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**A study of the relationship of age to psychological type in
couples entering marriage**

Lockwood, William Arthur, Ed.D.

The College of William and Mary, 1988

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U·M·I

**300 N. Zeeb Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48106**

A STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF AGE
TO PSYCHOLOGICAL TYPE IN
COUPLES ENTERING MARRIAGE

A Dissertation
Presented to
The Faculty of the School of Education
The College of William and Mary

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Doctor of Education

by
William A. Lockwood
July, 1988

A STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF AGE
TO PSYCHOLOGICAL TYPE IN
COUPLES ENTERING MARRIAGE

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DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to Eunice, my wife, and Esther and Wayne, my children, whose love, patience, and support have made the difference between a dream and its fruition.

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Completing the requirements for the Doctor of Education has involved the direction, cooperation, and inspiration of certain key individuals. To them I wish to express my thanks.

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CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

Justification

In a society where more than 90% of all people are married at some time in their lives (Prince and Vandenberg, 1980) the study of mate selection with its motivating factors provides a fertile field for many disciplines. Sociologists are interested in the effect of coupling on social trends such as the distribution of wealth. Biologists and geneticists focus on the evolutionary changes that are produced by mating patterns. Psychologists look for patterns of attraction in an attempt to determine how two people arrive at the point of marital commitment.

Major theories of selection developed and supported by those interested in human mating include assortative mating (the coupling of individuals based on their similarity in one or more characteristics), complementary mating (coupling based on mutual needs), and problematic process (mating viewed as the result of progressive interactions between spouses) (Bolton, 1961).

The most common form of coupling according to Buss (1985) is that of assortative selection: a theory that has yet to be disproven through empirical studies of the human population. A wide variety of variables have been examined

including age, sex, socio-economic status, religion, ethnic origin, physical characteristics and personality traits. Correlations range from an average of .8 for age to .2 for personality variable (Buss, 1985). The difficulty of obtaining stronger correlations for personality factors may result from the problem of reducing personality constructs to single quantitative scores (Munstine, 1980).

Although there are multiple theories concerning mate selection in human beings, there is an absence of studies addressing the relationship of age to psychological type preferences in prospective spouses. This study proposes to look at couples entering marriage who fit into two distinct age groups (18-22 and 35-70) and to measure their type preference with the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator.

The MBTI is a forced-choice inventory that classifies individuals along four theoretically independent dimensions, each of which has two dichotomous preferences (Willis, 1985). The indicator is based on Jung's ideas about perception and judgment, and the attitudes in which these are used. The Extroversion-Introversion index is designed to reflect the direction of a person's attitude: extroverts (E) are oriented primarily toward the outer world and introverts (I) indicate a preference for the inner world. The functions of perception and judgment reflect a preference for a data gathering process and a decision

making process respectively. Perception can be accomplished through use of the senses (S) or by means of intuition (N), and decisions are made on the basis of either thinking (T) or feeling (F). The fourth index is designed to identify a person's method of dealing with the external environment and includes judgment (J) and perception (P). The preference on each index is independent of the other three so that the four indices yield sixteen possible combinations called "types." "The theory postulates specific dynamic relationships between the preferences . . . so that each type has its own pattern of dominant and auxiliary processes and the attitudes in which these are habitually used" (Myers and McCaulley, 1985, p. 2).

The intent of the MBTI is to reflect an habitual choice between rival alternatives similar to handedness. A person uses both hands but one is dominant. "Similarly, every person is assumed to use both poles of each of the four preferences, but to respond first or most often with the preferred functions or attitudes" (Myers and McCaulley, 1985, p. 3).

Research Question

What is the relationship between Myers-Briggs' personality types and age in couples entering marriage?

Theoretical Rational

Since the beginning of recorded history "reflective intellectuals" have developed many strategies for explaining the vast differences in human beings. These early attempts at bringing uniformity out of apparent chaos include the lasting work of a second century A.D. Greek physician, Claudius Galen. Drawing on the ideas of Hippocrates, 700 years his senior, Galen proposed that the body was composed of four elements: air, water, fire, and earth. From these four came four substances: blood, phlegm, yellow bile, and black bile. The corresponding distribution of these substances within a person determined the classification of an individual as sanguine, phlegmatic, choleric or melancholic. Galen has been credited with developing a classification of human behavior based on perceptible differences of emotionality (Jung, 1971).

Jung (1971, p. 511) states, "It is interesting to note that the first attempt at typology was concerned with the emotional behavior of men -- obviously because affectivity is the commonest and most striking feature of behavior in general." Jung's concern with the classification of persons by affective behavior came about as a result of the tendency of those he observed to disassociate themselves from the very actions that were used to classify them. For example a

patient would explain an emotional outburst with, "That wasn't me, I'm not like that. My emotions just overcame me."

For more than 20 years Jung labored to develop a system of classification that could be accepted both by himself and his patients. As a part of this process, Jung began to distinguish between what he termed "the driven, affective ego state" and the "authentic ego state." The authentic ego state was distinguished by its ability to perceive problems and to develop potential solutions. Another characteristic of the authentic state was that of consciousness, an awareness of motives with the potential for self-knowledge. The authentic ego state with its level of consciousness became the basis of his search for criteria by which he could begin to classify human behavior.

His theory of typology began with the observation of two basic attitudes which he called extroversion and introversion. These attitudes were related to the adaptation of the subject to the object.

A person is extroverted when he thinks, feels, acts, and lives in a way that is directly correlated with the objective conditions and their demands . . . His whole consciousness looks outward . . . his interest and attention are directed to objective happenings, particularly

those in his immediate environment.

The introvert orients himself by subjective factors . . . The tendency of the introvert is to defend himself against all demands from outside, to conserve his energy by withdrawing it from objects, and thereby consolidating his position.

[Jung, 1971, pp.332,333]

Although Jung was sure that he had discovered distinguishing characteristics in extroversion and introversion, it took him nearly 10 years of observation to discover and formulate a theory that was capable of differentiating within each classification. To his theory of attitude he added Functions: the gathering of information was called perception and the process of making decisions was called judgment. Each function was subdivided: perception involved either sensing or intuition, judgment consisted of either thinking or Feeling. He states:

I simply took the concepts expressed in current speech as designations for corresponding psychic functions, and used them as my criteria in judging the differences between persons of the same attitude. [Jung, 1971, p. 537]

Jung [1971, p. 549] continues:

Sensation establishes what is actually present,

thinking enables us to recognize its meaning, feeling tells us its value, and intuition points to possibilities as to whence it came and whether it is going in a given situation. In this way we can orient ourselves with respect to the immediate world . . . the four functions are somewhat like the four points of the compass. . . . One thing I must confess: I would not for anything dispense with this compass on my psychological voyages of discovery. . . . I value the type theory for the objective reason that it provides a system of comparison and orientation which makes possible something that has long been lacking, a critical psychology. [1971, p. 541]

According to Jung's theory each individual has, in addition to his introversion/extroversion orientation, a preference for either sensing or intuition and either thinking or feeling. These six preferences were combined to form Jung's eight psychological types: Extroversion, Sensing, Thinking; Introversion, Sensing, Thinking; Extroversion, Intuition, Thinking; Introversion, Intuition, Thinking; Extroversion, Sensing, Feeling; Introversion, Sensing, Feeling; Extroversion, Intuition, Feeling; and Introversion, Intuition, Feeling. There was no claim that

the types occurred in pure form but that each type formed a "family portrait" with common, typical features (Jung, 1971).

This dynamic structure of personality permitted the individual to adapt to different environmental situations through the use of auxiliary functions. In fact, Jung (1971) maintained that everyone uses all of the functions, but that one becomes dominant (or preferred) in a differentiated person.

The task of developing a workable instrument to give Jung's theory of type practical application was born in the mind of Isabel Briggs Myers. The factors contributing to her life-long quest included a deep appreciation of Jungian typology furnished by her mother and a compelling desire to do something that would assist people in understanding each other and thus avoid destructive conflicts.

