

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENTAL ACCEPTANCE-REJECTION, MARITAL
SATISFACTION AND REJECTION SENSITIVITY IN TURKISH NEWLYWEDS: A
DYADIC MEDIATION ANALYSIS

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DEDICATION

I wholeheartedly dedicate this thesis to my mother, father and sister who have been always
been sources of emotional, spiritual and instrumental support.

ABSTRACT

This research examined the dyadic relationships between remembered parental acceptance-rejection and marital satisfaction of Turkish and Turkish Cypriot newlyweds with the mediating mechanism of rejection sensitivity. The study's sample consisted of 111 heterosexual spouses (111 wives and 111 husbands; age range from 21 to 53 years) who have been married for at most 5 years. Both wives and husbands completed all questionnaires: Adult Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire Short Form (both the mother and the father form; Rohner, 2005), Adult Rejection Sensitivity Questionnaire (Berenson et al., 2009) Satisfaction Level Sub-scale of Investment Model Scale (Rusbult et al., 1998) and demographic information form. The Actor-Partner Interdependence Model (APIM) and APIM Mediation Model (APIMeM) analyses were conducted. Results indicated statistically significant relationship between husbands' maternal acceptance and their own marital satisfaction (direct actor effect, husbands) and between husbands' maternal acceptance and their wives' marital satisfaction (direct partner effect, husbands to wives). Wives' maternal acceptance as well as paternal acceptance had positive indirect effects on wives' marital satisfaction through wives' rejection sensitivity (indirect actor effects, wives). Similarly, husbands' maternal and paternal acceptance had positive indirect effects on husbands' marital satisfaction through husbands' rejection sensitivity (indirect actor effects, husbands). The implications of these findings are discussed in relation to previous literature and Parental Acceptance-Rejection Theory (Rohner, 1986), Family System Theory (Bowen, 1978) and Rejection Sensitivity Model (Downey & Feldman, 1996). Clinical implications of these dyadic findings are discussed.

ÖZET

Bu araştırmada Türk ve Kıbrıslı Türk yeni evlilerin hatırlanan ebeveyn kabul-reddi ve evlilik doyumu arasındaki ilişkide, reddedilme duyarlılığının aracı mekanizması aktör partner ilişkilerine bakarak incelenmiştir. Araştırmanın örneklemini en fazla 5 yıldır evli olan 111 heteroseksüel eş (111 kadın ve 111 erkek; yaş aralığı 23 – 54 yıl) oluşturdu. Hem kadınlar hem de erkekler araştırmanın bütün anketlerini tamamladı: Yetişkin Ebeveyn Kabul-Red Ölçeği Kısa Formu (anne ve baba formları; Rohner, 2005), Yetişkin Reddedilme Duyarlılığı Ölçeği (Berenson ve ark., 2009) Yatırım Modeli Ölçeğinin İlişki Doyumu Düzeyi Alt Ölçeği (Rusbult ve ark., 1998) ve demografik bilgi formu. Aktör-Partner Karşılıklı Bağımlılık Modeli (APIM) ve APIM Aracılık Modeli (APIMeM) analizleri yapılmıştır. Sonuçlar, erkeklerin anne kabulü ile kendi evlilik tatmini arasında (doğrudan aktör etkisi, erkekler) ve erkeklerin anne kabulü ile kadınların evlilik doyumu arasında (erkekten kadına doğrudan partner etkisi) istatistiksel olarak anlamlı bir pozitif ilişki olduğunu göstermektedir. Kadınların hem anne hem de baba kabulü, kadınların kendi reddedilme duyarlılığı yoluyla, kendi evlilik doyumları üzerinde olumlu dolaylı bir etkiye sahipti (dolaylı aktör etkileri, kadınlar). Benzer şekilde, erkeklerin hem anne hem de baba kabulü, erkeklerin kendi reddedilme duyarlılığı yoluyla, kendi evlilik doyumları üzerinde olumlu dolaylı bir etkiye sahipti (dolaylı aktör etkileri, erkekler). Bu bulguların sonuçları, önceki literatür ve Ebeveyn Kabul-Red Kuramı (Rohner, 1986), Aile Sistemleri Teorisi (Bowen, 1978) ve Reddetme Duyarlılığı Modeli (Downey ve Feldman, 1996) ışığında tartışılmıştır. Bu çift analizi bulgularının klinik çıkarımları da tartışılmıştır.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Introduction

Early experiences of *parental acceptance-rejection* can extend into adulthood to shape romantic relationship functioning and satisfaction (Rohner, 2005a). Research has consistently found that individuals who perceived to be rejected by their parents in childhood are more likely to have low satisfaction in future romantic relationships (Eryavuz, 2006; Parade et al., 2013; Varan, 2005; Yalcinkaya, 1997). Moreover, parental rejection in early childhood has also been linked with partner rejection in romantic relationships across different Eastern and Western cultures (Chyung & Lee, 2008; Giaouzi & Giovazolias, 2015; Ki et al., 2018; Parmar & Rohner, 2005). Henceforward, an individual's remembered parental acceptance-rejection as an example of family of origin factors, can influence future romantic relationship satisfaction and partner acceptance. Therefore, the main aim of the current study was to further explore the effect of remembered parental acceptance-rejection on marital satisfaction.

The influence of a couple's parental acceptance-rejection on their marital satisfaction can be especially significant during their first years of marriage. From the perspective of the *family life cycle*, couples can face a great amount of stress during the life cycle transitions such as the marriage stage (Carter & McGoldrick, 1989). The possible challenging changes inherent to this stage is commitment to a new system whereby the marital system is formed and involvement of the spouse in the extended family and friends (McGoldrick & Carter, 2003). In line with this theory, studies have consistently found a decreasing marital satisfaction in the first years of marriage (e.g., Lavner et al., 2017; McNulty et al., 2016). Moreover, a spouse's relationship quality with family of origin measured as love and warmth in parent-child relationship was significantly related to both his or her own and the other

spouse's marital satisfaction (Hardy et al., 2015). Hence, family of origin experiences, including perceived parental acceptance-rejection can be specifically influential during the first years of marriage which may greatly impact marital satisfaction. Considering the importance of spouses' family of origin experiences on their early marital satisfaction, this study aimed to investigate the relationship between remembered parental acceptance-rejection and marital satisfaction in newlyweds.

Based on the *systems theory*, marital satisfaction should be conceptualized and studied in a more dynamic and systems-based lens. According to the systems theory, each spouse's individual experience will affect both their own *and* the other spouse's perception of marriage satisfaction (Olson et al., 2019). Research has consistently shown that family of origin experiences such as quality of parent-child relationship, emotional closeness versus distance impact both their own and their spouse's marital satisfaction (Hardy et al., 2015) as well as marital emotional health (Brown et al., 2016). Moreover, one spouse's parental rejection predicted change in the other spouse's marital satisfaction when both partners were mediocrely or highly rejected by their parents (Parade et al., 2013). Studies (e.g., Varan, 2005; Yalcinkaya, 1997) which only examined the impact of one partner's remembered parental acceptance-rejection on his or her relationship satisfaction lack the systems understanding. Based on the critical evaluation of past literature limitations and conceptualization, this research study aimed to investigate the association between remembered parental acceptance-rejection and marital satisfaction using a dyadic analysis. Adopting a dyadic methodology allowed for an understanding of how one's remembered parental acceptance-rejection shaped both his or her own as well as the other spouse's marital satisfaction.

The present study aimed to answer the initial research question of 'Is change in one spouse's remembered parental acceptance-rejection related to change in both his or her and

the other spouse's marital satisfaction?'. Exploring this research question was made possible through conducting a dyadic analysis with the design of actor-partner interdependence model (APIM; Kenny & Ledermann, 2010). The study examined the actor-partner effects of both maternal and paternal acceptance-rejection on marital satisfaction of newlyweds.

Rejection sensitivity can be a possible cognitive-affective mechanism that links remembered parental rejection with marital satisfaction. Rejection sensitivity can be described as an individual's inclination to anxiously expect, perceive and overreact to minor or imagined insensitivity from their significant others (Downey & Feldman, 1996). Rejection sensitivity is argued to have developed from early experiences of rejection from caregivers, whereby rejected individuals develop an adaptive urge to avoid potential rejection from their significant others (Downey & Feldman, 1996). In line with this proposition, studies have found that higher levels of remembered parental rejection in childhood was associated with higher levels of rejection sensitivity in adulthood (Ibrahim et al., 2015; Khaleque et al., 2019). Rejection sensitivity, in turn, is shown to be associated with a higher likelihood of physical aggression and nonphysical hostility in romantic conflicts, more negative interactions with romantic partners and lower romantic relationship satisfaction (Galliher & Bentley, 2010; Hafen et al., 2014; Purdie & Downey, 2000). These findings suggest that rejection sensitivity can be a potential mechanism that explains why remembered parental rejection is associated with lower marital satisfaction. Therefore, this study explored the possible mediating role of rejection sensitivity in the parental rejection and marital satisfaction link in newlyweds.

The present study also aimed to answer the research question of 'Is remembered parental rejection and marital satisfaction indirectly related through rejection sensitivity?'. This research question was also explored through a dyadic perspective, in which the dyadic indirect associations were examined. The current study used the actor-partner

interdependence mediation model (APIMeM) to investigate this research question (Ledermann et al., 2011).

1.2 Theoretical Framework and Conceptual Frameworks

1.2.1 Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection Theory (IPARTheory)

IPARTheory is an evidence-based theory that conceptualizes life-span development and socialization of individuals based on their experiences of interpersonal acceptance or rejection throughout their lifespan (Rohner, 2004). The theory attempts to gather data and an understanding of the major causes, consequences and other correlates of acceptance-rejection experience.

Initially, this theory was named as Parental Acceptance and Rejection Theory (PARTheory), under which the majority of studies focused on the causes and consequences of parental acceptance and rejection in early life. However, a growing focus and realization of the importance of experiences of acceptance and rejection from close others (such as siblings, grandparents, romantic partners and peers) resulted in the theory's expansion of conceptualizing acceptance and rejection as interpersonal; hence, renaming the theory as IPARTheory. A meta-analysis conducted by Rohner and Khaleque (2010) also supported this paradigm shift: a strong association was evident between individuals' partner acceptance and psychological adjustment, suggesting that acceptance-rejection from significant others other than parents are also fundamental. Nonetheless, the majority of the studies which are still being conducted until today have focused on the causes, consequences and correlates of parental acceptance and rejection, as per this study (Rohner, 2016).

The theory is composed of three sub-theories: personality, coping and sociocultural systems. The personality sub-theory has three main tenets. First, individuals pan-culturally perceive themselves as being cared about or not cared about (accepted or rejected). Secondly, individuals respond in the same seven to ten ways when they feel like they are accepted or

rejected by their significant others. Lastly, the effects of acceptance and rejection in childhood extends into adulthood.

The coping sub-theory argues that some individuals are better able to cope with experiences of rejection when compared to others. In other words, they are more psychologically resilient to being rejected. This sub-theory attempts to explain these individual differences in perceiving and responding to rejection.

The sociocultural systems model and sub-theory attempts to predict and explain how psychological, familial, community and societal factors affect variations that exist in parental acceptance and rejection. For instance, it brings in the maintenance systems of a society such as social institutions (e.g., family, work, economy, defence institutions) and how they might impact the family system and acceptance and rejection experiences in the family across generations (Rohner, 2016).

The current study is based on the tenets of the personality sub-theory since it explored the association between remembrances of parental acceptance and rejection and marital satisfaction with the potential mediating mechanism of rejection sensitivity in adulthood. Specifically, this study was under one specific theoretical question of personality sub-theory “To what extent does the effects of parental acceptance and rejection in childhood extend into adulthood and old age?” (Rohner, 2004).

1.2.1.1 Personality Sub-theory of IPARTheory:

The personality sub-theory of IPARTheory aims to investigate and explain personality and psychological consequences of interpersonal (specifically parental) acceptance and rejection experiences. The tenets of personality sub-theory are based on the evolutionary view and evidence that human beings have an innate need to relate, be loved and accepted by one another (Baumeister & Leary, 1995). Specifically, children *need* nurturing, soothing, caring and loving by their caregivers in order to survive. As individuals

age and become adults, this yearning for being loved and accepted continues as well as having a component of desire for intimacy towards those individuals who they are affectionally bonded to. This evolutionary perspective that individuals of any age need and yearn for love and acceptance informs the personality sub-theory's main argument: experiences of interpersonal (especially parental) acceptance and rejection have significant effects on psychological and personality development (Rohner, 2005a).

The individuals whose acceptance and rejection behaviour is important in the individual's life and development is referred to as *significant others* in IPARTheory. A significant other is defined as the individual who is not interchangeable with anyone else, an individual who the person has a unique emotional bond with (Rohner, 2005a). Whereas these individuals are caregivers in the infant's life (e.g., mother, father, sibling, grandparents or other caregivers who spends considerable time looking after the infant), the significant others in an adult's life can *additionally* be their romantic partners.

Personality in IPARTheory is defined as a stable set of predispositions to behave (e.g., cognitive, affectional and motivational predispositions) and the set of observable behaviours that the individual portrays (Rohner, 2005a). It is therefore assumed that these set of predispositions to act and the observable behaviours are mostly predictable across different times and contexts. It is also assumed that behaviour is motivated by intrinsic and extrinsic factors. Intrinsic motivators include to be emotionally close to others, to find meaning, to learn something and so on. Extrinsic motivators can be rewards such as money; can be fears of punishment such as judicial system or parental punishments; positive words or symbolic behaviours of love from significant others (Ryan & Deci, 2000).

According to IPARTheory, the greatest motivator for behaviour is being accepted by your significant others as well as the fear of rejection by your significant others (Rohner, 2016). It follows that, in IPARTheory, whether an individual experiences acceptance or

rejection from their caregivers or intimate partners will greatly impact their psychological adjustment. Specifically, for children, experiences of parental acceptance and rejection inform children's predispositions to act in life and their observable actions (hence, their personality). Therefore, acceptance versus rejection experiences in childhood will have qualitatively different effects on personality.

First of all, IPARTheory's first proposition for the effects of parental acceptance and rejection on personality is the level of security and comfort they feel in relationships. It is argued that children who face rejection from their caregivers are more likely to feel anxious and insecure when compared to children who are accepted. In order to overcome these feelings of anxiety and insecurity, individuals behave in certain ways which is further conceptualized on the 'dependence continuum' of the theory.

The qualitative differences of parental acceptance and rejection on personality development is conceptualized on a continuum of dependence. Dependence is the psychological yearning to be emotionally close to significant others and a yearning to receive care, attention, love and nurture from them (Rohner, 2016). The theory makes use of this term as the 'behaviours' that individuals carry out in order to activate such responsiveness from significant others. The significant portion of the variation of dependence is based on whether the individuals perceive themselves as accepted or rejected by their parents. Hence, IPARTheory qualitatively differentiates the effects of parental acceptance and rejection on personality as different levels of dependence.

The dependence continuum of IPARTheory has independence on one end and dependence on the other end which varies based on parental acceptance and rejection experiences in childhood. Individuals whose needs were met in childhood (i.e., experienced more acceptance) are more independent and do not have frequent or intense yearnings for positive responsiveness. As the level of parental rejection an individual has experienced in

early childhood gets higher, they become more likely to be dependent and show more frequent bids and behaviours to receive positive responsiveness. However, even higher levels of parental rejection translate into ‘defensive independence’ in the theory. Individuals who are defensively independent are similar to independent individuals who show few bids and behaviours for acceptance and are dissimilar to them because they actually intensely desire for warmth and love (Rohner, 2016). Individuals who are defensively independent are also explained as showing ‘counter rejection’ in which they reject the individuals who they believe are rejecting themselves (Rohner, 2016). Therefore, different levels of parental acceptance and rejection translates into different places on the continuum of dependence in IPARTheory.

In addition to conceptualizing effects of parental acceptance and rejection on personality as insecurity, anxiousness and dependence, the theory also suggests that rejected individuals are more likely to show several personality dispositions more than accepted individuals. These personality dispositions include emotional regulation outcomes such as anger, aggression, passive-aggression, hostility and problems with managing anger. Other personality dispositions are more related with mental representations of rejected individuals, such as negative self-esteem, negative self-adequacy, negative worldview and rejection sensitivity (Rohner, 2005a).

First of all, IPARTheory argues that individuals who have been rejected by their caregivers in childhood have more emotion regulation problems than individuals who were accepted. Whereas accepted people face adversities and stressors with greater emotion stability, rejected people struggle to manage their emotions like anger, sadness and stress in times of adversity (Rohner, 2016). Therefore, rejected individuals are more likely to show personality outcomes such as anger, hostility, aggression and passive aggression.

Second, rejected people also show different personality dispositions in comparison to accepted people based on their mental representations. IPARTheory draws from social cognitive theories (e.g., Mead, 1934) on how accepted versus rejected individuals mentally represent themselves and others, which in turn shapes crucial personality dispositions. According to the theory, mental representation can be described as an individual's set of beliefs and perceptions of both himself or herself as well as others. Moreover, these beliefs and perceptions are based on key emotional experiences in their past and in their current lives (Rohner, 2005a).

