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Critical thinking Disposition and Dyadic Adjustment: The Moderator Role of Employment Status of Women

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Abstract

Dyadic adjustment can be handled as a state in which there is an overall feeling of happiness and satisfaction with marriage. Women have become so much more active in work life over the past years that the changes in the roles of women also affect the communication with their husbands and as a result their dyadic adjustment. On this basis, the aim of this study is to determine the moderator role of employment status of women in the relationship between critical thinking disposition and dyadic adjustment of married people. The research group was composed of 242 spouses. The data were collected with Demographical Information Form, Critical Thinking Disposition Scale and Dyadic Adjustment Scale. The results showed that there was a correlation between critical thinking disposition and dyadic adjustment. According to the hierarchical regression analysis, there was no moderator role of employment status of women in the relationship between critical thinking disposition and dyadic adjustment.

Keywords: resilience; autonomous-related self; critical thinking;

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1.Introduction

Marriage is a rapport between two adults, including love and responsibility for development of strong family relationships. People can get married for many reasons such as love, esteem, subjective well-being, companionship, and the desire to have children and so on (Rao, 2017). The relationship between spouses is not just an instantaneous process; it contains multi-parameters determined by a degree of troublesome marital differences, interpersonal tension and personal anxiety, marital satisfaction, dyadic cohesion, consensus on matters of importance of marital functioning (Spanier & Cole, 1976). The quality of marital communications has a critical role in dyadic adjustment of spouses that can be handled as a state in which there is an overall feeling of happiness and satisfaction with their marriage (Hashmi, Khurshid & Hassan, 2006). It also denotes emotional stability, intellectual efficiency and social effectiveness of people, which are the most necessary components of communication that results in the improvement of dyadic adjustment. The previous studies reported that high avoidance of and withdrawal from communication were correlated with low levels of dyadic adjustment (Bodenmann, Kaiser, Hahlweg & Fehm-Wolfsdorf, 1998).

Critical thinking disposition has been defined as a constellation of attitudes, intellectual virtues or habits of mind; thus, describes the way an individual reasons, argues and make decisions (Sanchez, Facione, & Gainen 1995; Perkins, Jay & Tishman, 1993). The marriage is an active construction involving individual psychological and cognitive processes of two different persons, man and woman. During the marriage, these two separate units converge on the common goals of their future life. Inherently “critical thinking disposition” is a notion that involves the ability of providing cause and effect relation and analytical thinking. Depending on the skill of critical thinking, the openness of the communication of spouses encourages them to understand each other within their interests and values.

Women have become much more active in work life over the past years, so the number of working women remaining in their jobs, even after getting married or having their children, increases day by day (Matsui, Ohsawa & Onglatcao, 1995). The changes in the role of women also affect the communication with their husbands and as a result their dyadic adjustment. According to another study, it was observed that working women had higher scores on general health, life satisfaction, and self-esteem measures, and lower scores on hopelessness, insecurity, and anxiety, compared with the housewives, although the housewives had lower scores on negative effect than the working women (Nathawat & Mathur, 1993). Based on these findings, it can be inferred that the general well-being of family life of working women is better than the general well-being of family life of housewives.

Thus, the main purpose of this study is to investigate the moderator role of employment status of women in the relationship between critical thinking disposition and dyadic adjustment of married people. The research model of the study is presented in Figure 1.

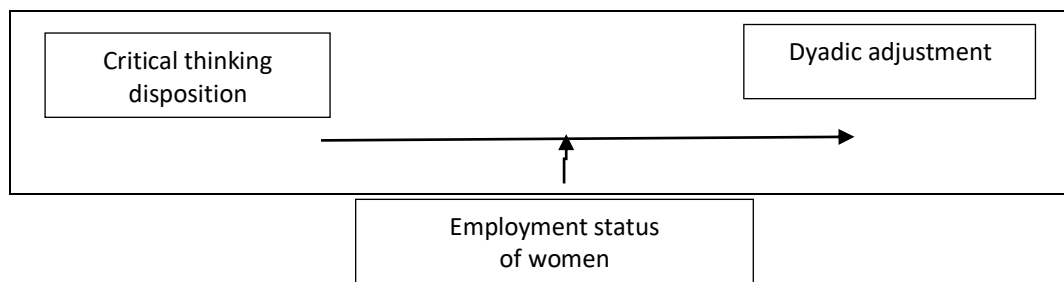


Figure 1. The research model of the study

Based on the main purpose, this study poses the main hypothesis stated below:

H1: There is a correlation between critical thinking disposition and dyadic adjustment.

