

## Abstract

An inconsistent correlation was found between the relationship of childhood trauma and dissociation, which suggested that a third variable contributed to the development of dissociation. Researchers suggested a self-conscious affect, shame, as the third variable. However, there were two differential pathways which described how shame contributed to the relationship. While most researchers found a correlation between childhood traumatic experience and trauma-induced shame; others adopted a diathesis-stress model and viewed trauma and the dispositional tendency to experience shame, shame-proneness, in an interaction model. A new conceptual framework was suggested to understand the relationship between trauma, shame-proneness and trauma-induced shame. As an examination, the current study investigated the contribution of shame-proneness between the relationship of childhood trauma and dissociation. The dissociative experiences, trauma history and level of shame-proneness were collected in a college sample by a group survey. A positive correlation was demonstrated between trauma and dissociation, and shame-proneness and dissociation. An interaction was found between trauma and shame-proneness which significantly predicted dissociation. The interaction model provided possible explanation for the inconsistency in the relationship between trauma and dissociation.

*Keywords:* childhood trauma, shame-proneness, guilt-proneness, dissociation