

Abstract

This study examined the associations between relationship satisfaction and communication patterns among homosexual and heterosexual dating couples. Fifty heterosexual men, fifty-four heterosexual women, thirty gays and fifty-five lesbians were invited to complete a questionnaire measuring communication-related variables, including self-disclosure, conflict tactics, deception and perspective-taking ability. While associations were found between the communication-related variables and level of relationship satisfaction, results from the regression analysis also showed that level of relationship satisfaction was strongly predicted by the communication-related variables, with self-disclosure demonstrated the greatest predictive power. Significant gender differences were found in relationship satisfaction, with females reported a greater satisfaction than males in dating relationships. Among homosexual and heterosexual people, though they showed great similarities in scores over most of the variables, homosexual individuals reported higher self-disclosure and perspective-taking ability than heterosexual individuals. Implications of the present study and suggestions for further studies were discussed.