

THE RELATIONSHIP OF PSYCHOSOCIAL
MATURITY, SEX ROLE ORIENTATION,
AND AGE TO PERCEIVED MARITAL
INTIMACY FOR ADULT MALES

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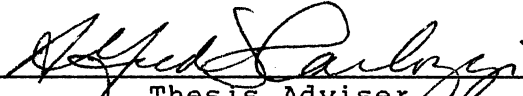
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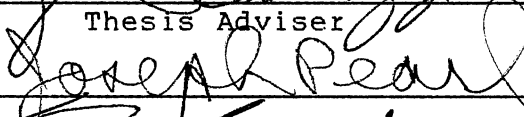
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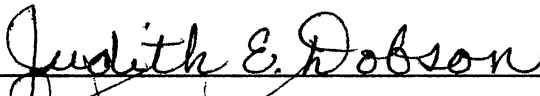
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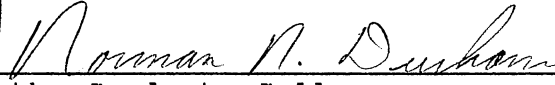


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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Various studies have addressed the clinical importance of intimacy in adult psychological development, marital adjustment (Waring & Chelune, 1983), and marital interpersonal relationships (Berman & Lief, 1975). The failure to form intimate relationships has been found to be associated with development of nonpsychotic emotional disorders (Hames & Waring, 1980), and failing to develop an intimate relationship the most common factor among those seeking outpatient psychotherapy (Horowitz & French, 1979.) Intimacy is considered a vital ingredient in the hierarchy of needs (Erikson, 1950, Maslow, 1954, Sullivan, 1953), and is continuing to gain attention in the field of aging and life span analysis (Schaefer & Olson, 1981).

Many writers and researchers acknowledge the difficulties spouses are experiencing with intimacy,

with intimacy (Lewis, 1978). Various theories about intimacy problems include: female deficits in autonomous functioning (Levenson, 1984), male separation and individuation from mother (Rubin, 1983), male socialization and lack of knowledge about intimacy (McGill, 1985), and male's fear of femininity (O'Neil, 1981). Findings consistently suggest that intimacy pitfalls may be gender-specific; the value placed on intimacy may also vary with gender. McGill (1985) found that for some men, the value of intimacy is not discovered until mid-life while woman's knowledge of the importance of intimacy is thought to be instinctive (Gilligan, 1982).

Another concept which has received considerable attention in the literature relative to personal functioning and familial functioning is sex role identity (Garnets & Pleck, 1979). The interest in sex role identity is due in large part to the women's liberation movement, and the drastic changes in role expectancies have made traditional roles for many no longer functional. Examination of sex roles led to the hypothesis that all individuals possess, to some degree, both feminine and masculine traits,

expressiveness and instrumentality, respectively. The greater the degree of both traits, the more androgynous, and the better able one is to function both individually and within the context of a relationship (Davidson, Balswick, & Halverson, 1983). The issue of traditional, sex-linked behavior has been addressed, and research findings have substantiated the linkage between the traditional male role and men's difficulties in relating to both women and other men (Lewis, 1978).

Waring and Chelune (1983) defined expressiveness as a feminine trait in which one shares private thoughts, beliefs and attitudes, and has the capacity to communicate about the relationship. Stokes, Childs and Fuehrer (1981) have found that expressiveness is significantly correlated with self-disclosure. Self-disclosure, although not synonymous with intimacy, has been found to be a major component of marital intimacy (Waring & Chelune, 1983), and investigators have found androgynous subjects to be more self-disclosing than those with other sex role orientations (Stokes, Childs, & Fuehrer, 1981).

For men, whether the emotional part of the

personality is buried as some suggest (McGill, 1985; Rubin, 1983), or " . . . internally split from the conscious ego" (Levinson, Darrow, Klein, Levinson, & McKee, 1978, p.237), or projected onto a woman (Jung, 1959), the integration into the personality of the masculine-feminine polarities is a major developmental task (Levinson, Darrow, Klein, Levinson, & McKee, 1978), and requires going beyond the limitations of internalized traditional sex roles and behaviors (Garnets & Pleck, 1979). It appears that sex-role stereotyping and masculine/feminine polarization present in many individuals have created obstacles to achieving marital intimacy. Conversely, it is believed that role flexibility to discuss inner thoughts, feelings, wishes and fears enhances the potential for marital intimacy. Although it seems logical that androgynous persons, described as having integrated high levels and a balance of masculine and feminine traits, is a construct for describing the developmental task of integrating previously split-off masculine/feminine polarities of the personality, the linking of the concepts is only rarely suggested (Schwartz, 1979).

Assuming that child-rearing practices and sex-role socialization and identity may indeed influence the desire and capacity for intimacy, it is essential to understand adult development and the potential to change powerful messages and images of childhood. In most personality theories, adulthood is believed to be a period of relative stability, and the behavior of adults contingent upon underlying patterns established in childhood (Gruen, 1964). Erikson (1963), however, postulated that psychosocial growth during the adult years is a function of normative developmental crisis throughout the life cycle, and Levinson, Darrow, Klein, Levinson, & McKee (1978) found distinct developmental periods throughout adulthood. Thus, a persisting issue in the adult development literature is whether adulthood is characterized by stability or predictable ontogenetic change (Whitbourne & Waterman, 1979).

Levinson, Darrow, Klein, Levinson, & McKee's (1978) theory of adult development proposes periods of stability and transition, each of which have fundamental tasks. Tasks during stability periods are concerned with making firm choices, rebuilding and enhancing. In contrast, those of a transitional period

are questioning, reappraising, searching, and modifying. They describe an ongoing process of individuation during developmental transitions, and four primary tasks in this process which involves reintegration of fundamental polarities, namely, young/old, destruction/creation, masculine/feminine and attachment/separateness. They reported that although the specific content and conflicts varied enormously, ". . . the masculine/feminine polarity was of great importance to all the men in our study" (p.230). They believe in ". . . most societies there has been a splitting along gender lines ... [and that] ... "a considerable splitting between masculine and feminine still exists in our social institutions and our individual lives" (p. 229).

To investigate marital intimacy, and the dynamic or static nature of adult development, it is important to consider age as well as sex role orientation, and to look specifically and separately at males and females. While both male and female children receive powerful sex-role messages, females tend to have greater permission for a wider range of responses including the very feminine to the athletic tomboy (Bardwick &

Douvan, 1971). She is allowed, and sometimes encouraged to integrate and own masculine aspects of her personality. The male is expected to be and valued for his spirits of aggression and competition, and numerous behaviors are not tolerated from him. Males are expected to rigidly adhere to the original, aggressive script, a script which is very difficult to change. Many females have learned to be more aggressive and openly competitive at the feet of their fathers, and/or male mentors. Males, on the other hand, are rarely encouraged by fathers, mothers, or wives to be more sensitive, supportive, and subjective. On the contrary, contempt for the female sex and her emotionality is often handed off like a baton between generations; she is weak and inferior, someone to avoid, not emulate. With time, the male's response to this socialization process is often to subjugate women, deny his own feminine side and emotionality -- creating a life-long aversion to anything construed as feminine, constant striving toward ways to be macho, and the concomitant lost potential for intimacy.

Significance of the Study

The concept of intimacy has been addressed by a number of investigators who have found it significantly correlated with adult psychological development and marital adjustment (Waring & Chelune, 1983), an important aspect of interpersonal relationships (Waring, McElrath, Lefcoe, & Weisz, 1981), and a vitally important need (Erikson, 1950; Maslow, 1954; Sullivan, 1953).

Research on marital intimacy supports the importance of intimacy for normal human development and adaptive capability, and finds self-disclosure to be a fundamental aspect of marital intimacy (Waring, Tillman, Frelick, Russell, & Weisz, 1980). Jourard and Lasokow (1958), believe intimate disclosure occurs more often in marital relationships, and Tolstadt and Stokes (1983) show intimacy strongly related to marital satisfaction, with affective intimacy more predictive of marital satisfaction than physical intimacy.

In addition to the plentiful evidence which supports both the basic need and advantages of having intimate relationships, voluntary self-disclosure, vitally important to intimacy, is missing in many

marriages. A growing body of research suggests that husbands and wives often have very different expectations and perceptions of what constitutes intimacy, as well as different needs for intimacy (Gilligan, 1982; Lewis, 1978; McGill, 1985; Rubin, 1983). Many husbands do not voluntarily tell their wives even the most obvious information about themselves, and in the absence of this disclosing behavior, many wives feel unloved by their husbands (McGill, 1985). He states that the ". . . ability or inclination to share one's personal response, to discuss the why and how of one's personal emotional reaction with a loved one is the measure of love" (p. 56).

Various researchers theorize that intimacy is absent or lacking in the lives of many men (Lewis, 1978; Rubin, 1982), and believe that gender role socialization and sexism is basic to the problem of male intimacy (Kiley, 1983; O'Neil, 1981). O'Neil (1981) identifies a ". . . pressing need in society to better understand how gender role socialization and sexism interact and affect . . . human experiences over the adult life span" (p. 203). He believed that men in

the late 1970s and early 1980s would recognize, as women did in the 1970s, the restrictive implications of gender role socialization and sexism.

Socialization of the male and early sex role conflicts often result in his suppression of the feminine side, which is split off and projected onto a woman (Johnson, 1983), resulting in relational distortions and the lost capacity for tenderness, expressiveness, and sensitivity. While some investigators contend that men are incapable of intimacy (Rubin, 1983), McGill (1985) contends that men are not incapable, but unwilling, to experience themselves and others at the feeling level required for intimacy. He further reports that some men neither need nor desire the closeness which results from self-disclosure, and fear that revealing personal information decreases their power.

The pervasive stereotype for traditional American males is strong and silent, coupled with attitudes of aggression and competition. The research suggests that this stereotype, which creates a polarization of the masculine and feminine dimensions of the personality, has toxic potential to blight personal and

interpersonal development. The resultant suppression of the expressive and supportive feminine side has restrictive implications for intimacy: men who remain locked in these stereotypical roles remain distanced not only from their wives, but also from family and friends (McGill, 1985). Taylor (1968) reports that man's inability to disclose himself intimately contributes to his shorter life expectancy. Goldberg (1979) says the expression of emotion and pain required for intimacy is only one of several feminine characteristics that men avoid. O'Neil (1981) contends that this suppression is due to a fear of femininity which results in restrictive emotionality, or difficulties in accepting and expressing emotions, and inhibiting communication necessary for a " . . . fully functioning intimate relationship" (p. 107).

The transcendence of masculine/feminine polarities, according to Schwartz (1979), is analogous to becoming androgynous, with the androgynous self most capable of both emotional and sexual intimacy. Investigation into sex role orientation and its implications for psychological health and intimacy, however, has not produced consistent findings in the

literature. Tesch (1984) reported traditional sex roles related to high intimacy status, and Selva and Dusek (1984) found that the masculinity score was the more important determinant of greater adjustment for androgynous students, using the two Eriksonian crisis, Industry and Identity.

While some groups press for societal changes that encourage less sex-typed socialization to a more androgynous orientation (Bem, 1983; Schwartz, 1979), others doubt the appropriateness of adopting androgyny as a model for mental health (Lubinski, Tellegen, & Butcher, 1981; Long, 1986). Taylor and Hall (1982) in summation of their extensive review of androgyny challenge the belief that androgyny brings the good things in life. They believe this assumption carries ". . . multiple liabilities -- possibly encouraging educational and therapeutic practices that are dysfunctional . . ." (p. 362). In addition to the continued disparity among researchers regarding traditional sex-linked roles and the role flexibility of androgyny, there have been relatively few systematic studies of intimacy in adult life (Lowenthal & Weiss, 1976).

Levinson, Darrow, Klein, Levinson, & McKee (1978) acknowledged the neglect of development and socialization in the main adult years, and established a goal to " . . . create a developmental perspective on adulthood in men" (p. x). The extensive interviews to accomplish their goal revealed an adult life structure composed of both stable and transitional periods, and the reintegration of polarities to be one of the fundamental tasks of development. Included in the task is the reintegration of the masculine/feminine polarity, which is often reflected in the distinction between thinking and feeling.

Androgyny, apparently analogous to a balanced integration of the masculine/feminine polarity, and believed by some to be related to self-disclosing behavior required for intimacy, may also vary according to the adult male's stage of development. Levinson, Darrow, Klein, Levinson, & McKee (1978) theorize that men during the developmental period of 36-40 years old, have intense strivings to be manly, and return roughly to the same balance of masculinity/femininity as those men in their early 20s. The balance in this polarity then begins to improve between the ages of 40-45 as he

reintegrates the expressive feminine dimension necessary for intimacy.

Intimacy is reportedly an important predictor of healthy psychological functioning (Miller & Lefcourt, 1982). If intimacy is correlated with androgyny, androgynous persons with balanced masculine/feminine characteristics should have higher levels of psychological functioning than the traditional sex-typed individual.

Intimacy is considered a significant personality dimension in the hierarchy of human development (Erikson 1950, 1963). Although this earliest and most basic aim of social behavior (Goldberg, 1984), is positively correlated with happiness and healthiness (Lowenthal & Haven, 1968), as well as healthy psychological and physiological functioning (Miller & Lefcourt, 1982), adult males seldom reveal even the most obvious information about themselves, and are reportedly incapable or unwilling to be known intimately.

