

Research on Role Sets and Emotional Relationships in Military Personnel Marriage

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An urgent demand of society to conduct effective work with the family substantiates the relevance of the research. The article provides the investigation of role sets and emotional relationships in marriage through the study of military personnel and non-military personnel families. Practical implementation of psychological ideas represents one of family psychology topical issues, deepens, expands, and specifies modern representations of family psychology. The importance of this research is determined by the necessity to consider the specificity of family roles distribution and features of emotional relationships in military personnel families.

Keywords: military personnel, role sets, family, emotional relationships

INTRODUCTION

Relevance of the subject

Marriage and family is a kind of group or collective life, hence, all regularities of psychology of small groups can be applied, to this or that degree, to the analysis of matrimonial relationships. A family, according to Harchev & Matskovsky (1978) is a historically-specific system of relationships between spouses, parents and children; it is a small group, members of which are connected by kindred relationships, common life and mutual moral responsibility; social necessity of the family is caused by the demand of society for physical and spiritual reproduction of population and manpower resources.

Marital partners, as a rule, act on the basis of unwritten rules, which are not accurate. Husband or wife's behavior is arranged to meet requirements imposed by a marital partner (Zakirova, Masalimova & Nikoghosyan, 2016). Adequacy of spouses' role behavior depends on the compliance with role expectations (husband and wife's set concerning partners' active performance of family duties), spouses' role claims (personal readiness of each partner to perform family roles). Role positions depend on the model of a marital union spouses want to create with personal sets and ideas about roles that each of them supposes to have in marriage (Andreyeva, 2004).

Military personnel families experience specific difficulties nowadays. Uncertain

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life perspectives and stressful background repeatedly strengthen high tension of military family life; high office loadings, rigid rhythm, and continuous movements are reasons for this. Increasing irritability, mutual claims, and alienation increase in spouses' relationships. Presently, experts are highly interested in rendering psychological assistance to families in crisis (Malkina-Pykh, 2008). Data accumulated by Russian and foreign researchers about factors that influence spouses' emotional relationships is rather great. It should be noted that these factors are considered in close connection with such family activity characteristics as children upbringing (Parfilova, 2015; Biktagirova & Valeeva, 2015; Kutlu & Pamuk, 2016; Biktagirova, 2013), and the specificity of relationships in families with various vocational and social affiliation of spouses. A lot of papers are devoted to spouses' sets similarity in the sphere of family roles (Obozov & Obozova, 1982; Demir & Kutlu, 2016; Biktagirova & Valeeva, 2015; Ilbay & Akin, 2014).

Thus, the research of role sets and emotional relationships interconnection in military personnel families corresponds to issues of modern psychology. The objective of the paper and analysis of obtained data have specified role sets: level of understanding, emotional attraction, authoritativeness, love and sympathy, family anxiety in families.

Problem statement

The paper aimed to reveal role sets and emotional relationships in marriage. The following was proposed as a hypothesis: a) role sets are interconnected with emotional relationships in marriage; b) there are distinctions in peculiarities of role sets and emotional relationships in military personnel and non-military personnel families. In compliance with this, the research object - role sets in marriage, and the research subject - interconnection of role sets and emotional relationships in marriage were formulated.

The following diagnostic techniques were used to conduct the research: Volkova's technique "Role expectations and claims in marriage" (Volkova & Trapeznikova, 1985); technique "Measurement of sets in a married couple" (Alyoshina, Gozman & Dubovskaya, 1987); questionnaire UEA (Understanding, emotional attraction, authoritativeness) by A.N. Volkova (Volkova & Trapeznikova, 1985); "Rubin's Scales of Liking and Loving" by Zick Rubin (1970) Russian version by Gozman and Alyoshina (Alyoshina, Gozman & Dubovskaya, 1987), the questionnaire "Analysis of family anxiety" (AFA) by E. G. Eidemiller & V. Yustitskis (Eidemiller & Yustitskis, 1999).

