Prediction of spouse selection criteria based on personality traits

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Abstract: *The present research has been conducted to predict spouse selection criteria based on personality traits. Examinees of research's sample included 324 persons of 2000 students in Shiraz University who were selected by multistage cluster random sampling method. Data has been collected through two questionnaires including 22-items prioritizing spouse selection criteria questionnaire and 60-items adult character questionnaire. Obtained data was analyzed by using statistical software SPSS 18. The obtained results of the study showed that personality traits have the ability to predict the spouse selection criteria.*
Keyword: *Spouse selection criteria, Personality traits*

INTRODUCTION

Unconsciously some criteria are considered as basis. Surely, spouse selection is one of the most important selections that humankind encounter. Marriage is one of the most important social events that most of individuals experience it. Marriage besides birth, death and divorce is one of the four major events in human life. Birth is happened without will and notice of born. Death is also largely outside of human control, but marriage and divorce are two events on which person's decision is quite effective.

Ewen and Nies (2001) defined family as a group of people who live together and they have been linked together through marriage. Through marriage, man and woman are travelling together in a path whose name is life. Men and women need a fellow traveler in this journey which helps them to achieve their goals, a person who do not confine them, but also one who support them for their success so that they can together create a warm family (Quoted from Zahmati Hochghan, 2002). Marriage is the main step which a person takes in his life. This step may reconstruct all ones' life or destroy it. It may build or shatter person's existence and characteristic, it may develop each aspect of morality or leads to failure and depression (Dezhkam, 2012).

It seems that spouse selection criteria are influenced by different psychological variables. Among different variables related to spouse selection criteria in recent years, personality traits and attachment styles have been considered a lot.

Personality can be known as the most fundamental issue of knowledge and psychology, because it is the basis of discussion in some fields such as learning, incentive, perception, thought, emotion and feeling, intelligence and some cases of this kind. In the other words, the mentioned cases are considered as fundamental components of character.

A glance at definitions of personality shows that all the personality's meanings cannot be found in a specific comment, but in fact, personality definition depends on type of each scientist's

view. For instance, Carl Rogers knows personality as a permanent self-organized which is center of all our experiences. Alport considers personality as a set of internal factors which direct person's activities.

J. B. Watson, father of behaviorism, considers personality as an organized collection of habits.

Erik Erikson, famous psychiatrists or psychologists in our time, believes that human growth takes place in the form of a series of mental-social stages and events and human's personality is subjected to their results.

George Kelly, one of the contemporary cognitive psychologists, knows person's personality as each one's specific way for searching interpretation of life's meaning, and finally, Sigmund Freud believes that personality is made of nature, ego and superego. Different interpretations of the personality clearly show that through passage of time, personality meaning has been broader than its primary concept which was a social and visual image (Shamloo, 2012).

Personality can be defined as a durable and unique set of features which may change in different situations. Today, personality theories' transformation and progress in measurement methods and statistical analyses through traits perspective have led to emergence of the most influential theories of personality which has caused five big personality factor model so that today, most of the authors believe that the best personality conceptualization is in five-factor model. This model explains personality according to five- strong factor including extroversion, neuroticism, task-orientation, openness in experience, agreeableness (Hagh Shenas, 2012).

Research questions

1- Is there a significant relationship between personality traits and spouse selection criteria?

2- Are the personality traits able to predict process dimension of spouse selection criteria?

3- Are the personality traits able to predict content dimension of spouse selection criteria?

4-Is there a significant difference between girls and boys regarding variables under study?

Research methodology

This is a descriptive correlation research. This research's statistical population includes all the Shiraz University's students at second semester of 2013-2014. The present study's sample consists of 324 students of Shiraz University from which 180 number were girl (55%) and 144 number were boy (45%). Multistage cluster random sampling method has been used to select examinees. Data collection tool was a 22-phrase questionnaire which has been prepared by Refahi, Sanayi and Sharif (2009) regarding spouse selection. The validity of total test is 88% and questionnaire's validity at process dimension has been calculated 85% and it is 74% at content dimension. Cronbach Alpha method has been used in the present research in order to determine reliability whose results is 73% for total scale, 75% for process dimension and 74% for content dimension. Correlation method for overall score of each dimension with each question constitute that dimension and overall score of scale with each question has been used to determine validity that all the coefficients have been significant at the level of 0.01 (Sanayi Zaker, 2009).

NEO- Revised Form of Personality Questionnaire has been made through collecting about half of century of research in the field of personality identification in Europe and America.