Experiences of being unloved or unattended by your caregivers in early childhood irrevocably affects children's mental representations. Specifically, when children perceive that their parents do not love, care or attend for them, they grow up to believe that they are unlovable or are unworthy of love. This is the 'self-perception' of rejected individuals. Moreover, because children experience their caregivers as physically or emotionally hurting or as emotionally absent, rejected children also grow up to believe that 'others' cannot be trusted and that they are not a source of care, love and nurture. This is 'other-perception' of rejected individuals. These mental representations which are shaped by early experiences of parental acceptance and rejection in turn shape the way these individuals live their lives (Rohner, 2016).

Negative self-esteem, negative self-adequacy and negative worldview are the personality dispositions that are brought about by mental representations of rejected individuals and are more likely to be seen in rejected people (Rohner, 2016). The self-perception of rejected individuals that pertain the view of 'I am not lovable, I am not worthy' not only translates into negative self-esteem (i.e., low self-worth) but also translates into negative self-adequacy in that they believe that they cannot meet other individuals' needs or they are less able to successfully carry out other daily tasks. The other-perception of rejected

individuals which is 'Others are not trustworthy, others are not dependable for sources of love and care' informs their negative worldview in which they are more likely to perceive their parents, friends, partners and other social relationships as untrustworthy, undependable and emotionally unsafe (Rohner, 1986).

Lastly, rejection sensitivity is another personality disposition that is related to mental representations of both self and others, which is also more likely to be observed in rejected people when compared to accepted individuals (Rohner, 2005a). Rejection is a significantly hurtful experience for all children and adults worldwide. In fact, brain imaging has shown that the region that lights up when an individual experiences rejection from a significant other and the region for physical pain is the same (Karos, 2018). Hence, individuals develop strategies to prevent or protect themselves from future experiences of rejection. One of these strategies is referred to as rejection sensitivity. Rejected individuals are hypervigilant to slightest and sometimes wrong signs of emotional undependability (Downey & Feldman, 1996). Individuals who selectively attend for, perceive and respond to these slightest signs of rejection are described as 'rejection sensitive'. This faulty cognitive information processing is also highly affected by the views of both self and other 'I am not lovable and others are undependable, therefore there is always great risk for rejection and I must look out for it'.

Overall, personality sub-theory conceptualizes the effects of parental acceptance and rejection on personality in terms of security and comfort versus insecurity and anxiety, dependency versus independency and personality dispositions related to emotion regulation and cognitive processing. Mental representations of accepted and rejected people also play a significant role in personality development. Based on the theory's tenets that early parental rejection has significant effects on personality dispositions that is carried along a life-time: this study additionally focused on how remembered parental acceptance and rejection is related to adulthood rejection sensitivity. Specifically, it proposed that rejection sensitivity is

the mechanism in which remembered parental acceptance-rejection extends into adulthood to shape marital satisfaction.

1.2.2 Rejection Sensitivity Model

Rejection sensitivity model is a cognitive-affective perspective on conceptualizing how rejection sensitive individuals' cognitive, emotional, and behavioural factors interplay with one another in their close relationships (Downey & Feldman, 1996). Individuals who anxiously expect, perceive, and react to slightest signs of emotional unavailability or rejection is referred to as being rejection sensitive. The anxious expectations (i.e., cognitive-affective factors) inform and shape why rejection sensitive individuals readily perceive and overreact to (i.e., behavioural factors) slightest signs of rejection (Downey & Feldman, 1996).

The cognitive-affective inclination to anxiously expect and perceive rejection is based on individuals' past experiences of rejection from their significant others (Feldman & Downey, 1994). The negative and insecure mental representations of self as being not worthy of love and acceptance as well as perceptions of others as being untrustworthy and rejecting also inform children's cognitive and affective development which then shape their behaviours in social contexts (Downey & Feldman, 1996). Hence, children who have experienced rejection from their caregivers propel in different socio-cognitive pathways than children who are accepted, whereby rejected children grow up expecting that they will most likely face rejection from their close others when they seek acceptance and support.

The rejection sensitivity model also proposes that rejection sensitive individuals behaviourally respond to insensitive or ambiguous signs of their close others in similar ways. Once a rejection sensitive individual anxiously perceives and interprets his or her significant other's behaviour as rejecting, he or she will respond to it with hostility, anger, jealousy, controlling behaviour and lower levels of support (Downey & Feldman, 1996). Downey and

Feldman (1996) further argue that both rejection sensitive individuals and their partners are more likely to feel unhappy and insecure in their relationships. This argument is based on the model's tenets that rejection sensitive individuals' anxious expectations, perceptions and overreactions to ambiguous behaviours not only erode their happiness and security in a relationship but also their partners' satisfaction.

Overall, because rejection sensitivity model proposes a potential mechanism to how childhood parental rejection can be linked to future romantic relationship satisfaction, the current study investigated rejection sensitivity as a potential mediating mechanism between parental acceptance-rejection and marital satisfaction of newlyweds.

1.2.3 Family Systems Theory

Family systems theory is a comprehensive approach to conceptualizing an individual's functioning within the web of their relationships. The systems theory has been initially applied to psychology by Bowen (1978). Whereas the individual thinking (e.g., psychoanalytical thinking) evaluates the cause of symptoms as arising within an individual, systems thinking believes that symptoms arise because of an acute or chronic imbalance in the emotional dynamics of a person's close relationships (Kerr, 1981). Systems theory, therefore, observes a family member's behaviour both as a cause and consequence of dyadic interactions as well as the overall dynamics of the family system. In such a perspective, individuals' behaviours cannot be evaluated separately from the family systems they are living in (Kerr, 1981).

Family systems theory also pays close attention to intergenerational transmission of emotional processes. Bowen believed that family systems carried forward their emotions, attitudes, values, and beliefs from one generation to the next (Kerr & Bowen, 1988). Therefore, an individual's family of origin factors are important dynamics that can transmit onto and exert influence upon the new family systems (e.g., new marital relationship). It

follows from these notions that an individual's experiences of rejecting parenting in childhood (as a family of origin factor) can be carried forward into the individual's marital system to affect his or her new family dynamics and satisfaction levels.

A family system can be observed as a single system with multiple sub-systems, whereby each affect one another (Minuchin, 1974). There is a spousal, mother-father, parent-child, and a sibling sub-system (Nichols & Schwarz, 2004). For instance, an individual can be a child within parent-child system (in their family of origin) as well as a wife or a husband in the spousal sub-system. Moreover, sub-systems are interrelated with one another in which emotional dynamics in one sub-system constantly shapes the other sub-system's nature and vice versa (Minuchin, 1988).

Family systems perspective also highlights the importance of interdependence (Minuchin, 1985). A change that is observed in one sub-system affects the other sub-systems as well as the whole system. Therefore, any changes in emotional functioning of a family member will impact not only the sub-systems they are in but also the whole family system. It follows for this research that any changes in parental acceptance-rejection experience of one spouse will not only cause changes in his or her marital satisfaction; but also the other spouse's marital satisfaction. Similarly, changes in rejection sensitivity of one spouse is expected to have an impact on both his or her own marital satisfaction, as well as the other partner's marital satisfaction.

Conceptualizing and measuring the direct associations between parental rejection and marital satisfaction as well as indirect associations of parental rejection and marital satisfaction through rejection sensitivity requires the adoption of a dyadic analysis. These associations can only be investigated through carrying out a mediational dyadic analysis using an actor-partner interdependence mediation model (APIMeM), whereby a dyad's reports of parental acceptance-rejection and marital satisfaction with the possible mediating

mechanism of rejection sensitivity are analysed in actor-partner pathways (Kenny & Ledermann, 2010).

Based on these tenets of the systems theory, the effects of parental acceptance and rejection in an individual's adulthood life can be evaluated from a systemic perspective. An adult's childhood experiences of parental acceptance and rejection can be carried towards their new marital system to shape the emotional climate of the relationship. In the current paper, rejection sensitivity is the mediator mechanism between parental rejection and marital satisfaction. Hence, rejection sensitivity is proposed as the dynamic that potentially impacts this emotional climate of the new marital system, specifically the spousal sub-system. Lastly, considering the interdependence between individuals in a family system; parental acceptance and rejection of one spouse is not only linked with his or her own rejection sensitivity and marital satisfaction but also their spouse's rejection sensitivity and marital satisfaction.

1.2.4 Family Life Cycles Model

Duvall (1962) and Haley (1973) are the proponents of family life cycle stages, which is a "theoretical framework that describes the formation, maintenance, change and dissolution of marriage and family" (Joronen & Rantanen, 2014, pp. 1). The more recent six-stage life cycle model has the stages of (1) Leaving home: single adults (2) Joining of families through partnership/marriage (3) Families with young children (4) Families with adolescents (5) Launching children and moving on (6) Families in later life (Gladding, 2018).

The theory argues that families are more likely to face stress in times of life cycle stage transitions because the changes that happen within the family system are very momentous which translates into family stress (Haley, 1973). Moreover, each stage brings a qualitatively different change which demands different expectations from the family system. For instance, whereas the second stage of joining of families through marriage might require the couples to form a new family system with their previous values and emotional dynamics

from their family of origin, stage five of launching children and moving on requires the spouses to adapt to having an empty nest and a new daily routine without children. Hence, different stages require the family to adapt to different changes which translate into stress.

The current study's focus on family of origin factors (i.e., remembered parental acceptance and rejection) and marital satisfaction in adult life calls for a specific conceptualization based on the family life cycle theory. Gladding (2018) explains the joining of families through partnership and marriage as a stage which requires the couple to form a new partner sub-system as well as realignment with their family of origin and friends. Therefore, it becomes plausible that a family of origin factor of parental acceptance and rejection will become especially pertinent in the second stage of the family life cycle, when the realignment of family of origin and new family system is necessary. Hence, this study aimed to investigate the links between parental acceptance and rejection and marital satisfaction (with the possible mediating mechanism of rejection sensitivity) in newlyweds who are married from 0 to 5 years).

Although the current study focused on stage 2 of the family life cycle model, individuals who are newly married (in their first five years of life as suggested by Gladding, 2018) and who have children will also be included in the study. Nonetheless, statistical analyses will be run to observe whether there are significant differences between couples with children and without children to decide on whether having children is a co-variate in the study's model.

1.3 Major Study Variables

1.3.1 Parental Acceptance and Rejection

This study is based on Rohner's (2005a) parental acceptance and rejection concepts which form the warmth dimension of parent-child relationships. Warmth dimension of parent-child relationship can be defined as the quality of the emotional bond between the

parent and the child. All individuals can be conceptualized in somewhere on this spectrum, whereby parental acceptance lies on one end and parental rejection lies on the other end of the spectrum.

The warmth dimension can be measured via three different behaviours that are *perceived* by the child in the parent-child relationship. Research into the warmth dimension of parenting has also shown cross-cultural specific ways that an individual might perceive to be accepted or rejected (Khaleque & Rohner, 2002). Accepting parenting have only one category which is ‘warmth/affection’. On the other hand, universal categories of rejecting parenting are ‘hostility/aggression’, ‘indifference/neglect’ and ‘undifferentiated rejection’ (Rohner, 2016).

These categories of accepting and rejecting parenting contain specific sets of parental behaviours (Rohner, 2016). Children who feel more accepted by their parents (falling into the category of warmth/affection) observe physical behaviours such as hugging, kissing or cuddling as well as verbal behaviours such as complimenting, verbalizing love or comforting words. Parents can also show acceptance via symbolic behaviours such as culturally meaningful ways of loving and caring. Rejected children whose parents fall under the category of ‘hostility and aggression’ experience physical behaviours such as kicking, slapping or hitting and verbal behaviours like belittling, being sarcastic or cursing. Parents can also be hurtful by showing symbolic gestures towards their children. Children who have indifferent and neglecting parents have parents who are physically and psychologically unavailable whereby their parents do not meet the needs of their children. Lastly, undifferentiated rejection entails children who perceive their parents as not loving or caring about them, although they cannot report any behavioural signs of rejection such as aggression or neglect.

Henceforward, the current study will operationalize and measure parental acceptance and rejection based on Rohner's (2005a) conceptualization. That is, children's *perceptions and reports* of their parents' global emotion and behaviour determines whether a child is accepted, rejected by aggression and hostility, rejected by neglect and rejected in undifferentiated terms.

1.3.2 Rejection Sensitivity

Rejection sensitivity is conceptualized and operationalized based on the expectancy-value model of attachment (Bandura, 1986 in Downey & Feldman, 1996). The value or importance of acceptance and rejection that is placed by the individual is measured by the level of anxiety over the possibility that the individual will experience rejection in their relationship. On the other hand, the expectation of rejection is measured as the person's judgment of how likely they are to receive that rejection (Downey & Feldman, 1996).

1.3.3 Marital Satisfaction

Definition of marital satisfaction is based on the tenets of Rusbult et al. (1998) Investment Model, since the evidence-base strongly suggests that the satisfaction level described and measured in this model persists across many types of romantic relationships including marital relationship (Rusbult et al., 1994). Based on the tenets of this model, *satisfaction level* is operationalized as positive versus the negative emotions experienced in a relationship, whereby satisfaction is the extent to which a partner fulfils one's most important needs. The notion that satisfaction is dependent on the other partner's fulfilment of needs also shows interdependence of satisfaction in a relationship, hence supporting the systemic basis of the current study.

1.4 Literature Review

1.4.1 Parental Acceptance-Rejection and Individual Variables

The individual variables that have been found to be correlates of parental acceptance-rejection are psychological adjustment, mental health correlates of off-spring and demographic factors of parent and off-spring (for a review see Rohner, 2016).

1.4.1.1 Parental Acceptance-Rejection and Psychological Adjustment

There is a vast number of studies all around the world that investigated the effects of parental acceptance and rejection on childhood and adulthood psychological adjustment (for a systematic review see Khaleque & Ali, 2017). Almost all studies have operationalized psychological adjustment as the individuals' outcomes in the seven personality traits that have been described in the personality sub-theory (See Section 1.2.1.1). Namely, hostility/aggression, dependence, negative self-esteem, negative self-adequacy, emotional unresponsiveness, emotional instability, and negative worldview.

Studies from different cultures consistently showed that parental acceptance-rejection was significantly associated with both adults and children's psychological adjustment (Khaleque & Ali, 2017). A study by Putnick and colleagues (2015) assessed children from 1247 families from 9 different countries (Eastern and Western countries) and found that children who had more rejecting parents were significantly more likely to have higher levels of psychological maladjustment. Similarly, adults' remembrances of parental rejection in their childhood were associated with higher levels of psychological maladjustment panculturally (e.g., Chyung & Lee, 2008; Parmar & Rohner, 2005; Khaleque et al., 2008; Parmar et al., 2008; Rohner, Melendez et al., 2008; Rohner, Uddin et al., 2008; Ripoll-Núñez & Alvarez, 2008; Varan et al., 2008). Hence, there is a cross-cultural evidence base which shows that experiences of parental rejection not only translates into higher psychological maladjustment in children but also the effects of this parental rejection on psychological adjustment can be observed in adulthood.

1.4.1.2 Parental Acceptance-Rejection and Mental Health Correlates

In addition to problems with psychological adjustment in childhood and adulthood, parental rejection has also been found to be significantly related to other mental health related issues. Individuals who report higher levels of remembered parental rejection are more likely to have depression, fear of intimacy, loneliness, behavioural problems (e.g., delinquency, externalizing behaviours, conduct disorders) and drug and alcohol abuse (Ge et al., 1996; Rohner & Britner, 2002; Simons et al., 1989).

1.4.1.3 Parental Acceptance-Rejection and Parent and Offspring Demographics

Age of the offspring is one of the demographic variables that plays an important role in the experience of parental acceptance-rejection. Meta-analyses have shown that adult's remembrances of parental acceptance-rejection levels are significantly weaker than children or adolescent's evaluations (Khaleque & Rohner, 2002; Khaleque & Rohner, 2012). Specifically, a systematic review of 43 studies with 7,563 participants from 15 different countries have shown that whereas parental acceptance accounted for around 21% of variability in adult's psychological adjustment, this variability level was 26% for children (Khaleque & Ali, 2017). The suggested reasoning behind this discrepancy is that as individuals age, they have more social relationships and experiences, which might result in a weaker relevance of parental acceptance-rejection in their lives (Khaleque & Rohner, 2002).

Gender of the offspring as well as the gender of the parent also seem to be important demographic variables that have an impact on parental acceptance and rejection experiences. Meta-analyses showed no significant differences between males' and females' perceived maternal or paternal acceptance-rejection (Khaleque & Rohner, 2002; Rohner & Khaleque, 2010). However, several different studies from Turkey, Greece, Korea, Japan and Lebanon found that male participants reported their fathers to be more rejecting than female participants (e.g., Babuscu, 2014; Chyung & Lee, 2008; Giaouzi & Giovazolias, 2015; Kazarian et al., 2010; Rohner, Uddin et al., 2008). Hence, there are mixed results in the

literature regarding the effect of parent and offspring gender on experiences acceptance-rejection.

1.4.2 Parental Acceptance-Rejection and Relationship Variables

One relationship correlate for parental acceptance-rejection is the marital status of the offspring. Studies in this area are scarce since marital status as a variable is not widely studied as a correlate for parental acceptance-rejection. Nonetheless, the two studies which are evident in the literature show differing pattern of results. Whereas Eryavuz (2006) found that married participants were more likely to have rejecting mothers than dating participants, Varan (2005) did not find any significant differences between marital statuses.

