

## The Applicability of Western Marital Satisfaction Measures for Couples in Taiwan Based on ENRICH

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This study aimed to examine the applicability and relevance of western measures to assessing marital relations for couples in Taiwan. In this study, a well-established marital satisfaction assessment instrument (ENRICH) was translated and adapted into a Chinese version to examine whether the western measures are applicable, reliable, and relevant to Taiwanese couples. Quantitative data were collected from a non-probability and non-clinical sample of 100 married couples in Taiwan. A basic premise of this study is that the clinical usage of well-established measures of marital satisfaction would contribute to the prevention and treatment of marital dysfunction and better help the couples in need. In general, the Taiwanese participants expressed satisfaction with their marriage, with men reporting higher satisfaction levels than women. The translated Chinese version of the measurement instrument ("ENRICH") was found to have high levels of internal consistency reliability and discriminant validity. Taiwanese couples or individual spouses who scored higher on the ENRICH scales were more satisfied with their marriages than those who scored lower on the ENRICH scales. The significant predictors of marital satisfaction for couples based on discriminant analyses included: couple flexibility, couple closeness, conflict resolution, personality issues, and family & friends. In conclusion, this study makes a significant contribution to marital research on three counts. First, this study shows that a well-established Western assessment inventory is reliable and applicable to couples in Taiwan. Second, the current study demonstrates that some previously investigated factors related to marital satisfaction in Western societies are relevant with Taiwanese couples. Finally, it examines dyadic interactions between Taiwanese spouses by assessing both partners in each couple in the sample, which was seldom done in previous marital studies.

**Keywords:** Marriage and the Family, Marital Satisfaction, Marital Satisfaction Inventory, Reliability and Validity of ENRICH, Measures of marital relations

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## INTRODUCTION

Taiwan has been transformed in the twentieth century by the impact of industrialization, urbanization, increased education, rural-to-urban migration, increased income, and extended contacts with other societies. Adjustments to Taiwan's social and economic history have included dramatic changes in family structures and processes (Thornton & Lin, 1994). One of the most dramatic changes has been the rise in divorce or the breakup of marital relationship. The divorce rate (about 30%) in Taiwan is highest among Asian countries and has kept rising dramatically during the past 30 years, which signals increasingly dysfunctional marriages (ROC Ministry of the Interior, 2001).

Meanwhile, fifty percent of all first marriages in the USA end in divorce (US Bureau of the Census, 1995). Marital difficulties are the most common problem for which people seek professional psychological help in the US. Their deleterious effects on physical and psychological well-being, and worker productivity are reliably documented (Fincham & Bradbury, 1987; Stanley, Markman, St. Peters & Leber, 1995). For example, one study indicated that marital distress is a major generic risk factor for many forms of dysfunction and mental health problems (Coie, Watt, West, Hawkins, Asarnow, Markman, Ramey, Shure & Long, 1993), such as higher rates of depression in adults (especially women) and a variety of negative outcomes for children, including conduct disorders, internalizing problems (e.g. anxiety, depression), and juvenile delinquency. This high divorce rate and the impact of marital distress continues to spur the studies on marital stability and satisfaction (Fowers, Montel & Olson, 1996).

While hundreds of studies exist concerning the quality of marriages, relatively few studies have focused on non-white Americans or on non-Western societies. Among those very few studies which have focused on Chinese-Americans or Chinese societies (e.g., Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan), only one study examined the measurement of marital relations by using a small sample size of 104 married individuals in Taiwan (Lewinsohn & Werner, 1997). That study showed that the applicability of western approaches to conceptualizing and assessing aspects of marital relations in Taiwanese was encouraging. The translated versions of marital measures (the Marital Adjustment Test and the California Inventory for Family Assessment) were found to be reliable and relevant (Lewinsohn & Werner, 1997).

From the clinical point of view, perhaps the most fundamental task encountered by the marital practitioner is assessing the nature and quality of marriage, as this information is expected to play a central role in determining the interventions that are undertaken and their effectiveness (Bradbury, 1995). Many western instruments and procedures have been developed for assessing various aspects of marriage. In recent years, this material has been catalogued and analyzed in several books (e.g. Fredman & Sherman, 1987; Grotevant & Carlson, 1989; Touliatos, Perlmutter, & Straus, 1990). Among those instruments developed for assessing marital satisfaction, ENRICH (Enriching Relationship Issues, Communication and Happiness inventory), DAS (Dyadic Adjustment Scale), and MSI (Marital Satisfaction Inventory) are the most used and well-established multidimensional instruments both in research and practice, with high levels of reliability and validity (Fowers, 1990). In terms of clinical usage, one survey showed that approximately 30% of marital practitioners used at least one standardized instrument in marital therapy (Boughner, Hayes, Bubenzer, & West, 1994).

Marital practitioners in Taiwan can begin to explore the use of instruments in their clinical practice, and to take advantage of the availability of instruments that are informed, specific, and sensitive for conducting process and outcome evaluations to better help couples in distress. Generally speaking, there are two kinds of marital measures that are available in Taiwan. One is developed by domestic scholars who have designed the measures especially for couples in Taiwan. The other kind of measures is borrowed from established western measures, such as DAS and MSI. These instruments are used mostly for research purposes, rather than for clinical usage. In addition, the components of marriage quality are unavoidably culture-bound, as the function of marriage varies across cultures (Adams, 1988). Therefore, it is necessary and important to carefully examine the western measures for cultural appropriateness. Moreover, revisions of the scales should be done based upon the results of the reliability and validity tests in this study, to better assess the marital relations in Taiwan.

This study selected the ENRICH inventory (Olson, 1997) to assess marital satisfaction of Taiwanese couples for the following reasons. Primarily, the dimensions addressed by this measure are comprehensive and seem to be compatible with the marital relations in Taiwan. In addition, ENRICH's reliability and validity have been proven in rigorous research testing (e.g. Fowers & Olson, 1989) and in clinical usage. Furthermore, it can be efficiently administered and accurately scored by computer. Finally, it provides both individual (his and her) perspectives and dyadic measurement in the form of a positive agreement score--a joint assessment which emphasizes the collaborative nature of marriage. In terms of clinical application, one survey showed that ENRICH is the most used inventory by marital practitioners beside measures for assessing individual personality (Boughner, Bubenzer, & West, 1994, p.72).

In light of these considerations, the purpose of this study is to examine, through a self-report inventory called "ENRICH," the applicability and relevance of western marital satisfaction inventory for assessing marital relations in Taiwan. This study have tested the following two related hypotheses regarding the ENRICH's reliability and validity to fulfill the purposes of this study:

Hypothesis 1. The translated Chinese version of the measurement instrument ("ENRICH") has high levels of internal consistency reliability and discriminant validity.

Hypothesis 2. Taiwanese couples or individual spouses who score higher on the ENRICH scales are more satisfied with their marriages than those who score lower on the ENRICH scales.

## METHOD

### Participants

Participants in this study were 100 married couples (200 spouses) obtained from a non-probability and non-clinical sample in Taiwan. Non-probability sampling method was used to recruit participants. The sources of voluntary sample couples included friend-referral and agency-referral. Participant recruitment was accomplished through the help of thirteen research volunteers who were trained by the author.

