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Son and Daughter Mate Selection as a Function of Respective Relations with Mother and Father

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A Thesis submitted to the Faculty of Social & Behavioral Sciences in
partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Arts degree in
Education- Emphasis Counseling at Haigazian University

Beirut-Lebanon

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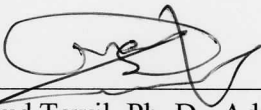
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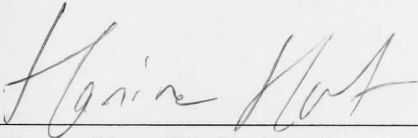
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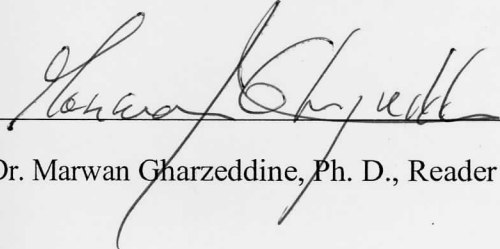
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To my husband-to-be, Manuel,

for his love, care, support and encouragement

I would also like to dedicate it to my parents, my sister, and my friends for their love and support.

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to investigate the relationship between father-daughter relationships and women's romantic partner choice; As well as mother-son relationships and men's romantic partner choice. Romantic couples, at different settings ($n=136$), completed four questionnaires: one measuring their perception of the quality of relationship they had experienced with their opposite sex parent, and the others describing the psychological characteristics of: the opposite sex parent, the romantic mate, and their own. It was predicted that there will be a positive correlation between the relationship with the opposite sex parent and the romantic partner choice. Although a positive correlation was found between the two variables and, in general, results were significant.

Son and Daughter Mate Selection as a function of Respective Relations with Mother and Father

Within the past few years, efforts have been made to discover what factors are involved in the process of choosing a romantic partner. In due course researchers were able to appreciate the importance of people's relationship with their parents and the effect of such relationships on their mate choice and future romantic life. Many theories have evolved around the issue of mate choice and the role of parents in this process. In the following sections, the major theories will be exposed alongside relevant empirical support.

Empirical research has revealed the importance of fathers on significant aspects of their daughters' lives, whether their eating habits, or the career they choose, or even their romantic life. Previous studies have shown that the correlation between the father-daughter relationship and eating psychopathology is high, meaning that girls, who have a low quality relationship with their father, have a great probability of being anorexic or bulimic. Fathers' influence also extends to affect the girls' self esteem throughout their lifetime, implying that females, who have a healthy relationship with their fathers, will probably have higher self esteem than those who have not. Furthermore, fathers have an impact on the career the girl chooses when she grows up, since she believes in the way her father sees her. The effect of the father daughter relationship also extends to affect the kind of romantic partner the girl would later choose, which is the main topic of the current study. While the mother son relationship is not so different from that of the father daughter; Mothers, as well, play a major role in their sons' life. Previous research has yielded that the kind of romantic mate the son later chooses, depends on the relationship he has experienced with his mother.

The issue of mate selection has occupied many researchers; one of the significant theories which dealt with this topic is the psychoanalytic theory, which is also known as the template matching hypothesis (Daly & Wilson, 1990 cited in Geher, 2000). Other theories have also been proposed to deal with the mate selection, which are: the social homogamy theory, the theory of complementary needs, the developmental theory, and the ideal mate theory. These four theories are not significant to this study, therefore the psychoanalysis will be emphasized.

The psychoanalysis theory states that individuals usually tend to get involved with romantic partners, who resemble their opposite sex parent, i.e. females would probably fall in love with males who have the psychological characteristics of their father; and males would probably choose a romantic partner, who psychologically resembles their mother. In a related research, Epstein & Guttman (1984) aimed to test the above conclusion, by asking romantic couples to rate their parents, partners, and ideal partners on several psychological traits. In addition, parents and partners were also requested to rate themselves. Results showed similarity between the way individuals perceived their parents and the way they perceived their partners. More interestingly, similarity was obtained between the self perceived psychological characteristics of the parents and the self perceived characteristics of the partners. In other words, participants perceived their parents as psychologically similar to their romantic partners. At the same time, parents and romantic partners were found to reflect similar personality characteristics, which implies that parents and romantic partners do in fact have many psychological traits in common. Although evidence supporting the hypothesis, that parents and their children's romantic partners have similar psychological qualities, results have not been consistent (Epstein & Guttman, 1984). For instance, two other psychoanalysts, Aron (1974) and Strauss (1946), reached different conclusions regarding the effect of parents on mate choice.

According to Aron (1974), individuals tend to replicate the same kind of relationship they had experienced with their opposite sex parent, whether positive or negative, in their current romantic relationships. For instance, if a girl's father was abusive, she will probably choose an abusive romantic partner, so as to relive the same kind of relationship she had had with her father. The same holds true for males; if a man's mother was caring, he will search for a caring woman, in order to create the same type of environment, he was used to, with his mother. In his study, Aron targeted couples who were waiting in line at the marriage license bureau and distributed questionnaires, in an attempt to assess the nature of the relationship, of each member of the couple, with his/her mother and father, and the bearing of such relationship on the one each has with his/her romantic partner. Aron's findings indicated that the influence of the mother was much greater than the influence of the father on the children's future choice of romantic partner. His results showed that both males and females tended to describe their current romantic relationship as being similar to the relationship they have experienced with their mother. According to Aron, therefore, the characteristics of the mother are one of the essential factors which influence the mate selection issue, since both genders tended to select romantic mates who are similar to their mother.

On the other hand, Strauss (1946), in an attempt to check the psychoanalysis theory, targeted engaged and recently married couples ($N=373$), and examined the way couples perceived their romantic partner, their father, and their mother, using his own designed personality checklists. The questionnaires that Strauss used were constructed by him; First, he had interviewers interview fifty engaged and recently married females, in an office, asking them about their family relations, their childhood experiences and their parents, as well as their partner choice. Based on the results that he obtained from those interviews, he designed a questionnaire to use in

his research. The conclusion was based on individuals' perceptions of their parents and their romantic partners. Parents and romantic partners did not describe themselves; the results relied on the way participants saw their parents and partners. The results of Strauss's study, yielded to the conclusion that both parents had similar effects on their children's future mate choice.

Although the three empirical researches mentioned above, belonged to the same theory (psychoanalysis), each study came to a different conclusion regarding the mate selection issue. For instance, according to Epstein and Guttman (1984), fathers influence their daughters' mate choice, as do the mothers influence their sons', maximizing the effect of the opposite sex parent on mate choice. On the other hand, Aron (1974), has found that adults, whether males or females, are usually affected by their mothers while choosing a romantic partner. Finally, Strauss (1946) concluded that both parents have the same influence on their children's romantic mate selection. Although the mentioned studies targeted the American population and tried to measure the same variable, which is the influence of parents on individuals' mate choice, differences in their results were present; meaning that there is no consistency in the findings of parental influence on romantic partner's choice. Differences in the results may be due to the sampling method, or to the questionnaires being used. Individual bias might also be present, since individuals' perception of their parent and romantic partner was required of them, in most of the studies.

The current research will be targeting eastern Lebanese population and will be checking the impact of Lebanese fathers on their daughters' mate choice; as well as that of the mothers on their sons', in an attempt to discover the effect of parents on Lebanese individuals' mate choice. On basis of findings of the previous researchers, and since their results were inconsistent, the present research will explore where the Lebanese adults stand in this situation. This study will be

similar to the other previously mentioned studies, in a way, since it will be targeting romantic couples, in an attempt to discover their parents' effect on their romantic partner choice. In addition, the current research will add a new variable, which is the quality of relationship with the parents; it will explore whether the nature of relationship girls have experienced with their fathers, and boys have experienced with their mothers, can affect the romantic partner choice.

Therefore, the current study will pursue the following steps:

- a) Girls will measure their perception of their relationship with their father, as will males do regarding their relationship with their mother.
- b) Then, females will rate the psychological characteristics of their father, and males will rate the psychological characteristics of their mother.
- c) Next, participants will rate the psychological characteristics of their romantic partner.
- d) Finally, participants will rate their own traits, using the same psychological characteristics scale.

Based on the above, a hypothesis can be derived, that there will be a positive correlation between the quality of relationship with the opposite sex parent and the romantic mate choice. Positive correlation will exist between the psychological characteristics of the opposite sex parent and the psychological characteristics of the romantic partner. Any discrepancy between how individuals view their partner and how the partner views himself/herself would shed light on one of the basic questions of the present study, which is "relationship with parent of the opposite sex and its correlation with the perception of romantic partner". Further, this study examines whether the quality of relationship with the parent has an impact on perception of romantic partner's psychological characteristics; in case individuals have negative relationship with their opposite sex parent, will there be similarity in psychological traits between the two? The current

research is filling a basic gap, because not only individuals will rate their opposite sex parents and partners, but also partners will rate themselves; this kind of study is the first to be conducted in an eastern population.

How can parents affect their children's partner choice? And does this parental effect influence the way lovers perceive their romantic partner? These are some of the main questions which will be tackled in this research. In addition, the present study will try to answer the following:

- 1) Does the quality of relationship with the opposite sex parent affect the adult's mate choice?
- 2) Will the opposite sex parent and romantic partner share the same psychological characteristics?
- 3) How will young adults perceive their romantic partner?

In the next chapter, the major theories of mate selection will be highlighted, and then, light will be shed on the relevant empirical research. Finally, an analysis of the influence of Lebanese fathers on their daughters' partner choice, and that of the mothers on their sons', will be provided.

Hypotheses

Based on previous discussion, the following hypotheses were generated:

- General hypothesis is formulated to the effect that there will be a correlation between the quality of relationship with the opposite sex parent and the romantic mate choice. Specifically,
- A) In the case of poor father-daughter relationship, there will be a negative correlation between the ratings of the perceived psychological characteristics of the father and the ratings of the perceived psychological characteristics of the romantic partner.
 - B) Similarly, in the case of poor mother-son relationship, there will be a negative correlation between the ratings of the perceived psychological characteristics of the mother and the ratings of the perceived psychological characteristics of the romantic partner.
 - C) In the case of normal or high father-daughter relationship, there will be a positive correlation between the ratings of the perceived psychological characteristics of the father and the ratings of the perceived characteristics of the romantic partner.
 - D) Similarly, in the case of normal or rich mother son relationship quality, a positive correlation will exist between the ratings of the perceived psychological characteristics of the mother and the ratings of the perceived characteristics of the romantic partner,

Significance of the Study

First and foremost, one of the main purposes of this present study is to test the influence of fathers on their daughters', and that of the mothers on their sons' romantic partner choice. The sample which will be addressed includes Lebanese adults, and is the first research of this kind conducted on Lebanese population, which implies that this research will provide a clearer picture to the mate selection process. This issue is important on many levels: on an individual level, and will give value to practitioners.