For years she developed and tested item pools that would tap Jung's theory of psychological type. She studied statistics and psychometrics, compiled questionnaires, and waited several years for her first break. Her father introduced her to the dean of a medical school who permitted her to test his students. Undaunted by the lack of formal recognition by the professional world, Myers continued to press forward until in 1975 Consulting Psychologist Press agreed to publish her inventory and in the same year the

Center for Application of Psychological Type was organized (Myers, 1984).

Myers' contribution to Jung's theory of type included the development of scales depicting the six dichotomous tendencies with the addition of a fourth scale called Judgment-Perception. The new scale served two applications: the identification of a preference for closure and structure (judgment) or openness and spontaneity (perception); and the identification of the dominant and auxiliary functions. In his study of typology Jung briefly mentioned the idea of an auxiliary function, but most of his energy was directed toward researching the attitudes of Extroversion and Introversion.

Myers studied Jung's writings carefully and concluded that his failure to develop the theoretical basis of the auxiliary function had to be corrected. It is the uniqueness of the auxiliary function that provides balance in the E-I attitudes. If the dominant function is extroverted, the auxiliary will be introverted and vice versa. Myers states:

Good type development thus demands that the auxiliary supplement the dominant process in two respects. It must supply a useful degree of balance not only between perception and judgment but also between extroversion and introversion.

(Myers, 1984, p. 21)

Thus Jung's eight types became sixteen and his theory went from a primary tool for self-understanding to an instrument that could provide useful information to individuals, couples, and groups. "Type concepts are useful whenever one person must communicate with another or live with another or make decisions that affect another's life" (Myers, 1985, p. 25).

Definition of Terms

- Assortative mating - The coupling of individuals based on resemblance on one or more characteristics.
- Coupling - The combining of males and females in monogamous relationships.
- Heterogamy - A mating pattern that exhibits dissimilar characteristics in the couple.
- Homogamy - A mating pattern that exhibits similar characteristics in the couple.
- Psychological Type - The structuring of internal processes regarding perception and judgment according to individual preferences.

Directional Hypotheses

1. Couples in the 35-70 age category will share more of the MBTI preferences than the couples in the 18-22 age category.
2. Two-way Communication Scores for the 35-70 couples will be higher than those for the younger couples as interpreted by the Yeakley method.

Sample Description

The sample consists of couples (from two age categories: 18-22 and 35-70) seeking clergy assistance in their wedding plans. Data was secured on one hundred and seventy couples: 117 between the ages of 18 and 22 and 53 who were 35 to 70. The couples represent a broad geographical as well a religious spread. Nine different denominations are represented in the study: Baptist, Catholic, Christian, Episcopal, Friends, Independent Community, Lutheran, Methodist, and Nazarene, in addition to the Family Life Center of Fort Eustis, Virginia.

The initial thrust was to the Peninsula Clergy Association, which, in addition to maintaining a complete mailing list of area clergy, meets on a monthly basis with excellent representation of the major denominations. Several of this group were already familiar with the MBTI and others expressed interest in learning to use the

instrument but the results were less than satisfactory. After several appeals including personal letters, telephone calls and monthly reminders the decision was made to expand beyond the Peninsula.

Clergy who were members of the Association for Psychological Type and used the MBTI in premarital counseling were contacted and requested to assist in the securing of data. This resource provided information from a variety of geographical locations including California, Florida, Pennsylvania, Nevada, New York, Ohio, North Carolina, Texas and Virginia.

The most productive effort resulted from contact with the Catholic Family Services on the Peninsula, in Virginia Beach and in Houston, Texas. The agencies in the first two areas provided time in their premarital classes for the instrument to be presented, and feedback was provided on subsequent evenings. The couples from the Houston area were provided the MBTI as a normal part of their premarital classes.

Clergy willing to assist were asked to give the MBTI to couples preparing for marriage who fall into two age categories: 18-22 and 35-70. The completed forms were collected, scored, profiles made, and data recorded for research. The information was made available to participating couples through a small group process with

opportunities for individual assistance if desired. Specific feedback included a profile sheet with type descriptions on the reverse side for each individual and an expanded description of each person's specific type in a separate handout. The group process was primarily instructional/educational with additional information provided by means of handouts, overhead transparencies and examples. Opportunities were given for questions, but the focus of each session was on the interpretation and use of the results of the Indicator.

The two age categories were chosen to provide a clear distinction between chronological ages. While Jung (1971) did not develop a stage theory for his types, he did write about levels of differentiation. Individuals in their late teens and early twenties are chronologically at a point where they should be comfortable with their dominant function, while individuals in their mid-to late thirties are working with their tertiary and fourth functions. The theoretical combination of Jungian type and age with mate selection provided an opportunity to test the hypotheses that older couples will choose mates that are more similar to themselves.

Limitations of Study

1. This study was limited to couples seeking clergy assistance for wedding plans, which according to a survey of Peninsula Marriage Licenses for 1984 amounts to 62% of the total weddings. (It should be noted that this figure does not indicate that all couples married by clergy also received premarital counseling.) The couples willingly consented to take the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator as part of their premarital counseling experience.
2. While the study contains data from several states, the small size of the population places definite limitations on the ability to generalize to other populations.
3. Not all denominations were represented. An attempt was made to secure representation from the major Protestant, Catholic and Jewish groups, as well as the military chapels on the Peninsula. The Jewish groups that were contacted chose not to participate.
4. One of the most serious limitations was that of the quantity of couples 35-70 entering marriage. They represented less than 15% of the total population getting married in any one year. This group presented the greatest challenge as the numbers indicate.

Ethical Considerations

1. The first consideration was confidentiality of MBTI results. Couples were assured that only scores would be used in the study and that access to the information would be limited to persons trained in the use of the instrument.

2. Pastors and Priests were cautioned not to exert pressure on anyone to take the Indicator if they sensed resistance. Resistance was defined in terms of body language as well as verbal hesitancy.

3. This proposal was presented to the student's dissertation committee, and the Research With Human Subjects Committee of the College of William and Mary.

CHAPTER II: REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Summary of the Rational

The concepts of structure and order as they relate to human behavior have intrigued human beings from the beginning of recorded history. The search for meaning has included such diverse attempts of classification as the influence of the solar system to the evaluation of a person on the basis of his/her affective behavior.

In the early 1920's Carl Jung developed a system of identification he called type, based on the conscious motives of his patients. His type system consisted of two categories: attitudes and functions. The attitudes of extroversion and introversion were used to identify a patient's orientation to his environment; while the functions of sensing, intuition, thinking and feeling provided a system for investigating the environment and making decisions about it.

Isabel B. Myers utilized Jung's theoretical base and extended its usefulness by developing an indicator that could tap the type concepts. Her vision was to provide individuals with a flexible structure that would not only clarify their own actions, but also provide insight into the behavior of others.

Yeakley built on Myers' work by developing a

communication style indices that focuses attention on the preferred styles of communication between two people based on their MBTI profiles.

This study proposed to use the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator as a measure of similarity between "to-be-wed" couples from two age ranges: 18-22 and 35-70.

Summary of Research

Research covering the subject of human mate selection in the United States has concentrated on identifying variables that can be measured in terms of their capacity to determine assortativeness. In a review of the literature Vandenberg (1971) outlined the main factors in homogamy under two headings: census variables and psychological traits. The census variables included age, civil status, religion, residential propinquity, socioeconomic status, education, ethnic background, race, and physical factors (height, weight, hair color). The psychological traits were defined as intelligence, interests and hobbies, attitudes, values and personality. While correlations of census variables proved to be consistently significant, studies investigating the relationship of personality factors to mate selection provided only mildly positive scores, ranging from 0.00 to 0.34 with most scores in the teens.