METHODS

100 participants made the sample of the research; it included 25 married couples of non-military personnel and 25 married couples of military personnel of Kazan Military College; 4-5-year students and teachers; period of marriage life is from 1 to 10 years. The technique "Role expectations and claims in marriage" (REC) was applied to study ideas of married couples about role expectations and claims. The technique is directed to study spouses' representations of sexual relations importance in family life, husband and wife's personal community, parental responsibilities, vocational interests of each of spouses, household, moral and emotional support, and physical appearance of the partner. The technique specifies spouses' ideas of desirable role allocation between a husband and wife to implement family functions.

The technique includes 7 scales: intimate-sexual scale; scale of personal identification with the spouse; household scale; parental-education scale; scale of social activity; emotional-psychotherapeutic scale; scale of physical appeal

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The research results of role expectations and claims distribution of non-military personnel and military personnel wives partially coincide. It was ascertained that non-military personnel wives' expectations are mainly located in emotional and psychotherapeutic sphere (7.76); it indicates attitudes to the importance of emotional and psychotherapeutic function of marriage, measures the extent of wife's orientation concerning the role that the marital partner will adopt as an emotional leader in the family. Besides, expectation of parental and education sphere (7.12) prevails; the wife considers "parenthood" as the main family life value. As for indicators of intimate and sexual sphere, they are poorly expressed (5.16); it testifies that non-military personnel wives underestimate sexual relations in marriage.

It was revealed that expectation in emotional-psychotherapeutic sphere prevails in military personnel wives (7.68); personal identification with the spouse is brightly expressed (7.68); hence the expectation of common interests, requirements, value orientations, and ways of previous time with the husband. However, intimate and sexual sphere is poorly expressed in the same way as for non-military personnel wives (4.36).

The research results of male non-military personnel identified similar indicators of social activity claims (7.8) and expectation of emotional-psychotherapeutic sphere (7.8). This testifies to the expressiveness of husband's own professional demands and extent of orientation concerning the role of an emotional leader that the marital partner will adopt in the family in questions of psychological climate correction, moral and emotional support rendering; intimate and sexual sphere (5.4) is poorly expressed; sexual relations are underestimated. Expectation of emotional and psychotherapeutic sphere (8.24), and expectation of physical appeal (8.12) prevail in male military personnel; it proves that male spouse's desire is to have a physically attractive partner who would conform to standards of modern fashion; intimate and sexual sphere is poorly expressed (4.64). Sexual harmony is not the most important condition of matrimonial happiness both for men and women.

The study of sets distribution in military personnel and non military personnel families has been conducted in compliance with the "Measurement of sets in a married couple" technique (Alyoshina, Gozman, Dubovskya). The technique studies spouses' views on significant spheres; all answers are grouped in 10 setting scales: scale of attitude towards people (positive attitude towards people); scale of alternative between duty and pleasure; scale of attitude towards children (value of children in human life); scale of orientation to mainly joint or separate activity, autonomy of spouses or dependence of spouses on each other; scale of attitude to divorce; scale of attitude towards romantic love; scale to assess the value of sexual sphere in family life; scale of attitude to taboo spheres of sex (ideas concerning sexual taboos); scale of attitude to patriarchal or egalitarian arrangement of the family (orientation towards traditional representations); attitude to money (easiness of spending – thrift);

The obtained results show that non-military personnel wives have a predominant set on joint or separate activity (2.81); indicator of attitude towards children (2.74) is strongly marked; it testifies to a high value of children in life, and poorly expressed attitude to taboos about sex (2.16).

It was found out that military personnel wives have a predominant set towards romantic love (3.05); it is important to be loved, to receive pleasant surprises, beautiful and touching confession of feelings. Besides, orientation towards joint or separate activity prevails (2.99); attitude towards people (2.01) and to money is poorly developed (2.07). It testifies that military personnel wives show mistrust and negative attitude to other people, and they cannot control money as well.

Male non-military personnel have a predominant set towards romantic love (3,04) which is shown in desire to feel the spouse's love, to visit romantic dinners and dates. Besides, the set towards children (2.88) is strongly expressed that testifies to an important role of children in family life. However, attitude towards people is, in general, of negative character (2.08). Male military personnel have a brightly expressed set to romantic love (3.14) and attitude to children (3.01). The attitude to money is poorly developed (2.24). The research results revealed the similarity of indicators for non-military and military male personnel.

