

The Interplay between Alexithymia and Insecure Attachment on Relationship Quality


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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

"Objective: Attachment insecurities along with emotional processing difficulties pose important risks on romantic relationships. This study aims to investigate possible associations and the interplay of alexithymia and attachment orientation on relationship quality in romantic couples."

Comment: The objective statement would benefit from specifying the hypothesis. Consider revising to: "This study aims to investigate the hypothesis that alexithymia moderates the relationship between attachment orientation and relationship quality in romantic couples."

"In this study we used the Toronto Alexithymia Scale (TAS-20)..."

Comment: Clarify why the TAS-20 was chosen over other measures of alexithymia. Include a comparison with other available scales and justify the selection based on reliability and validity.

"We tested our hypotheses using the APIM Model..."

Comment: The statistical analysis section should include assumptions checks for the APIM. Mention if tests for multicollinearity, normality, and homoscedasticity were conducted and their results.

"The results demonstrated that there were no significant differences on dyadic adjustment..."

Comment: Expand on the potential reasons for the lack of gender differences in dyadic adjustment, attachment avoidance, and alexithymia. This could include discussions on cultural factors or sample characteristics.

"It is important to note that our study is subject to a number of limitations such as its cross-sectional design..."

Comment: Discuss the potential impact of these limitations on the study's findings. For example, how might the cross-sectional design influence the interpretation of causality?

"Given the regularly occurring inner dynamics that are influencing romantic partners our study offered some insights..."

Comment: Summarize the main findings more explicitly in the conclusion. Ensure the reader can clearly see the take-home message from your study.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

"Alexithymia is also associated with perceptual deficits in processing external emotional stimuli such as the emotional expressions of others."

Comment: This statement should be supported with additional references and examples of studies that have demonstrated these perceptual deficits. Please include at least two more references.

"We used the actor-partner interdependence model and data from 56 heterosexual couples (N=112)..."

Comment: Provide more detail on the actor-partner interdependence model (APIM) and its appropriateness for this study. A brief explanation of the statistical basis and references would be useful.

"Firstly with regard to the study's variables we observed positive significant associations..."

Comment: The discussion would benefit from a deeper exploration of the implications of these findings. How do they compare with previous literature? What are the theoretical or practical implications?

"With regard to avoidant individuals moderation analysis did not reveal significant results..."

Comment: Consider discussing possible reasons for the non-significant moderation effects found for attachment avoidance and alexithymia. Are there any methodological or theoretical explanations?

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

2. Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.