H2: Employment status of women has a moderating role in the relationship between critical thinking disposition and dyadic adjustment.

The study also examined the following problem statements depending on this main hypothesis:

- Is there a difference between dyadic adjustment level of working and non-working women?
- Is there a difference between dyadic adjustment level of men married to working and non-working women?
- Is there a correlation between marriage year and dyadic adjustment level?
- Is there a difference between dyadic adjustment levels of married adults according to their ages?
- Is there a difference between dyadic adjustment levels of married adults according to their educational levels?

2. Method

2.1. Sample

The research group consists of 242 married adults who were selected randomly including 121 females and 121 males in the range of 27-65 ages (see Table 1).

Table 1. Descriptive statistics of participants according to age

Groups	<i>f</i>	%
27-45	135	55,8
46-65	107	44,2
Total	242	100,0

The range of education level of the entire sample is between primary school and university. 16,9 % of the sample group graduated from primary school, 18,6 % graduated from secondary school, 36,0 % graduated from high school, 28,5 % graduated from university (see Table 2).

Table 2. Descriptive statistics of participants according to education levels

Groups	<i>f</i>	%
Primary school	41	16,9
Secondary school	45	18,6
High school	87	36,0
University	69	28,5
Total	242	100,0

2.2. Data collection tools

Demographical Information Form, Critical Thinking Disposition Scale, and Dyadic Adjustment Scale were used for collecting data from married adults.

2.3. Demographical Information Form (DIF)

Demographical Information Form was developed by researchers, and it was used in order to get information about gender, age and education level.

2.4. Critical Thinking Disposition Scale (CTDS)

Critical Thinking Disposition Scale consists of 11 items and 2 subscales (critical openness and reflective skepticism) in which self-evaluation of participants is intended and is a sample of 5-point Likert scale. The scale was developed by Sosu (2013) and adapted into Turkish by Akin, A., Hamedoglu, Arslan, S., Akin, U., Celik, Kaya & Arslan, N. (2015). The scale was evaluated by overall score. The Cronbach's Alpha internal consistency coefficient of the whole scale is .78.

2.5. Dyadic Adjustment Scale (DAS)

Dyadic Adjustment Scale was developed by Spanier (1976) to assess the quality of relationship of married couples, and it was translated into Turkish by Fisiloglu and Demir (2000). It was a Likert type scale varying from 5 to 7 points, consisting of 32 items evaluated by overall score between 0 and 151. A higher score on the scale demonstrates a higher perception of marital adjustment. The Cronbach's Alpha internal consistency coefficient of the whole scale is .92.

3. Findings

The analysis of data was performed with SPSS version 23.0 packaged software. Pearson Correlation, Independent Samples t-Test, One Way ANOVA and Hierarchical Regression were used in analysis of data. For all these analyses, the results for $p < .05$ were deemed as statistically significant.

The correlation between critical thinking disposition and dyadic adjustment was analyzed with the Pearson Correlation. There was a positive, but weak correlation between critical thinking disposition and dyadic adjustment ($r = .283$, $p < .001$) (see Table 3).

Table 3. Pearson correlation analysis between critical thinking disposition and dyadic adjustment

	Dyadic Adjustment		
	N	r	P
Critical Thinking Disposition	242	.283	.000

p < .001

According to the results of the hierarchical regression analysis summarized in Table 4, critical thinking disposition ($\beta = .28$, $p < .001$) and employment status of women ($\beta = .19$, $p < .005$) predicted dyadic adjustment significantly. However, there was no significant interaction between critical thinking disposition and employment status of women ($\beta = .42$, $p > .05$). These findings indicated that the employment status of women had no moderating role in the relationship between critical thinking disposition and dyadic adjustment.