- a) The contribution of this study, on an individual level is significant, because couples will be aware of the hidden factors which may be affecting them in the process of romantic partner choice, and consequently, may be more aware of their romantic relationship.
- b) On the other hand, counselors and clinical psychologists may have a closer look at the reasons of why some couples can't get along with each other (since it all relates to individuals' relationship with their opposite sex parent). And since the psychological characteristics of the opposite sex parent, might be predictive of the traits of the romantic partner, this will advance knowledge in the field of mate selection.

Nature of the Study

In the present study, the quantitative method will be employed. Research will rely on self report measures targeting couples currently involved in a romantic relationship. The sample will consist of equal number of males as females, because only couples will be participating.

The current research will consist of two parts: In the first part, participants will be asked to fill out several questionnaires: females will be answering three questionnaires; first, they will rate the quality of relationship they had experienced with their fathers; then they will rate the way they perceive the psychological characteristics of their father and the way they perceive their romantic partner's psychological characteristics. While their male couple will be filling out only a single questionnaire about the way he perceives himself. In the second part, couples will be answering the same number of questionnaires, in an attempt to assess mother son relationship as well. Therefore, each individual of the couple, will have a set of four questionnaires (the same questionnaires mentioned above) to complete.

The first questionnaire, measuring the relationship with the opposite sex parent, aimed to classify the quality of relationship adults had experienced with their opposite sex parent, to one

of the three categories: poor, normal, or rich, depending on the score obtained on that questionnaire,

While, the mother-son relationship was included in the second part, because the study aimed to test if mothers will influence their sons' mate choice, to the same extent that fathers affect their daughters'.

Delimitations

First, two of the major problems of this study are the sample size and the sampling procedure. Since the participants have to be couples, random selection, which assures that the sample is representative of the population, might be impossible to use. Therefore, the convenient sampling will be used in order to gather the data. Using this kind of sampling will prevent us from generalizing the obtained results to the whole population. As a consequence, we will have doubts regarding the external validity of the study.

The sample might be suffering from other kind of limitation, as well, which is: the representation of all the socio-economic classes. The targeted sample consisted of university students, and couples visiting the wedding follies in Biel, in addition to couples visiting the AlBayader Printing group for wedding cards; this convenient sample might not be representative of all the socio-economic classes, and probably might be biased toward the middle class.

Definition of Terms

Romantic Attraction: it is the feeling of being drawn to another person. People can be attracted to the physical appearance of others or they can feel that there exists a chemistry between them (Brehm, Kasson, & Fein, 2002).

Romantic Love: there does not exist a single definition of love, since it is a construct that has different forms (Rempel & Burris, 2005). While falling in love happens, when the other person meets the criteria we have in our minds, regarding the romantic partner we want to be with (psychology of falling in love).

Relationship with the opposite sex parent: this includes the father daughter relationship, as well as the mother son, and is defined, as the way the female perceives her relationship with her father, and the way a male perceives his relationship with his mother.

Poor quality relationship with the opposite sex parent: when a girl's relationship with her father, or a boy's relationship with his mother, used to be negative, then the relationship is said to be of poor value. A score of less than 15 is obtained on the Significant Other Esteem Scale, which implies that adults view their relationship with their opposite sex parent as being of poor quality (Rosenberg, 1979).

Normal quality relationship with the opposite sex parent: when a girl's relationship with her father, or a boy's relationship with his mother, used to be ordinary, then the relationship is said to be normal. the score obtained on the Significant Other Esteem Scale, will be between 15 and 25, which implies that adults view their relationship with their opposite sex parent as being normal, neither negative nor positive (Rosenberg, 1979).

High quality relationship with the opposite sex parent: when a girl's relationship with her father, or a boy's relationship with his mother, used to be positive, then the relationship is said to be of

high value. A score of more than 25 is obtained on the Significant Other Esteem Scale, which implies that adults view their relationship with their opposite sex parent as being of high quality (Rosenberg, 1979).

Perception of psychological characteristics: Perception is defined as one's mental representations of others, according to Gurung (2001). While perception of psychological characteristics, will mean, one's mental representation of the psychological traits of the other person.

Actual psychological characteristics: this is just the opposite of the perceived psychological characteristics. It is the self perceived traits of someone.

Chapter II

Literature review

The question of mate selection has occupied many researchers and many theories have been developed in an attempt to find the factors that lie behind this complicated process. A large body of literature on the issue of mate selection provides a basis for the current research. Some of the main theories of mate selection, are: the psychoanalytic theory, the imago theory, the social homogamy theory, the theory of complementary needs, the developmental theory, and the ideal mate theory. Based on previous empirical studies, many factors play a major role in the choice of romantic partner; the present research will discuss few of these factors, which are: romantic attraction; father-daughter relationship; mother-son relationship; daddy as the girl's "first love"; relationship between the father and the romantic partner; reasons of choosing someone like the opposite sex parent.

This section will be divided into two parts: in the first part, the theories of mate selection will be highlighted; while in the second one, the focus will be on empirical studies found in this field.

Theories of mate selection

The Process of Mate Selection

How do we choose our partners? And what are the factors involved in this process? These are the main questions that will be tackled in the following sections. Many theorists have tried to find the answers to these questions, which resulted in the formation of different and sometimes opposing points of views. The following sections will deal with most of the well known theories of mate selection.

A. The psychoanalytic theory

To start with, Geher (2000) tried to explain Freud's ideas regarding the "mate selection" issue. In his work, Geher (2000) examined the psychoanalytic theory, which believes that people choose a romantic partner who resembles their opposite sex parent; stating that the romantic partner and the opposite sex parent will share many psychological characteristics. According to Geher, people involved in a romantic relationship, will be repeating the relationship they have had with their opposite sex parent during their childhood. Strauss (1946) explained the romantic relationships as a "reliving of the early childhood relationships". He continued by claiming that children learn to love or hate certain kinds of people during their early years of life; consequently, when they grow up, they will continue loving or hating the same kinds of individuals. And finally, when it comes to choosing a romantic partner, people will choose those who resemble or be different from their parents, based on the traits they liked or disliked in them, when they were children (Strauss, 1946).

B. The imago theory

With regard to this issue of mate selection, Kohrman (2007) speculated about the following question: "are we attracted to romantic partners who tend to resemble our early caregivers?" Her study emphasized the imago theory of Hendrix, (1988). This theory claims that people unconsciously choose partners who share their caregivers' traits, whether positive or negative, in order to acknowledge and solve any unmet needs of their childhood: the unmet need might be love or empathy or just the attention of the other person. In an attempt to resolve these needs, Kohrman (2007) explained that individuals involved in a romantic relationship have to be "conscious"; consciousness means recognizing their, as well as their partner's childhood wounds (the unmet needs). Once these wounds are recognized and acknowledged, and both individuals

(the couple) are conscious, healing the past can start and recovery can take place. This is the point where individuals can start a healthy romantic life, according to Kohrman. Moreover, the imago theory, as well, states that the opposite sex parent influences the partner choice. Kohrman (2007) conducted an empirical study, where twelve participants were interviewed regarding their romantic partner choice and their romantic attraction; and it was found that women are attracted to males who share their fathers' mental attributes.

According to Hendrix (1992) there exists another important question which relates to the mate selection process and should be highlighted, which is "are we free to choose our partners?" one can not proudly answer positively to this question, because our unconscious disagrees to it. According to the imago, in a way, we are free to choose our partners, but the "old" brain of ours has its role, too. This old brain strives to go back to the wounds left from childhood, and resolve any unmet needs, by currently replicating the scenes we have lived in our early life. The moment of "falling in love" is the moment where we can "complete our unfinished childhood business", claims Hendrix. This is the scenario of the wounded child who wants to overcome and acknowledge all the negative marks his/her childhood left on him/her, but who finds himself/herself trapped with a same kind of romantic partner who will not help him/her complete this mission. Hendrix gave us the solution, and explained that consciousness can change this miserable scenario. Hendrix states that if we are unaware of these facts, that we tend to choose someone who psychologically resembles our parents, and we repeated our childhood wounds in our romantic relationships, it will be a disaster; but if we try to heal the wounds of childhood, with our partner, it will be the first positive step on consciousness. We have to become a "whole" again and correct the things that had gone wrong during our childhood. Hendrix (1992) defined the conscious relationship as follows: "a conscious relationship is not for the faint hearted, for it

requires reclaiming the lost, repressed parts of ourselves which we were told were dangerous to have, and which we unconsciously hate ourselves for having...”

As a conclusion to the imago theory, the romantic partner whom individuals tend to choose, will share the qualities of their caregiver, whether it is the mother or the father or a significant other.

C. Social Homogamy Theory

According to “theories of mate selection”, the social homogamy theory emphasizes that like is attracted to like. They believe that the mate individuals select tends to be very similar to them. Usually, the partners whom individuals select share the same race, religion, social class, and physical attractiveness with them. This already is the expectation of parents and society. The similarity also extends to include other physical characteristics as well, like weight and height; as well as psychological characteristics, like intelligence, attitudes, and personality.

This theory, the social homogamy theory, denies the parents’ role in the process of mate selection, maximizing only the couple’s characteristics.

D. Theory of Complementary Needs

This theory focuses on the differences between the partners, as opposed to the social homogamy theory. It believes that the psychological variables are more important than the social ones (theories of mate selection). According to this theory of complementary needs, individuals choose partners who are very different from themselves: for instance, a shy person is likely to choose an outgoing partner; an introvert will likely choose an extrovert. In summary, people are more likely to choose someone who has the characteristics the person himself/herself lacks, in an attempt to complement each other. Furthermore, this theory believes that individuals tend to

marry someone most likely like their opposite sex parent, in an attempt to meet the psychological needs that he/she was used to, as a child, within his/her own family.

This theory of complementary needs relates to the current study, and supports the hypothesis that individuals tend to marry someone sharing the psychological characteristics of their opposite sex parent.

E. Developmental Theory of Mate Selection

The developmental theory, states that the characteristics of a potential mate are filtered through stages, in order to succeed in a relationship. There are different versions of this theory, each explained the stages in a different way (theories of mate selection). The main categories of this theory, are: the first filter sorts the partner on basis of race, religion, age, and social class; the second one, on basis of values, interests, and goals; the third filter decides if complementary needs will be met. This is sequential, i.e. the partner has to pass the first stage in order to be promoted to the second (theories of mate selection).