The questionnaire "Understanding, emotional attraction, authoritativeness" (UEA) promoted the study of the degree of understanding, emotional appeal and respect of partners in marriage. It was specified that non-military personnel wives have a more expressed understanding of feelings, intentions, behavior of the partner; wives easily establish contacts with their husbands (21.84). At the same time, husbands (their outlook, interests, and opinions) are of no authority for wives (14.2).

It was ascertained that military personnel wives have a more expressed emotional attraction (22.96): a high appeal of the partner is estimated, the desire to communicate increases. Authoritativeness (15.7) is poorly expressed. According to the results, it is obvious that indicators of military personnel wives are higher than non-military personnel wives.

Emotional attraction dominates in male non-military personnel (21,02): high appeal of the partner, desire to communicate, to deal with the partner. Authoritativeness (14.64) is poorly expressed; the partner is considered as a personality to a less extent; partner's outlook, interests, and opinions are not regarded as a standard. As for male military personnel, it was found out that emotional attraction prevails (22.72), and authoritativeness is poorly expressed (14.80). Thus, indicators of male non-military and military personnel are the same.

The significance of love or liking indicator in married couples was studied according to the technique "Rubin' Scales of liking and Loving" (Rubin, 1970) in Gozman and Alyoshina's version (Alyoshina, Gozman & Dubovskaya, 1987). Three components of love were considered important for the measurement: affection, care and degree of intimacy of relations. The scale of sympathy registers: degree of respect, degree of admiration, and degree of the perceived similarity of an assessed object by the respondent.

As a result, it was specified that love (22.48) not sympathy (21.44) is predominant for non-military personnel wives; military personnel wives demonstrate the same results: love (25.12) is more expressed than sympathy (23.16). It means that affection, care and degree of intimacy of relations are higher than the degree of respect and admiration. It was shown that indicators of military personnel wives are higher than those of non-military personnel wives.

When indicators of love and sympathy were distributed according to average values, it was ascertained that non-military male personnel have a more expressed feeling of love (23.52), than sympathy (20.60). Also male military personnel have more expressed feeling of love (25.48), than sympathy (23.48). It testifies that affection, care and degree of intimacy of relations are higher than the degree of respect and admiration. It was revealed that indicators of military male personnel are higher than those of non-military male personnel.

The study of married couples representations about family anxiety, general background of individual's experience connected with the position in the family, with the way the family takes them, was conducted by application of the technique "Analysis of family anxiety" (AFA) elaborated by Eydemiller & Yustitskis (Eydemiller & Yustitskis, 1999). "Family anxiety" is understood as the state of anxiety of one or several family members; sometimes these states are quite badly understood and difficult for localization. A peculiar feature of this type of anxiety is the availability of doubts, fears, and scares concerning the family, first of all: health of family members, their absences and late coming back, encounters and conflicts. This anxiety does not

usually spread on extra family spheres: like production activity, relatives and neighbors' relationships, etc. As a rule, poorly realized uncertainty of the individual in some very important aspects of family life makes the basis of "family anxiety". It may be uncertainty of another spouse's feelings, lack of self-trust. Quite often, similar experiences that contradict ideas about oneself are forced out; that can be realized in family relations in the form of anxiety.

Important components of "family anxiety" are sense of helplessness, inability to interfere with the course of events in the family and to guide them in a favorable direction. The individual experiencing family caused anxiety does not feel as a significant member of the family, no matter what position is taken and what role is played, in fact. The results are expressed in three scales: guilt (family guilt of the family member): individual's inadequate sense of responsibility for all negative events that occur in the family; anxiety (family anxiety of the family member): feeling that a situation in the family does not depend on the participant's own efforts; tension (family tension): sense that family duties performance represents an excessive task for the individual.

Representations of family anxiety, characteristic for non-military personnel wives and military personnel wives, are roughly the same. It was found out that family tension is predominant in non-military personnel wives (1.84): the performance of family duties represents an excessive task, guilt is poorly expressed (0.76), inadequate sense of responsibility for all negative events in the family is present. Military personnel wives have an expressed family tension (1.56) and poorly expressed guilt (0.68). It was revealed that indicators of non-military personnel wives are higher than those of military personnel wives.

