

**BABEȘ – BOLYAI UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES**

DOCTORAL THESIS

THE ROLE OF FAMILIAL PATTERN IN CHOOSING THE COUPLE PARTNER

SUMMARY

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CONTENT

INTRODUCTION.....	5
CHAPTER 1	
1. FAMILY – CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL BOUNDARIES	13
1. 1 FAMILY – BRIEF HISTORY, DEFINITIONS AND APPROACHES... ..	13
1.1.1 Family – history and modernism	13
1.1.2 Defining family	20
1.1.2.1 Structural definition of family	21
1.1.2.2 Defining family through tasks and functions	22
1.1.2.3 Transactional definition of family	23
1.1.3 Theories of family	24
1.1.3.1 Family systems theory	24
1.1.3.2 Family development theory	28
1.1.3.3 Family dialect theory	29
1.1.3.4 Theory of symbolic interactions.....	33
1.1.3.5 Social learning theory.....	35
1.1.4. Family approach in terms of therapeutic guidelines	37
1.1.4.1 Systematic approach of family	37
1.1.4.2 Strategic approach of family	40
1.1.4.3 Structural approach of family.....	42
1.1.4.4 Cognitive-behavioral approach of family	43
1.1.4.5 Family approach in adlerian perspective	44
1.1.4.5.1 Analysis of family through Family Constellation	44
1.1.5 Family conflict	54
1.1.5.1 Characteristics of conflict.....	54
1.1.5.2 Conflict between brothers	56
1.1.5.3 Conflict in the extended family	57
1.1.6 Nuclear families	57
CHAPTER 2	
2. 1. COUPLE – FACTORS, APPROACHES AND THEORIES.....	60
2.2.1 Contributory factors in choosing the couple’s partner	60
2.2.1.1 Internal factors-psychological answers.....	60
2.2.1.2 Factors related to social exchange	61
2.2.1.3 Socio-cultural and historic factors.....	62
2.2.1.4 Factors related to the evolutionary process	63
2.2.2 Theories of the couple	64
2.2.2.1 Allocation theory in the couple’s relationship	64
2.2.2.2 Self-disclosure theory	68
2.2.2.3 Attachment theory in the couple’s relationship	72
2.2.3 Basic components of the couple’s relationship.....	76
2.2.3.1 Attraction.....	76
2.2.3.2 Love	81
2.2.3.3 Intimacy	84
2.2.3.4 Affection	89
2.2.4 Premarital and marital relationship aspects	93
2.2.4.1 Premarital agreements.....	93
2.2.4.2 Cohabitation	96
2.2.4.3 Marriage	100

CHAPTER 3

3. FAMILY AND TRANGENERATIONAL PATTERN	106
3.1. RELATIONSHIPS.....	106
3.1.1 Motherhood.....	106
3.1.1.1 Transition to motherhood.....	107
3.1.1.2 Maternal role in raising children	107
3.1.1.3 Motherhood and work.....	108
3.1.1.4 Mother and marital quality	110
3.1.1.5 Mother and psychological well-being.....	110
3.1.2 Attachment theory	111
3.1.2.1 Attachment in childhood, adolescence and adulthood.....	112
3.1.2.2 Development of attachment relationships	114
3.1.2.3 The role of emotional attachment to the development of children and social relationships outside the family.....	114
3.1.2.4 Attachment and cultural space	115
3.1.3 Parental behavior – an adlerian approach.....	117
3.1.3.1 Parents ad models.....	117
3.1.3.2 Parental behavior towards the child and its consequences	118
3.1.3.3 Attitudes reinforced by the parental behavior.....	119
3.1.3.4 The role played by each child in the family.....	122
3.2 TRANSGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS	124
3.2.1 Family relatives.....	124
3.2.1.1 Ancestry.....	125
3.2.1.2 Kinship terminology	126
3.2.1.3 Residence rules.....	128
3.2.2 Genealogy	130
3.2.3 Intergenerational transmission.....	131
3.2.3.1 Cultural transmission: values, norms and beliefs.....	132
3.2.3.2 Transgenerational and assistance.....	133
3.2.3.3 Solidarity between generations	134
3.2.3.4 Rules and exchanges between generations	135
3.2.3.5 Generational scenario	138
3.2.3.6 Connection between generations.....	147
3.2.3.7 Parental couple as a mediator between generations	152

CHAPTER 4

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	162
4. 1 Research objectives and hypotheses	162
4.1.1 Research objectives	162
4.1.2 Research hypotheses	163
4.1.3 Experimental design	164
4.1.4 Sampling.....	165
4.1.5 Tools presentation.....	165
4.1.6 Working procedure.....	172
4.1.7 Research limits.....	173

CHAPTER 5	
5. RESEARCH RESULTS	174
CHAPTER 6	
6. CONCLUSIONS AND PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS	327
6.1 Conclusions	327
6.2 Personal contributions.....	334
BIBLIOGRAPHY	337
ANNEXES	354

Key-words: familial pattern, couple, family, transgenerational, marriage, parental relation, current and ideal couple partner.

Foreword

The couple relationship formation study invites those concerned with this field to a foray into the world of fundamental questions about human nature and its interaction in the culture. Individual psychological factors play an important role in the context of dyadic interaction, and these interactions take place within a broader cultural context. Thus, the partner can be understood on different but interconnected levels of analysis. This process seems simple enough at first because of the symbiotic substrates of love but becomes very complex and not infrequently quite tortuous in time. The complexity of relation with one's partner derives, in most cases, from the combination of several factors emanating both from the compatibility in terms of physical attraction, but especially at levels related to the roles and values. The factors contributing to the smooth dynamics of a couple are complex both in their diversity and the way they are organized, growing in priority in a certain period of life or declining their position at other times. Love, affection, sexuality, friendship, love, intimacy, affection are primordial factors in structuring a couple. They mostly define the functional capacity of the couple. However, because of the lack of reflection on these factors from the people involved, they can lead to marked relational inability.

A very important factor in establishing the relationship of the couple is the family of origin, not so much regarding how to engage directly in a relationship but rather by introjecting the perception partners have on the relational system of their own family. These perceptions are structured in childhood and constitute the basis for later relational style in relation with the partner. Thus, the familiar patterns with an overwhelming influence in the choice of a partner are established. This is the purpose of our study, to identify this pattern and observe its influence on the choices made in choosing a partner, at all levels of relationship - emotional, cognitive, attitudinal, behavioral, etc. It is important to know this influence, especially for professionals practicing in the field, because when these patterns are exaggerated and create dysfunctional subsystems, they become problematic, requiring specialized intervention.

The structure of the thesis

The structure of the thesis includes six chapters: 1. Family – Conceptual and Theoretical Delimitations; 2. Couple – Factors, Approaches and Theories; 3. Familial Pattern and the Transgenerational; 4. Methodology of Research; 5. Results of Research; 6. Conclusions and Personal Contributions.

In the following, we present the summary of this thesis.

The chapter named “Family” analyses the concept of family, but also tries to define it. This chapter describes some theories of family, therapeutic issues and conflictual aspects in the end. Thus, it begins with the presentation of some Ancient Greek symbols for deities, such as the divine patronage of Zeus and Hera or Hermes and Hestia, family protectors. It also evokes the setting up of family roots in ancient myths, embodied in the symbol of conception as a kind of plowing, the woman-bride considered fertile ground product which in turn will breed and more. We could not dispense with the image of Heracles Epitrapezius in Lysippus’s vision, coupled with the idea of hospitality necessary in any social environment, embodying the perpetual visitor that deserves a reserved seat at the table. Thus, in every family there was kept an extra seat for a potential guest, especially in the less wealthy homes, even if the guest could embody, on the one hand, the image of a dangerous foreigner or, on the other hand, that of a simple man, with peaceful intentions. Seen from another perspective, the family itself can be seen as a communion of foreigners following the contractual steps.

Family relationships describe a special connection between people, but this positive level of communication does not exclude the existence of negative aspects. In this regard it was highlighted the connection with the Greek literature, presenting heroes dominated by hatred, envy and violence, having negative effects on the family plan, either imaginary or real, and revealing the family traits in the Etrusco Roman culture. There, the paternal families were the most important, only children recognized by the father became legitimate and only *paterfamilias* had the right to politicize. The obligation of the other family members, including slaves, was to worship the ancestors of the home. Beyond Antiquity, we come to the presentation of the family in the the Middle Ages, characterized by stability to the Old World, where we note the the strong influence of the Church and the family was subject to the rules based on Old and New Testaments. Following the historical and social evolution, we reach the Humanism and the Renaissance, looking at the concept of Florentine "family books", a type of memoir written by the father of the family, but containing also demographic, economic or aspiration aspects, involving, for example, the identification of the differences and similarities between the ideals of family and family life, as Klapisch-Zuber (1985) says.

Finally, following the trail of time, we reach the contemporaneity, where we take into consideration the fluctuating nature of the concept of family, the Western family being less defined because of the permanent structural and organizational fluctuations (Rossi, 2003), but also aspects connected with the need for communication between members, the relationship between the descendants and families of origin, the fragility of the modern couple, the concept of marriage or divorce, single parent family and matrifocal families, the competitiveness between child and mother's personal fulfillment, and so on, all of these issues being explained on the basis of extensive research conducted over time.

The second section, "Defining Family" inventories a series of definitions of it, indicating that there is no universally valid version (Settles, 1999), but more or less complete definitions. It also notes the influence on the lifetime of the human family, subject to the review questions on the nature of repeatability and continuity of family and family communication styles influence or the influence of the personal experience, folklore or the media in a real vision of family. The essence of this chapter is the presentation of the three definitions of family, making his debut with its structural definition, characterized by objectivity of the presented criteria, indicating clearly which members are considered to belong to a family and which of them do not belong to it (Fitzpatrick and Badzinski, 1994) and including various alternatives proposed by Popenoe (1993), Newman, Roberts, Syre (1993) and others, with an insight into the extensive research undertaken by them. The second category refers to the family by defining tasks and functions, providing information about family functions or form. It noted the definition of Lerner and Spanier (1978) detailing examples of rigor, providing the demonstration of the flexibility of the task-oriented definitions in relation with the structural ones. The third definition is the transactional one, focusing on communication between individuals and implicitly on the interactional aspects illustrated by intimacy, interdependence, commitment, feelings about family identity, emotional aspects, self-defined symbols, a common past and an ascending future, with examples belonging to researchers such as Burgess and Locke (1953), Wamboldt and Reiss (1989) or DeGenova and Rice (2002). We noted the definition of the family provided by DeGenova and Rice (2002) that sums up the structural, transactional and task-oriented elements: "family is a group of persons united by the ties of marriage, blood, or adoption, or any sexually expressive relationship, in which the adults cooperate financially for their mutual support, the people are committed to one another in an intimate interpersonal relationship, and the members see their individual identities as importantly attached to the group with an identity of its own." We also highlighted the common points and differences between the

three types of definitions, all of which meet a universal goal, that of discovering the secret of a fulfilled family.

