0.11	-052**	0.24**	-0.19**	0.02	1		
	8-	Avoidant	0.35**	-0.22**	-0.14**	-0.19**	0.22**	0.04	0. 03	1	
Spouse selection	9-	Comment	0.04	0.15**	0.19**	0.20**	0.25**	0.40**	0.08	0.04	1
	10-	Process	0.13**	6.07	-0.15**	0.12*	0.0.	0.11	0.45**	0.16*	0.25*

According to table 2.4, there are significant correlation between controversial, openness, agreeable and conscientiousness and secure attachment style as well as spouse selection. Further, There are significant relationship between neuroticism, openness, and agree blueness personality traits and also avoidant, and anxious attachment styles with content criteria spouse selection.

Are attachment styles and personality trails able to predict process dimension criteria of spouse selection?

Table 3. The results of multiple regression in order to precinct the process dimension

Predictor variable	R	R²	β	T	p<
Extroversion			0.12	2.46	0.0001
Openness to Ex			0.13	2.49	0.02
Agreeableness	0.51	0.25	0.17	0.17	0.02
Conscientiousness			0.22	4.3	0.001
Secure			0.22	2.12	0.0001

F=16.60, p<0.0001

According to the table 3.4, the predictor regression of process dimension from Personality traits and attachment) styles are significant and the amount of F. Is 16.60 the beta coefficient for conscientiousness, agreeableness, agreeableness, openness, secure style, and Extroversion respectively were 0.22, 0.17, 0.13, 0.13, and 0.12 that can positively and significantly predict the process dimension. Moreover, the amount of 2 suggested that personality dimensions and secure attachment styles can predict the considerable parts of process dimension variance (26percent).

Are personality traits and attachment styles able to predict content dimension criteria of spouse selection?

Table 4. The results of multiple regressions in order to predict the content dimension

Predictor variable	R	R^2	β	T	p<
Openness to Ex			-0.13	3	0.02
Agreeableness			0.12	2.12	0.02
Neuroticism	0.55	0.30	0.11	2.39	0.02
Anxious			0.37	8.7	0.01
Avoidant			0.15	3.13	0.01

F =16.87, p< 0.0001

According to the table 4.4, the predictor regression of content dimension from personality traits and attachment styles are significant and the amount of F is 16.87 .The beta coefficient for anxious , avoidant styles and also openness , agreeableness , and neuroticism respectively were 0.37 , 0.15 , -0.13 ,0.12 ,and 0.11that can significantly predict the content dimension. Furthermore, the amount 2 suggested that the personality traits and attachment styles predict 30 percent of content dimension variance.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Discussion
The correlation of variables investigation
According to table 2.4, There are significant correlations between the personality traits of extroversion, openness to experience, agreeableness, and anxious. Avoidant attachment styles, along with content criteria of spouse selection .To explain this finding , it can be said that totally , the people paying much attention the process criteria have personality traits are known as thought fullness and problem centered .This conclusions are the same as Samani (2005),Yoosefi (2011) and fradman (2003).

The prediction of process dimension based on personality traits and attachment styles
The predictor regression of process dimension from personality traits and attachment styles are significant. Conscientiousness, agreeableness, openness, secure style, and controversion can positively and significantly predict the process dimension. These results are similar to the studies of Shaker, Fathi ashtiani, & Mahdvian (2011) ,Mazaheri , heidari ,& Etemad (2003) , and kenzad (2006) .

In order to explain this finding ,It can be stated that the people with conscientiousness personality trait are precise , thoughtfulness , practical ,and programmatic .These qualities help them pay much attention to process dimension in spouse selection .To justify of this finding why agreeable dimension can predict process criteria ,it can be said that these people have high ability to adjust to the environments is one of the reasons of their high adjust men to consequently ,the selection of process dimension as their agreeable traits the external environment . The interpretation for why openness to experience can predict the process dimension is that the people with openness personality traits are those have high ability to experience the environ men to In addition ,This ability help them consider that processes are always more important than contents .since ,the processes can be restored and renewed . Extroversion also can predict process criteria. The explanation of this finding is that the extroversive people while have broad relationship with different person, they consider to the main role of process issues to maintain and continue the relationship, so, they pay much attention to process issues in their selection. Secure attachment style also can predict the process criterion. The explanation of this finding is that as secure people have high internal and personal value feeling, they don't require such things as high model car, very attractive face, high graduate degree, etc to acquire validity.

The prediction of content dimension based on personality traits and attachment styles
The predictor regression of content dimension from personality traits and attachment styles is significant. anxious, avoidant, openness, agreeableness and neuroticism styles can significantly predict the content dimension This results are similar to the studies of Abedi & farah bakhsh (2001), Shokri (2008), Najm (2005), forkma & layfbroner (2004). The interpretation of these findings is that the people with anxious attachment style have low internal value and sometimes they seek for attracting the best for them to compensate the shortage feeling and to gain such things like the rich, beautiful and literate spouse and also to cover on their shortages . Hence they pay much attention to these content criteria in their selection.

The adults with avoidant attachment style have many difficulties to have intimate and close relationships. They don't have much affection feeling. They are very irritable and they also avoid the emotional presentation. Their specific qualities are obsessive self –valiance and violent control of the emotions

The openness dimension was also negatively able to predict content dimension of spouse selection. The explanation of this finding is that as these individuals have various experiences and : probably intelligence , knowledge , and high information; they have considered that apparent glitter with attractive and appealing things may be important at the beginning of the relationship , however they doubt whether these can help the enhancement of the relationship and its endurance . Hence, they pay less attention to content trait in their selection.

It may be interesting to explain why agreeableness can predict the content dimension of spouse selection. As aforementioned, the people getting high grade in agreeableness also have ability to adapt in their life. These findings suggested that these people have to simultaneously consider two content and process criteria of spouse selection in order to adapt in their matrimony life later. The neuroticism also can predict the content dimension of spouse selection. The interpretation of this finding is that the people who have high grade in neuroticism also have many negative feelings such as skepticism and doubt, rage, anxiety, stress, etc. These people usually have low internal calm feeling; nonetheless they try to achieve it to make superficial calm feeling in themselves that may be false .The content criteria are such as apparent attractiveness, income, family and economic status 9 etc. The next studies can consider the other dimensions of complex wedding adjustment.

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