

The Typology and Influence of Conflict-Coping Strategies in Taiwanese Married Couples

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This paper examined the typology of conflict-coping strategies among married couples, and their impact on the relationship between marital interaction and marital quality. Five hundred and twenty five Taiwanese married couples filled out a questionnaire which included seven factors of conflict-coping strategies: reason appeal, concealment and cold war, tolerance and acquiescence endurance, nagging, self-harm, others' intercession, and roundabout appeal; two aspects of interaction: conflict and received support; and two marital quality: satisfaction and regret. Latent class analysis and hierarchical linear models were applied. Results showed that the patterns of couples' conflict-coping strategies can be identified as 'rarely use tactic,' 'fighting and cold war,' 'direct moderation' and 'try diversely'. Those who received more support reported higher marital quality. Conflict had a negative effect on marital quality, but this effect disappeared depending on conflict-coping strategy pattern. Marital quality varied by different patterns of conflict-coping strategies. Those 'indirect moderation' couples reported higher support and marital quality, followed by 'try diversely,' and 'fighting and cold war' couples reported the lowest support. However, 'rarely use tactic' couples showed higher support, higher satisfaction, but higher regret. The interaction term of marital interaction and conflict-coping strategy pattern showed a significant effect on marital quality. Finally, the limits and future suggestions were discussed.

Keywords: *conflict-coping strategies, hierarchical linear model, latent class analysis, marital interaction, marital quality*