Cross-sectional data were collected over a three-month period during the summer of 1998 in Taiwan. In terms of the administration procedures, each couple was administered a consent form to read and sign. Participants next were administered the ENRICH inventory, which takes about 50 minutes to complete. Each couple took the same inventory in separate rooms or corners so that they could not discuss it with each other. The location for data collection was decided between the research volunteer and each couple, depending on the couple's preference. Group administration was also used.

The demographic characteristics of the participants are presented in Table 1. The 100 couples in Taiwan had been married an average of 7.2 years. The median age for both husbands and wives was between 31 and 35 years old. The majority of couples (58%) had either one or two children (mean = 1.7), while 35% of the sample did not have children. A large percentage, 80% of the participants lived with their spouses, while 18% of the couples also lived with one of the spouse's parents.

In terms of education, 81% of the participants had at least some college education. Employment-wise, a large proportion were in professional and skilled occupations, with 32.5% of the sample in clerical, sales, and administrative occupations; 29% were in managerial or professional occupations (e.g. teachers, social workers); and 11% were executives, doctors, or lawyers. The mean individual yearly income was around \$17,000 USD. While 21% responded no religious affiliations, 38.5% were Protestants or Catholics and 37.5% were Buddhists or Taoists. Compared to the population in Taiwan (The Republic of China, 1997), the sample was younger, highly educated, better employed with professional occupations and with slightly higher incomes, and many were Protestants or Catholics.

**Table 1 Sample Demographic Characteristics (N = 200)**

| <b>Characteristics</b>                        | <b>Number</b>                       | <b>Percent</b> |      |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------|------|
| <i>Gender</i>                                 | Male                                | 100            | 50.0 |
|   | Female                              | 100            | 50.0 |
| <i>Age</i>                                    | 20-25                               | 3              | 1.5  |
|   | 26-30                               | 41             | 20.5 |
|   | 31-35                               | 70             | 35.0 |
|   | 36-40                               | 44             | 22.0 |
|   | 41 or older                         | 42             | 21.0 |
| <i>Years of Marriages</i>                     | 0-5                                 | 100            | 50.0 |
|   | 6-10                                | 40             | 20.0 |
|   | 11-15                               | 36             | 18.0 |
|   | 16 or more                          | 24             | 12.0 |
| <i>Education</i>                              | Graduate/Professional               | 49             | 24.5 |
|   | Four-year College                   | 69             | 34.5 |
|   | Junior College/Technical College    | 44             | 22.0 |
|   | Finished High School                | 31             | 15.5 |
|   | Some High School                    | 7              | 3.5  |
| <i>Occupation</i>                             | Clerical, Sales, Administrators     | 65             | 32.5 |
|   | Executive, Doctor, Lawyer           | 22             | 11.0 |
|   | Factory Worker, Laborer, Waiter     | 12             | 6.0  |
|   | Homeworker                          | 13             | 6.5  |
|   | Manager, Teacher, Nurse             | 58             | 29.0 |
|   | Self-employed                       | 14             | 7.0  |
|   | Skilled and Building Trades, Farmer | 2              | 1.0  |
|   | Student & Unemployed                | 7              | 3.5  |
|   | Other                               | 7              | 3.5  |
| <i>Individual Yearly Income (USD)</i>         | \$0-\$9,999                         | 30             | 15.0 |
|   | \$10,000-\$19,999                   | 76             | 38.0 |
|   | \$20,000-\$29,999                   | 50             | 25.0 |
|   | \$30,000-\$39,999                   | 23             | 11.5 |
|   | \$40,000-\$49,999                   | 11             | 5.5  |
|   | \$50,000-\$74,999                   | 6              | 3.0  |
|   | \$75,000 or more                    | 4              | 2.0  |
| <i>Religious Affiliation</i>                  | Catholic/Protestant                 | 77             | 38.5 |
|   | Buddhism/Taoism                     | 75             | 37.5 |
|   | Other                               | 6              | 3.0  |
|   | None                                | 42             | 21.0 |
| <i>Living Arrangement</i>                     | With Spouse                         | 160            | 80.0 |
|   | With Spouse and Parents             | 36             | 18.0 |
|   | With Parents or Others              | 4              | 2.0  |
| <i>Number of Children</i>                     | None                                | 70             | 35.0 |
|   | One or Two                          | 116            | 58.0 |
|   | Three or Four                       | 14             | 7.0  |
| <i>Experiences with Pre/Marital Education</i> | Yes                                 | 61             | 30.5 |
|   | No                                  | 139            | 69.5 |

## Measure

ENRICH (version 2000) is a 165-item multidimensional marital satisfaction inventory. It was completed in 1981 by David H. Olson, David Fournier and Joan Druckman, as a measuring instrument to assist clinical and educational activities in marriage counseling and enrichment programs (Olson, 1997). ENRICH contains 17 scales, and each scale consists of 10 items except Idealistic Distortion (7 items) and Personality Assessment (8 items). These scales include: **Idealistic Distortion, Marriage Satisfaction, Personality Issues, Communication, Conflict Resolution, Financial Management, Leisure Activities, Sexual Relationship, Children and Parenting, Family and Friends, Role Relationship, Spiritual Beliefs, Couple Closeness, Couple Flexibility, Family Closeness, Family Flexibility, and Personality Assessment.** In addition, the Personality Assessment scale contains four sub-scales called Self-Confidence, Assertiveness, Avoidance, and Partner Dominance. The Self-Confidence sub-scale has 8 items, while the other three sub-scales share items with other categories. The ENRICH inventory also includes 30 background information questions (see the appendix on page 17 for the description of each scale).

The ENRICH inventory was translated and adapted into Chinese by the author for collecting data in Taiwan. In addition, the researcher hired a translator from a professional translation agency in Taiwan to work on 60 representative items of the inventory (165 items in total). Two sets of translations were compared, revised, and incorporated into a Chinese version of ENRICH by the researcher. A pilot study of seven volunteers was done to insure the linguistic clarity, cultural sensitivity, and cultural appropriateness with the Chinese version. After the pilot study, minor changes were made in wording to further clarify the meaning of some items. In general, the items in the Chinese version of ENRICH were viewed as culturally appropriate and relevant by those seven volunteers.

## RESULTS

### Selecting Criterion Groups

This study selected the couple score of the Marriage Satisfaction scale as criteria for the analyses. The couples were divided into two groups based on their PCA scores on the 10-item Marriage Satisfaction scale measure. The Marriage Satisfaction scale is part of the ENRICH inventory and consists of ten items assessing ten major domains of the couples' relationship. These ten domains include personality issues, communication, conflict resolution, financial management, leisure activities, sexual relationship, children and parenting, family and friends, role relationship, and spiritual beliefs.