For men to willingly abandon their traditional, time-honored, 'macho' male role, by diverting energy from being manly and instrumental to developing the

often-feared feminine and expressive side of themselves, advantages must be clearly and consistently demonstrated. If balancing masculine and feminine dimensions of the personality is a task of development, positively related to marital intimacy, which correlates with psychological maturity, male strivings toward the 'macho' image may possibly diminish, along with its appeal -- to both males and females. Females will be helped to clearly understand the changes that are implicated as men move away from the rigid male stereotype toward role flexibility, and begin to eliminate their "mixed messages" regarding expectations of male behavior.

Statement of the Problem

Intimacy is consistently reported as a vitally important need (Erikson, 1950; Maslow, 1954; Sullivan, 1953), significantly correlated with adult psychological development and marital adjustment (Waring & Chelune, 1983), and marital satisfaction (Tolstadt and Stokes, 1983). Self-disclosure, although not synonymous with intimacy, has been found to be a major component (Waring & Chelune, 1983), and

fundamental aspect (Waring, Tillman, Frelick, Russell, & Weisz, 1980) of marital intimacy.

Expressiveness, significantly correlated with self-disclosure (Stokes, Childs, & Fuehrer, 1981), is defined as a feminine trait (Waring & Chelune, 1983), which is lost in the socialization of the traditional male by the repression of his feminine characteristics. The frontier atmosphere in this society encourages a repression or suppression (Lowenthal & Weiss, 1976), and a resistance to interpersonal intimacy (McGill, 1985).

While some investigators report androgynous subjects to be more self-disclosing (Stokes, Childs, & Fuehrer, 1981), with higher levels of psychological functioning (Selva & Dusek, 1984), Tesch (1984) found traditional sex roles related to high intimacy status. A study by Orlofsky and Windle (1978) suggest that a higher level of adjustment was found for both androgynous and masculine males than for feminine males. In the study by Selva and Dusek (1984), which concluded that the androgynous sex role leads to better adjustment, the relative contribution of the masculinity score was the more important determinant of

adjustment than femininity.

In addition to the controversial findings as to whether androgyny is exemplified by higher levels of psychological functioning and intimacy, is the proposal by Levinson, Darrow, Klein, Levinson, and McKee (1978) that the balancing of the masculine and feminine polarities is related to stage of development, which is defined by age. They hypothesize that men, 36-40 years of age, are in the transition stage of Becoming One's Own Man, and during this developmental period will be less expressive.

A research plan was developed to test the ability of sex role orientation, age, and psychosocial development to predict perceived level of marital intimacy. It was hypothesized that a balance of masculine and feminine traits, known as androgyny, is related to higher levels of marital intimacy than an imbalance between masculine and feminine. Further, it was hypothesized that the masculine/feminine balance required for androgyny varies with developmental lifecycle, as Levinson, Darrow, Klein, Levinson, and McKee (1978) proposed, and consequently age will be predictive of marital intimacy.

While marital status appears to indicate the capacity for intimacy, and the maintenance of a stable intimate relationship closely associated with good mental health (Lowenthal & Haven, 1968), the relationship between the constructs of perceived marital intimacy and psychosocial maturity as measured by the full scale score of Erikson's six stages of personalty development has not yet been examined. This study measures both the husband and wife's perception of his level of marital intimacy as a first step toward understanding if these differences exist. A clearer understanding of the components correlated with marital intimacy can be inherently useful for clinicians in their work with married couples, as well as those to-be-married.

This research is designed to answer the question: "Can sex role orientation, age, and psychosocial maturity predict the husband's level of marital intimacy as perceived by him personally, or his wife?"

Definition of Terms

Developmental Periods / Age. Levinson, Darrow, Klein, Levinson, and McKee (1978) proposed a life cycle

framework for males which includes specific developmental periods in early, middle, and late adulthood. For purposes of this study, participation was not limited to these three life cycles, but includes men 22-53 years of age.

Marital Intimacy. Amount of marital intimacy is defined as the maximum level of marital intimacy currently experienced (Miller & Lefcourt, 1982). In this study, only the husbands' level of marital intimacy is measured as reported by both him and his wife. The total score on the 17-item Miller Social Intimacy Scale ranges between 17 and 170 points, and is used to operationally define the husband's level of marital intimacy. Higher scores reflect higher levels of frequency and intensity of marital intimacy.

Psychosocial Maturity. Psychosocial maturity is determined by the full scale score on the Inventory of Psychosocial Development, and " . . . is intended as a measure of an individual's current standing with respect to the personality components associated with Erikson's first 6 stages of development" (Waterman & Whitbourne, 1981, p. 20). The full scale score for each husband will be derived from the sixty-item, 6

stage questionnaire by summing across the 6 stage scores. Stage scores range from 5 to 35, with higher scores indicative of increased levels of psychosocial maturity.

Sex Role Orientation. This construct is intended " . . . to assess the extent to which the culture's definition of desirable female and male attributes are reflected in an individual's self-description" (Bem, 1979, p. 1048). The 7-point scale of the Bem Sex Role Inventory was used to measure masculine and feminine characteristics, and has a range of 20 to 140 points for each attribute. Each husband's total score for the 20 masculine and 20 feminine items was used to assess sex role orientation, as well as the relative contribution of each in predicting marital intimacy.

Limitations

This study is limited to university students enrolled in business or law school, and their wives. The sample is mostly Caucasian, lower-to-upper middle class, married males attending a private university. Therefore, one should be cautious when generalizing to other populations.

It is possible that length of marriage, number of previous marriages, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, educational level, and religious affiliation also may have an effect on the variables being measured in this study.

The research design was causal comparative and predictive. Generalizations to cause and effect explanations are speculative and will not be confirmed by the data.

Statement of the Hypotheses

The above suggests a relationship between self-disclosure and marital intimacy, with androgyny related to self-disclosure, psychosocial development, and masculine/feminine integration. It appears plausible, therefore, that sex role orientation, age and psychosocial development are predictive of marital intimacy.

Research Hypotheses

The .05 level of significance was established to test the following hypotheses for adult married males.

1. The squared multiple regression coefficient

between sex-role orientation (BSRI masculine and feminine scores), developmental period (age), psychosocial development (PM score), and marital intimacy (MSIS score), as perceived by the husband, is not statistically significant.

2. The squared multiple regression coefficient between sex-role orientation (BSRI masculine and feminine scores), developmental period (age), psychosocial development (PM score), and marital intimacy (MSIS/Wife score), as perceived by the wife, is not statistically significant.

Organization of the Study

The significance of the study, limitations, statement of the problem, definition of terms, statement of the hypotheses, and research hypotheses are present in Chapter I. The literature reviewed and pertinent to this study is included in Chapter II. The design and methodology, which includes a discussion of the population sampled, data-gathering procedures, instruments, methodology, and statistical analysis of the data are discussed in Chapter III. Chapter IV contains the results of the study, and in Chapter V are

found the summary, conclusions, and recommendations.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED RESEARCH

Human development and intimacy have been the focus of many investigators who have attempted to understand these concepts both independently and jointly. Human development has been theorized about from a great number of perspectives, but perhaps most notably from psychoanalytic tradition (Freud), ego psychology (Erikson), and analytical psychology (Jung). Erikson's theory, with its emphasis on the conscious and the ego, appears to be most amenable to empirical investigation, and has provided " . . . a rich source of hypotheses for study . . . " (Hall & Lindzey, 1985, p. 104).

Intimacy, conceptualized by Erikson as a developmental crisis occurring between the ages of 20-30, is a response to inner laws to trustingly share oneself in friendship, working, and/or sexual relationships.

The unsuccessful resolution of this crisis may

produce varying degrees of isolation and distancing techniques to prohibit closeness.

More investigation is needed to understand barriers to the resolution of this stage, and consequently in achieving intimacy in interpersonal relationships. Investigators to date offer varying answers on how to define intimacy, how to measure it, and how human development is influenced as a result of its presence, or absence.

Importance of Intimacy

Intimacy is widely accepted as an important aspect of interpersonal relationships (Waring, McElrath, Lefcoe, & Weisz, 1981). Erikson (1950, 1963) believed intimacy to be a significant dimension and included it in his hierarchy of human development. Goldberg (1984) addressing the role of intimacy in human development, states " . . . the earliest and most basic aim of social behavior is the striving for intimate relations with a caring other" (p. 517).

Studies of intimate relations by researchers in the fields of age and life-span analysis, positively correlated intimacy within a stable heterosexual

relationship with happiness and healthiness in the later stages of the lifespan (Lowenthal & Haven, 1968). Lowenthal and Weiss (1976) propose that the presence of intimate dyadic relationships is the foundation for autonomous, self-generative and satisfying lives, with intimate disclosure occurring more often in marital relationships (Jourard & Lasokow, 1958).

In addition to the psychological benefits of intimacy, there is a growing body of knowledge which suggests that intimacy is an important predictor of healthy psychological and physiological functioning (Miller & Lefcourt, 1982). A five-year prospective study of new angina pectoris cases in married men, found that the risk was significantly reduced if the respondent perceived his wife as loving and supportive (Medalie & Goldbourt, 1976).

Waring, McElrath, Lefcoe, and Weisz (1981) found personal identity and accurate perception of spouse to be significant correlates of marital intimacy. Self-disclosure was identified by Waring, Tillman, Frelick, Russell, & Weisz (1980) as a fundamental aspect of marital intimacy, as well as parental interpersonal

intimacy, with sexual satisfaction less important than previously suggested in definitions of intimacy.

While studies infer the importance of intimacy for normal human development and adaptive capability, the minimum or maximum required, or the ideal amount or degree of intimacy for any person is not known (Schaefer & Olson, 1981).

Definitions of Intimacy

Erikson (1983) describes intimacy as the most positive quality of life, the " . . . very medium of love" whose counterpart is the threat of isolation. He believes intimacy is " . . . decisive for the strength and quality of adult love" (p. 9). He reports an awareness among clinicians of the tendency of adolescent patients to flee from early love into isolation.

The work of Dahms (1972) and Clinebell and Clinebell (1970) were integrated by Olson (1975) to conceptually define intimacy. The result was to identify seven types of intimacy (emotional, social, intellectual, sexual, recreational, spiritual, and aesthetic intimacy), and distinguish intimate

experiences from intimate relationships. The first five types of intimacy were selected for research by Schaefer and Olson (1981) as a global measure of general attitude about marriage.

Lewis (1978) chose to describe intimacy behaviorally in terms of mutual self-disclosure, verbalizations of liking or loving the other, and affectionate hugging and non-genital caressing. Tolstedt and Stokes (1983) acknowledged the importance of verbal self-disclosure to intimacy, but expanded verbal intimacy to include breadth, depth, and valence. In addition, they added two additional types, affective intimacy and physical intimacy to explore marital satisfaction. They found verbal and affective intimacy to be more predictive of marital satisfaction than physical intimacy.

Wynne and Wynne (1986) defined intimacy as a subjective experience wherein trusting self-disclosure is responded to with communicated empathy. The empathic feedback indicates that what one has said is acknowledged and accepted, not as a final truth, but as a place to mutually build further understanding and

continue communication toward a stronger commitment. They propose an epigenetic model of relational systems that describe couple relationships as being in process and in a developmental sequence. These four processes include: attachment/caregiving, communicating, joint problem solving, and mutuality. Mutuality is an integration of the three previous processes which creates a multidimensional relatedness for those in the relationship. Because intimacy is seen as elusive and episodic, as well as culture-dependent, it was not included as a primary relational process in their epigenetic model. They speculate that intimate moments are a possible subjective corollary of their proposed relational processes. According to these authors, it is not self-disclosure alone that produces intimacy, but the mutual

willingness to share, verbally or non-verbally, personal feelings, fantasies, and emotionally meaningful experiences and actions, positive or negative, with the expectation and trust that the other person will emotionally comprehend, accept what has been revealed, and will not betray or exploit

this trust" (p. 384).

Miller and Lefcourt (1982) in reviewing various investigators' techniques to assess marital relationships found many of them using a single question about quality, a few questions to determine confidants, or simply marital status to assess intimacy. Other researchers had developed measures of related constructs, such as closeness in the context of marriage, and loneliness, but no measure yet " . . . developed to assess intimacy per se, in the context of various interpersonal relationships" (p. 515). Miller and Lefcourt (1982), attempted to develop such an instrument. The Miller Social Intimacy Scale measures the maximum frequency and intensity level of intimacy currently experienced in the context of friendship or marriage. Constantinople's Inventory of Psychosocial Development assesses Erikson's sixth stage of development, intimacy vs. isolation, with five specific questions relative to self-disclosure.

Gender Differences and Intimacy

Research, the mass media, and in between, the popularizers of "psychology," share an increasingly

pervasive theme of complaint: lack of "real" communication between the sexes, between the generations, and among humankind in general" (Lowenthal & Weiss, 1976, p.11). Lowenthal and Weiss (1976) do not see the striving for interpersonal intimacy as the result of nostalgia, but rather a conscious or preconscious realization that

. . . the traditional norms of our society, and the frontier atmosphere within which these norms developed and continue to influence our educational familial systems, as well as our communications media, have resulted in the repression or suppression of what, next to the dire necessities of life, is perhaps the basic human need (p. 11).

Wynne and Wynne (1986), tracking the evolution of relatedness, believe there was too much intimacy in colonial America. The pervasive surveillance of the small extrafamilial community, and the continuous interplay of self-disclosure and societal feedback, eventually brought about a formality in relatedness in an attempt to preserve distance. Intimacy in America was not something to be sought, but rather to be

limited and contained. Intimacy emerged as a need after the experience of disconnectedness between people which happened as a result of rapid urbanization and industrial development.