F. Ideal Mate Theory

The ideal mate theory, believes that each individual will form the idea of the ideal mate; this can be influenced by many factors, like: parents, television, and observation of others. This current theory believes that people will choose someone who most likely resembles the ideal mate they have in their heads (theories of mate selection).

This theory is similar to the concept that the current study is measuring; since the father or the mother may have influenced their adults in the formation of the ideal mate, which in consequence might affect their partner choice.

We conclude that there is no one answer to the mate selection issue, and many theories have been developed in an attempt to give an explanation to this question. The present research will check whether Lebanese adults, as well, choose a mate who psychologically resembles their opposite sex parent.

Empirical studies

The empirical studies that have been conducted in the field of mate selection stressed on several variables, some of which are going to be discussed in the following sections: romantic attraction; father-daughter relationship; mother son relationship; daddy as the girl's "first love"; relationship between the father and the romantic partner; reasons of choosing someone like the opposite sex parent.

A. Romantic Relationships and attraction

Attraction is the first impression in any kind of romantic relationship. Going in line with this statement, Hatfield (1966) conducted a research, where she randomly matched 376 university students as couples, at an arranged dance, she then had participants assess their dates after two and a half hours. After evaluating the psychological traits of the couple, the major significant factor which seemed to predict liking, in both males and females, was physical attractiveness, according to Hatfield.

"Romantic attraction is based on a script deeply imprinted in your psyche that was formed during childhood", this was how romantic attraction was defined (love and romantic attraction, 2007). The majority of researchers claimed that individuals tend to be attracted to others who share the same psychological characteristics of their opposite sex parent, concluding that females usually marry someone like their father; while males end up with a woman who shares the

psychological characteristics of their mother. Several theories have been developed concerning romantic attraction that strikes lovers.

People usually are attracted to others who embody the traits of their parents, whether positive or negative; that gives them the feeling of as if they've known their partner before; and what they feel deeply down, and remains unconscious, is their desire to have a relationship which reminds them of their relationship with their parents; they want to go back there and continue that old relationship in an attempt to get all the love and attention they still desire from those people. According to "love and romantic attraction" (2007), "because romantic attraction is based on qualities in your partner that you unconsciously recognize from your childhood experiences, you're doomed to be as fulfilled or unfulfilled by your partner's love as you were by your parent's". Roiphe (2005) had a similar point of view regarding the concept of attraction; she believes that people are attracted to others, who will relive with them the emotional patterns they had experienced with their parents, during childhood; consequently, they choose someone who shares the qualities of their parents and who can recreate with them both the good and bad moments of their childhood. Whitaker (as cited in Roiphe, 2005) explained that sometimes girls think they have found someone different from daddy, while in reality this is not true; this girl will later discover that, her partner has some characteristics that are just like those of her father (whether it is gambling, addiction, alcoholism...).

Individuals are not only attracted to others who share some of their parents' psychological traits, but also to significant others who physically resemble their parent; in a study conducted by professors in Durham University, in UK, 81 females were required to rate the attractiveness of males by looking at their pictures, while simultaneously the facial proportions and features of

these girls' fathers were measured. Results agreed with sexual imprinting, which is the attraction to others who embody the characteristics of the parents, and showed a correlation between the quality of father daughter relationship and sexual imprinting. Females who had experienced a healthy relationship with their father, were inclined to choose a romantic partner similar to him, as opposed to those whose relationship was poor; which means that the better the father daughter relationship, the more the father and the romantic partner will physically resemble each other (Wiszevska et al, 2007). The question of this current research is whether the "sexual imprinting" works with psychological characteristics as well.

Before going further, Fisher (2007) agreed to the fact that people are usually attracted to others, sharing the same socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds, and usually similar in age, level of intelligence and level of attractiveness. But she wondered how a girl can meet a lot of males sharing these qualities but still not fall in love with them. How could this happen? This is a long process, but if we want to give a short answer to this complicated question, it will be the "love map" (Fisher, 2007). The love map was defined by Fisher as the "unconscious list of qualities"; every person starts building this map during childhood, and it includes our caregiver's, our parents', and our siblings' reactions and characteristics. These childhood experiences, which may seem insignificant to some, create the template of the ideal romantic mate. Later, when we reach the teenage years, our love map, which will involve the traits and values which we are attracted to, will be ready, and we will wait for the person who will meet the criteria of registering on our map. When this takes place, our brain chemicals work to tell us that we have found the right person (Fisher, 2007). She claims that females are attracted to males who share the psychological traits of their father; similarly, males fall in love with females who psychologically resemble their mommy.

The current research will take a closer look to the similarity and /or the difference between the psychological characteristics of the father and of the partner, in an attempt to test if the previous literature applies to the Lebanese population, as well.

Research shows that attraction plays a major role in the process of mate selection; and the kind of person individuals get attracted to, is influenced by the parents he/she had. Some of the previously mentioned research stated that people are usually attracted to someone like their mom or dad, one of the concepts the present research will test.

B. The importance of father daughter relationship

Although most of the previous findings tended to emphasize the impact a mother leaves on her daughter, some others were inclined to agree to the fact that the father as well may affect his daughter's future choices, in general (Kelly, 2008). Many studies aimed to test the effect of fathers on their daughters' lives, throughout lifespan, and agreed that the role fathers play in their daughters' lives, is significant. On the basis of the empirical research that will be discussed, the father-daughter relationship is valuable and has a large impact on the girl's life. Based on Katorski (2003), empirical research predicts that the relationship a girl experiences with her father, stays with her to her adulthood years. Katorski's research included 181 females who were asked to complete questionnaires testing their relationship with their fathers and describing their attachment style with their father; then they filled out the same questionnaires regarding their relationship with their current partner. Results showed that there is a correlation between the attachment styles of father-daughter and that of woman-partner, that is, women tend to relive the same attachment style that they were used to with their father, in their current romantic life. Furthermore, according to Secunda (1992), a girl starts receiving messages about herself from her daddy; she perceives herself the way her father views her. Secunda (1992) continues by

elaborating that a little girl will consider whether she is or is not pretty, desirable, weak, strong, and/or brilliant in the eyes of all men, based on what she sees in her father's eyes. In addition, she will start forming an idea of how men, in general, are; whether they are trustworthy, dependable, available, dangerous... based on how her daddy is. Sometimes, fathers may be annoyed by the overattachment of their daughters to them; while, in fact this is very natural because these little girls want to attract their father, and that happens, because they are eager to know what attracts members of the opposite sex (Kelly, 2008). And how will they know the answer? Definitely, they will refer to the first man in their life: their daddy. Kelly (2008) stated that it's not only about the way we deal with the daughter herself, but also about the way we react to all females around her. The little girl will be observing all the attitudes, reactions and beliefs of the father toward all females, and will be expecting just the same from all other boys or men she will encounter in her life. For instance, if her father respects women, she will know that women have to be respected; and if she feels that her daddy is emotionally present, she will think that all men can be like that (Walker, 1999). Walker (1999) explained that a girl expects from the first and most important man in her life, her dad, to validate her femininity; that's why she needs a real father: a male figure who will love her and care for her; someone who will give her the proper image of men and will prepare her to face all kinds of men when she enters the adult world (Walker, 1999).

The present research will point out the relationship Lebanese females have had with their fathers and how this relationship can affect women's mate choice.

The influence fathers can have on their daughters may extend to affect the future marital life of daughters, according to Norment and Chappell (2003). For instance, many relationships are ended because of the pile that females will be carrying from their childhood. Some women may

have suffered from the absence of the father figure, while some others may have lived in an environment where the father over exists. Both cases may seem desperate, but whatever happens, according to Norment and Chappell (2003), the male figure should never be destroyed in the girl's life; she has to know that not all men are the same, and the fact that her father was good or bad doesn't mean that all other males are like that.

The previously mentioned research shows how important the father is in the girl's life; he is the *first man* who has the major influence on all the girl's choices. It is very essential to highlight this issue and let fathers be aware of the major role, they are playing, in their daughters' lives. From this current research, we will have the chance to have a glance at the quality of relationship Lebanese women have gone through, with their father.

C. The importance of mother son relationship

In order to make sense of the effect of the opposite sex parent on mate choice, we have to shed light on the issue of mother-son relationship as well. The aim of this short paragraph is to try to highlight and address the mother-son relationship. Although finding past studies about father-daughter relationship was hard, that of the mother-son was almost impossible. Very few were the previous studies, which looked closer to the effect of mothers on their son's later partner choice. Relevant empirical research concerning this topic was not available. An article titled "Mother's relationship with her son" questioned whether the mother-son relationship differs from the mother-daughter relationship; they found out that the question is yes, they do differ. According to this article, since the mother and her daughter are females, they share the "female code" and can understand each other easily; while the case differs for sons. Because of gender differences, mothers have to get introduced to, and grasp the "male code", in an attempt to understand their sons better. According to Elmore (as cited in Norment and Chappell, 2003)

the first eyes the baby sees, the first smile, the first voice, and the first touch he feels, is that of his mother. While growing up, he recognizes the relationships his mother is having with males, whether it is the husband, the boyfriend, or even the male cousins or friends, and he starts getting some idea of how males and females react and deal with each other. By this way, according to Elmore (as cited in Norment and Chappell, 2003), the mother is giving her son an idea of how women, in general, are. Therefore, the way of raising the son, and the relationships the mother experiences with members of opposite sex, can have a large influence on how the male will see himself, and how he will view all other females in his life. Moreover, Dr. Elmore (as cited in Norment and Chappell, 2003) believes that if the mother says something about any male figure in front of her son, for the son, it's as if she is telling it to him. Let's take as an example a mother who talks negatively about men, this specific mother is, as if giving her son negative messages about him. Instead, she has to show her son how positive can a man-woman relationship be, and how good, both men and women can be (Elmore, as cited in Norment and Chappell, 2003). If we want to summarize the benefits of a positive and loving mother-son relationship, we would say that this relationship is essential in helping the male prepare for his later romantic relationships, because that early relationship with the first member of the opposite sex, the mom, will help him learn intimacy skills, learn how to respect women in general, and be able to get engaged in a satisfying love relationship (Pollack).

