

Ambivalence Over Emotional Expression in Romantic relationship: A Longitudinal Research

Yi-Chen Lee and Yi-Cheng Lin

Department of Psychology, National Taiwan University

The present study examined the relationship between ambivalence over emotional expression (AEE) and quality of relationship in a longitudinal design. At time 1, 78 couples completed several questionnaires, including ambivalence over emotional expressiveness questionnaire and several indices of relationship quality. One year later, these participants were again invited to complete the same set of questionnaires. Sixty-five participants stayed in the same relationship and their data were analyzed. Results showed significant negative correlations between the AEE and all indices of relationship quality in individual and dyadic level at both time 1 and time 2. However, the correlations between the relationship quality at time1 and the AEE at time 2 or vice

versa were not stable. Regression analysis and cross-lagged analysis indicated no one way causal relationship between them. On the other hand, the high correlation between change scores of AEE and quality of relationship supported the possibility of two way interaction causal relationship. Discussions focused on the mutual influences between AEE to romantic relationship and quality of relationship.

Keywords: *ambivalence over emotional expression, relationship quality, longitudinal research, dyadic analysis, causal relationship, satisfaction, intimacy, commitment*