According to Pleck and Sawyer (1974), the traditional socialization of the male to win, be independent, and powerful discourage the vulnerability required for emotional expressiveness, and establishes a barrier to both sexual and emotional intimacy.

Levenson (1984), believes gender-specific difficulties with intimacy are related to autonomous functioning. These difficulties result from child-rearing practices and surface in the context of intimate relationships in which ". . . boundary issues and autonomous functioning is evident," and in this context, the male "seems to feel in jeopardy of being overwhelmed, engulfed, and of losing autonomy" (p. 535). Levenson further believes that it is the female who clearly demonstrates a developmental deficit within intimate relationships, which is due to her primitive identification with mother.

Rubin (1983) theorizes that it is the male and his mother and the separation-individuation process that is

the source of intimacy difficulties for men. In shifting their identification from mother to father as very young boys, she believes their earliest emotional connections are severed. The shifting and severing requires that boys learn to deny their inner thoughts, wishes, needs and fears; the emotional side of them is buried with the belief that emotions are irrational and weak. With these well-learned lessons of childhood, males set themselves up to be incapable of intimacy even as adults by wearing masks of rationality and strength. McGill (1985) writes that men resist intimacy due to socialization, lack of motivation and knowledge of how to be intimate. He proposes that men's upbringing reinforces unemotional, undemonstrative, unloving behavior, and believes the unwillingness to overcome this socialization is due in part to homophobia, fear of self-awareness, and loss of power. He also believes that intimacy is contingent upon the ability to experience oneself and the world at the feeling level.

Research on male friendships suggests that most males are not very intimate with other males (Olstad, 1975; Powers & Bultena, 1976), and even though they

more often report same-sex friends than do females (Lewis, 1978), they disclose themselves much more to their closest female friend than to their closest male friend (Komarovsky, 1974).

The literature indicates that males and females often differ in their expectations, perceptions, and need for intimacy. An intimacy questionnaire was devised and several hundred interviews conducted to test empirically the conventional wisdom that men and women love differently. In summary of his data and personal stories of men and their wives, lovers, families and friends, McGill (1985) contends that "the problem with men is the problem of men . . . the difference between men and women is that women show their love and men do not" (p. xvii).

McGill (1985) believes that love, intimacy, and being close mean very different things to men and women. He found that men see sex as 'the' expression of love, while women typically view sex "as only one dimension of a relationship; and a very poor measure of intimacy" (p. 191).

His findings also suggest that males and females disagree as to what kinds of personal information a

relationship requires, with men seldom revealing deeply valued personal information, even to long-term partners, because of their perceived threats of vulnerability. Because real intimacy and love are not possible without voluntary disclosure, or revealing of oneself: ". . . disclosure behaviors have significant implications as to how husbands love and how wives in turn feel loved by their husbands. They lie at the root of what is reported to be missing from so many marriages" (p. 38). His intimacy survey revealed that many husbands do not voluntarily tell their wives even the most obvious information about themselves.

Consistent with many other researchers in this area, McGill (1985) describes the ". . . ability or inclination to share one's personal response, to discuss the why and how of one's personal emotional reaction with a loved one is the measure of love" (p. 56). Further, his findings were that a number of men ". . . neither needs nor desires the kind of closeness that comes from the disclosure of one's personal self" (p. 54), and because ". . . he thinks that he does enough or that disclosure would not help him or be worth his effort, he chooses not to do it"

(p. 73). He describes this attitude as self-centered and self-serving, with little thought given to how the wife and/or the marriage might be helped by these disclosures.

McGill reports that the same dynamics that operate to keep men distanced from their wives and families "are in high gear where friendships are concerned" (p. 177), and it is often a point of crisis before men fully appreciate how alone they really are. Jourard (1971) and McGill (1985) both found that males reveal much less personal information to others than women do.

McGill believes men must be helped to understand that ". . . their lack of intimacy, and their inability to love, limits their ability to act powerfully in relationships" (p. 255). He believes if men can learn to experience themselves and the world at the feeling level, and disclose to others in loving relationships, they will be ". . . empowered rather than emasculated" (p. 255), and be all that they can be. This definition is markedly different from the power portrayed in John Wayne movies through force, authority, and control.

Psychosocial development and intimacy

Erikson's position on identity formation implies that the ". . . attainment of intimacy is necessary for a strong identity in women -- a reversal of the sequence characterizing masculine development" (Tesch & Whitbourne, 1982, p. 1041), and ". . . although the developmental sequence is different for females than males, attainment of intimacy is associated with ego-identity in both sexes" (p. 1043).

Orlofsky (1978) examined the relationship of intimacy status (Intimate, Preintimate, Pseudointimate, Stereotyped relationships, and Isolate) and antecedent personality components in young adults of college age. Higher intimacy statuses were positively linearly correlated with Erikson's six personality components. Difficulties of basic trust, autonomy, and identity were related respectively with the Isolate, Pseudointimate and Stereotyped, and Preintimate Statuses. The Intimates and Preintimates scored high on the Intimacy subscale, while the scores for the Isolate were low.

Tesch and Whitbourne (1982) modified and expanded Orlofsky's intimacy status measure for use with adults

and investigated the relation of intimacy and ego-identity status. Their findings included no significant sex differences on either measures of intimacy or identity, while supporting Erikson's theory (1963), that intimacy status is generally related to identity status.

Orlofsky's coping styles were used to categorize the intimacy statuses of subjects to determine whether such placement would be predictive of the development of emotional, physical and intellectual intimacy (Prager, 1983). The three levels of intimacy originated from the work of Dahms (1972) who proposed that elements of intimacy are acquired hierarchially, specifically, intellectual, physical, and emotional. Prager's major hypothesis that individuals in the intimate status would score higher in emotional and intellectual intimacy was upheld only for women. The prediction that intimate Status individuals would be older than those of other statuses was partially supported for both sexes. McAdams and Valliant (1982) found support for their hypothesis that intimacy motivation at age 30 would be positively associated with subsequent psychosocial adjustment in mid-age.

Lack of Intimacy and the Consequences

The difficulties experienced in male/female relationships is evident in the spiraling divorce statistics, and the confusion expressed by couples seeking professional help for their failing marriages. This is a significant issue in many respects, and particularly noteworthy is the relationship of the significantly higher suicide rate among males, especially divorced males, and the absence of a loving, close male relationship (Goethals, 1976). Gove (1973) in a review of data on unmarried individuals reported higher rates of psychiatric disorders, as well as suicide, accidents, lung cancer, tuberculosis, diabetes, and even homicide. Miller and Lefcourt (1983) found that persons engaged in more intimate relationships are less vulnerable to potential stressors.

The conventional script accepted by many males directs them to be manly, and in so doing powerfully limits the degree of intimacy males are able to attain. Masculine males were found to display less emotionality than do androgynous or more feminine males (Bem, Martyna, & Watson, 1976), and the masculine role was

found by Jourard (1971) to be burdensome, stressful, a drain on personal energy, and consequently related to males' relatively shorter life span.

Intimacy is a vital dimension of the personality, assigned to the stage of young adulthood and its " . . . solution is decisive for the strength and quality of adult love" (Erikson, 1983, p. 9). The mature outcome of the intimacy crisis allows an individual, according to Erikson (1983), to be " . . . eager and willing to fuse (one's) identity with that of others" and " . . . to be able to face the fear of ego loss in situations which call for self-abandon . . . " (p. 263).

The implications of psychological and physiological health for those who experience interpersonal intimacy is obvious, and lends support to the value of understanding the factors which enhance intimacy.

Psychosocial Development

Human development is integral to ways of interrelating with one another, and ego analyst, Erik Erikson proposes an interactional view of development

"which encompasses biological, social, and individual components . . ." (Grinder, 1973, p. 33). His theory conceptualizes eight stages of psychosocial development, each of which presents a potential crisis which emerges from societal demands, and the "configuration of an individual's personality is determined by the manner in which these stage-specific crisis are resolved" (Waterman & Whitbourne, 1982, p. 122). The components of the first 6 stages are: Basic Trust vs. Basic Mistrust, Autonomy vs. Shame and Doubt, Initiative vs. Guilt, Industry vs. Inferiority, Identity vs. Identity Diffusion, and Intimacy vs. Isolation.

Erikson's theory of psychosocial development has attracted the attention of many personality researchers (Hall & Lindzey, 1985), and has generated extensive studies with children and adolescents. Although there had been relatively few systematic studies of intimacy in adult life (Lowenthal & Weiss, 1976) " . . . behavioral and social scientists are increasingly focusing on problems of adulthood and aging, [and] Erikson (1982) has turned his attention to these later stages of the life cycle" (Hall & Lindzey, 1985,

p. 102).

Valliant and Milofsky (1980) found support for Erikson's theory that humans develop in predetermined steps which must be passed through sequentially, and because development is contingent upon individual readiness, the " . . . age at which a given stage is mastered varies enormously" (p. 1348). Gruen (1964) reported consistently positive correlations between Erikson's 8 stages of development, and support for his hypothesis of interdependence of ego dimensions and their proposed hierarchical order.

Constantinople (1969) cited empirical support for Erikson's theory with consistent increases with age in the successful resolution of identity. Decreases in the unsuccessful resolution of identity diffusion, however, were found only for males and not females, suggesting a clearer pattern of increasing maturity for males. Using Constantinople's 1965 sample, and current college undergraduates, Whitbourne and Waterman (1979) found predictable changes in the adult personality, that both sexes changed in the expected direction, but they concluded that the reasons for changes differed for females and males. Females were believed to have

been changed by the cultural environment, while male changes strongly suggested a pattern of stage-related ontogenetic development.

In 1976, Levenson, Darrow, Klein, Levenson and McKee cited " . . . tremendous neglect of development and socialization in the main adult years, roughly 20-65 . . . " (p. 21), and defined their goal to " . . . create a developmental perspective on adulthood in men" (p. x). They spent several years conducting extensive interviews with adult males and incorporated these findings with biographical data into a life cycle framework for studying adult development from early to late adulthood. They propose that the adult life structure includes a sequence of alternating stable and transitional periods, and fundamental tasks of reintegrating several polarities.

For the men in their study, they found the masculine/feminine integration task to be of great importance, suggesting that " . . . feelings about masculinity and femininity enter into a man's gender identity -- his sense of who he is as a man, who he wants to be, and who he is terrified of being (p. 229). These gender distinctions are believed to result from

powerful childhood messages and internal images derived from significant relationships and experiences, and develop " . . . attitudes, wishes and fantasies about the masculine and feminine in himself and about his relationships with other men and women" (p. 229). Although there has been a gradual decrease in what is believed to be an ancient practice, considerable splitting along gender lines still exists in social institutions and individual lives.

Young men may vary enormously in the degree the feminine part of themselves is inhibited or split off from the conscious ego, but the importance of manliness seems consistent. The difficulty in integrating these two dimensions stems in part from both culture and personal immaturity (Levinson, Darrow, Klein, Levinson, & McKee, 1978, p. 225).

Acknowledging that their hypotheses have not been fully validated, they suggest that males work out a partial integration of the masculinity/femininity polarity in the late teens and early 20's (early adult transition), and ". . . resolve the conflicts further during the age thirty transition (28-33) (P.236). In the late 30's (36-40), they found an intense striving

to achieve a manly position in the world, and that men in this period have roughly the same balance of masculinity/femininity as those in the early 20's. The balance of the masculine/feminine polarities appears to finally start to improve in the mid-life transition (ages 40-45) with the process of reclaiming " . . . the qualities he formerly denied in himself and projected onto women" (p. 237). "He will then be able to love a woman for herself, rather than providing what he cannot accept in himself" (p. 237); they become " . . . freer to enjoy the erotic aspects of their relationship without having to be directly sexual" (p. 239).

This period of mid-life transition was of special importance to these investigators who theorized that changing relations to women during this time may be due to the changing relation to the self -- a time of healing old psychic wounds and " . . . learning to love formerly devalued aspects of the self" (p. 25). Although they believe that every developmental transition presents the opportunity and necessity of moving toward a new integration of the polarities (including the masculine/feminine polarity), it is

especially critical during the mid-life period.

They further speculate that the specific resistance to integrate the masculine/feminine polarity lies in the fact that many men see power as masculine, and weakness as feminine, with the polarity often reflected in the distinction between thinking and feeling. Extreme polarization is exemplified by the truly masculine thinking machine who only allows feelings concerned with assertiveness, rivalry and task attainment; disallowed are those that " . . . involve dependency, intimacy, grief, sensuality, vulnerability. Such feelings are associated with childishness and femininity" (p. 233).

Although Levinson and his colleagues underline the need for men to form " . . . relatively enduring relationships with women as well as men . . . and to live out in some measure both the 'masculine' and 'feminine' aspects of the self" (p. 107), in light of the difficulties inherent in relationships with women, they find it a small wonder " . . . that relating to the feminine in others and in himself should be a lifelong developmental task" (p. 106).

The thinking of Levinson and his colleagues (1978)

about adult development grew out of " . . . an intellectual tradition formed by Freud, Jung and Erikson (p. 5). They considered Carl Jung to be the father of modern study of adult development, with Erik Erikson's work providing " . . . a historical and intellectual link between Freud and Jung" (p. 5).

Schwartz (1979) views androgyny as analogous to transcendence of male/female polarities. He believes the androgynous self to be the most highly developed self, and capable of the highest form of emotional/sexual intimacy.