A significant relationship correlate of parental acceptance-rejection is partner acceptance-rejection. As explained earlier, IPARTheory also argues that emotional experiences with significant others such as partners are universally crucial experiences in life. Specifically, Rohner (2008) developed the notion of partner acceptance and rejection to understand and evaluate the acceptance and rejection experiences in romantic relationships and further understand how parental acceptance-rejection in childhood might extend into adulthood experiences such as partner acceptance-rejection. Studies from ten different countries including Korea, Finland, Turkey, India, US and Colombia have provided evidence that higher levels of partner acceptance was associated with higher levels of remembered parental acceptance (e.g., Chyung & Lee, 2008; Khaleque et al., 2008; Parmar & Rohner, 2005; Ripoll-Nunez & Alvarez, 2008; Rohner, Melendez et al., 2008; Varan et al., 2008). Hence, partner acceptance-rejection is one of the relational factors that demonstrates how parental acceptance and rejection extends into adulthood (Rohner, 2008).

1.4.3 Parental Acceptance-Rejection and Romantic Relationship Satisfaction

The less frequently researched relationship variable as a potential correlate of parental acceptance-rejection is romantic relationship or marital satisfaction. To the knowledge of this

study, only four studies have conceptualized ‘quality of romantic/intimate relationship’ as relationship satisfaction and examined its links with parental acceptance-rejection (Eryavuz, 2006; Meth, 1999; Varan, 2005; Yalcinkaya, 1997). Henceforward, the association between remembered parental acceptance-rejection and romantic relationship satisfaction is scarce.

All of these studies found significant correlations between parental acceptance-rejection and romantic relationship satisfaction. Eryavuz (2006) collected data from Turkish adults who were married or dating and measured the satisfaction of the participants as a categorical variable (i.e., satisfied versus dissatisfied participants). The study found that individuals who were satisfied with their relationship were more likely to have higher levels of both maternal and paternal acceptance (Eryavuz, 2006). Similar to Eryavuz (2006), Varan (2005) also operationalized the satisfaction levels categorically and found that people who had higher maternal and paternal rejection were more likely to be in the dissatisfied group. Yalcinkaya (1997) collected data from Turkish women who were in dating relationships and found a significant and positive association between remembered paternal acceptance and relationship satisfaction. Lastly, Meth (1999) found that men’s but not women’s relationship satisfaction in their dating relationships were significantly associated with their remembered parental acceptance-rejection, whereby higher levels of parental rejection was linked with lower levels of relationship satisfaction. Therefore, studies show that marital satisfaction and parental acceptance-rejection are closely linked, in which individuals who remember to be more rejected by their parents also have lower levels of romantic relationship satisfaction.

It is important to state the limitations of research that exists in the already scarce research area of remembered parental acceptance-rejection and romantic relationship satisfaction. Three out of four studies (i.e., Eryavuz, 2006; Varan, 2005; Yalcinkaya, 1997) have operationalized romantic relationship satisfaction as a categorical variable where participants can only choose options of very satisfied, satisfied, not satisfied, not satisfied at

all. The participants are further put into groups of satisfied versus non-satisfied groups. Since variability in satisfaction level is almost non-existent, this eliminates the chance to examine how variability in parental acceptance-rejection reflects into the variability in romantic relationship satisfaction. Hence, operationalization of the variable in the previous studies is an important limitation that should be addressed.

The current study tries to overcome this limitation by adopting a continuous measure for marital satisfaction, whereby a greater variability of data can be gathered. Further, operationalization of marital satisfaction as fulfilment of one's needs as well as the positive and negative affect within the close relationship adds another advantage to the study when compared with older studies which only measured participant's simple perceptions of their satisfaction level.

1.4.4 Rejection Sensitivity

1.4.4.1 Rejection Sensitivity and Individual Variables

One of the most widely studied individual correlate of rejection sensitivity is mental health outcomes. A meta-analytic review carried out by Gao et al. (2017) have investigated the associations between rejection sensitivity and mental health problems which consisted of 75 studies with a total sample size of 21,008 individuals from Europe, North America, Australia, and Asia. The results have demonstrated a significant positive relationship between rejection sensitivity and anxiety, loneliness, depression, body dysmorphic disorder and borderline personality disorder. The overall effects sizes for these mental health outcomes were medium according to Cohen's (1992) guidelines (Gao et al., 2017).

Gender is another individual variable that might be correlated with rejection sensitivity, although research has shown mixed results. Whereas several studies have not found any gender differences in rejection sensitivity (e.g., Downey & Feldman, 1996; Harper et al., 2006; Khaleque et al., 2019), other have shown that males scored higher in rejection

sensitivity questionnaires than females (e.g., Hafen et al., 2014; Martson et al., 2010; Ozen et al., 2011) and some other studies reported higher rejection sensitivity in females (e.g., Erozkhan, 2009; Goncu & Sumer, 2011). Hence, gender seems to be a demographic correlate of rejection sensitivity, although much research is needed to understand the pattern of mixed findings in previous literature.

1.4.4.2 Rejection Sensitivity and Relationship Variables

1.4.4.2.1 Rejection Sensitivity and Parental Acceptance-Rejection

Understanding why some individuals might be more rejection sensitive than others have called for research investigating the associations between early childhood factors and rejection sensitivity. Specifically, research has investigated the links between remembered parental acceptance-rejection and rejection sensitivity. Studies have consistently found that the higher the remembered parental rejection a person had, the higher was his or her rejection sensitivity in adulthood (Downey et al., 1995; Feldman & Downey, 1994; Ibrahim et al., 2015; Khaleque et al., 2019).

Parent and offspring gender may be important variables in the relationship between parental acceptance-rejection and rejection sensitivity, although the results are mixed. Khaleque and colleagues (2019) found that whereas both maternal and paternal acceptance is negatively and significantly associated with male off-springs' rejection sensitivity, only paternal acceptance was found significantly linked to female off-springs' rejection sensitivity. On the other hand, Ibrahim and colleagues (2015) found that both parents' rejection levels were significantly correlated with male and female off-springs' rejection sensitivity.

It is necessary to state that only two studies out of the four mentioned above (i.e., Ibrahim et al., 2015; Khaleque et al., 2019) have operationalized parental acceptance-rejection based on the tenets of IPARTheory. The other two studies (i.e., Downey et al., 1995; Feldman & Downey, 1994) have operationalized rejection as aggression in the parent-

child relationship. The studies that were conducted based on IPARTheory have only examined rejection sensitivity levels of university students. Further studies with other sampling groups are always necessary to generalize the findings to the population. Hence, the current study overcomes previous sample limitations of IPARTheory literature on rejection sensitivity by adopting a sample of newlyweds.

1.4.4.2.1 Rejection Sensitivity and Romantic Relationship Behaviours

A widely researched area in rejection sensitivity is the relationship behaviours that rejection sensitive individuals engage in within their peer and romantic relationships. A recent meta-analysis carried out by Gao and colleagues (2021) have analysed 52 studies with a total of 66,405 participants predominantly from North America and Europe to synthesize effect sizes for rejection sensitivity- aggression and rejection sensitivity- victimization in relationships. The results show small but significant association between rejection sensitivity and aggression and medium sized correlations between rejection sensitivity and victimization in relationships. Hence, aggression and victimization behaviours in relationships are two important correlates of rejection sensitivity.

A closer look into studies examining rejection sensitivity and romantic relationship behaviours can be informative for the scope of the current research. Studies in this area have provided evidence towards how rejection sensitive individuals self-fulfil a prophecy whereby their angry or anxious expectations and reactions to ambiguous signs of rejection support a romantic relationship environment with negative behaviours (e.g., Purdie & Downey, 2000).

For instance, a study by Downey and colleagues (1998) analysed videotapes of couples who discussed an unresolved conflict and the study found that women who had higher levels of rejection sensitivity used a more hostile voice and mocked their partner whilst denying the responsibility of the problem when compared to women with lower levels of rejection sensitivity. In turn, partners of women with high rejection sensitivity showed

higher levels of resentment. This evidence shows how individuals with high rejection sensitivity may be self-fulfilling a prophecy of being rejected by their partners through their own negative relationship behaviours (Downey et al., 1998).

Murphy and Russell (2018) also examined the association between rejection sensitivity and aggression in romantic relationships of young adults, with the possible mediator of jealousy. Individuals with higher rejection sensitivity were found to be more jealous of their romantic partners, which in turn was related to higher levels of aggressive behaviours. This study potentially shows why rejection sensitive individuals are more likely to have degrading relationship behaviours such as aggression, with one possible mediating mechanism of jealousy.

Overall, all of these studies show a pattern of results that point out into the direction that highly rejection individuals are self-fulfilling a prophecy of rejection in their romantic relationships through negative relationship behaviours such as aggression, controlling behaviour or submission. This suggests that relationship satisfaction can be another relationship correlate of rejection sensitivity, which will now be discussed further.

1.4.4.2.2 Rejection Sensitivity and Romantic Relationship Satisfaction

The last but not least relationship correlate of rejection sensitivity is romantic relationship satisfaction. Studies have shown that both male and females with high rejection sensitivity reported lower levels of romantic relationship satisfaction when compared to low rejection sensitive individuals (Downey & Feldman, 1996; Downey et al., 1998; Galliher & Bentley, 2010). Downey and colleagues (1998) have furthered their study by adopting a dyadic lens: they have found that males' rejection sensitivity was significantly associated with their female partners' romantic relationship satisfaction and vice versa. Hence, studies show a clear and significant link between rejection sensitivity and relationship satisfaction in both actor and partner pathways.

The samples of the studies investigating the rejection sensitivity and relationship satisfaction link were consisting of either adolescent dating couples (Galliher & Bentley, 2010) or university students (Downey & Feldman, 1996; Downey et al., 1998) all recruited from United States. This is one of the greatest limitations of the previous literature and the current research not only provides a sample of a different age group, different stage of life cycle and marital status but also a new cultural context with Turkish and Turkish Cypriot participants.

1.4.5 Cultural Context of Turkish and Turkish Cypriot Communities

The cultural and familial context of Turkish and Turkish Cypriot communities are also important contextual factors that need to be considered in the scope of this research. It is important to state that Turkish Cypriot's identity is mainly based on ethnic Turkish roots and links to mainland Turkey and additionally carrying Cypriot characteristics of a Mediterranean culture (Güven-Lisaniler & Rodriguez, 2002).

Turkish culture can be explained as carrying features of collectivism and individualism, especially with the rapid social and economic transformations Turkey have gone through in the last few decades (Sunar & Fisek, 2005). As Kagitcibasi (1996) has proposed in her model of Turkish families' cultural context, children of modern urban families are autonomous relational whereby they have both the emotional relatedness to their families as well as having their individual loyalties. Similarly in Turkish Cypriot culture, individuals are both emotionally related with their families and have individualistic characteristics which have been predominantly affected by both Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's political and cultural reforms in Turkey and the Westernized educational changes during the British colonial times of Cyprus (Nevzat & Hatay, 2009).

Regarding the family systems and hierarchies in Turkish and Turkish Cypriot communities, significant similarities can be seen. Although a strong gender hierarchy

favouring men can still be seen in traditional families across different regions in Turkey and TRNC, modernization of both communities affected the family systems in terms of spouses having a more egalitarian and companionable relationship especially in big cities (Alicik, 2009; Fisek, 1993).

Gender differences can be noted in the parent-child relationship of both the Turkish and Turkish Cypriot culture. In the parent-child sub-system, the mothers' physical and emotional nurturing is significantly higher than the fathers whereas father-child relationships show more communication on decisions and instrumental support (Eser, 2016; Fisek, 1991).

1.4.6 Current Study

In the light of the theoretical background as well as previous literature findings, the current study adopted a dyadic mediational model to understand the relationship between remembered parental acceptance-rejection and marital satisfaction of newlyweds with the possible mediator mechanism of rejection sensitivity (See Figure 2). The study adopted a sample of newlywed couples who were in their first five years of marriage and were living in Turkey and Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC).

The current study's sampling characteristics (i.e., varying age groups and a different cultural background than majority of previous studies) and theoretically and statistically informed operationalization of variables (e.g., operationalizing marital satisfaction as a continuous measure) overcome previous literature findings as explained before.

To the knowledge of this study, no study until now have examined the actor-partner effects of parental acceptance-rejection on marital satisfaction. Similarly, there has been no study investigating the mediational role of rejection sensitivity in the association between remembered parental acceptance-rejection and marital satisfaction. Therefore, the model of this study provides a unique mediational as well as dyadic model into the research area of both IPARTheory and Rejection Sensitivity Model.

1.4.7 Research Question and Hypotheses

1.4.7.1 Research Questions and Hypotheses on Maternal Rejection

Research Question 1: Do wives' and husbands' own maternal acceptance have direct effect on their own marital satisfaction (direct actor effect)? Do wives' and husbands' own maternal acceptance have direct effect on their partners' marital satisfaction (direct partner effect)?

Hypothesis 1: Wives' maternal acceptance is positively associated with their own marital satisfaction.

Hypothesis 2: Husbands' maternal acceptance is positively associated with their own marital satisfaction.

Hypothesis 3: Wives' maternal acceptance is positively associated with their partners' marital satisfaction.

Hypothesis 4: Husbands' maternal acceptance is positively associated with their partners' marital satisfaction.

Research Question 2: Do wives' and husbands' own maternal acceptance have an indirect effect on their own marital satisfaction through their own rejection sensitivity (indirect actor effects)?

Research Question 3: Do wives' and husbands' own maternal acceptance have an indirect effect on their partners' marital satisfaction through their own rejection sensitivity (indirect partner effects)?

1.4.7.2 Research Questions and Hypotheses on Paternal Rejection

Research Question 4: Do wives' and husbands' own paternal acceptance have direct effect on their own marital satisfaction (direct actor effect)? Do wives' and husbands' own paternal acceptance have direct effect on their partners' marital satisfaction (direct partner effect)?

Hypothesis 5: Wives' paternal rejection is negatively associated with their own marital satisfaction.

Hypothesis 6: Husbands' paternal rejection is negatively associated with their own marital satisfaction.

Hypothesis 7: Wives' paternal rejection is negatively associated with their partners' marital satisfaction.

Hypothesis 8: Husbands' paternal rejection is negatively associated with their partners' marital satisfaction.

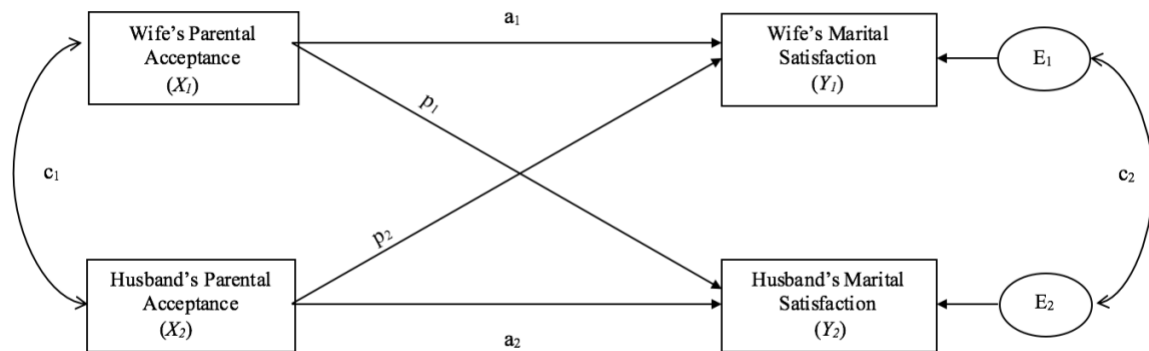
Research Question 5: Do wives' and husbands' own paternal acceptance have an indirect effect on their own marital satisfaction through their own rejection sensitivity (indirect actor effects)?

Research Question 6: Do wives' and husbands' own paternal acceptance have an indirect effect on their partners' marital satisfaction through their own rejection sensitivity (two indirect partner effects)?

Theoretical models for basic Actor Partner Interdependence Model (APIM) and the mediation models (APIMeM) can be seen in Figures 1 and 2 respectively.

Figure 1

Theoretical Model for Basic Actor-Partner Interdependence Model with the Predictor Variable of Parental Acceptance and Outcome Variable of Marital Satisfaction

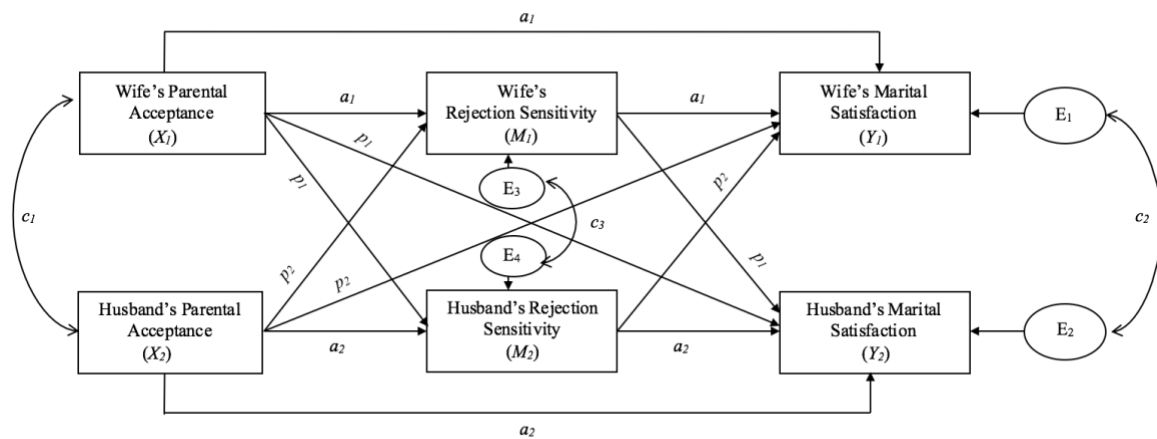


Note. Actor effects are denoted by a , partner effects are denoted by p ; c_1 is the correlation between X_1 and X_2 and c_2 is the residual non-independence for Y_1 and Y_2 .

