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"Do Attitudes about Love Say Anything about How Accepting of Lies We Are?"



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Introduction

- Online dating use has increased over the years
- The necessity to control self presentation might lead people to lie in order to manage impressions and thereby attract more dates
- One perspective that may help explain people's use and acceptability of deception in online dating is the love attitudes framework (Lee, 1988)
- According to this framework, people's attitudes toward love can be described according to one or some blend of six different love style categories
 - Eros: Intense and romantic love
 - Ludus: Love is a game
 - Pragma: Seek partner to fulfill desired and practical needs
 - Storge: Familial love; companionship seeking
 - Mania: Passionate but worry about losing the partner; obsessive
 - Agape: Unconditional, caring, tolerant love

Hypothesis

- H1: The Ludus love style will be positively correlated with lie acceptability.
- H2: The Mania love style will be negatively correlated with lie acceptability.
- RQ: How do the other love styles correlate with lie acceptability?

Acknowledgement

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Method

Participants

- N = 76 (67.1% female)
- Age range = 18-22 years, $M = 19.2$, $SD = 1.11$
- Caucasian = 94.7%

Procedures and Measures

- Students were given an online survey containing published measures
 - Revised Lie Acceptability Scale (Olivera & Levine 2008)
 - 11 Likert-type items, 7 = "strongly agree" to 1 = "strongly disagree."
 - e.g., "It is ok to lie in order to achieve goals."
- Love Attitudes Scale (Hendrick & Hendrick, 1986)
 - Each individual love style is measured by five items, 1 = "strongly disagree" to 5 = "strongly agree"
 - Mania Item: "Sometimes I get so excited about being in love that I can't sleep."
 - Ludus Item: "When my lover gets too dependent on me, I want to back off a little."

Results

Table 1: Means, standard deviations, and zero-order between variable

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Lie Acceptability	-						
2. Eros	0.234*	-					
3. Ludus	0.223	-0.138	-				
4. Storge	-0.225	-0.102	-0.149	-			
5. Pragma	-0.291*	-0.171	0.131	0.115	-		
6. Mania	-0.223	0.007	0.016	0.097	0.128	-	
7. Agape	-0.092	0.358**	-0.269*	0.043	-0.012	0.366**	-
M	3.19	3.81	2.05	3.46	3.40	3.08	3.75
SD	0.73	0.55	0.59	0.61	0.55	0.64	0.62

All tests were two-tailed

* $p < 0.05$

** $p < 0.01$

Discussion

- Ludus: Deceiving others is a means enabling them to continue playing the game
- Mania: Being deceived would be seen as a sign of losing the partner
- Eros: See no flaws in their significant other which is why deception would not be considered bad
- Storgic: Deception viewed as a roadblock in their communication and openness
- Pragma: Deception is bad because it is not practical nor does it enhance stability or success
- Agape: Neither for nor against deception—love is unconditional

Limitations

- Small sample size-- almost all of the love types were within a few thousandths away from significance, but had the number of participants been larger, they would have been significant.
- Sample of students-- participants all attended a small, Christian college, the moral understanding about lying and possibly love styles (such as Ludus) could have affected the survey responses. Also, since the sample was primarily Caucasian, it is not a diverse sample and would not be generalizable to the greater population.

Future Research

Future research should look at all the love styles rather than focusing on Ludus and Mania. Also, a larger sample size should be obtained and more data on a person's potential to lie.