The third section, entitled "Theories of the Family" implies a broad insight into many theories of family, with a detailed presentation of each, along with the concepts and research involved. It is illustrated the theory of family systems, initiated by the researcher Ludwig von Bertalanffy, this being one of the major theoretical formulations which required empirical, experimental investigations about the study of families. The discussion on this theory required to explain concepts like holism, hierarchy, with presentation of the three subsystems: marital, parental and fratry, border, referring to the boundaries imposed by families between the inner and outer aspects of the family system, homeostasis - the ideal balance maintained between the challenges and the resources held by each family, morphostasis - maintaining the optimal level of organization within the family system, despite any challenges, morphogenesis - adapting the systems to the changing needs of families, feedback loops - the patterns of interaction and communication that move emphasis to morphostasis or morphogenesis, study time, family time, the concept of equifinality, adding the demonstration of their interdependence. Family development theory is then presented, which involves the analysis of the systematic and design changes undertaken by family at all stages of life. We highlighted the research results of Rodgers and White (1993), that proposed a number of key concepts: position, rules, role, family stage, transitions, family career, or deviation. The following theory is that of the dialectics of family, translated through the presence of contradictions in the relations of any kind. Emphasis is placed here on revealing common traits of social dialectics components, delineating the integration-separation dialectics, the dialectics of expression-nonexpression and the stability-change dialectics. Thus, our empirical observations led us to conclude that there is not only one way to study the contradictions in a relationship. The presentation then includes symbolic interactionism theory, initiated by George Herbert Mead and completed by Manford Kuhn, with the original theory of social interaction. Here we found detailed the researchers concerns on how people create, modify, react or share the symbols from their social environment, involving the concept of intersubjectivity and identifying central themes and assumptions of symbolic interaction, embodied in the concept of mind, self and society, in Mead's vision. At the end of the section is illustrated the social learning theory, initiated by the psychologist Albert Bandura and focusing on the behavioral acquisition of individuals. In support of this theory we detailed a series of experiments in which we can differentiate processes of behavioral production, empowered stimuli or the "if-then" relationship (Smith, 1982), social learning theory

considering that most people acquire knowledge through two important sources : through direct experience and through the experience empowered.

The fourth section, called "Approaches to Family from a Therapeutic Point of View" provides an overview of four types of approaches to family: systemic, strategic, structural and cognitive-behavioral. In systemic theory, initiated by the researcher Bowen, the family is defined as a network of multigenerational relationships, the next analysis is focused on the six interrelated concepts (Bowen, 1966): differentiation of self, triangles, the emotional process of the nuclear family, family projection process, multigenerational transmission process, the position of relatedness, emotional separation, socially emotional process. Further, the strategic theory includes the analysis of human communication in families, which acts as systems driven by rules, having a well-defined purpose and assuming the presence of feedback loops, positive or negative, i.e., family communication patterns, joined by elements of stimulus and response. To this it was added the description of some experiments and specific concepts, followed by the structural theory, with emphasis on the analysis of the family interaction process, family structure consisting of organized pattern in which members interact and the cognitive-behavioral one, involving cognitive theories and behavioral therapy. The end of this section includes the family approach from an Adlerian perspective, we analysed Adler's family constellation theory involving siblings constellation, parental models, family values and family atmosphere. Each of these concepts has been detailed, including views of many researchers in the field. We highlighted the contribution of Reiss (1949), Friedmann (1930) and Dreikurs's (1957), the latter describing the parental "guide-lines" and stating that the relationship between mother and father sets the model for all the family interpersonal relationships. In analyzing the constellation of brothers we present concepts with an enlightening role in family relations, embodied in competition, birth order, social role and the factors influencing the birth order and the siblings constellation as difference in age, family size, extrafamilial competitors, the difference of sexual orientation, family myths or favoritism. It had to be added the illustration of the roles available in the family, family values which provide the "meaning of life" (Adler, 1958) and branches in poor or contradictory and family atmosphere, derived from relationships and family values.

In the fifth section, "Family Conflict", we talk about the marital conflicts and those between parents and children. Thus, the research is done to this theme, emphasizing the characteristics of conflict, consisting of intensity, complexity and duration of a relationship specific to the family conflict and its two particular aspects: the conflict between brothers and extended family conflict, this type of family including relationships created by marriage,

adoption or other social forms, meaning the relatives more than a generation away. It captured the idea that family relationships should last a lifetime (White 2001), but may worsen, at the same time, the conflictual relationships. Also, it emphasized the importance of the study in terms of family conflict prevention and treatment, because it was found that the form of the conflict is just as important as its frequency. We also mentioned the idea that, paradoxically, although conflicts are considered unpleasant experiences, they can generate positive effects, transforming many times the conflictual style in frank discussions.

Finally, the last section, "Nuclear Family" includes a questioning of the concept, analysing the truth or falsity of some aspects such as the presence of this type of family in any existing society, the necessity of the nuclear group in exerting the vital functions of the family or to consider the industrialization as a contributing factor to separation of the nuclear family from the system of extended family. It was also considered that the twentieth century has opened a debate on the universality and necessity of the nuclear family, bringing the arguments from fields such as anthropology, sociology or psychology, by discussing the views of many researchers.

Thus, the ideal of the family remains close to the utopia by the fact that, nowadays, in every corner of the earth, the family is characterized by variety, which is directly proportional to economic, demographic, political, cultural changes and to the aspects of industrialization.

The second chapter, entitled "The couple - factors, approaches and theories", focuses on issues influencing the choice of partner, making an incursion across factors, theories and basic components of the couple's relationship, because, as we know, choosing a partner was considered an aspect having a major role in people's life, the evolution on a sentimental plan has also influenced other branches of his development. The first section, "Contributory factors in choosing the partner", captures the analysis of five factors that may influence the choice of the partner or couple life, categorized into internal factors, factors related to social exchange, socio-cultural and historical and those belonging to the evolutionary process. Each was given a thorough analysis, supported by the opinions and research in the field.

Thus, the internal factors are reflected in the presence of similarity, the common points of individuals in the politics, lifestyle, personality, appearance or ethnic level, but there are exceptions to this rule, such as the positive influence of men a little older on younger women, the preference of adolescents for older women, partner status, especially important for women or the tendency to not show strong physical attraction for those who have the same origin. Factors related to social exchange refers to the presence of dual processes of costs and benefits in choosing a partner, socio-cultural and historical factors focus on the discovery of

the differences and common features of partner selection in different human societies. In this regard, we analysed societies existing in different parts of the world, like America, Europe, the Himalayas and Nepal, involving concepts of monogamy, polygamy or polyandry. Finally, the factors related to the evolutionary process emphasizes the comparison of partner selection in humans and other species, the similitude was remarkable as, by comparison, we could reveal some general principles to resolve human aspects related to the choice of the choice.

The second section presents the theories of couple relationships, including the allocation theory, the attachment theory and the self-disclosure one, each having a major role in this field. The concept of the allocation, initiated by Fritz Heider and transformed into theories by Edward Jones, Keith Davis (1965) and Harold Kelley (1967), it was discussed the sense of interpretation of an event by subtracting the causes of the event, being completed by the self allocation. There were also noticed the experiments that support this theory, and the implication of allocation trends that have endorsed a new theory related to the study of improving the relationships, called minding (Harvey and Omarzu, 1999). Here were also examined the gender differences, the extension of the allocation perspective under the evolutionary aspect, plus the emphasis of the the twenty-first century's research, with important results in close relations, allocation and communication behavior. Recent research were mentioned by analysing the attributes present in the interaction of nonverbal behaviors (Manusov and Koenig, 2001), capturing cognitively the moment of interaction, the attributes reflecting the couple assessments regarding the communication of behaviors (Alan Sillars, Linda Roberts, Tim Dun and Leonard Kenneth, 2001), by defining the attributes as type of communication involving explanations for certain behaviors or events, which are considered vital for communication indices (Manusov, 2001). The self-disclosure theory is presented as a confession about yourself, detailed in terms of marital, familial or romantic relationships. It emphasizes the complexity of this process, as it involves a double valence, a positive one regarding the privacy, enhancing self-disclosure and a negative one, illustrated for example, in an increased care for partner's health that can, paradoxically, increase her/his pain. We mention also the private space management theory in communication that takes the self-disclosure as a concept that made the balance between what we can reveal and what remains strictly confidential. After thorough analysis of this theory, we note the fact that the partners should establish a mutual agreement regarding the construction of rules for an optimal control of private information as, if a difference between partners' expectations related to the emotional disclosure is identified, the relationship may suffer. We reach aspects of gender differences, familial intimacy, and parent-child intimacy, interrelating terms such as disclosure of personal

information, setting rules, the function of maintaining secrecy, family satisfaction degree, negotiations on private barriers rules, and more. Attachment theory, last presented in this section, was initiated by the English psychiatrist John Bowlby, who considers the attachment an integral element of human behavior "from cradle to grave", although the first justification of this theory have been possible by explaining the link between early development of infants and their caregivers. Thus, the author insists on the idea that attachment means important relationships arising, first, between children and parents, and later between partners, in couples. The study of this theory does not stop here, because arguments are made on individual differences in adult attachment styles, where we list and analyse the four attachment styles derived from the anxiety and avoidance dimensions: safety, concerns, avoiding rejection and fear of avoidance. These different types of attachment can be viewed as individual reactions to stressful emotional contexts (Fraley and Shaver 2000). Another aspect of the attachment theory is the problem of stability and change in adult attachment styles, which highlighted the studies of the romantic attachment of the adult, focusing on the analysis of attachment style, with facets such as emotion, behavior, thinking and psychophysiology. We presented the authorized research regarding the differences in romantic attachment related to a number of types of adult (confident, anxious, avoided), making their moral portrait, focusing on the couple's interaction, interpersonal behavior, with emphasis on the study of differences in the interpersonal behaviour in certain relational contexts, cognition and perception, emphasizing that confident and unsure adults differ in their interpretation of the experiences of relationships (Collins and Allard, 2001). The end of the section is an incursion into different cultures to capture the frequency or, conversely, the lack of studies on this issue in countries like Australia, Canada, Israel, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Holland, England, United States, China, Japan, Korea, and we notice an expansion in the industrialized countries, unlike the others. The central idea of this theory is related to the fact that optimal operation of attachment requires mutual trust and support if needed, both in the couple relationship and the family or romantic relationship (Collins and Feeney, B, 2000) and, moreover, understanding the adult relationship implies the need for understanding the dynamics of attachment, with an important role for the health and welfare of the partners, especially in the optimal functioning of the relationship.

In the third section, entitled "Basic Components of the Couple Relationship", we discuss the main coordinates of the couple relationship, i.e., attraction, love, intimacy and affection, supported in turn by other concepts, experiments or research in the field. The first of them, the attraction has been defined as a special type of interaction between two people, one of them

sends some verbal, visual, etc. stimuli, and the other responds, according to his/her own desires, positively or negatively. We captured the importance of motivational aspects for attraction, by using some criteria used in evaluating the attractiveness of another person, which varies according to expectations and needs of that person or that attraction is influenced by personality traits and needs of both individuals involved, adding the analysis of factors with a major role in interpersonal attraction: situational factors include interesting aspects such as the importance of proximity, indirect contact via Internet or TV, the influence of night, that enhances the attractiveness, the degree of self-disclosure, the person's sense of humor, presence of physical activity attractiveness linked with the multiple matching concept (Cunningham and colleagues, 1995) plus the set of traits consisting of childish features, the sexually mature ones, expressive and body care traits; factors perceived in attractions include aspects such as similarity, which refers to the stabilizing on the same plan of the person concerned and of the person perceiving him/her, the socio-biological theory initiated by Cunningham, in 1981, consisting in the analysis of the evolutionary dynamics by identifying the differences of mating requirements to the men and women, attachment theory has emphasized that affectivity and kindness are qualities developed since childhood because of sensitivity and affection generated by parents and branched into secure attachment, preoccupied, anxious and disregarded. It is also debatable the unclearness whether the positive changes such as affectivity or the beauty are followed by changes in the attraction or if the amplifying of the negative behavior leads to feelings of dissatisfaction and affect the relationship (Huston et al., 2001), reaching the conclusion that interpersonal attraction may be influenced during the relationship by the person seen as attractive, by feelings and needs of the other, but equally, and the type of interaction between the two.