Note 2. Separate APIM analyses will be run to analyse maternal *and* paternal acceptance-rejection.

Figure 2

Theoretical Model for Actor-Partner Interdependence Mediation Model with Parental Acceptance as Predictor Variable, Rejection Sensitivity as Mediator Variable and Marital Satisfaction as Outcome Variable



Note. Actor effects are denoted by a , partner effects are denoted by p ; c_1 is the correlation between X_1 and X_2 , c_2 is the residual non-independence of Y_1 and Y_2 ; c_3 is the residual non-independence of M_1 and M_2 .

Note 2. Separate APIMeM analyses will be run to analyse maternal *and* paternal acceptance-rejection.

CHAPTER 2

METHOD

2.1 Participants

The initial sample of this study recruited via the snowballing sampling technique consisted of 127 couples. It was aimed to recruit at least 80 dyads *or* couples which is the minimum number of dyads for dyadic analysis suggested by Kenny et al. (2006). This number of dyads has been selected as a minimum number of dyads because in order to obtain the recommended power of .80 to detect non-independence (Cohen, 1988) that is consistent

with a correlation of .3 found in previous studies, Kenny et al. (2006) suggested a minimum sample size of 80. 15 couples were excluded from the data based on the exclusion criteria of marriage duration of maximum 5 years. One couple was excluded from data in the process of preliminary analysis because they were a multivariate outlier (see Section 3.2). Hence, the final sample consisted of 111 newly-married dyads.

The sample consisted of 88 couples with no children, 22 couples with one child and only one couple with 2 children. 119 participants lived the majority of their life in Turkey and 103 participants lived the majority of their life in TRNC. Since there were no significant differences on the major study variable scores between participants who had children and who did not have children (See Section 3.5.3) and between participants from Turkey and TRNC (See Section 3.5.2), all participants were entered into the same participant pool for analyses.

Participants' age ranged from 21 to 53; husbands' age range was 23 to 53 and wives' age range was 21 to 52 (See Table 1 for further descriptive information about age). The average marriage duration of the couples were 25.52 months ($SD = 17.69$). All couples except two couples were in a dating relationship before they were married. The range the duration of these relationships was from three months to 180 months. The average dating period of 109 couples before marriage was 38.48 months ($SD = 32.50$).

Table 1

Age Information of Participants

	Female ($n = 111$)		Male ($n = 111$)		All Participants ($n = 222$)	
	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>
Age	29.65	4.19	32.12	4.59	30.88	4.56
(in years)						

Note: n = number of participants.

The sample was highly educated and working. 25.2% of the female sample graduated from Master's or Doctorate level, 71.2% from university level, 2.7% from secondary school and 0.9% from middle school. Out of 111 wives, 81 were working full-time and 10 were working part-time and 20 did not have a job. On the other hand, 23.4% of the male sample graduated from Master's or Doctorate level, 65.8% from university level, 9.0% from secondary school, 0.9% from middle school and lastly, 0.9% from primary school. Out of 111 husbands, 104 were working full-time and five were working part-time and two did not have a job. The income of the households was as follows: 45.9% of couples had 10,000 TL and above income, 26.1% had 7000 – 9999 TL income, 23.4% had 4000 – 6999 TL income and 4.5% had 1000 – 3999 TL income.

2.2 Measures

This section provides information on the measures that were used in the current study; demographic information form, Turkish adaptations of parental acceptance-rejection short form, rejection sensitivity questionnaire and satisfaction level scale.

2.2.1 Demographic Information Form

A demographic data form was used to gather information about participant age, gender, education and income level, residence, length and number of their marriage, length of their dating period before marriage, parenthood status and several other relationship variables (See Appendix C).

2.2.2 Satisfaction Level Sub-scale

The Investment Model Scale has been developed by Rusbult et al. (1998) to measure the satisfaction level, quality of alternatives and investment size of close relationships. For the purpose of this study, the sub-scale of 'Satisfaction Level' was used to measure the marital satisfaction of spouses. The scale consists of five items. Example items from this scale are "I feel satisfied with our relationship" and "Our relationship does a good job of

fulfilling my needs for intimacy”. Respondents answer using a 9-point Likert-like scale where 1 stands for “Completely wrong” and 9 for “Completely true”. Items were averaged to create a composite score of satisfaction level. The Investment Model Scale has been adapted to Turkish by Büyükşahin et al. (2005) who have found internal consistency levels of $\alpha = .90$ (See Appendix D). Cronbach's alpha of the scale for husbands and wives for this sample showed satisfactory internal consistency (for husbands: $\alpha = .91$; for wives: $\alpha = .85$). It is important to note that this questionnaire's validation for the Turkish Cypriot community has not been previously carried out in the literature.

2.2.3 Turkish Adaptation of Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire Short Version (PARQ-SV)

This questionnaire has been developed by Rohner (2005b) in order to assess the level of remembered maternal and paternal acceptance through the use of two identical forms (i.e., PARQ_Mother; PARQ_Father). The short versions of the questionnaire with 24 items were used in the current study. Hence, each participant completed two PARQ-SV (mother and father forms) consisting of 24 items for each.

The scale consists of four sub-scales; warmth and affection, hostility and aggression, indifference and neglect, and undifferentiated rejection. There are 8 items in warmth and affection sub-scale with an example item of “My mother/father said nice things about me”. Hostility and aggression sub-scale has 6 items with an example item of “My mother/father hit me, even when I did not deserve it”. Indifference and neglect sub-scale has 6 items with an example item of “My mother/father paid no attention to me”. Lastly, undifferentiated rejection sub-scale has 4 items with an example item of “My mother/father saw me as a big nuisance”.

The questionnaire consists of a 4-point Likert-like scale from 4 (*almost never true*) to 1 (*almost always true*). Item 13 and the warmth and affection sub-scale is reverse coded (by

subtracting it from 40) and then the four parental acceptance-rejection dimensions are totalled up. The final score represents the level of remembered acceptance-rejection with a range of 24-96. Higher scores show greater acceptance in this questionnaire. The PARQ-SV has been adapted to Turkish by Dedeler et al. (2017) with internal consistency coefficients of .92 and .96 for mother and father forms respectively (See Appendices E and F). It is important to note that this questionnaire's validation for the Turkish Cypriot community has not been previously carried out in the literature.

Cronbach's Alpha coefficients of the PARQ-SV for husbands and wives for this sample showed satisfactory internal consistency for all sub-scales of the mother form (for husbands; warmth and affection = .87, hostility and aggression = .76, indifference and neglect = .70 and undifferentiated rejection = .69 and for wives; warmth and affection = .87, hostility and aggression = .74, indifference and neglect = .78 and undifferentiated rejection = .71) as well as the full 24-item questionnaire (for husbands: $\alpha = .89$; for wives: $\alpha = .90$). Similarly, the internal consistency for father form was satisfactory for all sub-scales (for husbands; warmth and affection = .92, hostility and aggression = .68, indifference and neglect = .84 and undifferentiated rejection = .79 and for wives; warmth and affection = .93, hostility and aggression = .85, indifference and neglect = .90 and undifferentiated rejection = .85) as well as the full 24-item questionnaire (for husbands: $\alpha = .91$; for wives: $\alpha = .95$).

The current study used the short forms (instead of the sub-scales) for the analyses for two main reasons. Firstly, the IPARTheory's theoretical proposition that *all* of these four types of behaviour underlie the experiences of parental acceptance and rejection also informs the current research. Moreover, the internal consistencies of the short forms generally show higher alpha levels than individual sub-scale alpha levels. Therefore, the current study made use of the short form items when calculating the parental acceptance and rejection scores.

2.2.4 Adult Rejection Sensitivity Questionnaire

The current study used the Adult Rejection Sensitivity Questionnaire (Berenson et al., 2009) which was based on the initial questionnaire developed by Downey and Feldman (1996) in order to measure rejection sensitivity of the newlywed couples. The questionnaire consists nine hypothetical situations in which participants are made to think that they are requesting something from a close other such as family member, friend or spouse. Within each nine hypothetical situation, two items examine (1) to what extent the participant is anxious about the outcome (2) participant's expectations of acceptance or rejection from the significant other. Hence, there are a total of 18 items on the questionnaire, with an example hypothetical situation of "You ask your parents or other family members to come to an occasion important to you." and with following questions of "How concerned or anxious would you be over whether or not they would want to come?" and "I would expect that they would want to come.". The questionnaire uses a 6-item Likert-like scale ranging from either 'very unconcerned' to 'very concerned' (for the level of anxious expectation items) and 'very unlikely' to 'very likely' (for the expected outcome items). The scores are computed by multiplying the ratings of rejection anxiety by the reverse coded ratings of rejection expectancy in each situation, and averaging the resulting scores. Possible rejection sensitivity scores range from 1 (minimum rejection sensitivity) through 36 (maximum rejection sensitivity).

The Adult Rejection Sensitivity Questionnaire was adapted to Turkish by Bozkus and Araz (2015) with good internal consistency levels of $\alpha = .74$ (See Appendix G). The current study also had good internal consistency scores as observed by Cronbach's alpha levels: husbands' $\alpha = .80$ and wives' $\alpha = .83$. It is important to note that this questionnaire's validation for the Turkish Cypriot community has not been previously carried out in the literature.

2.3 Procedure

First, an ethics approval form was granted from Ozyegin University Ethics Board. The five questionnaires (i.e., Satisfaction Level, PARQ-SV Mother, PARQ-SV Father, Adult Rejection Sensitivity, Demographic Form) were uploaded on to an online data collection platform, Qualtrics. The participants were reached online via social media posts and Whatsapp groups, hence using the snowballing as a sampling technique.

Each participant consisted of a dyad of newly married couples. Each spouse first read an information form that stated the confidential and voluntary nature of the study (See Appendix A). After completing the consent form, each spouse started filling out the Demographic Questionnaire form which started with a spouse identification system whereby spouses create a mutual nickname. This nickname was used to match the spouses' questionnaires with each other (See Appendix B). Each spouse then filled out four questionnaires in the order of Satisfaction Scale, PARQ- SV Mother, PARQ-SV Father, Rejection Sensitivity Questionnaire and lastly the demographic questionnaire. The participants who have completed all four questionnaires and demographic information form were debriefed.

Data was exported from Qualtrics in both .xlsx and .sav formats. E-mail addresses which were given for the bookstore voucher draw were separated from the data into a separate sheet. All dyads were matched based on couple nicknames and their marriage and birth dates. Data cleaning and analyses were conducted in SPSS 23.0 (IBM Corp, 2015). See Chapter 3 for further and detailed information on data preparation, analyses and results.

CHAPTER 3

RESULTS

This section will cover data preparation and dealing with missing data, preliminary analysis, descriptive statistics, correlation analysis, group comparison analyses and finally, APIM and APIMeM analyses.

3.1 Data Preparation and Missing Data

Data were extracted from Qualtrics using .xlsx and .sav formats. A total of 336 participants completed the questionnaire online on Qualtrics. Data which did not meet the inclusion criteria of the current study (i.e., participating in the study as a married couple, being married for a maximum of five years) were excluded from the data set. 82 participants completed the questionnaire on their own, leaving 254 participants (127 couples) in the data set. However, 15 of these couples (30 participants) were married for more than five years, hence leaving a final number of 224 participants (112 newly-married couples) in the data set.

First, the major study variable scores were calculated to prepare the data for preliminary analysis. Marital satisfaction scores were calculated through taking the mean score of the questionnaire's five items. For maternal and paternal acceptance-rejection scores, warmth and affection sub-scale items and item 13 were reversed. The overall acceptance-rejection score was calculated through averaging all items. In addition, the sub-scale (i.e., Warmth/Affection, Hostility/Anger, Indifference/Neglect, Undifferentiated Rejection) scores were also calculated through taking the average of the related items' scores. Although PARQ-SV scores are generally calculated through taking the total score, the current study calculated scores through taking the average in order to acquire a similar range of numbers throughout different variables (which were also calculated by averaging their items). Finally, rejection sensitivity was calculated through reverse coding all the likelihood items and then multiplying them by the anxious expectancy items (See Appendix G; anxious expectancy

items are first questions after the hypothetical situation is provided and likelihood items are the second questions). The mean score of all nine ambiguous situations represent the overall rejection sensitivity score.

Missing values analysis revealed that 2.7% of the data from wives' maternal acceptance-rejection, 5.4% from wives' paternal acceptance-rejection, 0.9% of husbands' maternal acceptance-rejection and lastly, 7.1% of the data from husbands' paternal acceptance-rejection were missing. This missing data was due to how the online questionnaire was designed: as explained before, participants were asked whether or not they could answer maternal and paternal acceptance-rejection questionnaires. Specifically, they were asked if they knew their parents well enough to answer the following questions or if they have lost or did not know their parents well enough to answer the questionnaires. A Missing Values Analysis indicated that Little's (1988) test of Missing Completely at Random (MCAR) was not significant, $\chi^2 = 18.95$, $df = 28$, $p = .90$. Since the data missing was not completely at random, and was based on the specific design of the research questionnaire, these participants were not removed from the data set.

3.2 Preliminary Analysis

All statistical analyses were run using IBM SPSS 23.0 (IBM Corp, 2015). In preliminary analysis, the data were analysed to assess multivariate outliers, the distribution of the major study variables and the issue of multicollinearity. There were a total of eight major study variables (i.e., wives' and husbands' maternal acceptance-rejection, paternal acceptance-rejection, rejection sensitivity and marital satisfaction).

To screen for multivariate outliers among the major study variables, Mahalanobis Distance method was used, $X^2 (8, N = 112) = 26.12$, $p = .001$. Chi square criteria was determined according to critical values of chi square table, whereby p value was selected .001 to reduce margin of error (Tabachnick et al., 2007). Only one couple's Mahalanobis Distance

value was above the Chi-square value, hence, this couple was deleted from the data set, leaving 111 couples.

Normality of data was examined through descriptive analysis of skewness and kurtosis scores of major study variables (See Table 2). Skewness scores were in between the critical values of ± 2 (George & Mallery, 2016). Kurtosis scores were within the suggested critical values of ± 7 , except for the high kurtosis value of husbands' maternal acceptance scores (for critical values of kurtosis see Byrne, 2010). Hence, a Box-Cox transformation method was administered to improve the normality of the distributions and equalize variances for both outcomes (Box & Cox, 1964). The Box-Cox transformation procedure is a family of power transformations (distinct from classic square root, log, and inverse transformations) that improves the efficacy of normalizing and variance equalizing for both positively- and negatively-skewed variables (Osborne, 2010). Procedures from Osborne (2010) were applied to husbands' maternal acceptance variable. The optimal distribution of the variable produced a skewness of -1.252 and kurtosis of 1.399 which are values that fall within acceptable ranges of normality for skewness and kurtosis.

Bivariate correlations were run between the major study variables (See Table 3). All bivariate correlations are below the .73 level (Friedman & Wall, 2005). VIF values and tolerance scores were additionally calculated for both husbands and wives to further examine the issue of multicollinearity. The results showed that there is no problem of multicollinearity as assessed by Hair and colleagues' (2010) criteria of $VIF < 4.0$ and $tolerance < .02$. (*For wives; maternal acceptance-rejection, $VIF = 1.53$, tolerance = .65; paternal acceptance-rejection, $VIF = 1.50$, tolerance = .67; rejection sensitivity, $VIF = 1.17$, tolerance = .86*). (*For husbands; maternal acceptance-rejection, $VIF = 1.38$, tolerance = .72; paternal acceptance-rejection, $VIF = 1.31$, tolerance = .77; rejection sensitivity, $VIF = 1.15$, tolerance = .87*).

3.3 Descriptive Analysis

The rest of the analyses were completed with 111 newly-married dyads. In Table 2, descriptive statistics for marital satisfaction, maternal acceptance-rejection, paternal acceptance-rejection and rejection sensitivity scores are presented separately for wives and husbands. The transformed variable of husbands' maternal acceptance-rejection can also be seen in Table 2. See tables in Appendix H and I for the descriptive statistics of the sub-scale scores of both maternal and paternal acceptance-rejection.