Neugarten (1976) in her report on adaptation cited the period beginning at age 40 as a time which emphasizes " . . . introspection and stock-taking, upon conscious reappraisal of the self. . . . Preoccupation with the inner life seems to become greater; emotional cathexes toward persons and objects in the outer world decreases" (p. 17). Consistent with Jung's theory (1959), Levinson, Darrow, Klein, Levinson, & McKee (1978) believe that the male's projection of his anima (or inner self) onto a special woman with the expectation of his dream's fulfillment, results in both people feeling cheated. Johnson (1983) agrees, and

writes that it is this phenomenon of the Western World that creates relational distortions and disillusionment.

A man's greater understanding of predictable life cycles can, according to Neugarten (1976) help " . . . differentiate the healthy adult personality from the unhealthy" (p. 218). Thus, the ability to anticipate and share experiences of predictable periods and common polarity issues should allow smoother transitions for males. Additionally, counselors may be helped in identifying the splitting off of the feminine dimension of a man's personality and his projection of that dimension onto woman, which may be present and detrimental to marital intimacy.

Sex Role Orientation

It seems logical that androgynous persons, described as having integrated high levels and a balance of masculine and feminine traits, is a construct for describing the developmental task of integrating previously split-off masculine/feminine polarities of the personality, however, the linking of these concepts has only been suggested (Schwartz,

1979).

Some researchers argue that it is the masculine dimension and its contribution to androgyny that leads to higher levels of adjustment (Jones, Chernovetz, & Hansson, 1978; Kelly & Worrell, 1977; Taylor & Hall, 1982). Waterman and Whitbourne (1981) found that "the endorsement of feminine qualities in conjunction with masculine traits makes a contribution over and above that made by the endorsement of masculine traits alone" (p. 130), providing support for the view of Bem of the added adaptive capacity of the androgynous orientation.

In the judgment of Gilligan (1982), the qualities of individuation, autonomy, and achievement deemed by some to be marks of maturity reflect a perspective that is out of balance. She supports the need for connection to others and interdependence of love and care, often regarded as a weakness of women, rather than emphasis on separateness.

Orlofsky and Windle (1978) report that androgynous sex-role orientation leads to greater behavioral flexibility and higher levels of self-esteem and personal adjustment than a sex typed or cross-sex typed orientation. They also observed " . . . high levels of

adjustment . . . for those subjects whose sex-role scores are consistent with their gender, that is, only in high masculinity (masculine and androgynous) males and high femininity (feminine and androgynous) females" (p. 809). They found cross-sex typed subjects (masculine females and feminine males) to be no better adjusted than undifferentiated subjects.

Some researchers have reported traditional masculine roles as barriers to intimacy (Goldberg, 1979, 1983; McGill, 1985); others that traditional sex roles are related to high intimacy status (Tesch, 1984). Waterman and Whitbourne (1982) found scores on the Intimacy versus Isolation scale of the Inventory of Psychosocial Development were highest for androgynous participants, followed in order by feminine, masculine, and undifferentiated sex-role orientations.

Kiley (1983) writes that failure to outgrow stereotypical sex roles is more prevalent with males than females. "Socio-political events of the past two decades have changed the traditional rules. The girls have been given a new script; unfortunately the boys are left with the old one" (p. 112). Because of the barriers for a male to cross into traditional feminine

territory, and actualize both the masculine and feminine sides of his personality, he proposes that an imbalance is created. This imbalance, according to Kiley (1983) creates the sex role conflict in certain males and makes them prime candidates for the 'Peter Pan Syndrome' in which males refuse to grow up, choosing instead to behave like lost children by copping out on mature responsibilities.

Bowen and Orthner (1983), acknowledging the central importance of sex-role attitudes, postulated that congruent sex-role attitudes of husbands and wives were related to the quality of their relationship. Their findings were that it was the configuration of sex-role attitudes of spouses that affected marital quality; and that marriages with the " . . . lowest evaluation of marital quality were those with a traditional husband and a modern wife" (p. 228).

Taylor and Hall (1982) in reviewing the literature on psychological androgyny, report that investigations in support of androgyny assert that " . . . masculinity and femininity are not necessarily mutually exclusive; (and) second, that for individuals of both sexes it is a disadvantage to be sex typed"

(p. 347).

Theories of sex-typing

Four theories of sex typing are reported to be particularly influential relative to this phenomenon: psychoanalytic theory; social learning theory; cognitive-development theory; and gender schema theory (Taylor & Hall, 1982). Psychoanalytic theory's 'anatomy is destiny' view holds that the child's identification with the same-sex parent is the primary mechanism whereby children become sex typed. In contrast, social learning theorists emphasize that sex-appropriate and inappropriate behavior are learned through a series of rewards and punishments, as well as the vicarious learning of observation and modeling. Cognitive-developmental theory sees the child as the primary agent for sex role socialization. The child is motivated by the need for cognitive consistency to self-categorize and adopt those values that are similar in terms of gender. Gender Schema Theory is a theory of process, not content, in which the schema becomes a guide. The individual is internally motivated to regulate behavior to conform to cultural definitions of

maleness and femaleness.

The developing child, according to Bem (1983) ". . . invariably learns his or her society's cultural definitions of femaleness and maleness" and how ". . . to encode and to organize information in terms of an evolving gender schema (p. 603). She believes that children become sex typed as a result of society's ". . . insistence on the functional importance of the gender dichotomy" (p. 609). Her theory incorporates the positions of Kagan (1964) and Kohlberg (1966) ". . . that sex-typed individuals have an internalized sex role standard and are motivated to maintain consistency between their behavior and this standard . . . (and) accomplishes this by suppressing behaviors that violate the sex role standard" (Lubinski, Tellegen, & Butcher, 1981). Because sex-typed individuals are constrained and unable to freely engaged in both masculine and feminine behaviors, she endorses the development and integration of masculine and feminine attributes into the personality, and developed a sex role orientation instrument to measure these independent dimensions. Erikson is "in accord with Bem in taking exception to the stereotypic images of masculinity and femininity

for their lack of flexibility and their stultifying consequences" (Waterman & Whitbourne, 1982, p. 125). He discusses the males' fear of femininity, a strong, negative emotion learned in childhood, and, according to Jung (1959), often unconscious. Goldberg (1979) lists feminine characteristics men avoid: expressing emotions and pain, asking for help, paying attention to diet and alcohol consumption, self-care, dependence, and being touched. Conversely, he concludes that masculinity means limited need for sleep, endurance of pain, extensive alcohol consumption, nutritional disregard, emotional independence, and repression.

Schwartz (1979) shared the view that sex-appropriate gender/role identifications have inherent limitations, and described the concept of androgyny as a transcendence of male/female polarities toward a synthesis or unity. He agrees that basic gender identification is fixed around age two, but that sex-role characteristics and values can continue to change throughout childhood and adolescence, and further, that the androgynous self is the most capable of intimacy.

SUMMARY

The review of literature was intended to incorporate the relevant research in the areas of intimacy, adult development from the perspectives of both Erikson and Levinson et al, as well as sex role orientation and integration of masculine/feminine polarities. Although there is some doubt as to the need for the word 'androgyny' as an umbrella, there appears to be agreement of the relevance in understanding both the quantitative and qualitative effects of masculine and feminine dimensions of the personality on personal and interpersonal functioning.

Erikson's sequential stages of psychosocial development seem consistently supported in the literature, with some evidence that males and females develop somewhat differently, and perhaps for different reasons. The developmental periods proposed by Levinson and his colleagues are hypothetical, and in need of research to substantiate their theories. They do, however, provide a conceptual framework for looking at adult development, and suggest that age of the male will influence his level of marital intimacy.

Research pertinent to the male's relational

capabilities and interest in emotional intimacy suggests that he is greatly hampered by his socialization to be autonomous, rational and non-feeling. The resultant costs for this lack of intimacy reportedly include decreases in both his physical and psychological health.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY AND INSTRUMENTATION

This study was designed to investigate the ability of psychosocial maturity, sex role orientation, and age to predict perceived marital intimacy of adult men. This chapter presents a description of the methodology, instrumentation, and statistical analyses used in this study.

Methodology

Research Design

A causal-comparative design was chosen for this study in which each of the events measured had already occurred. This design allowed investigation of possible cause-and-effect relationships between variables by observing existing consequences and seeking out plausible causal factors.

An experimental design was not appropriate because it was not possible to control and manipulate the

factors under investigation. This lack of control creates difficulty in being certain that the relevant causative factor is actually among the variables. In spite of this weakness, the study yielded important information about the usefulness of psychosocial maturity, age, and masculine/feminine traits to predict marital intimacy for adult men. The BSRI was used as a measure of their masculine and feminine attributes, and the full scale IPD provided the husband's psychosocial maturity score. The MSIS and MSIS/Wife both provided a score on his level of marital intimacy, as perceived by him, and by her, respectively.

Two univariate standard multiple regression analyses were performed to examine the data. One multiple regression procedure was used to measure each the husband's and the wife's perception of his level of marital intimacy. In each univariate analysis, the predictor variables were age, psychosocial maturity, and masculine and feminine traits. The criterion variable in each method was perceived marital intimacy of the husband.

Subjects

A total of 137 married couple volunteers were the sample for this study. Participation in this study was limited to husbands enrolled in business or law departments of a private university, and their wives. The university is located in a large southwestern city. Married male volunteers were solicited during class periods.

Marriage and family characteristics and data of the sample was acquired from information provided on the General Information Forms (Appendices B and C). Approximately 90 percent of this sample of married males and their wives were Caucasian. The average length of present marriages was found to be 7.69 years, with 84.3 percent of the participants in their first marriages. A total of 80 percent of the couples had a family income greater than \$25,000 per year. Individual, marriage, and family data are summarized for both the husband and wife in Tables 1 and 2. Ages of the male participants, and the number of years in their present marriage are found in Table 3.

The Inventory of Psychosocial Development (IPD) and Bem Sex Role Inventory (BSRI) completed only by the

Table 1

Marriage and Family Characteristics of the Sample

Characteristics	Husband	Wife
Years in Present Marriage		
Range	1 to 30	1 to 30
Average	7.69	7.69
Children in Present Marriage		
Range	0 to 5	0 to 5
Average	1.18	1.18
Previous Marriages		
Range	0 to 4	0 to 3
None	84.3%	84.3%
Family Income		
\$50,000 or more	29.3%	
\$25,000 - \$49,999	50.7%	
\$20,000 - \$24,999	8.6%	
\$15,000 - \$19,999	6.4%	
\$10,000 - \$14,999	3.6%	
\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999	0.7%	
Under \$5,000	0.7%	

Table 2

Demographic Information for Husbands and Wives

Characteristics	Husband	Wife
<u>Age</u>		
Range	22-53	20-52
Average	32	31
<u>Race</u>		
Caucasian	89.3%	90.0%
Black	2.1%	2.1%
Hispanic	5.0%	5.0%
Oriental	0.7%	1.4%
American Indian	2.1%	0.7%
Other	0.7%	0.7%
<u>Husband's Degree Program</u>		
BS/BA	18.6%	
MS/MA	42.1%	
Ph.D/Ed.D	2.1%	
J.D.	36.4%	
Other	0.7%	

(table continued)

Characteristics	Husband	Wife
<u>Wife's Level of Education</u>		
Some College	28.6%	
College Degree	44.3%	
Graduate Work/Master	7.9%	
Graduate Degree/Master	10.0%	
Graduate Work/Doctorate	0.7%	
Medical Degree	2.1%	
Other	6.4%	

husband provided a measure of his level of psychosocial maturity and masculine and feminine traits. The median full scores of masculinity (102) and femininity (92) from the 1978 normative sample of Stanford University students were used to establish categories of high and low masculinity and femininity. In this sample, the median masculinity score was 109, and femininity score was 93, resulting in 69.3 percent being considered high in masculinity, and 56.4 percent high in femininity.

Procedure

Participating married males were volunteers from

Table 3

Years in Present Marriage, and Age of Male Participants

Years in Present Marriage	Male Participant Average Age	N
1	26.0	17
2	29.4	16
3	31.4	9
4	31.6	11
5	29.5	14
6	31.0	7
7	32.0	6
8	32.6	5
9	30.9	11
10	34.7	3
11	35.0	4
12	35.0	5
13	36.6	5
14	39.5	4
15	38.3	3
16	38.0	2
17	38.0	1

(table continues)

Years in Present Marriage	Male Participant Average Age	N
18	43.2	4
20	42.0	5
21	44.0	1
22	41.0	1
23	46.0	1
24	43.0	1
30	50.0	1

business and law classes at a private university. An introduction of the researcher, the academic reasons for gathering the information, and a statement regarding confidentiality were included in the classroom solicitation.

Each male volunteer took an envelope which contained a cover letter, General Information Sheet, and three questionnaires for himself. Included with his materials was a sealed envelope marked "Wife" which contained her cover letter, General Information Sheet, one questionnaire, and an envelope in which to seal and

return her responses. Both cover letters to the participants (See Appendices B and C) explained procedure, promised confidentiality, and stated an expected return date. Postage-paid, self-addressed envelopes were provided for return of the questionnaires.

Each male was asked to independently complete the Bem Sex Role Inventory (BSRI), the Inventory of Psychosocial Development (IPD), the Miller Social Intimacy Scale (MSIS), and the General Information Form. The wife of each of the male participants was requested in her cover letter to work individually to complete a modified form of the MSIS (MSIS/Wife, Appendix C). This instrument was used to measure her perception of the husband's level of marital intimacy.

In each class, the volunteers were invited to a meeting for a discussion of the general findings of the research, and informed that the time and place of this presentation would be announced in their college newspaper. Demographic data was compiled for the sample from the completed General Information Forms (Appendices B and C).