The second coordinate presented in this section is love, a subject discussed in any form and in any possible field. Many facets of love turn it into a complex concept that can be discussed from several perspectives, involving many factors. In our case, love, as scientific value, was subject to speculation since ancient times, but research itself did not begin until the twentieth century. This section includes a branched presentation of the concept, making his debut with the identification of types of love, starting with love for and from parents who fill our childhood and shapes us as people and to the love for brothers, grandparents, partners and the love for our children and grandchildren. Here we underline the comparison between passionate love and friendship, Beverley Fehr (1995) and note that the underlying feelings of love of friends can lead to the formation of all forms of love, leading to the conclusion that although the aspect of passion should not be neglected, because the erotic love generates

satisfaction in a relationship (Hendrick and Hendrick, 2000), it must be completed by friendship because it does not have the force necessary to strengthen the relationship and make it last.

It emphasises Sternberg's idea regarding the narrative aspects of the development of love, and are mentioned similarities between the evolution of love and a story, based on the work "Love is a story" (Sternberg, 1998). Love styles are reviewed, love along a lifetime and in different cultures, observing that passionate love is present in all countries and the author discuss similarities and differences between cultures through experiments on the subject and observing the love styles of the subjects, predestined love for individuals in China, exemplified by the Chinese concept of yuan. After this research, it was observed that none of the existing theories do not treat all valences of love, but each of them is a support in understanding the concept of a particular complexity, it is and remains a fundamental element of human existence. Regarding privacy, we captured the branches of this concept through the presence of three phenomena discussed: intimate interactions, intimate relationships or intimate experiences, followed by detailing aspects of intimate behavior, opening and giving way to self-disclosure, the sensitivity and responsiveness from the partner, the communication of the positive feelings to the partner, which is achieved through disclosure or response to disclosure (Lippert and Prager, 2001), reassurance and emotional support, achievement and expression of affectivity, sexuality, intimacy and the couple relationships involving interesting view of privacy as a perception of the partner in terms of their feelings and attitudes, analysing it as they analyse themselves under an even more positive aspect (Murray, Holmes and Griffin, 2000), detailed knowledge of the partner, completed with the respect for his/her preferences and interests, which defines, in fact, an intimate relationship and the analysis of privacy trajectories over time, the relationship between intimacy, vulnerability and risk, between intimacy and sex or the rules of intimacy in couple relationships. The last coordinate of this section, the affection is correlated with the concept of marital satisfaction, because it was found that involving expressions of affection influences the marital satisfaction to a large extent. Thus, expressions of affection that are inventoried include issues such as verbal expression, quality time, gifts, touch, love seen as duty/service for the benefit of the other, or aggression, with negative valences, or, paradoxically positive through playful entertainment between the partners, followed by the identification of gender differences and of expressing affection and debating the concept of marital satisfaction. We observed that a partner receiving the kind of love he or she desired, reaches an optimum level of marital satisfaction,

as opposed to one who did not receive it (Keithley, 2000), of course, there is a need for communication between partners of the couple.

The last section, called "Aspects of Premarital and Marital Relationship", focuses on three illuminating aspects for the couple relationship, i.e., premarital agreements, cohabitation and marriage. The first term refers to contracts between the future spouses, containing individual rules on marriage. It was carried out their analysis from an evolutionary point of view, and we observed that this type of contract dates from the XVI century, and contains issues of effective agreement, ownership and rights of support, employee benefits, structure marriage or the presence of children. It was also emphasised the idea that premarital agreements must meet a balance between procedure and substantiality, in this sense we analysed issues such as the purchase of agreement or the agreement in material terms. The analysis is complemented by the concept of cohabitation, known as the consensual union or "de facto" marriage (in fact) in which the unmarried heterosexual couples having an intimate relationship live together. We observed substantial changes of the institution of family over time, in terms of identifying attitudes about marital unions; it was reported the idea that during periods of historical and social development, the attitudes towards nonmaritale relationships changed, becoming more and more natural, because of the similarities with the marriage, here are also involved the dual financial efforts of the partners, sharing of tasks or sexual exclusivity. There are also presented a series of distinguishing traits between marriage and cohabitation, as has been observed that social relations of the two phenomena differ. These are: age, fertility, stability, social acceptance and legal recognition. The last part of the presentation of this concept focuses on trends and patterns of cohabitation, emphasizing the fact that although the sociologists see the phenomenon of cohabitation as a new aspect, it was concluded that it was initiated before marriage, the latter occurring in the form known by contemporaries only in the nineteenth century. The historical context is the element that justifies the norming of marriage because family has always been consistent with social issues, and it was characterized by flexibility. In the end we analyse the prevalence and differential order statistics, and we highlighted the varied character of the contemporary cohabitation. Finally, the concept of marriage is given a presentation related to the historical context, the emphasis remains on the analysis of marriage preparation programs detailing their characteristics, for a demonstration of their effectiveness, but also participants. The presentation ends with an illustration of these programs, focusing on the well known aspects, such as increasing connexions (SR) program to enhance prevention and networking (PREP or couples communication program (CCP), not forgetting the presentation of other factors

influencing the preparation of the marriage for success. The conclusion that emerges is that the initiation of such programs and the help from community, there are benefits both for individual and society. Improving marriage means the improvement of the entire community. In other words, the couple, meaning the family, is the pillar of society, around it revolves a number of factors, theories, characteristics and influences demonstrating its complexity and transforming it into an inexhaustible topic of this field.

The third chapter is entitled "Familial and Transgenerational Pattern" and includes a substantial analysis of the relationship between parents and children and therefore an analysis of attachment and a transgenerational relations analysis, including informed opinions on the matter and experiments that support and justified, in the same time this analysis. The first part, "Parents-Children Relationships" notes the value of the primordial attachment to mother, but not forgetting the influence of father or others who were involved in raising the children. We also emphasize the contextual factors that may influence attachment, for example, the cultural context of carer issues that converge on a complex system consisting of early childhood attachment experiences, the development of attachment and its consequences while the connexions. Thus, the first section of this part, "Motherhood", includes definition of the concept in form of social practice which includes feeding and protecting people, and it is not a domain addressed only to women (Arendell, 2000), and the contemporary expansion of this term and the awareness that the experience of motherhood dominates the lives of most women, they are not just people who give birth to children, but their early caretakers. Next we discussed about women's maternity experience, divided into five contexts: the transition to motherhood, maternal role in child growth, the importance of mothers' jobs and the impact on the child, the relationship between mother, the marital quality and psychological well-being of the mother. We noted the equivalence of becoming a mother with the natural life, which is a natural and necessary aspect of family life, and very few women gave up this status. However, the contemporary is to waive the privilege of being the parent or to delay it until middle life. Regarding the maternal role, we noted the urgent presence of the mother in a child's life as it is based primarily on its biological instincts and intuition, but it also uses many sources of information in the field. Also, there is a considerable increase of women as workforce in all industrialized societies, which leads to the conclusion that nowadays to be a mother does not stop women to have a job. In this respect, we identified a typology of mothers who were most likely to return to work before the child reaches one year, including young mothers, those who have delayed motherhood or unmarried mothers (Moen, 1992). From the perspective of psychological well-being of mothers we stated that this kind of

wealth is influenced by many factors such as the ability to raise children, observing that mothers with infants are very often dominated by stress and anxiety, unlike fathers (Arendell, 2000), but mothers are subject to a series of daily tensions in relations with children.

The second section, "Attachment Theory" consists of a careful analysis of this theory, initiated by the psychoanalytic clinician John Bowlby and it analitically branches in several aspects, embodied in: the attachment in childhood, adolescence and adulthood, development of attachment relationships, the role of attachment in the emotional development of children and social relationships outside the family and the relationship between attachment and cultural space. We presented a number of theoretical perspectives insrtedet by Bowlby on the attachment theory, which consist of ethology, psychoanalysis, focusing especially on relations theory, systems theory and cognitive psychology, identifying several steps proposed by Bowlby, applicable in case of the development of attachment to mother: the phase of indiscriminate sociability, the phase of discriminating sociability and the attachment phase. We could not omit a very important aspect, that of the influence exerted by the attachment relationships on child's life. Thus, we presented the most popular methods for assessing patterns of attachment, namely those of Mary Ainsworth and Strange Situation of Barbara Witting (1969), insisting on details of the three patterns of attachment between infant and caregiver based on information disclosed by the method Strange Situation: secure attachment, anxious-avoidant attachment and anxious resistant to foreigners. In the following we examined longitudinal associations between the original parent-child attachment and its influences in the development of future adult's personality, being offered a compact vision on each stage of child development, placed in different contexts, until adolescence. At the end of the section we analysed the cultural differences of attachment, demonstrated by evoking extensive research and experiments over time. It is important the idea that, although most attachment theorists in the field recognize the influence of culture on specific behaviors attachments, some of them inclined to regard culture as a biological issue which is closely related to human behavior. However, one undeniable aspect underlnied here is that early attachments have a major influence on the development of young children, involving, in this respect, the transmission across generations of models of attachment.

The third section, entitled "Parental Behavior - Adlerian approach", discusses influences exerted by parents on children and parenting behaviors and their consequences. We proposed the identity of the parent pattern to the child and not only because it is undeniable that all children acquire models from parents or other adults important in their lives, or even from the older children, this models offering the opportunity to assimilate behavioural

techniques. The series of behavior given by models is, in this respect, directly proportional to child development, or involution, where appropriate. We insisted on presenting imitation, behavioral modeling, the rebellion, where we referred to four types of modeling or identification, manifested in the use of a model of social imitation. Regarding the consequences of parental behavior on children is emphasized the reciprocal relationship established between parent and child, the interaction between the two becomes a dual process with a mutual feedback. We presented Merton's theory of self-fulfilling prophecy and explained the child's perception over parent's behaviour, as the child does not react according to the actual behaviour of a parent, but according to how he/she perceives this behavior. We also reviewed aspects of the social tasks of parents, such as ensure child safety and security and providing an atmosphere of emotional warmth. We finished by presenting some basic attitudes whose development is influenced by parental behavior, attitudes considered by Dreikurs (1957b, 1973) as essential for human cooperation. They are: empathy, parental interaction, absent or ineffective parents, family myths and secrets, and the role played by each child in his family.

The second part of this chapter is devoted to transgenerational relations and is branched into three directions discussing ties of kinship, genealogy and intergenerational transmission. The first topic discussed in this context is that of family ties, because it was found that any human being makes connections with others through blood or marriage ties. Aspects to be covered are: genealogy, kinship terminology and rules of residence. Thus, the rules of genealogy are determined by the analysis of connections created through chains of parent-child relations, society might focus on patrilineal connections, meaning related to the male parent or matrilineal, related to the female. We carried out an analysis of these terms, completing it with the presence of the unilinear or bilateral descendant system, and we noted that in the United States there are rules of bilateral generalogy, including family relationships of both parents, unlike other societies, which group unilinear genealogy. Continue with the terminology of kinship derived from the fact that many societies give a common name to members of the same group based on the transcultural equivalent genealogies. Thus, we identified two basic groups: terms of reference and terms of address. Regarding the rules of residence, we emphasized aspects of a particular householding type prevailing in society, i.e. the presence of clear rules in certain societies, which refers to the place where the newlyweds will reside. It is shown that, frequently, the new residence is equivalent to spouse family or another room adjoining it, being supported by a series of statistics on the subject, and by the analysis of the types of unilocal, bilocal, patrimatrilocal, matripatrilocale, or neolocal. The

next aspect is genealogy, illustrating its research field, namely, the origin of a person or parental lines from a diachronic perspective, and the evolution of this concept, from the first evocation, identified in the Book of Numbers in the Bible, to the transformations in contemporaneity. It is noted that after 1900 certain professional standards are required for family research, so in terms of family genealogy analysis, there is an increased use of original documents and documentation standards on resources on local history, sociology, economics and psychology. In other words, the study of genealogy became in time increasingly complex, exceeding the boundaries of parental lines, analyzing the relatives from all family members, over several generations and transformed, sometimes in an American hobby.

