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ABSTRACT OF
DOCTORAL THESIS

The influence of social network on
attitude toward conflict in couple

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CONTENT OF THESIS

INTRODUCTION	6
THE I-ST PART. TEORETICAL ASPECTS OF COUPLE'S LIFE IN SOCIAL CONTEXT	11
CAP. 1 FAMILY –COMPONENT PART AND PRODUCT OF SOCIAL SYSTEM	12
CAP. 2 SOCIAL NETWORKS AND THEIR ROLE IN THE COUPLE'S LIFE	23
2.1 Conceptual delimitation	23
2.2 Characteristics of social networks	27
2.3 Types of social networks	29
2.4 Functions of social networks	30
2.5 Dynamics of social networks over life course	37
CAP. 3 SOCIAL INFLUENCES UPON CONJUGAL LIFE (INTRACOUPLE AND DIN EXTERN INFLUENCES)	43
3.1 Social influence –general aspects	43
3.2 Marital power and intracouple social influence	49
3.3 Extern social influences on conjugal couple	58
CAP. 4 THE QUALITY OF CONJUGAL RELATIONSHIP	66
4.1 Marital relationship	66
4.2 Marital satisfaction/ disssatisfaction, a subjective perception	70
4.3 Factors of marital satisfaction/ disssatisfaction	72
CAP. 5 MARITAL CONFLICT, PART OF COUPLE'S LIFE	83
5.1 Interpersonal conflict - definition and characteristics	83
5.2 Types of interpersonal conflict	86
5.3 Causes of marital conflict	90
5.4 Conjugal partners' attitudes towards conflict	102

5.5 Strategies to address conjugal conflict	115
5.6 The consequences of conflict in couple on marital satisfaction/ dissatisfaction	120
THE II-ND PART. THE INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL NETWORK ON ATTITUDE TOWARD MARITAL CONFLICT: EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION	124
THE INVESTIGATED PROBLEM AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES	125
CAP. 6 QUALITATIVE RESEARCH	128
6.1 Type of research	128
6.2 Starting interrogations	128
6.3 Theoretical perspective	129
6.4 Methods of data collection	129
6.5 Sample	135
6.6 Summary and data analysis	137
6.7 Presentation of results	138
6.8 Conclusions	160
CAP. 7 QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH	163
7.1 Theoretical perspective	163
7.2 Methodology	169
7.3 Presentation and interpretation of research results	173
7.4 Conclusions. Placing the results in the context of other researches	217
CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSION	231
REFERENCES:	239
ANNEXES	247

ANNEX 1. THEORETICAL MODEL _____	248
ANNEX 2. PRESENTATION OF DISCUSSION TOPICS DURING THE INTERVIEW _____	249
ANNEX 3. GUIDE OF SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW _____	251
ANNEX 4. JOURNAL OF RESEARCH (OBSERVATION NOTES OF INTERVIEWER) _____	253
ANNEX 5. SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW (EXAMPLE) _____	254
ANNEX 6. QUESTIONNAIRE – code A.F.C.C. _____	272
ANNEX 7. QUATITATIVE RESEARCH - frequencies tables _____	279

KEY WORDS: marital conflict, social influence, social network, forming and changing attitudes, social learning theory

SYNTHESIS: In the present thesis, I want to capture the dynamics of social network influence during the process of shaping and restructuring the attitude towards marital conflict, from the perspective of person who feels it and describes it subjectively. Thus, I sought to describe the marital conflicts and the partners' attitude formation process regarding this aspect of relationship. My intention was to capture the destructive and the constructive potential of the marital conflict, its negative and positive effects on couple's life and the ability of conjugal partners to change their attitudes towards conflict under the influence of interactions with people from their conjugal networks.

ABSTRACT

Marital couples, relations between spouses, complete or incomplete nuclear family do not exist in a vacuum but are part of a social context; which is represented by socio-cultural space (at the macro level), and, at the mezzo level, this is the social network of marital partners.

To explain the differences between people and those relating to the functioning of marriages it is necessary to place the conjugal couple in a dynamic social network with a variety of complex interactional processes, constantly changing.

In social and human sciences, special attention, is given to constant social structures, mechanisms of psychosocial and behavioral forms of cultural reproduction. Despite this intense interest in the issues mentioned, we are all aware that human beings are not completely dominated by them; there are no generally laws applicable to all. The world around us is constantly changing and, to a large extent, this change depends on actions and human imagination. As part of social structures and member of social networks, individual has the ability to transform these relational structures. Formation and dissolution of relationships with others are changes that can result from mechanisms related to social network (reciprocity, position of people in the network, etc.) or can be generated by mechanisms related to individual characteristics. On the other hand, features of social actors can be influenced by the position they occupy in their personal network. Thus, in the literature, changes in the network structure are named as the process of selecting social partners, and changes in the individual characteristics, which depend on features of the other social actors to which the person is bound, are named the social influence. To understand the importance of dyadic social relationships and their effects on individual development and change, it is important to look at as being anchored in a broader social network, where the whole is more than the sum of component connections.

This paper aims to capture the relationship between two important issues in the analysis of marital life: social network influence on the couple and complex area of marital conflict. The role of social networks in the life of the couple is ambivalent - support and restraint. On the one hand, social networking is an essential source for obtaining social support in different moments of family life (the formation of the couple, going through some crisis, etc.). The aid received from extended family, friends or other acquaintances can be of several types. For example social support can be emotional, and it is given to an individual or a couple who is passing through some critical moments of its existence, or may materialize in financial aid for the young couple; in addition, we can not omit the overwhelming role that the family of origin has and, in particular, conjugal partner's mother during the phase transition triad marital couples, that is spouses adapt to a new role, that of parent. On the other hand, the social network is at the same time a source of more subtle or more direct restraints. They may take the form of suggestions, recommendations, advice or preparation and can be illustrated by expressions such as: "must do that ...", "it's good to do that ...", "it's immoral to do that", "is shown to", "If you want to help you, then you must to ...", "I do not want to get involved in your life, but still don't you think that...". In other words, social network is a source of social pressure on young couples marriage, both in transmission / imposition of values, principles of life, behavioral patterns and to change behaviors and attitudes considered undesirable.

The second major issue pursued in this analysis is the marital conflict. Often, in relation to the theme of marital conflict, people tend to show a negative attitude towards this side of relational life. For example, on hearing of this matter "hard", the vocabulary words are activating words like strife, misunderstanding, and tension, rarely brought to light the positive dimension of the conflict, and summed up in phrases such as: evolution, profound study of the relationship, intimacy development, etc. Therefore, conjugal partners' attitude towards the conflict requires attention from a researcher interested in family life, the couple relationship, the intimacy.

Marital conflict is a very important dimension of life of the couple, at least for several reasons. On the one hand, every couple goes through moments so pleasant, happy, and tense

moments, conflicting, so that the conflict appears as a natural, normal aspect of life as a relational and, to a considerable extent, like something inevitable. On the other hand, the more deep and intense emotional bond between two people, how they are more dedicated and involved in the relationship, the greater the likelihood of conflict (idea confirmed by a series of researches).