Instrumentation

Bem Sex Role Inventory

A study of psychological androgyny by Cook (1985) includes a review of the present methods of measurement for androgyny. She reports that although both Bem, and Spence and Helmreich have had a significant impact on theory and research, Bem's instrument has a more expansive focus and is the one " . . . particularly adopted by professionals" (p. 36). After an examination of her findings, and a survey of the available instruments and current literature, the Bem Sex Role Inventory (BSRI) was selected for measuring masculine/feminine traits. The BSRI was designed by Bem (1974) " . . . to assess the extent to which the culture's definition of desirable female and male attributes are reflected in an individual's self-description" (Bem, 1979, p. 1048). The BSRI was not used in this study to categorize subjects by sex role orientation, namely, masculine, feminine, undifferentiated, or androgynous. Rather, it was used as a means of providing a score for each male subject on his masculine and feminine traits, and the median raw score from the 1978 Stanford University study used

to determine high and low masculine and feminine traits, and whether an interaction existed between the traits.

The BSRI contains a list of 60 personality characteristics in which masculinity and femininity are treated as two independent dimensions. There are 20 masculine, 20 feminine, and 20 neutral adjectives, and respondents of the BSRI rate themselves on each characteristic using a 7-point scale.

The BSRI items can be answered by one of seven alternatives: (a) never or almost never true, (b) usually not true, (c) sometimes but infrequently true, (d) occasionally true, (e) often true, (f) usually true, and (g) always or almost always true. A final score is derived by summing the ratings for the masculine adjectives, and the feminine adjectives. In this study, the total scores for masculine and feminine traits were used rather than computing average scores. Median total scores from the 1978 normative sample of Stanford University students are used to classify participants into categories of high and low masculinity and femininity.

Norms. Normative data was collected on male and

female students in introductory psychology at Stanford University. Male and female paid volunteers were used at Foothill Junior College.

Validity. Sex differences on the masculinity and femininity BSRI scales have been substantiated by many studies. Bem (1974) found males scored significantly higher ($X = 4.97$ and 4.96) than females ($X = 4.57$ and 4.55) on the masculinity scale ($p < .001$). Conversely, the females scored significantly higher ($X = 5.01$ and 5.08) than the males ($X = 4.44$ and 4.62) on the femininity scale ($p < .001$). Correlations between BSRI and an androgyny scale developed from the Personality Research Form (PRF ANDRO) masculinity and femininity scales were $.68$ and $.61$, respectively, for the combined sexes. Additionally, correlations between the BSRI and the Personal Attributes Questionnaire (PAQ) were $.75$ for males and $.73$ for females on the Masculinity subscale, and $.57$ for males and $.59$ for females on the Femininity subscale.

Reliability. Internal consistency of scale content is found generally to be high, and the masculinity scales yielded somewhat higher coefficients than the femininity scales ($M = .88$, $F = .78$) (Wilson &

Cook, 1984). Bem (1974) reported internal consistency by Cronbach's alpha for Masculinity ($\alpha = .86$), Femininity ($\alpha = .81$), and Androgyny ($\alpha = .86$), thus showing all three scores to be highly consistent. Test-retest reliability over a four-week interval indicated high stability for all scores (Masculinity = .90; Femininity = .90, and Androgyny = .93). Tetenbaum (1977) also estimated the internal reliability of the scales, reporting an alpha coefficient of .89 on the masculinity scale, and .77 on the femininity scale.

Miller Social Intimacy Scale.

Marital intimacy. The Miller Social Intimacy Scale (MSIS), developed by Miller and Lefcourt (1982) is a measure of the maximum level of intimacy currently experienced in the context of friendship or marriage. For this study, the MSIS was utilized as a measure of marital intimacy.

The instrument was developed from systematic interviews with 50 (22 male and 28 female) undergraduate students in which the nature and function of their relationships with friends, acquaintances, and family members were explored. These interviews defined

characteristics of relationships which the participants considered to be intimate, and their descriptions of the components of close relationships relative to frequency and depth were the basis for the MSIS 10-point frequency and intensity scales.

A 17-item social desirability scale initially embedded among the intimacy items was deleted for lack of validity and reliability. The remaining items were selected for their high inter-item and item-total correlations (greater than .50).

For the 6 items that require frequency responses, three alternatives are present: (a) very rarely, (b) some of the time, and (c) almost always. The remaining 11 items requiring intensity ratings offer alternatives of (1) not much, (2) a little, and (3) a great deal. Scoring for this instrument involved assigning a number from one to ten (these numbers were grouped under the alternatives stated above), with one reflecting the least often and least intense, and ten the most often and most intense. A final score is calculated by first opposite-keying two items (#2 and #14) so that a rating of 10 is scored as 1 and vice versa. The scores for all the items are then summed and divided by the number

17. For the present study, only the full scores were used.

Norms. Three samples of volunteers were used to gather normative data: an unmarried sample of 72 male and 116 female undergraduates from the University of Waterloo; 17 married couples from married student residences on the campus of the same university; and 15 married couples, average age 36.3, seeking conjoint therapy at a psychiatric clinic in Detroit, Michigan.

Validity. Miller and Lefcourt (1982) established concurrent validity when high MSIS scores were correlated with high Guerney Intimate Relationships Scale scores (Guerney, 1977) at $r = .71$, and when low MSIS scores were correlated with loneliness scores on the UCLA Loneliness Scale at $r = .65$. Construct validity was evidenced by significantly greater mean scores for subjects' descriptions of their closest friends when compared to descriptions of casual friends ($t = 9.18, p < .001$), and to the distressed married clinic sample ($t = 6.41, p < .001$). The unmarried student mean MSIS score was also significantly greater than that of the clinic sample ($t = 2.56, p < .02$).

Reliability. The stability of the scale was demonstrated by two test-retest studies (Miller & Lefcourt, 1982). At a two-month interval the reliability correlation was $r = .96$, $p < .001$, and at a one-month interval it was $r = .84$, $p < .001$.

MSIS/Wife

Marital Intimacy. The MSIS questions were restated to allow the wife to respond as to how she perceives her husband behaves and feels in regard to his relationship with her. The modification is not believed to affect either the validity or reliability of the MSIS instrument (Newman, 1986).

Inventory of Psychosocial Development

Psychosocial maturity. The Inventory of Psychosocial Development (IPD) was developed by A. Constantinople (1969) and " . . . is intended as a measure of an individual's current standing with respect to the personality components Erikson associated with the first 6 stages of development" (Waterman & Whitbourne, 1981, p. 20).

The IPD items were originally generated by Wessman

and Ricks (1966) who asked Harvard students for descriptions of themselves or other students whom they knew. The eventual classification of the items led to an ordering in terms of the unsuccessful and successful resolutions of the crisis associated with the first 6 stages of development described by Erikson (1963). The final form included both modified and additional items supplied by the investigators, consisted of 60 items, and used a Q-sort format. Constantinople (1969) changed the format to a questionnaire but retained the 7-point scale. Waterman and Whitbourne (1981), report on the construction, psychometric properties, and validation of the IPD as a measure of Erikson's first six stages of development.

Each of the 60 items is assigned a number from one to seven by the participant, which represent: (a) definitely most uncharacteristic of you, (b) very uncharacteristic of you, (c) somewhat uncharacteristic of you, (d) neither characteristic nor uncharacteristic of you, (e) somewhat characteristic of you, (f) very characteristic of you, and (g) definitely most characteristic of you. The scoring system may include 12 successful and unsuccessful resolution scores (two

scores for each stage), 6 stage scores, and/or a full-scale score.

Resolution scoring was used by both Wessman and Ricks (1966) and Constantinople (1969, 1970). Waterman (1972) was responsible for altering the scoring technique to stage scores by finding the difference between a score on the positive and negative resolution items for each stage, thereby reporting one score for each stage, or 6 scores. The full-scale score for psychosocial maturity was computed by summing across the 6 stage scores (Goldman & Olczak, 1975; Munley, 1975). "Currently, the scoring system used varies by investigator and may include resolution scores, stage scores, and/or a full-scale score" (Waterman & Whitbourne, 1981, p. 2). The full-scale score, measuring psychosocial maturity, was used for this study, and a Stepwise Regression analysis was performed to determine which of the six stages of development contributed significantly in the prediction of marital intimacy.

Norms. The normative data for this instrument was collected with 73 undergraduates at Trenton State College. In addition, 226 undergraduates and 138

alumni were utilized from the University of Rochester.

Validity. The validity of the IPD full-scale has been demonstrated with respect to its relationship with positive mood stages, adaptive personality traits, successful social functioning, and positive academic attitudes and behaviors. Among three samples, every stage scale was found to be positively correlated with every other stage scale. Stage scale scores for stages 1, 5, and 6 have received the most support, and scale 2 reportedly is the weakest.

Reliability. Test-retest reliabilities for stages 4, 5 and 6 based on a six-week interval ranged from .45 to .81, with a median of .70 (Constantinople, 1969). The following data comes from Waterman and Whitbourne (1981). One-week test-retest reliability of the 6 stage scales ranged from .71 to .89, with a median of .80. The reliability of the full scale score was .88 (See Table 4). Internal consistency was analyzed and Cronbach's alpha coefficients were reported for the 12 resolution scales, and 6 stage scales (See Table 5). The coefficients ranged from .33 to .79, with a median of .62 on the resolution scales; for the stage scales, the coefficients ranged from .44 to .82, with a median

of .72 (See Table 5). Factor structure of the instrument reflects bipolar dimensions approximating several of the 6 stage scales. There is some evidence that females score higher than males on the scales for 4 and 6.

Table 4

Test-retest Reliability Coefficients for the Inventory of Psychosocial Development

Stage Scale	Reliability
1. Basic Trust vs. Basic Mistrust	.76
2. Autonomy vs. Shame & Doubt	.71
3. Initiative vs. Guilt	.84
4. Industry vs. Inferiority	.89
5. Identity vs. Identity Diffusion	.83
6. Intimacy vs. Isolation	.77
Full-Scale	.88

Table 5

Internal Consistency for the Stage Scales and
Resolution Scales of the Inventory of Psychosocial
Development

	Stage Scales Cronbach Coefficient	Resolution Scales Coefficient
Basic Trust	.62	
Basic Mistrust	.66	
Stage 1		.75
Autonomy	.42	
Shame and Doubt	.33	.44
Stage 2		
Initiative	.63	
Guilt	.64	
Stage 3		.72
Industry	.79	
Inferiority	.62	
Stage 4		.82

(table continues)

	Stage Scales Cronbach Coefficient	Resolution Scales Cronbach Coefficient
Identity	.67	
Identity Diffusion	.49	
Stage 5		.68
Intimacy	.58	
Isolation	.58	
Stage 6		.72

The means and standard deviation scores of the IPD, SRI, and MSIS for the male, and the MSIS/Wife for the female participants are found in Table 6. The husband completed the MSIS and his wife the MSIS/Wife to provide the husband's marital intimacy scores.

Statistical Analysis

Two standard multiple regression analyses were used to explore the significance of the variables of psychosocial maturity, age, and masculine/feminine attributes in the prediction of perceived marital

Table 6

Mean and Standard Deviation Scores: IPD, BSRI, and MSIS

Instrument	Husbands	Wives
Inventory of Psychosocial Dev.	69.31 (30.73)*	
Bem Sex Role Inventory		
Masculine Score	108.63 (13.11)	
High	69.3%**	
Low	30.7%	
Feminine Score	93.08 (10.62)	
High	56.4%	
Low	43.6%	
Miller Social Intimacy Scale		
Perception of Husband's		
Level of Marital Intimacy	134.52 (16.47)	133.18 (20.76)

*Standard deviations are reported in parentheses.

** Masculine and Feminine Scores are determined high or low based on the 1978 Stanford University sample.

intimacy in adult men. Alpha was set at .05 to test the significance of F values, and R-square examined to determine the variance contributed by the predictor variables to the criterion variable, perceived marital intimacy.

Stepwise multiple regression analysis was performed in order to examine the relative contribution of each of the six stages of development which comprise the psychosocial maturity score to the dependent variable marital intimacy, as perceived by the husband.

Summary

This chapter described the research design, characteristics of the population, and the methods for the implementation of this study. Procedures were discussed for the administration and scoring of the instruments, as well as the statistical analysis of the data. One hundred and thirty seven volunteer married males, enrolled in law and business classes at a private university, along with their wives, comprised the sample. Each husband completed the MSIS, IPD, and BSRI, as well as the General Information Form (See Appendix B.) The wife of each male subject completed a

General Information Form, and the MSIS/Wife (See Appendix C).

The data from each spouse's General Information Form was used to describe the characteristics of the sample. The IPD, BSRI, MSIS, and MSIS/Wife scores were analyzed by two univariate regression methods. The results were used to determine the statistical significance between the predictor formula consisting of psychosocial maturity, sex role orientation, and age, with the husband's level of marital intimacy, as perceived by himself and his wife.

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS

Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to present the results of the statistical analysis used to determine whether prediction of the husband's marital intimacy, as perceived by himself and/or his wife, can be made on the basis of his responses to measures of psychosocial maturity, sex role orientation, and his age. This chapter presents a description of the results of two standard multiple regressions which were used to test the two hypotheses.