The distribution of family anxiety indicators in male non-military and military personnel are approximately the same. Family tension is predominant in male non-military personnel (1.92); the performance of family duties represents an excessive task, guilt is poorly expressed (0.68), inadequate sense of responsibility for all negative events in the family is present. Male military personnel have an expressed family tension (0.88); guilt is poorly expressed (0.50). According to the obtained data, male non-military personnel have slightly higher results than male military personnel.

The conducted correlation analysis stated that indicators of role sets determine indicators of emotional attitudes. Fig. 1 presents the correlation Pleiades of role sets and emotional relationships indicators interconnection of non-military personnel wives.

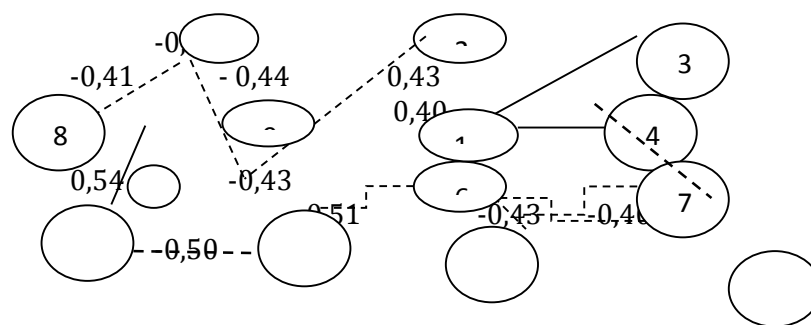


Figure 1. The correlation Pleiades of role sets and emotional relationships indicators interconnection of non-military personnel wives

Note: the following figures specify emotional relationships in marriage: 1 - understanding; 2 - emotional affection; 3 - authoritativeness; 4 - love; 5 - guilt; 6 - anxiety; 7 - tension; the scales reflecting role expectations (RE) and role claims (RC): 8 - attitude towards people; 9 - attitude to "taboo sex"; 10 - orientation towards joint or separate activity; 11 - attitude towards romantic love; 12 - social activity (SA); 13 - physical appeal (PA); 14 - social activity (SA).

The full line designates direct correlation connections, broken line marks opposite connections at the significance value $p < 0.001$.

The analysis of correlations showed that the less non-military personnel wives understand the spouse, i.e. have difficulty in interpretation of spouse's behavior, thoughts, feelings, intentions, the more expressed the attitude to taboo sex issues is demonstrated. The less understanding of a spouse reveals the more positive attitude to people in general. In case of partner's poor appeal, unwillingness to communicate with the spouse is observed; the more expressed is taboo of sexual subject.

Besides, it is observed that at a low level of family anxiety and family tension, non-military personnel wives have more expressed own professional requirements and interests; the desire to have physically attractive partner increases. The less family tension is, the more valuable professional interests of the marital partner are. Also, correlation analysis showed that in case of spouses' autonomy or their dependence on each other, the respect, acceptance of the partner as a personality increases; affection, care and degree of intimacy of the relations are higher. The stronger the family guilt is, i.e. inadequate sense of responsibility for all negative events that occur in the family, the more significant romantic feelings are.

Fig. 2. presents the correlation Pleiades of role sets and emotional relationships indicators interconnection of male non-military personnel. The analysis of correlations showed that in case when partner's appeal is less expressed and desire to communicate with a partner is low in male non-military personnel, the higher the subject of taboo about sex. Little communication with the partner results in personality identification, which increases; that is, expectation of community, interests, requirements, and value orientations is enhanced. The lower the feeling of affection and care, the stronger the sexual harmony. More attention is given to children at a low degree of family anxiety. But at the same time, less respect for the partner results in higher duties to rear children. The less the family guilt is expressed, the more positive attitude towards people in general is.