The couple score is termed positive couple agreement (PCA scores) and indicates the degree to which the spouses agree in a positive direction on reporting their relationship. The PCA score is a percentage score based on the number of responses for which partners agree on each scale. For example, since each scale has ten items, positive agreement between couples on six items would indicate a PCA score of 60 percent. For all the scale items (165 items in total), there are five response choices for the couple to choose and answer: 1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = undecided, 4 = agree, 5 = strongly agree. Only items in which individuals indicate a positive feeling about their partner or their

relationship are included in calculating the PCA score (i.e. both partners answered agree or strongly agree to a positive item, such as "I am very happy with how we handle our responsibilities in our family/household," or both partners answered disagree or strongly disagree to a negative item, such as "I am unhappy with some of my partner's personality characteristics or personal habits").

High PCA scores (60 and above out of a possible 100) reflect compatibility and satisfaction with most aspects of the couple's relationship. Low PCA scores (30 and below) reflect a lack of satisfaction and concern with various aspects of the relationship (Olson, 1997). Therefore, this study selected couples who scored 60 or higher as "satisfied couples" while couples who scored 30 or lower as "dissatisfied couples" On this basis, 40 couples were included in the dissatisfied group, and 37 couples were included in the satisfied group. The 23 couples who scored 40 to 50 were excluded from some analyses when the purpose was to compare and contrast the results of satisfied couples versus dissatisfied couples.

Another alternative for selecting the criterion groups was using the one-item global statement on marital satisfaction from the ENRICH background questions. Overall, the majority (85%) of individual spouses reported that they were "satisfied" to "very satisfied" and only 8% answered that they were "dissatisfied" to "very dissatisfied." In addition, men reported significantly higher satisfaction levels than women ( $\bar{X} = 4.2$  versus  $\bar{X} = 3.9$ ,  $t = 2.67$ ,  $p = .0045$ , 1-tailed). The overwhelming reports of high marital satisfaction might come from social desirability and resulted in extremely unbalanced groups size. Therefore, this study did not select this item as to determine the criterion groups.

To confirm the appropriateness for the criterion groups, chi-square analysis was conducted on another variable which could have served as criterion groups: "ever considered divorce" question (yes or no) from the ENRICH inventory background questions. Table 2 shows that a higher percentage of dissatisfied couples had considered divorce than the satisfied couples did. An interesting finding was that 20 couples in the dissatisfied group never considered divorce. This result is consistent with Huang's view (1981) that most Chinese would prefer to have an unhappy household than endure the social consequences of a divorce.

**Table 2 Chi-Square Analysis of Individuals and Couples Who Considered Divorce**

| Spouses Who Considered Divorce | Satisfied Couples |       | Dissatisfied Couples |       | Total |       |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                | N                 | %     | N                    | %     | N     | %     |
| Neither                        | 28                | 75.7  | 20                   | 50.0  | 48    | 62.3  |
| Husband Only                   | 0                 | 0.0   | 2                    | 5.0   | 2     | 2.6   |
| Wife Only                      | 8                 | 21.6  | 12                   | 30.0  | 20    | 26.0  |
| Both                           | 1                 | 2.7   | 6                    | 15.0  | 7     | 9.1   |
| Total                          | 37                | 100.0 | 40                   | 100.0 | 77    | 100.0 |

$\chi^2 = 7.6$ ,  $df = 3$ ,  $p = .055$  (2-sided)

**Hypothesis #1:**

The translated Chinese version of ENRICH has high levels of internal consistency reliability and discriminant validity.

### Internal consistency reliability

The internal consistency reliability of an assessment instrument refers to the level of accuracy and consistency it displays in measuring a variable. The resulting coefficient provides a measure of the degree to which items within a scale are measuring the same concept (Olson, 1997). Table 3 shows that the Chinese version of ENRICH had fairly high internal consistency. The average internal consistency (alpha) across scales of the Chinese ENRICH was .76, ranging from a low of .51 (Role Relationship) to a high of .85 (Idealistic Distortion & Spiritual Beliefs). The result of each scale was very similar compared to the American sample, which had an average alpha reliability of .80 ( $n=1,542$ ). The average test-retest reliability (referring to the measure's stability over time) of the American sample was .86 ( $n=115$ ), ranging from .77 (Leisure Activities) to .92 (Idealistic Distortion and Sexual Relationship). Test-retest reliability of the translated instrument was not examined for the Taiwanese sample due to time limitation for data collection. Further study should focus on the stability of the measure. In general, the alpha reliability procedure supported the internal consistency reliability of the ENRICH inventory.

**Table 3 Reliability (Alpha) of ENRICH**

| Scales <sup>a</sup>    | Taiwan Study<br>(N= 100 couples) | Olson's Study <sup>b</sup><br>(N= 1241 couples) | Hong Kong Study <sup>c</sup><br>(N= 102 couples) |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Idealistic Distortion  | .85                              | .83   | .66  |
| Marriage Satisfaction  | .79                              | .86   | .84  |
| Personality Issues     | .76                              | .82   | .76  |
| Communication          | .83                              | .90   | .72  |
| Conflict Resolution    | .70                              | .84   | .68  |
| Financial Management   | .75                              | .82   | .76  |
| Leisure Activities     | .67                              | .75   | .50  |
| Sexual Relationship    | .83                              | .85   | .75  |
| Children and Parenting | .83                              | .78   | .76  |
| Family and Friends     | .68                              | .79   | .64  |
| Role Relationship      | .51                              | .78   | .32  |
| Spiritual Beliefs      | .85                              | .84   | .67  |
| Couple Closeness       | .81                              | .80   | NA   |
| Couple Flexibility     | .78                              | .75   | NA   |
| Family Closeness       | .84                              | NA <sup>d</sup>                                 | NA   |
| Family Flexibility     | .77                              | NA  | NA   |
| Self Confidence        | .77                              | .82   | NA   |
| Assertiveness          | .75                              | .73   | NA   |
| Avoidance              | .72                              | .71   | NA   |
| Partner Dominance      | .76                              | .73   | NA   |
| Average                | .76                              | .80   | .67  |



<sup>a</sup> There are 10 items in each scale except Idealistic Distortion (7 items), Self-Confidence (8 items), Assertiveness (8 shared items with other scales), Avoidance (8 shared items), and Partner Dominance (8 shared items).

<sup>b</sup> Olson's study (American sample): See Olson, 1997.

<sup>c</sup> Hong Kong Study: See Young (1995). The Hong Kong study used a Chinese translated earlier version of ENRICH which contains 125 items only.

<sup>d</sup> NA = Data is not available

### Discriminant Validity

Discriminant analyses were conducted to assess the measurement instrument's discriminant validity, using the individual or couple scores as predictors and the satisfied and dissatisfied groups as the criterion. Discriminant validity attempts to determine the ability of a measure to discriminate between two or more groups by categorizing them according to an external criterion, then determining the extent to which the instrument categorizes them in the same way (Olson, 1997). There were 37 couples in the satisfied group and 40 couples in the dissatisfied group. The Discriminant analysis and cross validation were done for those 77 couples. In SPSS's cross validation, each case is classified by the functions derived from all cases other than that case (SPSS inc., 1998).