A topic of interest for investigations of family socio-psychology is the effects of marital conflict on the members of the family (and beyond), more precisely - how marital partners manage these cognitions, emotions and behavior during episodes of tension has direct and indirect effects on the quality of couple relationships, over parent-child relationship, relationship with family of origin, the effectiveness at work, etc. Thus, effective strategies, constructive approach to conflict have an important role in building and rebuilding an intimate connection, a relationship of a couple with potential for development, improvement, linked dynamically evolving. Conflict can be viewed as life experience, as an act of learning for personal development and self-marital dyads, which is the central perspective of this paper. Attitudes are the effect of interpersonal processes taking place in social relations between members of a network (Erickson, 1988). Therefore, both the formation and strengthening or changing a type of attitude toward marital conflict are the result of our interaction with others. Any new social experience level can produce attitudinal restructuring. Through this work, I want to capture and illustrate the dynamic attitude towards the conflict in couple generated by external sources of individual.

It also should be noted that not only attitudes change over time, but the sources and types of social influence are subject to changes, in accordance with the dynamics of personal network of partners. Social network is restructured by a series of life events - such as beginning school, the entry in different organizations/ extracurricular associations, further education, employment/ changing jobs, marriage, birth of a child, moving to another city etc. Therefore, my cognitive interest is to overcome the static approach, the "shooting" of the influence of social network in a given time, instead, focusing my attention on capturing its dynamics from the perspective of social actor who feels the social influence and describe it subjectively.

Reviewing several studies on social networks and their effects on couple and family life, I found that was not analyzed how the couple perceive different types of social influences exerted by members of their personal networks, and how that this perception generates, initially, changes at the individual level, and then restructuring the relations of couple and even restructuring the social network of which the marital dyad takes part.

All these changes in attitudes are noted particularly for those in urban areas. In rural areas, attitudes have a higher degree of stability; the social network structure remains largely unchanged and also there are little changes in the traditional relations between network members and between generations. To highlight the differences between the two environments, investigations were conducted with subjects from both the urban and rural areas.

The paper contains three main parts (the theoretical part, the research and conclusions), the first two chapters covering specific.

CHAPTER I. FAMILY- COMPONENT PART AND PRODUCT OF THE SOCIAL

The first chapter presents the macro-social level of the life couple, looking at the bidirectional link between family and society. On the one hand, the family is a product of society, its evolution following the same direction as the macro-social change. At the same time, the family is not a passive actor, regardless of history, but a change agent of society from which it is part of, a social entity that is able to self-regulate and to resist external pressures. Thus, the family is simultaneously a dynamic social institution - the ability to adapt to societal changes and also with the ability to generate such changes - and an entity with the trend of stability, to preserve traditional structures, to resist to changes. Family as social institution and family life are significantly affected by economic changes, political, ideological, which took place in contemporary Romanian society, the transition to a market economy started in 1990.

CHAPTER II. SOCIAL NETWORKS AND THEIR ROLE IN THE LIFE COUPLE

In the second chapter, the attention is focused on the mezzo level of marital relations. Explaining the differences between people and those referring to family functioning only on the enrollment of subjects in certain social groups, classes, is limited and should be overcome by placing her in a conjugal couple directly accessible social context, represented by dynamic social network with a variety of complex interactional processes, changing. The assumption on which the study of networks was based is that social actors are in a relationship of interdependence and social connections between them produce important consequences for everyone. In the five chapters, I am defining the concepts of social network structure and relationships, structural and relational characteristic of networks, classify types of social networks, analyze the role they play in individual and couple's life and present dynamic restructuring of social relations- throughout life.

CHAPTER III. SOCIAL INFLUENCE ON MARRIED LIFE (INTRACUPLE AND OUTSIDE)

The third chapter examines the processes of social influence on marital life, marking the intracouple influences of the external ones. In this sense, are investigated and illustrated specific elements of interpersonal influence between the two spouses, more specifically - the power strategies used in the couple and the main exchange which is between social networks and conjugal partners (external influences couple). From this chapter, analyze is placed on a micro-social level.

CHAPTER IV. CONJUGAL PARTNER RELATIONSHIP QUALITY

The fourth chapter makes an analytical foray into marital relationship themes and into the quality of the interpersonal relationship, investigating a number of important factors in generating satisfaction / dissatisfaction in conjugal life. To examine in a structured way the determinants of marital satisfaction I have proposed an analysis framework that includes three categories: premarital factors, characteristics of intra-familial interactions and determinants that occur during different stages of relational life.

CHAPTER V. MARITAL CONFLICT, PART OF THE LIFE OF THE COUPLE

The fifth chapter details the marital conflict. People get married motivated, in particular, by the advantages that marriage entails (safety, companionship, psychological and sexual intimacy, love, emotional support, etc.). Beyond these positive expectations, conjugal life is sprinkled also with frequent marital tensions and quarrels, their appearance being recorded inside couples who feel happy and those unhappy. The structure of this chapter starts on the definition of conjugal conflict and is completed by issues such as types of conflict, causes of the outbreak conflict episodes, attitudes towards conflict, styles of action in moments of tension and conflict effects produced by conjugal conflict.

PART II. THE INFLUENCE OF THE NETWORK ON THE ATTITUDE TOWARD MARITAL CONFLICT: EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION

The second part of the work includes analysis of the relationship between social networks, the attitude towards conjugal conflict and the quality of marital relationship, through some research data, obtained by my own means and compared with results of other studies. In the specialized literature, negative signals about the family situation in the contemporary world are summarized in the phrase "family crisis". Studies found an increased rate of divorce, the growing trend in marital

couples without children; nonmarital alternatives are just some of the current problems of the institution of marriage. In this context, it should focus on problems that appears inside the family relationships, the moments conflicting reporting styles and effects on the quality and stability of marriage, but, especially, on how education and changing attitudes towards conflict interpersonal. Although, in general, the theme of marital conflict aroused great interest of researchers in Western countries and not only in bibliography accessed and found, I could not find information about the formation process and change of attitude towards marital conflict from the Romanian space, about the social influence of network members on how conjugal partners relate to tense situations couple and the effects on their attitudes toward conflict in the couple on the quality of marital relationship. In this research, my target is to describe the conflict in the couple and the process of training partners attitude towards this aspect of relational life, with the intention to capture the potential destructive and constructive marital conflict, negative and positive effects on life partners and also the ability to change the attitude towards the conflict under the influence of interactions with people who compose the conjugal network.

The purpose of this empirical study is to reveal the role of social network in formation / changing attitudes towards marital conflict and surprise how the individual perceives social influence exerted on him.

In accord with the theme of work, **the objectives of the research** are:

- identify beliefs about marital conflict through assumptions about it and the ways in which subjects undergoing investigation are defining the conflict;
- identify sources of training / changing of attitude towards the conflict and the persons in the social network who were actors in learning situations that led to the formation of such attitudes;
- identify the characteristics of social learning situations that generated training / changing attitude towards the conflict;
- identify the effects produced by the attitude towards the marital conflict on the quality of couple relationship.

Investigative approach in this paper follows the type design with two phases: thus, in a first phase I conducted a qualitative research (data collection occurred between October 2009 - December 2010), and in the second phase I conducted quantitative research (application of questionnaires was conducted in March-May 2011).

In the research design, I accomplished the methodological triangulation requirement (combination of several methods), using both semi-structured interview (with the interview guide) and survey (using questionnaires).

CHAPTER VI. QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

I thought it appropriate to start my empirical investigations with qualitative research because I am interested in meanings, significations, interpretations, symbols and practices conveying by the individuals circulated in reporting at conflict situations of marital couple.

