

Examining University Student Perception of Romance Relationship

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Abstract—Nowadays, we often come across teenagers who are involved in romantic relationships. During adolescence, teenagers are more prone to be involved in a romantic relationship. There are various perceptions expressed by each individual in their romantic relationship. The study is conducted to determine the perception of the romantic relationship among university students. The researcher conducted a study by obtaining data through the participation of University Sultan Zainal Abidin's students and 351 respondents had answered the questionnaire given. Respondents consisted of 124 male students and 227 female students. A total of 88.0% of the respondents stated that they love their partner and 82.4% stated they were serious about their love affair. In conclusion, most of the students show that they love their partner and serious on the love affair they had in university life.

Keywords—Young Adult, Relationship Satisfaction, Perception, University Students, Romantic Relationship

I. INTRODUCTION

The importance of forming a solid and meaningful relationship during early adults is difficult to say. However, the formation of a romantic relationship is seen as a method of formation to be an adult [1]. Early adults who are able to create and maintain an intimate relationship positively will be more satisfied with life and they are able to secure their life towards a better future [2].

According to psychological adjustments, romantic relationship experience in young adults can set the basis for future relationships and the quality of caring for their future children will improve when they enter the life of parenthood [3]. Previous studies often conceptualize the quality of romance as a global construction [4]. However, the process of formulating some aspects of functionality in romantic relationships such as problem-solving skills, love, and managing conflict can provide more specific information about the two relationships and factors affecting this dimension.

In the conceptualization of romantic relationships, 'relationship efficiency' refers to the ability to successfully engage and maintain a positive romantic relationship, while 'relationship conflict' refers to aspects of the problem that can make early adulthood suffer from the setbacks of well-being [5]. The formation of love within a romantic relationship such as density, belonging, deep dependence and deep love is a vital factor at the beginning of a romance, engagement, and retention [6].

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The formation of an intimate relationship is an important way of forming and creating one's identity when reaching early adulthood. Early adulthood is the term used by [7] extending adolescent age links by entering individuals aged between 18 to 25 years of age.

A theoretical researcher has suggested that the development of the early romantic relationship is in line with the phase-based approach, where teens begin with a relatively short and shallow romantic relationship that occurs in a peer group that develops into shorter relationships that occur less in the context of the group and defined more with emotional intimacy. By the end of teens, romantic developments are considered to be culminating in a long and lasting intimate relationship [8]. Using data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, [9] found that this "development" is coming from a limited experience or no experience in a love situation, as it has a more serious romantic relationship experience. The progress from a romantic relationship that has less commitment to an intimate relationship such as "adults" who are really committed to the relationship is not only normative but essential to achieving adulthood status [10].

In line with this view, [11] states that the success of a romantic relationship is a relationship commitment occurred for at least 26-year-old (for example, married and engaged) without a previous divorce. Young adults are considered unsuccessful if they have limited romantic experience. This situation shows that stability is an important measure of the success of romantic relationships for young adults. Although there are many different dimensions to assess intimacy [12], a couple needs to focus on good relationship and stability as it promotes mental and physical well-being throughout life [13].

Furthermore, the dissolution of a romantic relationship is considered to be one of the most traumatic events experienced by an individual [14]. Thus, in order to accommodate the stability of romantic relationships in young adults, this study aims to examine the amount of romantic involvement and earnings experienced during this period. Not only this approach is parallel to the previous work on the characteristics of the main structure of the early romantic relationship [15], but it allows us to determine whether young people can achieve a stable and long-term relationship, which had been theorized before.

Arnett's theory (2000) states that early-stage adults offer this framework predict the diversity of romance experiences and defer well to the '20s. In this theory, the period of age between 18 to 25 is the time of exploration and instability, much more characterized by the focus than the focus on relationships with others. Given the importance of creating a friendly relationship that is committed to achieving adult status [16], it is important to know what type of initial experience is better to equip young adults in achieving the stability of the romantic relationship.

Respect is how we interact with one another in an interaction [17], such as a teacher guides his or her students with the correct way based on the situation in class. Respect reflects good and high characteristics [18] and becomes an honorable character that has been considered as a tribute and gift in life [19]. The healthy and strong relationship must be combined with a feeling of respect by showing acceptance of the other culture [20].

