

THE EFFECTS OF SEXISM AND SEX ROLE ORIENTATION
ON ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP SATISFACTION

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
OF
MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

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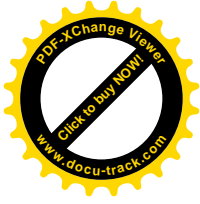
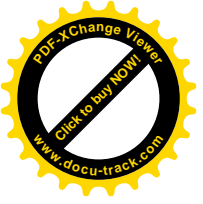
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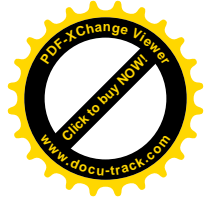
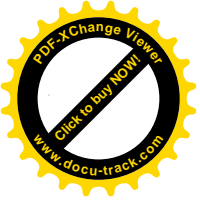
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ABSTRACT

THE EFFECTS OF SEXISM AND SEX ROLE ORIENTATION ON ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP SATISFACTION

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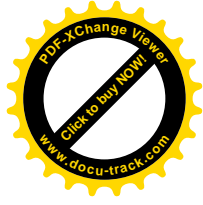
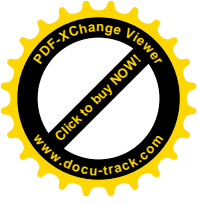
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The purpose of the present study was to examine the relationship between two gender- related concepts, sexism, sex role orientation, and relationship satisfaction in Turkish dating couples. For searching these concepts, 70 dating couples completed Ambivalent Sexism Inventory, Bem Sex Role Inventory, Relationship Assessment Scale and demographic information form.

In the first part of the study, it was demonstrated that partners tended to be similar among their ages, the place they have lived in most of their lives, their levels of religiosity. In addition, participants were similar among their attitudes toward ambivalent sexism and its subcomponents of hostile and benevolent



sexism. Furthermore, couples that had similar attitudes toward hostile sexism reported higher levels relationship satisfaction than the couples with different attitudes toward hostile sexism. However, couples that had similar attitudes toward benevolent sexism and ambivalent sexism as a whole did not differ from the couples with different attitudes among these dimensions on the measure of relationship satisfaction.

In the second part, the results indicated while perceived sex role orientation of the partners were related with relationships satisfaction, actual sex role orientation of the partner was not related with relationship satisfaction. That is, individuals who perceived their partners as androgynous reported higher levels of relationship satisfaction than the other sex role classifications.

In conclusion, both of the two gender-related concepts had a role in explaining relationship satisfaction in dating couples. In addition, the results were discussed in terms of earlier studies, ambivalent sexism theory, sample characteristics and bias in close relationships.

Key words: gender, sex role attitudes, sex role orientation, ambivalent sexism, hostile sexism, benevolent sexism, relationship satisfaction, close relationships.



ÖZ

CİNSİYETÇİLİK, CİNSİYET ROLÜ YÖNELİMİNİN İLİŞKİ
DOYUMU ÜZERİNE ETKİLERİ

Curun, Ferzan

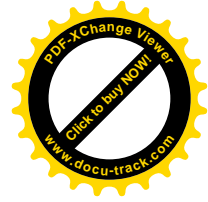
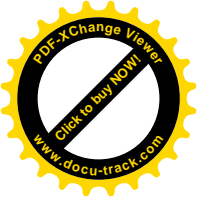
Yüksek Lisans, Psikoloji Bölümü

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Bu çalışmanın amacı toplumsal cinsiyetle ilişkili iki kavram olan cinsiyetçilik ve cinsiyet rolü yönelimi ile romantik ilişki yaşayan çiftlerin ilişki doyumları arasındaki ilişkiyi incelemektir. Sözü edilen kavramları ölçmek için 70 romantik ilişki yaşayan çifte çelişik duygulu cinsiyetçilik envanteri, Bem cinsiyet rolü envanteri, ilişki doyumu ölçeği ve demografik bilgi formu uygulanmıştır.

Çalışmanın ilk bölümünde, partnerler, yaş, yaşamlarının çoğunu geçirdikleri yer, dindarlık düzeyleri ve çelişik duygulu cinsiyetçilik ve onun alt faktörleri olan düşmanca ve korumacı cinsiyetçiliğe ilişkin tutumlarında benzer bulunmuşlardır. Ayrıca, düşmanca cinsiyetçilik konusunda benzer tutumları

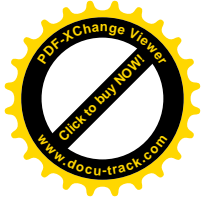
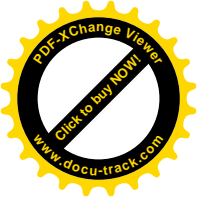


paylaşan çiftler, benzer tutumları paylaşmayan çiftlere kıyasla daha yüksek düzeyde ilişki doyumu bildirmişlerdir. Ancak, korumacı cinsiyetçilik ve çelişik duygulu cinsiyetçilik envanterinin tümünde benzer tutumu paylaşan ve paylaşmayan çiftler arasında ilişki doyumu açısından fark bulunmamıştır.

Çalışmanın ikinci bölümünde, partnerlerin algılanan cinsiyet rolü yönelimleri ilişki doyumu ile ilişkili bulunurken, partnerlerin gerçek cinsiyet rolü yönelimleri ile ilişki doyumu arasında ilişki bulunmamıştır. Partnerlerini androjen olarak algılayan katılımcılar partnerlerini diğer cinsiyet rolü kategorilerinde algılayan katılımcılardan daha yüksek düzeyde ilişki doyumu bildirmişlerdir.

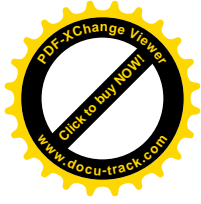
Sonuç olarak, toplumsal cinsiyetle ilişkili olan her iki kavramında romantik ilişki yaşayan çiftlerde ilişki doyumunu açıklamada etkili olduğu bulunmuştur. Araştırmanın bulguları önceki çalışmalar, çelişik duygulu cinsiyetçilik kuramı, araştırmanın örneklem özellikleri ve yakın ilişkilerdeki yanlılık kavramları temelinde tartışılmıştır.

Anahtar kelimeler: toplumsal cinsiyet, cinsiyet rolüne ilişkin tutumlar, cinsiyet rolü yönelimi, çelişik duygulu cinsiyetçilik, düşmanca cinsiyetçilik, korumacı cinsiyetçilik, ilişki doyumu, yakın ilişkiler.



To My Parents





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First of all, I would like to thank to my supervisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nuray Sakallı Uğurlu, for her guidance. She was constructive and encouraging during this period. I am appreciative to Prof. Dr. Selim Hovardaoğlu for his valuable advices. I used his article as a base to deal with the statistics of my thesis, which guided me to carry out a unique statistical technique for interdependent dyads.

I would also like to express gratitude to my friends Başak Beydoğan, Seda Can, Türküler Erdost, Selen İmamoğlu, Günnur Karakurt Koyutürk, Başak Ok, Yasemin Şimşek, Aylin Yüksel and my cousin Ebru Balıbek for their intimacy, support and understanding.

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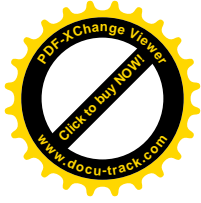
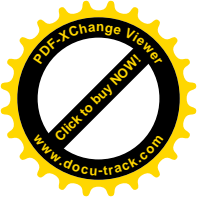
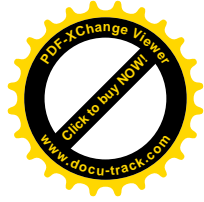
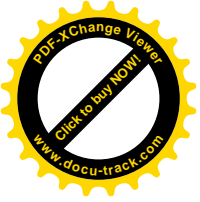
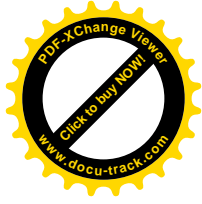


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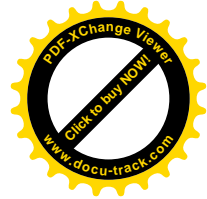
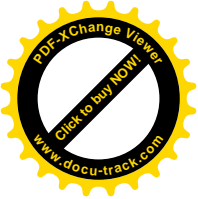


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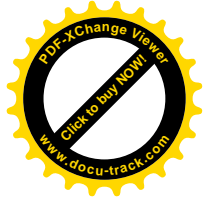
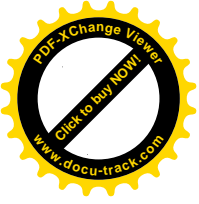




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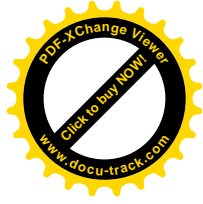
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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

People are born into relationships and throughout their lives they have to experience different kinds of them like parent child relationships, friendships, romantic involvements and marital relationships. In some of these relationships, people experience happiness, satisfaction whereas in some of them people feel disappointed and dissatisfied. A large literature has tried to answer what have determined satisfaction in human relationships. Several theoretical models were proposed about this concept like Investment model (Rusbult, 1983), contextual model (Bradbury & Fincham, 1988; cited in Kurdek, 1991), problem solving models, (e.g., Guttman & Krokoff, 1989; cited in Kurdek, 1991). A large literature has performed studies depending on these theoretical models especially depending on Rusbult's (1983) investment model (e.g., Bui & Peplau, 1996; Davis, 2000; Pistole & Clark, 1995; Rusbult & Martz, 1995). Beyond these studies that depend on theoretical models, a great deal of research have focused on the relationship between different psychological variables and relationship satisfaction. Some of the psychological variables are conflict style (Cramer, 2000), perceived superiority (Buunk & Van der Eijnden, 1997), expressive



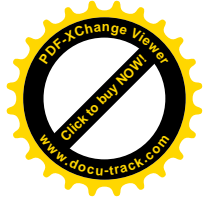
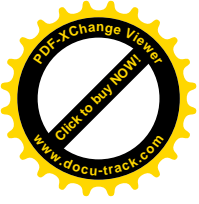
interaction (Sprecher & Metts, 1995), intimacy creating (Sanderson & Contor, 1997), sex role orientation (Juni & Grim, 1996), future time orientation (Öner, 2000), self- disclosure (Hendrick, 1981) and sex role attitudes (Peplau, Hill & Rubin, 1993).

In the present study, two gender related concept- attitudes toward sexism, sex role orientation- and relationship satisfaction in Turkish dating couples will be investigated. In the following pages first, the pertinent topic of sex role attitudes, then ambivalent sexism theory and sex role orientation will be elaborated on, and their relationships with relationship satisfaction will be examined with the help of the relevant literature. After Turkish culture will be inspected briefly and related studies in Turkish culture will be presented.

Before beginning the main topic, first some definitions will be summarized briefly in order to better understand gender related concepts.

1.1. Definitions

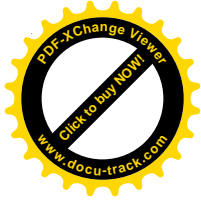
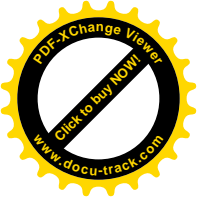
Gender has an important impact on peoples' daily lives and relationships. Although people are born with their sexes, the factor that influences relationships is gender. "Sex refers to the biological phenomena associated with being female or male" (Winstead & Derlega, 1993, p. 2). On the other hand, "Gender refers to psychological features and social categories that are created by human cultures" (Matlin, 1996, p. 5). Thus, gender is not a biological or genetic phenomenon; it is gained during the socialization process by learning experiences (Winstead & Derlega, 1993).



Another important concept, that has been an important research area, is gender stereotypes. During the socialization process, individuals learn widely known beliefs about the characteristics of the sexes. These beliefs are referred as gender stereotypes. In literature, gender stereotypes are defined as “the structural set of beliefs about the personal attributes of women and men” (Ashmore & Del Boca, 1979; cited in İmamoğlu, 1996, p. 209). According to gender stereotypes, women and men have different personality traits. Stereotypes view men as aggressive, self-reliant, competitive, dominant, and achievement oriented, whereas they view women as yielding, nurturing and emotional (Basow, 1992; Unger & Crawford, 1992). The traits that are associated with women are labeled as feminine and the traits associated with men are labeled as masculine.

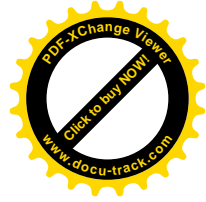
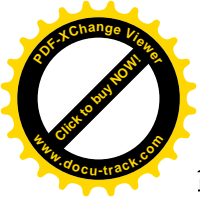
Sex role orientation is about masculinity and femininity. “Sex role orientation (gender role identity) refers to the individuals’ endorsement of personal characteristics considered appropriate (in a particular culture) for women and men. A distinction is usually made with masculinity (M) and femininity (F) respectively to refer to gender linked differences in personality traits” (Winstead & Derlega, 1993, p. 3).

Another gender related concept that influences relationships is sex role attitudes. Sex role attitudes are defined as “an individual’s belief about the appropriate behavior for women and men. Sex role attitudes indicate a person’s adherence to culturally based norms prescribing standards of conduct in male female relations” (Peplau et al., 1993, p. 32).



Finally, another important term about gender issues is sexism, which is defined as “a bias against people on the basis of their gender” (Matlin, 1996, p. 59). For instance, the beliefs that women cannot be competent lawyers or men cannot be competent nursery school teachers reflect sexism (Matlin, 1996).

