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

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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
The authors are grateful to the Earhart Foundation Emerging Scholars Program which enabled this research.

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

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

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
- Storge: 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.