One of the earliest studies sighted by Vandenberg was

that of Gray, (1949) a study based on Jung's theory of psychological type. For a study of mate selection, Gray developed a 75 item questionnaire to assess all six factors of personality: extroversion/introversion, sensing/intuition, thinking/feeling. The purpose of the study was to continue the investigation of assortativeness in marriage versus complementary mating (Gray and Wheelwright proposed the term complementary mating in 1944 in response to the observed tendency of couples to choose opposites in marriage). The questionnaire was administered to 271 couples. The range of assortativeness was from zero to three shared characteristics. Gray discovered that 15% were opposites, 32% shared only one, 36% shared two and 15% were identical in their type characteristics.

Gray reported that 61% of his couples were opposite in attitude, 59% were opposite in the aspect of judgment, 52% were opposite in perception. "In other words, the mutual allurement between partners depended most often on the pull between introversion and extroversion, next between thinking and feeling, and lastly between sensation and intuition" (Gray, 1949, p.195). An attempt was made to quantify the results by assigning numerical values to the questions answered in each of the three aspects of type according to the direction of the response. Gray concluded as a result of his study that couples have a strong tendency to select

their opposite and that the selection results from an unconscious need.

One of the major flaws in Gray's study is that he dropped the 40 couples that were alike on all three aspects of type. The statistics would have been different if all of the couples had been used in the report. Second, the use of the questionnaire with couples was a first attempt. There were no validity or reliability studies to support his claim that he was identifying the aspects of type as developed by Jung.

The major proponent of the theory of complementarity was Robert Winch (1959). His theory represented a facet of folk wisdom that supported the attraction of opposites in mate selection. The empirical basis of Winch's theory rests entirely on his own study and according to Murstein, (1980) has not been duplicated. The Winch study has been criticized on the basis of a limited population: 25 college undergraduate couples with the wife being the dominant personality. This atypical population along with the lack of duplicating studies prompted Murstein (1980) to call for additional studies on the theory of complementarity.

By limiting the study of mate selection to "scattered variables" Bolton (1961) suggested that those interested in human interaction have overlooked the process of relationship development. As support for his contention, he

contrasted the terminology of "mate selection" to "love relationship" or "intimate relationship." In an exploratory study of the developmental process of love relationships Bolton (1961) chose 20 recently married couples with similar backgrounds including age, education, socio-economic status, and religious preference. Through the use of questionnaires and individual interviews, data were collected on the relational process of each couple from initial acquaintance to marital commitment.

Although Bolton did not attempt to develop statistical results and even stated that his study was only exploratory, he did conclude that a new conceptual framework was imperative for the study of marriage.

For sociologists, the process approach to mate selection affords an opportunity to study mating as a relationship rather than as the behavior of two individuals. (Bolton, 1961, p. 240)

According to Bolton's theory, marriage is best explained by the interpersonal transactions that take place between two individuals. The relationship develops through episodes of contact, and each new experience sets the stage for the next contact. While Bolton's theory has merit, the process of obtaining the supporting data has difficulties. The first concern has to do with recall. Couples were asked to recall critical incidents or key points of their

relational process that had occurred months and even years prior. In an interview setting, it could become a process of interaction between the interviewer and the subject where one is providing what the other is asking. A second concern for Bolton's work is that he did not attempt to provide any statistical treatment to his findings.

Snyder (1964), in a study of attitudes and marital selection, began with 561 sophomores from 13 rural high schools. Her goal was to evaluate the attitudes of young people prior to developing strong heterosexual relationships and then by following those students, compare their attitudes after marriage. The question was whether or not homogamous attitudes of married couples were the result of mate selection or a merging of individual interests. Forty of Snyder's subjects eventually married. The information gathered on these couples when they were students was reviewed and analyzed. The partners in each relationship were similar (homogamous) to one another in only 55% of their attitudes relating to behavior. The results were low considering the literature which led Snyder to conclude that previous correlations based on studies of engaged or newly married couples were the result of personal interaction over a period of time.

A second part of this study attempted to test the

hypothesis of homogamy in terms of the field of eligible partners. Assortative mating suggests that the process of selection contains a discriminating quality that is unique and reciprocal between mates chosen and mates available. For example, a particular couple, according to the Assortative Theory of mate selection, should share qualities that are unique to them and discriminating between them and other potential mates. The results were low for selectivity, only about 32% of the attitudes were capable of supporting selective homogamy.

Snyder(1964) concluded that if attitude similarity exists between married couples it must be the result of "adjustive interaction" shared by the couple rather than the assortativeness of mating.

In a study of premarital relationships, Cate, Huston and Nesselroade (1985) attempted to identify the interpersonal and psychological processes that move couples into marriage. The study involved a structured interview of 50 recently married couples in which they individually identified the evolutionary process from first meeting to marriage. Next the couples were asked to fill out a questionnaire designed to measure four dimensions of relationships: love, conflict, ambivalence, and maintenance behaviors. Only conflict proved to significantly contribute to the process of commitment to marriage. The conclusion

of the authors was that conflict can cause either an increase of ambivalence thus slowing the process toward commitment or it can serve to accelerate the movement toward marriage by the couple quickly identifying problem areas and resolving them.

The bulk of the remaining studies present some variation of the theme of assortative mate selection. Eckland in 1968 wrote that the myriad of factors involved in the process of individuals choosing a mate make it seem impossible to shape even a near-perfect generalized theory of mate selection. His contention however is that the problem is worth investigating because at this point, assortative mating is one of "the important links between the physical and cultural components of man's evolution" (1968, p. 7). The prevailing definition of assortative mating was too simplistic for Eckland:

Mate Selection is not simply a matter of preference or choice. Despite the increased freedom and opportunities that young people have to select what they believe is the "ideal" mate, there are a host of factors, many well beyond the control of the individual, which severely limit the number of eligible persons from which to choose. (1968, p. 10)

It is this process of choosing, influenced by emotional experiences along with conscious and unconscious drives, which underlies most psychological theories of mate selection. Eckland (1968) briefly described several theories including The Unconscious Archetype, The Parent Image, Like Attracts Like, The Principle of Complementary Needs, Sociocultural Theories, Propinquity and Interaction, Exchange Theory, Values and Belief Patterns, Social Stratification and Class Endogamy, and Ethnic Solidarities. His conclusion was that while there is ample evidence of homogamous or assortative mating, there are "relatively few theories to explain it and no satisfactory way of classifying its many forms" (1968, p.20).

Assortative mating has been well documented for the variables of age, education, socio-economic status and intelligence, race and religion. Garrison, Anderson and Reed (1968) presented a study in which they calculated the IQ scores and educational attainment of 1,832 couples. The results included G values of 0.2278 for assortative marriage according to IQ values and 0.7002 for educational attainment. Watkins and Meredith (1980) in a later study of 215 "recently married" couples found that the chief variable by which spouse selection was made was the level of educational attainment.

An area that continues to yield only low positive

correlations, in the range of .02 (Buss, 1985), is that of personality variables. In three studies conducted with engaged or recently married couples, using the Edwards Personal Preference Schedule, only one in 15 needs was shown to be significant. The need for sexual intimacy was correlated with mate selection .79 (Munstein, 1961), .64 (Banta and Heatherington, 1963), and .63 (Centers, 1975). Munstein (1980) concluded that the difficulty of correlating personality factors with mate selection resulted in part from the problem of reducing personality concepts to quantitative scores. Anastasi states "that the construction and use of personality inventories are beset with special difficulties. . . . The behavior measured by personality tests is also more changeable over time than that measured by tests of ability" (1976, p. 524).

Buss (1984) in a study of 16 personality factors such as dominance, extroversion and quarrelsomeness, using three sources of data: self-evaluation, spouse rating, and independent interview, found the same low positive correlations previously reported. A side note of some interest to this study was that older couples tended to be less rather than more similar to each other. The suggestion is that couples do not converge into one similar personality, but maintain their individuality even over extended periods of time.

Buss (1985) discussing the concept of randomness in mate selection states: "Human mating systems have deviated from randomness in nearly every way imaginable. . . . One deviation from randomness that has never been reliably demonstrated, however, is the tendency of opposites to marry or mate" (p. 47).