The main purpose of the qualitative research is conducted to obtain a detailed description of the process of social influence on the formation and on the changing of attitudes of the individual towards the marital conflict, to understand this phenomenon from the perspective of social actors involved and to support a limited explanation to the social study.

This qualitative approach of investigation represents a study of *several units to investigate*, because my interest is focused on timely issues related to forming and changing attitudes towards conjugal conflict for several social actors. It is also a descriptive research because it shows the learning sources of attitudes towards the conflict, describes the learning situations of attitude (the direct learning, from their own experience of partner, the indirect learning, observational, as witness at various episodes of other couples quarrel and those of complex-cognitive learning, from other reports of the members of the network, from lectures.).

Starting interrogations, drawn from the qualitative research here are:

- What features are "fragments cut" of individual from his relational experience with network members who were able to produce positive or negative changes in the attitude towards interpersonal conflict (what types of events are significant in terms of individual training and changing attitudes and his behavior towards the quarrels between the couple)?
- What categories of persons from the social network are actors that have influenced learning situations attitude towards the conflict?
- What types of changes have been generated by these events recall?

From qualitative perspective, the attitude toward interpersonal conflict in general, and toward marriage, in particular, is analyzed in this work not as a static phenomenon but as a procedural one that is socially constructed and reconstructed, as a result of individual interaction with its social network members. Thus, conjugal partners' attitude towards the conflict is investigated in the context of couple interaction partners with parents, siblings, friends etc., the *paradigm* in which lies this study is integrationists, individualistic. Theoretical approaches of this perspective are focused on individual, on how the interactions shape the individual meaning of self.

To collect information of greater depth I chose the interview method because I had such direct access and interactive human subjectivity, at the spiritual universe of those that were studied, at the definitions and meanings that social actors gives them their actions and those of others. Thus, interviews were individual semi-structured, face-to-face because it combines the advantages of standardization with those of high intensity interview. Another technique that I used is the interpretive interview, exploring moments of the respondents considered to be of utmost importance in the path of forming and reforming attitude towards the conflict in the couple. Working tool that was used on the field is an interview guide. It always remained flexible, adjustable according to the innovations and unexpected that occurred during the meetings with the subjects interviewed. Questions used in the interview guide were followed closely, research objectives, indicating that qualitative data obtained by coding the responses were indicative. Semi-structured interview began with a question about the interviewee experiences as a witness to various episodes of various couples argue. Then the interview questions were easy guided by explanation. If questions of clarification on the subject led him to other events, people, events, etc. was encouraged to tell.

For data recorders were used recorders. Data were transcribed in the form of text and processed using software NVivo 7 data analysis and coding procedure classic - with "pencil and paper".

After the interview, the operator completed a research diary in which are obtained data through participative observation, uncontrolled, hidden. Through observation were collected dates about the area where the interview took place, the time of interaction between subject and interviewer, the emotions of the subject when running their memories, the reactions to various questions, etc.

Therefore, we used triangulation in data collection methodology (triangulation between methods), using two different methods: observation and interview.

Following data collection resulted in an inventory of texts consists of transcripts of interviews and observation notes of interview operators. In these texts of ground I realized later analysis and interpretation.

The present qualitative research, sampling was theoretical, subject to the criteria of relevance to the investigation of cases. Orientation towards a particular group of persons defined in advance, establishing from the outset which features subjects in the sample: married people, men and women, urban and rural, educated elementary, middle and high, aged 18 and 70 years.

To select subjects with relevant characteristics, we started from the information I had about various eligible persons around me who give me information, as rich on the study, but I resorted to "informal relay" (Scârnci, 2006), persons who have information relating to subjects who I had to go.

As the number of subjects in the sample, we used the principle of theoretical saturation, stopping me from collecting data when subjects have not brought anything new when the information started to repeat.

Thus, the present qualitative research sample consists of 19 married, 7 men and 12 women, 16 subjects in Brasov County and 3 other counties, 16 urban and 3 rural.

After analyzing data from interviews and observation notes, I identified a number of themes and categories related to issues of social influence on attitude toward marital conflict.

Regarding the definition of marital conflict, the beliefs of the social actors investigated towards conflict are predominantly negative (strife, problems, disagree), but I found the perception of some of them positive or ambivalent beliefs. These results are consistent with those suggested by other studies conducted in North American space. For example, Wilmot and Hocker (1998) points out that people tend to mention issues such as: tension, differences, competition, threats, hostility, anger, violence, destruction, etc. (words with negative connotations). Identifying the positive side of the conflict is not widespread, very rarely is listed and words with positive connotations such as: opportunity, creativity, evolution, progress, stimulation, enrichment, clarification, privacy, courage etc.

Sources of training and changing attitudes towards marital conflict, described by respondents can be classified as social learning theory shows in three main categories: direct learning situations, learning indirect / observational and complex-cognitive type (discussion about conflicts lectures.). The most important learning situation of the set is considered by some respondents, that in which you are the actor, in other words, direct learning, the couple own conflicts.

If observational learning (modeling), the most significant cases are represented by witnessing quarrels of their parents couple. Subjects investigated states and other actors observed while arguing with their partner of couple, such as: strangers, friends, neighbours, brother / sister, grandparents, parents-in-law. Children who participate in involuntary abusive scenes from their parents, according to statements of the respondents of this study are, long-term trauma, because they disturbed the harmony of their universe of reference, because they do not understand what is happening and feel powerless and vulnerable. Other negative emotions felt both in the position of observer-child, and in the witness - adult, are the fear of abuser compassion for the victim and for her children, contempt for the two life partners, discomfort, and fear.

In terms of observational learning content over time, I found that, as a result of spontaneous subjective analysis of these events attended as witnesses, interviewees have emerged a wide range of lessons, such as counter-model action (such not act under pressure), positive models of action (how to relate to the arguments of couple), negative or positive attitude towards the conflict, separation criteria for choosing the right mate, strategies of action (compromise, self-control, postpone discussion until you calm down, problem solving, communication about problems) and what are the effects of aggressive behavior on those involved. The diversity of these elements discovered can make a base to highlight the important role that behavioral patterns of social network members in the construction and reconstruction of individual attitudes to marital conflict.

In addition, in the analysis of reports provided by some respondents, we found their approach to this conflict observed compared different scenes, highlighting similarities and differences in the behavior of social actors noticed.

The situations of complex-cognitive social-learning drawn from interviews are: discussions with various members of the network (parents, grandparents, other relatives, priest, friends), reading (books, magazine articles, Internet), watching shows or movies, participating in various personal development courses, membership of a church (religious doctrine). In view of respondents in this study, this type of learning has a much lower compared with direct and observational learning, producing, also, to a lesser extent, attitudinal restructuring.

Analytical approach has now led to the identification of the effects of the conflicts at the individual level and at the relational; the consequences are both negative and positive. Thus, in

terms of individual size, respondents mentioned mainly negative effects such as: feeling of self disregard, of self blame, helplessness, impaired physical health, the only positive element found in descriptions is represented by self-knowledge. Regarding the consequences of marital conflict at relational level, we also found a tendency of respondents to illustrate the negative ones, degradation of a couple's relationship (estrangement, decrease positive feelings towards each other, disbelief in the future of their relationships). Some male subjects talk about positive role of conflict situations in their life couple, considering them opportunities for development of relationship intimacy, optimistic vision for shaping the future with their life partner.

CHAPTER VII. QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH

Social construction of attitudes towards marital conflict refers to how individuals select, interpret and evaluate the information conveyed in the interactions with the couple partner and his social network members.