The last section, entitled "Intergenerational Transmission" consists of a comprehensive analysis of this concept, seen as a branch of a large-scale phenomenon, that of relations between generations. Thus, related to the concept of family, intergenerational transmission involves the movement or exchange of goods and services from one generation to another, the elements transmitted, including beliefs, norms, values, attitudes and specific behaviors of that family, reflecting the socio-cultural, religious or ethnic practices and beliefs. We underlined the usefulness of this concept for explaining the social learning of violence in this environment (Ann Duffy and Julianne Momirov, 2000), and the possibility of intergenerational transmission of negative aspects of life such as marital dissolution or divorce (Nicholas Wolfinger, 2000). Further, the concept of intergenerational transmission is investigated from many perspectives. The first of these relates to cultural transmission and thus the values, norms and beliefs perpetuated over generations. We highlighted aspects such as gender differences in transmission between generations, justified on the basis of research and experiments, which shows that motherhood plays a more important role in the lives of women than fatherhood for men, insisting also on examples of research which places the center of discussion the factor called ethnicity. Here we analysed the traditional cultural value systems of Asia, North America, or of the Japanese Canadians (Karen Kobayashi, 2000) and it was observed the successful transmission over generations of perennial values such as: respect for the elderly or intensive emotional support offered to parents. The second issue discussed was that of intergenerational transmission of support services, from adult children to older parents or by parents to support children. Daughters are motivated in their deeds by affection, while sons are motivated by their filial obligation; regarding the parents, we noticed three areas of support throughout life: emotional, financial and services. In connection with solidarity between generations we presented six dimensions in the family: family structure, associative solidarity, affective solidarity, consensual solidarity, functional solidarity and

normative solidarity, highlighting some additional dimensions such as complexity of parent-child relationship later in life, besides the filial responsibility, dependency needs, unrequited experiences over several generations, residential kinship, pairs connection between men and women and the behavior of help that justifies the fact that solidarity is not an unidimensional construct, but has many variable components. Within the rules and exchanges between generations we identified factors affecting or reducing their presence, and we noticed the analysis of needs and resources of each generation, which generates understanding of the variability of relations between generations. The terms involved in this debate are: social exchange theory and equity theory, which argues that both underbenefit and overbenefit are detrimental to psychology, or factors such as divorce, which decreases interaction between generations and support exchanges between them, then the presence of grandchildren, young grandparents tending frequently to interact with them, and the elders to provide sustained financial support, identifying much better with this role (Merril Silverstein and Anne Marengo, 2001). All these elements are complemented by presenting the results of research in different cultural spaces, such as China, where children support for older adults is a vital and essential to their happiness, which improves the morale of both generations (Chen and Silverstein, 2000), because the links between generations maintain their importance throughout life.

The following aspects we have analysed are related to generational scenario area, namely, to the changes occurring in a family once a child is born, the central area of these actions is the parental couple, because it becomes a mediator between generations. Thus, further we detailed the requirements to be met in the transition to parenting and the relational changes generated by this aspect, emphasizing the elements relating to the tasks of the partners, parents, children and those as members of a social community. Throughout our incursions, we clarified the ideas concerning positive and negative results on the couple relationship, results arising from the birth of a child, the analysis of post-natal parental reactions, both from mother's and father's perspective, the necessity for identification with our own child and his/her needs, the presence of mutual support and trust in the couple life, the presence of any problems connected with the fight for assuming responsibility, the impossibility to identify with the role of parent or the discrepancy between the experience of parenting and expectations of the couple, setting emotional ties with the child in order to generate trust and the optimal space for development, ensuring continuity and generational stability of the family by granting membership for the newborn child or child's awareness of his/her own family values and her/his identity through unlimited access to the maternal and

paternal blood line. We also mentioned the importance of family structure influence by the emergence of a new generation in the family system, which triggers new rules involving both parents and those of the preceding generation and the influence of employment on the newly parents (Margola and Molgora, 2002; Margola and Rosnati, 2003), reaching the conclusion that men invest more in their work than women, the latter might be subject to work-family conflict triggering negative effects on marital satisfaction and personal welfare. Also, joint care of associations of families generates positive effects in the community, regarding the traditional and contemporary needs of the family, translated, for instance, by struggling with disabilities or illnesses of a child, concern for family rights or children's raising and education, as well as family health or quality of life (Rossi, 2003). The last two issues discussed focuses on the dual nature of the ties between generations, illustrated in the necessity to analyse child-parent relationships and those between parents and families of origin, emphasizing the couple's role of mediator between generations. Thus, we could observe the joint responsibility of caring people branched into the ethical and emotional sphere, and that heritage transmission is not linear, but refers to the result of cohesion between the maternal and paternal descendants of the parental couple; human existence cannot be limited to biological aspects, as it includes property (land, houses, savings, movable), status, life philosophy and native or social connections. The last part of the chapter includes the analysis of fraternal obligations, involving terms like family heritage, hourglass effect (Bedford, 1989) or the code of brotherhood and the detailed analysis of aspects centered on the family ties with the community and thus the socio-cultural analysis of the family, the two concepts being at a level of mutual influence. We could not omit the idea that society is an organized entity that develops having as a background the interactions between different generations, but implying the presence of relational networks such as school, neighborhood, associations, psycho-social organizations, that may have positive or destructive effects. Thus, we cannot ignore the multiplicity of human interactions and especially the humanity natural designation to procreate, generate feelings within the family or to perpetuate values across generations. Regarding this matter, the specialized works show an increasing interest on human psychology, but without exhaust it. However, researchers activity and hence, the present paper represent a step forward to achieve this goal extended to the universality level.

Research methodology

General objectives:

1. Identifying the role that family pattern plays in choosing a partner.

2. Identifying parents, current and ideal partner's personality traits
3. Identifying relational styles of individuals and their links with their own personality and with that of parents and partners of the couple.
4. Identifying self-acceptance and the tendency towards depression regarding people involved in a couple relationship.
5. Developing an evaluation test for the family pattern.

Specific objectives:

1. Identifying the relationship between a person's personality structure and parents' personality structure in order to establish parental influences on certain dimensions. Identifying parents' personality traits through the individual perception and their influence while choosing the couple partner.
2. Identifying the relationship between the relational style and the personality traits of a person. Identifying the relationship between the relational type of person and the manner he/she perceived his/her parents, current partner and the ideal couple partner. Identifying the relationship between the relational style and the self-acceptance depending on gender.
3. Identifying the relationship between the ways a person perceived his/her own parents, his/her tendency towards depression and self-acceptance.
4. Identifying the relationship between a person's personality traits and her/his choice regarding the current and ideal couple partner.
5. Identifying factors related to the subject's parental relationship and his/her couple choice in order to prioritize those factors according to their influence.
6. Developing an assessment tool for the family pattern and its influences on choosing the couple partner.

General Hypotheses:

1. It is assumed that choosing the couple partner is highly influenced by the manner a person perceived his/her own parents during childhood.
2. It is assumed that the relational life style developed mainly during childhood is influenced by the family pattern, thus contributing in choosing the couple. It is assumed that the relational style, developed during late childhood within the family, acts differently depending on gender and on the level of unconditional self-acceptance.
3. It is assumed that there is a cause-effect relationship between the way a person perceived his/her own parents and the way he/she accepts himself/herself.
4. It is assumed that there is a cause-effect relationship between the ways a person perceived his/her own parents and his/her tendency towards depression.

5. It is assumed that while choosing life partners, individuals are influenced by some of their own personality traits.

Specific Assumptions

1. a. The development of an individual's personality traits is mainly influenced by those parental traits which were perceived still from childhood as being outstanding, both from a positive and a negative point of view.

1. b. It is assumed that choosing a couple partner, current or ideal, is influenced by the way a person perceived his/her parents during childhood.

2. a. It is assumed that there is an association relationship between a person's relational style developed in the late childhood within the family and his/her personality traits.

2. b. It is assumed that there is an association relationship between a person's relational life style and the way he or she perceived his or her parents during childhood

2. c. It is assumed that there is an association relationship between the relational style and the way a person perceives both his/her current and ideal couple partner.

3. a. It is assumed that the relational style acts differently depending on the gender of the person.

3. b. It is assumed that the relational style acts differently depending on the gender of the person and on the unconditional self-acceptance.

4. a. It is assumed that there is a cause-effect relationship between the way a person has perceived his/her mother and the way the former accepts himself/herself.

4. b. It is assumed that there is a cause-effect relationship between the way a person has perceived his/her father and the way the former accepts himself/herself.

5. a. It is assumed that there is a cause-effect relationship between how a person has perceived his/her mother and his or her tendency towards depression.

5. b. It is assumed that there is as cause-effect relationship between the way a person has perceived his/her father and his or her tendency towards depression.

6. a. It is assumed that while choosing the current couple partner, but especially in choosing the ideal partner, individuals are influenced by some of their personality traits.

Experimental design

For the General Hypothesis 1, I conducted a multiple linear regression analysis, the criterion variables being the personality traits of subjects, current and ideal partner, perceived from subjects' point of view, and the predictor variables are the personality traits of subjects' mother and father, perceived once again from the subjects' point of view. The hypothesis was

divided in specific assumptions for each criterion considered. For the General Hypothesis 2, we have a co-relational design, the correlations being realized between the variables that are attributes of the relational style and of strategies of coping with life issues, on one hand, and subjects' mother, father and current partner personality traits, and the expectations from the ideal life partner on the other hand. The hypothesis was divided into specific assumptions for each dependent variable considered.

For the General Hypothesis 3, we have a quasi-experimental, unifactorial, intersubjective design. The independent variable is subjects' gender- with the two possibilities, male and female, (for the first certain assumption) and the level of unconditional self acceptance - with the two possibilities - a low and a high level (for the second specific assumption). The dependent variables are the attributes of the relational style and of the strategies of coping with life issues.

For the General Hypothesis 4, we have a quasi-experimental, unifactorial, intersubjective design. The independent variable is the level of unconditional self acceptance - with the two possibilities, low level and high level-, and the dependent variables are the personality traits perceived by subjects at their mothers (for the first specific assumption) and at their fathers (for the second specific assumptions).

For the General Hypothesis 5, we have a quasi-experimental, unifactorial, intersubjective design. The independent variable is the level of the tendency towards depression- with the three possibilities, low level, average level and high level-, and the dependent variables are the personality traits perceived by subjects at their mothers (for the first specific assumption) and at their fathers (for the second specific assumption). The specific assumptions were divided in working assumptions depending on subjects' gender, male or female.

For the General Hypothesis 6, I conducted a multiple linear regression analysis, the criterion variables being current and ideal partner's personality traits, and the predictor variables are subjects' personality traits.

The Study group consists of a total of 72 persons, 36 males (50%) and 36 females (50%). Subjects' age is between 18 and 55 years. The only selection criterion was the condition that all of them should be involved in a relationship when filling in the questionnaires. The examination took place in subjects' cities of residence (Braşov, Bucharest, Arad, Timișoara, Iași, Constanța, Deva).

