

Longitudinal Transmission and Longitudinal Effects of Conflict-Coping Strategies Styles on Taiwanese Married Couples' Marital Quality

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This paper examined the longitudinal transmission of conflict-coping strategies styles among married couples, and their longitudinal effects on the relationship between marital interaction and marital quality. Two hundred and twenty six Taiwanese married couples filled out questionnaire once a year continuing for four years which included seven factors of conflict-coping strategies: reasoning, concealment and cold war, tolerance and acquiescence endurance, nagging, self-harm, others' intercession, and roundabout appeal; two aspects of interaction: negativity and received support; and two marital quality: satisfaction and regret. ANOVA, latent class transition analysis, latent class growth analysis and multivariate hierarchical linear models were applied. Results showed that the longitudinal styles of couples' conflict-coping strategies can be identified as "always rarely use tactic," "always volatile diversely" and "always indirect moderation." The couples who were "long-term indirect moderation" reported better interaction and higher marital quality, and the "always volatile diversely" couples reported worse and lower marital quality continually. Both husbands and wives showed significant linear decrease in marital quality across time, and wives decreased more than husbands, but those decreases disappeared if considering negativity and received support. Those who reported lower conflict or received more support reported higher marital quality over time. The longitudinal effects of conflict and support on marital quality were varied by different conflict-coping strategies styles. Those lower negativity, higher support and "always indirect moderation" couples reported best marital quality, however higher negativity, lower support and "always volatile diversely" couples reported the worst quality over time. Finally, the limits and future suggestions were discussed.

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