In the interactionist paradigm, the appropriate theories, from my point of view, to study the formation and the changing attitudes towards the couple conflict are the symbolic interactionism and the social learning theory.

The first set of hypotheses examines the relationship between the social network influence and the marital conflict and contains the following sentences that were tested:

Hypothesis 1a - the family of origin's style for dealing with conflicts (question B.1) is associated with the problem-solving ability (A.2).

Hypothesis 1b - the family of origin's style for dealing with conflicts (B.1) is associated with the subjects' beliefs towards the couple conflict (A.3).

Hypothesis 1c - the family of origin's style for dealing with conflicts (question B.1) is associated with its own strategy of relating to conflict with a mate (A.5).

Hypothesis 1d - the higher the number of negative models is (B.3), the more unfavorable the beliefs towards conflict are.

Hypothesis 1e - the reporting strategy for conflicts with their spouse (A.5) is associated with the number of positive role models that we observe at the couples around us (B.4).

Hypothesis 1f - the more intense the learning from different situations is(B.5), the more developed the problem-solving ability is (A.2).

Hypothesis 1g - the more intense the learning from different situations is(B.5), the more favorable the beliefs to marital conflict are (A.3).

Hypothesis 1h - the own strategy hypothesis of reference to conflicts with their spouse (A.5) is associated with the intensity of spontaneous learning from different situations (B.5)

The second set of hypotheses examines the relationship between various indicators of marital conflict:

Hypothesis 2a - those who take the main strategy for dealing with conflicts on the resolution thereof (A.5) have a more developed problem-solving capacity of torque (A.2).

Hypothesis 2b - those who take the main strategy for dealing with conflicts on the resolution thereof (A.5) have favorable beliefs to marital conflict (A.3), and those who adopt the avoidance strategy (A.5) have intense negative beliefs (A.3).

The third set of hypotheses testes the relationship between marital conflict and the marital relationship quality:

Third hypothesis - the more developed the ability to problem solving (A.2) is, higher the quality of marital relationship (measured by the index C) is.

Hypothesis 3b - the more favorable the beliefs to marital conflict are (A.3), higher the quality of marital relationship (index C) is.

Hypothesis 3c - the marital quality level (index C) varies depending on the strategy of dealing with conflict (A5). Own strategy in addressing conflict (A.5) is associated with marital satisfaction compared with other couples (C.2).

Besides the testing of the stated assumptions, we made comparisons by gender, age, education level, relationship duration and area of residence in order to find the possible differences.

The data collection method is the sociological inquiry, and the techniques used are the application of questionnaires using interviewers and the self-survey technique.

Sample: The data was collected during March-May 2011 on a sample of 324 married people, in Brasov County and surrounding counties.

For the quantitative research on marital conflict attitudes and social forming and changing resources concerning the conflict attitudes, the principle used was nonprobabilistic sampling, the sampling strategy used being sampling rates of the following reasons: lower costs, are easier to establish.

Thereby, as in qualitative research, the tracked rates were as follows:

- Married persons;
- Sex: women and men;
- Age 18-65 years (minimum age for marriage is 18 years; the maximum interval was set at 65 because in the age psychology it is considered that after the age of 65, starting the regression stages of involution physical and / or mental - in Schiopu and Green, 1995);
- Level of education: elementary, medium, high
- Area of residence: urban and rural
- Residence: Braşov County (but I got answers from other counties too).

Research tool:

The research instrument was developed having as reference the specific covered literature and the socio-cultural specific of the Romanian area. For quantitative research made on the social network influence on attitudes towards the marital conflict of the married couple, the design of the questionnaire was structured in three dimensions: marital conflict, social influence and quality of marital relationship.

A. Marital conflict was measured by means of the following constructs: marital problems, marital conflict toward beliefs, emotions felt during quarrels, strategies to address conflict in the couple, the dynamic behaviors manifested during the skirmish.

To measure marital problems, I used two indicators: the severity of relational problems (A.1 - subjects had to indicate whether or not face with a list of 13 problems, such as infidelity, heavy drinking, inequitable distribution of domestic tasks etc.) and the auto-perceived ability to overcome relating problems (A.2 - subjects self-assessed their ability to solve problems in the same list as in A.1).

Questions A.1 and A.2 are adapted Notarius and Vanzetti (1983) and Tallman et al. (1999), the lists of questions proposed by them were compared, summarized and completed in the new proposed wording.

The beliefs toward marital conflict were measured by a Lickert type scale consisting of a set of twelve items (six favorable and six unfavorable to marital conflict) that respondents valued using a five-point scale ranging from "disagree strongly" to "strongly agree" (question A.3).

To measure the emotions felt during quarrels with the partner / the life partner I have built a list of eighteen items, in which respondents could choose up to three variants (A.4 question.) Such as: fear, anger, sadness, frustration, loneliness, disappointment, etc.

The strategies for dealing with conflicts were measured using five sets of items, each characterizing a style reporting at the conflicting times (A.5). These strategies, described by Blake and Mouton (1970 cited Stoica-Constantin, 2004) are: withdrawal / avoidance (Strand 1) fight (set 2), accommodation / waiver (set 3), compromise (set 4) and solving the problem (set 5).

The dynamic behaviors manifested during the quarrels were measured by asking the subjects if, over time, something changed in how they behave during episodes of arguing with their husband / wife (A.6).

B. The social influence was measured by the following indicators: the family of origin's style of relating to interpersonal conflict, willingness to seek network emotional support, social

network influence activities, sources of modeling (both negative and positive) the attitude towards conflict and spontaneous learning situations (for changing the attitude towards conflict).

To measure the family of origin's the style of relating to conflict, the subjects were asked which set of statements best describes the mentality of the family they come from (B.1). B.1.1 set described families that avoid conflicts, set B.1.2 characterized families in which members use collaboration in solving problems, and set B.1.3 reflects aggressive families, in which members engage in a large number of "lit" arguments, screams, labels and other such negative actions. This classification of families of origins depending on how they reference to conflict situations was taken from Wilmot and Hocker (1998).

The willingness to seek the network's emotional support was measured by the frequency with which respondents discussed with various members of their network (parents, siblings, in-laws, friends etc.) about their problems (B.2.a).

To measure the social network activities of influence, respondents were asked how often they are spoken about the couple different problems of the members of their social network (B.2.b - complex-cognitive learning activity) and how often they attended as witness to the arguments of other couples in their network (B.2.c - observational learning activity, of modeling).

Question B.3 measures the sources of negative modeling attitude towards the conflict and the question B.4 – the sources of positive modeling arguments that people have offered as contramodel or positive action models and reporting at the moments of conflict inside the couple.

If spontaneous learning situations (B.5), the respondents rated the extent to which they had learned something from every type of situation, how to relate to their own conflicts of torque, the answers ranging from "very little "to" heavily ".

C. The quality of marital relationship was measured by two constructs: marital satisfaction and marital instability.

Marital satisfaction was measured with three indicators: general marital satisfaction (question C.1 - adapted from Hendrick, 1988, with other proposed response scale), assessment compared with other couples marriage (C.2) assessment compared with the ideal marriage relationship of the respondent (C.3) (C.2 and C.3 are adapted Kluwer and Johnson, 2007).

The marital instability was measured by asking if respondents have ever think about separation (C.4 – adaptation after Spanier, 1976, and Widmer et al, 2004), using a proposed scale with seven steps, responses ranging from “never” to “all the time”.