The discriminant analyses were done using the stepwise method. Stepwise selection begins by identifying the variable for which the means are most different and continues by adding the next best variable step-by-step (SPSS Inc., 1998). The method selected for controlling the entry or removal of predictor variables from the discriminant function was Rao's V, which is a measure of the differences between group means. At each step, the variable that maximizes the increase in Rao's V was entered. The maximum significance of F to enter into the equations was .05 and the minimum significance of F to remove out of the equations was .10. Table 4 presents that overall 90.9% of the male spouses and 80.5% of the female spouses in the original sample was correctly classified into satisfied or dissatisfied groups. Using couple PCA scores, 96.1% of the couples in the original sample were correctly classified. The cross-validation procedure showed very similar results. With the high percentage of correct classification, the discriminant validity of the ENRICH instrument was supported, using both individual or couples scores.

**Table 4 Discriminant Analysis: Percent Correctly Classified**

| Criterion    | Male     |                 | Female   |                 | Couple   |                 |
|--------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|
|              | Original | Cross-Validated | Original | Cross-Validated | Original | Cross-Validated |
| Satisfied    | 91.9     | 91.9            | 81.8     | 78.4            | 97.3     | 94.6            |
| Dissatisfied | 90.0     | 90.0            | 80.0     | 75.0            | 95.0     | 95.0            |
| Overall      | 90.9     | 90.9            | 80.5     | 76.6            | 96.1     | 94.8            |

In the individual scale discriminant analysis, four scales for the husband's scores and three scales for the wife's were significant predictors of satisfaction. When couple scores were used, five scales were entered in the predictions. Table 5 summarizes the significant predictors of Marriage Satisfaction scale PCA scores. In addition, the magnitude of the standardized coefficient for each scale provides an indication of the relative contribution of the scale to the overall discrimination function. It appeared that the Couple Flexibility scale was the most significant predictor among all three groups.

Construct validity of the instrument was not examined in this study due to the constraints of the small sample size. It requires at least five subjects per item to do factor analysis in order to assess the construct validity (Gorsuch, 1983). Since ENRICH has 165 items, it requires at least 825 subjects to do factor analysis. Nevertheless, the alpha reliability tests and the discriminant analyses procedures supported the hypothesis that the Chinese version of the ENRICH has high levels of internal consistency reliability and discriminant validity.

**Table 5 Significant Predictors of Marital Satisfaction (PCA) and the Standardized Canonical Discriminant Function Coefficients of Predictors based on Discriminant Analysis**

| Male               |      | Female             |      | Couple              |        |
|--------------------|------|--------------------|------|---------------------|--------|
| Self Confidence    | .515 | Couple Flexibility | .423 | Couple Flexibility  | .400   |
| Couple Flexibility | .458 | Couple Closeness   | .456 | Couple Closeness    | .539   |
| Spiritual Beliefs  | .374 | Self Confidence    | .403 | Conflict Resolution | .577   |
| Family & Friends   | .345 |                    |      | Personality Issues  | -.456* |
|                    |      |                    |      | Family & Friends    | .358   |

\*The signs of the coefficients are arbitrary—the separation among the groups would be the same if we multiplied each coefficient by - 1 (SPSS Inc., 1998).

## Hypothesis #2

Taiwanese couples or individual spouses who score higher on the ENRICH scales are more satisfied with their marriages than those who score lower on the ENRICH scales.

The Wilks' lambda method in Discriminant analysis was conducted to test the equality of criterion group means, using the individual or couple (PCA) scores as predictors and the satisfied and dissatisfied groups as the criterion. Wilks' lambda is the proportion of the total variance in the discriminant scores not explained by differences among the groups. In this sample of 100 couples, only 23% (lambda=0.233) of the variance was not explained by group differences. Lambda is used to test the null hypothesis that the means of all the variables across groups are equal. As a test of its size, lambda is transformed to a variable with an approximate chi-square distribution (SPSS Inc., 1998). Here the chi-square was 99.71 ( $df=13, p=.000$ ), indicating a highly significant difference between the two group means of all the scales entered simultaneously. On the individual level, the chi-square was 74.84 for males (Lambda = .322,  $df=18, p=.000$ ), and 72.44 for females (Lambda = .334,  $df=18, p=.000$ ). These results also indicated a highly significant difference between the two group means of all the scales entered simultaneously.

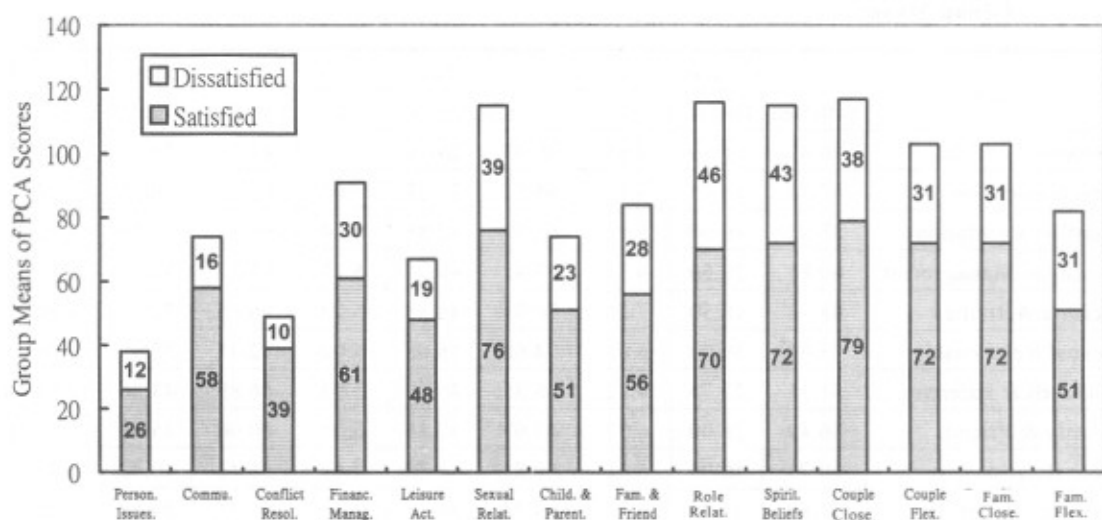
**Table 6 Independent Samples t-tests of ENRICH Scales for Equality of Satisfied and Dissatisfied Group Means**

