

Abstract

Initiator tendency is a construct that is gaining influence in the field. Yet, its relationships with other relevant concepts largely remains unclear. The current study examined the moderating effect of the perceived partner's conflict resolution styles on the established correlation between initiator tendency and relationship satisfaction. A questionnaire was completed by 205 Hong Kong residents who had been involving in a dating or marital relationship for at least one year. Results replicated past findings on the gender differences, and added that only positive problem-solving, not conflict engaging, style of the partner moderated the positive effect of initiating a discussion on satisfaction towards an intimate relationship. Particularly, this effect only prevails in males, when the frequency of their female partners using positive resolution strategies is relatively low, which implies that the way a couple resolve conflicts is generally more important, but when the women is less likely to respond to arguments constructively in a problem-focused manner, men's attempts to start a discussion about relationship issues could help promote relationship satisfaction.