After the processing and the interpreting of the collected data, we obtained the following conclusions, which coincide with those of similar studies on topics:

Regarding the severity of the problems faced by the couple, the data analysis showed that the first position is the financial situation, followed by the time spent together, communication; the last positions are occupied by infidelity and religion. However, the severity of these dimensions is not alarming in the investigated population's view (the largest average being 4.05, the score for maximum severity being 10).

The types of problems mentioned by respondents may become frequent and favorite subject of quarrels between life partners. These data are compliance with the study called “Public Opinion Barometer from May 2007. Couple Life”, performed by Bădescu et al. (2007), which stresses that the most important cause of marital problems is the lack of material or lack of money: 70% of those who admitted they had problems in the couple mentioned as a reason lack of material, 42% household chores and 20% children's behavior.

These three categories of reasons tend to become increasingly significant problems generating disagreement between partners as they age. On the contrary, ageing, the relationships with parents / in-laws, the neglectation of the partner, infidelity or sexual inadequacy are becoming less important conflicts (Badescu et al., 2007).

The present investigation subjects self-evaluate their own couple ability to solving high problems (the average values are between 7.19 and 8.53, the highest capacity could be noted by 10), the highest solving ability value registered is related to religion issues (the least problematic

previously reported) and the lowest average is the ability to solve problems related to the financial situation (the biggest problem reported above).

Following the analytical approach for comparison, as various socio-demographic characteristics, of the auto-perceived ability to solve couple problems I found statistically significant differences by the age categories and by the respondents' level of education. Thus, those aged between 18 and 36 years tend to self-assess the problem-solving ability as being more developed than those between 37 and 65.

A possible explanation could be related to the dynamics of marital satisfaction, to the perception of quality of marital relationship, which records a higher level in the early stages of family life compared to other phases. At the same time, younger people may have a more optimistic reference towards couple relationship, being still shown the sign of idealization of the partner / her partner.

Analyzing the problem-solving ability by the education level, the data showed statistically significant differences between those who have higher education and those who have secondary education, meaning that the first category of people mentioned believe they have a higher capacity to resolve problems than those with an average level of education. Education can actually develop our interpersonal skills, through the opportunity of interacting with new people, to identify new patterns of behavior, to have access to personal information leading to personal restructuring. Or, to some people, maybe only developing the ability to conceal, lying to themselves and/ or the others that they are happy and fulfilled.

Regarding the beliefs towards marital conflict, they tend to be rather neutral, synthetic index values are mostly close to 3 (where 1 = worst and 5 = strong belief beliefs strongly favorable).

Significant differences in marital conflict beliefs have occurred, according to this study, depending on age and the relationship duration. As they get older, investigated subjects tend to have more negative beliefs, worse toward marital conflict compared with married couple aged up to 36 years. Meanwhile, those lasting less than 10 years of marriage have more favorable beliefs to conflict of torque, compared with those who are married for over 21 years.

These trends could be explained by the fact that a relational longer history (a common past more consistent) produces a higher level of unilateral understanding between partners, and thus, a higher degree of realism in reference to the other and the relationship, to what can be changed or not in couple life.

At the same time, these results are approaching the idea supported by Huston, McHalle and Crouter (1986 cited in Strong et al., 1998), who showed that negative interactions between spouses do not produce significant consequences in the marital relationship in the first year of marriage, because of the "honeymoon" effect, which implies a superficial tendency to look at the new married couple problems.

From the range of emotions experienced during episodes of conflict with the life partner /, the most frequently cited is 15.4% anger, followed by disappointment 14.1%, 10.9% sadness, anger 9%, pain 8.2%, injustice 6.3%, last topping 1.2% vulnerability. Sanford (2009) catalogs the emotions that may arise in couple conflicts into two broad categories: "hard" emotions and "soft" emotion. "Hard" emotions (anger, wrath, fury, etc.) are associated with the struggle for power, the protection against attacks and the pursuit of their own objectives.

"Soft" emotions (sadness, hurt, etc.) are expression associated with vulnerability, seeking for social support and the pursuit of the objectives that strengthen interpersonal relationships. Both types of emotions are present in the responses of the interviewed subjects in the research, a higher share recording the "soft" type. This study has identified that there is no statistically significant differences between women and men in terms of emotions felt during the quarrels of the couple. Also, there are no significant differences either in age, education, area of residence or duration of the relationship.

Within the investigated population, the most common strategy referenced to conflict situations inside the couple is the problem solving strategy 35.2%, the following positions (very

close) is accommodating 21.9% and 21.3% avoidance, compromise 16, 4% and at a high distance, the less frequent is the strategy of confrontation (the fight), 5.2%.

From the trend analysis of use of a predominant particular strategy, given by the socio-demographic data, we found significant differences in age, duration of marriage, education level and area of residence.

Thus, the data obtained shows that those over 37 years use to a greater extent the conflict avoidance strategy than those aged between 18 and 36 years. However, those under the age of 36 years establish a greater use in problem-solving strategy to those over 37 years.

On the other hand, the frequency charts of the adopted strategies for the two subpopulations recorded differences in the intermediate positions. Thus, the highest percentage of the total aged under 36 years, adopt the problem-solving strategy, the following positions being filled, in order, by accommodation, compromise and avoidance (the same place) and the less use confrontation. For those over 37 years, most still use the problem-solving strategy, then, in descending order, we meet avoidance, accommodation, compromise and fight.

The strategies to address the conflict between the couple are associated at the same time, with the duration of the marital relationship, because the obtained level of significance is less than 0.05. Frequency charts using these styles of relating to conflict situations are different from each other depending on the duration of the marital relationship. Those who have less than 10 years of marriage used mainly the problem-solving strategy (interfere with the cause that led to disagreements), on the next position is found the accommodation (regaining relationship harmony is put above the different personal interests); avoiding and compromise have equal percentages and the last position is occupied by the fight strategy.

For those between 11 and 20 years of marriage, the order is almost the same, third place is occupied by the strategy of avoidance, fourth place the compromise; in addition there are observed decreases or increases of the adoption frequency of these behavioral patterns. In contrast, those who are over 21 years of marital relationship most frequently adopted avoiding as a means of reporting to conflict (the cognitive mechanism is “why open another topic that does not solve anything anyway, I already said several times, nothing has changed”), then the problem-solving, compromise, accommodation and fight.

However, the comparison between subpopulations for each style of relating to couple conflicts, I noticed that the strategy of battle and avoidance register an increase in frequency once the increase of the duration of the relationship, and the strategy of accommodation and the problem solving strategy are placed on a downward trend. The longer the common history of both partners is, the less early optimism is in the attempt to resolve any issue arising in the relation, and in the time of conflict moments, either increases passivity, either aggression.

These trends can signify the natural dynamics of devitalization, of erosion of the intimate relationship with the passing years, or a difference of mentality between generations (depending on what individuals have learned that it is acceptable and desirable to do during the couple quarrels), or both explanations.

Levenson, Cartensen and Gottman (1993 cited in Strong et al., 1998) found in their investigations that in comparison with marriages consisting of middle-aged partners, elderly couples were observed at a lower conflict potential.

From the analysis of the obtained data is confirmed the idea that strategies to address conflict in the couple are significantly associated with the level of education and more observations can be drawn. In moments of conflict in couples, those with elementary education used most frequently the compromise strategy, then the avoidance, problem solving, the last position being occupied equally by fight and accommodation.