In an ambitious study built on the conceptual framework of genotype-environment correlations, Buss (1984) hypothesized that assortative marriage provided a major avenue through which human beings created their personal environments.

The social environment is defined largely by significant others. . . . And because the spouse is perhaps one of the most important persons occupying that environment, selection of a partner based on one's personal characteristics becomes an important mechanism for establishing correspondence between person and environment. As such, the study of spouse selection can provide clues to the manner in which persons actively create their own environments. (Buss, 1984, p. 362)

Eight categories were selected from the Wiggins circumplex model of interpersonal domain: dominance, extroversion, agreeable, ingenuous, submissive, introverted,

quarrelsome, and calculating. To assess these interpersonal dispositions, 100 acts (behaviors) were nominated for each domain providing a total of 800 specific behaviors.

Ninety-three couples participated in the study by providing biographical data, completing a vocabulary test, a self-act report, and an observer-act report. Of the eight categories dominance, extroversion, ingenuous and quarrelsome were significantly correlated with specific interpersonal behavior, providing many similarities between spouses.

One result directly related to this present study is the theory that human beings tend to create interpersonal environments that match their own attributes. For example extroverted people choose extroverted spouses (Buss, 1984). If this proves true, it will be a contradiction to Jung's years of observation that even though they should not, extroverts tend to marry introverts.

An immediate reaction to the Buss study would be to question whether the Extroversion domain identified by 100 behavioral acts is tapping the same qualities as the EI scale on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. Buss did not address either Jung's theory of extroversion or the MBTI.

The major criticism of the Buss study is the method of obtaining the 800 behavioral acts indicative of the eight

domains. Each domain was nominated by a separate group of undergraduate students. The question is whether or not behavioral acts developed by Boston College students could be used to identify similarities in other populations. It is a problem Buss does not attempt to answer, although he does call for continued study of the influence of assortative mating on the development of genotype environments.

Studies reviewed by Buss (1985) continue to support assortative mating with respect to the variables of age, physical characteristics, socio-economic status, and intellectual and cognitive abilities. In identifying 13 characteristics commonly sought in a mate, Buss discovered that the top six were shared by both genders with slight differences in ranking. The desirable qualities included: kindness and understanding, intelligence, physical attractiveness, exciting personality, good health, and adaptability.

In his introduction to cross-assortment Buss states: Characteristics in a mate that are commonly desired are, unfortunately, not possessed by all potential spouses. In a relatively monogamous mating system, it follows that some individuals must settle for a mate who is less than ideal. (1985, p. 49)

The idea of a trade-off is what Buss termed cross-assortment. For example, someone who is dependable might marry someone who is intelligent, and thus increase the probability of a correlation of these two uncorrelated factors in future generations. Another significant example of cross-assortment is that of physical attractiveness and wealth. Studies have supported the theory that males choose attractive females who in turn chose wealthy males. These two factors possess proven positive correlations (Buss, 1984),

Cross-assortment is of primary importance to geneticists in their study of the relationship between genotype and environment. The theory is that type preferences become reinforced in children by parents who create an environment based on their preferences. The natural selection process continues to function creating even greater differences between families and societies. It is Buss's (1984) contention that wealth and poverty can be explained by the reinforcing relationship between genotype and environment.

From a separate field but with ideas that are tangent to those of Buss, Bagarozzi and Giddings (1983) have developed a model of mate selection based on principles of cognitive matching.

Individuals seek out, develop intimate

relationships with and eventually marry persons whom they perceive to: (a) possess specific personality traits, qualities and characteristics; (b) share similar values, beliefs, and ideas concerning husband/wife roles; and (c) subscribe to a similar set of rules and assumptions governing interpersonal power, distributive justice, and the exchange of value messages between intimates. Essentially, one marries a person whom he/she perceives to fit an internal cognitive model or schema of an "ideal spouse." (Anderson, Bagozzi and Giddings, 1986, p.357)

"Ideal" was defined as "an enduring image that becomes a standard against which prospective mates are judged and evaluated" (1986, p357). In an attempt to gain insight into the conscious and unconscious aspects the "ideal spouse" Anderson, et al. (1986) developed an instrument that could identify the various factors involved. A questionnaire containing 47 behaviorally worded statements about ones spouse was given to 170 college students who were asked to evaluate the items on a 7 point Likert-type scale. The purpose was to determine the importance of each statement in reference to characteristics of ones "ideal spouse."

From this initial step, seven factors containing 35 variables were identified as representative of the conscious

and unconscious aspects of a spouse. The factors were termed: "Emotional Gratification and Support, Sex Role Orientation and Physical Attraction, Spousal Satisfaction, Parent-Sibling Identification, Emotional Maturity, Intelligence, and Homogamy" (1967, p368). The authors contend that couples who experience great discrepancy between the ideal and real spouse attempt to coerce their mate to conform to the internal image. They hope that their Images Scale will stimulate additional studies with other populations.

A final study by Evans and Bazarth (1986) investigated the relationship of pairing personality priorities in marriage. The idea of personality priorities is an extension of Adlerian theory with an emphasis on the importance of life style. Five life styles consisting of pleasing, achieving, outdoing, suppressing, and avoiding were identified. A set of questionnaires was distributed to 256 couples in a housing division. The goal was to test the Adlerian theory that the choice of a mate is purposeful to the extent that:

The choice of spouse reflects a persons constant and consistent life style and the significant interaction between the couple represents the implicit agreement which reflects how the couple's life styles complement each other

in marriage. (Evans and Bezarth, 1986, p.61)

The hypothesis was that the personality priorities would contribute to marriage relationships in a complementary manner. For example, a pleasing priority would choose an outgoing or achieving priority. Analysis of the data from 214 couples resulted in rejecting the hypothesis. There were no significant pairings. The rationale was that personality variables and especially Adlerian constructs are difficult to measure quantitatively.

Summary

Research literature on the subject of mate selection reflects a broad interest. Geneticists, psychologists, and sociologists are all interested in the subject of spouse choice. The area of agreement between these different groups is that human beings do not randomly select a mate. There are conscious and unconscious forces at work shaping the choice, possibly even years before the choice is considered. The difficulty continues to be that of identifying a consistent formula for a multifaceted process. Most of the studies were based on the theoretical concept of assortative mate selection; that is, couples share at least one characteristic. While there is empirical support for assortative mate selection by demographic or census variables, there is only slight support for

personality factors in mating.

The most promising research was related to assortative mating and the development of a personal environment. The hypothesis is that individuals use the process of spouse selection to develop an environment which reinforces their personal traits or characteristics. The results are still tenuous, but the implications are important for all fields of human science. If the theory has any strength, it could begin to account for factors such as poverty, wealth, educational achievement, personality development, and physical characteristics. Buss (1985) used the term "cross-assortment" to define the process of trade-off in mate selection such as the coupling of wealth and physical attractiveness.

The importance of this present study to the subject of assortativeness in mate selection is the search for patterns of personality type related to age. Are there identifiable type differences reflected in the selection of marriage partners at different ages? This question does not appear in the literature, but the importance of proceeding with this research was reinforced by personal conversation with the Center for Application in Type Study. The response was, "Yes, it is important, and I don't know why it hasn't been looked at before."

CHAPTER III: METHODOLOGY

Population

The population came from couples seeking assistance from clergy for their wedding plans. A survey of the 3,266 recorded marriage licenses for 1984, from the cities of Newport News, and Hampton indicated that 67% of the weddings were performed by clergy. According to Stahmann and Hiebert (1984) ministers are the primary providers of premarital counseling, a process that has increased both in quality and quantity. A major contributing force has been the increased emphasis placed on counseling courses by the seminaries training the pastors. Vande Kemp in a discussion of marriage and divorce from the perspective of a seminary stated: "Inevitably we arrive at the conclusion that the best attack on this problem is improved premarital education and counseling. Recognizing this need, many churches are preparing more extensive premarital counseling programs. . . ." (1985, p.161). Vande Kemp has been instrumental in developing a training program for a large western seminary to better equip pastors for the task of assisting couples entering marriage.