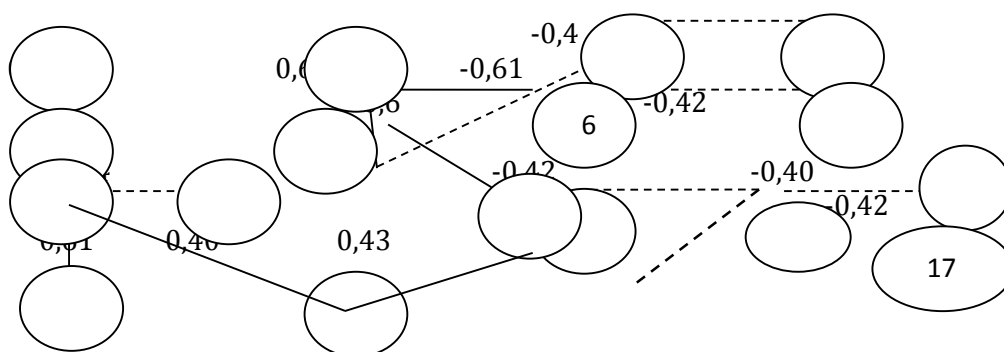


Figure 2. The correlation Pleiades of role sets and emotional relationships indicators interconnection of male non-military personnel

Note: the following figures specify emotional relationships in marriage: 1 - understanding; 2 - emotional attraction; 3 - authoritativeness; 4 - love; 5 - guilt; 6 - anxiety; 7 - tension; 8 - sympathy; scales reflecting role expectations (RE) and role claims (RC): 9 - attitude towards people; 10 - attitude to "taboo sex"; 11 - attitude to patriarchal or egalitarian family arrangement; 12 - attitude towards children; 13 - personal identification with the spouse; 14 - social activity (SA); 15 - emotional-psychotherapeutic function of marriage (EP); 16 - intimate-sexual scale; 17 - parental and education scale (RA).

The full line designates direct correlation links, broken line designates opposite connections at the significance value $p < 0.001$.

The less respect for the marital partner causes more attention towards people. Besides, understanding of the spouse promotes aspiration to be a family

"psychotherapist", the degree of intimacy of relations and affection increases. The higher affection and care, the higher own professional requirements are. When love is significant, the orientation towards traditional ideas of family arrangement is expressed; that is, men dominate, and women subordinate; when the degree of respect and admiration increases, then attitude towards people is better. When family guilt increases, taboo of a sexual subject increases too; it is interconnected with family tension.

Fig. 3. presents the correlation Pleiades of role sets and emotional relationships indicators interconnection of military personnel wives. The results of correlation analysis specify that in case when military personnel wives understand spouses' behavior, thoughts and feelings, they have more traditional ideas of family arrangement. Autonomy of spouses increases if the partner is highly respected, and at low respect for the partner the attitude to people, in general, becomes positive.

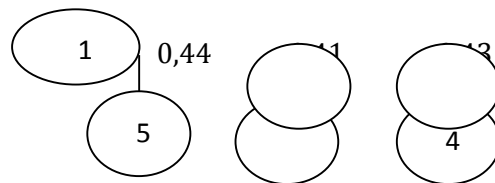


Figure 3. The correlation Pleiades of role sets and emotional relationships indicators interconnection of military personnel wives

Note: the following figures designate the following peculiarities of the emotional relationships in marriage: 1 - understanding; 2 - authoritativeness; 3 - sympathy; scales reflecting role expectations (RE) and role claims (RC): 4 - attitude towards people; 5 - relation to patriarchal or egalitarian family structure; 6 - attitude to autonomy or dependence of spouses.

The full line designates direct correlation links, broken line designates opposite connections at the significance value $p < 0.001$.

Fig. 4. presents the correlation Pleiades of role sets and emotional relationships indicators interconnection of male military personnel. The results of correlation analysis specify that the less male military personnel understand the spouse, the more valuable is earning money for them, higher intention to dress fashionably and beautifully. The less degree of respect and admiration is, the more significant are the duties to rear children. The lower the sympathy, the higher the intention to be a family "psychotherapist". In case of low family anxiety, male military personnel express the attitude to have romantic love.