People with an average level of education choose, more often the problem-solving strategy, on the following places being avoidance, accommodation, compromise and - the least used - confrontation. In the conducted research, I found that those who have higher education have

developed, most often, as a strategy for reporting common marital conflicts, on solving the problem, then the accommodation, compromise ranks third, following avoidance and then fight.

On the other hand, the strategy of avoidance is less common in those with higher education compared with the other two subpopulations. Accommodation strategy is in the lesser extent, taken by people with basic education in comparison to those with secondary education and those with higher education.

The compromise is heavily used by those with a basic level of education compared with the other subgroups of analysis. Addressing conflicts of torque through problem-solving strategy is, mostly, found at those with higher education and in the lesser degree, to those with elementary education.

There are also statistically significant association between strategies to address conflict between the couple and the residential area. According to the data obtained in this research, the urban the most used is the problem solving strategy, then follows the accommodation, avoidance, compromise and fight. In rural areas most frequently encountered is the strategy of avoidance, then the accommodation, problem solving, compromise and fight.

By comparing the subpopulations for each style of relating to marital conflict, the present data show that the most obvious differences are recorded for the strategy of avoidance and problem solving. The marital partners from urban space use avoidance in a less extent (17.9% of the total respondents), than those in rural areas (31% of the total respondents).

On the other hand, the urban take greater extent (39.6% of the total respondents) on problem-solving strategy than those in rural areas. In rural areas, the community is smaller and more homogeneous, higher social control and the social network pressure to conform to the rules and the regulations of the group is more consistent, which may lead to increased attention paid by individuals to maintaining appearances in the eyes of the others, to what is considered desirable behavior.

Although the present research I did not identified significant differences between women and men in terms of predominant use of a strategy for reporting conflicts of torque, other studies show that they exist. Thus, Klinetob and Smith (1996 cited in Strong et al., 1998) showed different trends by gender in the use of communication patterns in conflict situations.

For example, husbands tend, to a greater extent, to send neutral messages or to withdraw from a conflict in comparison with their wives. According to his vision Strong et al. (1998, p. 139), although there are differences between women and men in the use of certain behavioral patterns, however, these variations are usually small.

The way that couple partners behave to each other during fights is not static, but records changes caused by a number of factors, including some already mentioned.

The subjects investigated, mainly behavioral changes are part of a trend of increasing tolerance, most respondents stated that they behave more tolerant of each other (56.5%), the next position as number of responses is found the idea that no change has occurred (27.8%), the less considering that behaves harsher during couple conflict (12%).

The dynamic behavior during episodes of arguing with a mate records in the research, significant differences only by area of residence of the respondents. Comparison of dynamics of behaviors manifested during the quarrels between urban and rural shows that those in rural areas recorded a significantly higher percentage (20.2%) than urban (9.2%) of a route of increasing intolerance towards the mate in tense moments.

The urban report, to a greater extent (60% of those who live in this environment) that the dynamic behavior of a partner is to be placed on a trend of increasing tolerance manifested during quarrels.

Regarding the changes in marital conflict on different levels, other studies indicate that it may consist of: a dynamic of the "hot" topics (of the causes) to argue for, depending on different stages of family life cycle or a predisposition to a certain type of conflict, depending on the length

and the duration of the relationship and the age of the spouses, for example young people in couples are experiencing rather open conflict, compared with the elderly (Kline et al., 2006).

The intensity of spontaneous learning from different situations differs according to social type and level of education of respondents. In this respect, it can be argued that spontaneous learning to improve the reporting in conflict situations is significantly increased at women compared with the level of learning intensity recorded at the men. On the other hand, those who have basic education there is a lower intensity of learning in different situations than those with secondary education and those with higher education have a higher intensity of spontaneous learning versus those with a basic level of education. Level of education seems to affect the marital adjustment, according to the vision of Strong et al. (1998), who believes that education can provide us with additional resources and knowledge, reflecting on the various dimensions of life, income, status, that contributes to our ability to play more efficient the marital roles.

Analyzing the learning intensity types of social situations presented to respondents, I found that the first is learning from their arguments with their own partner. Thus, most subjects (combined, 74%) consider that they had learned to some extent, large or heavily in this type of situation. Runners are positioned downward spontaneous learning situations include: arguments of others attended as a witness, counsel from the close ones to the discussions about the problems the couple, reports acquaintances about their couple fights, watching the show / films, articles / books read about the conflict between the couple, personal development programs.

As shown in the previous paragraph, people learn new acting patterns through a process called modeling (looking to others at what are doing and what are the consequences of their behaviours). In forming and changing attitudes towards marital conflict and change behaviours manifested during episodes of conflict, data from this study show that are present and influential both models negative and positive ones drawn from network members. In addition, I found that negative patterns of behaviour observed over time are more numerous than positive ones. In this regard, I note that respondents indicated a very small extent (5.6% of multiple choice answers) absence fight scenes between the couple attended as witnesses and which impressed them negative. In contrast, 50.8% of multiple choice answers showed no quarrel scenes of couples seen to represent positive models of behaviour.

The most significant *negative modelling* situation is the fights between parents, which investigated subjects attended as witnesses in childhood and adulthood (cumulative 33.3% of responses). The following items are placed in descending order by number of viewed scene (which produced a negative impact on the observer): quarrels between neighbours (14.3%) between friends (12.1%), between brother / sister and partner of life (10.8%), other relatives (9.2%), between unknown persons (8.6%), less frequent quarrels of the couple's co-workers (3.9%).

Larsen and Olson (1989 cited in Strong et al., 1998) points out that families of orientation (of origin) is the social environment where people learn their first lessons in life (and sometimes the most influential and significant lessons) about intimacy and couple relationship. In the same vein, can be included and Gecas's opinion (1990 cited Kapinus, 2004), which emphasize that intrafamilial socialization process may have a stronger effect on individuals, compared with that produced by other agents such as teachers, group similarity (peers), co-workers, bosses, etc.. This phenomenon can be explained by the fact that parents play a key role while the children are more susceptible to the influences around (during childhood, puberty and adolescence) and in addition, they interact with their children during a extended period of time (relations parents - children are characterized by high longevity), is a constant pattern during different stages of offspring development.

Analyzing the data, I found that negative shape varies depending on age and residence. I noticed that there is a significant difference between those aged 18-36 years and those over 37 years in the number of negative patterns they observe around them. People in the second age interval specifies a higher number of negative patterns of behaviour in conflict situations that have been exposed, compared to those aged up to 36 years. On the other hand, individuals coming from urban

areas have a number of negative patterns significantly different than those in rural areas, ie those in the second subpopulation have reported a higher number of such models compared to urban.

Negative models are extremely important because it "say" what not to do, what negative forms of expression to avoid building our custom couple harmony individualized. Notarius and Markman (1993 cited in Kline et al., 2006) argue that it's important to teach couples to avoid negative signs and to relate constructively to conflict than to learn a formula for marital success. This recommendation changes dramatically the way of constructing therapeutic interventions and the way of reporting at the efficiency against models. Mentioned authors found that, surprisingly, negative interactions between spouses are a stronger predictor of negative consequences on their relationship than positive interaction as a predictor for positive effects.