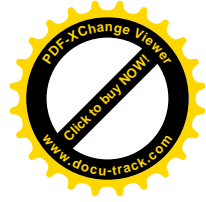
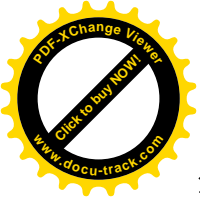
In summary, many concepts like sex role attitudes, sex role orientation, and gender stereotypes are related with the term gender. Leading gender researchers have proposed that the term gender is a multifactorial and a multidimensional construct. They argued that the term gender was a large umbrella and involved the constructs of gender roles, gender stereotypes, gendered behavior, gender belief systems, sex typing, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender related attitudes. These different factors have different kind of developmental histories and determine the behavior by interacting in complex ways (Biernat & Kobrynowicz, 2000; Spence, 1993). Similarly, Deaux and Lewis (1983) proposed that gender stereotypes involved a set of components, which affected each other but were relatively independent. In the present study, gender is conceptualized as a multifactorial and multidimensional construct. In addition, as known, two gender- related concept would be investigated about relationship satisfaction in dating. In the following pages, first, the relevant literature about these concepts will be reviewed, and then the arguments of the present study will be presented.



1.2. Sex Role Attitudes

Sex role attitudes may be important determinants of relationships because as Winstead and Derlega (1993) pointed that individual's behaviors may be influenced by his or her acceptance of the cultural beliefs about the appropriate behaviors of women and men in close relationships. Peplau et al. (1993) proposed that there are two basic themes about sex role attitudes. One of them emphasizes gender-based division of labor and the other is male dominance, which is about men's being head in the relationships and decision-making.

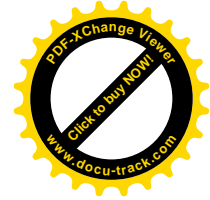
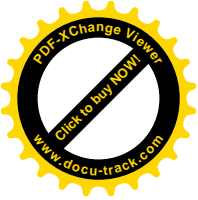
The first theme, gender based division of labor, has been investigated by different researchers especially about marriage (e.g., Berardo, Shehan & Leslie, 1987; Steil & Weltman, 1991). Traditionally housework and childrearing has been regarded as women's work, whereas wage earning has been regarded as men's work. However, because these beliefs are challenging nowadays, mainly by women's having a role in the labor market, partners' attitudes toward sex roles may have important implications for marriage. Researchers have demonstrated that individuals' degree of adhering sex role attitudes is related with different patterns in marriage. For example, Atkinson and Huston (1984) showed that husbands and wives' sex role attitudes were related with wives' participating the labor force. Similarly, Huston and Geis (1993) illustrated that sex role attitudes were related with different marital patterns like involving in housework, spending time for pay and relationship with the others. The researchers demonstrated that to the extent spouses held liberal sex role attitudes they worked more hours for pay outside the home. In addition, wives who held liberal attitudes worked more hours



for pay when compared the traditional women. On the basis of housework, since wives with liberal attitudes were more likely to work outside the home and they lacked the time for housework; they were less involved in the housework. On the other hand, husbands' sex role attitudes were not related with the involvement of the housework. The researches found that sex role attitudes were related with spouses' spending time together in marriage. Husbands who held traditional sex role attitudes spent less time with their wives, conversely husbands who held less traditional attitudes tended to spend less time without the company of their wives with their friends. Furthermore, wives with equalitarian attitudes spent less time with kids without the company of their spouses.

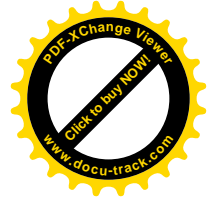
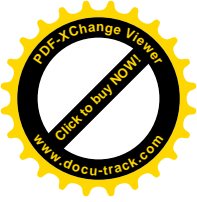
Although the first theme of sex role attitudes, gender based division of labor influence mainly the marital relationships, the second theme of sex role attitudes, male dominance, shape all kinds of heterosexual relationships as well as dating which is the main focus of the present study.

Traditional sex roles give clear messages about how men and women are supposed to behave in a dating script. According to traditional sex roles, men are supposed to be dominant, leader and supposed to say more about decision-making and activities (Peplau & Gordon, 1985). Girlfriends are expected to be submissive in such a script (Peplau, 1983; cited in Glick & Fiske, 1998). At the beginning of the relationship, initiation is assumed to be males' role. Women, however, are supposed to refuse or accept and should signal their interests indirectly (Basow, 1992). Men are supposed to be more interested in sexuality. They are supposed to be initiators of sexuality. On the other hand, women are supposed to control men'



sexual wills and assumed to be more interested in love and relationships (Basow, 1992; Peplau, Rubin & Hill, 1977).

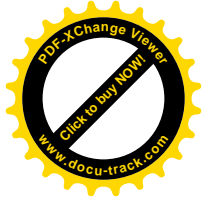
Researchers have demonstrated that partners' adhering traditional sex role beliefs were related with traditional patterns in dating. Sakallı and Curun (2000) demonstrated that individuals who had high scores on sexism had also positive attitudes towards male dominance and assertiveness in romantic relationships. In the same way, Peplau et al. (1993) asked the couples about who was more initiative at the beginning of the relationship. The men with traditional sex role attitudes reported that they had taken the lead. Moreover, traditional men reported their relationship as more male dominant as compared to the moderates and egalitarians. About sexuality, consistent with these prescriptions, Peplau et al. (1977) demonstrated that men were more interested in sexuality significantly more than women. In the same study, they also found that the sexuality patterns of the couples were associated only with women's attitudes and prior experiences. They suggested that men had a positive control by initiating the sexuality and women had a negative control by refusing it. Similarly, Peplau et al. (1993) revealed that only women's sex role attitudes determined whether the couples engaged in sexual intercourse. Traditionalism among sex role attitudes was related with women's premarital sexual experiences. The proportion of virginity was higher among traditionalists than the egalitarians and moderates (Peplau et al., 1993). Peplau et al. (1977) also showed that traditionalism was associated with the timing of the first sexual intercourse in the relationship. Women who experienced



sexuality in the early stages of the relationships differed from the others. They were more interested in being career woman and less being a housewife.

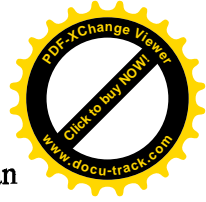
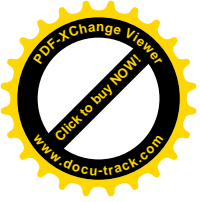
In summary, results of the researches have demonstrated that individuals' holding traditional vs. non-traditional or egalitarian sex role attitudes have an imperative impact in shaping marital and dating relationships. Studies have shown that people tend to match with others who are similar on a variety of characteristics, social attitudes, values (Hill, Rubin & Peplau, 1976) and sex role attitudes (e.g., Aube & Koestner, 1995; Huston & Geis, 1993).

Researchers have investigated whether traditional and non-traditional couples could maintain satisfying relationships (e.g., Lye & Biblarz, 1993; Vanyperen & Buunk, 1991). For instance, Lye and Biblarz (1993) examined the attitudes toward family life, gender roles and marital satisfaction. They hypothesized that since traditional couples have well-defined rules about marriage, they could maintain more satisfying relationships than the non-traditional ones. The results were consistent with the hypothesis that people who held non-traditional attitudes were less happy and reported more disagreements. Similarly, Vanyperen and Buunk (1991) demonstrated that traditionalists were more satisfied and less uncertain about their relationships and speculated that this uncertainty was due to the flexible role patterns in non-traditional marriages similar with Lye and Biblarz 's (1993) arguments. Different from these findings, Aida and Falbo (1991) found that equal partners reported more satisfaction than the traditional partners in their study about power strategies.



Some researchers have demonstrated that having traditional or non-traditional sex role attitudes was not essential for maintaining satisfying relationships, the important factor were attitude similarity about sex roles. Attitude similarity has been a popular topic in literature, especially in interpersonal attraction studies more than relationship satisfaction. These studies have demonstrated that attitude similarity enhances interpersonal attraction (e.g., Bryne & Nelson, 1965; Newcomb, 1961; cited in Bersheid & Walster, 1978). Hendrick (1981) proved that attitude similarity not only enabled attraction between the sexes, but also led relationship satisfaction. She found that both the actual and the perceived attitude similarity were related with relationship satisfaction. Another evidence about the association of attitude similarity and relationship satisfaction comes from the Investment model (Rusbult, 1983). According to the investment model, individuals can be satisfied with their relationships when they receive high rewards, low costs, and when their relationship exceeds their general expectations or comparison level. The model proposes variety of rewards and costs. Partner's attitudinal similarity and similarity of values are considered as rewards whereas partner's unattractive attitudes about relationships are considered as a cost (Rusbult, 1983). Thus, from this point of view having similar attitudes will be a reward, which will enhance relationship satisfaction.

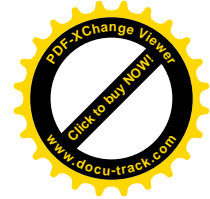
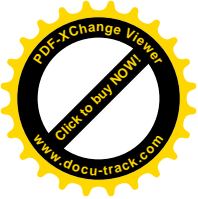
Some researchers have also shown that attitude similarity among beliefs about the sexes was related with relationship satisfaction. For instance, Cooper, Chassin and Zeiss (1985) demonstrated that spouses matching on sex roles attitudes were related with greater levels of satisfaction. Depending on these



results, the researchers suggested that spouses' agreement on sex role attitudes can preserve harmony and reduce the tension between the spouses. Similarly, Aube & Koestner (1995) searched the relationship between gender related attitudes and dyadic adjustment. They demonstrated that couples' holding similar attitudes was associated with higher dyadic adjustment. The researchers suggested that people not only attracted to others who hold similar gender attitudes, but also tended to choose to live people with similar attitudes, because people expected fewer conflicts when they agreed on sex role attitudes. Consistent with these studies, Lye & Biblarz (1993) found that marital satisfaction was reduced when the spouses did not have the same attitudes toward female labor force participation.

Beyond satisfaction, attitude similarity about sex roles may be also important for the survival of the relationships. For instance, Peplau et al. (1993) showed the importance of matching on sex role attitudes. In their study, matching on sex role attitudes was related with relationship stability although it was not related with satisfaction. In addition, Finlay, Starnes and Alvarez (1985) showed that sex role value differences between the spouses were greater among divorced population as compared to married population. This result may be evidence that disagreement among sex roles may be destructive for close relationships.

In brief, the literature showed that attitude similarity about sex roles is related with relationship satisfaction and also a significant factor for the survival of the relationship. In the present study, in the light of pertinent literature, it is argued that attitude similarity about sexism, which reflects male dominance, can be related with relationship satisfaction in Turkish dating couples. The earlier

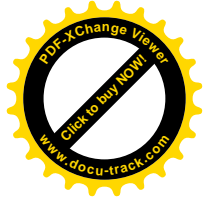


studies about the similar issues have focused mainly on marital and cohabiting relationships in which agreement on first theme of sex role attitudes, gender-based division of labor, is critical. The sample of the present study is college dating couples which do not have the problems of sharing the housework, raising the children or breadwinning. However, agreement on the second theme of sex role attitudes, male dominance, may be important for maintaining a satisfying relationship for also this sample, because by agreeing on male dominance they can form agreement on the basic patterns of dating like decision making about the leisure time, paying the bills, relationships with friends etc. By this way, they can form harmony and avoid conflict due to disagreement similar with married and cohabiting couples. Consistent with the speculations, Cramer (1998) indicated that having opinion differences were strongly associated with dissatisfaction in romantic relationships (cited in Cramer, 2000).

Different from earlier studies, the present study will use Ambivalent Sexism Theory as a base and will use its measurement of Ambivalent Sex role Inventory. For that reason in the following pages, first, Ambivalent Sexism Theory will be summarized which has a multifaceted explanation about sex roles. Then, the speculations will be repeated by using the view of the theory.

1.3. Ambivalent Sexism Theory

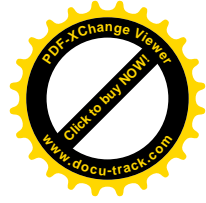
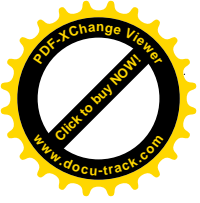
Sexism has been typically viewed as hostility toward women (Glick & Fiske, 1996). Ambivalent sexism views sexism as a multidimensional construct, which involves hostile and benevolent attitudes (Glick & Fiske, 1996). Hostile



sexism can be defined as “unfavorable attitudes toward women that justify men’s higher status” (Glick & Fiske, 1998, p. 211). Benevolent sexism is defined as “a set of interrelated attitudes toward women that are sexist in terms of viewing women stereotypically and in restricted roles but that are subjectively positive in feeling tone (for the perceiver) and also tend to elicit behaviors typically categorized as prosocially (e.g., help seeking) or intimacy seeking (e.g., self disclosure)” (Glick & Fiske, 1996, p. 491). Although benevolent sexism is the positive side of this ideology it shares the same assumption with the hostile sexism that women are the weaker sex and should be restricted in traditional roles. For that reason they are correlated attitudes (Glick & Fiske, 1996).

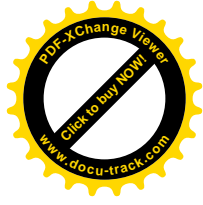
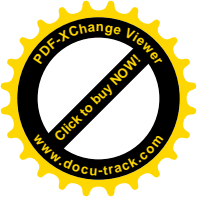
According to the ambivalent sexism theory, hostile and benevolent attitudes toward women stem from two universal characteristics of human groups: patriarchy and sexual reproduction. Patriarchy is men’s possessing structural control of economic, legal and political institutions. This patriarchal control fosters hostile sexism. On the other hand, sexual reproduction gives women dyadic power that enables men to be dependent on women as wives, mothers and romantic objects. Dyadic power is reflected with protective attitudes toward women. Men tend to idealize them as romantic objects. These attitudes are defined as benevolent sexism (Glick & Fiske, 1996; Glick, Diebold, Bailey-Werner & Zhu, 1997).

