

Abstract

This research set up to test (a) if one person's relationship quality is negatively associated with own (actor) materialism and also partner's materialism, and (b) if these associations are mediated by both persons' poor self-disclosure. We tested the mediation with two dimensions of self-disclosure, which are depth (how private does one tell one's partner about oneself) and responsiveness (the extent to which one responds to one's partner). In study 1, participants who were in a relationship completed an online questionnaire. In study 2 (which is a couple study), dating couples were recruited to complete a self-disclosure interaction and then report their relationship quality. Results suggest that (a) one's own relationship quality is undermined by own materialism (in Studies 1 and 2) and the partner's materialism (in Study 2), (b) the negative association between one's materialism and one's own relationship quality is mediated by one's low responsiveness, not depth (Studies 1 and 2), and (c) the negative association between partner's materialism and relationship quality is not mediated by the measured processes of self-disclosure (Study 2).

The results imply that materialist tends to have a lower relationship quality as he or she shows a lower responsiveness to partner. Partner's materialism will also affect

one's relationship quality but this negative relationship cannot be explained by self-disclosure.

Keywords: materialism, self-disclosure, responsiveness, depth, relationship quality.