

THE PREDICT OF THE TENDENCY TO MARRY BASED ON PERSONALITY TRAITS AND HOMESICKNESS

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: the aim of the present research was to investigate the relationship of the personality traits and feeling nostalgia with tendency to marry in the students of Ilam University. The statistical universe of the present research included all of the single students who were studying in Ilam University in academic year of 2013-14. In order to perform the research 351 students were selected through stratified random sampling. These students received the Inventory of Personality Traits, Feeling Nostalgia and Tendency to Marry (NEO-FFI). The collected data for the research was analyzed by SPSS software. the results showed that there was a negative relationship between feeling nostalgia and tendency to marry while there was a there was a positive relationship between the personality traits of extroversion, openness to experience, agreeableness, conscientiousness, and quality of life with tendency to marry. Moreover, the results of regression analysis revealed that the personality traits neuroticism and openness to experience best predict the tendency toward marriage in the students. The results of this research show the importance of personality traits and feeling nostalgia for the students' level of tendency toward marriage, that is, personality traits and feeling nostalgia can significantly predict the tendency toward marriage among single students.

KEYWORDS: Feeling nostalgia, personality traits, students, tendency toward marriage.

INTRODUCTION

Marriage is the most important and the most fundamental human relationship because it provides a structure for creating familial relationships and rising the future generation (Holman, 2001, in Nilfroshan, 2011). In addition to responding human's sexual and affective needs, marriage regulates his/her economic needs, social and cultural relationships and is an accepted norm across all of the countries of the world (Kazemi – pour, 2009). Tendency to marriage is the most important and fundamental sensations of individuals for marriage and starting a joint life. Taking into account the factors which are effective on individuals' marriage, some of the people just think about the problems of marriage and the problem arising after they are married and ignore the will and tendency which is necessary for the beginning a joint life. Like all other aspects of life, marriage needs an appropriate starting point. If there is not any tendency or motivation for performing marriage, it will probably be faced with difficulties overtime (Mo'tamedi, 2006).

Personality as a general model is related with a lot of psychological variables. Research findings demonstrate the relationships between personality traits and feeling nostalgia. In other words, some personality traits as in neurosis, extroversion or in flexibility in social interactions are effective on either reducing or increasing the feeling of nostalgia (Verschur, 2003). Tab'-e Bordbar and colleagues (2008) showed that feeling nostalgia is explained by higher feeling of nostalgia and lower extroversion. Naxa'e and Farnam (2011) found in a research that there was a significant positive relationship between the factors of psychoneurosis and feeling nostalgia. The research conducted by Pour Afkari and colleagues (2013) on the relationships between personality traits and attitudes toward marriage, showed that there was a significant negative correlation between introversion trait and attitudes toward marriage in student girls. In other words, the higher the level of introversion, the lower the attitude toward marriage, but there was a significant positive relationship between attitude toward marriage and extroversion trait. Fisher and Hood (2008) suggest that feeling nostalgia is a complex cognitive, affective and motivational state which is related to mental obsession about the prior environment and returning to it. This state of mind is experienced through depressed character and psychological symptoms. Feeling nostalgia is a natural reaction to the new environment and, potentially, is a debilitating phenomenon which influences the individuals from all of the cultures, and from all age groups (Askoplayt, 2010): Taking into account the importance of marriage within the society, the main goal of this research is to investigate that to what

extent the factors such as personality traits and feeling nostalgia among students may be related to reducing their tendency to marriage.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This research is a correlation one. The statistical universe of this research included all of the single students of Ilam University who were studying in academic year of 2012 – 13. Of these students, 351 students were selected as the sample of the research through stratified random sampling.