Modeling positive attitudes towards the conflict in the couple is rarely seen at questioned subjects compared to the negative. The main source of social influence is, in this case, the model of behaviour of parents during their fight scenes of couples (17.2% of responses). Instead, the following positions in the ranking are differently occupied comparative with those mentioned at the level of negative modeling. Thus, the next as frequency is the situation represented by positive modelling represented by the argues in the couples of friends (6.6%), and other relatives (6.1%), neighbours (5%) of strangers (4.8%), the brothers / sisters (4.2%), the co-workers (3.4%).

During primary socialization, parents teach their children what is good, the bad, what to eat, what not to eat, what to keep for them, what to share with others how to speak, what to feel and what to think. Cohen (1987 cited in Strong et al., 1998) considers that the main mechanisms by which parents influence their children are: modeling (they serve as models for their children) and definition (establish and make known their expectations they have to their children). As seen from the data above, parents may be both positive models of reporting to the conflicts of the couple ("how to do") and negative models ("I will not behave like them"); the negative models are apparently more widespread in the Romanian investigated space.

Beyond the models provided by parents, social learning theory completes the ideas launched by the behaviourism, claiming that the individual has the internal ability to think and make choices to change the environment (Schickedanz, Schickedanz, Hansen and Forsyth, 1993 as cited in Strong et al., 1998) to restructure their lives, attitudes, and their daily behaviours. However, exposure to various social interactions has a positive effect on restructuring dysfunctional attitudes and the learning of new behavioural patterns constructive reporting at the conflict situations of the couple.

Quality of marital life, as a whole, has high levels of satisfaction. Thus, most subjects are satisfied with their couple relationship (52.8%), very satisfied (27.8%), neither satisfied / nor dissatisfied (13.6%), while the number of those dissatisfied combined with very dissatisfied is significantly lower (5.9%). This assessment of marital satisfaction is approaching to the reporting of the Romanians at family life in general. Analyzing the way it is assessed satisfaction towards family life in Romania, Marginean and Precupețu (coords., 2010, pp. 37-38) summarizes: "Satisfaction towards family life, mostly positive throughout the period investigated, records, in especially after 1999, an upward trend. If in 1990 only two thirds were satisfied and very happy with their family life and about one quarter were placed on a neutral position, in 1999 neutral assessments are halved and almost 80% are making positive comments. Trend after 1999 was therefore mainly positive assessments neutral transformation assessments. In 2006 recorded the highest satisfaction, slightly downward trend in 2010 thanks to a slight increase in assessments neutral, negative remains constant".

In addition, evaluation of the subjects interviewed in their relationships varies according to some socio-demographic analysis, significant differences revealed being given by the age of the respondents and by their level education. Thus, self-assessed quality of the relationship is higher for those aged up to 36 years, compared with over 37 years and also, those who have higher education appreciates their couple relationship as having higher quality than those who have secondary education.

Data in support of this idea is consistent with other research results in the Euro-American studies and achievement in Romania. Thus, in the literature, we find a large number of studies in the North-American who argue that marital satisfaction is declining over time, especially in the first ten years (Glenn, 1989 as cited in Strong et al., 1998) or the dynamic of this dimension of family life-cycle is a path U (Glenn, 1991 as cited in Strong et al., 1998). Strong et al. (1998) points out that, however this is not experienced significant downward trend in all marriages: the decline may be a minor or marital satisfaction may return after a relatively short period of time. As regards the Romanian space, for example, the report by the Institute for Quality of Life (ICCV) on quality of life in Romania in 2010, it is outlined that differentiating factors of quality assessment of family relationships are: marital status, education, age, income or number of persons in household (Marginean and Precupețu, coords., 2010).

In the study, analysis of data obtained validated only part of the assumptions made. Thus, the first hypothesis is confirmed that the prevailing style test the link between family of origin conflict reporting and its strategy to deal with tense situations of couple. Data obtained support the claim that behavioural patterns used during marital conflict is partly taken from the family of origin. Intergenerational transmission of values, attitudes, behaviour patterns is validated by the results of numerous studies on various issues, among which may be mentioned studies of intergenerational continuity in the attitude towards marriage and cohabitation (Thorthon, 1991 cited Kapinus, 2004), marital instability (Pope and Mueller, 1976 cited Kapinus, 2004), attitude toward divorce (Kapinus, 2004), the individualization and privacy (Lawson and Brossart, 2001), marital quality (Perren, von Wyl, Burgin, Simoni and von Klitzing, 2005), political opinions, religious beliefs (in Kapinus, 2004) etc. According to social learning perspective, children become adults have more tolerant or restrictive attitude toward certain behavioural manifestations during marital conflict because they want their parents to comply vision. On the other hand, followers who exhibit aggressive in conflict situations can develop a pattern of offensive behaviour to maintain cognitive consistency. Cognitive consistency is a process by which individuals change their attitudes because they want to interpret past experiences in a constructive way, in a positive light and include them in their cognitive system (Festinger, 1957 cited Malim, 2003).

Another hypothesis partially validated by statistical procedures tested the link between reporting strategy at their own conflicts with their life partner (A.5) and number of positive role models they see the couples around us (B.4). The data shows that there is a significant difference between those who fight and those who adopt the strategy for solving problems in terms of the positive models they observe around them. There is also a significant difference between the transferor (the strategy of accommodation) and those who adopt the strategy for solving problems in terms of the positive models they observe around them. If the supposed link between the intensity of scholars (B5) and problem solving (A2) was confirmed between the two variables there are weak negative correlation. In other words, high values of intensity in different learning situations are associated with low levels of problem-solving capacity of the couple and vice versa.

Second hypothesis was formulated as follows: those who take the main strategy for dealing with conflicts on the deal with them (A.5) have a capacity of problem-solving of the couple (A.2) more developed - and has been validated. Pooled analysis shows that the developed capacity to solve problems arising in the couple is registered at those addresses marital conflicts through problem-solving strategy and those relating to conflicts through a strategy of confrontation / fights have the competence less developed to solve the cause of dissension.

Another hypothesis is confirmed by the data is as follows: if the problem-solving (A.2) is developed, the quality of marital relationship (C) is higher. Problem-solving ability is positively correlated with quality of marital relationship. A similar idea is found in the theory of marital dissolution as a process of erosion (Markman 1979, Stanley et al., 1999 as cited in Kline et al. 2006), which supports the theory that conflict management skills are weak in the couple relationship from the start, but they are becoming more important as marital partners try to negotiate expectations, problems, stressful elements over time.

Also, it is validated the hypothesis that implied a link between marital quality and strategy to address the conflict between the couple. In other words, quality of marital relationship is significantly different depending on the strategy for dealing with conflicts of couple, the highest values recorded for those using the accommodation strategy and problem solving in handling moments of conflict, the lowest value being recorded for those who predominantly fight in style. The second part of hypothesis 3c - the strategy used in couple's conflicts (A.5) is associated with marital satisfaction compared to other couples (C.2) was also confirmed. There are significant differences in marital satisfaction (compared to married couples) in relation to strategy in addressing the conflicting moments. Thus, most people who adopt the strategy for solving problems and those who take accommodation is declared as happier than other married couples, the less of them considering unhappiest. And most people who adopt or avoidance strategy or that of compromise believes that just as happy as most couples, the less of them considering unhappiest.