Table 4. The hierarchical regression results of testing the moderating role of employment status of women in the relationship between critical thinking disposition and dyadic adjustment

Variables	B	SE _B	β	R ²	R ² change	F change
Step 1						
Critical Thinking Disposition (CTD)	.764	.167	.283	.080	.080	20,849*
Step 2						
Employment Status of Women (ESW)	6,916	2,295	.185	.114	.034	9,081**
Step 3						
CTD X ESW	.360	.356	.418	.117	.004	1,024

Dependent Variable: Dyadic adjustment, Note: * $p < .001$ ** $p < .005$

There was a significant difference between dyadic adjustment level of working and non-working women ($t(119) = 2,40$; $p < .05$). The results showed that dyadic adjustment level of working women ($\bar{X} = 109,67$) was higher than dyadic adjustment level of non-working women ($\bar{X} = 101,66$) (see Table 5).

Table 5. Independent sample t test analysis of dyadic adjustment of women according to their employment status.

Employment Status	N	\bar{x}	ss	Sh \bar{x}	t Test		
					t	Sd	p
Working Women	49	109,67	15,99	2,28	2,40	119	.018
Non-working Women	72	101,66	19,23	2,67			

p < .05

There was a significant difference between dyadic adjustment level of men married to working and non-working women (t (119) = 2,35 ; p<.05). The results showed that the dyadic adjustment level of men married to working women (\bar{x} =112, 16) was higher than the dyadic adjustment level of men married to non-working women (\bar{x} =104,26) (see Table 6).

Table 6. Independent sample t test analysis of dyadic adjustment of men according to their wives' employment status

Employment Status	N	\bar{x}	ss	Sh \bar{x}	t Test		
					t	Sd	p
Working Women	49	112,16	13,02	1,86	2,35	119	.020
Non-working Women	72	104,26	20,95	2,47			

p < .05

With regard to the duration of the marriage, the marriage years vary between 1 and 38. The correlation between marriage year and dyadic adjustment was analyzed with Pearson Correlation; but there was no correlation found between marriage year and dyadic adjustment (r=-.097, p>.05) (see Table 7).

Table 7. Pearson correlation analysis between marriage year and dyadic adjustment

	Dyadic Adjustment		
	N	r	P
Marriage Year	242	-.097	.132

p < .05

There was no significant difference between married adults by age groups as 27-45 and 46-65 according to their dyadic adjustment level (r=.82, p>.05) (see Table 8).

Table 8. Independent sample t test analysis of dyadic adjustment according to age

	Age	N	\bar{x}	ss	Sh \bar{x}	t Test		
						t	Sd	p
Dyadic	27-45	135	107,05	18,23	1,57	.82	240	.41
Adjustment	46-65	107	105,09	18,72	1,81			

p < .05

Finally, the one-way ANOVA analysis was performed in order to consider the variance analysis in between educational levels and dyadic adjustment levels of adults, but a statistically significant difference could not be found ($F_{(238,3)}=1,15$, p>.05) (see Table 9).

Table 9. One way ANOVA analysis of education level on dyadic adjustment level

Source		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	p	η^2
Education	Between groups	1169,969	3	389,990	1,150	.330	0.014
Level	Within groups	80725,390	238	339,182			
	Total	81895,359	241				

4. Results and Discussion

Many researches on marriage have a tendency to focus on marital satisfaction rather than dyadic adjustment. However, dyadic adjustment is one of the most important patterns that denotes the quality of marital relationship. On the other hand, in recent years, the growth of population of

working women in modern life has also been affecting the marriage life, and this reveals the necessity of some parameters about the marriage of these working women. In addition to this, couple communication is one variable which is consistently linked to marital adjustment. Critical thinking disposition is a cognitive skill that has an effect on interpersonal communication which provides the spouses to understand each other objectively without judgement. For these reasons in this study critical thinking disposition and marital adjustment concepts were considered together. This study will provide valuable information about what the many causes behind women's lower well-being of their marriages are. The aim of this study was to investigate the moderator role of employment status of women in the relationship between critical thinking disposition and dyadic adjustment of married people.