NEO Inventory personality traits: This test has been composed of 60 items in which the respondents offer his/her answers on a five point scale which have been designed for quick and brief assessment of 5 main factors including emotional instability, extroversion, openness to experiences, agreeableness, and conscientiousness. The internal reliability of the indices of psychoneurosis, extroversion, openness, agreeableness and conscientiousness through α coefficient has been calculated to be 0.86, 0.77, 0.68, 0.73, and 0.81, respectively. The correlation coefficient obtained for the index of conscientiousness is between 0.75 and 0.89. for the index of emotional instability among the scores of the indices of Ables case, the calculated correlation coefficients were 0.92, 0.90, 0.91, 0.77, 0.87 for psychoneurosis, extroversion, openness, agreeableness, and conscientiousness, respectively (Haqshenas, 2011). Mckerry and Costa (2004), in a research for revising NEO Inventory on 1942 adults, reported Cronbach α coefficient for 5 factors of neurosis (N), extroversion (E), openness (O), agreeableness (A), and conscientiousness (C) to be 0.86, 0.80, 0.75, 0.69, 0.79, respectively.

The feeling of nostalgia inventory: This inventory is the Persian version of van Vliet inventory of feeling nostalgia (Ejeh'e, 2008) which includes 38 items which have been arranged on 5 point Linkert scale. Ejeh'e and colleagues translated and validated this test. The Cronbach α coefficients of this inventory, for the 5 emotional factors are 0.90, 0.84, 0.85, and 0.69, respectively (Van Vliet, 2001). In present research, to determine the reliability of feeling nostalgia inventory, for the 5 emotional factors are 0.90, 0.84, 0.85, and 0.69, respectively (Van Vliet, 2001). In present research, to determine the reliability of feeling nostalgia inventory, Cronbach α method has been used which is 0.90 for the entire of the inventory. The inventory of tendency to marriage (students' version): This inventory has been constructed by Heidari, Mazaheri, and Pour'etamad (2003) which includes 24 questions, including 23 questions, each having 5 choices, and an extra question asking about the golden age of marriage. This questionnaire has been conducted on 779 subjects.

Through using factor analysis and Varimax rotation method, four factors were distinguished for it all of which were higher than the specific amount of higher than 1. These 4 factors are: 1- attitude toward marriage; 2- readiness and tendency to marriage; 3- attitudes toward marriage consequences; 4- marriage impediments. The expert have confirmed the content validity of this inventory which is 0.77 through retesting: The internal analogy of the questionnaire by Cronbach α is calculated to be 0.92.

RESULTS

Table 1. The mean and the standard deviation of the students' scores for research variables

Variable	Gender	mean	SD	Number
Neurosis	male	22,56	5,05	172
	Female	20,12	6,46	179
Extroversion	Male	25,80	4,57	172
	female	27	5,17	179
Openness	male	23,56	4,92	172
	female	25,75	6,10	179
Agreeableness	male	23,08	5,19	172
	female	24,18	26,23	179
Conscientiousness	male	26,47	5,25	172
	female	28,26	5,89	179
Feeling nostalgia	male	101,74	29,28	172
	female	109,58	33,05	179
Tendency to marry	male	74,99	12,42	172
	female	83,41	11,47	179

Table 2. The matrix of the correlation personality traits and feeling nostalgia with the students' tendency to marriage

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Feeling nostalgia	1				
Tendency to marry	*-0,11	1			
Neurosis	**0,24	** -0,53	1		
Extroversion	** -0,22	**0,41	** -0,57	1	
Openness	**0,24	**0,50	** -0,51	**0,47	1
Agreeableness	** -0,31	**0,42	** -0,58	**0,48	**0,54
Conscientiousness	** -0,23	**0,37	** -0,55	**0,42	**0,33

N=351, ** P< 0/01, * P< /05

The results of correlation test in table 2 shows that there is a significant negative relationship between the variables of feeling nostalgia and tendency to marry in both male and female students. In addition the relationship between personality traits and tendency to marry is significant. Of personality traits, neurosis has a significant negative correlation with tendency to marriage, but the results revealed that there is a significant positive relationship between the personality traits of extroversion, openness, agreeableness, conscientiousness and tendency to marriage. Taking into account the significance of the relationship of feeling nostalgia and personality traits with the students' tendency to marriage, regression analysis was used whose results are provided in table 3.