Tools

1. Nonverbal Personality Questionnaire (NPQ) is an instrument of 136 items, which was built to assess a total of 16 items of the personality traits described by Murray (1936) in his systemic theory dedicated to human needs.

Like other self-assessment questionnaires, NPQ is based on the availability of self-description and self-disclosure a subject manifests.

Cronbach alpha index of internal consistency, calculated for the Romanian normative sample $N = 1800$ subjects ($N_1 = 900$ men and $N_2 = 900$ women): none of the 17 NPQ scales has internal consistency alpha indexes lower than 0.50.

2. Unconditional Self-Acceptance Questionnaire (USAQ) includes 20 items that measure the unconditional self-acceptance. It was designed in 2001 by Chamberlain and Haaga, and is based on Albert Ellis's theory of unconditional acceptance, all items reflecting different aspects of this multifaceted concept, which lies in the centre of t-rational-emotive and cognitive-behavior theory.

3. Dysfunctional Attitudes Scale, Form A (Weissman, 1979, Weissman and Beck, 1978) is an instrument used to assess the attitudes that may manifest a predisposition for depression. The 40 items of the scale are phrased as statements that are generally based on typical idiosyncratic depressive thinking. The answer to each item provides information about the person dysfunctional attitudes, which function as schemes through which a person builds up his/her own reality (Weissman and Beck, 1978). DAS-A's reliability was estimated by calculating Cronbach alpha coefficient of internal consistency. The sample used was of 682 subjects, and the alpha value obtained was of 0.86. This value indicates a good internal consistency, which express the fact that test items assess the same construct described by Beck (1976) - dysfunctional attitudes associated with depression.

In conclusion, the data available so far suggests that the Romanian version of the DAS-A has good psychometric properties, similar to the original version in English.

4. BASIS-A Inventory (Basic Adlerian Scales for Interpersonal Success - Adult Form) provides an explanation of current psychological functioning of adults based on early childhood memories. The purpose of this questionnaire is to understand how a person's beliefs, developed in early childhood, contribute to shaping problem solving strategies in order to function in society, professional and personal environment.

This tool is based on the concept that as a child grows up; he/she develops a unique plan to create a sense of belonging to the world. This plan, or **relational style**, is developed in

the context of the first social group in our life, family, and it remains relatively stable throughout life.

In 1993, after more than twenty years of research, Wheeler, Kern, & Curlette introduced this adlerian assessment tool.

BASIS-A measures five major dimensions or **relational styles**.

The instrument has been developed and applied for more than 24 years. Throughout this period, there have been conducted validity studies on other scales, such as MMPI, 16PF, Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, MCMI-II, Sassi-2, SCL-90-R, Bass Leadership Questionnaire, Dyadic Adjustment Scale, Beck Depression Inventory and Stress Coping Resources Inventory.

Research limits

The limits of our study consist in the rather small study group, so there are reservations regarding the generalization of data. Another limitation is determined by the number of tests used. It is possible that by applying additional tests to evaluate other factors (marital satisfaction, financial and socio-professional status, the quality of current relationship with family of origin, etc.), there to be identified some other influences involved in choosing a couple partner.

Research results summary

We present systematically the results for each hypothesis separately.

The first stage of data analysis consisted in building the database and calculating the scores for NPQ, NPQ - FF USAQ, DAS and Basis - A scales.

In order to process the data from this study, we used the SPSS 14.0 statistical package. The results of the analysis on the 17 NPQ scales are detailed in the thesis, but, for synthesizing and representing reasons, we present the results related to the five factors discussed above.

General Hypothesis 1. It is assumed that choosing the couple partner is highly influenced by the manner a person perceived his/her own parents during childhood. In order to highlight the influence that parents' personality traits have on subjects, namely mother's influence upon subjects, we used the statistical processing of the big five personality factors from the Big Five model of human personality on the following dimensions: Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, Neuroticism and Openness to experience. As a method we

used the multi linear regression, Stepwise method, and the results are presented separately for the two sexes, male and female.

Thus, the selected regression models show there are statistically significant differences between the estimates provided by the regression equations conducted on the variables involved (the five personality factors of male subjects and the five personality factors of the mother) when compared with estimates based on average values. Thus, for males, the ANOVA analysis of variance, F ratio is statistically significant in the selected models of regression, as shown in Table 5.1.

The percentage of variable dispersion criterion (in this case, the five personality dimensions of the subject male), explained through the evolution of the predictors (the five personality dimensions of the mother), is given by the coefficient of multiple determination R^2 . Multiple determination coefficient values R^2 for the regression equations are presented in Table 5.2.

Table 5.1. *F* coefficient values and significance thresholds models mother / male Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness to experience, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness

Table 5.3. Regression coefficients and t values for the five factors

For each of the five dimensions of the male subject, we noted in Table 5.3. the regression coefficient values, standard deviation, standardized beta coefficient and t test values, and the significance threshold obtained by calculating the regression equations with each of the five personality factors of the mother.

It is therefore clear that Neuroticism at men is **positively** influenced by Neuroticism and Openness and negatively influenced by Extraversion and Conscientiousness. Extraversion is positively determined by Neuroticism and mother's Extraversion, Openness to experience has as positive determining factors mother's Conscientiousness and Neuroticism dimensions. Agreeableness is positively determined by mother's Agreeableness, and negatively determined by Openness and Conscientiousness. Regarding male subject's Conscientiousness dimension, we do not have influence factors from maternal personality dimensions.

In the table below, we conducted a determination of the degree of influence mother's five personality factors have on **male subjects**.

Mother's five personality factors are placed horizontally, and subjects' personality traits on the vertical. The way influence works is shown by the colors of the table, thus for the significant positive influence we have the orange color, for the significant negative influence-yellow, and gray means the absence of influence. Due to standardized beta coefficients, I determined also a hierarchy of predictors by direct comparison. The order of importance is

given by the figures submitted in the boxes, starting from 1, the most important from the chosen predictors, and therefore having the greatest influence on the criterion.

Therefore, we can conclude that mothers' neuroticism may influence boys' neuroticism, extraversion and openness. A mother who has a high neuroticism and a low extraversion, coupled with a small conscientiousness may expand boys' neuroticism. Mother's high agreeableness and a reduced openness represent a major influence for boys' agreeableness development.

In the next lines, we are going to emphasize the results of other analyses in accordance with the testing of Hypothesis 1, but we will resort to a synthesis. Therefore, we will present the result of this hypothesis without drawing the tables that support them.

For the following analysis conducted by testing Hypothesis 1, we have the following results:

For the regression models performed in order to identify the influence of mother's big five personality factors on the **female subjects**, we obtained coefficients with significant values. We can state that girls who perceived their mothers as having a high Neuroticism, developed in their turn, as features, Neuroticism, Extraversion, but also Agreeableness.

Agreeableness is influenced by mother's Neuroticism, but coupled with low extraversion, while girls' Neuroticism is influenced by mother's Neuroticism, coupled this time with a very high Extraversion. We could state that low or high maternal Extraversion is responsible for influencing girls' Agreeableness and Neuroticism. A mother with a great Conscientiousness influences girls' Conscientiousness.

Regarding the influence of father's big five personality factors on **male subjects**, we can conclude that the boys who perceived their fathers as having a high Neuroticism, show in their turn the same trait. Its development is influenced by its association with another trait of their father, namely Conscientiousness. The latter is the most influential feature a father has on almost all traits except Agreeableness, which is positively influenced at boys by a perception of diminished Neurotic dimension.

Regarding the influence of father's big five personality factors on **female subjects'** personality, we can state that girls who perceived their father as having Neuroticism as the main feature may develop neurotic personality traits, may be extrovert and more open to experience. The ones who perceived their fathers as being non-neurotics and agreeable may develop as a feature Agreeableness. Girls who perceived their fathers as having the Conscientiousness feature developed, but without openness to experience are conscientious.

In order to create a holistic picture and for an overview of the results from testing Hypothesis 1, we synthesized the parental influence in choosing a partner for couple also in the form of tables

COMPARISONS BETWEEN CURRENT AND IDEAL PARTNER

Current partner selection depending on boy's perception about his own mother	Ideal partner selection depending on boy's perception about his own mother																																																																								
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The tables above represent a synthetic method of emphasizing parental influences on each dimension of personality.

With the same purpose, to construct a holistic image, we evince the results of the most influential factors in choosing a couple. Number 1 represents the biggest influence and 5 the smallest one. Dimensions marked in red are the most influential, but for personality viewed as a whole, and not on separate factors as shown above.

CURRENT PARTNER'S GENERAL INFLUENCES

IDEAL PARTNER'S GENERAL INFLUENCES

Mother-males Big Five

Mother - males Big Five

Σ beta	Dimensions	Position
2,052	Neuroticism	1
1,713	Conscientiousness	2
1,697	Extraversion	3
0,643	Openness to Experience	4
0,591	Agreeableness	5

Σ beta	Dimensions	Position
1.745	Agreeableness	1
1.737	Openness to Experience	2
1.713	Extraversion	3
1.689	Conscientiousness	4
1.2	Neuroticism	5

Mother - females Big Five

Σ beta	Dimensions	Position
2,149	Agreeableness	1
1,7	Extraversion	2
0,857	Neuroticism	3
0,617	Conscientiousness	4
0,378	Openness to Experience	5

Mother -females Big Five

Σ beta	Dimensions	Position
1.392	Neuroticism	1
0.797	Agreeableness	2
0.603	Extraversion	3
0.295	Openness to Experience	4
0	Conscientiousness	5

Mother –general influence Big Five

Σ beta	Dimensions	Position
3,397	Extraversion	1
2,909	Neuroticism	2
2,74	Agreeableness	3
2,33	Conscientiousness	4
1,021	Openness to Experience	5

Mother - general influence Big Five

Σ beta	Dimensions	Position
2.592	Neuroticism	1
2.542	Agreeableness	2
2.316	Extraversion	3
2.032	Openness to Experience	4
1.689	Conscientiousness	5

Father- males Big Five

Σ beta	Dimensions	Position
2,022	Neuroticism	1
1,534	Conscientiousness	2
0,959	Openness to Experience	3
0,649	Agreeableness	4
0,555	Extraversion	5

Father - males Big Five

Σ beta	Dimensions	Position
2.906	Conscientiousness	1
2.875	Openness to Experience	2
2.641	Agreeableness	3
2.399	Neuroticism	4
1.538	Extraversion	5

Father - females Big Five

Σ beta	Dimensions	Position
1,456	Extraversion	1
1,178	Conscientiousness	2
0,791	Neuroticism	3
0,577	Openness to Experience	4
0,274	Agreeableness	5

Father - females Big Five

Σ beta	Dimensions	Position
1.945	Neuroticism	1
1.602	Extraversion	2
1.375	Openness to Experience	3
1.348	Agreeableness	4
1.23	Conscientiousness	5

Father - general influence Big Five

Σ beta	Dimensions	Position
3,236	Extraversion	1
2,63	Conscientiousness	2
2,169	Neuroticism	3
1,745	Openness to Experience	4
0,919	Agreeableness	5

Father - general influence Big Five

Σ beta	Dimensions	Position
4.344	Neuroticism	1
4.25	Openness to Experience	2
4.136	Conscientiousness	3
3.989	Agreeableness	4
3.14	Extraversion	5

General Hypothesis 2. It is assumed that relational life style mainly developed during childhood is influenced by family pattern, thus directing a couple’s choice.