The initial plan was for the members of the Peninsula Clergy Association to provide a resource pool of volunteers to assist in gathering data. All of those unfamiliar with

the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator were to be provided an opportunity to take the instrument and to receive training in its administration. Many of the clergy were familiar with the MBTI through seminar training offered by the Christopher Newport College Counseling Department, the Center for Family Life at Fort Eustis, and Alternatives Incorporated on the Peninsula. This plan was only partially successful. The most difficult part of the data gathering process was achieving the involvement of the clergy. Several reasons have developed including the multitude of responsibilities they carry, a dislike of paper work, lack of ownership in the project, and some even indicated that a psychological instrument such as the Myers Briggs Type Indicator had no place in the "spiritual" act of marriage.

When it became evident that the clergy from the Peninsula could not provide an adequate amount of data, the search began for alternate sources. One resource was the Catholic Family Services of the Peninsula and of Virginia Beach. These two agencies provided couples from their premarital classes to take the instrument: the opportunity was open to all couples not just those who fit the criteria of this study. A second resource was the Catholic Family Services of Houston, Texas. The agency there provides the MBTI as a regular part of its premarital counseling course. The director provided data from 400 couples for this study.

The third resource was the clergy membership of the Association for Psychological Type. The chairman of the Religious Issues Division provided a list of clergy who use the instrument. These persons were contacted first by telephone to determine their use of the instrument and secondly by correspondence to verify the need for assistance in gathering data. One contact lead to another but each one represented only a fraction of the information needed. One of the problems among the clergy who use the MBTI in premarital counseling is that they do not maintain files of the weddings they perform. Thus, if the MBTI was administered as part of the counseling, the information was thrown away after the ceremony. A concerted effort was made to reverse this process since an excellent resource for marital counseling was being ignored. However small the amount, the APT membership source provided data from seven states: California, Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Texas and Virginia. Protestant denominational representation increased to include Baptist, Christian, Episcopal, Friends, Lutheran, Methodist, Nazarene and an Independent Community Church.

With these resources, one would expect to be inundated with information, but it did not happen. The most difficult task was that of securing data on the age group of 35-70. This age range represents only a small portion of those

entering marriage each year. The problem was exacerbated by the fact that for most of them it is their second or third marriage, and many churches and pastors especially on the Peninsula refuse to perform wedding ceremonies for divorced people.

Sample

A sample, consisting of 170 couples was selected, on the basis of age, from the population. The younger group (ages 18-22) contained 117 couples 88% of whom were from the Catholic sources and 12% were from Protestant sources. In terms of education, 36% had attended high school, 33% completed high school, 64% entered college and 24% had completed four years. The older group (35-70) contained 53 couples, 28% of whom were Catholic, and 72% were Protestant. Of this group 42% had attended high school and 39% graduated. An additional 58% attended college of which 17% graduated, and another 27% went on for masters degrees and seven percent held earned doctorates. The major differences between the two groups other than their ages were the percentages of religious representation and the graduate degrees. The high percentage of Catholics in the younger group is attributed to the Houston population of 400 couples who had received the MBTI as part of their premarital counseling. Approximately 100 of those couples fit the age

criteria of this study while only four couples fit the older category. The lack of any graduate degrees in the younger population can be attributed to their ages.

Instrumentation

The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator is a forced choice, self-report measurement instrument designed to provide practical application of Carl Jung's (1971) theory of psychological types. Jung's concept of type provides a basis for investigating seemingly random behavior and placing it within a structure of meaning and value. The MBTI provides four measures of individual preference for eight dichotomous attitudes and functions.

The four preference scales are Extroversion-Introversion (EI), Sensing-Intuition (SN), Thinking-Feeling (TF), and Judgment-Perception (JP). The EI index is a measure of one's attitude toward the environment: Extroverts are oriented primarily toward the outer world, focusing their perception and judgment on people and objects. Introverts prefer the inner world with corresponding use of perception and judgment on concepts and ideas.

The SN index distinguishes between two ways of perceiving. Sensing is basically the use of the five senses

to observe facts and situations. Intuition is less concrete, relying more on the unconscious processes to search for meaning, relationships, and possibilities.

The TF index reflects preferred methods of decision making, with the thinking mode depending on logical, concrete facts. Feeling on the other hand takes into account social values and personal relationships in the process of making decisions.

The JP index has two uses: the first is to determine which of the above functions (S, N, T, or F) is preferred in the external world; and the second use is to distinguish a preference for structure or spontaneity.

The 16 possible type combinations along with an understanding of Jung's theory provide a framework for the seemingly random events in the environment.

There are two forms of the indicator: F and G. Form F has been in use for a longer period of time but Form G is improved with 40 less items and clearer instructions. The two instruments are essentially interchangeable when scored for type since they have Product-moment correlations ranging from .983 to 1.00 on the four scales. (Myers-McCaulley, 1985, p.146)

The manual for the MBTI (Myers and McCaulley, 1985) contains 10 pages of reliability studies. Quantity does not prove quality, but it does represent an effort on the part

of those entrusted with the future of the instrument to provide meaningful support for the indicator. All of the scales have reliability indices in the .49 to the .92 range, with the Thinking-Feeling Index providing the greatest variation due to the difficulty of developing a good scale for judgment items. Internal consistency scores derived from product-moment correlations of X and Y continuous scores (100 is the median with the left side of the index below and the right above) for 32,671 subjects on Form 5 provided the following results: EI .82, SN .84, TF .79 and JP .86.

A second measure of reliability is a combination of the phi coefficients and tetrachoric correlations. ". . . reliabilities of type categories can be estimated by comparing phi coefficients (which tend to be low) and tetrachoric correlations (which tend to be high). Actual correlations probably fall between these two estimates." (Myers and McCaulley, 1985) The range in one study of 800 subjects was .49 to .79 for phi and .66 to .92 for tetrachoric.

A third test of reliability reported in the manual was test-retest estimates reported for continuous scores, and test-retest as affected by mood. Product-moment correlations for continuous scores within a range of 4 to 7 weeks (Form G) provided scores from .56 to .91. A study of

the effect of mood swings on reliability was conducted and the results were positive in that mood had no effect on test-retest correlations. (Myers and McCaulley, 1985)

Carlson (1985) in reviewing recent assessments of the MBTI states that there are relatively few studies but that the available data supports satisfactory internal consistency on all four scales with the TF scale containing the lowest correlations. There is also evidence of stability across several months. Carlson sees a need for a wider range of subject populations with more reliability studies conducted over longer periods of time.

Willis (1985) reports that most of the reliability studies are based on secondary school and college populations. A second criticism had to do with the three forms and two statistical treatments of the inventory. The indication was that one could get confused. In all fairness, Willis did not have access to the 1985 manual which depicts research findings in charts.

The subject of validity is addressed in five different chapters in the 1985 manual. (Myers and McCaulley, 1985) According to McCaulley (1985) the main question is whether or not the MBTI does implement Jung's theory of psychological type. Does it have the ability to classify persons by type and are these classifications capable of predicting surface behavior. Chapter 11 addresses this

question by comparing the MBTI with 22 other personality measurements including the MMPI, the CPI, and the 16 PF. The results provide correlational ranges from $-.40$ to $-.77$ for the extroversion scale. Each of the scales is listed not only with correlational figures but also behavioral characteristics that have been correlated with that preference. The indication is not only that the MBTI is measuring the same concepts as other instruments but that it has the ability to discriminate and predict behavior. The other scores range from $.40$ to $.75$.

In the Carlson review (1985) the extroversion scale was significantly correlated with the extroversion scale of Eysenck's Personality Questionnaire in two studies. Carlson contrasted the positive results of the Carlyn study with the negative review by Carskadon in the area of criterion validity and concluded that Carskadon's study contained too many unpublished dissertations, "fraught with methodological problems." His own review contained only published studies and the outcomes were more positive.