Cronbach Alpha has been used in the present research to determine the reliability whose results for overall scale have been obtained 85%. Correlation method for overall score of each dimension with every one of questions constitute that dimension and overall score of scale with each of the questions has been used to determine validity that all the coefficients have been significant at the level of 0.01.

Statistical indexes such as T test and multi-variable regression were simultaneously applied for research's hypotheses rejection or confirmation in order to analyze data at descriptive and inferential statistic level.

Research findings

As it was observed, the present research's main objective was prediction of spouse selection criteria according to personality traits. So, research findings have been analyzed by using correlation coefficient, multiple- regression and independent T.

Table 1-4- Average and standard deviation of variables under study

Variables	Dimension	average	deviation
Personality traits	Nervousness	24.79	7.99
	Extroversion	28.55	5.80
	Openness	28.18	6.21
	Agreement	29.66	6.02
	Conscientiousness	34.39	6.08
Spouse selection criteria	Content dimension	49.63	8.80
	Process dimension	50.17	13.18

Correlation matrix of variables under study

Correlation coefficient was used to answer to this question including "is there a significant relationship between personality traits and spouse selection criteria"

Variables	dimensions	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Personality traits	Nervousness	1						
	Extroversion	0.12*	1					
	Openness	0.06	0.42**	1				
	Agreement	0.09	0.36**	0.28**	1			
	Conscientiousness	0.07	0.06	0.10	0.09	1		
Spouse selection criteria	Process	0.04	0.15**	0.19**	0.020**	0.25*	1	
	content	0.13**	0.07	-0.15**	-0.12*	0.12*	0.25**	1

As it is shown in Table 1, there is significant correlation between personality traits including extroversion, openness, agreement, conscientiousness and secured attachment style and spouse selection criteria.

Are personality traits able to predict process dimension of spouse selection criteria?

Multiple regression analysis was used to answer this question: "Are personality traits able to predict process dimension of spouse selection criteria? So that the score of process dimension as the criterion variable and the score of personality traits as predictor variable were entered into analysis. The results have been offered in Table 2.

Table 2- the results of multiple-regression in order to predict process dimension

Predictor variable	R		t		P<
Extroversion			0.12	2.46	0.0001
Openness			0.13	2.49	0.02
Agreement	0.51	0.26	0.17	3.42	0.02
Conscientiousness			0.22	4.3	0.001
F=16.60, P< 0.0001					

As it is shown is Table 2, Prediction regression of process dimension is significant regarding personality traits and the amount of F is equal to 16.60. Conscientiousness with beta coefficient of 0.22, agreement with beta coefficient of 0.17, openness with beta coefficient of 0.13 and extroversion with beta coefficient of 0.12 can positively and significantly predict process dimension. The amount of R^2 shows that a remarkable part of process dimension's variance (26%) is predicted through personality dimensions.

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

Multiple regression analysis was used to answer this question: "Are personality traits able to predict content dimension of spouse selection criteria"? In such a way that score of content dimension as the criterion variable and the score of personality traits as predictor variable were entered into analysis. The results have been offered in Table 3.

Table 3- the results of multiple-regression in order to predict content dimension

Predictor variable	R		t	p<	
Openness					0.02
			-0.13	3	
Agreement	0.55	0.30			0.02
			0.12	2.12	
Nervousness					0.02
			0.11	2.39	

F=16.87, P<0.0001

As it is shown is Table 3, Prediction regression of dimension is significant regarding personality traits and the amount of F is equal to 16.87. Openness with beta coefficient of -0.13, agreement with beta coefficient of 0.12, and nervousness with beta coefficient of 0.11 can significantly

predict content dimension. The amount of R^2 shows that 30 percent of content dimension's variance is predicted through personality dimensions and attachment styles.

Is there a significant difference between girls and boys in research variables?

Table 4-average and standard deviation of scores of personality dimensions and attachment styles in girls and boys

Variable	dimensions	gender	number	average	deviation	t	Df	P
	Nervousness	Girl	185	24.79	15.99	0.67	322	N.S
Personality traits		Boy	139	23.10	7.30		322	
	Extroversion	Girl	185	28.55	5.80	0.21		N.S
		Boy	139	28.50	6.76		322	
	Openness	Girl	185	28.18	6.21	0.14		N.S
		Boy	139	28.02	5.96		322	
	Agreement	Girl	185	29.66	6.02	0.10	322	N.S
		Boy	139	29.54	6.67			
	Conscientiousness	Girl	185	34.39	6.08	1.68		
		Boy	139	32.26	7.25			
Spouse selection criteria	Content dimension	Girl	185	49.63	8.80	5.80	322	N.S
		Boy	139	48.80	4.68			
	Process dimension	Girl	185	50.17	13.18	3.46	322	
		Boy	139	42.95	5.72			0.001

As it is observed in Table 4, there is no significant difference between scores of girls and boys in variables under study and only average of process dimension is different in girls and boys; so that average of girls is higher than boys and this means that girls focus more on process criteria compared with boys.