In this evolving world of young adult romantic relationships, words such as "girlfriend" or "boyfriend" give different contexts and meanings towards different people. It produced a specific definition for the research which makes it important. The researchers are able to see it from the earlier literature to help to form the conclusion in the type of relationship which we intended to study. There are three characteristics that can define the romantic relationship which is passion (attraction, desire, and love), intimacy (affiliation, trust, feelings of closeness) and commitment. All of these characteristics happened in a different level of romantic relationship [21]. These features are used in helping to describe the meaning of romantic relationships that are intended to be studied.

In general, if there is a non-marriage romantic relationship, the young couple has been discovered that they are involved in "family relationship" where the interaction with parents, in-laws, and siblings had also been investigated [22]. It is also found in the young adult in general, where friendship is also involved [23].

III. METHOD

3.1 Instrument

The research instrument consisted of a questionnaire to obtain the demographic information about the respondents. The questionnaire was given especially for those who were in a romantic relationship with the partner. A set of questionnaire based on Hendrik's Satisfaction Scale is added to measure the relationship satisfaction among students. In order to explain how the research is done, the researcher used descriptive form. In this study, the researcher had obtained respondents from the Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin which ranged from all courses in the university. The students of this university's students had shown a high percentage of having a romantic relationship during their young adult stage, thus they are welcomed to participate. This research was conducted by the researcher to elaborate

the data that have been collected over a period of one month. In the study, a questionnaire was used by the researcher to collect all the information from respondents. The questions of this study are based on the experience of the romantic relationship among Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin's students to get the best data and to study the love problems that happened in their relationship. The total number of the respondents that had joined this research consisted of 351 participants.

A set of question consisted of a measurement scale was inserted which aimed to measure the satisfaction of the respondents' relationship. The Hendrik's Satisfaction Scale used in this study utilized a Likert scale that contained 20 items using 5 sets of responses to find out the level of satisfaction of love relationship in the respondents. The response was set from Very disagree = 1, Disagree = 2, Neutral = 3, Agree = 4 and Strongly agree = 5. The Hendrik's relationship satisfaction scale comprised of 20 items. The questions are as follows:

1. I love my partner.
2. I am serious with this romantic relationship.
3. I am committed with this romantic relationship.
4. I trust my partner.
5. I am satisfied with my partner and this relationship
6. I frequently communicate with my partner.
7. I accept my partner with all my heart.
8. I am happy with my partner and this relationship.
9. Our love affair goes really well.
10. I am sure that this relationship will last until marriage.
11. I meet my love partner if I am sad.
12. My partner completely fills my ideal type.
13. My partner has good qualities.
14. My partner does not have any advantages that I can be proud of.
15. We have many problems in our relationship.
16. I should not get into this relationship.
17. I should respect my partner more
18. I feel that this relationship will never last.
19. We often have a misunderstanding in this relationship.
20. We are rarely seen together but our relationship is doing well.

Respondents were asked to answer the items in terms of how often they perceived by giving their statement on a Likert scale from 1 to 5. The total score for this scale was determined by the sum of 20 items of questions that were answered by each respondent based on Likert Scale 5 to determine respondents' romantic relationship perceptions.

3.2 Data analysis

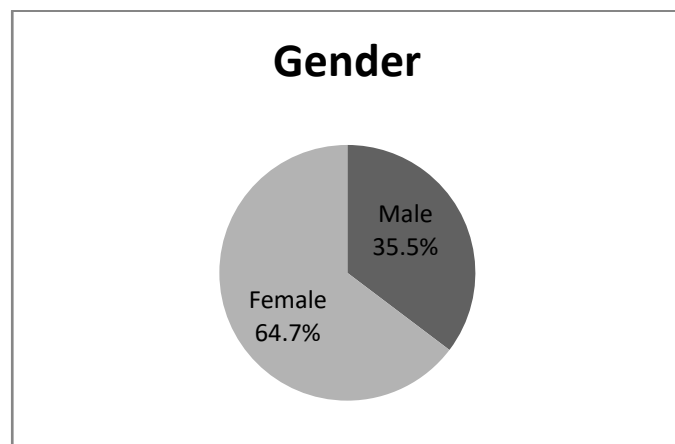
The researchers used descriptive analysis to obtain the value of frequency and percentage to describe overall perceptions of the romantic relationship among respondents.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Gender

The following table shows the number of respondents who participate in this research based on gender. Female showed the highest participation which is 64.7% and the male is 35.5%.