Statistical Analysis of the Data

All of the assumptions for multiple regression were evaluated, and none were revealed to be a threat to this analyses. The predictor formula for both Hypothesis 1 and 2 was found to be highly significant. An examination of the individual test of parameter

estimates, however, indicates the presence of multicollinearity. Multicollinearity was detected in the regression model due to finding opposite signs from what was expected in the estimated parameters. The independent variable, masculine score, appeared to be a negative predictor for marital intimacy. Examination of the correlation coefficients in Table 9, however, revealed that psychosocial maturity, significantly related to the husband's perception of his marital intimacy, and masculine score, are positively correlated (.50). Due to the presence of multicollinearity, and possible perversion of the regression weights, individual parameters from the Standard Multiple Regression could not be reported. A Stepwise Regression procedure was chosen as the method for dealing with the multicollinearity, and to find " . . . a parsimonious set of predictors requiring the minimum number of variables" (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1983, p. 82). The results of the Standard Multiple Regression, Stepwise Multiple Regression, and Pearson Correlations are reported.

Two standard multiple regression analyses were performed initially to analyze the data. Hypothesis 1

uses the husband's perception of his level of marital intimacy as the criterion variable; Hypothesis 2 is based on the wife's perception of his level of marital intimacy. Predictor variables for each analysis were the husband's psychosocial maturity, sex role orientation, and his age.

The .05 level of significance was set to test each hypothesis, and R-square and parameter coefficient estimates (P.C.E.) were computed. All analyses were conducted using the SAS computer regression program (SAS Users Guide, 1985). Table 6 presents the means and standard deviations for the variables.

Hypothesis 1. Psychosocial maturity (IPD full scale score), masculine and feminine sex role orientation (BSRI scores), and age were found to be a significant predictor formula for the husband's level of marital intimacy (MSIS score) at the .05 level of significance.

Examination of the predictor formula in Table 7 indicates the regression relationship was significantly different from zero ($F = 10.67$, $df 4, 132$, $p < .0001$). Altogether, the four independent variables accounted for 24.4% of the variability in the husband's perceived

level of marital intimacy (MSIS Score). Hypothesis 1 was rejected at the .05 level of significance.

Examination of Table 7 also indicates that the formula in predicting the husband's level of marital intimacy as perceived by his wife (MSIS/Wife Score) was statistically significant ($F = 5.91$; $df = 4,132$, $p < .0002$). The R-Square value for this formula was .15, accounting for approximately 15% of the variability in his level of marital intimacy. Hypothesis 2 was rejected at the .05 level of significance.

Pearson Correlation Coefficients in Table 8 indicate statistically significant relationships among the variables. The analysis of the correlations for each hypothesis indicates that feminine score, $r = .304$, $p < .0003$, psychosocial maturity, $r = .385$, $p < .0001$, and age, $r = -.286$, $p < .0007$ are statistically significant in predicting the husband's level of marital intimacy as perceived by himself. The masculine score, highly correlated with psychosocial maturity, $r = .505$,

Table 7

Results of the Standard Multiple Regression Analyses of the Predictor Formula with the Criterion Variables of the Husband's and Wife's Perception of His Level of Marital Intimacy

	F Value	p	R-Square
Predictor Formula with:			
Husband's Perception	10.67*	.0001	.244
Wife's Perception	5.91*	.0002	.152

* $p < .05$

$p < .0001$, is not needed for prediction. To predict the husband's level of marital intimacy as perceived by the wife, only the feminine score, $r = .323$, $p < .0001$, and age, $r = -.184$, $p < .05$, is needed. Age of the husband is inversely and statistically related to psychosocial maturity, $r = -.217$, $p < .05$, and marital intimacy as perceived by the husband, $r = -.286$, $P < .0001$, and the wife, $r = -.184$, $p < .05$. These

findings suggest that with increasing chronological ages of the husbands, they see themselves as less mature, and both they and their wives perceived less intimate behaviors from him. There is a positive correlation between the husband's and wife's perceptions of marital intimacy, $r = .56$, $p < .0001$.

Table 8

Pearson Correlation Coefficients Among Variables

	MIH	MIW	MasSc	FemSC	Age	PM
MIH	1.00					
MIW	.569**	1.00				
MasSc			1.00			
FemSc	.304**	.323**		1.00		
Age	-.286**	-.184*			1.00	
PM	.385**		.505**	.233*	-.217*	1.00

* $p < .05$.

** $p < .0001$

Two Stepwise Regression procedures were used to solve the problem of multicollinearity (Tabachnick & Fidell, 1983, p. 103) caused by the intercorrelation between psychosocial maturity and masculine score (.505). The SAS computer program was allowed to statistically selected those variables needed in the prediction of marital intimacy as perceived by the husband, and by the wife. Tables 9 and 10 present summaries of the stepwise regression analyses. Examination of Table 9 indicates that the prediction formula for the husband's perception of his level of marital intimacy was significant ($F = 13.90$; $df = 3, 133$; $p < .0001$). Psychosocial maturity and feminine score made significant contributions, and age was inversely related, accounting for 24% of the variability in marital intimacy. Table 10 presents a significant predictor formula for the wife's perception of his level of marital intimacy ($F = 7.83$, $df = 3, 133$; $p < .0001$.) Feminine Score was found to be positively related to marital intimacy, with masculine score and age both negative predictors. Altogether, 15% of marital intimacy is accounted for by this formula.

Masculine score and psychosocial maturity were found to be highly correlated in the initial standard regression analyses, creating the problem of multicollinearity. The stepwise regression procedure, used to resolve this problem, statistically eliminated masculine score from the first predictor formula, and psychosocial maturity from the second. In both cases, these variables failed to meet the .15 significance level set by SAS for entry into the model.

Table 9

Results of the Stepwise Regression Analysis of the Husband's Perception of Marital Intimacy

Predictor	P.C.E.	F Value	p	R-Square
Psychosocial Maturity	.154		.0004	
Sex Role Orientation				
Feminine Score	.348		.0046	
Age	-.544		.0077	
Predictor Formula		13.90*		.239

* $p < .05$

P.C.E.: Parameter Coefficient Estimate

Table 10

Results of the Stepwise Regression Analysis of the
Wife's Perception of Husband's Level of Marital
Intimacy

Predictor	P.C.E.	F Value	p	R-Square
Sex Role Orientation				
Masculine Score	-.219		.089	
Feminine Score	.615		.0001	
Age	-.596		.0257	
Predictor Formula		7.83*		.150

* $p < .05$

Psychosocial maturity, found to be a significant predictor in Hypothesis 1, is represented by the full scale score of the IPD, which is comprised of six stages of development. A Stepwise Regression Analysis was used for a post hoc examination of each of the six stages of development. Stage 6 (Intimacy vs. Isolation) statistically entered the model as the most important stage, and none of the other stages were

shown to be significant ($F = 31.70$, $df 1, 135$, $p < .0001$).

A Hierarchical Multiple Regression was then performed on the data, ordering that Stages 1 to 6 be entered consecutively, with particular interest in whether a unique contribution is made by Stage 6. Table 12 indicates that none of the F values for Stages 1 through 5 were significant at the .05 level. Only Stage 6 made a significant contribution to marital intimacy as perceived by the husband ($F = 10.00$, $df 6, 130$, $p < .0020$).

A standard regression analysis determined that an androgynous sex role orientation (high levels and a balance of masculine and feminine attributes) was not statistically significant in the prediction of marital intimacy as perceived by either the husband ($F = 2.36$; $df = 3, 133$; $p < .127$, or the wife ($F = .22$, $df = 3, 133$; $p < .636$).

Additional regression analyses were performed to find whether masculine or feminine scores are related to age of the husband, and bar charts to clarify the possibility of a curvilinear relationship as suggested by Levinson, Darrow, Klein, Levinson, and McKee (1978).

Table 11

Hierarchical Multiple Regression of the Six
Developmental Stages of the IPD with the Husband's
Perception of his Level of Marital Intimacy

Stage of Development	P.C.E.	F Value	p
1. Basic Trust Vs. Mistrust	.034	.02	.897
2. Autonomy vs. Shame/Doubt	-.300	1.22	.272
3. Initiative vs. Guilt	.342	1.37	.244
4. Industry vs. Inferiority	.054	.06	.810
5. Identity vs. ID Confusion	.199	.44	.509
6. Intimacy vs. Isolation	.777	10.00*	.002

* $p < .05$

Means and standard deviations for each of the six stages of development for this sample are provided in Table 12.

Table 12

Means and Standard Deviations for the Six Stages of
Development in the Inventory of Psychosocial
Development

Stage	X	S.D.	Stage	X	S.D.
1	12.17	7.78	4	15.05	7.27
2	7.37	5.55	5	8.70	5.91
3	12.91	6.50	6	13.04	7.10

Neither masculine score ($F = 2.98$, $df = 2, 134$; $p < .087$) nor feminine score ($F = .07$, $df = 2, 134$; $p < .80$) were statistically significant at the .05 level. Examination of the bar charts does not show evidence of curvilinearity.

Additional correlations computed on each of the variables produced the following findings. The husband's perceived marital intimacy score was negatively correlated both with number of years in the

present marriage, $r = -.331$, $p < .0001$, his wife's age, $r = -.263$, $p < .001$, as well as his own age ($r = .286$, $p < .0001$) as reported in Table 8. The wife's perception of her husband's level of marital intimacy was also found to be inversely related to her age $r = -.183$, $p < .03$.

Table 13

Correlations of Both Measures of Marital Intimacy with Years in the Present Marriage, Age of Wife, and Age of Husband

	Husband's Marital Intimacy	
	As Perceived by Him	As Perceived by Her
Years in Present Marriage	-0.3310***	-.158NS
Wife's Age	-0.262**	-.183*
Husband's Age	-0.286**	-.183*

* $p < .05$
 ** $p < .001$
 *** $p < .0001$
 NS not significant

Summary

Two research hypotheses were tested at the .05 alpha level, the data analyzed using Standard Multiple Regression, and both null hypotheses were rejected based on the regression analyses. The predictor formula of psychosocial maturity, sex role orientation, and age of the husband, was found to statistically significant in predicting the husband's level of marital intimacy as perceived by himself and/or his wife. To solve the problem of multicollinearity, a second analysis using Stepwise Regression was performed, and individual parameters coefficient estimates were reported for the independent variables that remained in the predictor formula. Pearson Correlation Coefficients of the predictor and criterion variables were reported, as well as findings of the post hoc examination of the stages of development contributing to psychosocial maturity. The results of the statistical analysis of this study were reported in this chapter.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between the husband's level of marital intimacy, as perceived by himself and his wife, and specific attributes of the husband. These attributes included psychosocial maturity, sex role orientation, and age.

The subjects were 137 male students enrolled in business or law school at a private university, and their wives. The husbands' psychosocial maturity was measured using the Inventory of Psychosocial Development (IPD), and the Bem Sex Role Inventory (BSRI) was used to determine the presence of masculine and feminine traits. The husbands' responses to the IPD and BSRI were used, along with their ages, as the predictor variables. The husbands' levels of marital

intimacy as perceived by themselves were measured with the Miller Social Intimacy Scale (MSIS). The wives responded to a modified MSIS (MSIS/Wife), in regard to their perceptions of their husbands' levels of marital intimacy.

The first research hypothesis tested at the .05 level of significance stated that the men's ages and their responses in regard to psychosocial maturity, and sex role orientation, can predict their levels of marital intimacy as perceived by themselves. The same predictor variables were used in the second research hypothesis, also tested at the .05 level of significance, and used the wives' perceptions of their husbands' levels of marital intimacy as the criterion variable. Two standard multiple regression analyses were used to determine whether the husband's level of marital intimacy, as perceived by himself or his wife, can be predicted from the four variables.

The formulas were found to be statistically significant in both hypothesis 1 and 2 in predicting the husband's level of marital intimacy, however, high correlations (.505) between psychosocial maturity and masculine score created a problem of multicollinearity.

Stepwise Regression analyses, performed to solve the problem of multicollinearity, resulted in masculine score being deleted as a variable in the prediction formula for Hypothesis 1, and psychosocial maturity for Hypothesis 2. The prediction formula for the husband's perception of his level of marital intimacy (Hypothesis 1) shows psychosocial maturity and feminine score to be significant, and age inversely related. Feminine Score was positively related to marital intimacy as perceived by the wife (Hypothesis 2), with masculine score and age both negative predictors.

Pearson Correlation Coefficients indicated age to be inversely and significantly related to psychosocial maturity. Psychosocial maturity, significantly related to the husband's perception of his marital intimacy was not significant in regard to the wife's perception. Feminine score was significantly related to psychosocial maturity at the .05 level of significance; masculine score at the .0001 level of significance. The perceptions of the wife and the husband in regard to his level of marital intimacy were significantly correlated.

Conclusions

Sex Role Orientation

The concept of sex roles has been discussed at length in the literature, with the prevailing attitude that men reared in our frontier society learn their lesson well to suppress their feminine side. According to Naifeh and Smith (1984), tradition only permits a narrow range of emotion, including aggressiveness, competitiveness, anger, joviality, and feelings of being in control. Sexual feelings are eventually added to the list. A boy who exhibits traits of weakness, confusion, fear, vulnerability, tenderness, compassion, and sensuality is made fun of, and called sissy. Pleck and Sawyer (1974) report that vulnerability required for emotional expressiveness is discouraged by male socialization, and O'Neil (1981) says men fear their femininity. A special item analysis was performed on Item 59 of the BSRI, (See Table 11), in which subjects responded to the word "Feminine" using a Likert Scale. 92% of the subjects responded "Never or almost never true," or "Usually not true." However, 56.4% of the males in this study were above the 1979 Stanford Study feminine raw score median of 92, scoring high on the

endorsement of feminine traits on the BSRI. It appears that the majority of males in this study do recognize feminine traits in themselves, with a much larger majority, however, rejecting the "label of feminine." An analysis of Item #47 on the IPD, "Never know how I feel," showed that only .14% of the males sampled believed that item to be very characteristic, or definitely most uncharacteristic of them (See Table 11). Varying views exist relative to masculine/feminine traits. While some believe both masculine and feminine traits exist as part of the human nature, as instinctive, unlearned behavior patterns, that can be hampered by cultural expectations, others believe masculine and feminine elements are elicited and shaped solely by conditioning (Sanford, 1980).

