

ATTACHMENT STYLES AND CONFLICT BEHAVIORS

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The purpose of the present study is to investigate the relationships of attachment styles and conflict behaviors among university students.

Three hundred and twelve university students from various departments and grades of Middle East Technical University in Ankara participated in the study. Turkish version of Experiences in Close Relationships-Revised (ECR-R, Selçuk, Günaydın, Sümer and Uysal, 2005), and Conflict Behaviors Questionnaire (Tezer, 1986) was applied to students to collect data.

The results of cluster analysis employed on the scores of ECR-R yielded four clusters corresponding to four attachment styles (fearful, dismissing, preoccupied, and secure).

A two-way ANOVA (2 gender X 4 Attachment Style) was applied to each of the five conflict behaviors. Results yielded a significant main effect for gender in accommodating behavior and a significant main effect for attachment styles in compromising behavior. In accommodating behavior, independent samples t-test was used to find out any significant difference between males and females and the results showed that the males were more inclined to use accommodating behavior than females. No significant difference was found in any of the other conflict behaviors as a function of attachment styles between males and females.

Key words: Attachment, attachment styles, conflict, conflict behaviors.