Is there a gender difference, between men and women, when it comes to romantic attraction? As cited in the *Science Daily* (Feb. 2008), the traditional thinking of attraction believes in that men are concerned about physical attraction; while women are drawn to men who have power and authority. However, recent studies (Science Daily, 2008 and Eastwick & Finkel, 2008) eliminated these gender differences, and stated that both men and women are attracted to

physically attractive others, as well as to others who have power (Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, 2008). In another interesting study, the question of “whether men marry their mothers” was tested (Science Daily, 2008). The mentioned study found out that smart men usually tend to marry smart women. Their findings were based on the belief that, since mums are the role models for how a woman should be, the partner they choose will probably reflect the education level of their mother. Therefore, males whose mothers have university degrees, tend to marry females who also have the same kind of degree (Science Daily, 2008).

The second part of the present study will check if males choose a female romantic partner who shares the psychological characteristics of their mother.

D. Daddy as the girl's “first love”

According to Kelly (2008), “when a girl grows up, she marries her father”. Kelly (2008) had published a book, which helps fathers in raising their daughters, and the conclusions he ended up with, are based on real life experiences and on advice from fathers of teenage girls, to all other fathers who are affecting their children's lives. Kelly (2008) illustrates that the partner the girl chooses will, most probably, share the same characteristics of her father. The female will, as well, be comparing all men she meets in her life with her father, until she meets the one who resembles him (Kelly, 2008). That's why a girl's father is described as her “first love”. No matter how good or bad that relationship used to be, the father is his daughter's first love according to Secunda (1992). Playing the role of the first man in her life, the father is helping his daughter shape the prototype of the ideal partner (Kavanagh, 2002); moreover, long before she meets her “love” or ideal partner, her attitude and behavior toward males has been shaped unconsciously by this “first love of her life”: her daddy, claims Dr. Dobson (2008). He continues by stating that this father-daughter relationship prepares the stage for the girl's intimate relationships. In his

same work, Dobson (2008) explains that if a girl's father used to reject her, this young woman will try to search for someone who will fulfill the need her father couldn't meet. On the other hand, if the father was caring, the young woman will search for someone just like him; moreover this girl will develop a self image based on how her father perceived her as his small daughter (Dobson, 2008). This idea is one of the concepts that this research will try to tackle: if the father-daughter relationship was of poor quality, will the father and the romantic partner share the same psychological characteristics? And how will the young female perceive these two males to be?

Most of the previous research, testing the correlation between parents and partners, didn't have partners rate themselves; their results relied on the girl's perception of the two male figures in her life: the father and the partner. While the present one is filling a major gap, by having partners rate themselves. This will highlight the discrepancy between how the girl perceives her partner, and how he perceives himself, using the same personality traits questionnaire.

E. The Relationship Between the Girl's Father and Partner

As mentioned previously, the father is the first love of his daughter. The question is: Does the assumption of being the first love relate to the female's later mate choice? Johnson (2002) described the answer as a scenario called the "daddy trap". Johnson (2002) started the article by giving the example of a woman walking down the street; she falls into a hole; she falls once, twice, and then? How many times does she need to fall into the hole in order to learn that there is a hole there and she needs to avoid it? This is how some girls keep on falling and falling for the same kind of man, the wrong man (Johnson, 2002). Even when these girls break up with someone and start searching for another partner, who may be more suitable for them, they fall into the hole, because they will probably choose someone having similar traits like the previous one. And the scenario continues: they either end up staying with the wrong man, or break up

with him but choose someone sharing the same characteristics (Johnson, 2002). But why does this happen? Johnson (2002) states that the partners females choose, have something similar; this similarity encompasses not only them but the women's fathers as well. Johnson (2002) explains that girls choose someone similar to their first love, their daddy, because that makes them feel familiar and comfortable, and reminds them of their father.

According to Dr. Michelle Morancie (as cited in Johnson, 2002), females usually seek their fathers' double; and when a girl falls in love and states that her love is just like her father, she will be right, because that was the quality that attracted her to him, in the first place. Morancie (as cited in Johnson, 2002) added a real story of a 37 year old lady, named Lillian, who always falls for the wrong man and her relationships end up by breaking up. And this happens to Lillian because she always chooses a man who has multiple partners and she tries to be the winner among other women. She is even aware of the fact that she is not the only woman in her partner's life, and she accepts it, and is always willing to win. In fact, she is the one who chooses partners having this quality. But why? Why would a female want a romantic partner who will cheat on her and have other females share him with her? That really happens, and it was happening with Lillian, because her father used to be like that, and he never showed his daughter how important she was for him. This simple example illustrates how girls repeat the relationship they have had with their father and try to relive it in their romantic life. This can give us a clue to the "daddy trap" that Johnson (2002) mentioned; as a result, if a girl's father was a critical person, that may be the quality the girl will be searching for, in a man. If daddy used to control every movement his daughter takes, the girl may end up with this kind of man (Morancie, as cited in Johnson, 2002).

These examples may seem very simple compared to the issue of addiction. Can you imagine the type of partner a girl may choose if her father was alcoholic, or if he used to abuse and/or abandon her? Unfortunately, the case is true for these kinds of fathers, too (Morancie, as cited in Johnson, 2002). Morancie claims that if the father was addicted to anything (gambling, drugs, alcohol...) and if he made his daughter feel that his addiction was more important than his love to her, this may affect the girl very negatively and she may, as a consequence, fall into painful love. Morancie resembled this kind of female to a magnet which would attract painful love, just the way her love to her daddy used to be; she may even think that she couldn't win her daddy's love, when she was a child, but now that she is grown up, she has the chance to win her partner's love and turn everything right, illustrates Dr. Morancie.

Now that awareness toward this huge "problem" is highlighted, how can it be resolved and how can a female choose the real right man? Banks (as cited in Johnson, 2002) tries to give the answer to this question by explaining that if girls want to have a healthy - satisfying love relationship, they have to resolve and heal all the wounds left by their daddy. For instance, a girl who was abandoned by her father, should ask herself why she is recreating the same theme she experienced with her father; Instead of blaming her partners and asking why they are leaving her? Therefore, the problem lies not in women's love relationships, but in the kind of man they choose, and in the kind of experience they are trying to recreate (Banks, as cited in Johnson, 2002). Similarly, if the relationship of the daughter with her father was a good and healthy one, the girl may again choose someone who looks like her father. In other words, if the girl thinks that her daddy was a good dad, the moment she meets someone resembling him, she may be attracted to him. The girl may think that her father was a good daddy and performed his fathering job well, and since this guy resembles him, he has to be good just like her old daddy, that may be

the cause of attraction as a first place (*Journal of Evolution and Human Behavior*). Going further, Newton (2008) claims that girls usually choose a mate who reminds them of the way their father used to be; take as an example a father who acts as the helper of his wife and supports her in everything; this will be the quality that a girl will search for in her mate (Newton, 2008).

In a study investigating the parental influence on mate choice, more than 3000 newly married Hawaiian couples were asked to rate the psychological characteristics of their opposite sex parent and their mate (Jedlicka, 1984). Results indicated that individuals are more influenced by their opposite sex parent while choosing a mate, according to Jedlicka.

What is obvious from all the mentioned findings, is that no matter how good or bad a girl's father is, she has a great chance of being romantically attracted to someone sharing his psychological characteristics. Paries tried to explain this "formula" in a wonderful way, and explained how people should become a whole, to be able to live a satisfying romantic relationship, in the following scenario:

"Consider the following. We are all little kids in adult bodies. We all have needs that were not adequately met by our parents. Not to blame our parents, mind you. One little girl's daddy was not there to pay attention to her. Another boy's mother didn't have time to go to his sporting events. Seemingly ordinary events like these can hurt children deeply and leave them incomplete. The hurt and the incompleteness can't be helped. Children will grow up incomplete about events in their lives. But look at what happens to the same little girl and boy when they grow up and start looking for a mate.

The little girl, now a grown woman, finds men who don't have time or are not inclined to give her attention, and so she spends the bulk of her time in any given relationship chasing her partner. The little boy finds women who don't care about the things that are important to him and can't celebrate his wins with him, and so he spends the bulk of his time in relationships feeling the same way he felt when he was a kid - unimportant and unloved. And this little girl and boy, now grown, and thousands of others like them, keep finding the same types of partners over and over again. Why?

Because when we have a need that was not met in our childhood we will relive it over and over again as adults. We will retell our childhood trauma stories over and over again in our behavior, until we are finally heard. We will find partners that are similar to our care givers, those behavior patterns that caused us pain and disappointment in the first place. That way, if we are really good and we are really lovable, and if our partners really love us and care about us, they will change for us and we will get our wounds healed and finally get complete with our childhood - we will become whole."

On basis of previously mentioned theories and empirical research, this question of similarity and/or difference between the father and the partner, is one of the major goals of this current study's.

F. Empirical research on the template matching hypothesis

Few empirical research can be found, relevant to the template matching hypothesis, which proposes that people choose someone similar to the opposite sex parent. Geher (2000) investigated a research to test this hypothesis; he included 492 undergraduate students, involved in a romantic relationship. Subjects were asked to rate their parents', their romantic partner's,

and their ideal mate's personality measures, using the NEO-FFI and the Adult Attachment Scale; and then parents and romantic partners rated their own psychological traits. Geher's results gave evidence to the template matching hypothesis, stating that there exists a similarity between the actual psychological characteristics of the opposite sex parent and the partner. Regarding the perceived characteristics, results showed that individuals usually perceive their romantic partner as similar to both same sex and opposite sex parent.

More evidence has been obtained on the psychoanalytic theory, where Fry and Freeman examined the influence of the perceived quality of the relationship between an individual and the opposite-sex parent on the characteristics desired in an ideal partner. One hundred and twenty university students were asked to complete a questionnaire measuring the psychological characteristics of the ideal opposite-sex parent, their own opposite-sex parent, and their ideal mate. Meanwhile, subjects' perceived quality of relationship with their opposite-sex parent was evaluated using a 4-item measure. Results indicated that individuals who perceived the relationship with their opposite-sex parent to be of high quality perceived their parent and their ideal partner more psychologically similar than those who perceived their relationship to be of low quality. Therefore, according to Fry and Freeman, the higher the quality of relationship with the opposite sex parent was perceived, the more similar the opposite sex parent and the ideal partner rated on the psychological traits measure. This study supports one of the current study's hypotheses, that the partner and the opposite sex parent are perceived to be psychologically similar, in case of high quality relationship with that parent (Fry & Freeman).