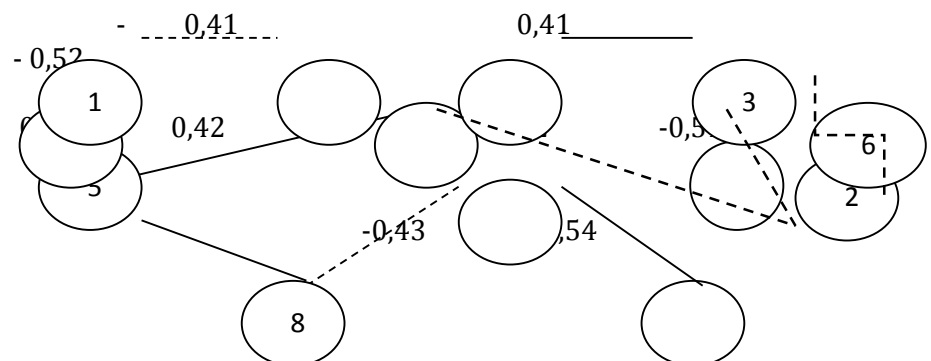


Figure 4. The correlation Pleiades of role sets and emotional relationships indicators interconnection of male military personnel

Note: the following figures designate the following peculiarities of the emotional relationships in marriage: 1 - understanding; 2 - sympathy; 3 - authoritativeness; 4 - anxiety; 5 - tension; scales reflecting role expectations (RE) and role claims (RC): 6 - attitude towards children; 7 - attitude to money; 8 - attitude towards romantic love; 9 – physical appeal (PA); 10 - emotional and psychotherapeutic function of marriage (EP); 11 - emotional and psychotherapeutic function of marriage (EP); 12 - economic and household function of marriage (RH); 13 - parental and education scale (PE).

The full line designates direct correlation links, broken line designates opposite connections at the significance value $p < 0.001$.

Besides, it is observed, that when money and thrift are more significant, the family tension is higher; performance of family duties represents an excessive task; love becomes more expressed at the same time. When family tension is higher, own duties to rear children are higher. When family anxiety is higher, i.e. the situation in the family does not depend on own efforts, then the degree of expectation of partner's active solution of household issues is higher. The more the partner is respected, the more significant is the role of the emotional leader in the family.

CONCLUSIONS

1. It has been revealed that the semantic system of family relationships represents a difficult structure including components of role sets and emotional relationships. Such complex consideration of family representations of young families gives structured and complete vision of matrimonial relationships model formed in the family in the course of men and women family self-determination.

2. The unification of emotional relationships assessment in families of military personnel and non-military personnel has been found out. Most families tend to traditional authoritative type of family with appropriate emotional contact. Prevailing indicators of emotional attitudes are love, emotional affection and tension.

3. It has been singled out that in non-military personnel families spouses show coordination at the intra family level positions concerning main significant spheres of family life; namely: orientation to separate or joint activity, attitude towards children, attitude towards romantic love, significance of sexual sphere.. In military personnel families, the attitude towards children and attitude towards romantic love are coordinated as significant spheres of family life for both spouses. Both spouses in military personnel families highly appreciate romantic love. In families of non-military personnel, wives are focused on joint or separate activity, and husbands highly appreciate romantic love.

4. The conducted research, the hypothesis of which is the assumption that role sets are interconnected with emotional relationships in marriage, has ascertained that there are peculiarities concerning role sets and emotional relationships in families of military and non-military personnel; the following data were obtained. In case when military personnel and non-military personnel wives experience high respect for the marital partner, i.e. the partner is accepted as the personality, their outlook, interests, and opinions are shared, then, high autonomy or dependence of spouses on each other is observed. In case when male military personnel highly respect the partner, strong intention to be a family "psychotherapist" is observed, as a rule. Low respect for the partner of male non-military personnel results in high orientation to duties concerning children upbringing.

5. The hypothesis of role sets and emotional relationships interconnection in military personnel and non- military personnel families has been proved. The hypothesis that there are distinctions of role sets in military personnel and non-military personnel families has been confirmed. The hypothesis that there are distinctions of emotional relationships in military personnel and non-military personnel families has been partially proved.

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