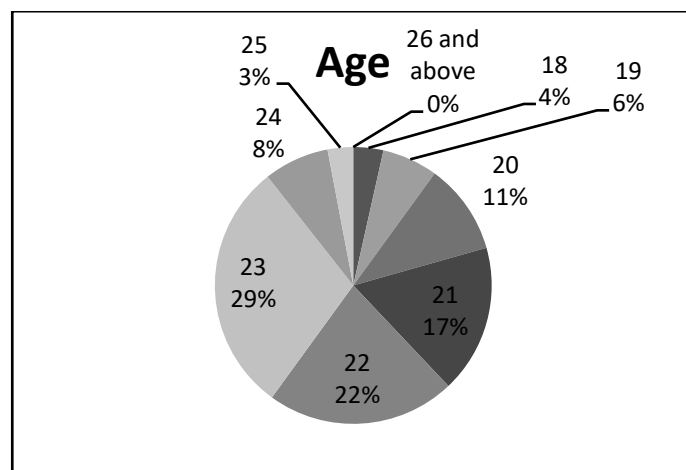
Table 1: Gender of the respondents



4.2 Age

Table 2 shows the age of the respondents from the age of 18 years old until 26 years old. The age of 23 years old is the majority which is 28.5% followed by the age of 22 years old with a percentage of 21.4%. The lowest comes from the age of 26 years old and above which is only 3.4%.

Table 2: Age of the respondents



4.3 Relationship satisfaction among respondents

Referring to table 1 below, respondents answered the statement based on Hendrick's Relationship Satisfaction Scale. The statement about 'I love my partner' is the highest perception which is 88% with the frequency of the respondents is 265 people. Then, the second highest is the statement of acceptance of the respondent towards their

partner which is 84.4% which equals 254 respondents. While we have the highest perception, there also have the lowest percentage in some states. The respondents that agree with the statement of 'their partner does not have any advantages that can be proud of', only show the percentage of 6.0% while the rest disagree.

Table 1: Hendrick's Relationship Satisfaction Scale

No.	Content	Agree	
		F	%
1.	I love my partner.	265	88.0
2.	I am serious with this romantic relationship.	248	82.4
3.	I am committed with this romantic relationship.	247	82.0
4.	I trust my partner.	230	76.4
5.	I am satisfied with my partner and this relationship	227	75.4
6.	I frequently communicate with my partner.	238	79.0
7.	I accept my partner with all my heart.	254	84.4
8.	I am happy with my partner and this relationship.	232	77.0
9.	Our love affair goes really well.	232	77.1
10.	I am sure that this relationship will last until marriage.	210	69.8
11.	I meet my love partner if I am sad.	171	56.8
12.	My partner completely fills my ideal type.	222	73.8
13.	My partner has good qualities.	235	78.1
14.	My partner does not have any advantages that I can be proud of.	18	6.0
15.	We have many problems in our relationship.	35	11.6
16.	I should not get into this relationship.	40	13.3
17.	I should respect my partner more	249	82.7
18.	I feel that this relationship will never be long-lasting.	33	11.0
19.	We often have a misunderstanding in this relationship.	43	14.3
20.	We are rarely seen together but our relationship was doing well.	226	75.0

V. CONCLUSION

In a nutshell, we can observe the varieties of perceptions among the respondents. We realize that every human on this earth is worth to get the true love they can so they can fulfill their happiness. Everyone has the right in choosing their best partner in life to live together until the end of their life. But as a human being, we have our own weakness as nobody is perfect. Thus, every partner should tolerate and communicate with each other without keeping any secret in order to find the best way to improve their relationship. Couples should put the highest performance in to accept, trust, respect and be committed towards the relationship so that both sides will be satisfied with each other.

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