Willie, on the subject of construct validity states: "Examination of data on individual MBTI scales demonstrates the behavior and attitudes which the MBTI appears to tap, suggesting a strong argument for construct validity." (1985, p. 488)

One study questioning the validity was reported by

Moore and Carskadon (1984) in which an attempt was made to test the ability of the EI scale to differentiate between the outer world of people and objects and the inner world of ideas. While the EI scale did distinguish between the inner and outer worlds it failed to distinguish between the relationship of extroverts and introverts in relation to external objects. No difference was found between the reaction of either group to external objects. The authors cautioned that their study was only preliminary and that it needed to be replicated with larger samples from both genders.

Chapter 9 of the manual (Myers and McCaulley, 1985) details the construction of the MBTI. Form G was standardized between 1975 and 1977 with 1,114 male and 1,111 female students grades four through twelve serving as the population. When scored for type, the 1977 Form F and Form G are essentially interchangeable.

Research Design

The purpose of this study was to explore the relationship between Myers-Briggs' personality type and age. According to Borg and Gall, "Correlation coefficients are best used to measure the degree of relationship between two variables and to explore possible causal factors that can later be tested in an experimental design." (1983, p. 575)

The design was descriptive utilizing correlational comparisons of age to psychological type.

Specific Null Hypothesis

1. There will be no relationship between the number of MBTI scales shared and age in couples entering marriage.
2. Two-way communication scores (Yeskey Method) for couples entering marriage will not be affected by age.

Statistical Analysis Techniques

The nature of the data required two statistical treatments. The first method was simply to compare the number of preferences in which a couple was either similar or dissimilar. This method provided for 5 possible relationships. The couple could share 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4 preferences. For example a person with ESTJ preferences could pair with an ESFJ, or an ENFP with an ISTJ. In the first example the couple would share in the same direction on three of the possible four indices, while the latter would share none. By comparing couples from the two age groups one could determine whether there was a difference in the number of shared preferences and the direction of the difference. That is, did one group show a preference for similarity as compared to the other group. Since the data from the MBTI was in the form of types the decision was made

to use the Chi-square as the statistical measure of correlation. A probability of $p < .05$ was used to compare the two groups.

The second approach to the MBTI data was to examine the degree of similarity in function regarding communication style preferences. Each of the 16 types has a hierarchy of patterns made up of the functions of sensing, intuition, thinking and feeling. This pattern can be assigned a numeric value of 1-4 ranging from dominant to fourth function (or least preferred function). The preferred style of communicating is determined by the JP scale and is always the process one prefers to use in dealing with the outside world (Yeakley, 1982). (See Appendix A)

Communication between two people requires adjustment, and effective communication requires that both people use the same process. If one person is sending from a feeling preference and the other is receiving in a thinking function, they will experience difficulty. One or both will need to switch to another pattern. The greater the difference in the sender's preferred style from that of the receiver, the more difficulty they will experience. This difficulty can be demonstrated in Yeakley's Communication Adjustment Indices (Yeakley, 1982, p. 39). Each of the 256 two-way communication dyads (Appendix B) has a score based on a similarity scale of shared MBTI function

preferences.

The numbers 1-17 are a ranking of all the possible scores of the 16x16 dyads with 17 representing the best possible communication pattern and 1 the worst pattern. This method increased the range of scores from 5 to 17, reduced the number of dyads having the same score, and thus increased the potential for a correlation between the two groups under consideration. It is important to note that Yeakley's (1982) method adjusts for the strength of shared preferences. For example, two people can share three scale preferences such as ESTP - ENTP and only score 2 on the indices. The preferred styles of communication for these two types are opposite.

The rank scores from the Yeakley method were placed in a 2x17 format and treated by the Mann-Whitney U-Test as a measure of statistical significance, $p < .05$. The Mann-Whitney U-Test was selected over the Chi-square in that it does not require normality of distribution or homogeneity of variance.

Summary

The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator was administered to over 600 couples, 170 of whom fit the criteria of the two age categories for this study: 18-22 and 35-70. Clergy representing the major denominations were asked to assist in

the data collecting process by administering the MBTI as a part of their premarital counseling. Additional assistance was received from church related agencies who provide premarital counseling.

Couples in the study were not placed under any pressure and those who elected to participate received feedback on their scores in the form of individual profiles along with appropriate supporting information, either in small groups or individually. Opportunities were provided for questions.

Clergy who assisted in the process were provided the necessary training to administer the indicator. The MBTI booklet and answer sheet both contain clear instructions concerning the method of response.

As the data was collected, it was added to two different files: one was a 2x5 matrix for categories of shared preferences, the other was a 2x17 matrix to accommodate the rankings from the Yeakley Two-Way Communication indices. The collected data was treated by two different statistical methods and the results compiled in accordance with procedures satisfactory for the completion of the dissertation requirements of the School of Education at the College of William and Mary.

CHAPTER IV: RESULTS

Introduction

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between age and psychological type in couples entering marriage. Based on Jung's concept of differentiation, 170 couples from two distinct age groups were selected from the population. Group "A" represents the 18-22 age category and contains 117 couples, while group "B" represents the 35-70 age group and contains 53 couples. Since data from the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator is reported in the form of four preferences, the data for each group was placed in one of two 16X16 grids (See Appendixes C and D). This method of recording provided easy access to the data for the two treatments. The first treatment had a possibility of five combinations of shared preferences ranging from zero to four. The second treatment was based on Yeakley's Communication Indices and had a range of one to seventeen.

Analysis of Data

The first hypothesis states that: "Couples in the 35-70 category will share more of the MBTI preferences than the couples in the 18-22 age category." Tables 4.1 and 4.2 represent the frequency distributions for Group A, the younger couples, and Group B, the older couples. As

Table 4.1

Frequency Distribution For Couples Age 18-22
On Number of Preferences Shared

N = 117

y	F	fy	rf	rcf
0	5	0	4.3	4.3
1	22	22	18.8	23.1
2	38	76	32.6	55.6
3	35	105	29.9	85.5
4	17	271	14.5	100.0
Total	117	271	100.0	

Mean = 2.32

y = Number of Shared Preferences

F = Number of couples in each class

fy = preferences X couples

rf = Relative Frequency

rcf = Relative Cumulative Frequency

Table 4.2

Frequency Distribution For Couples Age 35-70
On Number of Preferences Shared

N = 53

y	f	yf	rf	rcf
0	5	0	9.4	9.4
1	10	10	18.9	28.3
2	12	24	22.6	50.9
3	18	54	34.0	84.9
4	8	32	15.1	100.0
Total	53	120	100.0	

Mean = 2.26

y = Number of shared preferences

f = Number of couples in each class

fy = Preferences X Couples

rf = Relative Frequency

rcf = Relative Cumulative Frequency

examination of the tables reveals that 81% of Group A, and 76% of Group B share between one and three preferences, an indication of a trend toward normal distribution (2.5). This leaves only 19% and 24% of the groups to be distributed toward the extremes. The means of the groups were similar: 2.32 for A, and 2.25 for B.

Table 4.3 provides the cell data for the Chi-Square analysis of age and number of shared types. As can be observed, a Chi-Square equal to 3.05 with four degrees of freedom was achieved. A Chi-Square of 3.05 with $p = .549$ does not meet the pre-established criteria for significance of $p < .05$. Thus the hypothesis that older couples would share more preferences than the younger couples is rejected.

The second hypothesis states that: "Two-way Communication Scores for the 35-70 aged couples will be higher than those for the younger couples as interpreted by the Yeakley method." Tables 4.4 and 4.5 are a display of the frequency distributions of Group A and Group B respectively.

An examination of the tables indicates that both groups tend to polarize to the extremes of the scale. A comparison of the two groups does not reveal any striking differences. Both Group A and Group B are similarly distributed.

