

Abstract

In this article, it focused on the comparison of online and offline romantic relationships at different stages of relationship. Three stages of relationship development, namely initiation, maintenance and dissolution, were taken into account in the present study. Two hundreds and thirty three respondents participated by filling in an online questionnaire. Results shows that partners in either online or offline relationships would adopt different initiation strategies. Both men and women engaged in online relationships are more active in initiation than their offline counterparts. However, the differences between online and offline relationships extinguishes as the relationships proceed. These results are consistent with our assumption that online relationships will move offline eventually.