Hostile sexism and benevolent sexism are composed of three shared components: paternalism, gender differentiation and heterosexuality. Paternalism is defined as “relating to others in the manner of a father dealing with children”



(Random House college dictionary, cited in Glick & Fiske, 1996). Similar with sexism, this definition includes dominance (dominative paternalism) affection and protection (protective paternalism). Dominant paternalism views women as not fully competent adults and justifies patriarchy. On the other hand, because of men's dependency on women, protective paternalism coexists with it which proposes that women should be loved, cherished and protected (Glick & Fiske, 1996). Gender differentiation has also hostile and benevolent sides: competitive gender differentiation and complementary gender differentiation. Competitive gender differentiation proposes that only men have the traits necessary for important social institutions. Complementary gender differentiation is the benevolent side of this ideology, which stems from men's dependencies on women. In this ideology the traits that are associated with traditional roles between the sexes are viewed as complementary. Since women are perceived as having complementary traits and men are perceived as lack of these traits they are viewed as men's better half (Glick & Fiske, 1996, 1997). Heterosexuality also has hostile and benevolent sides. Heterosexual hostility views women as sexual objects and also this ideology involves a fear that women can use their sexual attraction to gain power. On the other hand, benevolent side of heterosexuality is intimacy. This benevolent view romanticizes women as sexual objects and views them as necessary for men to be complete.

As a result, although benevolent sexism differs from hostile sexism by involving a positive tone toward women, benevolent sexism, ambivalent sexism and hostile sexism are similar constructs because of their emphasis on male

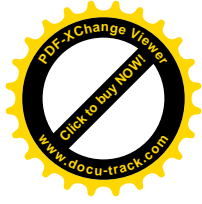


dominance. As presented earlier, male dominance is one of the major themes of sex role attitudes that has a weighty impact in shaping the dating relationships (Peplau et al., 1993). Then, the earlier arguments can be repeated for the concepts of ambivalent sexism theory that couples' agreement on ambivalent sexism as a whole and on its subcomponents, hostile and benevolent sexism might be related with higher levels of relationship satisfaction in the present sample.

By agreeing on male dominance, partners' expectations might match, they might avoid conflict and so might form harmony which in turn might lead them to experience more satisfying relationships than the couples which were formed of partners with dissimilar attitudes toward these dimensions. Moreover, from the view of Investment model (Rusbult, 1983), attitude similarity might be a reward, which may enhance satisfaction in their relationships.

1.4. Sex Role Orientation

The second interest of the present study is sex role orientation, which is another component of gender. Sex role orientation is a different concept from sex role attitudes. While sex role attitudes are about the individuals' attitudes toward the appropriate behavior of sexes, sex role orientation is related with individuals' endorsement of personality traits considered appropriate for sexes (Peplau et al., 1993; Winstead & Derlega, 1993). Huston and Geis (1993) investigated both the concepts of sex role attitudes and sex role orientation about marital relationships. They reached to a conclusion that marital patterns are complex and both sex role attitudes and sex role orientation have power in creating these patterns. Depending



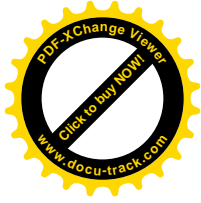
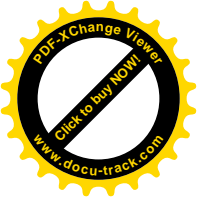
on the complexity of the marital patterns, in the present study, it was decided to search both the concept of sex role orientation and sexism in order to understand dating and gender issues in detail. In this section, first, the concept of sex role orientation and theoretical approaches will be explained. Then, their association with relationship satisfaction will be presented. Finally, the hypothesis and the significance of the present study will be given.

As mentioned earlier, sex role orientation is related with the personality traits that are considered as appropriate for sexes. The traditional cultural norms expect to create different personality traits from men and women. Men are expected to be independent, assertive, achievement oriented, aggressive, competitive and dominant, which facilitates the wage earner role. On the other hand, women are expected to be nurturing, sensitive, selfless and emphatic which are related with motherhood role (Basow, 1992). The traits that are associated with men are labeled as masculine, whereas the traits that are associated with women are labeled as feminine. Several researchers emphasize the common point about masculinity and femininity that, femininity is linked with expressive orientation and masculinity is correlated with instrumental orientation (e.g., Parsons & Bales, 1955; cited in Bem, 1975; Spence & Helmreich, 1978; cited in Glick & Fiske, 1998). Several researchers were keened on the concepts of instrumentality and expressiveness. Buhrmaster, Furman, Writtenberg and Reis (1988) explored the associates of instrumentality and expressiveness. They established that instrumental traits were related with initiation and negative assertion competence, whereas expressiveness was correlated with disclosure,



emotional support and conflict management competence. Similarly, Lamke, Sollie, Durbin and Fitzparick (1994) studied the connection between masculinity and instrumental competence and femininity with expressive competence. Consistent with Buhrmaster et al. (1988), they exhibited that feminine individuals perceived themselves good at in intimate self -disclosure and reported emotionally supportive behaviors in a close relationship. Masculine individuals portrayed themselves comfortable with initiating the behaviors and discussing negative thoughts and feelings.

Before 1970s, researchers have treated masculinity and femininity as one-dimensional, bipolar constructs. According to this view, when a person is high in masculinity, this means that he or she is low in femininity. After 1970s, several researchers challenged the old view by proposing that both masculine and feminine traits can coexist within the same person (Biernat, 1991; Marsh & Bryne, 1991). Bem (1975) was one of these researchers who proposed the psychological androgyny concept. According to her, a person can be masculine and feminine, in other words both instrumental and expressive. She proposed that for a fully healthy personality masculinity and femininity should be integrated and labeled this integration as psychological androgyny. Depending on these ideas, she constructed a measure labeled as Bem Sex Role Inventory (BSRI) which differs masculine, feminine, androgynous and undifferentiated (individual who is low on both masculinity and femininity scores) individuals. However, many researchers have criticized the concept of androgyny (e.g., Robinson & Green, 1981, Juni & Grim, 1993 cited in Juni & Grim, 1993). Bem (1993) herself also

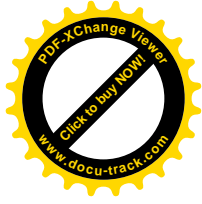


changed her mind and proposed that the individual would have two potential sources of inadequacy when the androgyny concept is accepted. Despite these critics, the research about sex role orientation continues depending on the views proposed after 1970s by involving the psychological androgyny concept.

1.5. Sex Role Orientation and Close Relationships

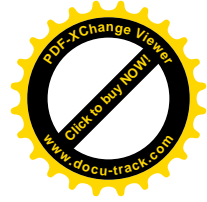
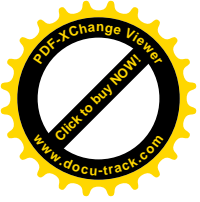
A large literature has examined the link between sex role orientation and close relationships. Studies have demonstrated that sex role orientation influences marital patterns as well as sex role attitudes. Atkinson & Huston (1984) showed that spouses' sex role orientation was related with the division of labor at home. Huston and Geis (1993) also found that sex role orientation was associated with spending time for pay, couples' sexual intercourse and spending time with kinds and friends in marriage as well as sex role attitudes. De Lucia (1987) demonstrated that sex role orientation was also related with dating patterns. His results showed that high masculine individuals had also high points on the masculinity dating index which involves the behaviors like opening the doors for the partner, carrying packages for the partner, paying for the activities and making decisions. On the other hand, high feminine individuals had high points on the femininity index, which involves the items like avoiding making decisions, taking a problem in an emotional way.

Relationship satisfaction has been a popular research area in studies that focus on sex role orientation. According to the gender stereotypes, people should be attracted by sex typed others like masculine men and feminine women (Basow,



1992). However, Ickes (1993) suggests in his article that the enactment of the traditional gender roles lead the sexes attracted to each other but ironically this attraction does not lead them to maintain satisfying relationships. According the researcher, the attraction between the sex typed individuals stems from their past biological and cultural heritages. According the evolutionary perspective, women should be attracted to a stereotypically masculine men, since by the help of his dominant, assertive traits of such men, they will be able to find the physical resources which are essential for the offspring's survival. On the other hand, men will be attracted to stereotypically feminine women because her communal traits will signal her potential nurturance to the offspring (Kenrick, Sadalla, Groth & Trost, 1990; cited in Ickes, 1993). In early human cultures, these kinds of exchanges had a survival advantages for the human beings. Ickes (1993) suggests that recently the dynamics of the heterosexual relationships is changing and both of the partners can contribute the physical resources and the important issue becomes to be sensitive to the partner's needs in heterosexual relationships. Ickes (1993) summarizes this as people's conflict within themselves, that is, a conflict between their biological and cultural heritage and the contemporary aspirations.

A large literature has examined the relationship between sex role orientation and relationship satisfaction with different samples especially about marital relationships. Antill (1983) was one of the researchers who searched the relationship between sex role orientation and marital satisfaction. According to the results, the happiness of the spouse depended on the partners' femininity. The couples that were formed of both feminine and androgynous individuals were



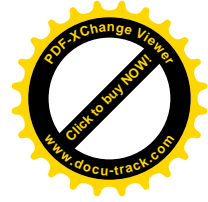
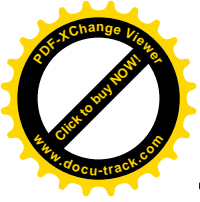
happier than the couples that were not both feminine and androgynous. The researcher speculated that the happiness in relationships depend on feminine personality traits like sensitiveness. Masculinity, which was correlated with self-confidence, achievement, however, did not facilitate a satisfying relationship.

Cooper, Chassin and Zeiss (1985) investigated the same issue with dual working couples. The researchers hypothesized that since such couples should engage in multiple sex roles like rearing the children, involving the housework, androgynous individual would maintain the most satisfying relationships because of having both the instrumental and expressive traits. Consistent with these arguments, androgynous individuals could maintain greatest satisfaction.

Juni & Grim (1993) also searched the relationship between sex role orientation and marital satisfaction among New York metropolitan sample. They demonstrated that femininity was associated with marital satisfaction for both men and women, whereas masculinity has been related with marital satisfaction for only men different from other studies.

Kurdek and Schmitt's (1986) sample was married, cohabiting, gay and lesbian couples. Consistent with the other studies, their results revealed that the androgynous and feminine individuals had high relationship quality. Thus, similar with the literature, these findings showed the importance of femininity or the combination of femininity (androgyny) on maintaining satisfying relationships in the sample of married, cohabiting, gay and lesbian couples.

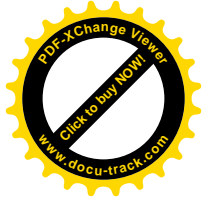
Coleman and Ganong (1985) performed a study on college students about sex role orientation and love. They used Bem sex role inventory (BSRI). After



classifying their subjects as feminine, masculine, androgynous and undifferentiated, they found that in all groups androgynous individuals scored higher than all categories on the expression of love and non-material love than the other groups. As a result, these findings have shown the importance of femininity and/or androgyny in maintaining satisfying relationships. Many researchers presented above demonstrate that feminine or expressive traits like nurturance, emotional support, empathy, and sensitiveness are essential for maintaining satisfying relationships. Consistent with the literature, Sprecher and Metts (1995) showed that three forms of expressive interaction-companionship, sexual expression and supportive communication were associated with relationship satisfaction.

However, the findings, that emphasize the importance of femininity generally stems from the data of marital relationships. Studies about dating are very limited. Lamke et al. (1994) performed a study about dating and consistent with marital relationships, perception of partner as feminine was related to relationship satisfaction for both sexes. The researchers did not gather their data from the actual couples, they searched the subjects' perception of his/her partner and they highlighted the importance of gathering data from both partners.

The aim of this part is to replicate the same issue, which is the relationship between sex role orientation and relationship satisfaction in Turkish dating couples. Different from earlier studies, in the present study, both the perception and the partner's actual levels of sex role orientation will be searched in order to assess whether there is difference between perception and the actual data.

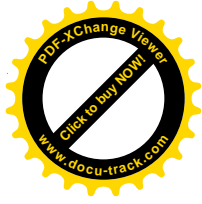


Consistent with the literature, it is expected that individuals whose partners are androgynous or feminine will maintain more satisfying relationships than the others. It is also expected that individuals who perceive their partners as androgynous or feminine will report higher levels of satisfaction than the others.

Another important difference of the present study is its sample, which are Turkish dating couples. The earlier studies about the similar issue have been mainly performed in western cultures. Turkish culture has different characteristics from many western cultures, which may influence human relationships. For that reason in the following pages first some characteristics of the Turkish culture will be reviewed briefly and some studies in Turkish culture will be presented before summarizing the purpose and the hypothesis of the present study.

1.6. Turkish culture

The studies about gender issues and close relationships have been performed mostly in Western cultures. Turkish culture may be an important research area because of its peculiarities that may influence the close relationships. The first dimension that may influence human relationships is individualism and collectivism. Different from individualistic Western cultures, Turkish culture involves the pattern of collectivism although it cannot be regarded as collectivistic as a whole (Göregenli, 1995; Kuşdil, 1991). Hui & Triandis (1986) determined seven factors that distinguish the concepts of individualism and collectivism. These are: “ considerations of implications (costs and benefits) of one’s own decisions and /or actions for other people, sharing of material sources,

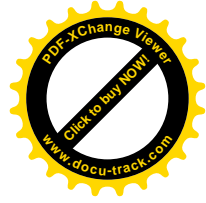


sharing of non-material sources, sociability to social influence, self-presentation and face work, sharing of outcomes, feeling of involvement in others' lives" (Hui & Triandis, 1986; pp. 229-231). In these patterns, collectivists' behaviors are shaped by their concern about the wider collectives, whereas individualists concern for only for themselves or close others.

Another dimension in evaluating the cultures is masculinity and femininity. Different from many Western masculine cultures, Hofstede (1991) revealed in his study that Turkey was one of the cultures that were on the feminine side across cultures on the masculinity index (Hofstede et al., 1998). The concepts of masculinity and femininity at the cultural level is defined as:

"Masculinity stands for a society in which men are supposed to be tough and focused on the material success, women are supposed to be modest, tendered and concerned with the quality of life. The opposite pole femininity stands for a society in which men and women are supposed to be modest, tender and concerned with the quality of life" (Hofstede, 1991 ; cited in Hofstede et al., 1998, p. 6).