Table 2

Descriptive Statistics for Satisfaction Level, Maternal Acceptance-Rejection, Paternal Acceptance-Rejection and Rejection Sensitivity by Gender

	Min-Max	Mean	SD	Skewness	Kurtosis	Range	Cronbach Alpha(α)
Wives							
Marital Satisfaction	3.40-9.00	7.83	1.14	- 1.41	2.54	5.60	.85
MAR	2.33-4.00	3.62	.42	-1.23	.71	1.67	.90
PAR	1.46-3.88	3.39	.57	- 1.60	2.09	2.42	.95
Rejection Sensitivity	1.00-16.89	6.03	3.44	.81	.22	15.89	.83
Husbands							
Marital Satisfaction	3.40-9	8.07	1.18	- 1.80	3.81	5.60	.91
MAR	1.33-4	3.64	.38	-2.59	11.46	2.67	.89
MAR (Transformed)	0.12-1.57	1.26	.29	- 1.25	1.40	1.45	.89
PAR	1.79-3.88	3.39	.45	- 1.51	2.31	2.09	.91
Rejection Sensitivity	1-18.44	6.19	3.43	.95	1.13	17.44	.80

Note. MAR = maternal acceptance-rejection, PAR = paternal acceptance-rejection; n.a.= Cronbach alpha level not applicable with this variable

3.4 Correlation Analysis

Bivariate Pearson correlation analyses were conducted to evaluate the relationships between major study variables (see Table 3) as well demographic variables of age and length of marriage (see Table 4).



Table 3

Bivariate Pearson Correlation Coefficients for the Relationships Between Major Study Variables

Variable	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Marital Satisfaction								
1. Wives	-							
2. Husbands	.46***	-						
MAR								
3. Wives	.15	.11	-					
4. Husbands	.22*	.35***	.07	-				
PAR								
5. Wives	.23*	.12	.56***	-.01	-			
6. Husbands	.02	.20*	.22*	.47***	.15	-		
Rejection Sensitivity								
7. Wives	-.37***	-.24*	-.37***	.05	-.32**	-.04	-	
8. Husbands	-.14	-.41***	-.09	-.32**	.16	-.26**	.09	-

Note. PAR = Paternal Acceptance-Rejection, MAR = Maternal Acceptance-Rejection. * = $p < .01$, ** = $p < .05$, *** = $p < .001$.

Table 4

Intercorrelations Among Major Study Variables and Demographic Variables of Age and Length of Marriage (in Months)

Variable	Wives' Age	Husbands' Age	Couples' Length of Marriage (in months)
Marital Satisfaction			
1. Wives	-.04	-.14	-.14
2. Husbands	-.01	-.01	.01
MAR			
1. Wives	.01	-.08	-.08
2. Husbands	.09	-.12	-.12
PAR			
1. Wives	-.02	.01	.01
2. Husbands	-.01	-.08	-.08
Rejection Sensitivity			
1. Wives	-.19*	.04	.04
2. Husbands	-.01	.00	.00

Note. MAR = maternal Acceptance-Rejection, PAR = paternal acceptance-rejection; * = $p < .05$.

3.5 Group Comparisons

Paired sample t-tests were carried out to examine whether there are significant differences between husbands and wives on the major study variables. Additionally, independent samples t-tests were carried out to examine whether there are significant differences in the major study variables for participants from Turkey versus TRNC and between participants with children versus without children.

3.5.1 Gender Differences

Paired samples t-tests were conducted to examine gender differences on the major study variables. The difference between wives ($M = 7.83$, $SD = 1.14$) and husbands ($M = 8.07$, $SD = 1.18$) on marital satisfaction was statistically significant, $t(110) = -2.01$, $p = .038$,

with husbands scoring higher than wives. This difference was of a small effect size, $d = .21$ (Cohen, 1988). There was no statistically significant difference, $t(106) = -.39, p = .694$, between wives' and husbands' maternal acceptance-rejection scores. No statistically significant gender difference was found for paternal acceptance-rejection, $t(96) = .140, p = .889$. Lastly, no significant gender differences were observed in rejection sensitivity, $t(110) = -.36, p = .718$.

3.5.2 Nationality Differences

Independent samples t-tests were conducted to examine nationality differences on the main four variables. There were no significant differences in the scores for marital satisfaction between Turkish and Turkish Cypriot participants; $t(220) = -.06, p = .954$. Similarly, there were no significant differences in the scores for maternal acceptance-rejection between Turkish and Turkish Cypriot participants; $t(216) = -1.32, p = .187$. No significant differences were observed between two communities in paternal acceptance-rejection scores, $t(206) = -.02, p = .982$. Lastly, there were no significant differences in the scores for rejection sensitivity; $t(220) = .61, p = .545$.

Based on the non-significant differences between Turkish and Turkish Cypriot participants, all participants were in the same participant/data pool for all statistical analyses in the current study.

3.5.3 Differences in Participants With and Without Children

Independent samples t-tests were conducted to examine nationality differences on the main four variables. There were no significant differences in the scores for marital satisfaction, $t(220) = -.40, p = .693$; maternal acceptance-rejection, $t(216) = -1.53, p = .128$; paternal acceptance-rejection, $t(206) = -1.44, p = .157$ and lastly rejection sensitivity, $t(220) = -.89, p = .333$ between participants with children and without children.

Based on the non-significant differences between participants with and without any children, newlyweds with children were also included in the current study.

3.6 APIM Analyses

To investigate the actor-partner associations between maternal and paternal acceptance-rejection and marital satisfaction of newlyweds, a basic APIM model was estimated (Cook & Kenny, 2005). The web application for dyadic data analysis called APIM_SEM was used to test the APIM, which made use of the lavaan analysis package (Stas et al., 2008; Rosseel, 2012). Two APIM models were analysed in the current study. First model considered the variables of maternal acceptance-rejection (predictor variable) and marital satisfaction (outcome variable). Second model considered variables of paternal acceptance-rejection (predictor variable) and marital satisfaction (outcome variable).

3.6.1 APIM Analysis with the Predictor Variable of Maternal Acceptance

First, the test of distinguishability was considered as the first step of APIM analysis, the test of distinguishability revealed a significant result, $X^2(6, N = 109) = 356.89, p < .001$. This means that wives and husbands were statistically distinguishable from one another in this specific model based on parameters such as actor and partner effects, error variances and means (Cook & Kenny, 2005).

3.6.1.1 Direct Actor Effects

Research question 1 (see Section 1.4.5) was related to both wives' and husbands' direct actor effect. The direct actor effect of wives' own maternal acceptance on their own marital satisfaction was not significant ($b = .04, p = .059$).^[1] The direct actor effect of husbands' own maternal acceptance on their own marital satisfaction was significant ($b = 1.42, p < .001$). Hence, husbands' own maternal acceptance was positively related to their own marital satisfaction.

3.6.1.2 Direct Partner Effects

Research question 1 was also related to both wives' and husbands' direct partner effects. The direct wives to husbands partner effect of wives' own maternal acceptance on their husbands' marital satisfaction was not significant ($b = .23, p = .254$). The direct husbands to wives partner effect of husbands' own maternal acceptance on their wives' marital satisfaction was significant ($b = .86, p = .015$). Therefore, husbands' maternal acceptance was positively associated with their wives' marital satisfaction.

Table 5

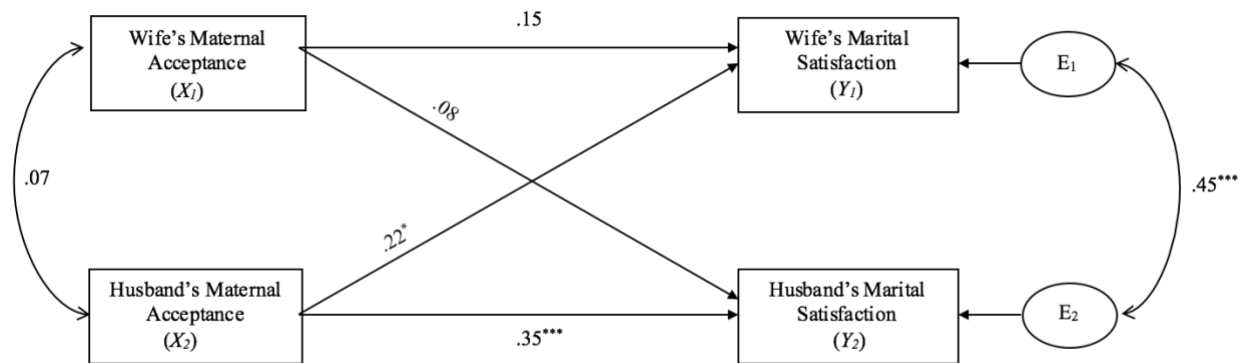
Basic Saturated APIM with Maternal Acceptance as a Predictor Variable: Unstandardized Effect Estimates

	Estimate	<i>p</i>
Actor effects		
Wives – $X_1 \rightarrow Y_1$	.04	.059
Husbands – $X_2 \rightarrow Y_2$	1.42	.000
Partner effects		
Wives to Husbands – $X_1 \rightarrow Y_2$	.23	.254
Husbands to Wives – $X_2 \rightarrow Y_1$	.86	.015

Note. X = Maternal Acceptance, Y = Marital Satisfaction; subscript 1 refers to wives, subscript 2 refers to husbands; p is two-tailed.

Figure 3

Basic Saturated APIM with Maternal Acceptance as a Predictor Variable: Standardized Effect Estimates



Note. * $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$; *** $p < .001$ (two-tailed).

3.6.2 APIM Analysis With the Predictor Variable of Paternal Acceptance-Rejection

First, the test of distinguishability was considered as the first step of APIM analysis, the test of distinguishability revealed a non-significant result, $X^2(6, N = 109) = 7.82, p = .252$. Nonetheless, the analysis was continued using the distinguishable-dyads method of analysis, since the a priori theoretical argument of this thesis was that husbands and wives were distinguishable from one another by their gender. This is in line with the arguments by Sadler et al. (2011) who argue that “Distinguishability is at least as much a conceptual and theoretical issue as it is an empirical issue.” (pp. 111).

3.6.2.1 Direct Actor Effects

Research question 4 was related to both wives' and husbands' direct actor effects in the APIM model with paternal acceptance as the predictor variable. The direct actor effect of wives' own paternal acceptance on their own marital satisfaction was not significant ($b = .37$,

$p = .111$). The direct actor effect of husbands' own paternal acceptance on their own marital satisfaction was not significant ($b = .54, p = .092$).^[1]

3.6.2.2 Direct Partner Effects

Research question 4 was also related to both wives' and husbands' direct partner effects. The direct wives to husbands partner effect of wives' own paternal acceptance on their husbands' marital satisfaction was not significant ($b = .17, p = .436$). The direct husbands to wives partner effect of husbands' own paternal acceptance on their wives' marital satisfaction was not significant ($b = .02, p = .937$).

Table 6

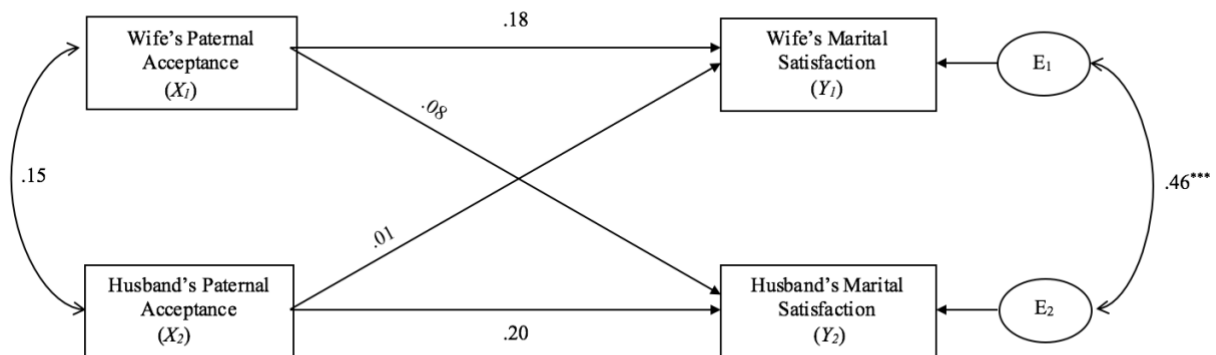
Basic Saturated APIM with Paternal Acceptance as a Predictor Variable: Unstandardized Effect Estimates

	Estimate	p
Actor effects		
Wives – $X_1 \rightarrow Y_1$	.37	.111
Husbands – $X_2 \rightarrow Y_2$	.54	.092
Partner effects		
Wives to Husbands – $X_1 \rightarrow Y_2$	.17	.436
Husbands to Wives – $X_2 \rightarrow Y_1$	.02	.937

Note. X = Paternal Acceptance, Y = Marital Satisfaction; subscript 1 refers to wives, subscript 2 refers to husbands; p is two-tailed.

Figure 4

Basic Saturated APIM with Paternal Acceptance as a Predictor Variable: Standardized Effect Estimates



Note. * $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$; *** $p < .001$ (two-tailed).

3.7 APIMeM Analyses

In this section, the results of the two dyadic mediation models are presented. The first model considers maternal acceptance-rejection as predictor variable, rejection sensitivity as the mediator and marital satisfaction as the outcome variable. The second model considers paternal acceptance-rejection as predictor variable, rejection sensitivity as the mediator and marital satisfaction as the outcome variable.

APIMeM analyses have been conducted using the MEDYAD dialogue on SPSS developed by Coutts et al. (2019). Although the current study referred to four indirect effects (two actor and two partner indirect effects, See Section 1.4.6) in each APIMeM analyses, the MEDYAD dialogue conducts eight indirect effects (four actor and four partner indirect effects) by default (Coutts et al., 2019). Hence there will be *additional analyses* sections at the end of both APIMeM models which will report these additional, non-theoretically based

analyses. Nonetheless, since these results are not based on theoretical notions, the results will not be further discussed in the discussion section.

3.7.1 APIMeM Analysis with the Predictor Variable of Maternal Acceptance-Rejection

3.7.1.1 Direct Effects

The unstandardized direct effect estimates for the APIMeM with maternal acceptance-rejection as the predictor and the standardized direct effect estimates of this APIMeM are presented in Table 7 and Figure 5, respectively.

Wives' own maternal acceptance was negatively related to their own rejection sensitivity ($b = -2.92, p < .001$). Furthermore, wives' own rejection sensitivity was negatively related to their own marital satisfaction ($b = .14, p = .001$). Similarly, husbands' own maternal acceptance was negatively related to their own rejection sensitivity ($b = -3.51, p = .001$). Husbands' own rejection sensitivity was negatively related to their own marital satisfaction ($b = -.11, p = .001$). Wives' own rejection sensitivity was also negatively related with their husbands' marital satisfaction ($b = -0.07, p = .035$). Husbands' own maternal acceptance was positively related with their own marital satisfaction ($b = 1.08, p = .004$). Finally, husbands' own maternal acceptance was positively related with their wives' marital satisfaction ($b = .900, p = .015$).

Table 7

Unstandardized Direct Effect Estimates for the APIMeM with Maternal Acceptance as the Predictor Variable

	Estimate	SE	p
MAR (X) → Rejection Sensitivity (M)			
Wives AE – $X_1 \rightarrow M_1$	- 2.921	.737	.000
Husbands AE – $X_2 \rightarrow M_2$	- 3.512	1.034	.001
Wives to Husbands PE – $X_1 \rightarrow M_2$	- .543	.718	.451
Husbands to Wives PE – $X_2 \rightarrow M_1$	.781	1.061	.463

Rejection Sensitivity (M) $\rightarrow$ Marital

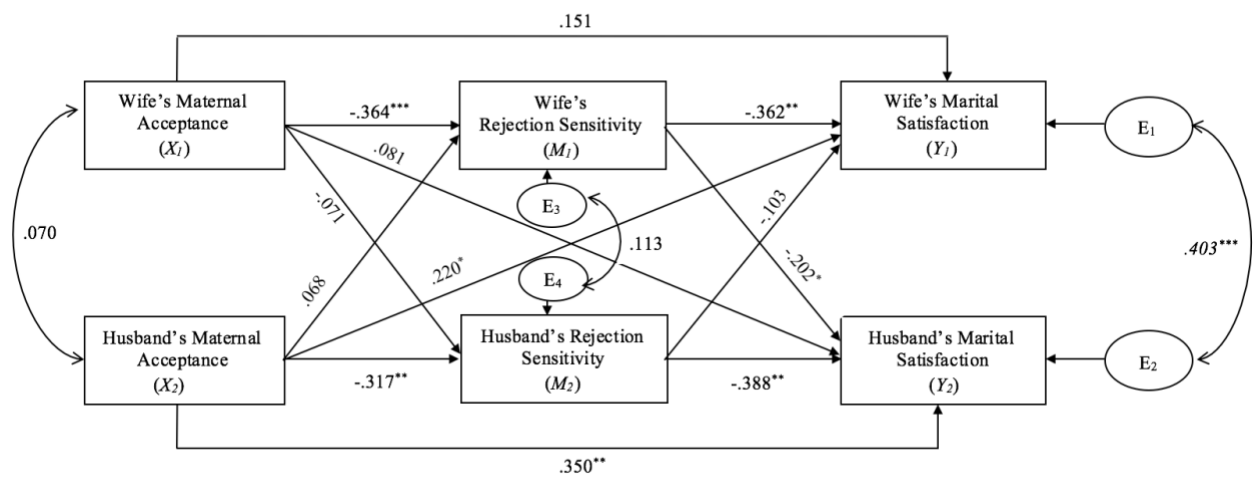
Satisfaction (Y)

Wives AE – $M_1 \rightarrow Y_1$	- .142	.032	.001
Husbands AE – $M_2 \rightarrow Y_2$	- .111	.033	.001
Wives to Husbands PE – $M_1 \rightarrow Y_2$	- .069	.032	.035
Husbands to Wives PE – $M_2 \rightarrow Y_1$	- .020	.033	.540
MAR (X) $\rightarrow$ Marital Satisfaction (Y)			
Wives AE – $X_1 \rightarrow Y_1$	- .016	.255	.950
Husbands AE – $X_2 \rightarrow Y_2$	1.084	.368	.004
Wives to Husbands PE – $X_1 \rightarrow Y_2$	- .033	.259	.898
Husbands to Wives PE – $X_2 \rightarrow Y_1$	.900	.362	.015

Note. MAR (X) = Maternal Acceptance-Rejection; subscript 1 refers to wives and subscript 2 refers to husbands; AE = Actor Effect, PE = Partner Effect, SE = standard error, p is two-tailed.

