

Abstract

Inferring from the postulates of socioemotional selectivity theory, it is hypothesized that widowed people selectively focus on their family members as close social partners and such a focus is beneficial to psychological wellbeing. Participants included 58 widowed and 46 married people aged 55 and above. Percentage of family members in the closest social network was analyzed through the Social Convoy Questionnaire. Psychological wellbeing was measured in terms of morale by the Philadelphia Geriatric Morale Scale, happiness by the Subjective Happiness Scale and loneliness by the UCLA Loneliness Scale. Results showed that compared to the closest networks of married people, those of widowed people were characterized by a higher percentage of daughters-in-law and among the young-olds, a higher percentage of granddaughters. Such higher percentages were related to higher morale. Theoretical and practical implications were discussed.