| Scale                | Couple    |         |       | Male      |         |       | Female    |         |        |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|-------|-----------|---------|-------|-----------|---------|--------|
|                      | Satisfied | Dissat. | t     | Satisfied | Dissat. | t     | Satisfied | Dissat. | t      |
| Personality Issues   | 26.49     | 11.50   | 3.65  | 40.49     | 29.10   | 3.21  | 41.22     | 33.50   | 1.67*  |
| Communication        | 57.84     | 15.75   | 9.11  | 65.51     | 38.28   | 7.62  | 62.54     | 36.33   | 6.16   |
| Conflict Resolution  | 38.92     | 10.00   | 8.12  | 63.59     | 42.88   | 6.34  | 64.84     | 47.45   | 4.62   |
| Financial Management | 60.81     | 29.50   | 6.31  | 67.41     | 46.25   | 5.15  | 68.27     | 45.33   | 4.89   |
| Leisure Activities   | 48.38     | 18.50   | 7.26  | 70.81     | 48.88   | 5.29  | 66.65     | 42.18   | 4.49   |
| Sexual Relationship  | 75.68     | 39.00   | 6.65  | 74.68     | 56.08   | 5.00  | 72.43     | 52.85   | 5.00   |
| Children & Parenting | 51.35     | 22.75   | 4.12  | 68.35     | 49.55   | 3.93  | 66.89     | 43.88   | 4.63   |
| Family & Friends     | 56.49     | 28.00   | 6.52  | 67.97     | 42.55   | 6.08  | 60.00     | 45.68   | 2.60*  |
| Role Relationship    | 69.73     | 46.00   | 6.01  | 59.81     | 43.78   | 3.61  | 58.43     | 40.42   | 4.40   |
| Spiritual Beliefs    | 71.89     | 43.25   | 5.11  | 64.24     | 38.38   | 4.66  | 60.73     | 39.88   | 3.52   |
| Couple Closeness     | 79.19     | 37.75   | 9.32  | 74.27     | 52.98   | 6.33  | 73.92     | 48.18   | 6.93   |
| Couple Flexibility   | 71.89     | 31.00   | 10.12 | 80.51     | 57.45   | 7.61  | 77.89     | 53.08   | 7.11   |
| Family Closeness     | 71.89     | 31.00   | 10.12 | 61.00     | 46.33   | 3.94  | 59.05     | 48.83   | 2.32*  |
| Family Flexibility   | 51.35     | 30.50   | 3.45  | 64.05     | 54.95   | 2.29* | 62.08     | 54.20   | 1.70*  |
| Self Confidence      | NA        | NA      | NA    | 76.08     | 37.23   | 7.91  | 71.86     | 37.83   | 5.95   |
| Assertiveness        | NA        | NA      | NA    | 81.73     | 56.23   | 7.59  | 79.46     | 56.85   | 6.50   |
| Avoidance            | NA        | NA      | NA    | 38.22     | 60.58   | -5.18 | 38.65     | 51.55   | -2.41* |
| Partner Dominance    | NA        | NA      | NA    | 43.38     | 63.90   | -4.84 | 43.24     | 56.28   | -2.63* |

Note: Dissat. = Dissatisfied

\*All *t* values were significant at  $p < .001$  except those starred which were at  $p < .05$  level.

Since there was a significant difference between the satisfied and dissatisfied group means of all the scales, follow-up independent samples t-tests were conducted on each ENRICH scale to examine the equality of satisfied and dissatisfied group means, using both individual and couple (PCA) scores. Table 6 shows that both the individual scores and couple agreement scores were higher among the satisfied couples than the dissatisfied couples on every scale (all *t* values were significant at  $p < .05$  level), except Avoidance and Partner Dominance scales (which was as expected because high scores on those two scales indicate negative personality traits). Figure 1 presents a highly significant difference between the two group means (satisfied couples vs. dissatisfied couples) of all the scales. Therefore, both the discriminant analyses and t-tests supported this hypothesis that Taiwanese couple or individual spouses who score higher on the ENRICH scales are more satisfied with their marriages than those who score lower on the ENRICH scales.



**Figure 1 Satisfied Couples vs. Dissatisfied Couples:  
Group Means of PCA scores on ENRICH scales**

## DISCUSSION

### Discussion of Findings

The findings of this study supported and confirmed both hypotheses. First of all, the measurement instrument (ENRICH) showed acceptable and reasonable levels of internal reliability and discriminant validity. The average internal reliability of Chinese ENRICH scales was .76 which was very similar to the average alpha reliability of the American sample (.80) (Olson, 1997). This encouraging result suggests that the instrument provides internally consistent indexes of marital relations in Taiwanese population and its scales are applicable and meaningful dimensions for Taiwanese marital relations.

Three scales, however, had alpha reliability lower than .70, including Leisure Activities, Family and Friends, and Role Relationship. It is worth noting that these three scales also had alpha reliability lower than .65 for the Hong Kong sample (see Table 3 on page 8). These results might suggest that there are cultural differences in these three constructs, and that some items in those three scales do not cohere very well and may not represent spouses' perceptions in these three constructs. For example, for Leisure Activities scale, item 53 ("It upsets me when I have to spend an evening by myself") had the lowest item-scale correlation ( $r = .026$ ). For Family and Friends scale, item 143 ("I have concerns when my partner spends time with friends or co-workers of the other sex") had the lowest item-scale correlation ( $r = .134$ ). For Role Relationship scale, two items (Q74: "if the wife works outside the home, she should still be responsible for running the household"; and Q117: "if a couple has young children, the wife should not work outside the home.") appeared to decrease the reliability of the scale. The reason for the

low reliability of the Role Relationship scale might be that in general Taiwanese have more traditional views on gender roles than Americans do. These three scales need further examinations and revisions to better capture the definitions of these three constructs from Taiwanese points of view.

The discriminant validity of the measurement instrument was also supported by the results of discriminant analyses. Satisfied couples could be discriminated from dissatisfied couples with 81-96% accuracy, whether using individual or couples scores. This finding is consistent with the discriminant validity obtained in the American sample (85-95% accuracy) (Fowers & Olson, 1989). Previous studies which used ENRICH as the measurement instrument used an earlier version of ENRICH which contained only 125 items. The scales of Couple and Family Flexibility, Couple and Family Closeness, and four personality assessment scales are new in the Version 2000 of ENRICH (165 items). Therefore, the relative importance of these new scales compared to original scales in the old version has not been studied before in Western samples. The closeness and flexibility scales are derived from the Circumplex Model of Marital and Family Systems developed by David H. Olson, Douglas Sprenkle and Candyce Russell (1989). The Circumplex Model proposes a typology of families drawn from two predominant dynamics: flexibility, which describes the ability of a couple or family to adjust to change, and closeness, which describes the degree of emotional interdependence evident in a couple or family. An important issue in the Model relates to the concept of balance--balanced relationships tend to be close and flexible.

This study, which used the Chinese ENRICH translated from the version 2000, has the significant finding that the Couple Flexibility scale emerged as a very powerful predictor of marital satisfaction. The reason for it might be that the couples in Taiwan have to adjust and balance constantly between the traditional Chinese social structure and values on family life, and the significant changes in family structures and processes due to Taiwan's social and economic history and rapid development and modernization. Therefore, it requires couples to have better ability to adjust to changes, to be flexible, and to agree and compromise on how to adjust to changes. However, further studies need to be done using the version 2000 of ENRICH in Western samples to further examine the significance of these new scales as predictors of marital satisfaction and to see if the same results will hold up for Western samples.

It is worth noting that although there was a high correlation between the Couple Flexibility and Closeness scales and the Marriage Satisfaction scale, the Marriage Satisfaction scale itself does not contain items that are related to couple and family closeness or couple and family flexibility. In other words, these three scales are independent but highly correlated.