General hypothesis 2 tests the association between the dimensions “Belonging-Social Interest– pro social”, “Going Along – compliance”, “Taking charge – leadership”, “Wanting Recognition – approval” and “Being cautious – caution”, dimensions evaluated with BASIS-A inventory on the study group, and personality dimensions of Achievement, Affiliation, Aggression, Autonomy, Dominance, Endurance, Exhibition, Adventurousness, Impulsivity, Altruism, Order, Play, Sentience, Social recognition, Succorance, and Understanding,

measured by NPQ personality questionnaire. In the same time, it was investigated the BASIS-A scale's association with the five major personality factors measured by questionnaire NPQ - FF: Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, Neuroticism and Openness, corresponding factors in the Big Five study of personality.

To achieve statistical processing, I used nonparametric correlations, calculating Spearman correlation indices, taking into consideration the fact that distributions are asymmetric and standard deviations are different.

We mention that we present in the next lines the synthesis of some results from our research analysis on the five factors NPQ. These contain, as the questionnaire design, also certain elements from the 17 scales listed above. In the thesis, these separate analyses are presented in detail.

Specific Assumption 2. a. It is assumed that there is an association relationship between a person's relational style developed in early childhood within the family and his/her personality traits.

In this specific assumption, subjects' BASIS-A dimensions were put into relation with subjects' big five personality factors: Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, Neuroticism and Openness to experience. We represent below the synthesis of results obtained from the analysis of the relationship between the BASIS-A and NPQ - FF (Big Five) five factors.

Belonging-Social Interest– pro social correlates positively with Conscientiousness, having the coefficient $r = 0.419$, threshold $p = 0.000$.

Taking charge – leadership is significantly correlated with all Big Five personality factors.

Belonging-Social Interest– pro social correlates positively with Conscientiousness, having a coefficient $r = 0.521$ and the $p = 0.001$ threshold.

Taking charge – leadership dimension is significantly correlated with all Big Five personality factors.

The five major personality factors correspondents in the Big Five model were put in relation to the dimensions measured by the BASIS-A inventory for female subjects.

For the Belonging-Social Interest– pro social dimension, there are no significant correlations with female subjects' five personally factors.

Taking charge – leadership dimension shows a negative correlation with Agreeableness factor, where $r = 0.375$ and $p = 0.024$.

Wanting recognition – approval dimension is positively correlated with Agreeableness, having the correlation coefficient $r = 0.460$ and $p = 0.005$ threshold.

Being cautious - caution dimension shows a significant correlation with Agreeableness factor, with $r = -0.357$ and $p = 0.033$, correlation in the negative.

Specific Assumption 2.b. It is assumed that there is an association relationship between an individual's relational lifestyle and the way he/she perceived his/her parents during childhood.

Throughout this specific hypothesis, subjects' dimensions from BASIS-A inventory were put in relation with the five big personality factors: Extroversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, Neuroticism and Openness to experience, perceived by subjects at their own mothers.

Thus, we have a very significant statistical correlation between the Belonging-Social Interest– pro social dimension and the Neuroticism factor perceived at subjects' mother. The Spearman correlation coefficient is $r = 0,260$, while threshold $p = 0,027$.

Taking charge – leadership is in an association relationship with each of the five personality factors perceived at subjects' mother, with the only observation that the correlation with the Agreeableness factor is negative.

Neuroticism factor correlates positively with the dimension of Being cautious – caution, having the correlation coefficient $r = 0,393$ and the threshold $p = 0,001$. The Agreeableness factor correlates negatively with a coefficient $r = -0,326$ and a threshold $p = 0,005$.

The results of processing carried out separately for males and females

Results of statistical processing for **males**:

- a statistically significant correlation dimension between Belonging Social Interest – pro-social dimension and Openness to experience factor, perceived at subjects' mothers. Spearman correlation coefficient $r = 0.626$ and threshold $p = 0.000$.

- taking charge - leadership is in an association relationship with each of the five major personality factors perceived at subjects' mothers, with the observation that the correlation with Agreeableness factor is negative.

- wanting recognition - approval shows statistically significant correlations with Conscientiousness factor from mother's five big personality factors, $r = 0.467$ and $p = 0.004$.

- For the dimension of being cautious – caution there is a significant correlation with the Neuroticism factor, $r = 0,357$ and $p = 0,033$.

Results of statistical processing for **females**:

- Going Along – compliance presents a positive correlation with one of the big five factors of personality perceived at subjects’ mothers, Agreeableness, with the coefficient $r = 0,373$ and threshold $p = 0,025$.

- Neuroticism factor positively correlates with the dimension Being cautious – caution, having the correlation coefficient $r = 0,337$ and the threshold $p = 0,044$, and the Agreeableness correlates negatively, with a coefficient $r = -0,483$ and the threshold $p=0,003$.

The five big personality traits perceived at subjects’ fathers were put in a relationship with the dimensions measured with the BASIS-A inventory.

Therefore, there is a significant correlation between Belonging social interest- pro-social and father’s Openness to experience factor, with a coefficient of $r = -0,245$ and a threshold of $p = 0,038$, negative correlation.

The Extroversion personality factor perceived by subjects at their fathers presents a negative correlation, statistically significant with Wanting Recognition – approval dimension, having a coefficient of $r = -0,248$ and $p = 0,036$.

Dimension Being cautious – caution correlates positively with Neuroticism, from father’s big five personality factors, having $r = 0,324$ and $p = 0,005$, and correlates negatively with the Agreeableness factor, having $r = -0,556$ and $p = 0,000$.

The results of processing carried out separately for male and females

Results of statistical processing for **males**:

- a statistically significant correlation of Belonging social interest- prosocial dimension and the Openness to experience factor perceived at subjects’ father, with a coefficient of $r = -0,544$ and a threshold of $p = 0,001$, and father’s Extroversion, having $r = 0,626$ and $p = 0,000$, and correlates negatively with the Agreeableness factor, having $r = -0,611$ and $p = 0,000$.

Results of statistical processing for **females**:

- a statistically significant correlation of Belonging social interest- pro-social dimension with the father’s Agreeableness factor, with a coefficient of $r = 0,504$ and a threshold of $p = 0,002$, positive correlation.

- for the dimension of Taking charge – leadership, there is was a significant negative correlation with father’s Agreeableness personality factor, having $r = -0,335$ and $p = 0,046$.

- dimension Being cautious – caution correlates negatively with the Agreeableness factor, having $r = -0,576$ and $p = 0,000$.

Specific Assumption 2.c It is assumed there is an association relationship between a person’s relational style and the ways he/she perceives his/her current relationship partner, as well as the ideal one.

Throughout the analysis of the relationship between Current partner's five big personality factors and the dimensions measured with the BASIS-A inventory, the following results have been reached:

- belonging social interest- pro-social dimension presents a significant correlation with the Agreeability factor of the actual relationship partner, with a correlation coefficient of $r = 0,262$ and $p = 0,026$.

- going Along - compliance dimension correlates significantly with partner's Extroversion factor, having the coefficient to $r = 0,225$ and a threshold of $p = 0,057$.

- wanting Recognition – approval dimension correlates positively with the Extroversion factors, having $r = 0,269$ and $p = 0,022$ and Openness to experience at $r = 0,428$ and $p = 0,000$.

The results of processing carried out separately for male and females

Results of statistical processing for **males**:

- Belonging social interest- pro-social dimension has a strong positive correlation with the Conscientiousness factor of the ideal partner, with a coefficient of $r = 0,344$ and a threshold of $p = 0,040$.

- Being cautious – caution presents significant correlations with the personality factors of the ideal partner as follows: Neuroticism, $r = 0,407$ and $p = 0,014$, Extroversion, $r = 0,432$ and $p = 0,009$.

Results of statistical processing for **females**:

- Belonging social interest- pro-social dimension presents a significant negative correlation with the Neuroticism factor of the ideal partner, with a coefficient of $r = -0,362$ at a threshold of $p = 0,030$.

- Taking control – leadership correlates negatively with Agreeableness, having $r = -0,738$ and $p = 0,000$.

- Wanting Recognition – approval correlates significantly with the Agreeableness factor, $r = 0,460$ and $p = 0,005$.

- Being cautious – caution – presents a strong correlation with Extroversion, $r = 0,484$ and $p = 0,003$.

Specific Assumption 3. It is assumed that the relationship style, developed during early childhood within the family, manifests differently depending on the gender and on the unconditional self-acceptance.

Specific Assumption 3.a. It is assumed that the relationship style manifests differently depending on the person's gender.

To observe if there are differences for the personality traits depending on the person's gender, throughout this assumption, I conducted descriptive processing for the following dimensions: "Belonging social interest- pro-social", "Going Along" - compliance, "Taking control – leadership", "Wanting Recognition" – approval and "Being cautious" – caution, dimensions measured with the BASIS-A inventory.

There are tendencies towards differences between the two averages for men ($m = 36,61$) and women ($m = 35,33$), the average obtained from males' group being higher. It can be said that the Belonging social interest- pro-social is more pronounced in men, than in women. Considering the fact that the distributions are asymmetric and we have two different groups and only one independent variable, I tested the statistical significance using the inferential non-parametric U Mann Whitney test, obtaining the value of $u = 612$ at a threshold of $p = 0,681$, statistical insignificant.

Dimension "Going Along – compliance", adapting to other's norms, compliance is no different from men to women.

It can be stated that, although there are differences regarding leadership qualities, responsibility and organization in males in comparison to women, this aspect is only valid for this study group and cannot be generalized.

Men have a greater need for approval from others than women.

Females are more cautious and pay more attention to the social environment, but also they are more unpredictable than men.

To further generalize this aspect, I applied the U Mann Whitney non-parametric test, choice based on the asymmetric distribution, the independent variable and the two independent study groups, obtaining the value of $u = 536$ at a threshold of $p = 0,206$, insignificant from a statistical point of view.

In conclusion, there are differences between the degrees of caution manifested by males and females, but without a statistical significance.

Specific Assumption 3.b. It is assumed that the relational style manifests differently depending on the level of unconditional self-acceptance

Results:

The feeling of "Belonging social interest- pro-social" among men with high self-acceptance is more pronounced than in those with lower self-acceptance, even more, women with high self-acceptance have a pronounced feeling of "Belonging social interest- pro-social" compared to women with low self-acceptance.

Concerning the comparison between acceptance groups, male groups, both with high and low self-acceptance rates, show a more pronounced sense of “Belonging social interest-pro-social” than females, also with both high and low self-acceptance rates.

Males with a low level of self-acceptance present a higher degree of compliance ($m = 20,33$) than men with higher levels of unconditional self-acceptance ($m = 20,00$), for the females study groups, statistics are different. Females with a lower level of unconditional self-acceptance reveal a lower degree of agreement and compliance to rules ($m = 20,20$) compared to the group of females with a higher level of unconditional self-acceptance ($m = 20,25$).

In terms of comparing the levels of acceptance of the groups, males with a lower self-acceptance rate are more motivated by rules, routine ($m = 20,33$) than females with the same self-acceptance rate ($m = 20,20$), while for the groups with a high self-acceptance rate, men are more intolerant regarding rules and more rebellious ($m = 20,00$), and women with a high self-acceptance rate are more forgiving, avoiding conflicts ($m = 20,25$).

The comparison of the levels of acceptance between males and females with a low self-acceptance and those with a high self-acceptance rate manifests differently, males with low self-acceptance presents more leadership and organizational characteristics ($m = 22,11$) than females with the same self-acceptance rate.