Figure 5

APIMeM with Standardized Direct Effect Estimates with Maternal Acceptance as the Predictor Variable



Note. * $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$; *** $p < .001$ (two-tailed).

3.7.1.2 Indirect Effects

This section will report the indirect effects of the APIMeM with maternal acceptance-rejection as the predictor variable. See Table 8 for unstandardized indirect effect estimates.

Research question 2 was related to wives' and husbands' indirect actor effects. The indirect wives' actor effect of wives' own maternal acceptance on their own marital satisfaction through their own rejection sensitivity was significant ($b = .42$, 95% $CI [.153, .767]$). The indirect husbands' actor effect of husbands' own maternal acceptance on their own marital satisfaction through their own rejection sensitivity was significant ($b = .39$, 95% $CI [.045, .841]$).

Research question 3 was addressing the wives' and husbands' indirect partner effects. None of these indirect partner pathways were significant (See Table 8).

Table 8

Unstandardized Indirect Effect Estimates for the APIMeM with Maternal Acceptance as the Predictor Variable

Indirect effects	Estimate	95% CI
Wives actor-actor – $X_1 \rightarrow M_1 \rightarrow Y_1$	.415	.153, .767
Husbands to Wives actor-partner – $X_2 \rightarrow M_2 \rightarrow Y_1$	.071	- .102, .331
Wives to Husbands actor-partner – $X_1 \rightarrow M_1 \rightarrow Y_2$	.202	- .030, .500
Husbands actor-actor $X_2 \rightarrow M_2 \rightarrow Y_2$	.388	.045, .841

Note. X = maternal acceptance, M = rejection sensitivity, Y = marital satisfaction, subscript 1 refers to wives, subscript 2 refers to husbands; CI = confidence interval.

3.7.1.3 Additional Analyses for APIMeM with Maternal Acceptance as the Predictor Variable

Table 9 reports additional four indirect effect estimates for the APIMeM analysis with maternal acceptance as the predictor variable, which are not theoretically based in the current research and hence not referred to in research questions.

Table 9

Additional Unstandardized Indirect Effect Estimates for the APIMeM with Maternal Acceptance as the Predictor Variable

Indirect effects	Estimate	95% CI
Wives partner-partner – $X_1 \rightarrow M_2 \rightarrow Y_1$	.011	- .041, .080
Husbands to wives partner-actor – $X_2 \rightarrow M_1 \rightarrow Y_1$	- .111	- .500, .141
Wives to Husbands partner-actor – $X_1 \rightarrow M_2 \rightarrow Y_2$	.060	- .103, .228
Husbands partner-partner – $X_2 \rightarrow M_1 \rightarrow Y_2$	- .054	- .296, .080

Note. X = maternal acceptance, M = rejection sensitivity, Y = marital satisfaction, subscript 1 refers to wives, subscript 2 refers to husbands; CI = confidence interval.

3.7.2 APIMeM Analysis with the Predictor Variable of Paternal Acceptance-Rejection

3.7.2.1 Direct Effects

The unstandardized direct effect estimates for the APIMeM with paternal acceptance-rejection as the predictor and the standardized direct effect estimates of this APIMeM are presented in Table 10 and Figure 6, respectively.

Wives' own paternal acceptance was negatively related to their own rejection sensitivity ($b = - 2.27, p < .001$). Furthermore, wives' own rejection sensitivity was negatively related to their own marital satisfaction ($b = - .12, p < .001$). Similarly, husbands' own paternal acceptance was negatively related to their own rejection sensitivity ($b = - 2.09, p = .007$). Husbands' own rejection sensitivity was negatively related to their own marital satisfaction ($b = - .15, p < .001$).

Table 10

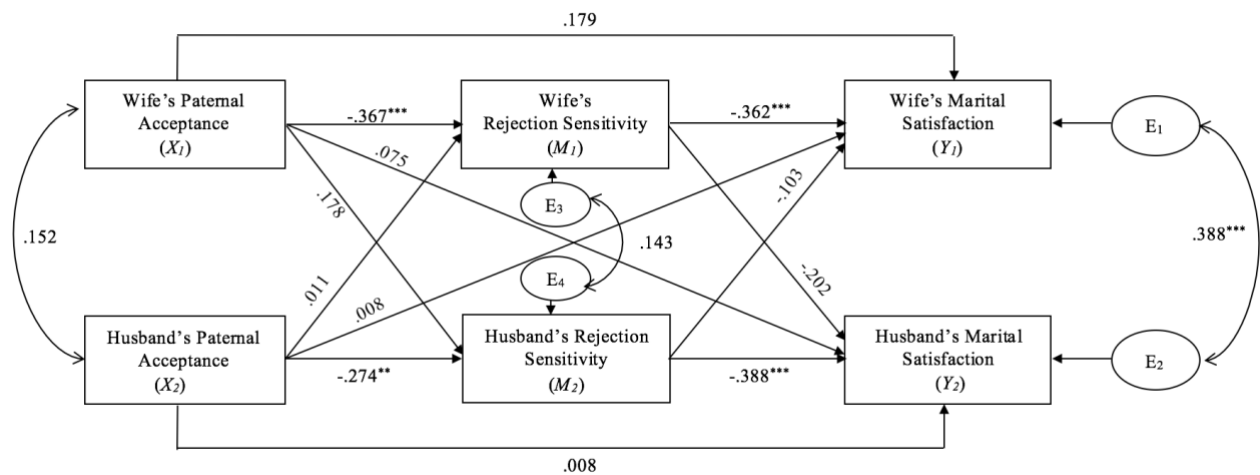
Unstandardized Direct Effect Estimates for the APIMeM with Paternal Acceptance as the Predictor Variable

	Estimate	SE	p
PAR (X) → Rejection Sensitivity (M)			
Wives AE – $X_1 \rightarrow M_1$	- 2.266	.601	.000
Husbands AE – $X_2 \rightarrow M_2$	- 2.086	.756	.007
Wives to Husbands PE – $X_1 \rightarrow M_2$	1.113	.620	.076
Husbands to Wives PE – $X_2 \rightarrow M_1$	.082	.732	.911
Rejection Sensitivity (M) → Marital Satisfaction (Y)			
Wives AE – $M_1 \rightarrow Y_1$	- .123	.034	.000
Husbands AE – $M_2 \rightarrow Y_2$	- .147	.034	.000
Wives to Husbands PE – $M_1 \rightarrow Y_2$	- .059	.035	.097
Husbands to Wives PE – $M_2 \rightarrow Y_1$	- .053	.033	.110
PAR (X) → Marital Satisfaction (Y)			
Wives AE – $X_1 \rightarrow Y_1$	.145	.213	.499
Husbands AE – $X_2 \rightarrow Y_2$	.240	.256	.351
Wives to Husbands PE – $X_1 \rightarrow Y_2$	.197	.222	.378
Husbands to Wives PE – $X_2 \rightarrow Y_1$	- .080	.246	.747

Note. PAR (X) = Paternal Acceptance-Rejection; subscript 1 refers to wives and subscript 2 refers to husbands; AE = Actor Effect, PE = Partner Effect, SE = standard error, p is two-tailed.

Figure 6

APIMeM with Standardized Direct Effect Estimates with Paternal Acceptance as the Predictor Variable



Note. ** $p < .01$; *** $p < .001$ (two-tailed).

3.7.2.2 Indirect Effects

This section will report the indirect effects of the APIMeM with paternal acceptance-rejection as the predictor variable. See Table 11 for unstandardized indirect effect estimates.

Research question 5 addressed wives' and husbands' indirect actor effects. The indirect wives' actor effect of wives' own paternal acceptance on their own marital satisfaction through their own rejection sensitivity was significant ($b = .28$, 95% CI [.084, .538]). The indirect husbands' actor effect of husbands' own paternal acceptance on their own marital satisfaction through their own rejection sensitivity was significant ($b = .31$, 95% CI [.067, .675]). The partner indirect effects were insignificant and further information can be seen in Table 11.

Table 11

Unstandardized Indirect Effect Estimates for the APIMeM with Paternal Acceptance as the Predictor Variable

Indirect effects	Estimate	95% CI
Wives actor-actor– $X_1 \rightarrow M_1 \rightarrow Y_1$	.279	.084, .538
Husbands to Wives actor-partner – $X_2 \rightarrow M_2 \rightarrow Y_1$	.110	-.011, .315
Wives to Husbands actor-partner – $X_1 \rightarrow M_1 \rightarrow Y_2$	.133	-.059, .372
Husbands actor-actor $X_2 \rightarrow M_2 \rightarrow Y_2$	.307	.067, .675

Note. X = paternal acceptance, M = rejection sensitivity, Y = marital satisfaction, subscript 1 refers to wives, subscript 2 refers to husbands; CI = confidence interval.

3.7.2.3 Additional Analyses for APIMeM with Paternal Acceptance as the Predictor Variable

This section reports additional four indirect effect estimates for the APIMeM analysis with paternal acceptance as the predictor variable, which are not theoretically based in the current research and hence not referred to in research questions.

The only indirect partner effect which was significant was one of the wives' partner effects: wives' own paternal acceptance on their husbands' marital satisfaction through their husbands' rejection sensitivity was significant ($b = -.16$, 95% CI [- .353, -.017]). The remaining indirect effects were insignificant as seen in Table 12.

Table 12

Additional Unstandardized Indirect Effect Estimates for the APIMeM with Paternal Acceptance as the Predictor Variable

Indirect effects	Estimate	95% CI
Wives partner-partner – $X_1 \rightarrow M_2 \rightarrow Y_1$	-.059	-.156, .009
Husbands to wives partner-actor PE – $X_2 \rightarrow M_1 \rightarrow Y_1$	-.010	-.201, .166

Wives to Husbands partner-actor – X_1 $\rightarrow M_2 \rightarrow Y_2$	- .164	- .353, - .017
Husbands partner-partner – $X_2 \rightarrow M_1 \rightarrow$ Y_2	- .005	- .102, .112

Note. X = paternal acceptance, M = rejection sensitivity, Y = marital satisfaction, subscript 1 refers to wives, subscript 2 refers to husbands; CI = confidence interval.

CHAPTER 4

DISCUSSION

This study aimed to examine the association between parental acceptance-rejection (maternal and paternal) and marital satisfaction with the mediating role of rejection sensitivity in Turkish and Turkish Cypriot newlyweds with the adoption of a dyadic lens. The research questions addressed in this study can be grouped into two questions: 1) Does parental acceptance have a direct effect on marital satisfaction? 2) Does parental acceptance have an indirect effect on marital satisfaction through rejection sensitivity? These two questions were explored using a dyadic analysis and hence both actor and partner effects were examined.

4.1 Discussion of General Descriptive Statistics of Major Study Variables and Group Comparisons

The majority of the participants reported that they had highly accepting mothers and fathers, high levels of marital satisfaction and low levels of rejection sensitivity. Wives and husbands did not differ significantly on their scores in maternal and paternal acceptance-rejection. This finding is in line with the meta-analytical results by Rohner and Khaleque (2010) which have shown no off-spring gender differences in remembrances of parental acceptance-rejection. Wives and husbands also did not differ in their scores of rejection sensitivity. There were mixed results in this area with several studies reporting higher

rejection sensitivity in men, other studies showing higher levels in women and some studies reporting no gender differences (e.g., Hafen et al., 2014; Goncu & Sumer, 2011; Khaleque et al., 2019 respectively). The current study's group comparison results support those studies who have found no gender differences in rejection sensitivity scores (Downey & Feldman, 1996; Harper et al., 2006; Khaleque et al., 2019). Husbands reported significantly higher levels of marital satisfaction when compared to wives. This is in line with previous literature which have shown that wives had lower marital satisfaction in comparison to husbands (See Jackson et al., 2011 for a meta-analysis). Participants with children and without children did not score significantly differently on major study variables. Lastly, there were no significant differences in these variables' scores when it comes to Turkish and Turkish Cypriot participants.

4.2 Discussion of Findings Regarding Inter-Correlations Between Major Study Variables

The correlational analyses have shown several significant relationships between major study variables. Firstly, wives' and husbands' marital satisfaction scores were positively correlated with one another. Hence, the spouses' levels of satisfaction were not independent from one another, whereby a higher score for one spouse is associated with a higher score for the other spouse. Moreover, maternal and paternal acceptance levels of both husbands and wives were positively correlated with their own marital satisfaction levels. This means that the greater the husbands' and wives' remembrances of being accepted by their mothers and fathers, the greater were their marital satisfaction levels. This is in line with the results in the studies conducted by Eryavuz (2006), Varan (2005) and Yalcinkaya (1997) who have found that remembered parental acceptance-rejection of both women and men positively correlated with their romantic relationship satisfaction. On the other hand, these correlational results, are partly different from the results of Meth (1999) who found that women's but not men's

romantic (dating) relationship satisfaction scores were positively correlated with their remembered parental acceptance levels.

There was only one significant bivariate correlation between wives' scores in parental acceptance-rejection and marital satisfaction versus the husbands' (partner correlations).

There was a significant positive correlation between husbands' maternal acceptance and wives' marital satisfaction. In other words, the greater the husbands' remembrances of being accepted by their mothers, the greater were their wives' marital satisfaction levels.

Rejection sensitivity and other major study variables also had significant bivariate correlations. Firstly, wives' and husbands' maternal and paternal acceptance were negatively associated with their own rejection sensitivity scores. This means that as both wives' and husbands' remembrances of maternal and paternal acceptance increased, their rejection sensitivity levels decreased. These findings are in line with the previous two studies that investigated this relationship in university students (Ibrahim et al., 2015; Khaleque et al., 2019). Moreover, these findings have shed light into the mixed findings in these two studies regarding the role of parent and off-spring gender in the relationship between parental acceptance and rejection sensitivity. Both maternal and paternal acceptance of husbands and wives were directly and negatively related with their own rejection sensitivity, which is in line with Ibrahim et al.'s (2015) findings. On the other hand, it is different to those findings by Khaleque et al. (2019) who have only found that for female participants, only maternal acceptance was linked with rejection sensitivity.

Wives' and husbands' rejection sensitivity levels were negatively associated with their own marital satisfaction. In other words, as their rejection sensitivity increased, their marital satisfaction decreased. These results also supported previous literature's findings which have shown that individuals with higher levels of rejection sensitivity had lower levels

of romantic relationship satisfaction in their dating relationships (Downey & Feldman, 1996; Downey et al., 1998; Galliher & Bentley, 2010).

There were significant bivariate correlations between wives and husbands' rejection sensitivity and marital satisfaction (partner correlations). Wives' and husbands' rejection sensitivity levels were negatively associated with their spouses' marital satisfaction, meaning that as one spouse's rejection sensitivity increased, the other spouse's marital satisfaction decreased too. These findings are also in line with findings by Downey and Feldman (1996) who found the same partner associations.

4.3 Discussion of Direct Effects Between Parental Acceptance and Marital Satisfaction

The results regarding the first general question of "Does parental acceptance have a direct effect on marital satisfaction?" have shown two direct effects (one actor and one partner) between *maternal* acceptance and marital satisfaction. APIM analyses have revealed that husbands' remembered maternal acceptance was positively associated to both their own marital satisfaction as well as their wives' marital satisfaction. On the other hand, no actor or partner effects between *paternal* acceptance and marital satisfaction were found. Although these results did not support all of the current study's hypotheses which expected significant actor and partner pathways in maternal and paternal acceptance and marital satisfaction links, the results still add invaluable insight to current literature.

Previous literature looking into the relationship between parental acceptance and romantic relationship satisfaction (Eryavuz, 2006; Meth 1999; Varan, 2005; Yalcinkaya, 1997) have only examined simple correlations between one individual's parental acceptance levels with their relationship satisfaction levels and no study so far has examined dyadic patterns in couples in IPARTheory literature. The statistical procedures used in these aforementioned studies (e.g., bivariate correlations, ANOVAs) assume independent observations in the dependent variable of relationship satisfaction. However, marital

satisfaction scores show what is called a ‘non-independence of observations’ in which both wives’ and husbands’ marital satisfaction levels positively correlate with one another (also true for the current study). Hence, the dyadic lens and analysis (through the use of APIM) allows for statistically taking into account this non-independence of observations (Cook & Kenny, 2005). When this dyadic analysis was carried out, the current study only found a significant relationship between husbands’ maternal acceptance and their own marital satisfaction as well as their wives’ marital satisfaction. The discrepancy between these direct effects in APIM and the correlational analyses of this study (as well as aforementioned studies at the beginning of this paragraph) lies in this method of analysis. Statistically controlling for the interdependence (inter-correlations) of wives’ and husbands’ marital satisfaction levels provides a more unbiased method of analysis, hence showing more specific gender patterns in the link between parental acceptance and marital satisfaction (Cook & Kenny, 2005).

