

Abstract

There has been a call for a taxonomy of relationship qualities in order to better understand the importance of interpersonal relationships in human functioning. Using the lexical approach, 33 relationship terms were extracted from two Chinese dictionaries and the communion scale of Tam and Bond (2002). Factor analyses on two dyadic relationships by 180 college students yielded one factor, named “concord”. This single factor was believed to be the common dimension that people adopt in evaluating various relationships and emerged independent of the particular role dyad being evaluated. A scale consisting of 22 items and a shortened version with 12 items are offered as a tool for measuring relationship quality for different relations, and so they allow cross-relationship comparisons to be made. Potential contributions of the scale are discussed.