Conclusions regarding average differences for the dimension “Wanting Recognition” – approval can be formulated as follows: males with low unconditional self-acceptance rate are more concerned about others, success, the importance of being approved are higher than in males with higher unconditional self-acceptance. The same situation is also valid for females, where those with higher self-acceptance do not seek approval and social acceptance, compared to females with low unconditional self-acceptance. Males are more thinking, respect and approval-oriented than females, regardless of their unconditional self- acceptance.

“Being cautious”– caution dimension manifests more pronounced in males with higher unconditional self-acceptance rate than in males with lower unconditional self-acceptance, and also, caution is more evident in females with unconditional self-acceptance higher than females with low self-acceptance rates.

General Hypothesis 4. It is assumed that there is a cause-effect relationship between the ways a person perceived his/her own parents and the way he/she accepts himself/herself.

In order to test this hypothesis, the sample of subjects was divided into two groups, according on the level of self-acceptance: a group with a low level of unconditional self-acceptance, consisting of 38 subjects, and a group with a high level of unconditional self-acceptance, consisting of 34 persons.

The level of unconditional self-acceptance was measured with the USAQ questionnaire, behavior assessment scale, starting from a sample of concrete behavior in specific situations, based on the concept of unconditional self-acceptance, the central theory of rational-emotive and cognitive-behavior.

According to the two groups, I have made comparisons for the five major personality factors highlighted by the subjects at their own parents, according to the questionnaire NPQ - TOT: Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, Neuroticism and Openness to experience, corresponding factors in the Big Five study of personality.

Specific Assumption 4. a. It is assumed that there is a cause-effect relationship between the way a person perceived his/her own mother and the way he/she accepts himself/herself, persons with a low unconditional self-acceptance perceived their mothers as less neurotic.

In order to generalize the results, I conducted U-Mann Whitney inferential, nonparametric test, which is used in dealing with independent study groups and asymmetric distributions.

In other words, individuals who have a low level of unconditional self-acceptance perceived their mothers with a significantly higher openness to experience than people with a high level of unconditional self-acceptance.

There are also in this category of subjects tendencies towards differences, as men with a low level of unconditional self-acceptance perceived their mother more neurotic, more open to experience and more conscientious than the ones with higher level of unconditional self-acceptance. They have perceived their mother as being more extrovert and more agreeable than men with low unconditional self-acceptance.

Mann-Whitney U test results (Table 5279.) demonstrates that these differences are statistically significant only in terms of Openness to experience dimension, in other words, men who have low self-acceptance have perceived their mother having a significantly higher opening to experience than men with high unconditional self - acceptance.

Specific Assumption 4.b. It is assumed that there is a cause-effect relationship between the way a person perceived his/her father and the way he/she accepts himself/herself.

Throughout this assumption, we have reached the following conclusions:

Men who have a low self-acceptance perceived their father as being significantly more agreeable than men with high unconditional self-acceptance. Women with a high unconditional self-acceptance perceived their father as significantly more agreeable than women with a low unconditional self-acceptance.

General Hypothesis 5. It is assumed that there is a cause-effect relationship between the ways a person has perceived his/her own parents and his/her tendency towards depression. During the inferential analysis, ANOVA unifactorial test revealed no significant differences.

General Hypothesis 6. It is assumed that while choosing life partner, individuals are influenced by certain specific features of personality.

Specific Assumption 6.a. It is assumed that while choosing the current couple partner, but especially when choosing the ideal partner, individuals are influenced by some of their personality traits. Throughout this assumption, we have drawn the following conclusions:

Men choose female partners with similar traits. At least that is how they perceive them. In comparison to women, they choose the current partners, but also the ideal couple partners according to similarities between them; for women, we are talking about similarity only in the case of the ideal partner.

There is a very weak connection between choosing the current partner and women's personality traits. There is a direct similarity only regarding the neuroticism dimension, meaning that women with a high degree of neuroticism have chosen a partner couple with a similar degree of neuroticism. Introvert women have chosen men with a high degree of conscientiousness. Otherwise, women do not perceive similarities between them and their current partners.

Men want a partner who has similar personality traits. Conscientious female partners are sought by conscientious men, but at the same time, they latter ones are introverted and also disagreeable. Men with a high degree of agreeability and extraversion want agreeable persons. Otherwise, men with high neuroticism want a female partner with high neuroticism. The same situation is valid for extraversion and openness to experience.

Women choose their ideal partner couple with similar personality traits. This similarity is more pronounced in them than in men.

Conclusions

The way in which a subject has seen the relationship he had with his own parents in childhood, on the one hand and the couple relationship of the parents, on the other hand, has a major influence on his reporting towards the couple partner in terms of attitudes and behaviors offered, but mostly expected.

We believe that through our theoretical and experimental approach we have achieved the objectives we have set, thus confirming the presumptions from the assumptions made.

Our results demonstrate that the role of family pattern in partner selection is crucial and this can be identified by assessing the perception that the partners had to their family relational system in childhood.

From the results obtained by testing the 1st hypothesis of parental influence in choosing the ideal and current partner, we learnt that there is a significant difference between the parental influence to current partner and the parental influence to the ideal partner. The author concludes that family patterns affect much more the choice of the ideal partner than the current one. The influences related to socio-economic factors and the parental influences participate to the choice of the current partner.

A significant difference can be observed in case of mother influence on the choice of a partner for males. Thus, the neurotism dimension of the mother has the greatest influence in choosing the current partner and the lowest in choosing the ideal partner, while mother's agreeability has the greatest influence on choosing the current partner, and the lowest in choosing the choice of the ideal partner. In terms of maternal influence, the differences between the choices of the current or ideal partner in case of women are less obvious.

Regarding the maternal influence on the two sexes, we could observe that maternal neurotism is the most influential in choosing the ideal couple partner. We could also observe that both neurotism and agreeability have the largest influence in the two choices. Father's influence on current and ideal partner on men is different on the neurotism dimension. While this dimension has the largest share in the choice of the current partner, we observed that it has very little influence in choosing the ideal partner. The influence of other dimensions is somehow balanced in similarity on the current and the ideal partner.

Father's influence in choosing the partner at women goes as follows: father's neurotism is the biggest influence in choosing the ideal partner and an average influence on choosing the current partner. Father's agreeability has a very little influence in choosing the ideal partner, especially in choosing the current one.

Regarding the overall effect of the father to both sexes, we can observe the presence of the neurotism dimension in choosing the ideal partner, agreeability being at the opposite pole, in terms of influence.

Analysing the whole array of influences, we can conclude that: a) there are significant differences in terms of parental influence in choosing the current partner or the ideal one, b) neurotism and ageeability dimensions are present in almost all types of parental influences.

Reporting conclusions from the first hypothesis to the whole analysis on the role of familial pattern in choosing the partner, we can say that the influence of family pattern can be

found significantly more in choosing the ideal partner in relation to the current one. This explains that the ideal partner is the expression of the basic needs of the individual. These needs are based on a set of beliefs formed in childhood, about how a person perceived the relational system in the family. This influence can be identified in choosing the current partner when he/she is chosen "freely" excluding the pressure exerted by the factors extrinsic to the basic needs established as patterns of choice, i.e. socio-economic factors (financial and material needs satisfaction, and rapid acquisition and in any form of social and professional status, in other words, "choice of interest"). The discrepancy between the influence of the familial pattern in choosing the current partner and the influence on the ideal partner expresses the degree of compatibility in making a choice. So a large discrepancy corresponds to the choice of interest of the current partner and it is not valid when we make a choice based on needs and fundamental beliefs developed from family patterns.

Parents remain in the lives of people as the most *invested objects*, whether it had a good relationship with them or not, grew with them or not, knew directly or through "stories" told by certain people in the entourage of the child (grandparents, relatives, adoptive parents, neighbors, foster parents etc.).

A person who grew up in childhood with someone other than their parents (grandparents, relatives etc.) tends to get as models for life people who surrounded his childhood, but the parental model outlined by direct or indirect observation (information about their parents heard from grandparents, relatives and other close people) becomes a benchmark. The child tends to identify himself at an awareness level with a person in the entourage where he grew up, but that person is reported to his parents. In most cases, the absence of parents in the child's life determines the latter to put a lot of questions and the received answers depend mainly on the people around him. Idealization of parents remains a way of strengthening the identity, whether they meet the children's expectations or not. In most cases, the more parents are far from the children's expectations, the more the children will idealize them more. There are opinions according to which between these children and their parents is created in time a rift which tends inevitably to increasingly depart from each other, but after closer analysis we notice that the child's dissatisfaction towards his parents determines him not to accept them at a conscious level (the disagreement towards the parental attitudes), but in the same time to idealize them (to imagine them as he would like them to be and also to change them) at an unconscious level and to get them closer to him. In other words, the more the non-acceptance of the parents is bigger, the more the approach is bigger. Plastic speaking, in these situations *hate may make people get close more than love*.

Brotherhood is very important in determining the place which a child will find in his family. With a brother one can compete or not, one can feel in his shadow or not, one can consider a "deposed" or not, he may be a model or not, one can admire or challenge, but in front of whom does this child take the "fight" with his own brother? Does it have any significance if it does not have a bet? Who will "crown" him when he wins or in whose eyes will he lose and not find the place of admiration and appreciation, the support and encourage? Nobody else than parents. Brother is only a means, the child's aim is the parents' position towards him. With the brothers you take only the "battle", with the parents you take the "war".

There are many factors that contribute to a greater or lesser extent in structuring expectations, motivations and needs in relation with choosing the couple partner. We mention here the most famous of them: the socio-economic factors, experiment the couple relationships, the context in which the person is, the direct pressure from parents, relatives and the current socio-cultural patterns, etc. We believe that these factors constitute the second element of influence and not as a priority in choosing the couple partner. When we talk about choosing a partner, we mean the genuine choice which refers more to the basic needs of the affective register, cognitive, attitudinal and behavioral, supported by the intrinsic value system rather than the choice under the pressure of the conjectural factors listed above.

We can say that we are dealing with three pressure zones namely: the conscious internal factors, the unconscious internal factors and external factors area. In the conscious internal factors there are included, generally, those fundamental beliefs about themselves, others, ideal and moral, which are built into the relationship that the child has in the family environment and social proximity, thereby it is created the foundation of his personality. The area of the unconscious internal factors include the elements which are related to his core beliefs that were formed, especially those convictions related more to the gender identification with the membership, physical attraction, security. The external factors area is more an economic and social pressure, juncture etc. In choosing the couple partner, in the first phase, the factors priority is given to the immediate needs of the person which require to be met. These immediate needs are also influenced by the age at which the choice is made. When the relationship passes the first phase of trials and errors, of the new which makes the attractiveness to take shape more around the sexual needs, especially in men, and around affectivity and sexuality not, in women, the next step requires more the needs of attitudes and behavior. At this stage, the dynamics of the three areas becomes a hierarchy of influences, so that the internal factors should be a priority, as ultimately this area remains critical in

establishing the harmony of the couple. The external factors area can only limit or not the manner in which the internal factors area can occur.

The influence which determines mostly the expectations we have to the couple partner comes from the internal factors area (conscious and unconscious) which formed in a matrix, in a pattern especially in childhood.

The way in which a person perceived his parents in different periods of his life, the childhood remains the most important for determining some attitudinal, behavioral and emotional patterns, patterns that will affect very much the attitude within the couple relationship.

The child who does not appreciate the parental model (affective-cognitive-attitude) chooses his model in the proximity of his relational environment. The dissatisfaction towards the parental model distorts the capacity of assessing the other models by over-dimensioning. So the grandparents, for example, may be invested by with children attributes that do not fully belong to them. They may exist, but not at the size that children assigned to them. At a closer look, we can notice that the grandparents' oversized attributes which can become models for children later in life, are mostly those parental attributes that he did not appreciate, but in part inverse.

