

BABES-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY CLUJ-NAPOCA
FACULTY OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WORK

DOCTORAL (PhD) DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

***MULTIPLE HOMOGAMY IN THE CHOICE OF
CONJUGAL PARTNER IN ROMANIA***

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Key words: contemporary family functions; homogamy; heterogamy; homogamic criteria; multiple homogamy; similarity in values and attitudes; similarity in personality.

Theoretical arguments

Recently, partly as a consequence of the disruptive socioeconomic and political changes in the capitalist world and the renewed concern their effects on the notion of „family”, there is new interests to interrogate the role of the social relations and the family functions in society. In the face of a changing world, people naturally seek security through the certainty of their community values and social interrelationships.

Two major concepts would be operationalised here in order to make the approach more relevant: similarity and choice.

The chapters allocated to theoretical background try to summarize the theoretical background on marital couple issue, the classification and conceptualisations concern the most important subjects related to homogamy phenomenon in the marital partner choice: the place and the role of family in contemporary society, family functions, implying the theoretical points in sociology of family (rational choice theory, functionalist paradigm, social construction paradigm and postmodernism), the intersection of different domains focused on marital couple evolution, as social phenomenon: sociology, psychology, cultural anthropology, and other domains in family development approach.

In the same time, we expose some issues focused on partner choice psychological and social mechanisms, relation between social status and psychological characteristics in matching, and between values, attitudes and behavior patterns in daily life for the successfully marriage.

As an implicit idea, the entire construction of the thesis emerge on the triplet: family functions in contemporary society – social values concern ideal partner – psychological arguments in marital involvement (romantic love, rationality/pragmatism).

Empirical findings

The first research, a quantitative one, took place in “Vasile Goldis” University from Baia Mare, intended to find what are the student’s opinions toward the choice of marital partner, the ideal partner characteristics and family relations. We selected two students samples from two specialities, in equal representation. The total population is 200 young students (under 19 years old). The structure of population are presented in pictures below:

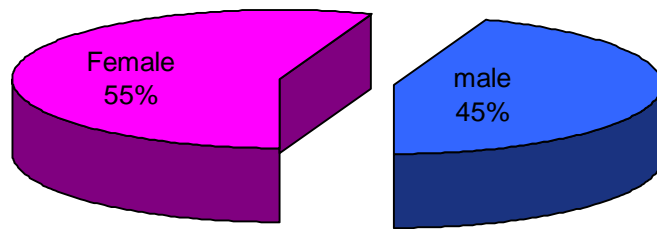


Figure 1. Distribution by sex

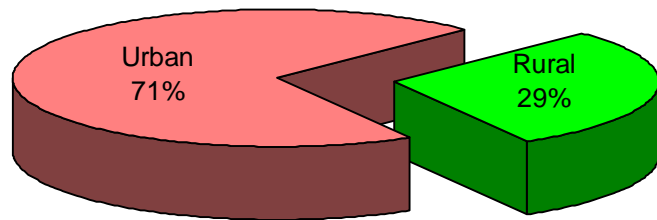


Figure 2. Distribution by residence

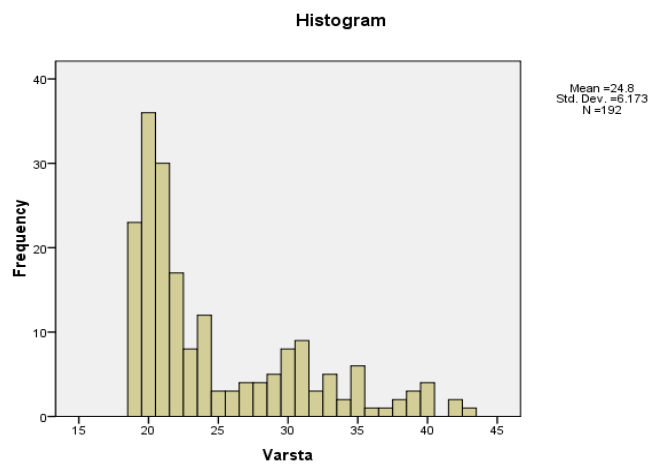


Figure 3. Distribution by age

The ordonation of most important qualities of the ideal partner, the cumulative hierarchy of responses are :