4.3.1 Discussion of Direct Partner Effects Between Parental Acceptance and Marital Satisfaction

The adoption of the dyadic lens also allowed for investigating partner pathways, in which a significant partner pathway from husbands’ maternal acceptance to wives’ marital satisfaction was found. This finding that one partner’s family of origin experiences of being accepted by their mothers was directly related to their own and the other partner’s marital satisfaction levels are in line with the systems-based argument that one individual’s behaviours and emotional world has an enduring impact on both their own and their family members’ behaviours and emotional worlds (Hardy et al., 2015). In other words, husbands’ experiences of acceptance in their parent-child subsystem (specifically, mother-child) within their family of origin is transmitted into their future family couple sub-system to impact not only their own evaluations of their relationship but also their spouse’s evaluation.

4.3.2 Gender Patterns in the Direct Effects Between Parental Acceptance and Marital Satisfaction

Although there are no previous dyadic studies in the literature area of parental acceptance-rejection and marital or romantic relationship satisfaction to compare and contrast the current study's findings with, as an initial dyadic study in the area, the gender patterns should be discussed. In the current study, only husbands' maternal acceptance seems to be a significant predictor variable for both husbands' and wives' marital satisfaction levels. A question of 'Why might *only* males' remembrances of maternal acceptance be a significant predictor for married couples' marital satisfaction levels?' can be raised here. Previous dyadic studies which operationalized parent-child relationship quality as 'parent-child interaction quality' and looked at its direct effects on adulthood romantic relationship functioning have found similar gender effects (for a systematic review see River et al., 2021). Lower parent-child interaction quality was associated with lower levels of romantic relationship adjustment for men only (Story et al., 2004; Whitton et al., 2004). Nonetheless, there were other studies with different measures of 'parent-child relationship quality' and 'romantic relationship functioning' that have either found no gender effects or effects with females' variables only (e.g., see Brown et al., 2016). Future dyadic research in the area of IPARTheory is necessary to see whether these gender patterns will be consistently found across different cultures, type of romantic relationship (e.g., dating versus marital) and across different measures of romantic relationship functioning (e.g., marital adjustment, interaction styles). Conducting future dyadic research in this area is especially important considering that IPARTheory's literature area already holds a mix of findings regarding gender patterns (both off-spring and parent gender). For instance, the argument that paternal acceptance might be especially vital for off-springs' adulthood psychological adjustment levels cannot be supported with the current study's findings which have shown no direct effects of paternal

acceptance and marital satisfaction for both husbands and wives (See Rohner, 2016 for the argument). Henceforward, further dyadic research will also shed light into this argument within IPARTheory.

Nonetheless, the sole significant direct effect from husbands' remembered maternal acceptance to their own marital satisfaction can be interpreted from a cultural viewpoint of Turkish and Turkish Cypriots. Within the Turkish and Turkish Cypriot culture, mothers tend to form closer emotional bonds with their sons when compared to their daughters (Alicik, 2009; Varan, 2005). According to Fisek (1982), Turkish mothers form closer parent-child relationships with their sons, especially their first born sons who generally come after their fathers in the power structure of the Turkish family. Therefore, in line with this viewpoint, it might be possible that within the Turkish and Turkish Cypriot culture, sons' internal working models are more shaped by their mothers as a primary care giver due to this closer mother-son emotional bond, hence affecting their future intimate relationships to a greater extent when compared to daughters.

4.3.3 Discussion of Direct Effects Between Parental Acceptance and Marital Satisfaction Based on IPARTheory Tenets

The current study's results which have shown this remembered maternal acceptance and marital satisfaction link are also significant support for IPARTheory, specifically the personality sub-theory's question of "To what extent does the effects of parental acceptance-rejection in childhood extend into adulthood and old age?" (Rohner, 2004). This study provides evidence that maternal acceptance-rejection experiences of males can potentially extend into adulthood to shape off-springs' marital satisfaction levels. To further this question with a dyadic lens, maternal acceptance-rejection experiences of males extend into adulthood to additionally shape the male off-springs' *significant others'* evaluations of their romantic relationship. These findings may not only support the IPARTheory's propositions

of personality sub-theory but also open up new theoretical perspectives into how one individual's parental acceptance-rejection experiences might exert an influence on this individual's significant other's relationship evaluations in adulthood.

The personality sub-theory of IPARTheory also raises questions as to how maternal acceptance-rejection experiences become to be related with that child's relationship outcomes in their adulthood. The main argument of the personality sub-theory, that the seven personality outcomes of acceptance-rejection experience affect the adjustment levels in adulthood, is also important to consider in the current study's sample (Rohner, 2005a). Which mediating variable might be linking parental acceptance and marital satisfaction in the Turkish and Turkish Cypriot newlyweds of the current study?

4.4 Discussion of the Mediating Role of Rejection Sensitivity in the Relationship Between Parental Acceptance and Marital Satisfaction

The current study examined one of these potential mediating mechanisms between parental acceptance-rejection and marital satisfaction; *rejection sensitivity*. To this study's knowledge, this study is the first to consider a mediating variable in the link between parental acceptance-rejection and marital satisfaction. This study furthered this mediation analysis by conducting the analysis in a dyadic perspective through using an APIMeM method.

Adding the mediating role of rejection sensitivity in the current study have shown instrumental evidence in how parental acceptance-rejection and marital satisfaction is linked in newlywed couples. Related to the second general question of the current study, rejection sensitivity served as a vital mediating role in actor pathways of parental acceptance to marital satisfaction. Husbands' maternal acceptance had a positive indirect effect on husbands' marital satisfaction through their own rejection sensitivity. Specifically, higher levels of maternal acceptance were associated with lower levels of rejection sensitivity, which was then related to higher levels of marital satisfaction. Also, husbands' paternal acceptance had a

positive indirect effect on husbands' marital satisfaction through husbands' rejection sensitivity. Furthermore, wives' maternal and paternal acceptance had positive indirect effects on wives' marital satisfaction through wives' rejection sensitivity. Hence, rejection sensitivity seems to be a pivotal variable that needs to be considered in the parental acceptance-rejection and marital satisfaction link.

4.4.1 Discussion of the Mediating Role of Rejection Sensitivity in the Relationship Between Parental Acceptance and Marital Satisfaction based on the IPARTheory Tenets

This pivotal, mediating role of rejection sensitivity is also theoretically meaningful. IPARTheory argues that parental acceptance and rejection experiences in childhood extend into adulthood through personality constructs (Rohner, 2005a). That is, experiences of being accepted or rejected by parents differentially affects development of personality, which then influences adult psychological adjustment. One of these proposed personality outcomes is rejection sensitivity of the off-spring, whereby rejection by parents translate into anxiously expecting and perceiving slightest signs of emotional undependability as rejection (i.e., rejection sensitivity; Rohner, 2005a). The results of this study show how both wives' and husbands' remembrances of maternal and paternal rejection is linked with higher levels of rejection sensitivity which is then associated with lower levels of marital satisfaction. Henceforward, this evidence also supports IPARTheory's proposition that it is the personality dispositions such as rejection sensitivity that links an off-spring's childhood experiences of acceptance or rejection with their adulthood psychological adjustment.

4.4.2 Discussion of the Mediating Role of Rejection Sensitivity in the Relationship Between Parental Acceptance and Marital Satisfaction based on the Rejection Sensitivity Model

The direct, negative links between rejection sensitivity and marital satisfaction can also be grasped via the rejection sensitivity model and previous evidence in the area. Individuals with high rejection sensitivity self-fulfil a prophecy in which their angry and

anxious expectations of rejection and their subsequent negative reactions degrade the relationship climate through negative cognitions and behaviours such as jealousy, which predicts higher levels of aggression in return (Murphy & Russell, 2018). A recent meta-analysis in the rejection sensitivity literature has also revealed consistent and significant relationships between rejection sensitivity and aggression as well as between rejection sensitivity and victimization (Gao et al., 2021). Hence, these types of negatively charged behaviours and emotions might explain the current study's findings that both husbands' and wives' higher levels of rejection sensitivity were associated with lower levels of marital satisfaction.

A recent research carried out with a sample of Turkish women revealed that the relationship between early childhood abuse and neglect and being a victim of intimate partner violence in romantic relationships was mediated by rejection sensitivity (Kahya, 2021). Moreover, out of all the types of childhood abuse and neglect (i.e., physical, emotional, neglecting, sexual), emotional maltreatment was the sole predictor of victimization of intimate partner violence with the mediating role of rejection sensitivity (Kahya, 2021). This also shows the importance of the type of parental rejection behaviours when it comes to the mediating role of rejection sensitivity in parental rejection experiences and negative romantic relationship behaviours such as victimization of violence. To further understand and examine the current study's findings, future research can investigate the dyadic associations between sub-scales of parental acceptance-rejection and romantic relationship behaviours with the mediating roles of rejection sensitivity. Such research might also shed light into the gender patterns in partner associations found in the current study.

4.4.3 Discussion of the Gender Pattern in Direct Partner Effects from Rejection Sensitivity to Marital Satisfaction

Whereas wives' rejection sensitivity was significantly associated with husbands' marital satisfaction in the APIMeM with maternal acceptance as the predictor variable, the same direct partner effect from husbands' rejection sensitivity to wives' marital satisfaction was not found to be significant. This gender pattern can be discussed in terms of gender roles and socialization in how women and men express their emotions, specifically more challenging emotions such as anxiety, sadness or hostility. A recent study has shown that women show higher emotional expressivity than men particularly for negative emotions (Deng et al., 2016). This gender difference in emotional expressivity can be explained by gender socialization processes whereby women are socialized and supported into expressing their emotions (especially sadness and anxiety) whereas men are socialized into hiding or down-expressing their emotions (Chaplin, 2015). This is also in line with societal gender roles that women are more relational and more nurturing than men (Zahn-Waxler et al., 1991). Henceforward, in the current study, wives might be more emotionally expressive when they are coping with their rejection sensitivity when compared to their husbands, which means that wives' rejection sensitivity is more observable by their partners and more likely to initiate conflict between partners. This is supported by Downey and colleagues' (1998) study which showed that women with higher rejection sensitivity showed higher hostility and mockery in arguments, which was then linked with higher levels of their partners' resentment feelings. On the other hand, husbands might avoid expressing their negative emotions that arise from their rejection sensitivity. Consequently, only husbands' evaluations of marital satisfaction, which is measured in the current study as positive versus the negative emotions experienced in a relationship, might be significantly affected by wives' rejection sensitivity and not vice versa. These intricate relationships between gender roles, rejection sensitivity

and evaluations of marital satisfaction can help explain these gender patterns in the current study.

4.5 Significance, Limitations and Further Research

There were several limitations of the current study that needs to be addressed. Firstly, the sample were homogeneous in their characteristics in which they represented a medium to upper class population who were mostly highly educated and working. This is potentially the result of the sampling technique of the current study; the snowball sampling which resulted in the research link and poster being distributed around potential participants with similar characteristics. The most important limitation of such a sample is the limited variability of the responses they have given to the questionnaires. The participants reported they had high levels of parental acceptance and marital satisfaction and low levels of rejection sensitivity. Hence, this limited variability might potentially prevent researchers to find significant associations that actually exist in the population. Therefore, future research can pay special attention to sampling techniques whereby a more representative sample of the population can be recruited with greater response variability.

Another potential reason for why this study's sample reported high levels of maternal and paternal acceptance can be related to the values of Turkish culture. Individuals from the Turkish culture (both Turkish and Turkish Cypriots) highly respect and value their parents, their parents' efforts in raising them as children (Eser, 2016; Kagitcibasi, 1996). The issue of self-desirability in responses to the parental questionnaires can be important in this study not only to seem desirable to the Turkish researchers but also to be loyal to their parents and their Turkish value. A future qualitative study investigating the parental acceptance-rejection experiences in Turkish adults can inform the literature of the ways in which acceptance or rejection is conveyed and culturally constructed in Turkey. Moreover, more observational

methods to measure parental acceptance-rejection or marital satisfaction/quality levels can be used in conjunction with questionnaires to observe any potential discrepancies between them.

The questionnaires in the current study were not validated in the Turkish Cypriot community which is a limitation of this study. Although Turkish and Turkish Cypriot communities show very high levels of cultural communality (Guven-Lisaniler & Rodriguez, 2002), validations of these measures to the Turkish Cypriot community is vital for more precise data collection and analyses.

Moreover, although the current study was conducted during the times of COVID-19 pandemic, no questions were added into the research survey regarding this novel context which might impact newlyweds' daily life and evaluations of marital satisfaction (Turliuc & Candel, 2021). If information on how this pandemic context impacted wives' and husbands' evaluations of marital satisfaction was collected, this could have provided a valuable insight as well as a covariate which would be discussed in the study.

There was also a statistical limitation in the study since two APIM and two APIMeM models were run using a critical p-value of .05. This is a multiple testing issue, whereby multiple analyses which were carried out simultaneously increase the chances of finding false positives (Lee, 2011). In future research, a more stringent p-value should be used when carrying out several model analyses to control Type-1 error.

Lastly, since the parental acceptance-rejection questionnaires are retrospective in nature, memory bias is another limitation of this study. Specifically, recall bias can be a problem considering that familial relationships are dynamic in nature and the off-springs' recalling of acceptance-rejection memories can be affected with their current relationships with their parents. Moreover, cultural values can also shape the way in which retrospective memories are recalled (Oishi et al., 2007). Therefore, aforementioned Turkish and Turkish Cypriot culture's values of respectfulness towards parents and paying the deeds of

motherhood and fatherhood might affect the way in which participants answer these retrospective measures, possibly causing Turkish and Turkish Cypriot participants to report higher maternal and paternal acceptance levels (Eser, 2016; Kagitcibasi, 1996).

Despite these limitations, the current study also has several significant strengths. Firstly, to this study's knowledge, this is the first study to use both the APIM and APIMeM to examine the associations between parental acceptance-rejection, rejection sensitivity and marital satisfaction in order to investigate actor, partner and mediating effects. The results have provided previous literature base of IPARTheory with an important systems perspective that considers family life cycles within its conceptualization, which brings forward the importance of parental acceptance-rejection in newlywed couples' marital relationship with the mediating role of rejection sensitivity.

This study is based on several theories and models; namely, IPARTheory, Family Systems Theory, Family Life Cycle Model and Rejection Sensitivity Model. All of the current study's methodological aspects such as dyadic viewpoint, variable operationalizations or sample characteristics have been developed based on these theories. This is an important strength of the current study because the current study's research model is soundly based on well-established theories with great amount of previous research in its associated literature.

The sample of the current study is also an important strength of this study. Previous literature in the areas of IPARTheory, rejection sensitivity model and relationship satisfaction have predominantly observed their associations in university students. This study's sample of newlywed couples who have been recruited from two different communities is a significant advantage overcoming previous literature's important generalizability problem of sample characteristics. Considering that the Turkish Cypriot community is also very infrequently researched in the world of science, the representation of this small community in this sample is also noteworthy of this study.

4.6 Clinical Implications

The results of the current study has important clinical implications for psychologists and other mental health practitioners. The findings that have shown how husbands' maternal acceptance was directly associated with wives' marital satisfaction as well as the link between wives' rejection sensitivity and husbands' marital satisfaction inform couples and family therapy area. These results suggest that psychotherapists should clinically conceptualize one spouse's parental acceptance levels as shaping both their own and their spouses' relationship experiences. Specifically, rejection sensitivity is an important concept that should be worked in couples' therapy especially when spouses share past experiences of rejection from their significant others.

Providing a safe area whereby the couple can get to explore each other's past family of origin experiences and how these rejection experiences might have precipitated their current fears of rejection by their partners might be one of the many ways to clinically intervene such topics in couples' therapy. When discussing past parental rejection experiences in therapy, especially in a cultural context of Turkey and TRNC, therapists can aid from interventions that differentiate between clients' sadness, disappointment or anger toward their parents and clients' feelings of love and respect for their parents. Perhaps, if the couples are actively living and spending a considerable time with their parents and in-laws, larger family therapy combinations can be brought about in therapy to further look into the inter-generational transmissions of parental acceptance and rejection experiences.

The gender differences in the result regarding the direct effects between wives' rejection sensitivity and husbands' marital satisfaction also has important implications for therapists. As explained before, gender socialization of higher emotional expressivity of women when compared to men can explain this gender pattern. Therapists' awareness of this gender socialization can help therapists to intervene and normalize or validate women's

higher expressivity of emotions arising from their rejection sensitivity. Also, therapists can point out to this gender socialization and further assess how male partners experience and cope with their heightened emotions attached to their rejection sensitivity. Husbands' vocalizations of their own insecurities and challenges with their own emotions can also further ease their wives' rejection sensitivity and its associated emotional outcomes. Overall, a discussion of how these gender differences come about and impact couples' relationships can help the couple vocalize their insecurities and allow them to be emotionally closer.