If we analyze the structure of models taken by children and their use in adult life we find that they have a direct link with the parental models, whether they were appreciated or not, accepted or challenged, treated or excluded. Moreover, the more the parental models are more challenged, the more they become even more influential to children. This negative influence of the challenged parental relational patterns creates a pressure towards the child with direct repercussions on the self-image, requiring him to take a reparative attitude. Since, on the one hand, the position of the authority relationship parent-child, especially in dysfunctional families and the reduced resolving-cognitive ability of the child on the other hand, this is quite limited in the possibility of changing the things he does not like. This limitation does not stall the possibility of taking an attitude, on the contrary, the helplessness he felt will be transformed through compensation or overcompensation, in some cases, into an *unbeatable* weapon.

The behaviors which overcharge the attention, the desire for power, the revenge or regress through helplessness and symptoms are mechanisms which require the change of the parental behavior. In most cases, the child fails these inappropriate behaviors create a greater rigidity of the parental attitude. Therefore, the two entities, parents and children, are isolated and become egocentric, thus reducing their capacity by ignorance, deployment or total denial

of the parental model. In the same situation it can also be the father who can address similar or aggressive behavior, and not seldom degenerating into physical violence, the psychological one being already present. This crisis may deepen in the immediate period after the childhood, in puberty and adolescence. Since all behaviors have a purpose, according to the teleological principle, the ignorance, the indifference of the child towards their own parents and the aggressive attitude of their parents is by no means unintentional. It is created in this way a struggle for power, more or less aware. There are used the most unconstructive strategies in order to win the "supremacy". Parents, affected in the same way as the child, increase the pressure on the child through critical attitudes, defamatory, denying him even the qualities they are aware he has. There are brought, by comparison, the positive models of others around him, of a younger or elder brother, neighbors, relatives' children or classmates. Suddenly, parents are convinced, that everyone around the child are examples to be followed.

These examples are in the parents' view totally better, but it appears that this perception is linked to the time of despair which they reached due to the acute dissatisfaction with the child. The source of their dissatisfaction can be found in their own dissatisfaction with themselves, with the achievements they wished to have accomplished, with the failed dreams or partially realized etc. When the "good" behaviors of those around are expressed in action, it can be noticed that parents bring into question only those attitudes that the child does not agree with and they would like to change them. There are situations when it is enough that only one child's behavior is inconsistent with the parents' expectations and they fully challenge the child, deny him vehemently, exclude him from family verbally and not only and use disqualified attitudes for any parent.

We quite readily condemn these parents assigning them maximum guilt and parental disgrace, when in fact behind such aggressive behavior, discouraging and sometimes childish we find a victim. If a child can be the victim of parental aggression in all its manifestations, the latter are really victims, they are the victims of their own failed lives. And the despair picture to be complete, they notice that there are "supported" by their child who, in their vision, is not good enough to remove, with his hands, the chestnuts from the fire, a fire that is their neurotic suffering. Although it seems paradoxical, these parents are well-intentioned. Their desire to see their child "with a step more gentleman" as Adrian Paunescu says in one of his poems, but being "blinded" by the need for control and exaggerated claims, make use of inappropriate methods and behaviors that can sometimes reach the pathology limit. Their goal is consciously well-intentioned, the child's achievement, but the unconscious one betrays the personal interest. Not even this personal interest would be convicted if it were the first and it

required without taking into account the interests of the child, if not priority, at least in the same way. It is interesting how we want to interfere and to change a person's life without even inviting it to participate, as little as possible, to build their own lives.

It is difficult for a child who reached adulthood to become responsible and accountable for what he has not created yet, his own life. As parents arrived at the helplessness phase, disappointment and despair, built to overcome the impasse in which they are, external models in which they invest those attributes which they notice that are in a reverse form in their child, in a similar way their child behaves with them. As disappointing answer received from the questions and expectations from his own parents, associated with a self-image severely affected, the child looks for models outside or he strengthens the existing ones in the close proximity (grandparents, neighbors, other relatives, real or imaginary characters etc.). These models are invested with the attributes which he wished to meet at his parents.

The greater the expectation and disappointment towards a parental behavior was, the more that behavior was perceived as oversized to others, thus leading to the creation of external models compared with the parental one. By admiration and taking apart external models versus parental model, the child expresses on the one hand, the denial and exclusion of parents, but on the other hand, he sends a message of needs to recover once the parents he would have liked. He needs to recover the idealized parents because his identity is achieved primarily through identification with those who have designed you. Grandparents or other relatives can sublimate this basic need, but they cannot replace it. We find that most children who lived the first part of their childhood more or fully with their grandparents develop more with them an attachment relationship, but, although acquiring behaviors and attitudes from their grandparents, they prove that they are the inverse relation of what they have not found at their parents, and not others.

Personal contribution

The assessment questionnaire of the family pattern and its influence in choosing the couple partner.

The questionnaire is essentially the product of the doctoral thesis and is intended as a tool to investigate and interfere in the family and couple issues.

The assessment questionnaire of the family pattern and its influence in choosing the couple partner is a comprehensive tool recommended particularly to counselors and psychotherapists who aim in the counseling process to identify the parental influences in

choosing the couple. As it can be noticed, it is about influence, not determination. The theoretical and instrumental inspiration is of adlerian origin and because of this we illustrate some instruments whose utility, used not only as a starting point but also as a landmark: *Life Style Inventory*, developed by Harold Mosak and Bernard Schulman (1971), adaptation Vlad Grigorescu, BASIS-A Inventory (*Basic Adlerian Scales for Interpersonal Success - Adult Form*) developed by Wheeler, Kern and Curlette (1980) and *Gender issues*, author Marion Bala.

The questionnaire consists of two parts, one that can be subjected to statistical parametric analysis and the second part which has as content more suitable for qualitative analysis procedures. The first part of the questionnaire assesses through seven dimensions the following aspects: perceived attitudes at parents and grandparents during childhood, their own attitudes, the attitudes of the current couple partner and those of the ideal couple partner.

The first part of the questionnaire comprises 23 attitudes arranged in seven categories:

No.	DIMENSIONS	ATTITUDES
1	Affectivity	1, 4, 8, 11
2	Sociability	2, 3, 7, 9, 10
3	Morality (honesty)	4, 5
4	Femininity / Masculinity	6, 8, 9, 12
5	Cognitive (intelligence)	1, 3, 7
6	Esthetic	2, 5
7	Neurotic	6, 10, 11

The first part of the questionnaire includes 18 items (sample item: *When I was a child, towards me, my mother was ...*). Each item asks the subject to choose from those 11 or 12 presented attitudes, the perceived attitudes in childhood or currently, depending on the item content. The assessments and attitudes elections are conducted in accordance with the instructions provided on every page of the questionnaire. Their degree of appreciation is assessed on a Likert scale in seven steps. We mention that the whole questionnaire contains 11 pages and the first part consists of seven pages.

We give below an example to the first page of the questionnaire, with the necessary instructions.

Fill in the table T1 going through, in turn, the four stages (I, II, III, IV) of instructions:

I. On the scale from 1-7, note with X the presence of the 11 attitudes under the item "When I was a child ... ' from the table T1.

II. Of the 11 attitudes noted with X, choose an attitude that you liked most and encircle the corresponding X and one that you disliked the most and fit the chosen X in a triangle

III. Apply the sign (+) at the attitude (choose one of the 11 attitudes) that you would have liked your mother to have it in a much greater extent than she had it and the sign (-) at the attitude which you would not have wanted to have it.

IV. Apply a black dot at the attitude which influenced you in a negative way and a white one for the one which influenced you in a positive way.

Fill in the table T1 according to the instructions mentioned above

ATTENTION: 1 represents a minimal presence of the attitude or no attitude, 7 represents the maximum presence of the attitude

TABEL T1		When I was a child, <i>towards me</i> , my mother was:						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Loving, caring							
2	Discouraging, critical							
3	Close, friendly							
4	Aggressive, hostile							
5	Honest, fair, honest							
6	Domineering, authoritarian							
7	Encouraging, supportive							
8	Cold, indifference							
9	Communicative, open-minded, sociable							
10	Hyper protective, controller							
11	Warm, tender							
	Other:							

Fill in the table T2 according to the instructions mentioned above

TABEL T2		When I was a child, <i>towards my father</i> , my mother was:						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Loving, caring							
2	Discouraging, critical							
3	Close, friendly							
4	Aggressive, hostile							
5	Honest, fair, honest							
6	Domineering, authoritarian							
7	Encouraging, supportive							
8	Cold, indifference							
9	Communicative, open-minded, sociable							
10	Hyper protective, controller							
11	Warm, tender							
	Other:							

Fill in the table T3 according to the instructions mentioned above

TABEL T3		When I was a child, my mother was:						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Educated, prepared, trained							
2	Neat, stylish							
3	Intelligent, smart, quick-witted							
4	Worthy,							

	honorable, respectable							
5	Beautiful, sensual, attractive							
6	Optimistic, self confident							
7	Competence in her profession / occupation							
8	Female							
9	Powerful, courageous, firm							
10	Fearful, tense, anxious							
11	Nervous, restless							
12	Housemaker, housewife							
	Other:							

The second part consists of three areas of investigation namely: a) completion of sentences (21 items), b) expanding some items ordered in categories in a table which is filled with another four allegations which require completion of sentences and c) factual data.

We mention that the completing instructions are posted on every page of the questionnaire.

Preparation of the questionnaire was conducted by making use of both a validation methodology in accordance with the quantitative statistical approach (calculating the Cronbach coefficient) for the first part of the questionnaire and a qualitative approach for the first part of the questionnaire.

The initial questionnaire was assessed by an expert group composed of 8 people, practicing psychotherapists in Bucharest and Arad. Following this assessment, the questionnaire scored 8.92.

From these results we have made the following changes: we removed the items that had averages between 1.00 to 6.00, we reformatted those with averages ranging from 6.00 to 8.00, we retained the items with averages between 8.00 to 10.00.

The internal consistency of the scale was checked by calculating the internal consistency (Cronbach coefficient- α). The internal consistency of a one-dimensional test or of

a scale from a multidimensional test refers to the degree to which the items measure the same construct, presumably measured by that test or that scale (Albu, 1998). The recommended minimum value for the coefficient of internal consistency of an instrument is 0.70 (Cronbach JL) for being used in research, namely 0.90 for being used for practical purposes.

The coefficient calculated for the entire sample of subjects has showed a good internal consistency: 0.8646, and for the lots of girls, respectively boys, the coefficient was 0.8515, respectively 0.9259, as it can be seen in Annex 1.

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Output-ul pentru întreg eșantionul de subiecți:

***** Method 1 (space saver) will be used for this analysis

RELIABILITY ANALYSIS - SCALE (ALPHA)

Reliability Coefficients

N of Cases = 36.0

N of Items = 65

Alpha = .8646

***** Method 1 (space saver) will be used for this analysis *****

Output-ul pentru eșantionul de subiecți fete:

RELIABILITY ANALYSIS - SCALE (ALPHA)

Reliability Coefficients

N of Cases = 31.0

N of Items = 65

Alpha = .8515

Output-ul pentru eșantionul de subiecți băieți:

***** Method 1 (space saver) will be used for this analysis *****

RELIABILITY ANALYSIS - SCALE (ALPHA)

Reliability Coefficients

N of Cases = 6.0

N of Items = 65

Alpha = .9259