G. The reason of choosing someone similar to mom or dad

According to “loreleismommy”, girls tend to choose partners sharing some of their fathers' traits, as do boys share someone having their mothers' psychological traits, for many reasons, which are: “comfort in familiarity, righting old wrongs, reclaiming personal history, and breaking the chain.”

a) Comfort in familiarity:

Many couples claim that they feel as if they've known their partner from long time ago. This happens because the partner they have chosen reminds them of their parent. For instance, since a girl may choose a man resembling her father, that kind of man will seem familiar to her, and will make her feel as if she had known her partner her whole life, states Savage (as cited in loreleismommy). This is true and it always happens; “when you grow up familiar with certain type of person, you're attracted to that same type of person because it feels comfortable, whether you like it or not”, claims Savage (as cited in loreleismommy).

b) Righting old wrongs

People tend to think that if they didn't succeed in accomplishing a certain task during their childhood, they may have the chance to finish it as adults. For instance, girls who were not able to gain their father's love at childhood, or boys who lacked the love of their mother, want to relive that scenario in an attempt to win this time. As adults, these girls or boys tend to choose men or women resembling their father or mother, so they can go back to the same scene they've lived in, during their early years, and resolve that conflict. But Treat (as cited in loreleismommy) opposes this idea, and continues by saying that these girls and boys may think that this way will help them recover the early wounds,

while in fact, even this time they will fail, and their marriage will result in bad consequences (Treat, as cited in loreleismommy).

c) Reclaiming personal history

In order to have a satisfying romantic life, females and males should work on the history of their familial relationships; they need to be aware of the kind of relationship they have experienced and of the missions they are expecting men to accomplish. Young women and men have to acknowledge and reclaim all their childhood wounds and recognize what they are expecting of guys and girls; sometimes relationships may fail because of these unacknowledged childhood wounds.

d) Breaking the chain

Fortunately, males and females are able to break the chain of marrying someone like their opposite sex parent; this can be done through consciousness, explains Swenson (as cited in loreleismommy). She believes that if a woman desperately needs to have a different kind of relationship than the one she had lived with her father, it is possible and it can be accomplished by consciousness, as is the case with boys. Swenson (as cited in loreleismommy) described consciousness as follows: first the couple needs to spend enough time together and see how one is supporting the other; the second part is assertiveness, where she claims that a girl sometimes has to assert herself and see her partner's reaction. It's beneficial to know if her partner will sacrifice for her by putting his own needs aside and follow hers; finally, it's essential for the couple to discuss life issues, some examples include the issue of having kids or financial status... they have to be conscious and aware of these factual experiences that they will go through.

After checking to what extent the father affects the girl's mate choice, and the mother affects the boy's partner choice, it was essential to know the reason that lies behind this sequence of choosing male partners.

Summary:

From having a look at some of the previous findings, we can realize that parents do have an impact on their children's later romantic life. The father is the first male figure in his daughter's life, as is the mother for the son; she is the first female the son meets, the moment he opens his eyes. Imagine how huge the role of the parents is, in their children's lives. Imagine how much the HE and the SHE mean for both the girl and the boy.

If there exists a parental influence on later romantic relationships, in Lebanese population as well, which gender is more affected, and which parent's impact is more? This is one of the issues which this current study will tackle. Moreover, the current perspective is also concerned about knowing whether the romantic partner and the opposite sex parent share the same psychological characteristics, and on which traits they differ. Finally, will young males and females just perceive their romantic partners as being similar to their opposite sex parent or will there be an actual similarity? This study will discover whether romantic partners and opposite sex parent actually share some psychological traits, or whether young lovers perceive their partners as the same like their opposite sex parent.

This current study is somehow new, because it involved couples together, not only one person who is engaged in a romantic relationship. Usually, the majority of the previous studies included one dating person, not the couple; but this study included both the male and the female, which will validate the results more.

CHAPTER III

Method

Participants

The quantitative method was used in this study. The data was collected in the beginning of spring, 2008. The current study's sample included romantic partners who were students at Haigazian University, Lebanese American University, and Lebanese University (Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences, Fanar 2). The sample also included couples visiting the wedding follies, in Biel (February, 2009); as well as couples visiting the Albayader Printing Group (which is a wedding cards place, in Dekwaneh, Slaf). The number of participants was 136 couples, either engaged or recently married. 136 females filled out the father-daughter relationship questionnaire; but only 64 males completed the mother-son questionnaire. Participants differed in religious orientations and in age. The mean age was 23 for females and 26 for males; while in general, ages ranged between 18 and 28 for females, 21 and 32 for males.

Measures

The independent variable to be measured is: relationship with opposite sex parent and father's psychological characteristics, as perceived by the daughter; As well as mother's psychological characteristics, as perceived by her son.

The dependent variable under study is: romantic partner's psychological characteristics, as perceived by his/her partner.

Instruments

The present study was based on the survey method, where different couples used self report measurements, to evaluate their past relationship with their opposite sex parent, simultaneously, they assessed their current romantic relationship. In addition to the demographic variables page,

two main scales were used in this study, they were: The Significant Other Esteem Scale and The Other Self Concept Questionnaire.

1. The Significant Other Esteem Scale (as cited in Lueken, 2005)

The Significant Other Esteem Scale (Gurung et al., 2001) is a 10 item scale based on Rosenberg's (1979) self esteem scale. Participants rate their perception of worth of their opposite sex parent on different items; both positive and negative items are present in this questionnaire, for instance: "he/she has a number of good qualities" and "he/she certainly seems useless at times". Individuals use the Likert-type scale to rate their answers; the scale ranges from 1 = strongly disagree to 4 = strongly agree. The internal consistency reliability of this scale is strong, as demonstrated by Cronbach's alpha, ranging between 0.84 (Gurung et al., 2001, as cited in Lueken, 2005) and 0.85 (Steiner-Pappalardo & Gurung, 2002, as cited in Lueken, 2005).

In order to assess the quality of relationship women had experienced with their father, and males had had with their mother, the following scoring system will be used: if the score on this scale is less than 15, it indicates that the girl's relationship with her father, and that of the boy with his mother, was poor; if it is between 15 and 25, it indicates a normal relationship with the father or the mother; the score which is above 25, means the adult experienced a very good relationship with his/her opposite sex parent.

2. The Other Self Concept Questionnaire (as cited in Lueken, 2005)

The Other Self Concept Questionnaire (Gurung et al., 2001) was adapted from the Self Concept Questionnaire (Sarason et al., 1991, as cited in Lueken, 2005). This is a 42 item measure that uses descriptive adjectives measured on a Likert-type scale. Participants

respond to each phrase or word using a scale of 1 to 4, where 1 = very inaccurate and 4 = very accurate, to assess their perception of the psychological characteristics their opposite sex parent, of their romantic partner, and of themselves. This scale included positive (example: reliable, warm, kind) as well as negative (example: critical of others, impatient, often depressed) traits and characteristics. The measure has a strong reliability, ranging between 0.83 – 0.89 for the positive characteristics and 0.82 – 0.86 for the negative traits (Gurung et al., 2001; Steiner-pappalardo & Gurung, 2002, as cited in Lueken, 2005).

Procedure

At Haigazian University, the researcher distributed the questionnaires in the campus and in the garden; a convenient sample of couples were approached and told about the research. After making sure that students want to participate voluntarily, the researcher gave them the questionnaires and let them fill them and return them back. At the Lebanese American University, two of the researcher's peers, (one majoring Education and the other one Psychology) volunteered to help in collecting the data, following the same steps of the researcher's. While at the Lebanese University, the researcher's both cousins (English Literature major) distributed the questionnaires to couples sitting around the campus. On the other hand, the researcher attended the wedding follies, in Biel (Beirut) in February 2009. This event advertises and presents different wedding ideas and wedding planners, and a lot of couples, who are on their way to get married, visit this place; the event goes on for four days, from 4:00 p.m. till 10:00 p.m.. The researcher went to Biel for three days from 4:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m., and distributed questionnaires for couples who chose to participate in the research. Finally, during the Easter vacation, the researcher spent time in "AlBayader printing group" for wedding cards,

where couples who decided their wedding date come to choose their wedding card. The researcher explained to individuals the research and its purpose, and those who voluntarily wanted to participate completed the questionnaires.

Results and perceptions of romantic partner's psychological characteristics and relationship quality compared between the relationship with the opposite sex parent, the psychological characteristics of the opposite sex parent and the romantic partner as perceived by the adult, and the adult's psychological characteristics of the partner. In general, from the 125 participants, the sample included 21 women who had experienced a poor quality relationship with their father, 27 women had a normal relationship, while 28 women rated their relationship with their father as high quality. Concerning the mother's relationship quality, 8 women had experienced a poor quality relationship with their mother, while 41 women had a normal relationship, and 29 had a high relationship.

Subsequent conclusions are presented in the following two tables:

Table 1. Comparison between parent and romantic partner's father's couple relationship

Relationship with father	Relationship with mother	Psych. char. of romantic partner	Psych. char. of father	Relationship with father	Pearson	
					chi-sq	df
Good	Good	32%	47%	30%	1.10	41
Good	Bad	33%	49%	25%	0.90	38
Good	Normal	13%	48%	14%	1.18	124
Good	Bad	100%	21%	41%	2.32	177
Good	Normal	26%	38%	30%	0.05	0.06
Good	Bad	74%	13%	13%	1.15	124
Good	Normal	100%	71%	33%	3.04	38
Good	Bad	21%	49%	25%	0.90	38
Good	Normal	13%	48%	14%	1.18	124
Good	Bad	100%	21%	41%	2.32	177
Good	Normal	26%	38%	30%	0.05	0.06
Good	Bad	74%	13%	13%	1.15	124

Chapter IV

Results

To test the hypothesized relationship between quality of relationship with the opposite sex parent and perception of romantic partner’s psychological characteristics, correlation analyses were computed between the relationship with the opposite sex parent, the psychological characteristics of the opposite sex parent and the romantic partner as perceived by the adult, and the self perceived psychological characteristics of the partner. In general, from the 136 participants, the sample included 33 women who had experienced a poor quality relationship with their father; 75 women had a normal relationship; while 28 women rated their relationship with their father as of rich quality. Concerning the mother son relationship quality, from the 64 participants no one had experienced a poor quality relationship with their mothers; while 41 males had a normal relationship; and 23 had rich relationship.