The last factor that may affect the present study at the cultural level is Ambivalent Sexism. A cross-cultural research on 19 cultures was performed to search whether both hostile and benevolent sexism was common in all cultures (Glick et al., 2000). The results of the study demonstrated that both hostile and benevolent sexism were pervasive across cultures, and strong correlations were found between hostile and benevolent sexism. Turkey has been found relatively sexist on the hostile and benevolent sexism dimensions (Glick et al., 2000).

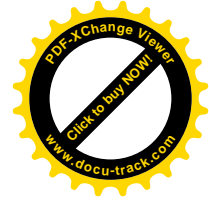
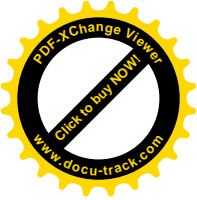


As a result among individualism/collectivism, masculinity/ femininity and ambivalent sexism dimensions, Turkish culture can be regards as collectivistic, feminine and a sexist culture.

1.7. Studies in Turkish culture about gender issues and romantic relationships

The studies about gender issues and romantic relationships have been limited in Turkey. There have been some studies focusing on the association between sex role orientation and self-esteem (İnelmen, 1996), the mate preferences of university students depending on gender (Durmazkul 1991), the effect of gender role levels on the level of adjustment (Aslan, 1991), gender based attitudes toward factory workers (Acar, 1989), the effects of employment status, sex and gender roles on the frequency of household activities and depression (Dökmen, 1997), changing roles and marital satisfaction (İmamoğlu, 2000) and the relationship between future time orientation and relationship satisfaction (Öner, 2000).

Akgün's (1993) study was one of the limited studies about gender issues and romantic relationships. She explored the association between gender stereotypes and attraction, demonstrating that participants perceived the individuals who behaved consistent with gender stereotypes as more attractive than who did not behave consistently. Sakallı and Curun (2001) searched the relationship between sexism and attitudes toward gender stereotypes in romantic relationships. They presented that people who were high on hostile and benevolent sexism had more positive attitudes about stereotypes in romantic relationships.

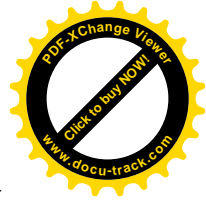
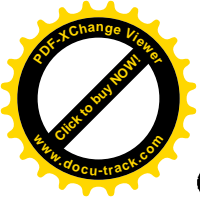


In the present study, as known, the association between sexism, sex role orientation and relationship satisfaction in dating couples will be investigated. The purpose and the hypotheses of the study will be presented in detail in the following pages.

1.8. The purpose and the hypothesis

The literature presented in earlier pages has demonstrated that both sex role attitudes and sex role orientation have important impacts on shaping the relationships and maintaining relationship satisfaction. In the present study, first interest is to explore the influence of sexism, which highlights male dominance like sex role attitudes, on relationship satisfaction. Second aim is to examine the influence of sex role orientation on the issue at hand. By investigating two basic concepts related with gender, the relationship between gender issues and dating relationships could be understood in detail. Therefore, the present study has two aims and consequently two parts.

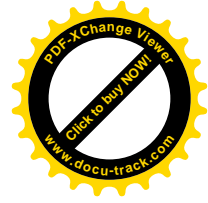
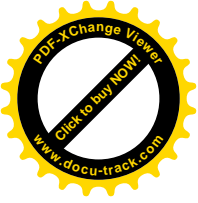
In the first part of the study, the literature about sex role attitudes and close relationships were presented and argued that attitude similarity about ambivalent sexism and its subcomponents, hostile and benevolent sexism can be related with relationship satisfaction in Turkish dating couples. Different from earlier studies, the present study uses Ambivalent Sexism as a base in order to study sex roles. In earlier studies, variety of instruments were used about this issue, like Spence & Helmreich's (1972) Attitudes toward women scale, Swim, Aikin, Hall & Hunter's (1995) modern sexism scale that focus on the political ideologies about women



(cited in Glick & Fiske, 1997). In the present study, ASI (Ambivalent Sexism Inventory) will be used which focuses directly on the interpersonal relationships between men and women (Glick & Fiske, 1996). Glick & Fiske (1997) point that ASI is especially suitable for the researches about heterosexual relationships. In this study, it is proposed that attitude similarity about Ambivalent Sexism and its sub components of hostile and benevolent sexism will be related with relationship satisfaction, because couples who have similar attitudes can agree on the basic patterns of dating and avoid conflict due to the disagreements as presented in detail in the earlier pages.

Another important difference of the study from other studies stems from its sample of dating couples. Much of the research has been performed on marital relationships, but there have been very few studies about dating couples. For that reason, it is important to gather information about the relationships between the issues at hand from both partners of a couple.

As a result, in this part of the study, first, partners' similarity among demographic variables and ambivalent sexism and its subcomponents will be searched depending on the literature that have demonstrated that partners tend to match with a variety of social characteristics, social attitudes and values (e.g., Hill et al., 1976) as well as among sex role attitudes (e.g., Aube & Koestner, 1995; Huston & Geis, 1993). Then, the relationship between couples' attitude similarity toward ambivalent sexism, its subcomponents, and relationship satisfaction will be investigated. The predictions of the study are:



1- Partners will be similar among demographic variables, like age, education level of their parents, their level of conservatism, religiosity and the place where they lived mostly in their lives,

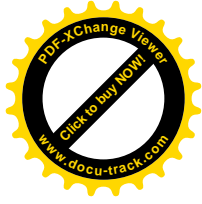
2- Partners will be similar among their attitudes about ambivalent sexism and its sub components of benevolent sexism and hostile sexism,

3- Couples who have similar attitudes toward Ambivalent Sexism and its subcomponents of benevolent and hostile sexism will report higher levels of relationship satisfaction than the couples with dissimilar attitudes.

In the second part, the literature about sex role orientation and close relationship especially relationship satisfaction were presented. Researchers have searched this issue with different samples. They have usually focused on marital relationships. Lamke et al. (1994) performed a research about dating but only searched the perceived sex role orientation of the partners and proposed the importance of gathering data from both individuals. This study will examine both the perception of the partners about each other and the actual sex role orientation of the partner in the area of relationship satisfaction. Depending on the literature on sex role orientation, the predictions are:

1-Individuals, whose actual partners are androgynous or feminine will report higher levels of relationship satisfaction than the other sex role classifications.

2- Individuals who perceive their partners as androgynous or feminine will report higher levels of relationship satisfaction than the other sex role classifications.

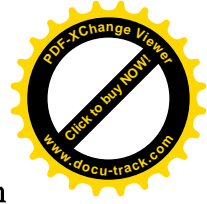
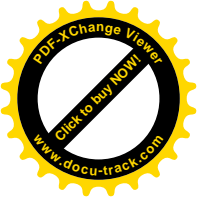


CHAPTER 2

METHOD

2.1. Participants and Procedure

The sample of the present study was composed of 70 dating couples, 70 women and 70 men, who were currently students in various departments of Middle East Technical University and Hacettepe University. 16 of the participants were from Hacettepe University and the rest of them were from Middle East Technical University. The age range of the sample was 18-32 with a mean of 21.9. Most of the participants came from highly educated families. 75.7% of the participants' mothers and 86.4% of the participant's father had high school or university degree. 42% of the participants were living with their families, 1.4% were with their relatives, 12.9% with their friends, 28.6% were living in student dormitories and 5.7% of the participants were living with their dating partners. In terms of relationship duration, 33.6% of the participants were together with their partners with 0-6 months, 9.3% were together with 6-12 months, 27.9% were together with 12-24 months and 28.6% were together with more than 24 months. The average of the time they spent together was 6.36 hours in a day and 5.67 days in a week. Most of the participants did not expect to marry with their current



partners except 36.4% of them. 58.6% of the participants were involved in sexuality with their current partners. All the participants came from cities or metropolises of Turkey.

The members of the couples were seated separately and they completed the questionnaires independently. Most of the participants received extra credit for their participation of the study.

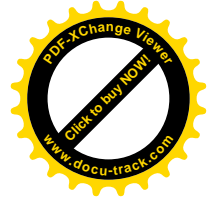
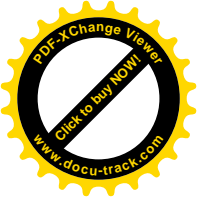
2.2. Instruments

Three instruments, Ambivalent Sexism Inventory (ASI), Bem Sex Role Inventory (BSRI), Relationship Assessment Scale (RAS) and also Demographic Information Form were used in the present study.

2.2.1. Ambivalent Sexism Inventory (ASI)

The ASI (see Appendix A) was used to measure sexist attitudes of dating couples, which focuses on interpersonal relationships between men and women (Glick & Fiske, 1997). Participants were instructed to evaluate the scale on a 7-type response format, which ranges from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (7). Higher points indicated higher levels of hostile and benevolent sexism. There was no reverse item in the scale (Glick et al., 2000).

Glick and Fiske (1996, 1997, 2000) developed and validated the instrument and proved that ASI was a reliable and a valid construct to use. ASI contains 22 items, which measures the hostile and benevolent sexism that covers the areas of paternalism, gender differentiation and heterosexual hostility.



Sakallı (2001) tested reliability and validity of ASI in Turkish culture.

The Turkish version of the scale was found as reliable and valid. The internal consistency of ASI was .85 and the Cronbach's α for HS and BS were .87 and .78. The test re- test reliability of the scale was .87 ($N = 82$). Sakallı (2001) performed Principle Component Analysis to evaluate the structure of Turkish version of ASI. Consistent with Glick and Fiske's (1996) results, at first, the analysis resulted in four factors: HS and three factors of BS, (protective paternalism, complementary gender differentiation and heterosexual intimacy). Then, when the data was rotated for two-factor solution, the major sub factors of HS and BS emerged.

Factor analysis (see Table 1) and reliability analysis was also carried out for the present study. Factor analysis by varimax rotated yielded 4 factors with eigenvalue over 1. The analysis was forced to 2 factors to assess whether two major components of Ambivalent Sexism, Hostile and Benevolent Sexism, would emerge. The results of the analysis confirmed the expectations. Similar with Glick and Fiske (1997), the first factor was Hostile Sexism, which had 11 items ($\alpha = .87$) with an eigenvalue of 4.5, explaining 20.5 % of the variance. The second factor was Benevolent Sexism, which also had 11 items ($\alpha = .80$) with an eigenvalue of 3.37, which explained 15.35 % of the variance. The explained variance of the whole scale was 35.8 % ($\alpha = .85$).

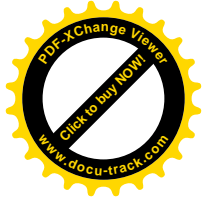
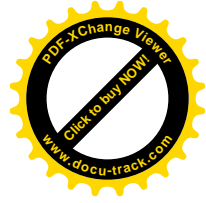
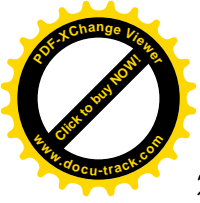


Table 1

Factor analysis of ASI: Summary of Items and Factor Loadings (N =138)

Item	Factor Loading	
	HS	BS
14	.75	
21	.74	
11	.68	
10	.67	
16	.67	
15	.62	
7	.62	
4	.60	
2	.56	
18	.47	
5	.40	
13		.75
1		.71
9		.66
22		.60
17		.56
6		.55
20		.52
12		.41
19		.33
8		.32
3		.26
Eigenvalues	4.52	3.37
Explained variance	20.5 %	15.35 %

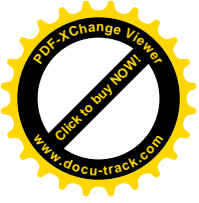


2.2.2. Bem Sex Role Inventory (BSRI)

The BSRI (see Appendix B) was used to measure the participants' masculine and feminine personality traits, in other words, sex role orientation. BSRI was composed of 60 adjectives in which 20 of them are feminine, 20 of them are masculine and 20 of them are neutral adjectives that can be attributed to both sexes. While taking BSRI, respondents were instructed to indicate how well each adjective describes themselves and their partners on a 7-type format ranging from 1 (never true for me) to 7 (always true for me).

BSRI was constructed by Bem (1974). She had performed test re-test reliability and found reliability coefficients as .90 for masculinity scale and .90 for femininity scale. Kavuncu (1987) revised BSRI into Turkish culture. 13 academicians of department of English literature from Hacettepe University translated the scale from English to Turkish. The adjectives that 70% of the group agreed on were taken in the instrument and the other adjectives were translated again. After the translation, 30 experts evaluated the translation about the adjectives appropriateness to Turkish culture. In the light of their evaluations the last form of the inventory was composed (Kavuncu, 1987; Öner, 1997). Kavuncu's (1987) assessment on the structure and convergent validity of the scale showed that BSRI was a valid and a reliable instrument for Turkish culture.

According to scoring technique of BSRI, first means and medians of masculinity and femininity subscales should be calculated. Accordingly, when an individual's mean of masculinity is above the group median of masculinity and his or her mean of femininity is below the femininity group median, then the

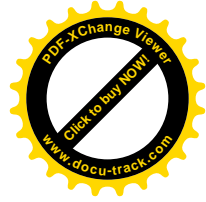
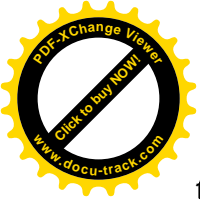


individual can be classified as masculine. Conversely, if an individual's mean of femininity is above the group median of femininity and mean of masculinity is below the group median of masculinity, then that individual is classified as feminine. When an individual's means of both femininity and masculinity are above the group median on these dimensions, then he or she is classified as androgynous. On the other hand, when an individual's masculinity and femininity means are below the group median on these dimensions, then he or she should be classified as undifferentiated (Bem, 1975; Kavuncu, 1987; Öner, 1997). In the present study, individuals' and perception of their partners' sex role orientations were calculated by using this technique.