Table 4.3

Crosstabulation Table: Age of Couples
 By Number of Shared Preferences
 Chi-Square is also Provided

Age	Number of Shared Preferences					Row Total
	0	1	2	3	4	
18-22	5	22	38	35	17	117
	6.9	22.0	34.4	36.5	17.2	68.8%
	4.3%	18.8%	32.5%	29.9%	14.5%	
	50.0%	68.8%	76.0%	66.0%	68.0%	
35-70	5	10	12	18	8	53
	3.1	10.0	15.5	16.5	7.8	31.2%
	9.4%	18.9%	22.6%	34.0%	15.1%	
	50.0%	31.3%	24.0%	34.0%	32.0%	
Column	10	32	50	53	25	170
Total	5.9%	18.8%	29.4%	31.2%	14.7%	100%
Chi-Square	D.F.	Significance	Min E.F.	Cells with E.F. < 5		
3.05115	4	0.5493	3.118	1 of 10 (10%)		

Table 4.4

Frequency Distribution for Couples 18-22

y	f	yf	rf	N = 117 rcf
1	10	10	8.5	8.5
2	5	10	4.3	12.8
3	12	36	10.3	23.1
4	7	28	6.0	29.1
5	6	30	5.1	34.2
6	2	12	1.7	35.9
7	3	21	2.6	38.5
8	8	64	6.8	45.3
9	9	81	7.7	53.0
10	4	40	3.4	56.4
11	7	77	6.0	62.4
12	7	84	6.0	68.4
13	0	0	0	69.4
14	5	70	4.3	72.6
15	5	75	4.3	76.9
16	10	160	8.5	85.5
17	17	289	14.5	100.0
Total	117	1082	100.0	

Mean = 9.25

y = All Possible scores from Yeakley's Two-Way
Communication Indices

f = Number of couples in each class

Table 4.5

Frequency Distribution for Couples 35-70

N = 53

y	f	yf	rf	rcf
1	3	3	5.7	5.7
2	5	10	9.4	15.1
3	5	15	9.4	24.5
4	2	8	3.8	28.3
5	1	5	1.9	30.2
6	2	12	3.8	34.0
7	3	21	5.7	39.6
8	3	24	5.7	45.3
9	2	18	3.8	49.1
10	5	50	9.4	58.5
11	2	22	3.8	62.3
12	2	24	3.8	66.0
13	2	26	3.8	69.8
14	2	28	3.8	73.6
15	1	15	1.9	75.5
16	5	80	9.4	84.9
17	8	136	15.1	100.0
Total	53	497	100.0	

Mean = 9.36

y = All possible scores from Yeakley's Two-Way Communication Indices

f = Number of couples in each class

Because of the inability to guarantee normal distribution of the data, the Mann-Whitney U-Test was chosen as the appropriate statistical procedure to determine if there was a significant difference between the two groups. Table 4.6 indicates a mean rank of 85.31 for the younger couples and a mean rank of 85.92 for the older couples resulting in a Mann-Whitney U of 3078.5 when corrected for ties. The probability of a Mann-Whitney U of this magnitude is $p = .9408$. The differences found between Group A, younger couples, and Group B, older couples, can be expected to occur as a result of random error 94% of the time suggesting that age is not a significant factor in couples' communication scores.

Since no significant difference was found, the hypothesis that couples aged 35-70 would achieve higher scores on the Two-way Communication Indices is rejected.

An interesting observation resulted from a visual comparison of the two treatment methods. The straight forward comparison of shared preferences resulted in a somewhat normal distribution of types while the distribution of scores produced by the Yeakley Communication Scale tended to polarize toward the extremes. An average of 59.9% of the 170 couples placed in the second and third class when type preferences were the criteria, while 50.5% of the couples ranked in the first three and last three of Yeakley's 17

Table 4.6

---- Mann-Whitney U - Wilcoxon Rank Sum W Test ----

Yeakley Rank
by Age of Couples

85.31	117	age = 1	18 - 22
85.92	53	age = 2	35 - 70
Total	170		

Corrected for Ties

U	W	Z	2-Tailed P
3078.5	4553.5	-0.0743	0.9408

possible ranks for communication (See tables 4.1, 4.2, 4.4, and 4.5). While this observation is beyond the scope of the present study, one obvious question is whether or not the Yeakley method of weighting scores forces them toward the extremes.

CHAPTER V: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Summary

The search for order and meaning in human behavior has a long history: specifically, the search for clues as to who marries whom and why. The phenomenon of mate selection has particularly intrigued western civilization with its emphasis on equality of opportunity and insistence on the importance of romantic attraction. While multiple factors are in operation in societies where marriages are arranged, the folk wisdom of western society is that anyone can marry anyone else. This is the one area in which theorists and researchers agree: mate selection in the United States is not taking place randomly. Something is at work influencing individuals in their choosing and refusing of potential mates. The definition of this "something" has captivated biologists, geneticists, sociologists, and psychologists. Their research provides theories that range from the evolution of the species through the development of a personal environment, to an explanation of the distribution of wealth, to predictions of marital satisfaction and longevity of relationships (all through the process of selecting a mate).

The majority of the research comes from an area in which the attempt is made to discover factors that attract

and factors that inhibit attraction in potential spouses. The terms homogamy, and assortment are used to define the tendencies of selection based on similarity of one or more characteristics, while heterogamy defines the attraction of opposite characteristics. There is ample evidence to support assortment by census data such as age, physical attractiveness, propinquity, education, socio-economic status, intelligence, race, and religion. There is evidence of cross-assortment or trade-off where characteristics that are not similar become paired: physical attractiveness and wealth are examples. But the attraction of opposites on any characteristics other than gender has only limited support in the literature and none of the studies that supported heterogamy has been replicated.

The area that has consistently yielded low positive correlations for assortment is that of personality variables. Multiple studies have attempted to identify specific aspects of personality that serve as factors in the selection of a spouse. While most of the research has focused on personality factors with the idea that couples were either similar or dissimilar, the present study attempted to pair age and personality type. The unique format hypothesized that couples entering marriage at a younger age would be more heterogamous while couples entering marriage after the age of 35 would be more

homogamous. Jung's concepts of type and of type differentiation provided the theoretical basis. Individuals in their late teens and early twenties have only become differentiated in terms of their dominant function and thus the potential exists of selecting someone who would "fill in" their missing functions. Individuals in their mid to late thirties should be at the point of incorporating their third and fourth functions. Their knowledge and comfort with themselves provides them with the opportunity to choose a more similar, in terms of type, marriage partner.

Methodology One hundred and seventy couples comprising two distinct age groups were selected (on the basis of age) from a population of 600 couples who completed the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator as part of their premarital counseling.

Group A was made up of 117 couples between the ages of 18 and 22, while Group B consisted of 53 couples ages 35-70. The data were analyzed using two methods of statistical analysis. First, the profiles of each couple were tabulated to determine the actual number of preferences shared. The data were placed in a 2X5 matrix and submitted to the Chi-Square treatment to determine the level of significance.

The second treatment involved transforming the types of each couple into a communication index in accordance with

Yeakley's Two-Way Communication Indices. This method provided ranks from one to seventeen. The data were submitted to the Mann-Whitney U-Test as a determinant of statistical significance.

Conclusions

Results Hypothesis number one states that:

Couples in the 35-70 age category will share more of the MBTI preferences than couples in the 18-22 age category.

The statistical analysis yielded a Chi-square of 3.05 with $p. = .549$. This does not meet the criteria of $p. < .05$, thus the first hypothesis was rejected.

Hypothesis number two stated that:

Two-way communication scores for the 35-70 aged couples will be higher than those for the younger couples as interpreted by the Yeakley method.

The statistical analysis of the second treatment yielded mean rank of 85.31 for the younger couples and 85.92 for the older couples resulting in a Mann-Whitney U of 3078.5 when corrected for ties. The probability of a Mann-Whitney of this magnitude is $p. = .9408$. The differences between the the two groups can be attributed to random error 94% of the time, thus the second hypothesis was rejected.