Table 1. The order of idela partner attributes (10=most important .. 1=no important)

Nr. crt.	Attributes	Media	Mediana	Valid responses	Standard deviation
1.	Seriosity	8,38	9	197	2,103
2.	Intelligence	8,19	9	197	1,858
3.	Tandresses	7,15	8	196	2,200
4.	Self improvement	6,25	6	195	2,611
5.	Optimism	5,95	6	197	2,496
6.	Sense of humour	5,69	6	195	2,462
7.	Beauty	5,36	5	195	2,759
8.	Material situation	4,67	5	194	2,857
9.	Spontaneity	4,31	4	195	2,352
10.	Adventure character	3,33	2	195	2,857

In the conception about *ideal partner*, the students responses show that they want to have one appropriate age more than ethnical, religious or educational criteria. In the same time, the students with rural residence appears to be more concerned toward religion criteria in ideal partner choice. The major issues invloved in the image of ideal partner are: emotional stability, maturity, dependable character.

By educational match variable, by sex, the results of are exposed below:

Table 1. Ideal partner must have the same education, by sex

Nr.	Ideal partner must have the same education	Sex		Total	Signification test	
		Female	Male		Chi-2	p
1.	Yes	16 18,0	35 31,8	51 25,6	4,944	0,026
2.	No	73 82,0	75 68,2	148 74,4		
	Total	89 100,0	110 100,0	199 100,0		

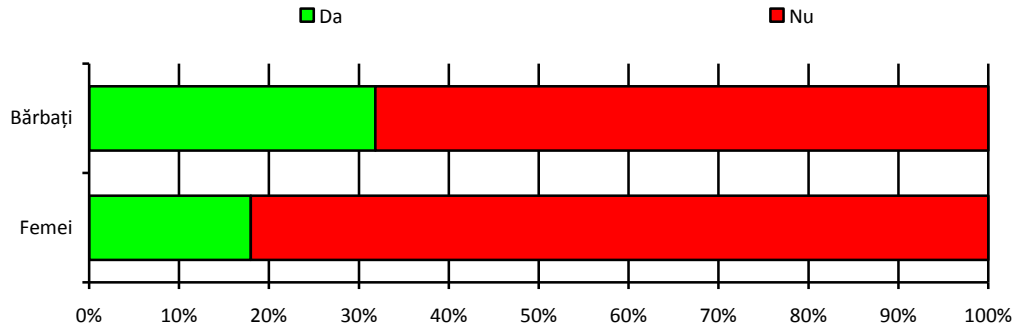


Figure 1. Ideal partner must have the same education, by sex

By factorial and cluster analysis, we find seven types of ideal partner, who are largely exposed in the thesis.

The second research is a content analysis of 163 matrimonial announces, in which we find that the relation between requests and offers on marital market are in conformity to social values of man and woman desirable portrait.

The third research have use the interview technique who has applied on several adult married couples, involving “life story” related to issue like meeting, similarities and differences, liking, marriage, parents opinion about the partner. The questionnaire (with open questions) is focused on partner choice in terms of love, matching, similarity, parents opinion and importance of personality type importance.

The first goal of this qualitative approach is to hear the voices (interpretations) of married adults. The second is to find opinions about the individual choice in terms of matching, social perceptions, family involvement and values, specifically Romanian’s realities concern the family institution.

In the last chapter we engaged one **extended analysis of national statistical** data in 2006-2009 interval concern marriage, by different variables: educational level, age difference, and nationality of marital partners. We also had analyze the divorce tendencies, by different variables, in terms of heterogamy arguments.

The results of researches conduct to the general idea that the young and adults have the conscience of the importance of matching in marital choice. They tend to show the rational attitudes toward the marriage, implying characteristics like importance of love, emotional stability, maturity, age of the partner, character compatibility.

We assumed several *limitations of the research*. Since it involved just young students from a single university, the results cannot be generalized. Neither can selection bias be ruled out. In the interviews, despite efforts to remain objective and to allow the participants' to direct discussions towards issues of values, attitudes, and personal relevance of marital choice, this may have impacted upon the results.

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