2.2.3. Relationship Assessment Scale (RAS)

The RAS (Hendrick, 1988) is a 7-item Likert scale, which measures relationship satisfaction specifically in romantic relationships (see Appendix C). Respondents evaluated the scale on a 7-type format, which ranges from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (7). Items 4 and 7 were reverse scored. The higher scores indicate higher levels of satisfaction.

Hendrick (1988) performed principle component analysis for assessing the structure of the scale. She found that there was only one factor with eigenvalue greater than 1 and explained 46% of the variance. The item total correlation varied from .57 to .76. She calculated RAS's convergent validity with dyadic adjustment scale (DAS) and the correlation between RAS and DAS was .80 on the sample of dating couples (Hendrick, 1988). Vaughn & Baier (1999) also searched the reliability and validity of the scale with a clinical sample. They found that the



total correlation between RAS and DAS was .84 ($p < .01$). Among this sample, the alpha coefficient was .91 and item total correlations ranged from .35 to .80 among the clinical sample.

For this study, the scale was translated into Turkish by the researcher and two other judges. Then, factor analysis and reliability analysis was performed (see Table 2). Consistent with the original version, factor analysis resulted in one factor with eigenvalue over 1 and explained 52% of the variance. The alpha coefficient was found .86. The scale was accepted as a reliable instrument for the purpose of the present study.

Table 2.

Factor Analysis of RAS: Summary of the Items and Factor Loadings (N=140)

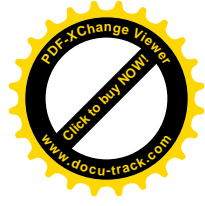
Item	Factor Loading
	1
2	.88
1	.82
5	.81
3	.72
4	.60
7	.57
6	.56
Eigenvalue	3.64
Explained variance	52.01%



2.2.4. Demographic information form

In demographic information form, participants provided information about their ages, parents' education level, the place they came from, the place in which they were actually living, their level of conservatism and religiousness. Furthermore, partners gave information about how much time they shared together in a day and in a week, their expectations about the future of their current relationship and whether they involved in sexual intercourse with their partners (see Appendix D).



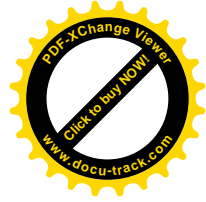
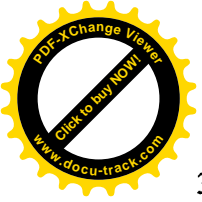


CHAPTER 3

RESULTS

In this section, in order to assess couples' correlations on demographic variables and Ambivalent Sexism and its subcomponents of benevolent and hostile sexism, a unique statistical technique for interdependent dyads was used (see Hovardaoğlu, 2001). Then, since it was argued that attitude similarity about ambivalent sexism and its subcomponents of benevolent sexism and hostile sexism is related with relationship satisfaction, couples with similar attitudes and couples with dissimilar attitudes on these dimensions were composed. Several Analyses of Variances were performed to find out whether these groups would differ on the scores of relationship satisfaction.

Next, four type of sex role classification (masculine, feminine, androgynous and undifferentiated), were formed for the individuals' actual partner and perception of their partners. Similarly, several Analyses of variances were performed to assess whether these groups would differ among their scores of relationship satisfaction. In the following pages the results will be given respectively.



3.2. Correlation Analysis

A unique statistical technique for interdependent couples, which was reviewed by Hovardaoğlu (2001), was used to assess couples' correlations among demographic variables, ambivalent sexism, hostile sexism and benevolent sexism. Before carrying out the analysis, first, data matrices for interdependent dyads were arranged for each of these variables in a way that was suggested in the article (Hovardaoğlu, 2001). Then, in order to examine partners' similarity, partial correlations were performed, which was controlled by sex. Partial correlation coefficients were tested by a formula that was given in the same article. Accordingly, the results were as follows:

Among demographic variables, as expected, partners tended to be similar among their ages ($Z = 4.28$, $N = 68$ couples, $p < .05$), the place that they had lived in most of their lives ($Z = 2.5$, $N = 67$ couples, $p < .05$), their level of religiosity ($Z = 2.26$, $N = 64$ couples, $p < .05$). On the other hand, partners were different among the variables of the education level of their mothers ($Z = 1.63$, $N = 68$ couples), education level of their fathers ($Z = -1.4$, $N = 67$ couples), their level of conservatism, ($Z = 0.24$, $N = 65$ couples). In sum, partners showed similarity among some demographic variables except education level of parents and conservatism. It was also expected that partners would show similarity among Ambivalent, Hostile and Benevolent Sexism. The results confirmed the expectations. Partners' attitudes were similar among the measures of Ambivalent Sexism ($Z = 2.05$, $N = 67$ couples, $p < .05$), hostile sexism ($Z = 2.29$, $N = 69$ couples, $p < .05$) and benevolent sexism ($Z = 2.17$, $N = 67$ couples, $p < .05$) (see Table 3).

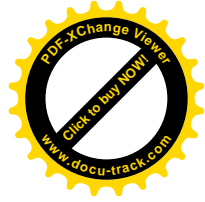


Table 3

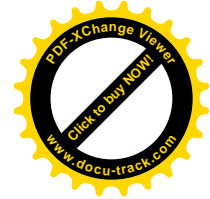
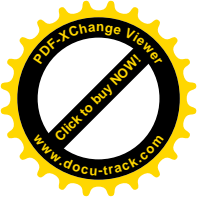
Partial Correlations of Couples

Variables	Number of the Couples	Partial correlation coefficients
Education level of mother	68	.20
Education level of father	67	-.18
Age	68	.52*
Conservatism	65	.03
The place they lived	67	.31*
Religiousness	64	.28*
Ambivalent sexism	67	.25*
Hostile sexism	69	.28*
Benevolent sexism	67	.27*

* $p < .05$

3.3. Results of Ambivalent, Hostile, Benevolent Sexism on Relationship Satisfaction

In this section, univariate Analysis of variances were performed to assess whether there were significant differences among couples that had similar vs. dissimilar attitudes toward Ambivalent Sexism (ASI) and its sub components, hostile (HS) and benevolent sexism (BS) on relationship satisfaction. Before performing the analysis, independent variables of ASI, BS and HS were divided into two groups by using the medians of these variables. Participants whose scores were below the median were classified as 'low', whereas participants whose



scores were above the median were classified as ‘high’ among these dimensions. The medians of AS, HS and BS were 4.2955, 4.4545, 4.4545 respectively.

Then, for each independent variable, the data matrices for interdependent dyads were formed, which was presented in the earlier pages. Using these matrices, three types of couples for each independent variable were composed: a) couples in which both partners had low scores among ASI, BS and HS, b) couples in which both partners had high scores among ASI, BS and HS and c) couples in which the partners had different scores among the independent variables of ASI, BS and HS (e.g., one partner had low score among HS and the other had high score among HS). Using these couple types, “attitude similar vs. attitude dissimilar” groups among ASI, HS and BS were composed. Accordingly, couples in which both partners had low scores among ASI, BS and HS were involved in “attitude similar groups” among these dimensions. Furthermore, couples, in which both partners had high scores among ASI, BS and HS were also involved in the “attitude similar groups” among these dimensions. On the other hand, couples in which the partners had different scores among ASI, HS and BS were involved in “attitude dissimilar groups” among these dimensions. Means and standard deviations of these groups were shown in Table 4.

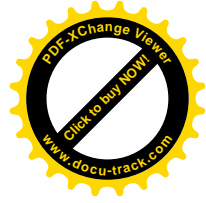
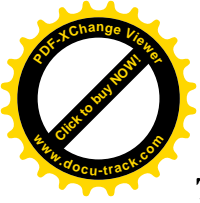


Table 4

Means and Standard Deviations of Couples among Ambivalent Sexism, Benevolent Sexism and Hostile sexism

	<u>Couples with similar attitudes</u>			<u>Couples with dissimilar attitudes</u>		
	M	SD	N	M	SD	N
AS	5.96	.82	82	5.90	.94	54
BS	5.99	.82	86	5.84	.93	50
HS	6.09	.74	74	5.79	.94	66

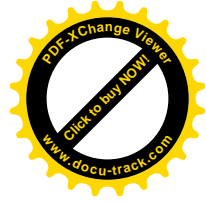
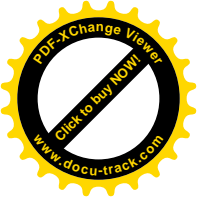
After composing the couple types, several univariate ANOVAs were performed to assess whether these groups differ among relationship satisfaction.

First, a Univariate Analysis of Variance was performed on ambivalent sexism (couples with similar vs. dissimilar attitudes) as independent variable and relationship satisfaction as dependent variable (Table 5).

Table 5

Univariate Analysis of Variance Summary for Ambivalent Sexism

<u>Source</u>	<u>df</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>F</u>
Between groups	1	.095	.095	.127
Within groups	134	100.98	.75	
Total	135	101.08		



As shown in Table 5, the result of the analysis was insignificant ($F(1,134) = .127$). The couples in which both partners had similar attitudes toward ambivalent sexism ($M = 5.96$) did not differ significantly from the couples in which the partners had different attitudes among ambivalent sexism ($M = 5.90$) on the measure of relationship satisfaction.

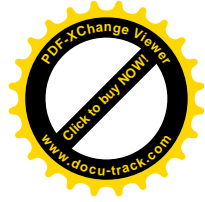
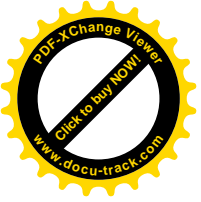
Another univariate analysis of variance was performed for benevolent sexism (couples with similar vs. dissimilar attitudes) as independent variable and relationship satisfaction as dependent variable (Table 6).

Table 6

Univariate Analysis of Variance Summary for Benevolent Sexism

<u>Source</u>	<u>df</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>F</u>
Between groups	1	.75	.75	.999
Within group	134	100.34	.75	
Total	135	101.08		

As demonstrated in Table 6, the result was also insignificant for benevolent sexism ($F(1, 134) = .999$). That is, couples whose partners shared similar attitudes toward benevolent sexism ($M = 5.99$) did not differ significantly from the couples in which the partners had different attitudes toward benevolent sexism ($M = 5.84$) on the measure of relationship satisfaction.



Finally, a univariate analysis of variance was performed for hostile sexism (couples with similar vs. dissimilar attitudes) as independent variable and relationship satisfaction as dependent variable (Table 7).

Table 7

Univariate Analysis of Variance Summary for Hostile Sexism.

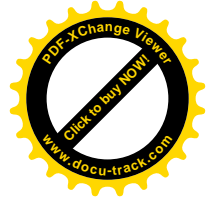
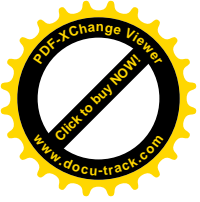
<u>Source</u>	<u>df</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>F</u>
Between groups	1	3.07	3.07	4.31*
Within group	138	98.45	.71	
Total	139	101.52		

* $p < .05$

As seen in Table 7, the result was significant among hostile sexism ($F(1, 138) = 4.31, p < .05$) suggesting that couples in which both partners agreed on hostile sexism ($M = 6.09$) were more satisfied with their relationships significantly than the couples in which the partners had dissimilar attitudes toward hostile sexism ($M = 5.79$).

3.4. Results of Sex Role Orientation on Relationship Satisfaction

In this section, the influence of actual sex role orientation of the partner and perceived sex role orientation of the partner on relationship satisfaction was searched. Before carrying out univariate ANOVAs, couples' role orientations was calculated by using BSRI's median split of classification, which was presented in

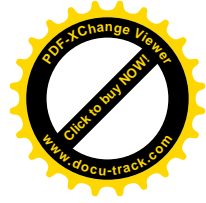
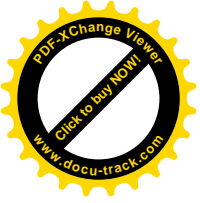


the measures part. The medians for masculinity and femininity subscales were 4.85 and 5.15 respectively. By using the median split method, perceived sex role orientation of the partner was also composed. The medians of masculinity and femininity subscale for this variable were 4.85 and 5.37 respectively. Then, similar with the earlier analysis, the data matrices for interdependent dyads were composed. By using the matrices, actual sex role orientation of the partners were formed. Accordingly, four groups were composed for both actual and perceived sex role orientation of partners: masculine, feminine, androgynous, and undifferentiated. Means and standard deviations of these groups were shown in Table 8.

Table 8

Means and Standard Deviations of the Actual and Perceived Sex Role Orientation of Partners

Partner	<u>Actual sex role orientation</u>			<u>Perceived sex role orientation</u>		
	M	SD	N	M	SD	N
Masculine	5.86	.70	27	5.96	.67	33
Feminine	5.98	1.07	27	5.86	.97	32
Androgynous	6.04	.95	36	6.42	.65	32
Undifferentiated	5.90	.69	36	5.48	.94	33



After the groups were formed, first a univariate analysis of variance was performed for actual sex role orientation of the partner (feminine, masculine, androgynous, and undifferentiated) as independent variable and relationship satisfaction as dependent variable (Table 9).

Table 9

Univariate Analysis of Variance Summary for Actual Sex Role Orientation of the Partners

<u>Source</u>	<u>df</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>F</u>
Between groups	3	.60	.20	.266
Within group	122	92.02	.75	
Total	125	92.62		

As shown in Table 9, the result of the analysis was insignificant suggesting that four groups did not differ on the measure of relationship satisfaction ($F(3, 122) = .266$).

Finally, a one-way analysis of variance was performed for individuals' perceived sex role orientation of the partners (masculine, feminine, androgynous, and undifferentiated) as independent variable and relationship satisfaction as dependent variable (Table 10).

