# The Role of Love Languages in Enhancing Marital Communication

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|---|---|
| Izet Pehlić<br>Full professor for Educational sciences, Islamic pedagogical faculty of the University of Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina<br>izet.pehlic@unze.ba | **Reviewer 1:** Masoud Asadi<br>Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology and Counseling, Arak University, Arak, Iran.<br>Email: m-asadi@araku.ac.ir<br>**Reviewer 2:** Stephen C. L. Lau<br>Professor (Assistant) at Washington University in St, Louis, United States.<br>Email: lauc@wustl.edu |

## 1.    Round 1

### 1.1.    Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The phrase "have shown significant benefits in diverse cultural and relational contexts" is overly broad. Clarify which specific contexts are being referred to and support this with additional citations or a brief example from the literature.

While the demographic characteristics are summarized, gender distribution is not reported. Given the relational context of the study, this is a crucial omission. Please indicate the gender identity of participants.

The section quotes, "My partner helped me uncover what truly made me feel loved…" Consider exploring whether this reflective process was spontaneous or guided through intervention (e.g., therapy or prompts), as this affects applicability.

The quote "We both work long hours…" touches on time constraints but could be further analyzed in light of work-family balance literature. Consider linking this barrier to broader occupational stress theories.

The claim that "verbal affirmations and quality time were particularly effective…" should be contextualized. Did older vs. younger couples differ in their valuation of specific love languages?

The sentence "These findings echo those of Jolin et al. (2024)" regarding open communication should be expanded to explain how open communication was promoted—was this spontaneous or through structured interventions?

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

### *1.2.   Reviewer 2*

Reviewer:

The sentence "This, this study aims to explore…" contains a typographical repetition ("This, this") that should be corrected for clarity and professionalism.

The interview guide is described briefly. Including the complete list of questions or a sample of 5–6 questions in an appendix would enhance transparency and reproducibility.

The participant statement "When my partner helps me without me asking…" would be strengthened by analysis on gender roles, particularly since acts of service may be culturally gendered in Tehran.

The sentence "I thought I was showing love through gifts…" invites further analysis on whether partners discussed their preferences prior to misunderstanding. Consider elaborating on whether communication training might reduce this issue.

The example of using "messaging apps" is insightful. However, elaborate on which platforms were used (e.g., WhatsApp, Telegram) and whether digital communication quality varied across them.

The phrase "acts of service were more prominent among participants influenced by traditional values…" would benefit from a more detailed breakdown or quote. Please provide a specific instance or demographic variable linked to this finding.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

### 2.   Revised

Editor's decision after revisions: Accepted.
Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.