The computed correlations are presented in the following two tables:

Table 1: Correlations between parents and romantic partners (father daughter relationship)

		Psych. chrc of partner (by the girl)	Psych. chrct of father (by the daughter)	Relationship with father	Poor vs normal dad	Rich vs normal dad
Partner’s self perceived psych. chrct	Correlation Sig. N	.829 .000 136	.971 .000 136	.680 .000 136	-.530 .000 136	.433 .000 136
Psych. chrc of partner (by the girl)	Correlation Sig. N		.837 .000 136	.413 .000 136	-.242 .005 136	.377 .000 136
Psych. chrct of father (by the daughter)	Correlation Sig. N			.714 .000 136	-.539 .000 136	.468 .000 136
Relationship with father	Correlation Sig. N				-.709 .000 136	.676 .000 136

Table 2: Correlations between parents and romantic partners (mother son relationship)

		Psych. chrct of mother (by the son)	Psych. Chrct of partner (by the boy)	Self perceived psyc. chrct of partner
Relationship with mother	Correlation Sig. N	.499 .000 64	.428 .000 64	.519 .000 64
Psych. chrct of mother (by the son)	Correlation Sig. N		.916 .000 64	.977 .000 64
Psych. chrct of partner (by the boy)	Correlation Sig. N			.898 .000 64

The obtained results supported the hypotheses of the current study. Regarding the first and second hypotheses, results showed that in case of poor father-daughter relationship, there was a negative correlation between the ratings of the perceived psychological characteristics of the father and the ratings of the perceived psychological characteristics of the romantic partner. However, this was not clear in the case of mother-son relationships, since no one had experienced a poor quality relationship with the mother. As to the third and forth hypotheses, results showed that those who had normal or high father-daughter and mother-son relationship, pertained a positive correlation between the ratings of the perceived psychological characteristics of the father/mother and the ratings of the perceived characteristics of the romantic partner.

Moreover, the dependent variable, which was the psychological characteristics of the romantic partner as perceived by the adult, was regressed on all the other variables (psychological characteristics of the opposite sex parent as perceived by the adult, the self perceived psychological characteristics of the romantic partner, and the quality of father-daughter and mother-son relationships), in order to assess whether there is a difference in the

dependent variable between poor and rich father daughter relationship quality; and it was clear that all variables were significant. Regression analyses are presented in tables 3 and 4:

Table 3: Regression between the dependent variable and all other variables (father-daughter)

Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	27.610	4.772		5.786	.000
	rich vs normal dad relationship categories	-.163	1.489	-.005	-.109	.913
	poor vs normal dad relationship categories	8.593	1.474	.295	5.829	.000
	psychological characteristics of father as perceived by the daughter	.790	.043	.998	18.229	.000

a. Dependent Variable: psychological characteristics of partner as perceived by the girl

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.896 ^a	.803	.795	5.683

a. Predictors: (Constant), relationship with the father, rich vs normal dad relationship categories, selfpart, poor vs normal dad relationship categories, psychological characteristics of father as perceived by the daughter

Table 4: Regression between the dependent variable and all other variables (mother-son)

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.917 ^a	.841	.835	5.841

a. Predictors: (Constant), relationship with the mother, psychological characteristics of mother as perceived by the son

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	17.866	5.424		3.294	.002
	psychological characteristics of mother as perceived by the son	.875	.055	.936	15.868	.000
	relationship with the mother	-.125	.188	-.039	-.662	.511

a. Dependent Variable: psychological characteristics of partner as perceived by the boy

Regression analysis also revealed that the Adjusted R Square was 0.795 for father daughter and 0.835 for mother son relationships, implying that 79.5% (in case of father daughter) and 83.5% (in case of mother son) of the variables had an influence on the dependent variable, which was the perception of the psychological characteristics of the romantic partner. There may be a causal relationship between the relationship with the opposite sex parent and the romantic partner choice; in other words relationship with the opposite sex parent and his/her psychological characteristics, can be predictive of the type of romantic partner the child will later choose. And since the presence of the parents precedes the existence of the romantic partner, mate selection may be caused by the relationship with the opposite sex parent.

Chapter V

Discussion

This chapter will break up into several sections. The main headings which will be tackled are: restatement of the problem of the research and then revision of the methodology applied throughout the study. It will also summarize the results, and discuss them. Finally, recommendations for future studies will be mentioned.

The aim of the current research was to discover the relationship between the quality of relationship with the opposite sex parent and the choice of romantic partner. It targeted engaged and recently married couples.

General results of the present study supported the general hypothesis that there will be a correlation between the quality of relationship with the opposite sex parent and the romantic mate choice. The obtained results tended to support all the previously mentioned hypotheses. Furthermore, correlation between all variables was significant. The following sections will tackle the following points: fathers and daughters; mothers and sons; gender differences in mate selection; theories and previous studies; recommendations for future research.

A. Fathers and daughters

Concerning the role of fathers in their daughters' romantic lives, it was clear that the quality of relationship a girl has experienced with her father, affects the way she perceives the psychological characteristics of her romantic partner. Correlational results showed that when the quality of relationship between the girl and her father was poor, the young woman perceived her romantic partner to be different from her father. Results also indicated that the father and the daughter's romantic partner were not psychologically different; since the self assessed

psychological characteristics of the partner and the characteristics of the father showed similarity. On the other hand, when the father daughter relationship quality was rated to be of normal or high quality, girls perceived their father and their romantic partner to be psychologically similar, and they were, in fact. Therefore, the data obtained from the current study, supported the first and third hypotheses, which were: In the case of poor father-daughter relationship, there will be a negative correlation between the ratings of the perceived psychological characteristics of the father and the ratings of the perceived psychological characteristics of the romantic partner; and in the case of normal or high father-daughter relationship, there will be a positive correlation between the ratings of the perceived psychological characteristics of the father and the ratings of the perceived characteristics of the romantic partner.

B. Mothers and sons

Regarding the mother son relationships, results showed that none of the participants had experienced a poor quality relationship with their mothers. Therefore, the second hypothesis, that there will be a negative correlation between the ratings of the perceived psychological characteristics of the mother and the ratings of the perceived psychological characteristics of the romantic partner, in the case of poor mother son relationship, is inapplicable to the present study. On the other hand, the forth hypothesis, which stated that a positive correlation will exist between the ratings of the perceived psychological characteristics of the mother and the ratings of the perceived characteristics of the romantic partner, in the case of normal or rich mother son relationship quality, was supported, since males who had experienced a rich quality relationship with their mothers perceived their romantic partner as psychologically similar to their mother.

C. Gender Differences in romantic mate selection

There appeared to be slight differences between the two genders. As to the quality of father-daughter and mother-son relationships, results showed that none of the males experienced a poor relationship with his mother, while a great number of females have experienced a negative relationship with their fathers. The lack of poor quality mother son relationship, might be due to the way mothers usually raise their children. Lebanese mothers are usually very protective and emotional; they always show their children how much they mean to them; and usually try to gain the love of their sons, by showing them how much they love them. The case is not true for the father daughter relationships, since fathers usually don't express their love to their daughters, as much as mothers do, which may lead girls to think that their father doesn't love them, and therefore perceive their relationship as negative.

Concerning the perception of the psychological characteristics of the opposite sex parent and the psychological characteristics of the romantic partner, results did not show a major difference between the two genders. Both males and females were affected by their opposite sex parent while perceiving the characteristics of their romantic mate.

D. Theories and previous studies

The present research yielded results which were consistent with previous studies. This study's methodology and results had similarities to Epstein & Guttman's (1984) research, which targeted couples who rated the psychological traits of their parents and romantic partners; and next, parents and partners assessed their own psychological characteristics, and it was found that parents and romantic partners share many psychological characteristics. It also agrees with Geher's (2000) research, where participants were asked to rate their parents', their romantic

partner's, and their ideal mate's personality measures; and it was detected that there exists a similarity between the actual psychological characteristics of the opposite sex parent and the partner.

The obtained data mostly supports the psychoanalytic theories of mate selection, also known as the template matching hypothesis, which states that individuals usually tend to get involved with romantic partners, who resemble their opposite sex parent. The results of the current study showed that this is the case of Lebanese adult lovers, as well, but the difference was that in case of low relationship quality with the opposite sex parent, individuals were not aware of this similarity, and were unconsciously trapped with someone as "negative" as their opposite sex parent.

This single research highlighted some very important facts. The most important issue that the current result found to be true, was that however the quality of relationship was with the opposite sex parent, individuals have a great probability to choose someone as positive or as negative as that parent. Therefore, it's strongly suggested that couples attend some kind of awareness programs just to be conscious about the effect of their opposite sex parent on their partner choice, and about the type of romantic mate they already chose. Furthermore, practitioners, like clinical psychologists and counselors, can benefit from the results of this study; since they can help couples, especially those facing difficulty, have a closer look at the cycle of choosing romantic partners, and understand each other better.

The results of this current study can have a contribution, by decreasing the problems that romantic partners usually face, just by being aware of the hidden factors, which are affecting the way they perceive each other.

E. Recommendations for future research

Additional research is recommended on the topic of romantic mate selection. First, the procedure of data collecting can be edited; second, the place and time. Throughout the current research, participants were requested to fill the questionnaires in the presence of their couple, which may have been contributed to some kind of bias. Another research can ask the partner's address and contact him/her without the presence of his/her couple, which might have been more reliable but time consuming. On the other hand, the time and place were not the perfect setting, since couples contributing in the data collection of this research, were lovers who have decided to get married, and were already in a positive mood, preparing for their wedding. The same type of research could be investigated using different setting.

As an additional point, the self perceived characteristics of the father could be measured, if contacting the father was possible.

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APPENDIX A
Father Daughter Relationship and romantic partner choice
Language: English

Demographic Variables:

Circle the correct answer.

1. Gender
 - a. Male
 - b. Female
2. Have you lived with your father during your childhood?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

Write the answer.

3. Age in years ()
4. How long have you known your partner? ()

If you are interested in knowing the result of this test, please write your e-mail address beneath and we will contact you as soon as possible.

Thank you for participating in our research!

Father-daughter Relationship

Below there is a series of statements about your father's personal attitudes. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with these statements by marking the number that best describes your attitude.