Last, but not least, the dyadic results of the current study can be used towards the clinical manuals that have been written based on evidence in IPARTheory literature. This clinical manual was specifically about individual therapy and how to work with parental acceptance-rejection experiences and its seven personality outcomes (Rising & Rohner, 2019). Perhaps, if future dyadic studies are conducted with couples and families all around the world, a 'Couples and Family Therapy Manual for working with Parental Acceptance-Rejection Experiences' can be written based on this research evidence to inform evidence-based clinical practice.

Appendix A

Informed Consent (Turkish)

Projenin Adı: Evli Çiftlerde Ebeveyn Kabul-Reddinin Evlilik Memnuniyeti ile İlişkisi: Çift Perspektifi / Parental Acceptance and Rejection and Marital Satisfaction of Married Couples: A Dyadic Analysis

Proje yürütücüsünün adı ve iletişim bilgileri:

Dr. Selenga Gürmen
Derin Eralp

Projenin Amacı: Bu projenin amacı, evli çiftlerin evlilik ve kök aile ilişkilerini araştırmak ve daha iyi anlamaktır.

Süreç: Araştırma anket sorularından oluşmaktadır. Anket soruları eğitim durumunuz, yaşınız gibi demografik sorular, evlilik ilişkiniz ile ilgili sorular, anne ve babanızla olan ilişkiniz hakkında sorular içermektedir. Tüm soruları yanıtlamanız toplam ortalama 10-15 dakika sürecektir. Anketleri doldururken eşinizden bağımsız olarak doldurmanız önemlidir.

Gizlilik: Sizden elde edilen tüm bilgiler gizli tutulacak ve anonim olarak çalışmanın sonucunda ortaya çıkacak yayın ve sunumlarda kullanılacaktır. Elde edilen bilgiler kilitli bilgisayarlarda korunacaktır. Verilere yalnızca araştırma ekibinin erişim izni olacaktır. Sizden elde edilen bilgiler bireysel değil, grup olarak değerlendirilecektir. Gizliliğinizi korumak için anketlerinizde isimleriniz yer almayacaktır. Anketi doldurmadan önce hem siz hem eşiniz tarafından kullanılacak ortak bir takma isim girmeniz gerekmektedir. Takma isminiz bir kelime, bir noktalama işareti ve bir sayı içermelidir. (örneğin, ‘masa6565!’). Sağladığınız bilgiler takma isminiz aracılığı ile istatistik programlarına girilecektir.

Gönüllülük: Bu projeye katılım tamamen gönüllülük temelindedir. Projeden herhangi bir zamanda çekilme hakkınız vardır ve katılımı reddetmek herhangi bir zarara yol açmayacaktır. Bu formda anlatılan araştırmanın etik yönleriyle ve/veya araştırma detaylarıyla ilgili sorularınız, sorunlarınız veya önerileriniz varsa lütfen Özyeğin Üniversitesi Etik Kurulu ile (216) 564 91 76 nolu telefondan temasa geçiniz.

Yukarıda sözü geçen “Evli Çiftlerde Ebeveyn Kabul-Reddinin Evlilik Memnuniyeti ile İlişkisi: Çift Perspektifi” isimli araştırma projesinin detaylarını okudum ve bu proje ile ilgili sorularım cevaplandı. Bu çalışmaya gönüllü olarak katılıyorum.

Katılımcının Adı- Soyadı

Tarih

Appendix B

Couple ID Form (Turkish)

Takma İsim Oluşturma:

- Tüm katılımcılar arasından eşiniz ve sizin anketinizi eşleştirebilmek adına eşiniz ile beraber ortak bir takma isim oluşturmanızı istiyoruz. Oluşturacağınız takma ismin diğer çiftler tarafından da kullanılma ihtimali olabileceğinden dolayı takma isminizi oluştururken lütfen aşağıdaki yönergeye dikkat ediniz.

- Takma isminiz bir kelime, bir noktalama işareti ve bir sayı içermelidir.
- Örnek: Masa6565!

Çift olarak takma isminiz : _____

- Takma isminize ek olarak eşiniz ve sizin anketinizi eşleştirebilmek adına lütfen aşağıdaki sorulara yanıt veriniz:

- **Evlilik tarihiniz:** _____
- **Doğum günü tarihiniz: (gün/ay/yıl şeklinde belirtiniz)** _____
- **Eşinizin doğum günü tarihi: (gün/ay/yıl şeklinde belirtiniz)** _____

Appendix C

Demographic Information Form (Turkish)

1.Yaşınız: ____

2.Cinsiyetiniz: () Kadın () Erkek () Diğer

3.Cinsel Eğiliminiz: () Heteroseksüel () Homoseksüel () Diğer

4.Eğitim durumunuz:

____ Okur yazar değil

____ Okur yazar

____ İlkokul mezunu

____ Ortaokul mezunu

____ Lise mezunu

____ Üniversite mezunu

____ Y.lisans- doktora mezunu

____ Diğer (belirtiniz) _____

5.Öğrenci misiniz?

____ Evet

____ Hayır

Cevap evet ise;

- Şu anki öğrenim seviyeniz:

____ Lise

____ Lisans

____ Yüksek lisans

____ Doktora

____ Doktora sonrası

- Okuduđunuz bölüm? _____

6.En son hangi okulu bitirdiniz:

____ İlkokul

____ Ortaokul

____ Lise

____ Üniversite

____ Yüksek Lisans

____ Doktora

____ Diğer (belirtiniz) _____

7.Toplam kaç yıllık eğitim tamamladınız? : _____

8.Çalışma durumunuz:

____ İşsiz, iş aramıyor (emekli, özürlü vs)

____ İşsiz, iş arıyor

____ Çalışıyor, yarı zamanlı

____ Çalışıyor, tam zamanlı

9.Mesleđiniz:

Mesleđinizin adı ve/ veya işteki ünvanınız: _____

Çalıştığınız işteki görevleriniz nedir veya ne idi: _____

____ Ev Hanımı

____ İşsiz

____ İşçi

____ Memur

____ Serbest meslek

____ Emekli

___ Diğer (belirtiniz) _____

10.Ailenizin aylık geliri:

___ 1000 TL'den az

___ 1000-3999 TL

___ 4000-6999 TL

___ 7000-9999 TL

___ 10000 TL'den fazla

11.Yaşamınızın çoğunu geçirdiğiniz yer:

___ Köy ^[L]_[SEP]

___ İlçe ^[L]_[SEP]

___ Şehir ^[L]_[SEP]

___ Büyükşehir ^[L]_[SEP]

12.Evlilik durumunuz:

___ Evliyim ve eşimle birlikte yaşıyorum.

___ Evliyim ama başka biriyle yaşıyorum

___ Evli değilim ama biriyle yaşıyorum

___ Evliyim ama eşimle ayrı yaşıyoruz

___ Boşandım

___ Eşim vefat etti

___ Hiç evlenmedim

13.Şu anki evliliğiniz kaçınıcı evliliğiniz? ^[L]_[SEP]

14.Ne kadar zamandır evlisiniz? yıl ay ^[L]_[SEP]

15.Evlenmeden önceki ilişki süreniz nedir? yıl ay

16.Evlenmeden önce birlikte yaşadınız mı?

___ Evet

___ Hayır

Cevap evet ise;

Ne kadar süre birlikte yaşadınız? yıl ay

18.Çocuğunuz var mı?^[L]_{SEP}() Evet () Hayır^[L]_{SEP}

19.Evde sizden başka yaşayan birisi var mı?

___ Evet (kim olduğunu belirtiniz): _____

___ Hayır



Appendix D

Turkish Adaptation of the Satisfaction Level Sub-scale of Investment Model Scale

Aşağıda eşiniz ile ilişkinizi değerlendirmeniz için 5 cümle ve her bir cümle altında da cevaplarınızı işaretlemeniz için 1’den 9’ye kadar rakamlar verilmiştir. Her cümlede söylenenin, sizin için ne kadar doğru olduğunu veya olmadığını belirtmek için o cümle altındaki rakamlardan yalnız bir tanesini daire içine alarak işaretleyiniz. Bu şekilde 5 cümlenin her birine bir işaret (X) koyarak cevaplarınızı veriniz. Lütfen hiçbir cümleyi cevapsız bırakmayınız. Sizin için doğruya en yakın olan rakamı işaretleyiniz.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Tamamen yanlış						Tamamıyla doğru		

- İlişkımız benim için doyum verici.
- İlişkim ideal bir ilişkiye yakın.
- İlişkımız beni çok mutlu ediyor.

Appendix E

Turkish Adaptation of PARQ-SV Mother Form

Bu sayfada anne-çocuk ilişkisini içeren ifadeler bulunmaktadır. Her ifadeyi dikkatlice okuyun ve annenizin siz çocukken, size olan davranışlarını ne derece tanımladığını düşünün.

Her ifadeyi okuduktan sonra, o ifadenin annenizin size karşı davranışları konusunda ne kadar uygun olduğunu düşünerek, “Hemen hemen her zaman doğru”, “Bazen doğru”, “Nadiren doğru” veya “Hiçbir zaman doğru değil” şıklarından birini işaretleyiniz.

ANNEM		DOĞRU		DOĞRU DEĞİL	
		<i>Hemen Her Zaman Doğru</i>	<i>Bazen Doğru</i>	<i>Nadiren Doğru</i>	<i>Hiçbir Zaman Doğru Değil</i>
1.	Benim hakkımda güzel şeyler söylerdi.	☐	☐	☐	☐
2.	Bana hiç ilgi göstermezdi.	☐	☐	☐	☐
3.	Benim için önemli olan şeyleri anlatabilmemi kolaylaştırırdı.	☐	☐	☐	☐
4.	Hak etmediğim zaman bile bana vururdu.	☐	☐	☐	☐
11.	Ondan yardım istediğimde beni duymazlıktan gelirdi.	☐	☐	☐	☐
12.	Bana istenilen ve ihtiyaç duyulan biri olduğumu hissettirirdi.	☐	☐	☐	☐
13.	Bana çok ilgi gösterirdi.	☐	☐	☐	☐
14.	Beni kırmak için elinden geleni yapardı.	☐	☐	☐	☐
15.	Hatırlaması gerekir diye düşündüğüm önemli şeyleri unutturdu.	☐	☐	☐	☐
16.	Eğer kötü davranırsam, beni artık sevmediğini hissettirirdi.	☐	☐	☐	☐
17.	Bana yaptığım şeylerin önemli olduğunu hissettirirdi.	☐	☐	☐	☐

Appendix F

Turkish Adaptation of PARQ-SV Father Form

Bu sayfada baba-çocuk ilişkisini içeren ifadeler bulunmaktadır. Her ifadeyi dikkatlice okuyun ve babanızın siz çocukken, size olan davranışlarını ne derece tanımladığını düşünün.

Her ifadeyi okuduktan sonra, o ifadenin babanızın size karşı davranışları konusunda ne kadar uygun olduğunu düşünerek, “Hemen hemen her zaman doğru”, “Bazen doğru”, “Nadiren doğru” veya “Hiçbir zaman doğru değil” şıklarından birini işaretleyiniz.

BABAM		DOĞRU		DOĞRU DEĞİL	
		<i>Hemen Her Zaman Doğru</i>	<i>Bazen Doğru</i>	<i>Nadiren Doğru</i>	<i>Hiçbir Zaman Doğru Değil</i>
1.	Benim hakkımda güzel şeyler söylerdi.	☐	☐	☐	☐
2.	Bana hiç ilgi göstermezdi.	☐	☐	☐	☐
3.	Benim için önemli olan şeyleri anlatabilmemi kolaylaştırırdı.	☐	☐	☐	☐
4.	Hak etmediğim zaman bile bana vururdu.	☐	☐	☐	☐
11.	Ondan yardım istediğimde beni duymazlıktan gelirdi.	☐	☐	☐	☐
12.	Bana istenilen ve ihtiyaç duyulan biri olduğumu hissettirirdi.	☐	☐	☐	☐
13.	Bana çok ilgi gösterirdi.	☐	☐	☐	☐
14.	Beni kırmak için elinden geleni yapardı.	☐	☐	☐	☐
15.	Hatırlaması gerekir diye düşündüğüm önemli şeyleri unutturdu.	☐	☐	☐	☐
16.	Eğer kötü davranırsam, beni artık sevmediğini hissettirirdi.	☐	☐	☐	☐
17.	Bana yaptığım şeylerin önemli olduğunu hissettirirdi.	☐	☐	☐	☐

Appendix G

Turkish Adaptation of Adult Rejection Sensitivity Questionnaire

Aşağıdaki ifadeler, insanların zaman zaman başkalarından bazı şeyler istediği durumları tanımlamaktadır. Her ifade için, **o durumda kendinizin bulunduğunu hayal ediniz ve ilgili soruları cevaplayınız.**

1. Anne babanızdan ya da başka bir aile üyesinden maddi olarak zor bir zamanınızda, yardım etmesi için borç istiyorsunuz.								
Ailenizin size yardım etmeyi isteyip istemeyeceği konusunda ne kadar kaygılanırsınız ya da tedirgin olursunuz?	hiç kaygılanmam	1	2	3	4	5	6	çok kaygılanırım
Ellerinden geldiğince yardım etmeyi kabul edeceklerini düşünürüm.	hiç olası değil	1	2	3	4	5	6	çok büyük olasılıkla
2. Yakın bir arkadaşınızla, onu ciddi bir şekilde üzen bir şey yaptıktan sonra konuşmak üzere konuyu açıyorsunuz.								
Arkadaşınızın sizinle konuşmak isteyip istemeyeceği konusunda ne kadar kaygılanırsınız ya da tedirgin olursunuz?	hiç kaygılanmam	1	2	3	4	5	6	çok kaygılanırım
Onun sorunları çözmek için benimle konuşmak isteyeceğini düşünürüm.	hiç olası değil	1	2	3	4	5	6	çok büyük olasılıkla
3. Eşinizle olan ilişkinizde cinsel korunma konusunu gündeme getiriyorsunuz ve bunun sizin için ne kadar önemli olduğunu söylüyorsunuz.								
Tepkisinin ne olacağı konusunda ne kadar kaygılanırsınız ya da tedirgin olursunuz?	hiç kaygılanmam	1	2	3	4	5	6	çok kaygılanırım
Onun savunmaya geçmeden, olası seçeneklerimizi konuşmaya istekli olacağını düşünürüm.	hiç olası değil	1	2	3	4	5	6	çok büyük olasılıkla
4. İşyerinde yaşadığınız bir sorunla ilgili olarak şefinizden yardım istiyorsunuz.								
Şefinizin size yardım etmek isteyip istemeyeceği konusunda ne kadar kaygılanırsınız ya da tedirgin olursunuz?	hiç kaygılanmam	1	2	3	4	5	6	çok kaygılanırım
Bana yardım etmeye çalışacağını düşünürüm.	hiç olası değil	1	2	3	4	5	6	çok büyük olasılıkla
9. Aklınızda gerçekten konuşma ihtiyacı hissettiğiniz bir şey olduğunda, bir arkadaşınızı arıyorsunuz.								
Arkadaşınızın sizi dinlemek isteyip istemeyeceği konusunda ne kadar kaygılanırsınız ya da tedirgin olursunuz?	hiç kaygılanmam	1	2	3	4	5	6	çok kaygılanırım
Beni dinleyeceğini ve destekleyeceğini düşünürüm.	hiç olası değil	1	2	3	4	5	6	çok büyük olasılıkla

Appendix H

Table of Descriptive Statistics of MARQ-SV Sub-scales Differentiated by Gender

	Min- Max	Mean	SD	Skewness	Kurtosis	Range	Cronbach Alpha (α)
Wives							
Warmth/Affection	.00 – 3.25	1.44	.58.42	.60	.73	3.25	.87
Hostility/Anger	.00 – 4.00	3.52	0.76	-2.96	10.74	4.00	.74
Indifference/Neglect	.00 – 4.00	3.50	.77	-2.82	9.69	4.00	.78
Undifferentiated Rejection	.00 – 4.00	3.71	.74	-3.80	16.03	4.00	.71
Husbands							
Warmth/Affection	1.00 – 4.00	1.44	.51	1.84	5.06	3.00	.83
Hostility/Anger	1.17 – 4.00	3.62	.77	-2.82	9.69	2.83	.63
Indifference/Neglect	1.67 – 4.00	3.66	.42	-1.69	3.70	2.33	.62
Undifferentiated Rejection	1.75 – 4.00	3.78	.45	-3.18	11.05	2.25	.58

Appendix I

Table of Descriptive Statistics of PARQ-SV Sub-scales Differentiated by Gender

	Min- Max	Mean	SD	Skewness	Kurtosis	Range	Cronbach Alpha (α)
Wives							
Warmth/Affection	.00 – 3.88	1.63	.87	.65	.02	3.88	.94
Hostility/Anger	.00 – 4.00	3.37	1.02	-2.23	4.50	4.00	.85
Indifference/Neglect	.00 – 4.00	3.14	1.07	-1.60	1.95	4.00	.90
Undifferentiated Rejection	.00 – 4.00	3.54	1.01	-2.57	5.92	4.00	.85
Husbands							
Warmth/Affection	1.00 – 3.75	1.77	.73	1.00	.28	2.75	.91
Hostility/Anger	1.83 – 4.00	3.59	.49	-1.44	1.76	2.17	.67
Indifference/Neglect	1.17 – 4.00	3.31	.66	-.98	.45	2.83	.83
Undifferentiated Rejection	1.25 – 4.00	3.75	.55	-2.73	7.30	2.75	.79

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