The relationship between marital conflict and its effects on the couple relationship is a widely studied topic. For example, Clements, Stanley and Markman (2004 cited in Kline et al., 2006) argue that poorly managed conflict situations are a risk factor for the occurrence of disappointment and divorce. Some writers, considers, however, the link between marital conflict and results produced on the couple relationship is complex, bidirectional or circular causality: satisfaction / dissatisfaction leads to some type of marital conflict management and also management of conflict is associated with the quality of couple relationship

CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSION

The final section of this paper is structured along the following lines: current state of knowledge theme, world and national news items to the theoretical and methodological study the applicability of the results achieved and the limits of the possible directions for future research.

The strength of this qualitative investigation is given by the innovative approach to the topic of social influence, with a methodology apart from other studies; attention was focused on the analysis of perceived social influence social actor "receiver". Also, something that brings "extra knowledge" the problem studied is to identify lessons learned by those interviewed in different learning situations they formed or changed attitudes to marital conflict (social learning content).

From *strength aspects of quantitative research* I will remember only measuring beliefs about marital conflict and social influence on attitude towards the conflict between the couple.

If we look diachronically at the social network influence on attitudes towards interpersonal conflict (over individual development stages), we can say that this influence subsumes the intergenerational transmission of beliefs to conflict and behavioural patterns and restructuring attitude, resulting from exposure to new models of interaction in tense situations (as an observer of the bickering couple of others) and new information obtained from discussions with members personal network, the accounts of others, the viewing of programs, films, the reading of books, articles, etc. In addition, social networks may exercise direct influence on marital conflicts through various interferences in the couple's lives such as tips, suggestions, criticisms, pressures etc. The results of this research and discussed above may constitute arguments to determine changes in the Romanian social space. Contemporary sociology aims to go beyond the descriptive-interpretative of research conducted and, based on empirical data obtained, to come up with proposals for welfare. For problems studied in this paper can sketch two directions of applicability of the results drawn from the investigations presented. On the one hand, the information obtained may be useful in marriage counseling in designing individual programs, cognitive-behavioural therapy, which can change the dysfunctional patterns of the individual reporting to its conflicts of torque, and beliefs of rejection, the denial manifested towards this natural dimension of relational life. Thus, changes aimed intracouple processes, especially for families / couples facing severe marital problems.

On the other hand, the present research results can provide solutions for developing new social politics more supportive to Romanian families. A happy marriage, a healthy relationship of

couple represents, for most people, an urgent desire in their lives. The positive effects produced by a relationship with these characteristics are felt, as shown by the data obtained, both intrafamilial sphere (the two partners, children) and in the extrafamilial (at the couple's social network, the community living). Researchers and policy makers from different countries have stressed that happy marriages produce important public health consequences (in Markman and Halford, 2005). After analyzing the empirical data from studies and models of good practice from other countries, consider that in Romania there is a need to build and implement programs to assist individuals / couples to achieve their aspiration to have stable marriages and full of rewarding, programs for particularly high-risk couples experiencing acute marital problems.

Therefore, an important dimension of restructuring family politics in our country is represented by stimulating initiatives and funding education programs for the life of the couple / family, for all levels of schooling and beyond. This type of preventive activities is strongly supported in countries such as Australia, Germany, USA, UK, Singapore etc. (In Markman and Halford, 2005). In these programs, couples are developed relational skills and principles that lead to marital relationships healthy, functional and stable. A series of research, the authors refer to the above, points out that young couples can learn these skills and principles of family life, that these levels can be treated in a variety of contexts (formal and informal), can be transmitted by a variety of secondary socialization agents (counselors, trainers, teachers, priests, leaders, etc.), marital and couples who have also developed social skills is increasing stability and relationship satisfaction and lower levels of aggression.

In addition, these efforts are constructive and effective and that family life education is less stigmatized than therapy / marital counseling, and people's willingness to participate in such programs is high.

Training social skills and transfer knowledge on building and maintaining harmonious social relations can be started and maintained in primary care including the following programs of higher education. In the Romanian education system is necessary a higher and constant share of formative activities for human development and not just professional. Changing dysfunctional patterns of relating (possibly taken from the family home) can not be left only to the spontaneous learning of people willing to move, concerned parents not to repeat mistakes. These attitudinal changes can, and is recommended, to occur after a formal framework and intervention.

Also, programs can be designed to develop relational skills of partners of the couple. The most effective results are achieved this type of approach (according to studies quoted by Markman and Halford, 2005) for couples at the beginning of their life relationships, the satisfaction is high. These educational activities for partners, on the one hand, reduce the risk of problems between the couple, and on the other hand improve future access to specialized services in case of a specific type of marital problems ("students" get list of possible problems of couple and institutional resources/ organizational available for each type of problem).

Family life education can be considered a way of developing a new curriculum that is based on scientific research coming out of laboratories and academic space and enter the space community and daily life.

Limits of this qualitative research conducted on social influence, the social construction of attitudes towards the conflict, may be mentioned the following:

- results of the investigation can not be generalized to a large population, they only interviewed subjects with meaning;
- retrospective study of social influence can lead to biases due to lack of accuracy in remembering sequences of detail required by the researcher (recall is selective);
- discussed the topic "sensitive" (that of marital conflict), there is always the risk of getting impregnated by social desirability response;
- investigated subjects assigned different meanings to the terms of conflict, social influence, making it difficult to compare results from different studies.

Regarding the *quantitative limitations of the study*, conducted and presented in this paper, a weakness is that the sample is small and unrepresentative to allow generalizations consistent reasons are related to scarcity of financial resources, human and time. Also, the scales will be retested built and restructured to become a reliable tool for investigating other approaches. During further research, I hope that these shortcomings to be overcome.

Future research on the issue presented in this paper could be expanded and diversified the investigation and other categories of factors that determine attitudes towards the conflict between the couple, such as personality characteristics of the partners of the couple (eg, if there is a between the type of temperament and way of relating to the conflicts of couple), situational characteristics of episodes of contention so. Then, why not, and could track the comparative study of attitudes towards marital conflict to Romanian residents abroad and in the Romania. I think that there could be significant and relevant differences between these two subpopulations, due to various socio-cultural contexts. It would be interesting to study the link between types of interactions that we had in childhood with brothers / sisters and our strategies typical reference to the conflicts in the couple. In addition, this study can be extended by further analysis of the formation process of attitude towards the conflict through direct learning, produced from their conflicts with others (in arguments with parents, siblings, friends, co-workers with bosses, neighbours, etc.), involving direct experiences that put their mark on the specific approach of the couple marital strife.

Studying the subject at hand may extend in terms of the methodology applied. For example, new strategies could be used to collect data by conducting interviews with all members of the network close conjugal through participative observation. Also, future research could be designed and implemented in the form of longitudinal studies to capture dynamic strategies to deal with marital conflict over various stages of family life and dynamic sources of social influence on spouses.

In conclusion, I think I've reached my goal and objectives in this research on the role of social network formation and changing attitudes towards marital conflict, identifying the sources and mechanisms of social influence and social learning content and effects different attitudes and strategies to deal with tense situations in the married couple on the marital relationship.

This work confirms that the conflicts in couple have a dysfunctional role, but also can be viewed as a valuable resource for family and society. The differences in the type of consequences produced by marital conflict are shaped by the ways people behave in such situations. And style of relating to conflict episodes is learned during our socialization process and direct interactional experience. Marital couples does not work isolated under a glass dome, but his life unfolds in a particular social network, with specific structural and interactional features, which are reflected in the marital relationship, including how the two relate to their situation tense of the couple. Thus, dysfunctional behaviour patterns can be replaced by constructive strategies to deal with interpersonal conflict and the marital ones, in particular.

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