ROMANTIC LOVE SCALE

Reference:


Description of Measure:

A 13-item measure of romantic love designed to capture three components of love: affiliative and dependent need, a predisposition to help, and an orientation of exclusiveness and absorption. Each item has a blank which respondents are directed to fill in with the name of their partner. Respondents answer each item on a 9-point scale ranging from 1 (not at all true, disagree completely) to 9 (definitely true, agree completely).

Abstracts of Selected Related Articles:


Even if superordinate concepts (such as "fruit," "vehicle," "sport") are prototypically organized, basic-level concepts (such as "apple," "truck," "hockey") might be classically defined in terms of individually necessary and jointly sufficient features. A series of 6 studies examined 1 basic-level concept in the domain of emotion, "love," and found that it is better understood from a prototype than a classical perspective. The natural language concept of "love" has an internal structure and fuzzy borders: Maternal love, romantic love, affection, love of work, self-love, infatuation, and other subtypes of love can be reliably ordered from better to poorer examples of love. In turn, each subtype's goodness as an example of love (prototypicality) was found to predict various indices of its cognitive processing. Implications for a scientific definition and typology of love are discussed.


Presents a triangular theory of love, which deals both with the nature of love and with loves in different kinds of relationships. It is suggested that there are 3 components: (a) intimacy encompassing the feelings of closeness, connectedness, and bondedness experienced in loving relationships; (b) passion encompassing the drives that lead to romance, physical attraction, and sexual consummation; and (c) decision/commitment encompassing, in the short term, the decision that one loves another, and in the long term, the commitment to maintain that love. The amount of love one experiences depends on the absolute strength of the 3 components, and the kind of love one experiences depends on their strengths relative to each other. The components interact with each other and with the actions that they produce and that produce them so as to form a number of different kinds of loving experiences. The triangular theory of love subsumes other theories and can account for a number of empirical findings in the research literature, as well as for a number of experiences with which many are familiar firsthand. It is proposed that the triangular theory provides a comprehensive basis for understanding many aspects of the love that underlies close relationships.


Questionnaire measures of attachment style, attachment history, beliefs about relationships, self-esteem, limerence, loving, love addiction, and love styles were administered to 374
undergraduates. Attachment style was related in theoretically expected ways to attachment history and to beliefs about relationships. Securely attached Ss reported relatively positive perceptions of their early family relationships. Avoidant Ss were most likely to report childhood separation from their mother and to express mistrust of others. Anxious-ambivalent subjects were less likely than avoidant Ss to see their father as supportive, and they reported a lack of independence and a desire for deep commitment in relationships. The self-esteem measure and each of the scales measuring forms of love were factor analyzed separately. Analyses based on scale scores derived from the resulting factors indicated that attachment style was also strongly related to self-esteem and to the various forms of love discussed in other theoretical frameworks. The results suggest that attachment theory offers a useful perspective on adult love relationships.

Scale:

1. If ______ were feeling badly, my first duty would be to cheer him (her) up.
   
   not at all true/ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
   disagree completely

2. I feel that I can confide in ______ about virtually everything.

   not at all true/ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
   disagree completely

3. I find it easy to ignore ______’s faults.

   not at all true/ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
   disagree completely

4. I would do almost anything for ______.

   not at all true/ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
   disagree completely

5. I feel very possessive toward ______.

   not at all true/ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
   disagree completely

6. If I could never be with ______, I would feel miserable.

   not at all true/ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
   disagree completely

7. If I were lonely, my first thought would be to seek out ______.

   not at all true/ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
   disagree completely

8. One of my primary concerns is ______’s welfare.

   not at all true/ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 definitely true
   disagree completely
9. I would forgive ____ for practically anything.

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10. I feel responsible for ____’s well-being.

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11. When I am with ____, I spend a good deal of time just looking at him (her).

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12. I would greatly enjoy being confided in by ____.

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13. It would be hard for me to get along without ____.

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**Scoring:**

Scoring is kept continuous.