Discussion and conclusion

The first question: Is there significant relationship between personality traits and spouse selection criteria?

As it was shown in Table 1, there is significant correlation between personality traits including extroversion, openness, agreement, conscientiousness and spouse selection criteria. There is also significant relationship between personality traits including nervousness, openness, agreement and spouse selection criteria. To explain this finding, we can say that variables such

as personality traits play important role in person's reactions to situations and decisions in different situations. Totally, the people who emphasize more on process criteria, have some personality traits which are known as reflective-being and problem-centered being. Therefore, effectiveness of these variables' dimensions on spouse selection criteria is explainable. These results are consistent with organizational studies (2006), Yusefi (2012) and Friedman (2003). These authors have stated that individual's personality traits are one of the main effective criteria in spouse selection.

The second question: Are personality traits able to predict process dimension of spouse selection criteria?

Multiple regression analysis was used to answer this question: "Are personality traits able to predict process dimension of spouse selection criteria"?

As it is shown in Table 2, process dimension's prediction regression is significant through personality traits. Conscientiousness, agreement, openness and extroversion positively and significantly predict process dimension. These results are consistent with the research results of Shaker, Fathi Ashtiani & Mahdavi (2012) and Cenzad (2006). These researchers have said that personality traits can be significantly effective in having tendency or reluctance toward some criteria which are called process. To explain this finding, we can say that the people with personality traits including conscientiousness, have also some features such as accurate-being, reflective-being, practical-being and planner-being and these attributes help them in paying more attention to process dimension regarding spouse or partner selection. To justify this finding that why agreements dimension can predict process criterion, we can say that these people have high ability to be compatible with environment and one of the reason of high level of their compatibility may be appropriate environment selection which helps their compatibility. Consequently, process dimension selection as their agreed feature is also due to this fundamental analysis of environment around them.

The third question: Are personality traits able to predict content dimension of spouse selection criteria?

Multiple regression analysis was used to answer this question: "Are personality traits able to predict content dimension of spouse selection criteria"? As it is shown in Table 3, content dimension's prediction regression is significant through personality traits. Openness, agreement and nervousness significantly predict content dimension. These results are consistent with research results of Abedi and Farahbakhsh (2001), Shokri (2009), Najm (2005), and Fourkoma & Life Bruner (2004). These authors have said that the so called process dimension in this research was influenced by personality traits.

Openness dimension was negatively able to predict content dimension of spouse selection: To explain this finding, we can say that due to different experiences and maybe intelligence and also high level of knowledge and information, these people have learned that apparent, interesting and impressive splendors maybe important and effective at the beginning of a relationship, but they doubt whether these help relationship's enrichment or continuation and so they have paid little attention to content traits in their selections.

The fourth question: Is there significant difference between girls and boys regarding research variables?

Independent T test was used to answer this question in order to compare averages. The results have been offered in Table 4. As it was observed in Table, there is no significant difference

between girls and boys regarding research's variables. Only average of process dimension is different in girls and boys. These results are not consistent with the research results of Hag Shinas and Firooz Abadi (2006), Fatehi Zadeh and Ahmadi (2006), Elson (2000) and Samani (2007).

These authors in their studies have stated that: Girls and boys are different in spouse selection criteria, personality traits and attachment styles. This result is consistent with research results of Scott in 2006 which has stated that there is no significant difference between girls and boys regarding these variables.

It seems that in some of the studies in which average difference between girls and boys regarding these variables have been investigated, difference between these two groups have been little by little disappeared along with the progress of societies, since women and girls have been able to acquire acceptable important jobs and social values as men. Therefore, in these days, the number of variables in which there is difference between women and men is day by day reduced and the reason of girls' higher average in process criteria may be because of the fact that girls are physically, emotionally and intellectually matured sooner than boys, their mind is more involved in matters related to marriage compared with boy, and they eventually realize very important effect of process criteria in maintenance and continuation of this relationship and they pay more attention to these criteria. Of course, this does not mean ignoring content criteria.

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