1	2	3	4
Strongly disagree	disagree	agree	Strongly agree

- 1- _____ on the whole, i am satisfied with my father.
- 2- _____ at times, i feel he is no good at all.
- 3- _____ he has a number of good qualities.
- 4- _____ he is able to do things as well as most other people.
- 5- _____ he doesn't have much to be proud of.
- 6- _____ he certainly seems useless at times.
- 7- _____ he is a person of worth, at least on an equal plane with others .
- 8- _____ i wish i could have more respect for him.
- 9- _____ all in all, i am inclined to feel that he is a failure.
- 10- _____ i take a positive attitude toward him

Rate how accurately these words and phrases describe your father. Use the scale below to rate each item.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 very inaccurate | 2 somewhat inaccurate |
| 3 somewhat accurate | 4 very accurate |

1. _____ Reliable	22. _____ Assertive
2. _____ Warm	23. _____ Keeps his/her word
3. _____ Often Depressed	24. _____ Smiles a lot
4. _____ Often Angry	25. _____ Feels guilty
5. _____ Anxious and worried	26. _____ Touchy and temperamental
6. _____ Sociable	27. _____ Demanding
7. _____ Appreciative	28. _____ Moody
8. _____ Often gloomy	29. _____ Well-liked
9. _____ Irritable	30. _____ Emotionally stable
10. _____ Bitter	31. _____ Kind
11. _____ Reassuring	32. _____ Encourages others
12. _____ Frightened	33. _____ Affectionate
13. _____ A leader	34. _____ Impatient with other's mistakes
14. _____ Tense and jittery	35. _____ Sexy
15. _____ Enjoys talking to people	36. _____ Dependable
16. _____ Often feels blue	37. _____ High-strung
17. _____ Critical of others	38. _____ Practical
18. _____ Expects a lot of others	39. _____ Relaxed
19. _____ Has had an unhappy life	40. _____ Sensitive to feeling of others
20. _____ Dominant and forceful	41. _____ Impatient
21. _____ Stands up for his/her rights	42. _____ Fearful

Rate how accurately these words and phrases describe your romantic partner. Use the scale below to rate each item.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 very inaccurate | 2 somewhat inaccurate |
| 3 somewhat accurate | 4 very accurate |

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. _____ Reliable | 22. _____ Assertive |
| 2. _____ Warm | 23. _____ Keeps his/her word |
| 3. _____ Often Depressed | 24. _____ Smiles a lot |
| 4. _____ Often Angry | 25. _____ Feels guilty |
| 5. _____ Anxious and worried | 26. _____ Touchy and temperamental |
| 6. _____ Sociable | 27. _____ Demanding |
| 7. _____ Appreciative | 28. _____ Moody |
| 8. _____ Often gloomy | 29. _____ Well-liked |
| 9. _____ Irritable | 30. _____ Emotionally stable |
| 10. _____ Bitter | 31. _____ Kind |
| 11. _____ Reassuring | 32. _____ Encourages others |
| 12. _____ Frightened | 33. _____ Affectionate |
| 13. _____ A leader | 34. _____ Impatient with other's mistakes |
| 14. _____ Tense and jittery | 35. _____ Sexy |
| 15. _____ Enjoys talking to people | 36. _____ Dependable |
| 16. _____ Often feels blue | 37. _____ High-strung |
| 17. _____ Critical of others | 38. _____ Practical |
| 18. _____ Expects a lot of others | 39. _____ Relaxed |
| 19. _____ Has had an unhappy life | 40. _____ Sensitive to feeling of others |
| 20. _____ Dominant and forceful | 41. _____ Impatient |
| 21. _____ Stands up for his/her rights | 42. _____ Fearful |

Rate how accurately these words and phrases describe you.
Use the scale below to rate each item.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 very inaccurate | 2 somewhat inaccurate |
| 3 somewhat accurate | 4 very accurate |

1. _____ Reliable	22. _____ Assertive
2. _____ Warm	23. _____ Keeps his/her word
3. _____ Often Depressed	24. _____ Smiles a lot
4. _____ Often Angry	25. _____ Feels guilty
5. _____ Anxious and worried	26. _____ Touchy and temperamental
6. _____ Sociable	27. _____ Demanding
7. _____ Appreciative	28. _____ Moody
8. _____ Often gloomy	29. _____ Well-liked
9. _____ Irritable	30. _____ Emotionally stable
10. _____ Bitter	31. _____ Kind
11. _____ Reassuring	32. _____ Encourages others
12. _____ Frightened	33. _____ Affectionate
13. _____ A leader	34. _____ Impatient with other's mistakes
14. _____ Tense and jittery	35. _____ Sexy
15. _____ Enjoys talking to people	36. _____ Dependable
16. _____ Often feels blue	37. _____ High-strung
17. _____ Critical of others	38. _____ Practical
18. _____ Expects a lot of others	39. _____ Relaxed
19. _____ Has had an unhappy life	40. _____ Sensitive to feeling of others
20. _____ Dominant and forceful	41. _____ Impatient
21. _____ Stands up for his/her rights	42. _____ Fearful

APPENDIX B
 Father Daughter Relationship and romantic partner choice
 Language: Arabic

Demographic Variables:

Circle the correct answer:

1. Gender
 - a. Male
 - b. Female
2. Have you lived with your father during your childhood?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

Write the answer:

3. Age in years ()
4. How long have you known your partner? ()

If you are interested in knowing the result of this test, please write your e-mail address beneath and we will contact you as soon as possible.

Thank you for participating in our research!

الجمال الآتية تصف علاقتك مع والدك. الرجاء قراءة الجمل بوضوح والاجابة عنها بالطريقة التالية:

- 1 غير صحيحة على الاطلاق
2 غير صحيحة
3 صحيحة
4 صحيحة جداً

1. بالاجمال انا راضية على طيلة علاقتي مع والدي
2. احياناً اشعر انه ليس جيداً على الاطلاق
3. والدي يتمتع بصفات حسنة كثيرة
4. والدي يمكنه القيام بالاشياء التي يقوم بها معظم الناس
5. ليس لدى والدي الكثير ليفتخر به
6. احياناً اشعر بأنه لم يكن ذي نفع
7. والدي انسان قيّم نسبة للناس
8. اتمنى لو انني أشد احتراماً له
9. بالاجمال، أميل الى الاعتقاد بأن والدي رجل فاشل
10. ان موقفي ايجابي تجاه أبي

الى اي مدى هذه الصفات المذكورة ادناه تصف والدك.

استعملي الطريقة التالية للاجابة:

- 1 غير صحيحة ابداً 2 غير صحيحة
3 صحيحة 4 صحيحة جداً

1. يُعتمد عليه
2. دافئ وحنون
3. كئيب معظم الاوقات
4. غاضب معظم الاوقات
5. متشج وقلق
6. اجتماعي
7. مُعترف بالجميل
8. كئيب اجمالاً
9. سريع الغضب
10. انه مرّ
11. يُطمئن الغير
12. مذعور
13. يتمتع بصفات القائد
14. عصبي ومتوتر
15. يستمتع بالتكلم مع الناس
16. يغضب كثيراً
17. انتقادي على الاخرين
18. يتوقع الكثير من الغير
19. عاش حياة حزينة
20. مسيطر وقوي
21. يدافع عن حقوقه
22. يفرض نفسه
23. يحافظ على وعده
24. يبتسم كثيراً

25. يشعر بالذنب
26. حساس ومتقلب
27. متطلب
28. مزاجي
29. محبوب
30. مستقر عاطفياً
31. لطيف
32. يشجع الآخرين
33. حساس
34. لا يصبر على أخطاء الآخرين
35. مثير
36. يمكن للغير الاعتماد عليه
37. متحمس
38. واقعي
39. مسترخ
40. حساس لمشاعر الغير
41. لا يملك الصبر
42. خائف

الى اي مدى هذه الصفات المذكورة ادناه تصف حبيبك.
استعملي الطريقة التالية للاجابة:

- 1 غير صحيحة ابداً 2 غير صحيحة
3 صحيحة 4 صحيحة جداً

1. يُعتمد عليه
2. دافىء وحنون
3. كئيب معظم الاوقات
4. غاضب معظم الاوقات
5. متشج وقلق
6. اجتماعي
7. مُعترف بالجميل
8. كئيب اجمالاً
9. سريع الغضب
10. انه مرّ
11. يُطمئن الغير
12. مذعور
13. يتمتع بصفات القائد
14. عصبي ومتوتر
15. يستمتع بالتكلم مع الناس
16. يغضب كثيراً
17. انتقادي على الاخرين
18. يتوقع الكثير من الغير
19. عاش حياة حزينة
20. مسيطر وقوي
21. يدافع عن حقوقه
22. يفرض نفسه
23. يحافظ على وعده
24. يبتسم كثيراً

25. يشعر بالذنب
26. حساس ومتقلب
27. متطلب
28. مزاجي
29. محبوب
30. مستقر عاطفياً
31. لطيف
32. يشجع الآخرين
33. حساس
34. لا يصبر على أخطاء الآخرين
35. مثير
36. يمكن للغير الاعتماد عليه
37. متحمس
38. واقعي
39. مسترخ
40. حساس لمشاعر الغير
41. لا يملك الصبر
42. خائف

الى اي مدى هذه الصفات المذكورة ادناه تصفك.

استعمل الطريقة التالية للاجابة:

- 1 غير صحيحة ابداً
2 غير صحيحة
3 صحيحة
4 صحيحة جداً

1. يُعتمد علي
2. دافئة وحنونة
3. كئيبة معظم الاوقات
4. غاضبة معظم الاوقات
5. متشججة وقلقة
6. اجتماعية
7. مُعترفة بالجميل
8. كئيبة اجمالاً
9. سريعة الغضب
10. انني مرّة
11. أطمئن الغير
12. مذعورة
13. أتمتع بصفات القائدة
14. عصبية ومتوترة
15. أستمتع بالتكلم مع الناس
16. أغضب كثيراً
17. انتقادية على الآخرين
18. أتوقع الكثير من الغير
19. عشت حياة حزينة
20. مهيمنة وقوية
21. أدافع عن حقوقي
22. أفرض نفسي

23. أحافظ على وعدي
24. أبتسم كثيراً
25. أشعر بالذنب
26. حساسة ومتقلبة
27. متطلبة
28. مزاجية
29. محبوبة
30. مستقرة عاطفياً
31. لطيفة
32. أشجع الآخرين
33. حساسة
34. لا أصبر على أخطاء الآخرين
35. مثيرة
36. يمكن للغير الاعتماد علي
37. متحمسة
38. واقعية
39. مسترخية
40. حساسة لمشاعر الغير
41. لا أملك الصبر
42. خائفة

APPENDIX C
Mother Son Relationship and romantic partner choice
Language: English

Demographic Variables:

Circle the correct answer:

1. Gender
 - a. Male
 - b. Female

2. Have you lived with your mother during your childhood?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

Write the answer:

3. Age in years ()

If you are interested in knowing the result of this test, please write your e-mail address beneath and we will contact you as soon as possible.

Thank you for participating in our research!

Mother-son Relationship

Below there is a series of statements about your mother's personal attitudes. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with these statements by marking the number that best describes your attitude.