Sex Role Orientation / Age

Levinson, Darrow, Klein, Levinson, and McKee (1978) suggest in their study that the integration of masculine-feminine polarities is a major developmental task, and related to age. Rather than a linear process with levels of masculine and feminine traits increasing

with age, they propose a curvilinear development of the feminine dimension. In the present study, age was not significantly related to masculine score or feminine score, and there was no evidence to support curvilinearity.

Sex Role Orientation / Intimacy

Davidson, Balswick & Halverson (1983), report that the greater the degree of both masculine and feminine traits, the more integrated or androgynous, and the better one is able to function within the context of a relationship. Schwartz (1979) reported androgynous persons are most capable of emotional intimacy, and congruously, McGill (1985) reported that the suppression of the feminine side has restrictive implications for intimacy, with intimacy contingent upon the ability to experience oneself and the world at the feeling level. Tesch (1984), however, reported that traditional sex roles are related to high intimacy status. The findings of the present study were that feminine traits of the husband were significantly correlated with marital intimacy as perceived by both the husband and the wife. Masculine score was found to

be significantly but inversely related to marital intimacy as perceived by the wife. Androgyny was not related to either the husband's or wife's perceptions of marital intimacy. Psychosocial maturity, however, highly correlated with masculine traits, was found to be significantly related to the male's perception of his level of marital intimacy. The "macho" or traditional males, which seem to attract many women, are apparently not the males most likely to be involved in intimate relationships, which women claim to value (Gilligan, 1982).

Sex Role Orientation and Psychosocial Maturity

Orlofsky and Windle (1978) found higher levels of adjustment for both androgynous and masculine males, than feminine males. A study by Selva and Dusek (1984) support that masculine score is a more important determinant of adjustment than feminine. Waterman and Whitebourne (1981) found that feminine qualities in conjunction with masculine traits, regardless of gender of the subject, made a contribution over and above masculine traits alone in psychosocial development. These studies appear consistent with the present

findings, with a correlation of .505 between psychosocial maturity and masculine, and .233 between psychosocial maturity and feminine, suggesting that both traits make a contribution, with masculine having greater relative importance than feminine. The Waterman and Whitbourne (1982) study reports that their findings are consistent with an epigenetic view of adult sex role functioning, and believe that " . . . successful resolutions of the early psychosocial crisis provide the foundation for a flexible approach to sex role expression" (p. 131). It appears that the reverse could be true. If both the masculine and feminine within the individual are groomed to be valued and expressed, this integration and the resultant sex role flexibility could perhaps lead to successful resolution of the psychosocial crises.

Age and Psychosocial Maturity

Whether adulthood is a period of relative stability, or predictable changes has been asked by a number of researchers (Waterman and Whitbourne, 1979). In a longitudinal study by Whitbourne and Waterman

(1979), they found increases in psychosocial development scores with age. They admit, however, that rather than an effect of age, the increase could be a consequence of independent time of testing and cohort effects. In this same 1979 study, using a Time-Lag comparison, College males in 1966 rated higher on psychosocial development than College males in 1976, and just the opposite for the female college students. To account for this difference, they suggest that possibly the " . . . changes in sex role definitions for men and women had a positive influence on the psychosocial development scores of the current cohort of college women, but not for men" (p. 377). The present study shows a negative correlation between age and psychosocial maturity, as well as age and marital intimacy. The older the subject, the lower the score on both psychosocial development and marital intimacy, as perceived by himself and his wife.

Speculation regarding the reasons for this decrease differ. On the one hand, it could be assumed that marital intimacy and psychosocial maturity are eroded with age and years of marriage, and that in time, the younger men in the study will begin to

resemble their older colleagues. Another possibility is that there is a generational difference, with the younger men "different," having greater levels of psychosocial maturity and marital intimacy that will not be predicted to decline with advancing years, relative to age and present marriage.

If marital intimacy and psychosocial maturity do erode with age and years of marriage, what contributes to the ambivalence or corrosion? What part does the wife play? Naifeh and Smith (1984) report that the more directly a man is confronted with emotions by a woman, the more he may feel ambushed. They believe that because of men's formidable need for independence, he allows himself emotional intimacy only on a "no-demand" basis (p. 28). If he responds to her demands, he feels threatened by a loss of control or power, and his independence. It is infinitely easier " . . . to support a woman if she doesn't demand support; to give love if she doesn't request it; to answer if she doesn't ask" (p. 28).

Gilligan (1982) points out that the relational processes of attachment and caring often evoke fear in men. Attachment is sometimes perceived as paralyzing

entrapment, and caring, an inevitable prelude to compromise. On the other hand, some women fear autonomy. Rather than the suction of symbiotic relatedness, or its polarity, isolation, is the goal of independence within the context of a relationship (Wynne & Wynne, 1986.)

If the eighties find men and women at different places, with women struggling for individuation and men for intimacy, (Naifeh & Smith, 1984), and theoretically, older wives began their marriages too dependent, too involved in their husbands' lives with no clear identity of her own, what is the net effect on their marriages? While he is trying to close in, is she attempting to move away, reversing the approach-avoidance dance which, according to Rubin (1983), is prevalent in many marriages.

Naifeh and Smith (1984) question whether the new generation is really different, or only express a "pseudo-openness" (p. 22). Is their openness based on a profoundly thoughtful and feeling process, with a legitimate development of their inner selves?

Intimacy, Age, and Psychosocial Maturity

Levinson, et al. (1976) report that intimacy is related to lifecycle, and McGill (1978) contends that men resist intimacy, and often don't know its value until mid-life. Item #60 of the IPD, "comfortable in intimate relationships" was analyzed and 82.8% of the subjects responded that this statement was somewhat to definitely most characteristic of them (See Table 11.) McGill reports that many husbands do not voluntarily tell their wives even the most obvious information about themselves, and seldom reveal deep valued personal information. In this study, in response to the Item #2 of the MSIS, "How often do you keep very personal information to yourself and do not share it with her," 55.8% answered "very rarely" (See Table 14).

Implications for Treatment

The decrease in marital intimacy and psychosocial maturity with increasing ages of the subjects, and years in the present marriage is curious, and the explanation for the phenomenon beyond the scope of this study. Obviously, the resolution will determine the treatment. Given the present divorce and remarriage

rates, the marriage dance appears comprised of variations of compelling and repelling steps. If it is true that the men in this study will become less

Table 14

Percentage Responses to Specific Items on the IPD, BSRI, and MSIS

	<u>IPD #47</u>	<u>IPD #60</u>	<u>BSRI #59</u>	<u>MSIS #2</u>
1.	21.6	1.4	66.2	5.1
2.	33.8	3.6	25.9	36.2
3.	18.0	10.1	2.9	14.5
4.	12.2	2.2	5.0	10.1
5.	12.9	25.9		6.5
6.	0.7	32.4		9.4
7.	0.7	24.5		8.7
8.				5.1
9.				2.9
10.				1.4

intimate with their marriage partners over time, and become less psychosocially mature as they become older, perhaps due to defeat in their struggles for intimacy (Waring, Tillman, Frelick & Weisz, 1980) an important treatment focus will be the marital relationship. The therapists role would be to tease out interactions within the individuals' marriage that discourage his self-disclosures, and therefore intimacy. The wife's potential and interest in intimacy must be assessed, her level of maturity and receptivity of his personal disclosures, as well as ways she may consciously or unconsciously sabotage marital intimacy.

If men do not decline in their levels of marital intimacy and psychosocial maturity with age and years of present marriage, and the age difference in the present study is due to generational differences, specific interventions are needed to help resolve the social and cultural blocks that have been learned by this older generation. Men often come to therapy and speak of their careers, their marriages, their lives, in very rational ways, devoid of affect, or even words that express feeling. While some are strangers to the feelings, others are familiar with the feelings, but

strangers to the words that describe them. Others know the feelings and the words to convey them, but are not willing to share that information about themselves. Treatment depends on the individual variables that include: (a) out of touch with the feelings; (b) do not have the vocabulary to describe what they feel; (c) know the feelings and the descriptors, but not willing to disclose them. Does he want to be aware of feelings, put names with them, or disclose them? Can he be persuaded through education to value his feminine or feeling side, and be willing to set as a treatment goal the integration of this dimension of his personality?

Naifeh and Smith (1984) believe that all men eventually want intimacy, and want to overcome the blocks or insecurities that hamper it. They believe it is most often the wife who is able to convince the husband to enter therapy. The wife is usually more successful if the problem is framed as a relationship problem, with the success of her therapy depending upon his participation.

Traditionally, the frontiersman showed little or no concern about his physical health, or dying.

Numerous studies indicate that men internalize more tension, suffer more chronic disease, and live shorter lives than women (Naifeh & Smith, 1984). However, with contemporary society's present mania for fitness and health, recommending therapy to improve his physical health can sometimes be successful. Marriage encounter groups and marital therapy are recommended as alternatives to individual counseling for men who fear dependence.

Therapists are challenged to " . . . take leadership in challenging the enshrinement of 'intimacy' as a primary goal" in marital therapy (Wynne & Wynne, 1986, p. 392). They believe, "Intimacy recurs most reliably, not when it is demanded as a primary or continuous experience, but when it emerges spontaneously within a context of basic, well-functioning relational processes" (p. 383). Many clients come to therapy complaining about their marriages, its lack of closeness and communication, and are asking for help to pull down the walls built between them. Many have experienced that trying to force closeness and communication has resulted in distance and dead air. Although working with the

relational process of attachment/caregiving, communicating, joint problem solving, and mutuality (Wynne & Wynne, 1986) is important, first therapists need to establish a genuine desire on the part of the client to improve these processes. The purpose of the presenting problem can be a way to distract from the bedrock issues and fears about intimacy. As is always the case, therapists are called to use good judgment, state-of-the-art therapeutic approaches, along with the skillful utilization of research data.

Recommendations for Further Research

The present results suggest that the widely-held beliefs that men are either incapable or unwilling to be intimate are not true for some men. It is beyond the scope of this study to determine whether marital intimacy is greater for the men in the younger generation, or if marital intimacy erodes with age of the husband, and number of years in the present marriage. If the latter is found to be true, further research is needed to understand the reasons for the decrease. Some of the important areas to consider include the psychosocial maturity of the wife, the

ability of the couple to problem solve, and the expression of critical or negative affect between the spouses. If the older generation is still reacting to social and cultural prescriptions against intimacy, what therapeutic approaches are helpful in combating the entrenchment? What can wives do, if anything, to help abolish the myths about intimate relationships?

In the present study, the variables account for 15% to 24% of the variability in marital intimacy. Because psychosocial maturity is correlated with the husbands' perception of his marital intimacy, how can therapists pinpoint developmental blocks and facilitate psychosocial development in their clients? Is the developmental approach a valid direction to take in marital therapy, or does maturity accrue in the traditional psychotherapy process? The other factors which contribute to marital intimacy need to be established, and whether these factors are individualized, or universal.

Mental health specialists in chemical dependency believe intimacy is especially difficult for those who have grown up with alcoholism (Schaefer, 1986; Woititz, 1985). Being intimate and vulnerable contradicts all

the survival skills learned by children of alcoholics, or children reared in dysfunctional homes, and Woititz (1985) believes a complete relearning process is needed to overcome these destructive environmental influences. How does the addictive disease or co-dependency affect psychosocial development, and integration of the feelings, hence the feminine dimension, for males, for females?

The debate of whether androgyny or traditional roles is most healthful, both physiologically and psychologically, continues. According to Sanford (1980), the idea of man's androgynous nature is found in numerous traditions, and often expressed in mythology. He states that the anima (feminine component in a man's personality), and the animus (masculine component in a woman's personality) are the invisible partners in every human relationship, and in every person's search for individual wholeness. The fact that the masculine and feminine components of the personality have been outside the awareness of mankind is not surprising, according to Sanford (1980)

" . . . self-knowledge has never been one of our strong points" (p. 9). The present study supports the

existence of feminine attributes within the masculine personality, which do contribute significantly to his level of marital intimacy, as well as his psychosocial maturity. What is the therapist's role in helping to integrate the feminine, and the masculine, and is there an optimal, universal balance between these two dimensions? Should sex role flexibility be nurtured from infancy, or after gender identity or same-sex traits have been internalized? Is the integration of the masculine and feminine elements merely the unfolding of the inborn androgynous potential of mankind, or due to shaping of the culture, with the more socially compliant having the greater levels of masculine and feminine integration?

Mace (1987) believes that only 10% of the population have really good marriages, and that if marriage cannot be relied on to undergird our human society, we are confronted with " . . . a problem of staggering dimensions" (p. 180). This study has addressed the issue of marital intimacy, which may be an important factor in good marriages. Further research is needed to understand the relationship between marital intimacy, marital satisfaction and

stability. The factors in this study account for a portion of the variability in marital intimacy, but does not address the wife's contribution. This study raises the question whether younger men will remain more mature with higher levels of marital intimacy, or if both erode with age and length of marriage.