Additionally, the scales of Couple and Family Flexibility and Couple and Family Closeness require further examination because unlike other scales, very high or very low scores on these four scales reflect unbalanced relationship (Olson, 1997). In this study, however, there seemed to be a linear relationship between these four scales and marital satisfaction. In other words, couples who scored higher on these scales seemed to have higher level of marital satisfaction and were classified into the satisfied couple group. A possible explanation might be that although it is hypothesized that couples with balanced closeness and flexibility will generally function more adequately than those at the extremes of these dimensions (i.e., inflexible or overly flexible and/or disconnected or overly connected), it is also assumed that a family system can experience the extremes on the dimension as appropriate as long as the couple accepts these expectations (Olson, 1997). In other words, some ethnic

groups have high expectations regarding family togetherness versus independence of family members. Many of these families could be described as extreme on the closeness dimension (i.e., overly connected), but they function well as long as the couple or all family members are willing to go along with those expectations.

Some researchers (Abbott & Meredith, 1994; Ying, 1991) conclude that communication and emotional interactions within the marriage are not significant predictors of marital satisfaction for Chinese populations (Ying, 1991). In the present study, however, the quality of communication and marital interactions were found to be important to marital satisfaction, which was consistent with Lewinsohn and Werner's finding (1997). They suggest that this may be an indication of Taiwanese marriages progressing in the transition from an institutional marriage, based upon Chinese cultural norms, to a companionate marriage, characterized by a greater degree of egalitarian and affectionate orientations. Therefore, the importance of communication and relationship interactions in marital satisfaction seems to be cross-cultural.

For the second hypothesis, the Discriminant analysis and the follow-up t-tests supported the hypothesis that Taiwanese couples or individual spouses who score higher on the ENRICH scales are more satisfied with their marriages than those who score lower on the ENRICH scales. This result confirms Fowers & Olson's (1989) finding that satisfied spouses had higher scores on all ENRICH scales of positive couple agreement scores than dissatisfied couples.

### **Implications for Practice**

The findings of this study have important implications for marital practice, including the following two areas.

- (1) Being proactive in preventive intervention. Research suggests that the physical and psychological well-being of adults may be enhanced by social interventions that promote the quality of their intimate relationships (Bowen & Kilpatrick, 1995). Strategies for couple intervention may be classified as relationship enrichment (primary prevention), which focuses on further strengthening the capabilities of an already functional couple system, or therapeutic interventions (tertiary prevention), which focuses on remedying unhealthy patterns of interaction in a dysfunctional couple system (Bowen & Kilpatrick, 1995). Most marital practitioners encounter the critical marital problems in the context of offering therapeutic services for those suffering from marital discord and/or dissolution. However, there has been a tremendous growth in the US in the number of relationship education and enrichment programs (including premarital counseling) that emphasize the prevention, rather than the treatment, of relationship problems (Denton, 1986). The findings on predictors of marital satisfaction based on discriminant analysis can better structure the education and enrichment program design to provide couples with healthy patterns of interaction for understanding relational dynamics and the interpersonal skills needed to make their relationships more satisfying and fulfilling. Such programs can incorporate the findings on predictors of marital satisfaction to focus on issues as the following: couple flexibility, couple closeness, conflict resolution, family & friends, and personality issues.

(2) The use of standardized marital assessment. In terms of the use of a marital assessment instrument in Taiwan, the encouraging results of the internal reliability and discriminant validity of the Chinese ENRICH suggest that the scales of the instrument are applicable and meaningful dimensions for Taiwanese marital relations. Therefore, the marital practitioners can also begin to explore and take advantage of the use of the standardized assessment battery such as ENRICH with couples in relationship enrichment or education programs. It would be a first step toward deriving assessment measures suitable for clinical practice in Taiwan. However, given the developmental stage of these scales with regard to Taiwanese populations, any clinical implications for working with these populations should be drawn with caution.

In terms of clinical usage, ENRICH is intended for use by professionals who are working with couples. Professionals must have an advanced degree in a recognized area of mental health (marriage and family therapy, psychology, social work, pastoral counseling, etc.). The inventory is not intended to replace professional judgment but rather to supplement it. ENRICH is designed for married couples seeking couple enrichment or marital therapy, and for couples who have cohabited for two or more years. In most cases, ENRICH is used with couples on an individual basis. However, in some instances, professionals may have an opportunity to use the Inventory in a group setting. For detailed information on administration procedures, please refer to the counselor's manual (Olson, 1997).

### **Limitations and Areas for Future Research**

The limitations of this study, which provide directions for future research, might mainly result from sampling methods. Literature review showed that most of the marital studies were conducted with middle-class Caucasian subjects and did not use nationally representative random samples (Karney & Bradbury, 1995). Even the study started with a random list, it would probably ended up with a not "representative" sample due to the high refusal rate. In other words, most of the couples on the random list would choose not to participate in the study. Therefore, this study used a non-probability sample. However, a selection bias occurs when researchers let participants volunteer for a study. People who volunteer for research differ on a number of characteristics from those who do not volunteer. For example, people who volunteer for psychological research tend to be better educated, of higher socioeconomic status, younger, and more interested in religion (Whitley, 1996). Given that subjects' participation in this study was entirely voluntary and recruitment was limited to major cities in Taiwan, selection biases were inevitable (e.g., young professionals with no children). This also limited the generalizability of the research results to the whole population in Taiwan. Any implications for working with couples should be drawn with caution. In addition, the findings of this study might have been very different if the participants had been recruited from marital therapists or from clinical settings. Further studies could use clinical samples to provide a comparison between community couples and clinical couples.

In conclusion, this study makes a significant contribution to marital research on three counts. First, this study shows that a well-established Western assessment inventory is reliable and applicable to couples in Taiwan. Second, the current study demonstrates that some previously investigated factors related to marital satisfaction in Western societies are relevant with Taiwanese couples. Finally, it examines dyadic interactions between Taiwanese spouses by assessing both partners in each couple in the sample, which was seldom done in previous marital studies.

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## Appendix: Description of ENRICH Scales

This appendix briefly describes each of the scales in ENRICH.

**Idealistic Distortion** assesses the tendency of individuals to answer personal questions in a socially desirable manner.

High scores (60 and above) indicate individuals are presenting their relationship in a highly favorable manner. This may suggest an unwillingness to acknowledge problematic areas in the relationship and/or a defensive attitude in completing the Inventory. Low scores (30 and below) indicate a more realistic disclosure concerning relationship issues.

**Marriage Satisfaction** provides a global measure of satisfaction by surveying ten major areas of the couple's relationship: personality characteristics, role responsibilities, communication, conflict resolution, financial concerns, management of leisure time, sexuality, parental responsibilities, relationships with family and friends and spiritual beliefs.

High scores (60 and above) reflect compatibility and satisfaction with most aspects of the couple's relationship. Low scores (30 and below) reflect a lack of satisfaction and concern with various aspects of the relationship.

**Personality Assessment** assesses each individual's perception and satisfaction with the personality characteristics of their partner as expressed through their behavioral traits. Items focus on issues such as: tardiness, temper, moodiness, stubbornness, jealousy and possessiveness. Personal behaviors related to public demonstration of affection and uses of chemical substances are also addressed. In addition, this scale considers a spouse's general outlook, dependability and tendency to be domineering.