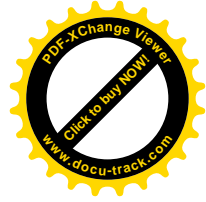
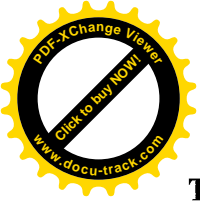


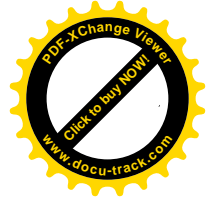
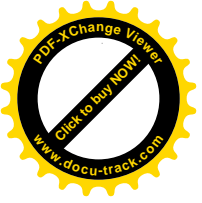
Table 10

Univariate Analysis of Variance Summary for Perceived Sex Role Orientation the Partners

<u>Source</u>	<u>df</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>F</u>
Between groups	3	14.39	4.80	7.121*
Within group	126	84.88	.67	
Total	129	99.28		

* $p < .05$

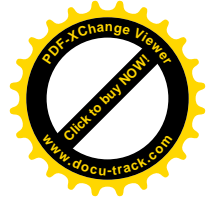
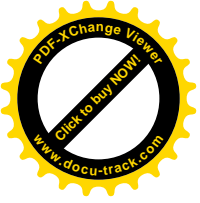
As shown in Table 10, the result was statistically significant ($F(3, 126) = 7.121, p < .05$). In order to assess group differences among relationship satisfaction, Tukey Cramer test was performed (Hovardaoğlu, 2001). The results demonstrated that there were significant differences between perceiving the partner as androgynous ($M = 6.42$) and masculine ($M = 5.96, q = 3.28, p < .05$), between perceiving the partner as androgynous ($M = 6.42$) and feminine ($M = 5.86, q = 4, p < .05$), between perceiving the partner as androgynous ($M = 6.42$) and undifferentiated ($M = 5.48, q = 6.71, p < .01$), between perceiving the partner as masculine ($M = 5.96$) and undifferentiated ($M = 5.48, q = 3.4, p < .05$). However, there were not significant differences between perceiving the partner as masculine ($M = 5.96$) and feminine ($M = 5.86, q = .71$), and between perceiving the partner as feminine ($M = 5.86$) and undifferentiated ($M = 5.48, q = 2.71$). In addition, participants who perceived their partner as androgynous reported the highest level of relationship satisfaction than the other categories ($M = 6.42$).



CHAPTER 4

DISCUSSION

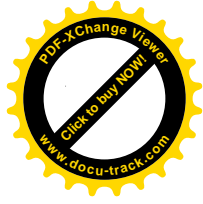
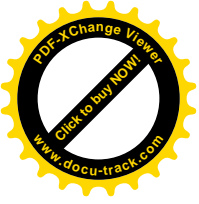
The basic question of the present study was how gender influences relationship satisfaction in dating couples. In order to understand this issue, two gender-related concepts- sexism and sex role orientation- were investigated which were found as important concepts in the dynamics of the heterosexual relationships. Attitude similarity about ambivalent sexism and its subcomponents of hostile and benevolent sexism was explored in order to search their power in explaining relationship satisfaction. About sex role orientation, since the literature has shown that sex role orientation of the partner was critical for maintaining satisfaction, the focus of the study was the sex role orientation of the partner. Different from other studies, both actual and perceived sex role orientation of the partners' were searched. Before beginning to examine the primary interest of the study, first, partners' correlations on sexism and demographic variables were investigated to find out a common emphasis in literature that people have a tendency to be paired with similar others. In the following pages, first, these results will be discussed, and then, limitations of the study and suggestions for future research will be presented.



4.1. Similarity of partners

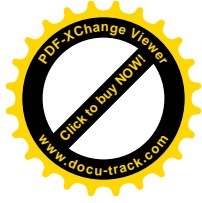
In this part, similarity among demographic variables, ambivalent sexism and its subcomponents of hostile and benevolent sexism was searched. Several studies have shown that partners tended to be paired with others who showed similarity about social characteristics, social attitudes and values (e.g., Hill et al., 1976) suggesting that people are attracted to others who show similarity among social characteristics and attitudes depending on the findings of interpersonal attraction studies (e.g., Newcomb, 1961; Kerckhoff, 1974; cited in Bercheid & Walster, 1978). In the light of this literature, it was expected that partners in the sample of the present study would show similarity among demographic variables, ambivalent sexism and its subcomponents. The results confirmed the expectations. Among demographic variables, the correlation analysis demonstrated that the partners of the present study were similar among age, the place they lived in most of their lives and their levels of religiosity consistent with Hill et al.'s (1976) findings. Thus, depending on these findings, it is possible to argue that participants of the present study had chosen individuals who had similar demographic characteristics as a dating partner because similarity led attraction.

Among ambivalent sexism, the correlation analysis demonstrated that partners of the study were similar in terms of ambivalent sexism as a whole and its subcomponents, hostile and benevolent sexism. That is, men and women who both adhered high level of ambivalent, hostile and benevolent sexism tended to date with partner who also held high levels toward these dimensions. Similarly,



men and women who held low levels of ambivalent, hostile and benevolent sexism tended to date with a partner who also held low levels toward these dimensions. These findings were consistent with earlier research results performed with married and cohabiting couples (Aube & Coestner, 1995; Huston & Geis, 1993). In the light of these findings, it is possible to speculate that individuals tended to choose partners who had similar attitudes toward sexism as a dating partner due to the link between attitude similarity and interpersonal attraction. However, another possible speculation can be, as Aube and Koestner (1995) and Hendrick (1981) also suggested, that partners might have become similar among their attitudes about ambivalent sexism and its subcomponents by influencing each other during their relationships period. In order to test whether individuals had chosen others who were similar among their attitudes toward sexism as a dating partner or became similar during the relationship period, couples who are in the first stages of their relationships and couples that are in different stages of their relationships can be compared. However, although the present sample involved couples with different relationship durations, such a comparison could not be performed due to the sample size.

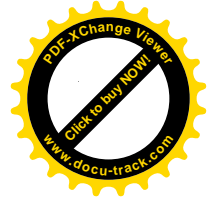
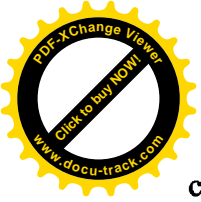
In summary, the findings of this part revealed that partners tended to be similar among demographic variables and also among ambivalent sexism, benevolent sexism and hostile sexism. Since the major purpose of the present study is to find out the link between attitude similarity among sexism and relationship satisfaction, the importance of similarity in the dynamics of close relationships will be discussed in the following pages.



4.2. Sexism and Relationship Satisfaction

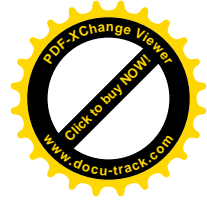
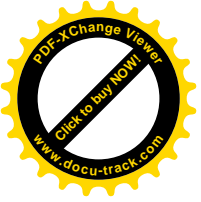
The aim of this part was to examine the association between the attitude similarity among sexism and relationship satisfaction in Turkish dating couples. Although the correlation analysis presented above showed that participants tended to date with a partner who had similar attitudes in general, the present sample also involved the couples in which partners had dissimilar attitudes toward sexism. As known, it was expected that couples that shared similar attitudes toward ambivalent sexism and its subcomponents, hostile and benevolent sexism, would report higher levels of relationship satisfaction than the couples, which were composed of partners with dissimilar attitudes. Before beginning to discuss the findings, the main concepts and the difference of the study from the earlier works will be reviewed briefly in order to make the topic clear.

As presented in the introduction part, sex role attitudes are defined as “an individual’s belief about the appropriate behavior for women and men” (Peplau et al., 1993, p. 32) and involves two themes which are gender based division of labor and male dominance (Peplau et al., 1993). The researches that were reviewed in the introduction part demonstrated that having traditional vs. non-traditional attitudes had a power in shaping the patterns in marital and dating relationships. Thus, it was expected that having similar attitudes toward sex roles might lead partners to agree on the basic patterns of the relationship, to form harmony, and to help them avoid conflict, which in turn may lead to relationship satisfaction. In literature there are some evidence suggesting that similarity among sex role attitudes was related with higher levels of relationship satisfaction in marital and



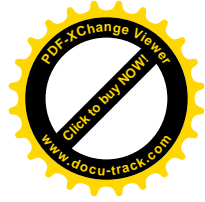
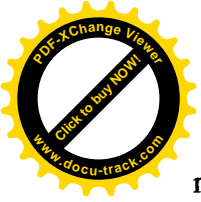
cohabiting couples (e.g., Aube & Coesner, 1995; Cooper, Chassin & Zeis, 1985). In marital and cohabiting relationships, since they were sharing the same house, the important domain can be gender-based division of labor, which is the first theme of sex role attitudes. As known, participants of the present study were all college dating couples that were mainly not sharing the same house, except 5.7% of them. Thus, in terms of gender-based division of labor, the study's sample is different from marital and cohabiting relationships. However, in terms of the second theme of sex role attitudes, which is male dominance, it was expected that agreeing on male dominance might influence relationship satisfaction in dating.

The merely difference of the study from the early research was not only the characteristics of the sample. Another main difference is that the present study first time focused on ambivalent sexism theory and its instrument of ambivalent sexism inventory in close heterosexual relationships. Ambivalent sexism brings a new view to the area by proposing the concept of benevolent sexism. Benevolent sexism involves a positive tone about women and idealizes women in traditional female roles. The assumption behind benevolent sexism is that men should be protector and the provider of women. The second component of ambivalent sexism is hostile sexism, which shares the classical view of other definitions in this area. That is, it reflects the unfavorable attitudes toward women, views women in inferior ways and aims to justify male power. However, although benevolent sexism involves positive feelings, it accepts the assumption that women are the weaker sexes and should stay in traditional roles (Glick & Fiske, 1996, 1997, 1998; Glick et al., 1997).



In the present study, it was expected that couples who shared similar attitudes toward ambivalent sexism as a whole and its subcomponents of hostile and benevolent sexism would report higher levels of relationship satisfaction than the couples with dissimilar attitudes among these dimensions. The results of ANOVAs demonstrated that, for ambivalent sexism as a whole and for benevolent sexism the results were insignificant suggesting that couples with similar attitudes and with dissimilar attitudes did not differ toward these dimensions on the measure of relationship satisfaction. The only significant result was among hostile sexism. Consistent with the expectation of the present study, couples that had similar attitudes toward hostile sexism reported significantly higher levels of relationship satisfaction as compared to the couples that had dissimilar attitudes toward hostile sexism.

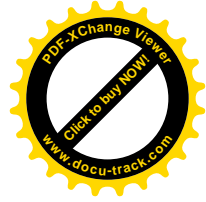
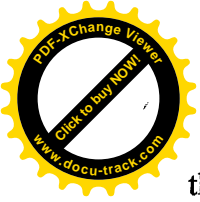
The significant result for hostile sexism may lie in its characteristics. As mentioned earlier, hostile sexism shares the view with earlier conceptualizations, which are unfavorable attitudes toward women. The core of hostile sexism is its emphasis on male dominance, which is also one of the major themes of sex role attitudes. Thus, in this sample, by having similar attitudes about male dominance, couples might create agreement on the basic patterns of dating like decision making, making plans, patterns of sexuality, and relationship with others. By agreeing on the basic factors, the couples might have formed harmony and avoided conflict, which in turn, might have facilitated a satisfying relationship. Consistent with the speculations, Cramer (1998) demonstrated that having differences in opinions were strongly related with dissatisfaction in romantic



relationships (cited in Cramer, 2000). For instance, in a couple that partners had dissimilar attitudes, like non-traditional women and traditional men, might experience conflict due to the mismatched expectations. In this type of the relationships, women may try to reverse the male dominance and the men may insist on keeping his power, or women who have high scores among hostile sexism may expect men to lead the relationship whereas men may want to share the responsibility of the relationship. However, the couples that had similar attitudes toward hostile sexism might have not perceived such problems because of their matching expectations.

From the view of investment model (Rusbult, 1983), attitude similarity would be a reward, which would enhance relationship satisfaction. Interpersonal attraction theories propose several reasons about why attitude similarity is rewarding. One of the reasons was cognitive consistency, which was developed by Festinger (1957). According to basic assumption of the theory, individuals struggle for consistency within themselves. When they hold inconsistent cognitions, they would experience cognitive dissonance, which is an aversive motivational status, and the individuals would be motivated to resolve this dissonance. In the light of this theory, individuals can create cognitive consistency when they like others who have similar attitudes (Berscheid & Walster, 1978). Thus, the participants of the present study might have felt cognitive consistency by dating with a partner who had similar attitudes toward hostile sexism.

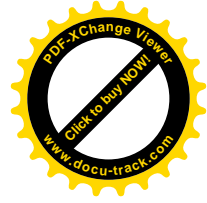
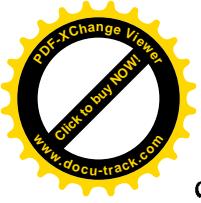
Another explanation about the same issue is that attitude similarity give individuals chance to learn about the correctness of their opinions. According to



this view, individuals sometimes use social reality in order to validate their worldview. When they find someone who has similar attitudes, they reach to a conclusion that their worldview is correct which is rewarding for them (Bryne, 1961; cited in Berscheid & Walster, 1978). Thus, partners, who shared similar attitudes toward hostile sexism, might also have validated their correctness of the beliefs about men and women relationships by having a partner with similar attitudes.

The similar results and speculations were expected for agreement on benevolent sexism and ambivalent sexism as a whole. Since benevolent sexism accepts the same assumptions about women's traditionalism with hostile sexism they were treated as similar concepts and so the similar results were expected. However, the results did not confirm the expectations. Then, a question that can be discussed about these results is why only attitude similarity among hostile sexism was related with higher levels of relationship satisfaction, but not benevolent sexism and ambivalent sexism as a whole.