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APPENDIX A

DEVELOPMENTAL PERIODS IN EARLY
AND MIDDLE ADULTHOOD

0-17 (Childhood and
Adolescence)

17-22 EARLY ADULT TRANSITION

22-28 Entering the Adult)
World)
28-33 AGE 30 TRANSITION) Early Adulthood
33-40 Settling Down)
36-40 Becoming One's)
Own Man*)

40-45 MID-LIFE TRANSITION)

45-50 Entering Middle)
Adulthood)
50-55 AGE 50 TRANSITION) Middle
55-60 Culmination of) Adulthood
Middle Adulthood)

60-65 LATE ADULT TRANSITION) Late
Adulthood)

*Phase of Settling Down Period.

APPENDIX B

LETTER TO MALE RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

Dear Male Research Participant:

I sincerely appreciate the cooperation of both you and your wife in this research project, which is required for my doctoral degree. The topic of my dissertation is marital relationships, and requires that both the husband and wife complete questionnaires.

As instructed at the time your participation was solicited, please ask your wife if she is willing to participate in this research project by filling out one questionnaire, and a general information form. Together they will require approximately five minutes of her time. A sealed envelope marked "Wife" is enclosed with materials for her to complete.

For you, the three questionnaires and general information sheet will take approximately 30 minutes. If my instructions to you are not clear, please do not hesitate to contact me at home (947-5754), or at the office (947-0645). If you are unable to reach me, you can contact my dissertation adviser, Dr. Al Carlozzi, at (405) 624-6036.

Please answer as honestly as you can, and do not discuss your responses with one another prior to or upon completion of the questionnaires. Be assured that your responses will be kept confidential by this researcher.

Upon completion, please ask your wife to put her general information form and questionnaire in the white envelope provided her, seal, and place it in the stamped, self-addressed envelope with your materials to be mailed to me. Again, thank you very much for your help in this research project.

Please mail the forms and questionnaires within

two weeks from the date they were received, or as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Carrol R. Wiens

CRW:c

Enclosures:

Envelope for Wife,
General Information Sheet
Questionnaires: IPD, BEM, MSIS

Male Participant No. _____

Age: _____

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please Circle Your answerRace:

Caucasian
 Black
 Hispanic
 Oriental
 Indian
 Other _____

Family Income:

\$50,000 or more
 \$25,000 - \$49,999
 \$20,000 - \$24,999
 \$15,000 - \$19,999
 \$10,000 - \$14,999
 \$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999
 Under \$5,000

Level of Degree Program and Major in Which Enrolled:Level (Circle answer)Major (Fill in Blank)

BS/BA

MS/MA

Ph.D/Ed.D

J.D.

Other _____

Fill in the Blanks

Number of years in present marriage _____

Number of previous marriages _____

Number of children in present marriage _____

Number of children in previous marriages _____

PLEASE NOTE:

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These consist of pages:

134-137 IPD

U·M·I

IPD

Please use the following list of 60 terms and phrases to describe yourself as you honestly feel and believe you are. Use the Rating Scale provided below to rate how characteristic each of the 60 terms and phrases is for you.

Following each phrase are numbers from 1 to 7. Circle the one (1) for phrases that are definitely most uncharacteristic of you, the two (2) for phrases that are very uncharacteristic of you, etc. Circle the seven (7) if the phrase is definitely most characteristic of you.

Rating Scale:

- 1 = definitely most uncharacteristic of you
- 2 = very uncharacteristic of you
- 3 = somewhat uncharacteristic of you
- 4 = neither characteristic nor uncharacteristic of you
- 5 = somewhat characteristic of you
- 6 = very characteristic of you
- 7 = definitely most characteristic of you

Be sure when you do these ratings that you are guided by your best judgment of the way you really are. There is no need to ponder your ratings excessively; your first impressions are generally the best. Do the phrases in order. Be sure to answer every item.

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. placid and untroubled | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 2. an automatic response to all situations | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 3. adventuresome | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 4. can't fulfill my ambitions | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 5. confidence is brimming over | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 6. little regard for the rest of the world | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |

- | | | |
|-----|--|---------------|
| 7. | incapable of absorbing frustration | |
| | and everything frustrates me | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 8. | value independence above security | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 9. | sexually blunted | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 10. | conscientious and hard-working | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 11. | a poseur, all facade and pretense,
attempting to impress others by
actions and manners | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 12. | candid, not afraid to expose
myself | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 13. | accessible to new ideas | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 14. | meticulous and over-organized | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 15. | dynamic | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 16. | don't apply myself fully | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 17. | natural and genuine | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 18. | preoccupied with myself | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 19. | can't share anything | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 20. | free and spontaneous | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 21. | afraid of impotence | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 22. | interested in learning and like
to study | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 23. | spread myself thin | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 24. | warm and friendly | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 25. | imperturbable optimist | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 26. | cautious, hesitant, doubting | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |

27.	ambitious	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28.	fritter away my time	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
29.	poised	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30.	very lonely	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
31.	pessimistic, little hope	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
32.	stand on my own two feet	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
33.	think too much about the wrong things	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
34.	serious, have high standards	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
35.	attempt to appear at ease	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
36.	have sympathetic concern for others	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
37.	able to take things as they come	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
38.	feel as if I were being followed	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
39.	inventive, delight in finding new solutions to new problems	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
40.	ineffective, don't amount to much	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
41.	know who I am and what I want out of life	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
42.	cold and remote	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
43.	dim nostalgia for lost paradise	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
44.	quietly go my own way	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
45.	big smoke but no fire	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
46.	accomplish much, truly productive	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
47.	never know how I feel	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 48. | tactful in personal relations | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 49. | deep, unshakable faith in myself | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 50. | always in the wrong, apologetic | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 51. | sexually aware | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 52. | a playboy, always "hacking around";
capable of crude, harsh, or
insensitive treatment | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 53. | pride in my own character and
value | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 54. | secretly oblivious to the opinions
of others | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 55. | never get what I really want | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 56. | good judge of when to comply
and when to assert myself | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 57. | inhibited and self-restricted | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 58. | excel in my work | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 59. | afraid of commitment | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 60. | comfortable in intimate
relationships | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

MSIS

Please answer the following questions about yourself in regard to your relationship with your wife. Using the rating scales provided below, circle the number for each question which most nearly describes how you feel and behave toward your wife.

Rating Scale for questions 1 through 6:

	Very Rarely	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Almost Always
1. When you have leisure time how often do you choose to spend it with her alone?		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
2. How often do you keep very personal information to yourself and do not share it with her?		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
3. How often do you show her affection?		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
4. How often do you confide very personal information to her?		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
5. How often are you able to understand her feelings?		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
6. How often do you feel close to her?		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

Rating Scale for questions 7 through 17:

	Not Much				A Little			A Great Deal		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7. How much do you like to spend time alone with her?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8. How much do you feel like being encouraging and supportive to her when she is unhappy?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9. How close do you feel to her most of the time?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10. How important is it to you to listen to her very personal disclosures?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11. How satisfying is your relationship with her?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12. How affectionate do you feel towards her?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13. How important is it to you that she understands your feelings?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14. How much damage is caused for you by a typical disagreement in your relationship with her?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
15. How important is it to you that she be encouraging and supportive to you when you are unhappy?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

16. How important is it to you that she show you affection? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

17. How important is your relationship with her in your life? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

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These consist of pages:

141-142 Bem Inventory

U·M·I

BEM INVENTORY

Developed by Sandra L. Bem, Ph.D.

~~Name _____ Age _____ Sex _____~~
~~Phone No. or Address _____~~
~~Date _____ 19 _____~~
~~If a student: School _____ Yr. in School _____~~
~~If not a student: Occupation _____~~

*DO NOT COMPLETE
THIS SECTION*

START HERE

DIRECTIONS

On the opposite side of this sheet, you will find listed a number of personality characteristics. We would like you to use those characteristics to describe yourself, that is, we would like you to indicate, on a scale from 1 to 7, how true of you each of these characteristics is. Please do not leave any characteristic unmarked.

Example: sly

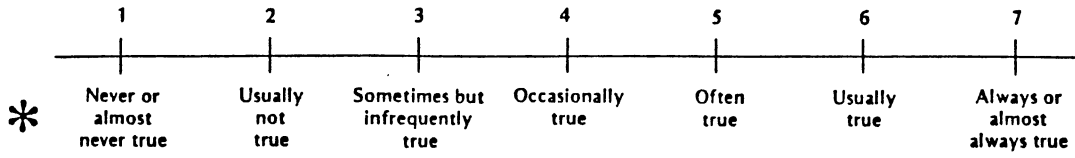
- Write a 1 if it is never or almost never true that you are sly.
- Write a 2 if it is usually not true that you are sly.
- Write a 3 if it is sometimes but infrequently true that you are sly.
- Write a 4 if it is occasionally true that you are sly.
- Write a 5 if it is often true that you are sly.
- Write a 6 if it is usually true that you are sly.
- Write a 7 if it is always or almost always true that you are sly.

Thus, if you feel it is sometimes but infrequently true that you are "sly," never or almost never true that you are "malicious," always or almost always true that you are "irresponsible," and often true that you are "carefree," then you would rate these characteristics as follows:

Sly	3	Irresponsible	7
Malicious	1	Carefree	5

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Defend my own beliefs	
Affectionate	
Conscientious	
Independent	
Sympathetic	
Moody	
Assertive	
Sensitive to needs of others	
Reliable	
Strong personality	
Understanding	
Jealous	
Forceful	
Compassionate	
Truthful	
Have leadership abilities	
Eager to soothe hurt feelings	
Secretive	
Willing to take risks	
Warm	

Adaptable	
Dominant	
Tender	
Conceited	
Willing to take a stand	
Love children	
Tactful	
Aggressive	
Gentle	
Conventional	
Self-reliant	
Yielding	
Helpful	
Athletic	
Cheerful	
Unsystematic	
Analytical	
Shy	
Inefficient	
Make decisions easily	

Flatterable	
Theatrical	
Self-sufficient	
Loyal	
Happy	
Individualistic	
Soft-spoken	
Unpredictable	
Masculine	
Gullible	
Solemn	
Competitive	
Childlike	
Likable	
Ambitious	
Do not use harsh language	
Sincere	
Act as a leader	
Feminine	
Friendly	

APPENDIX C

LETTER TO FEMALE RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

Dear Female Research Participant:

I sincerely appreciate the cooperation of both you and your husband in this research project, which is required for my doctoral degree. The topic of my dissertation is marital relationships, and requires that both the husband and wife complete questionnaires.

Your participation in this research project involves filling out one questionnaire, and a general information form. Together they will require approximately five minutes of your time. For him, the three questionnaires and general information sheet will take approximately 30 minutes. If my instructions to you are not clear, please do not hesitate to contact me at home (947-5754), or at the office (947-0645). If you are unable to reach me, you can contact my dissertation adviser, Dr. Al Carlozzi, at (405) 624-6036.

Please answer as honestly as you can, and do not discuss your responses with one another prior to or upon completion of the questionnaires. Be assured that your responses will be kept confidential by this researcher.

Upon completion, place your general information form and questionnaire in the white envelope provided, seal, and put it in the stamped, self-addressed envelope with your husband's materials to be mailed to me. Again, thank you very much for your help in this research project.

Please mail the forms and questionnaires within two weeks from the date they were received, or as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Carrol R. Wiens

CRW:c

Enclosures:

General Information Sheet
Questionnaires: MSIS/Wife
White Envelope

Female Participant No. _____

Age: _____

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please Circle Your answer

Race:

Caucasian
Black
Hispanic
Oriental
American Indian
Other _____

Education:

Some College
College Degree
Graduate Work/Masters
Graduate Degree/Masters
Graduate Work/Ph.D.
M.D.
Other _____

Family Income:

\$50,000 or more
\$25,000 - \$49,999
\$20,000 - \$24,999
\$15,000 - \$19,999
\$10,000 - \$14,999
\$ 5,000 - \$ 9,999
Under \$5,000

Fill in the Blanks

Number of years in present marriage _____

Number of previous marriages _____

Number of children in present marriage _____

Number of children in previous marriages _____

MSIS / Wife

Please answer the following questions in regard to how you perceive your husband behaves and feels toward you. Using the rating scales provided below, circle the number for each question which most nearly describes your perception of him.

Rating Scale for questions 1 through 6:

	Very Rarely	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Almost Always
1. When he has leisure time how often does he choose to spend it with you alone?		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
2. How often does he keep very personal information to himself and not share it with you?		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
3. How often does he show you affection?		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
4. How often does he confide very personal information to you?		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
5. How often is he able to understand your feelings?		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
6. How often does he feel close to you?		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

Rating Scale for questions 7 through 17:

	Not		A Little					A Great		
	Much							Deal		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
7. How much does he like to spend time alone with you?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8. How much does he feel like being encouraging and supportive to you when you are unhappy?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9. How close does he feel to you most of the time?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10. How important is it to him to listen to your very personal disclosures?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11. How satisfying is his relationship with you?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12. How affectionate does he feel towards you?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13. How important is it to him that he understands your feelings?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14. How much damage is caused for him by a typical disagreement in his relationship with you?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
15. How important is it to him that you be encouraging and supportive to him when he is unhappy?	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

16. How important is it to him that he show you affection? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

17. How important is the relationship with you in his life? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

2
VITA

Carrol Robinson Wiens

Candidate for the Degree of
Doctor of Philosophy

Thesis: THE RELATIONSHIP OF PSYCHOSOCIAL MATURITY, SEX
ROLE ORIENTATION, AND AGE TO PERCEIVED MARITAL
INTIMACY FOR ADULT MALES

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Education: Graduated from Capitol Hill High
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Oklahoma 1987.