Four personality characteristics are assessed in the inventory. They are defined below:

**Assertiveness:** a person's ability to express their feelings to their partner and be able to ask for what they would like.

**Self Confidence:** focuses on how good a person feels about himself/herself and their ability to control things in their life.

**Avoidance:** a person's tendency to minimize issues and reluctance to deal with issues directly.

**Partner Dominance:** focuses on how much a person feels their partner trying to control them and dominate their life.

High scores (60 and above) reflect approval of the personality characteristics of the partner and general satisfaction with their personal behavior. Low scores (30 and below) indicate a low level of acceptance and/or lack of comfort with their partner's behaviors. However, high scores on the Avoidance and Partner Dominance scales indicate negative personality traits.

**Communication** measures each individual's beliefs, feelings and attitudes toward the role of communication in the maintenance of his/her relationship. Items focus on the level of comfort felt by each partner in being able to share important emotions and beliefs with one another, perceptions of their partner's listening and speaking skills and perceptions concerning their own abilities to communicate with their partner.

High scores (60 and above) reflect awareness and satisfaction with the level and type of communication existing in the relationship. Individuals with high scores tend to feel understood by their partner and see themselves as being able to adequately express their feelings and beliefs. Low scores (30 and below) reflect a deficiency in the level of communication essential to satisfactorily maintain a relationship and highlight the need to improve communication skills.

**Conflict Resolution** evaluates an individual's attitudes, feelings and beliefs about the existence and resolution of conflicts in the relationship. Items pertain to the openness of partners in recognizing and resolving issues, the strategies and processes used to end arguments and the level of satisfaction with the manner in which problems are resolved.

High scores (60 and above) reflect realistic attitudes about the probability of conflict in the relationship as well as satisfaction with the way most problems are handled. Low scores (30 and below) suggest an ineffective and dissatisfying approach to relationship conflict. Partners may feel their issues are difficult to resolve and/or may have a tendency to avoid disagreements.

**Financial Management** focuses on attitudes and concerns about the way economic issues are managed within the couple's relationship. Items assess the tendencies of individuals to be spenders or savers, awareness and concern with issues of credit and debts, the care with which financial decisions on major purchases are made, decisions regarding financial matters, money management and satisfaction with their economic status.

High scores (60 and above) reflect satisfaction with financial management and realistic attitudes toward financial matters. Low scores (30 and below) indicate a concern over the way finances are handled in the relationship.

**Leisure Activities** evaluates each individual's preferences for using discretionary time. Items focus on: social versus personal activities, active versus passive interests, shared versus individual preferences and expectations as to whether leisure time should be spent together or balanced between separate and joint activities.

High scores (60 and above) reflect compatibility, flexibility, and/or consensus about the use of leisure time activities. Partners have similar interests and are balanced in the use of their time between shared and separate activities. Low scores (30 and below) indicate dissatisfaction with the use of leisure time. Partners may have different interests and are concerned with the amount of time they spend together.

**Sexual Relationship** assesses an individual's feelings and concerns about affection and the sexual relationship with his/her partner. Items reflect satisfaction with expressions of affection, level of comfort in discussing sexual issues, attitudes toward sexual behavior, birth control decisions and feelings about sexual fidelity.

High scores (60 and above) indicate satisfaction with affectionate expressions and a positive attitude about the role of sexuality in marriage. Low scores (30 and below) suggest dissatisfaction with expression of affection and concern over the role of sexuality in the relationship. They may also reflect disagreement over decisions regarding birth control and concerns over sexual fidelity.

**Children and Parenting** measures an individual's attitudes and feelings about having and raising children. Items reflect a couple's awareness of the impact of children on their relationship, satisfaction with how parental roles and responsibilities are defined, compatibility of philosophies toward discipline of children, shared goals and values desired for the children and agreement on the number of children preferred.

High scores (60 and above) reflect a consensus on childrearing values, satisfaction with the enactment of parental roles and responsibilities and a realistic evaluation of the impact of children on the relationship. Low scores (30 and below) indicate disagreement over values related to raising children, discomfort with perceptions of parental roles and responsibilities and concerns over the impact of children on the relationship.

**Family and Friends** assesses feelings and concerns about relationships with relatives, in-laws and friends. Items focus on the attitudes of family and friends toward the marriage, expectations regarding the amount of time spent with family and friends, comfort felt in the presence of the partner's family and friends and perceptions of the situation as either potentially characterized by conflict or satisfaction.

High scores (60 and above) reflect comfortable relationships with family and friends. Low scores (30 and below) suggest discomfort with family and friends and may imply that this area is potentially problematic.

**Role Relationship** evaluates an individual's beliefs, attitudes and feelings about marital and family roles. There is an implied bias in this scale toward equalitarian role behaviors that is based on current research.

High scores (60 and above) suggest the individual's values tend to be equalitarian in nature. Partners with high scores typically desire a shared approach to traditionally male/female roles. Low scores (30 and below) indicate the individual tends to value more traditional male/female role behaviors and responsibilities.

Taken alone, neither high nor low scores are indicative of marital quality. Satisfaction with role relationships is suggested by the degree of argument between partners. If both partners are either high or low on this area, they will tend to have a high degree of satisfaction with their roles. Conversely, one partner's scoring high and the other low, indicates disharmony, suggesting this area is potentially problematic.

**Spiritual Beliefs** assess attitudes, feelings and concerns about the meaning of religious beliefs and practices within the context of the relationship. Items focus on the meaning and importance of religion, involvements in church/temple activities and the expected role that religious beliefs will have in the marriage. The area is non-sectarian and does not reflect a specific theological bias.

High scores (60 and above) are indicative of a more traditional approach to religion and reflect the view that religion is an extremely important component of the relationship. Low scores (30 and below) reflect a more individualistic and less traditional interpretation of the role of religion.

A couple's satisfaction with their spiritual beliefs is not necessarily indicated by either a high or a low score but by the amount of agreement partners report. If both male and female scores are either high or low, they will tend to be satisfied with the role of religion in their relationship. If one partner is high and the other is low, a low degree of harmony is suggested, indicating this area is potentially problematic.

The **Couple and Family Closeness areas** describe the level of emotional closeness experienced among family members and the degree to which they balance togetherness and separateness. Items deal with family members helping each other, spending time together and feelings of emotional closeness.

Couple Closeness assesses a couple's current relationship. Family Closeness measures closeness in the families-of-origin.

High scores (70 and above) reflect excessive closeness and overdependence on each other, which can be detrimental to healthy functioning. Moderate scores (30-70) indicate a balance between togetherness and independence, a characteristic often found in well-functioning couples. Low scores (30 and below) suggest a lack of emotional closeness between people, which may also be problematic. If scores are either too low or too high (unbalanced), it indicates that the people are unable to balance their separateness and togetherness.

The **Couple and Family Flexibility areas** measure the ability of a couple to change and be flexible when necessary. Items deal with leadership issues and the ability to switch responsibilities and change rules when needed.