1	2	3	4
Strongly disagree	disagree	agree	Strongly agree

- 1- _____ on the whole, i am satisfied with my mother.
- 2- _____ at times, i feel she is no good at all.
- 3- _____ she has a number of good qualities.
- 4- _____ she is able to do things as well as most other people.
- 5- _____ she doesn't have much to be proud of.
- 6- _____ she certainly seems useless at times.
- 7- _____ she is a person of worth, at least on an equal plane with others .
- 8- _____ i wish i could have more respect for her.
- 9- _____ all in all, i am inclined to feel that she is a failure.
- 10- _____ i take a positive attitude toward her

Rate how accurately these words and phrases describe your mother. Use the scale below to rate each item.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 very inaccurate | 2 somewhat inaccurate |
| 3 somewhat accurate | 4 very accurate |

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. _____ Reliable | 22. _____ Assertive |
| 2. _____ Warm | 23. _____ Keeps his/her word |
| 3. _____ Often Depressed | 24. _____ Smiles a lot |
| 4. _____ Often Angry | 25. _____ Feels guilty |
| 5. _____ Anxious and worried | 26. _____ Touchy and temperamental |
| 6. _____ Sociable | 27. _____ Demanding |
| 7. _____ Appreciative | 28. _____ Moody |
| 8. _____ Often gloomy | 29. _____ Well-liked |
| 9. _____ Irritable | 30. _____ Emotionally stable |
| 10. _____ Bitter | 31. _____ Kind |
| 11. _____ Reassuring | 32. _____ Encourages others |
| 12. _____ Frightened | 33. _____ Affectionate |
| 13. _____ A leader | 34. _____ Impatient with other's mistakes |
| 14. _____ Tense and jittery | 35. _____ Sexy |
| 15. _____ Enjoys talking to people | 36. _____ Dependable |
| 16. _____ Often feels blue | 37. _____ High-strung |
| 17. _____ Critical of others | 38. _____ Practical |
| 18. _____ Expects a lot of others | 39. _____ Relaxed |
| 19. _____ Has had an unhappy life | 40. _____ Sensitive to feeling of others |
| 20. _____ Dominant and forceful | 41. _____ Impatient |
| 21. _____ Stands up for his/her rights | 42. _____ Fearful |

Rate how accurately these words and phrases describe your romantic partner. Use the scale below to rate each item.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 very inaccurate | 2 somewhat inaccurate |
| 3 somewhat accurate | 4 very accurate |

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1. _____ Reliable | 22. _____ Assertive |
| 2. _____ Warm | 23. _____ Keeps his/her word |
| 3. _____ Often Depressed | 24. _____ Smiles a lot |
| 4. _____ Often Angry | 25. _____ Feels guilty |
| 5. _____ Anxious and worried | 26. _____ Touchy and temperamental |
| 6. _____ Sociable | 27. _____ Demanding |
| 7. _____ Appreciative | 28. _____ Moody |
| 8. _____ Often gloomy | 29. _____ Well-liked |
| 9. _____ Irritable | 30. _____ Emotionally stable |
| 10. _____ Bitter | 31. _____ Kind |
| 11. _____ Reassuring | 32. _____ Encourages others |
| 12. _____ Frightened | 33. _____ Affectionate |
| 13. _____ A leader | 34. _____ Impatient with other's
mistakes |
| 14. _____ Tense and jittery | 35. _____ Sexy |
| 15. _____ Enjoys talking to people | 36. _____ Dependable |
| 16. _____ Often feels blue | 37. _____ High-strung |
| 17. _____ Critical of others | 38. _____ Practical |
| 18. _____ Expects a lot of others | 39. _____ Relaxed |
| 19. _____ Has had an unhappy life | 40. _____ Sensitive to feeling of others |
| 20. _____ Dominant and forceful | 41. _____ Impatient |
| 21. _____ Stands up for his/her rights | 42. _____ Fearful |

Rate how accurately these words and phrases describe you.
Use the scale below to rate each item.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 very inaccurate | 2 somewhat inaccurate |
| 3 somewhat accurate | 4 very accurate |

1. _____ Reliable	22. _____ Assertive
2. _____ Warm	23. _____ Keeps his/her word
3. _____ Often Depressed	24. _____ Smiles a lot
4. _____ Often Angry	25. _____ Feels guilty
5. _____ Anxious and worried	26. _____ Touchy and temperamental
6. _____ Sociable	27. _____ Demanding
7. _____ Appreciative	28. _____ Moody
8. _____ Often gloomy	29. _____ Well-liked
9. _____ Irritable	30. _____ Emotionally stable
10. _____ Bitter	31. _____ Kind
11. _____ Reassuring	32. _____ Encourages others
12. _____ Frightened	33. _____ Affectionate
13. _____ A leader	34. _____ Impatient with other's mistakes
14. _____ Tense and jittery	35. _____ Sexy
15. _____ Enjoys talking to people	36. _____ Dependable
16. _____ Often feels blue	37. _____ High-strung
17. _____ Critical of others	38. _____ Practical
18. _____ Expects a lot of others	39. _____ Relaxed
19. _____ Has had an unhappy life	40. _____ Sensitive to feeling of others
20. _____ Dominant and forceful	41. _____ Impatient
21. _____ Stands up for his/her rights	42. _____ Fearful

APPENDIX D
Mother Son Relationship and romantic partner choice
Language: Arabic

Demographic Variables:

Circle the correct answer:

1. Gender
 - a. Male
 - b. Female
2. Have you lived with your mother during your childhood?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

Write the answer:

3. Age in years ()

If you are interested in knowing the result of this test, please write your e-mail address beneath and we will contact you as soon as possible.

Thank you for participating in our research!

الجمال الآتية تصف علاقتك مع والدتك. الرجاء قراءة الجمل بوضوح والاجابة عنها بالطريقة التالية:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1 غير صحيحة على الاطلاق | 2 غير صحيحة |
| 3 صحيحة | 4 صحيحة جداً |

1. بالاجمال انا راضي على طيلة علاقتي مع والدتي
2. احياناً اشعر انها ليست جيدة على الاطلاق
3. والدتي تتمتع بصفات حسنة كثيرة
4. والدتي يمكنها القيام بالاشياء التي يقوم بها معظم الناس
5. ليس لدى والدتي الكثير لتفتخر به
6. احياناً اشعر بأنها لم تكن ذي نفع
7. والدتي انسانة قيّمة نسبة للناس
8. اتمنى لو انني أشد احتراماً لها
9. بالاجمال، أميل الى الاعتقاد بأن والدتي فاشلة
10. ان موقفي ايجابي تجاه أمي

الى اي مدى هذه الصفات المذكورة ادناه تصف والدتك.

استعمل الطريقة التالية للاجابة:

- 1 غير صحيحة ابداً 2 غير صحيحة
3 صحيحة 4 صحيحة جداً

1. يُعتمد عليها
2. دافئة وحنونة
3. كئيبة معظم الاوقات
4. غاضبة معظم الاوقات
5. متشنجة وقلقة
6. اجتماعية
7. مُعترفة بالجميل
8. كئيبة اجمالاً
9. سريعة الغضب
10. انها مرّة
11. تُطمئن الغير
12. مذعورة
13. تتمتع بصفات القائدة
14. عصبية ومتوترة
15. تستمتع بالتكلم مع الناس
16. تغضب كثيراً
17. انتقادية على الاخرين
18. تتوقع الكثير من الغير
19. عاشت حياة حزينة
20. مسيطرة وقوية
21. تدافع عن حقوقها
22. تفرض نفسها
23. تحافظ على وعدها
24. تبتسم كثيراً

25. تشعر بالذنب
26. حساسة ومتقلبة
27. متطلبة
28. مزاجية
29. محبوبة
30. مستقرة عاطفياً
31. لطيفة
32. تشجع الآخرين
33. حساسة
34. لا تصبر على أخطاء الآخرين
35. مثيرة
36. يمكن للغير الاعتماد عليها
37. متحمسة
38. واقعية
39. مسترخية
40. حساسة لمشاعر الغير
41. لا تملك الصبر
42. خائفة

الى اي مدى هذه الصفات المذكورة ادناه تصف حبيبتي.
استعمل الطريقة التالية للاجابة:

- 1 غير صحيحة ابداً
2 غير صحيحة
3 صحيحة
4 صحيحة جداً

1. يُعتمد عليها
2. دافئة وحنونة
3. كئيبة معظم الاوقات
4. غاضبة معظم الاوقات
5. متشنجة وقلقة
6. اجتماعية
7. مُعترفة بالجميل
8. كئيبة اجمالاً
9. سريعة الغضب
10. انها مرّة
11. تُطمئن الغير
12. مذعورة
13. تتمتع بصفات القائدة
14. عصبية ومتوترة
15. تستمتع بالتكلم مع الناس
16. تغضب كثيراً
17. انتقادية على الاخرين
18. تتوقع الكثير من الغير
19. عاشت حياة حزينة
20. مسيطرة وقوية
21. تدافع عن حقوقها
22. تفرض نفسها
23. تحافظ على وعدّها
24. تبتسم كثيراً

25. تشعر بالذنب
26. حساسة ومتقلبة
27. متطلبة
28. مزاجية
29. محبوبة
30. مستقرة عاطفياً
31. لطيفة
32. تشجع الآخرين
33. حساسة
34. لا تصبر على أخطاء الآخرين
35. مثيرة
36. يمكن للغير الاعتماد عليها
37. متحمسة
38. واقعية
39. مسترخية
40. حساسة لمشاعر الغير
41. لا تملك الصبر
42. خائفة

الى اي مدى هذه الصفات المذكورة ادناه تصفك.

استعمل الطريقة التالية للإجابة:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 1 غير صحيحة ابداً | 2 غير صحيحة |
| 3 صحيحة | 4 صحيحة جداً |

1. يُعتمد عليّ
2. دافئ وحنون
3. كئيب معظم الاوقات
4. غاضب معظم الاوقات
5. متشجّ وقلق
6. اجتماعي
7. مُعترف بالجميل
8. كئيب اجمالاً
9. سريع الغضب
10. انني مرّ
11. أطمئن الغير
12. مذعور
13. أتمتّع بصفات القائد
14. عصبي ومتوتر
15. أستمتع بالتكلم مع الناس
16. أغضب كثيراً
17. انتقادي على الآخرين
18. أتوقع الكثير من الغير
19. عشتُ حياة حزينة
20. مسيطر وقوي
21. أدافع عن حقوقي
22. أفرض نفسي
23. أحافظ على وعدي
24. أبتسم كثيراً

25. أشعر بالذنب
26. حساس ومتقلب
27. متطلب
28. مزاجي
29. محبوب
30. مستقر عاطفياً
31. لطيف
32. أشجع الآخرين
33. حسّاس
34. لا أصبر على أخطاء الآخرين
35. مثير
36. يمكن للغير الاعتماد عليّ
37. متحمّس
38. واقعي
39. مسترخ
40. حسّاس لمشاعر الغير
41. لا أملك الصبر
42. خائف