First, as hypothesized, there was a correlation between critical thinking disposition and dyadic adjustment. According to the findings of the research, promoting the first hypothesis, when critical thinking disposition level increases, the dyadic adjustment level also increases.

Hence, in the moderation model of this study, the second hypothesis was composed based upon the first hypothesis; employment status of women has a moderating role in the relationship between critical thinking disposition and dyadic adjustment. In terms of the role of moderator, the results did not support the employment status of women as a moderator between critical thinking disposition and dyadic adjustment. In other words, the employment status of women did not buffer (Frazier , Tix & Barron, 2004) the relationship between critical thinking disposition and dyadic adjustment. In spite of this finding, the analyses according to the problem sentence about dyadic adjustment level of working and non-working women showed that the dyadic adjustment level of working women was higher than the dyadic adjustment level of non-working women. This finding is in line with other research by Bromberger and Matthews (1994) indicating non-working women have higher levels of depressive symptoms than working women. They have remarked that non-working women with low perceived support, family support, friend support, education, or marital satisfaction were more symptomatic than those who were high on these characteristics. In other studies about working women, it is also mentioned that psychological symptoms of housewives are higher than working women and there is a close relation between psychological symptoms with total family income (Cilli et al., 2004). Consistently, Nathawat and Mathur (1993) also indicated that dyadic adjustment was higher in working women rather than non-working women.

In eastern cultures, male-oriented society is predominant and women have to face and solve all the family problems under social pressure of gender role that was attributed to them from the birth because "men make houses, women make homes". In addition to this, the working women are expected to perform all duties at the office as well as at home. This problem solver attitude makes women more sensitive to the needs of others and open to being touched by their suffering. There is a certain sensitivity, vulnerability, and responsiveness wrapped up in our everyday understanding of human compassion (Facione, 2000). The cognitive skills of analysis, interpretation, inference, explanation, evaluation, and of monitoring and correcting one's own reasoning are at the heart of critical thinking (APA, 1990). Critical thinking disposition makes the spouses so flexible to each other's marital problems as cognitively that the family gains the property of being a functional family by providing a problem solving atmosphere with openness in communication and clear family roles that causes significantly predictable quality of life in women. It means that women who solve family problems well have good relationships with other family members, perform family roles well, and have adjustment with husbands. Also, it affects the adjustment of husbands married to these women (Basharpoor & Sheykholslami, 2015). In accordance with the literature, in this study it was indicated

that the dyadic adjustment level of men married to working women was higher than dyadic adjustment level of men married to non-working women.

The findings of several studies indicate that the high education encourages spouses to solve their marital problems strongly related to maladjustment. Their high education may help them in solving their household problems without depression. Also, because they can get more satisfactory jobs related to the level of their education, the happiness at work is reflected to home (Hashmi, Khurshid & Hassan, 2006). Besides these functions of high educational level of spouses, other researchers also argue for the positive role of education in stabilizing marriage (Ghoroghi, Hassan & Baba, 2015). Especially among middle aged adult couples, there was a negative relationship reported between education and divorcement rates, and moreover the highest divorce rate was observed among people who had the shortest marriage durations (Brown & Lin, 2012). Despite the above mentioned findings, in this study there was no significant difference between educational levels and dyadic adjustment levels of adults. Therewithal, in addition to this finding, when the age and the marriage year were investigated, no correlation was found between those variables and dyadic adjustment, either. In order to deepen the possible sources of the results of this study, there is no obvious evidence observed about the relationship of the marriage year, education level and ages of the spouses with their dyadic adjustment; the socioeconomic and sociocultural structure of the participants might be the possible reason for this. In future, these limitations can be involved in comprehensive studies and the results about these variables can be generalized with more certainty.

In conclusion, the results of this study demonstrated that although there was no moderator role of employment status of women in the relationship between critical thinking disposition and dyadic adjustment; critical thinking disposition and employment status of women were related to dyadic adjustment separately. Therefore, there is limited research about critical thinking disposition, and the current findings of the present research contribute to the literature by studying critical thinking disposition as one of the parameters in the marriage process.

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