

The affects of lying (deception), Snooping (intrusive behaviour) and Cheating (infidelity) in a romantic relationship and their use between genders.

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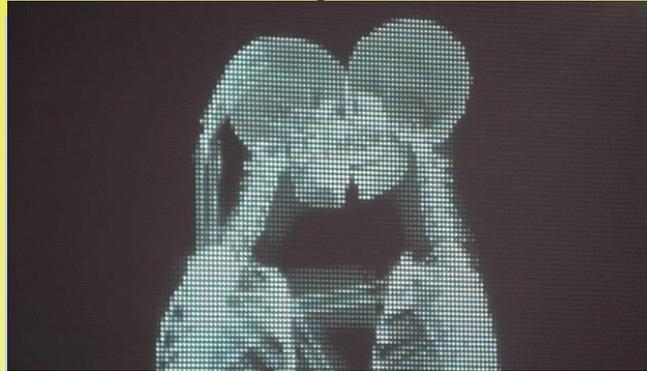
Abstract

The aim of this research was to investigate if there was a difference between genders, in relation to certain behaviours, such as the use of lying (deception), snooping (intrusive behaviour) and cheating (infidelity) in a romantic relationship as well the motives and the frequency at which they present them selves. The study was conducted in order to discuss three aspects in relation to gender differences. How many participants admitted to lying to their partner, either it be in relation to their everyday life, or their emotions towards other people. It separately examined the frequency and motives for being both intrusive and unfaithful, while in a romantic relationship. There was a 45 item questionnaire which 247 people completed, 141 were females and 106 were males. At the beginning of the questionnaire, the participants were asked to fill in their demographic information which found the female participants ranged from 18 to 57 years old and the male participants ranged from 18 to 55. The questionnaire used in this current study, was made by amalgamating three previous surveys. After analysing the current results, it was found that more males tended to act more unfavourably while in a relationship.

Introduction

Romantic relationships tend to share the good, the bad and the ugly moments of life. It is about partners showing their love for one another and sharing those moments together (Perilloux and Buss, 2008). Some moments a couple might share will be joyful, like having a child and some moments will inevitably be negative, such as finding out your spouse has acted in an unfavourable manner, for example being involved in an extradyadic relationship.

Regardless of someone's ethnic or cultural background, finding out about their partner acting unfavourably can be damaging to their relationship. Whether their partner has lied about something small, such as, about their amount of free time, or something big such as, trying to hide an affair, impacts' their level of trust in their partner and it also affects trust in future relationships (Jang, Smith, and Levine, 2002) .



Method

This current study is cross sectional design. This research project benefited from the use of quantitative research methods. Every participant completed and on-line questionnaire, from the site www.surveymonkey.com which was used as a means for data collection. The data was later analysed using SPSSv22.0 for windows. The independent variable of this study was gender and the dependent variables were lying (deception), snooping (intrusive behaviour) and cheating (infidelity) .

There was one exclusion question, asking 'Have you ever been in a romantic relationship?', if the participant said no, that they have not been, they were excluded from the survey and thanked for their participation.

The 45 itemed questionnaire was made up of three questionnaires, of which 247 people completed. Every participant who took part in the 45 itemed questionnaire were over the age of 18 years old. All of whom are currently in a relationship or had previous experience of being in a romantic relationship.

The first questionnaire was created by Truth about Deception (2015). The second of which contained some questions created by The Derby et al., (2012) and the third questionnaire was created by Cheaters and Broken Hearts (2015). The participants were informed that filling in the survey was completely voluntary and that any information that was given will remain completely anonymous.

Results

The first hypothesis was supported, in general there were more male students than female students who tended to use deceptive behaviour in their romantic relationships. Twice the amount of the male participants (10.4%) felt insecure in their current relationships when compared to (3.5%) females.

The second hypothesis when tested found more than twice the amount of females than males stated they were involved in some form of intrusive behaviour (32.1% females; 13.5% males).

Likewise, the third hypothesis was also supported; there was a significant difference found between the amount of males than females, acting in an unfaithful manner while being in a relationship (38.7% males; 6.4% females).

Discussion

The results indicated that in general males tended to be more likely to try and deceive their partner, for example, 10.4% of the male participants felt insecure in their current relationships when compared to 3.5% females. Cole (2001) discussed in "lying to the one you love" that the more deception used is directly correlated to the level of commitment in a relationship.

Twice the amount of females than males stated they were involved in some form of intrusive behaviour (32.1% females; 13.5% males) of those that did snoop, they tended to do it because they were bored Derby et al., (2012) said they usually only do it because the opportunity was there which this study also found.

The third hypothesis found between the amount of males than females, act in an unfaithful manner while being in a relationship (38.7% males; 6.4% females) Fish et al., (2012) found more males tend to cheat because they have a higher need of attention.

References

- Perilloux, C., & Buss, D. M. (2008). Breaking up Romantic Relationships: Costs Experienced and Coping Strategies Deployed. *Evolutionary Psychology*, 6 (1), 164-181.
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