Table 3: the results of simultaneous regression analysis of personality traits and feeling nostalgia for explaining the tendency to marry

Predictor variable	B	β	T	p-value	R	R ²	F	p-value
Neurosis	-0,61	0,28	-4,57	0,000				
Extroversion	0,15	0,06	1,09	0,257				
Openness	0,65	0,29	5,39	0,000	0,61	0,36	24,25	0,000
Agreeableness	0,11	0,05	0,93	0,352				
Conscientiousness	0,20	0,09	1,71	0,087				
Feeling nostalgia	0,03	0,08	1,77	0,077				

As it can be seen in table 3, personality traits and the students' feeling nostalgia were simultaneously entered into the analysis which explains 36% of the students' tendency to marriage variance. In addition, the standard coefficient of β shows that of predictor variables, the personality traits of neurosis and openness are experimentally able to predict the students' tendency to marry.

Table 4: the results of the analysis of the students' T-test on the students' feeling nostalgia and tendency to marry

Variable	Neurosis		boy		Girl		T	P
	mean	SD	mean	SD	mean	SD		
Tendency to marry	74.99	12.42	83.41	11.47	-6.60	0.0001		
Feeling Nostalgia	101.74	29.28	109.58	33.05	-2.34	0.019		

Through using T-test of independent groups the scores for the tendency to marriage for male students (SD=12.42, M=74.99) were compared to that for the female students (SD=11.47, M=83.41). According to the results of this comparison, it can be said that the differences between both of the groups is statistically significant (t=-6.66, p=0.0001), so that the tendency to marriage among female students was higher than that of the male students. Moreover, the mean score for feeling nostalgia for male students (M=101.74, SD=29.28) was compared to that of the female students (M=109.58, SD=33.05). Based on these results it can be claimed that the differences between both of the groups are statistically significant t= -2.34, p=0.019), showing that feeling nostalgia among girls was higher than that among boys.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The results of this study showed that the relationship between personality traits and tendency to marry is significant. Of the personality traits, neurosis is negatively related to tendency to marry, but extroversion, openness, agreeableness, and conscientiousness are significantly and positively related to tendency to marriage. This result is in line with the results of the researches by Tab'e Bordbar and colleagues (2008), Naxa'e (2011), and Salehinia (2010). Naxa'e and Farnam (2011) in a research investigated the relationship of personality traits with feeling nostalgia in the students living in dormitories. The results showed a significant positive relationship between neurosis and feeling nostalgia and the fact that the factors of neurosis and extroversion are able to predict the feeling of nostalgia in the students (. Norris, Larsen, Caciop, 2007).

Feeling nostalgia as an emotional experience can be distinguished after leaving home and through the physical symptoms, negative feelings, cognitive mistakes and the thoughts of returning home (Nijhoff and Engels, 2007). In explaining the results obtained, it can be said that the ones having high neurosis are usually depressed, anxious, irrational and vulnerable. These individuals when enter a new environment and are far from the families are more vulnerable against the new challenges, but the ones who enjoy high levels of openness, agreeableness, and conscientiousness obtain higher scores and experience more experiences. These affect their manner of confrontation with new challenges to a great extent. The results of the research showed that there is a significant negative relationship between feeling nostalgia and tendency to marriage, that is, the higher the feeling of nostalgia, the lower the tendency to marry. This is in accord with the results of the research by Pourafkari and colleagues (2012). The results of their research revealed that there is a significant negative relationship between introversion and the girls' tendency to marry, but the same relationship is significant and positive for the personality trait of extroversion and tendency to marry. To explain such results it can be said that, compared with other people, the ones affected by the feeling of nostalgia exhibit higher levels of depression and anxiety, lower self-confidence, and higher dissatisfaction. Influencing on social relationships, this low self-confidence makes them not be able to communicate specially in social interactions and not be able to either receive support or act bravely (Ben *et al.*, 2005). The results of this research showed that the personality traits and feeling nostalgia explain the tendency to marry in the students. The extrovert individuals enjoy interaction with each other people and are often known as energetic ones. It seems they are sympathetic and practical and are seen well among the group, like to talk and express themselves (Olsen, 2000).

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