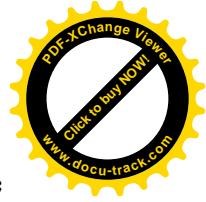
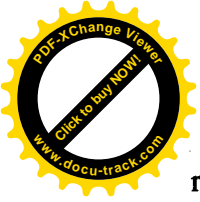
One possible answer may lie in the difference between the concepts of hostile and benevolent sexism. Although benevolent sexism also highlights male dominance like hostile sexism, differently, benevolent sexism involves positive feelings like protection and affection toward women and romanticizes the relationships with women (Glick & Fiske, 1997). Because of these positive feelings, participants might have not perceived its similarity with hostile sexism about the male dominance. In addition, they might not have perceived it as sexism. Consistent with these speculations, Killianski and Rudman (1998)



demonstrated in their study that female participants did not perceive a correlation between hostile and benevolent sexism. As presented in the introduction part, agreement on male dominance, which is one major domain of sex role attitudes, affect shaping the basic patterns of dating, which in turn similarity on it is related with higher levels of relationship satisfaction. Thus, in the present sample, if the participants did not realize benevolent sexism's emphasis on male dominance, agreeing or not agreeing on it may not be critical in shaping the basic patterns of dating as well as relationship satisfaction. Probably, disagreement about the assumptions of women's protection would stay as an unimportant opinion conflict outside the centrality of the relationship.

Despite these arguments, it is still possible to argue that attitude similarity can be a reward for benevolent sexism like hostile sexism, which also can enhance relationship satisfaction from the view of the Investment model. One possible explanation to this argument can be Bryne's (1961) study suggesting that "similarities count especially if they are in important areas. Trivial similarities are a sparse reward- and thus have a trivial effect on liking" (cited in Berscheid & Walster, 1978; p. 70). Thus, if the participants of the present study viewed benevolent sexism as an unimportant concept outside the centrality of their relationship, attitude similarity among benevolent sexism will also be a sparse reward, which in turn, will not influence relationship satisfaction.

The insignificant result for ambivalent sexism might be due to its involving both hostile and benevolent sexism items. When it is accepted that attitude similarity about benevolent sexism is not related with the concept of

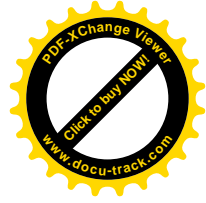
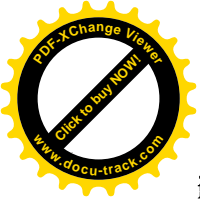


relationship satisfaction, then this may decrease the possible effect of whole scale which is composed of 11 benevolent sexism and 11 hostile sexism items.

In summary, the findings of the present study replicated the findings among married and cohabiting couples by showing that attitude similarity among sexism was related with higher levels of relationship satisfaction in Turkish dating couples. The only significant result was among hostile sexism suggesting that participants were more satisfied when they shared similar attitudes toward hostile sexism. In addition, the association about the attitude similarity among hostile sexism and relationship satisfaction might be attributed to partners forming agreement, matching expectations, avoiding conflict and attitude similarity's being a reward.

4.3. Sex Role Orientation and Relationship Satisfaction

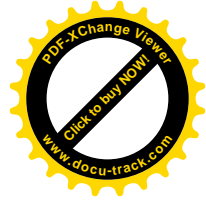
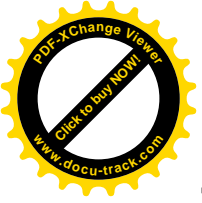
Another aim of the study was to find out the association between sex role orientation and relationship satisfaction in Turkish dating couples. As presented in the introduction part, since sex role orientation of the partner was an important determinant of relationship satisfaction in literature, it was the main interest of the present study. In addition, different from earlier studies, beyond perceived sex role orientation of the partner, actual sex role orientation of the partner was also investigated. Since the literature has emphasized the importance of androgyny or femininity on relationship satisfaction, it was hypothesized that individuals whose actual partners were feminine or androgynous would maintain the most satisfying relationships. Furthermore, the same expectations were generated for the



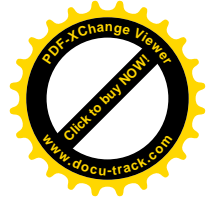
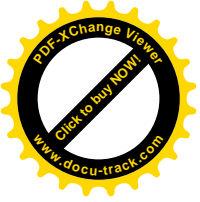
individuals' perception of the partner. Thus, it was hypothesized that individuals who perceived their partner as feminine or androgynous would maintain the highest level of satisfaction than did other groups. The results about the perception of the partner confirmed the hypothesis. Individuals who perceived their partners as androgynous reported the most satisfying relationships as compared to the other groups. However, the results were insignificant about the actual sex role orientation of the partner suggesting that four groups did not differ on the measure of relationship satisfaction.

The findings about the perceived sex role orientation of the partner were consistent with the literature on the importance of androgyny in maintaining satisfying relationships (e.g., Kurdek & Schmitt, 1986). By involving both expressive traits like being affectionate, warm, understanding and instrumental traits like assertiveness, leadership, willing to take risks, perception of androgyny facilitated higher relationship satisfaction for individuals.

The question of why partners' androgyny, but not femininity was associated with higher levels of relationship satisfaction can be asked about the findings of the present study. One possible answer can be that different sex role categorizations may be functional for different kinds of relationships that involve different aims. In the research that demonstrated importance of partner's femininity (e.g., Antill, 1983; Lamke et al., 1994), the feminine traits like emotional support, nurturance and sensitiveness might have helped the partners to create intimacy which is an essential variable in close relationships. As Ickes (1981, 1985) also pointed that, in intimate relationships perceiving the partner as

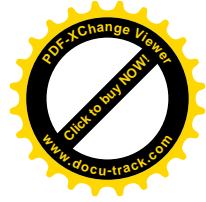
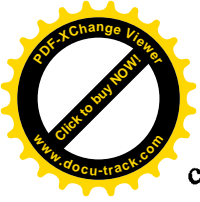


emotionally responsive, supportive, and nurturing was crucial in maintaining relationships satisfaction (cited in Lamke et al., 1994). However, in some relationships, beyond partner's having feminine traits, having also masculine traits, in other words, partner's androgyny can be more functional for the dynamics of that relationships. For instance, Cooper et al. (1985) revealed the importance of androgyny in dual working couples for creating relationship satisfaction. They suggested that because dual -working couples should live up the expectations of multiple roles, by having both instrumental and expressive traits, androgynous individuals could maintain more satisfying relationships for that sample. Partner's androgyny might have been more functional for the present study because of its sample characteristics. The present sample is composed of college dating couples in which most of them were together not more than two years and most of the participants reported that they did not expect to marry with their current partner. Probably, most of their aim was to share a good time with their partner. For such an aim, beyond feminine qualities, masculine traits like leadership, assertiveness, taking risks may allow the couples to have a good time. Since masculine dating behavior involves, making reservations, picking up tickets for events, deciding where and when to go to eat, deciding where to go out in evenings (DeLucia, 1987) it might have facilitated to have a good time. Thus, by having both masculine traits, which might have aided to share a good time, and feminine traits, which might have smoothed the progress of intimacy, androgynous individuals might have made possible the most satisfying relationships for their partners in the present study.



Another possible answer about why androgyny, not femininity was related with higher levels of relationship satisfaction for this sample may lie in androgynous' association with the concept of love. Coleman and Ganong (1985) demonstrated in their study with a sample of college students that androgynous persons were more loving, were more tolerant about the loved one's faults and more likely to express feelings. The researchers suggested that to be a loving person, both instrumental and expressive traits were necessary like assertiveness, willing to take risks as well as sensitivity and understanding. The concept of love can be the heart of the relationships of this sample, which are college-dating couples. Thus, in the present sample, perceiving the partner as androgynous may be related with higher levels of relationship satisfaction since participants might have perceived androgynous partners as more loving than the other categories, which may be a more essential variable for the present sample.

Another possible discussion question may be why the only significant result was among the perception of the partner, but not among the actual sex role orientation of the partner. Kenny and Acitelli (2001) proposed that in close relationships, sometimes the partners can be biased about their perception of each other and this bias may lead accuracy. They found that the bias was stronger especially when the measure was linked to relationships. About the similar issue, Murrey, Holmes & Griffin (1996) explored the positive illusions in romantic relationships with a sample of dating couples. They showed that participants who idealized their partners, which is, who perceived their partners beyond the actual attributes, reported more happiness, greater relationship satisfaction, and fewer

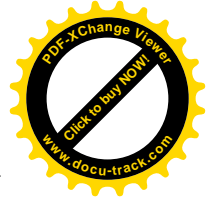
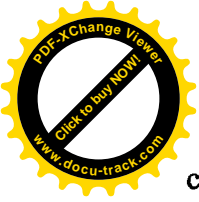


conflicts and they had more stable relationships. In addition, the researchers revealed that this was due to projection of one's peculiarities to his or her partner. Thus, for this sample, individuals who perceived their partners as androgynous might have idealized their partners as having both the expressive and instrumental traits and might have reported the highest level of satisfaction due to this idealization. Moreover, this may also be due to their projecting their own personality traits to their partners.

In summary, this part of the study demonstrated that perceiving the partner as androgynous was associated with higher levels of relationship satisfaction. In fact, actual sex role orientation of the partner was not related with relationship satisfaction suggesting that participants of this study might have evaluated their partners in a biased manner.

4.4. Final Comments, Limitations of the Study and Suggestions for the Future Research

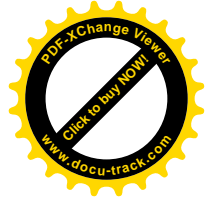
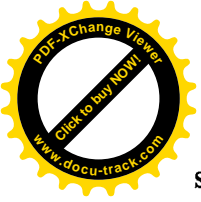
The present study demonstrated the importance of sexism and sex role orientation for relationship satisfaction in Turkish dating couples. However, there were some limitations in the study. Most of the limitations came from the sample characteristics. As presented earlier, relationship duration can be an important variable in searching close relationships, suggesting that comparing the couples with different relationship durations could be useful in understanding the dynamics of them. However, although the present sample involved the couples with different relationship durations, it was not possible to compute such a



comparison due to the small sample size. Since it was difficult to find dating couples, only 70 couples could be reached in a limited time. For that reason, in the future, researchers can replicate the study with a larger sample, which will enable to compare couples with different relationship durations.

Furthermore, the present sample was composed of college dating couples in which they were living in relatively liberal atmosphere when compared with the whole Turkish culture. This may decrease the external validity of the study. In order to increase the generalization of findings about dating in Turkey, new research can be needed, which will compare the couples, coming from more traditional subcultures and college dating couples. Moreover, researchers can also compare the married and dating couples. As presented earlier, since marriage involves the problems of breadwinning, and homemaking, it is possible to investigate both themes of sex role attitudes, which are gender- based division of labor and male dominance.

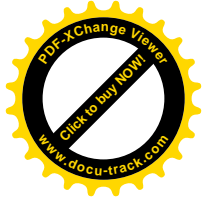
In addition to the questions rising from sample characteristics, the findings of this study may also lead new research questions. For instance, in the first part of the study, only the couples that shared hostile sexism reported higher levels of relationship satisfaction than the couples, composed of partners with dissimilar attitudes. As known, the same findings were expected for benevolent sexism and ambivalent sexism as a whole. Since, benevolent sexism accepted the same assumptions with hostile sexism and because ambivalent sexism was composed of these subcomponents, they were treated as similar constructs. After the findings, it was suggested that participants might not have perceived benevolent sexism as



sexism, because of its involving positive feelings toward women (Killianski & Rudman, 1998). Thus, new researches may focus on these issues and can examine the perception of hostile and benevolent sexism in close heterosexual relationships.

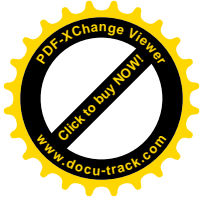
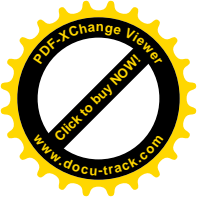
About sex role orientation, it was demonstrated that individuals who perceived their partners as androgynous reported higher levels of relationship satisfaction than all other categories. It was suggested that androgyny might be more functional especially in dating couples. One reason was for suggesting this was an androgynous individuals' being more loving than all the categories, which may be a more central factor for dating. Comparing the centrality of love in marital and dating relationships can be an interesting research area for future studies. Moreover in order to understand dating in detail, couples with different relationship durations and with different kinds of dating like serious dating, casual dating can be compared in terms of the issue of sex role orientation.

In addition, another unexpected finding of the present study was the difference between the actual and perceived sex role orientation measures. As known, although the results were insignificant for the actual sex role orientation of the partner, it was significant for perceived sex role orientation of the partner. This result was discussed in terms of the findings of earlier studies, which showed that such a bias happen in close relationships and perception of the partner could be more important than the reality in maintaining satisfying relationships. However, new research is needed to find out factors determining such a bias especially in the area of sex role orientation.



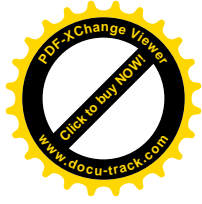
In conclusion, although there were some limitations, this study was a unique in that it used ambivalent sexism theory as a base in studying close heterosexual relationships and searched both the data of the actual partner and the perception of the partner about sex role orientation. Attitude similarity about hostile sexism and perceiving the partner as androgynous were related with higher levels of relationship satisfaction in Turkish dating couples. Thus, as expected, two gender related concept, sexism and sex role orientation, played a role in explaining the concept of relationship satisfaction in Turkish dating couples. These findings suggest that studying gender from a multifactorial perspective can help to understand the relations between dating and gender issues better.



