

Abstract

Becoming a distinct development stage, emerging adulthood is the time when identity explorations are very active (Arnett, 2000). The current study, as a part of College Student Values Project (Wang, 2011), examined how the three sub-aspects of quality of relationships with parents interact with identity processing styles and identity commitment respectively among Chinese emerging adults. 200 college students in Guangzhou, an urban city in southern China, reported their perception about the target variables through filling in a questionnaire. The results revealed that the three sub-aspects of quality of relationships – trust, communication, and alienation – significantly influenced identity commitment directly and were also mediated by informational identity style. Diffuse/avoidant identity style mediated the relationship between alienation and identity commitment.

Keywords: emerging adulthood, quality of relationships with parents, identity processing style, identity commitment