

Bachelor's thesis review – Supervisor's evaluation

Title: *The Effect of Mate Value on Mate Preferences*

Author: Bohdana Klimentová

Supervisor: Zsófia Csajbók, M.A., Ph.D.

Opponent: RNDr. James G. Pfaus, Ph. D., IF

Ms. Klimentová studied how mate value influenced mate preferences and preference fulfillment across men and women. To do so, she compared the influence of self-perceived mate value with the influence of a calculated Euclidean mate value. The thesis amounted to 20 pages of theoretical background, 24 pages of empirical study, around five pages of references, and one page of supplement.

I praise Ms. Klimentová's ambition to write her thesis in English on the Czech study program. She was a very fast learner, she showed up for meetings regularly, and she always prepared the materials as expected from her. Ms. Klimentová showed initiative and was driven in her exploration of the studied topic. She obtained a good grasp of the statistical knowledge necessary for the execution of a Bachelor's thesis, especially in regards that the idea of the Euclidean mate value is considered complicated by many.

Theoretical part

The structure and the dept of the literature review was written satisfactorily, she worked with the most important, foundational texts of the field. She clearly had a good idea about the contents of the articles cited, and she also introduced a few original ideas and her own perspective on questions. She needed a lot of guidance in learning the academic writing process, the writing style, and structuring her text. This was still noticeable at some places where the text was wordy, repetitive, or unstructured.

Empirical part

The empirical part closely followed the IMRaD structure. She worked with data that was previously collected as part of a bigger research project. Ms. Klimentová prepared a substantial amount of 16 tables and altogether five figures to demonstrate and explain her findings. The used analytical strategy was out of the ordinary (e.g., she employed Euclidean distance, r-differences), which demonstrates her ability to grasp complex problems. She could have used more advanced statistical methods (e.g., ANOVA-s to compare self-, ideal, and partner-ratings across sex; moderation analysis instead of r-differences), although the empirical part provided ample results already. On a Bachelor level at the Liberal Arts and Humanities program the level of statistical expertise can be considered adequate. The employed tests were performed correctly and the relative simplicity of the analytical approaches could be considered an advantage.

In the Discussion, I was sensing some difficulties around placing the results among the already existing literature. In general, the findings of her thesis can be considered very important

and novel. I was missing the emphasis that such analysis with dealbreaker characteristics, and the combination of dealmaker and dealbreaker characteristics was completely new. She could have highlighted more that positive and negative characteristics of mate choice were not considered the same by the participants. The two approaches yielded different Euclidean mate values as a function of relationship satisfaction and preference fulfillment. I wish this result was published at some point, because these questions were not studied before and the findings could have very important implications for future research.

Summary

Overall, Ms. Klimentová was studying a fairly interesting research question and she handled the data as expected on the Bachelor level. Her literature review was a little redundant, but she did show a lot of steady improvement during the semester. Also taking into account that she managed to do all this work in English while studying in the Czech program, I recommend the thesis be graded as excellent (1).

In Prague, 7 August 2023

Zsófia Csajbók, M.A., Ph.D.