

Abstract

The shift of the marriage model from traditional to companionate caused changes in expectations for personal sense of marital power and affective self-disclosure in recent decade. This paper aimed to explore the relationship between personal sense of marital power and affective self-disclosure, as well as, its impacts to marriage quality, for sake of providing married couples with up-to-date strategies to maintain high quality of marriage. It was hypothesized that the positive association between personal sense of marital power and marriage quality is mediated by affective self-disclosure, the higher ones' personal sense of marital power causes higher level of affective self-disclosure, leading to higher marriage quality. However, such mediation effect could be obtained in wives only, even though personal sense of marital power was found to be positively correlated with marriage quality for both wives and husbands. Possible explanations for this gender difference were proposed on the ground of quality of affective self-disclosure, communication style and subtypes of emotion expression, for future studies. It raised out a concern that not only quantity, but also, quality of affective self-disclosure should be considered in the relationship between personal sense of marital power and marriage quality.

Keywords: Affective self-disclosure, Personal sense of marital power, Marriage quality