Couple Flexibility evaluates a couple's current relationship. Family Flexibility assesses patterns of change in families-of-origin.

High scores (70 and above) reflect a tendency toward constant change, resulting in a lack of stability. Moderate scores (30-70) reflect a balance between stability and change, a characteristic usually found in more functional relationships. Low scores (30 and below) suggest an inability to make changes when needed. If scores are either too high or too low (unbalanced), it indicates that a couple lacks the capacity to make changes in a functional manner.

# 西方婚姻滿意量表 對台灣婚姻關係測量之適用性

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本研究的目的是檢視西方標準化的婚姻滿意量表對台灣的婚姻關係是否具有運用性與適切性，以期參考西方婚姻量表的使用與評量結果，並進而幫助台灣的婚姻實務工作者提供案主最適切的評估與處遇計劃，提昇助人過程的效果和效率。本研究使用 ENRICH——一個在美國具有公信力且有高度信、效度的多向度標準化婚姻滿意量表作為測量工具，以台灣的夫婦為主要的研究樣本，採立意取樣的方式，收集 100 對非隨機、非臨床夫婦的資料（community sample）。研究結果顯示，ENRICH 的中文譯本具有高度的內部一致性信度與區辨效度。如以測量工具中的各個分量表來看，在各分量表上得分越高者（如溝通、性愛關係等），對他們的婚姻也越滿意。根據區辨分析的結果發現，對夫妻雙方而言，最能預測婚姻滿意度的因子包括：夫妻彈性程度、夫妻親密程度、衝突解決、個人特質以及親友關係。總結，這項研究對婚姻相關的學術研究有以下三個重要的貢獻：(1)本研究顯示，西方標準化的婚姻評量工具亦適用於台灣夫妻關係的測量。(2)西方社會所研究出的婚姻滿意度預測因子，基本上也能用來預測台灣的婚姻滿意度。(3)本研究同時評量夫妻雙方對婚姻的看法，在研究方法上突破以往慣用單方配偶的看法來代表整體婚姻關係的研究缺陷，也大大地提高了研究結果的可信性與準確度。

關鍵詞：婚姻滿意、婚姻與家庭、婚姻滿意量表、婚姻關係測量、信度、效度

## 測驗年刊稿約

- 一、中國測驗學會測驗年刊宗旨為：提供一個測驗學術與實務之專業發表園地，希望透過專業之論文發表，以提升國內心理測驗專業學術與應用之風氣。投稿本刊之稿件內容須符合此宗旨，且屬於以下四個範圍：
  1. 測驗理論
  2. 統計方法與原理
  3. 測驗研究結果之報告
  4. 測驗應用問題之研討
- 二、本刊僅接受首次投稿之論文，即將或正在另一期刊（書）進行審查之稿件，請勿投稿本刊。接受機關團體委託之研究成果報告，委託單位若不擬彙編出版發行，可投稿本刊；學術研討會論文若僅有摘要彙編出刊，或含正文且彙訂成冊，但只供開會使用，會後不予出刊發行者，亦可投稿本刊。
- 三、來稿時間不限。論文刊載順序原則上以審查通過時間決定，唯本刊編輯必要時得考量主題統整性，調整論文的刊載順序。
- 四、中文稿長上限為 20000 字，英文稿長上限為 10000 字（均包含圖表、空白所佔之版面）。中、英文摘要以 500 字為原則。
- 五、來稿中、英文不拘，但不論中英文稿件均須包括中文標題、中文摘要與關鍵詞、正文、英文標題、英文摘要與關鍵詞、參考文獻，必要時加註腳、圖表與附錄。惟投稿中文稿件者，中文標題、中文摘要與關鍵詞置於全文最前，英文標題、英文摘要與關鍵詞置於全文最後；投稿英文稿件者，英文標題、英文摘要與關鍵詞置於全文最前，中文標題、中文摘要與關鍵詞置於全文最後。注意：為方便匿名審查作業，請勿於標題下寫出作者及服務單位；若正文、註腳或附錄有明顯指出作者之資料，編輯小組將於審查期間刪除這些資料，刊登時則恢復之。
- 六、投稿文件請列印（影印）一式三份寄給編輯小組，並自行保留稿件備份。每份除第五點所述各項外，並須加封面頁，封面頁包括：
  1. 中、英文標題
  2. 作者中、英文姓名
  3. 服務單位及職稱之中、英文名稱
  4. 主要作者通訊處：含郵遞區號、住址、電話、傳真、電子郵件
- 七、來稿均需經過學術期刊之審稿程序，以決定是否刊登；刊登之論文著作財產權歸中國測驗學會所有，文責由作者自負。刊登後不另發稿酬，但每篇論文（以論文篇數為單位，非以作者數為單位）由本會寄送抽印本五十本及該期測驗年刊二本，寄送對象為該篇論文之主要作者。

- 八、投稿時不需附寄磁片，修改後之定稿則需附寄磁片；投稿時只需寄出第五項、第六項之文件；若審查通過，依審查意見修改後之定稿則務必分別於中、英文標題下補寫中、英文作者姓名及服務單位，將定稿與磁片寄回編輯小組。
- 九、錄取刊登的稿件，由作者擔任排版後的第一次校對工作，除校對外，可做小幅度的增刪與改正，以期作品的錯誤減至最低。
- 十、投稿或寄回定稿、校對稿時，請於信封上註明「測驗年刊稿件」。來稿逕寄：

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## 投寄前之檢查清單

- 收件人地址為：

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- 信封上註明為「測驗年刊稿件」。
- 稿件提供一式三份。
- 作者自留稿件備份。
- 中文稿長上限為 20000 字，英文稿長上限為 10000 字；中、英文摘要以 500 字為原則。
- 投稿中文稿件者，其內容與順序為：中文標題、中文摘要與關鍵詞、正文、參考文獻、英文標題、英文摘要與關鍵詞，必要時加註腳、圖表與附錄；投稿英文稿件者，其內容與順序為：英文標題、英文摘要與關鍵詞、正文、參考文獻、中文標題、中文摘要與關鍵詞，必要時加註腳、圖表與附錄。
- 每份稿件加封面頁。
- 除封面頁外未出現作者及服務單位。
- 封面頁上載有：
- |                                      |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 中文題目        | <input type="checkbox"/> 英文題目        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 作者中文姓名      | <input type="checkbox"/> 作者英文姓名      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 作者中文服務單位、職稱 | <input type="checkbox"/> 作者英文服務單位、職稱 |
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## 測驗年刊審查要點

- 1.本論文內容是否符合測驗年刊宗旨？
- 2.本論文格式是否符合測驗年刊體例？
- 3.本論文題目是否適切的描述論文內容？
- 4.本論文主題是否具有創見？
- 5.本論文對國內、外相關研究文獻之評述如何？
- 6.本論文使用的專有名詞、術語是否適當？
- 7.就研究問題的性質而言，本論文採用的研究方法是否適切？
- 8.本論文寫作架構是否嚴謹？
- 9.本論文對研究結果的解釋、推論是否合理？
- 10.本論文研究成果對增進國內測驗專業是否有貢獻？