

Abstract

Two main principles of the relationship formation were previously established: i) homogamy and ii) heterogamy. According to the principle of homogamy, partners tend to be similar to each other. In contrast, heterogamy states that partners' characteristics differ. The theory of homogamy has reached significantly higher empirical support, however it is still unclear which mechanisms lead to similarities between partners. Potential mechanisms involve proximity (geography and social propinquity/proximity), preference for self-similarity, convergence (mutual assimilation) during cohabitation etc. Several previous studies showed, the similarity between partners in various social-demographic, physical, and attitudinal characteristics among others contributes to the relationship satisfaction. The main aim of the proposed bachelor thesis, is to perform a review of the relevant literature and analyse which mechanisms of homogamy and heterogamy apply to various characteristics and whether their role vary according to the type of the relationship (i.e. open relationships, marriages, etc.)