The rejection of both hypotheses indicates that this study did not find a relationship between age and personality type in couples entering marriage. The younger couples had a mean shared preferences of 2.32 and the older couples, 2.26 indicative of a tendency toward a normal distribution (normal = 2.5). Had the mean of the younger group approached 1.0 or less and the older group 3.0 or more the study would have provided stronger support both for the the aspect of age and the theories of heterogamy and homogamy. The statistical results of this study are similar to those of Gray (1949) when consideration is given that his study was based on the six psychological types developed by Jung. He found that 15% were opposites, 32% shared one preference, 38% shared two, and 15% were identical. A review of table 4.3 indicates that 5.9% were opposite, 18.8% shared one preference, 29.4% shared two preferences, 31.2% shared three and 14.7% were identical. Gray developed statistical significance by dropping the 15% of his couples that were identical. Taken as a whole his study also approached a normal distribution (normal = 2.0).

While other studies relating personality factors to mate selection have found small positive correlations, none of them has approached significance. The present study joins the others in support of Eckland's (1968) statement that mate selection involves such a myriad of factors that

it is impossible to shape a near-perfect generalized theory.

Limitations There were three basic limitations of this study, the first being the difficulty of obtaining a large quantity of samples. Data for the older couples proved to be especially difficult to generate.

The second limitation was the geographical and denominational spread of the sample in relationship to its size. Data were received from nine states and ten different religious groups. While this provides for a broad spectrum, the small sample indicates a limited representation from each group.

The third and most important limitation has to do with the instrumentation. The relationship of personality to mate selection is too complex to limit to a single instrument or a few factors. The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator will continue to serve as a useful instrument in the premarital counseling process but it was not sufficiently sensitive to distinguish between personality types of couples entering marriage at different ages. There was no statistical support for a relationship between age and psychological type.

Implications for Further Study Since the Catholic Family Services of the Peninsula and Virginia Beach have started to address the question of second marriages by providing a

premarital class for couples entering remarriage, it might prove worthwhile to limit a study to this specific geographical and religious entity. An interesting approach would be to utilize the entire spectrum of age on a continuous scale for all of the couples attending premarital counseling classes.

A second interest of this study in addition to the stated hypotheses had to do with the patterns of preference. An examination of Appendices C and D provides evidence that even small samples tend to gather in specific locations on the matrices. A sample large enough to provide ample cell sizes might indicate statistically significant support for specific patterns of mate selection in regard to psychological type.

Appendices

APPENDIX A

Communication Style Preferences of the 16 Psychological Types

TYPE ^a	CHOICE ^{b,c}	TYPE	CHOICE ^{b,d}
	1 2 3 4		1 2 3 4
<u>I</u> STJ	T S F N	ESTJ	T S N F
IS <u>F</u> J	F S T N	ESFJ	F S N T
IS <u>T</u> P	S T N F	ESTP	S T F N
IS <u>F</u> P	S F N T	ESFP	S F T N
IN <u>F</u> J	F N T S	ENFJ	F N S T
IN <u>T</u> J	T N F S	ENTJ	T N S F
IN <u>F</u> P	N F S T	ENFP	N F T S
IN <u>T</u> P	N T S F	ENTP	N T F S

^aDominant function is underlined.
Auxiliary function is the one of the middle two letters that is not underlined.

^bChoice 1 = primary communication style
Choice 2 = secondary communication style
Choice 3 = tertiary communication style
Choice 4 = least preferred communication style

^cFor I's:
Primary communication style is the auxiliary.
Secondary communication style is the dominant.
Tertiary communication style is the opposite of the auxiliary.
Least preferred communication style is the opposite of the dominant.

^dFor E's:
Primary communication style is the dominant.
Secondary communication style is the auxiliary.
Tertiary communication style is the opposite of the auxiliary.
Least preferred communication style is the opposite of the dominant.

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APPENDIX B

Communication Adjustment Rank Scores
For One-Way and Two-Way Dyads

R O B E R I C S E P I E T V R Y E S P R D E N	PSYCHOLOGICAL TYPE OF SENDER OR PERSON A															
	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
	S	S	S	S	N	N	N	N	S	S	S	S	N	N	N	N
	T	T	F	F	T	T	F	F	T	T	F	F	T	T	F	F
	J	P	J	P	J	P	J	P	J	P	J	P	J	P	J	P
ESTJ	<i>24</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>2</i>
ESTP	<i>17</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>7</i>
ESFJ	<i>11</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>
ESFP	<i>3</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>16</i>
ENTJ	<i>2</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>10</i>
ENTP	<i>14</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>9</i>
ENFJ	<i>9</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>
ENFP	<i>22</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>5</i>
ISTJ	<i>15</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>6</i>
ISTP	<i>11</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>20</i>
ISFJ	<i>9</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>14</i>
ISFP	<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>18</i>
INTJ	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>12</i>
INTP	<i>8</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>23</i>
INFJ	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>16</i>
INFP	<i>23</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1</i>
ISTJ	<i>16</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>
ISTP	<i>18</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>
ISFJ	<i>12</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>
ISFP	<i>4</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>15</i>
INTJ	<i>4</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>7</i>
INTP	<i>13</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>10</i>
INFJ	<i>6</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>
INFP	<i>21</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>6</i>
ISTJ	<i>14</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>7</i>
ISTP	<i>12</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>19</i>
ISFJ	<i>10</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>13</i>
ISFP	<i>2</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>17</i>
INTJ	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>11</i>
INTP	<i>7</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>24</i>
INFJ	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>17</i>

Note: Rank scores for one-way dyads appear in italics.
Rank scores for two-way dyads are in regular print.
In two-way dyads both A and B send and receive.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL TYPE PREFERENCE

N=117 Couples
Age Range 18-22

WIVES

HUSBANDS

APPENDIX C

	ISTJ	ISFJ	INFJ	INTJ	ISTP	ESFP	INFP	INTP	ESTP	ESFP	ENFP	ENTP	ESTJ	ESFJ	ENFJ	ENTJ
ISTJ	III	IXI II														
ISFJ	I	III								III				III		
INFJ																
INTJ				I				I								
ISTP		I			I											
ISEP						I			I							I
INFP		I														
INTP								I								
ESTP									I	II	II		I			II
ESFP									I	I			II		I	
ENFP															I	III
ENTP		I				II										
ESTJ	III	III			I				I	I		II	II	II		
ESFJ	II	II											I	III		
ENFJ	I	I												I		I
ENTJ		I								I						

PSYCHOLOGICAL TYPE PREFERENCE

N=53 Couples
Age Range 35-70

WIVES

HUSBANDS

APPENDIX D

	ISTJ	ISFJ	INFJ	INTJ	ISTP	ISFP	INFP	INTP	ESTP	ESFP	ENFP	ENTP	ESTJ	ESFJ	ENFJ	ENTJ
ISTJ		II		I						II	I				I	
ISFJ		II														
INFJ		I				II	I									
INTJ			I	I												I
ISTP																
ISFP																
INFP	I	I	I													
INTP		I													I	
ESTP				I												
ESFP																
ENFP	I	I					I				II					
ENTP								I								
ESTJ						I							I	INT		
ESFJ		I	I											I		
ENFJ		I	I											I		
ENTJ											I					

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ABSTRACT

A STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF AGE TO PSYCHOLOGICAL TYPE IN COUPLES ENTERING MARRIAGE

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The College of William and Mary in Virginia, August, 1988.

Chairman: Professor Fred L. Adair, Ph.D.

This study was designed to examine the relationship of age to psychological type (as defined by the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator) in couples entering marriage. The search for correlations between factors of mate selection has produced positive results in the area of census data, but the area of personality variables has yielded only slight positive results.

One hundred and seventy couples were chosen from a population of six hundred on the basis of age. The two categories consisted of 117 couples 18-22 years of age, and 53 couples 35-70 years of age. The results of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator were subjected to two different treatments. The first method was to compare the number of shared preferences in each of the two age groups, while the second treatment converted the function preferences to communication indices.

The first hypothesis that the older couples would share more preferences than the younger couples was not supported. The second hypothesis that the older couples would achieve significantly higher communication scores was not supported either. This study did not find a significant correlation between age and psychological type in couples entering marriage.