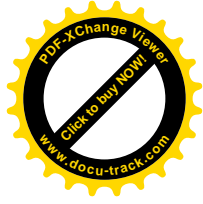


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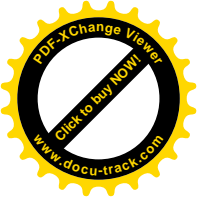
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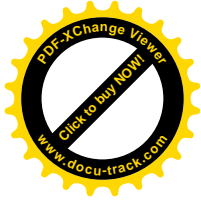
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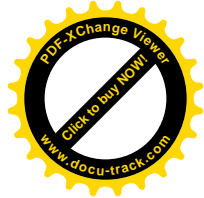
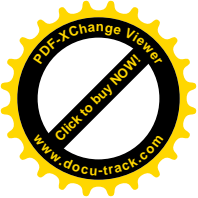
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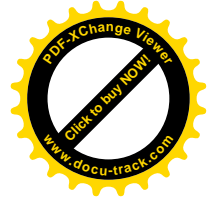
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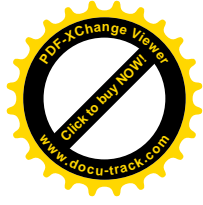
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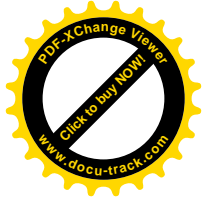
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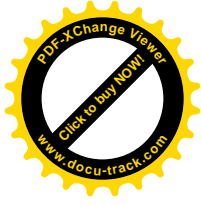
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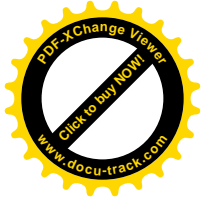
APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Ambivalent Sexism Inventory

By Glick and Fiske (1997)

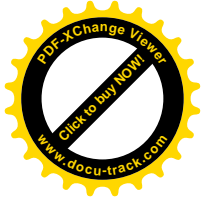
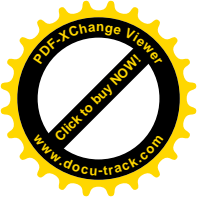




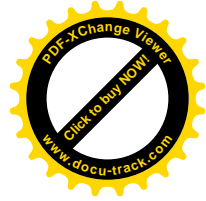
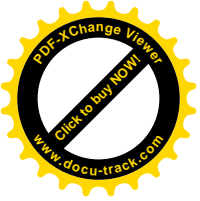
Lütfen her bir ifade ile ne derece hemfikir olup olmadığınızı verilen ölçekteki sayılardan uygun olanı ifadenin yanındaki boşluğa yazarak belirtiniz.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1- Hiç katılmıyorum, | 5- Biraz katılıyorum, |
| 2- Oldukça katılmıyorum, | 6- Oldukça katılıyorum, |
| 3- Biraz katılmıyorum, | 7- Çok katılıyorum |
| 4- Ne katılıyorum ne katılmıyorum | |

- 1)- Ne kadar başarılı olursa olsun bir kadının sevgisine sahip olmadıkça bir erkek gerçek anlamda bütün bir insan olamaz.
- 2)- Gerçekte birçok kadın “eşitlik” arıyoruz maskesi altında işe alınmalarda kendilerinin kayırılması gibi özel muameleler arıyorlar.
- 3)- Bir felaket durumunda kadınlar erkeklerden önce kurtarılmalıdır.
- 4)- Birçok kadın masum söz veya davranışları cinsel ayrımcılık olarak yorumlamaktadır.
- 5)- Kadınlar çok çabuk alınırlar.
- 6)- Karşı cinsten biri ile romantik ilişki olmaksızın insanlar hayatta gerçekten mutlu olamazlar.
- 7)- Feministler gerçekte kadınların erkeklerden daha fazla güce sahip olmalarını istemektedirler.
- 8)- Birçok kadın çok az erkekte olan bir saflığa sahiptir.
- 9)- Kadınlar erkekler tarafından el üstünde tutulmalı ve korunmalıdır.
- 10)- Birçok kadın erkeklerin kendileri için yaptıklarına tamamen minnettar olmamaktadırlar.
- 11)- Kadınlar erkekler üzerinde kontrolü sağlayarak güç kazanmak hevesindedir.



- 12)- Her erkeğin hayatında hayran olduğu bir kadın olmalıdır.
- 13)- Erkekler kadınsız eksiktirler.
- 14)- Kadınlar işyerlerindeki problemleri abartmaktadırlar.
- 15)- Bir kadın bir erkeğin bağlılığını kazandıktan sonra genellikle o erkeğe sıkı bir yular takmaya çalışır.
- 16)- Adaletli bir yarışmada kadınlar erkeklere karşı kaybettikleri zaman tipik olarak kendilerinin ayrımcılığa maruz kaldıklarından yakınır.
- 17)- İyi bir kadın erkeği tarafından yüceltilmelidir.
- 18)- Erkekler cinsel yönden yaklaşılabilir olduklarını gösterircesine şakalar yapıp daha sonra erkeklerin tekliflerini reddetmekten zevk alan birçok kadın vardır.
- 19)- Kadınlar erkeklerden daha yüksek ahlaki duyarlılığa sahip olma eğilimindedirler.
- 20)- Erkekler hayatlarındaki kadın için mali yardım sağlamak için kendi rahatlarını gönüllü olarak feda etmelidirler.
- 21)- Feministler erkeklere makul olmayan istekler sunmaktadırlar.
- 22)- Kadınlar erkeklerden daha ince bir kültür anlayışına ve zevkine sahiptirler.



APPENDIX B

Bem Sex Role Inventory (BSRI)

By Bem (1975)

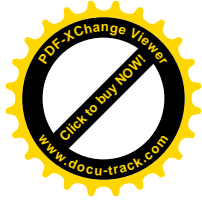
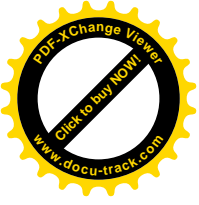


Lütfen bu anketi kendi kişilik özelliklerinizi düşünerek yanıtlayınız. Her bir özelliğin sizi ne derece tanımladığını o özelliğin yanındaki boşluğa uygun sayıyı yazarak belirtiniz.

KENDİNİZİ TANIMLAYINIZ

- 1- Bana göre kesinlikle doğru değil 5- Bana göre çoğunlukla doğru
2- Bana göre genellikle doğru değil 6- Bana göre genellikle doğru
3- Bana göre bazen doğru 7- Bana göre her zaman doğru
4- Bana göre ara sıra doğru

__ Kendine güvenen	__ Başkalarının	__ Namuslu
__ Sıkılğan	__ ihtiyaçlarına duyarlı	__ Bencil
__ Dürüst	__ Kibirli	__ Saldırgan
__ Kendi	__ Ailesine karşı	__ Sadık
__ inançlarını savunan	__ sorumlu	__ Hoşgörülü
__ Fedakar	__ Yumuşak, nazik	__ Haksızlığa karşı
__ Kıskanç	__ davranan	__ tavır alabilen
__ Girişken	__ Etrafına karşı saygılı	__ Sevecen
__ Boyun eğen	__ Otoriter	__ Sistemsiz, plansız
__ Güvenilir	__ Merhametli	__ Kuralcı, katı
__ Etkileyici, güçlü	__ Ne yapacağı belli	__ davranan
__ Ağırbaşlı, ciddi	__ olmayan	__ Kaba dil
__ Karamsar	__ Sözünde duran	__ kullanmayan
__ Riski göze almaktan	__ Cana yakın	__ Dostça davranan
__ çekinmeyen	__ İşinde ciddi ve	__ Baskın, tesirli
__ Duygusal	__ sorumlu olan	__ Anlayışlı
__ Konuksever	__ İdealist	__ Yapmacık davranan
__ Hırslı	__ İncinmiş duyguları	__ Duygularını açığa
__ Gönül alan	__ tamir etmeye istekli	__ vurmayan
__ Dedikodu yapan	__ Asık suratlı	__ Hassas
__ Lider gibi davranan	__ Cömert	__ Samimi
__ Kadınsı	__ Tatlı dilli	__ Mantıklı davranan
__ Uyum sağlayabilen	__ Yardımsever	__ Çocukları seven
__ Gözüpek	__ Erkeksi	__ Tutucu

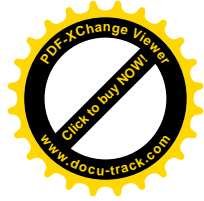
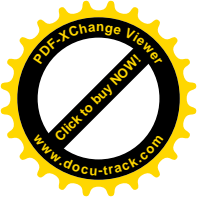


Lütfen bu anketi sevgilinizin kişilik özelliklerinizi düşünerek yanıtlayınız. Her bir özelliğin sevgilinizi ne derece tanımladığını o özelliğin yanındaki boşluğa uygun sayıyı yazarak belirtiniz.

SEVGİLİNİZİ TANIMLAYINIZ

- 1- Sevgilim için kesinlikle doğru değil
- 2- Sevgilim için genellikle doğru değil
- 3- Sevgilim için bazen doğru
- 4- Sevgilim için ara sıra doğru
- 5- Sevgilim için çoğunlukla doğru
- 6- Sevgilim için genellikle doğru
- 7- Sevgilim için her zaman doğru

___ Kendine güvenen	___ Başkalarının	___ Namuslu
___ Sıkılgan	___ ihtiyaçlarına duyarlı	___ Bencil
___ Dürüst	___ Kibirli	___ Saldırgan
___ Kendi	___ Ailesine karşı	___ Sadık
___ inançlarını savunan	___ sorumlu	___ Hoşgörülü
___ Fedakar	___ Yumuşak, nazik	___ Haksızlığa karşı
___ Kıskanç	___ davranan	___ tavır alabilen
___ Girişken	___ Etrafına karşı saygılı	___ Sevecen
___ Boyun eğen	___ Otoriter	___ Sistemsiz, plansız
___ Güvenilir	___ Merhametli	___ Kuralcı, katı
___ Etkileyici, güçlü	___ Ne yapacağı belli	___ davranan
___ Ağırbaşlı, ciddi	___ olmayan	___ Kaba dil
___ Karamsar	___ Sözünde duran	___ kullanmayan
___ Riski göze almaktan	___ Cana yakın	___ Dostça davranan
___ çekinmeyen	___ İşinde ciddi ve	___ Baskın, tesirli
___ Duygusal	___ sorumlu olan	___ Anlayışlı
___ Konuksever	___ İdealist	___ Yapmacık davranan
___ Hırslı	___ İncinmiş duyguları	___ Duygularını açığa
___ Gönül alan	___ tamir etmeye istekli	___ vurmayan
___ Dedikodu yapan	___ Asık suratlı	___ Hassas
___ Lider gibi davranan	___ Cömert	___ Samimi
___ Kadınsı	___ Tatlı dilli	___ Mantıklı davranan
___ Uyum sağlayabilen	___ Yardımsever	___ Çocukları seven
___ Gözüpek	___ Erkeksi	___ Tutucu

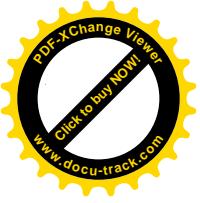


APPENDIX C

Relationship Assessment Scale

By Hendrick (1988)





Lütfen her bir ifadenin size uygunluğunu 7 dereceli ölçek üzerinde değerlendirip ifadenin yanındaki boşluğa uygun sayıyı yazınız.

1)- Sevgiliniz ihtiyaçlarınızı ne kadar iyi karşılıyor?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Hiç Çok iyi
karşılamiyor karşılıyor

2)- Genel olarak ilişkinizden ne kadar memnunsunuz?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Hiç Çok
memnun değilim memnunum

3)- Diğerleri ile karşılaştırıldığında ilişkiniz ne kadar iyi?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Çok daha Çok daha
kötü iyi

4)- Ne sıklıkla ilişkinize hiç başlamamış olmayı istiyorsunuz?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Hiçbir zaman Her zaman

5)- İlişkiniz ne dereceye kadar sizin başlangıçtaki beklentilerinizi karşılıyor?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Hiç Tamamen
karşılamiyor karşılıyor

6)- Sevgilinizi ne kadar seviyorsunuz?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Hiç Çok
sevmiyorum seviyorum

7)- İlişkinizde ne kadar problem var?

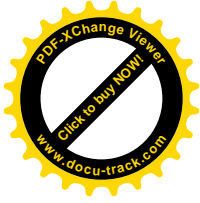
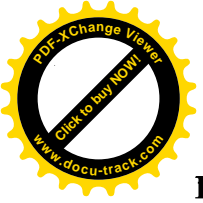
1 2 3 4 5 6 7
Hiç Çok fazla
yok problem var



APPENDIX D

Demographic Information Form





Demografik özellikler:

1)- Cinsiyetiniz: ____ Erkek ____ Kadın

2)- Yaşınız: ____

3) Annenizin eğitim düzeyi:

a) İlkokul b) Ortaokul c) Lise d) Üniversite ve üstü

4) Babanızın eğitim düzeyi:

a) İlkokul b) Ortaokul c) Lise d) Üniversite ve üstü

5)- Şu anda nerede yaşıyorsunuz?

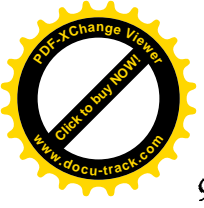
- a) Ailemle birlikte yaşıyorum
- b) Akrabalarım ile birlikte yaşıyorum
- c) Birkaç arkadaşım ile birlikte yaşıyorum
- d) Tek başına bir evde yaşıyorum
- e) Yurtta yaşıyorum
- f) Sevgilimle yaşıyorum.

6)- Sevgilinizle ne kadar süre birliktesiniz (yıl ve ay olarak)? ____

7)- Sevgilimle günde ____ saati / haftada ____ günü birlikte geçiriyorum.

8)- Bu ilişkinin ne kadar süreceğini tahmin ediyorsunuz?

- a) Yakında ayrılırız
- b) Bir süre daha devam eder ama sonra kesin biter
- c) Şimdiden bir şey diyemem
- d) Uzun bir süre daha devam eder, sonra bitebilir
- e) Evliliğe gideceğini tahmin ediyorum



9)- Şu andaki sevgilinize hiç cinsel ilişkide bulundunuz mu?

- a) evet
- b) hayır

10)- Kendinizi nasıl tanımlarsınız?

Geleneksel _____ Hiç geleneksel değil

Dindar _____ Hiç dindar değil

12)- Yaşamınızın çoğunu geçirdiğiniz yer

- a) metropol
- b) şehir
- c) kasaba,köy

