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Writing for Communication

Journal Critique

The article, “The Deeper the Love, the Deeper the Hate”, written by Wang Jin, Yanhui Xiang, and Mo Lei, was a summary of research done through a number of different universities in China that demonstrated that there is an emotional connection between the relationship of love and hate in a romantic partnership setting. The basis of the journal itself is studying what is called “emotional science,” that is, the science behind our emotions. While the article itself was hard to understand at times due to the in-depth description of the statistics in research, the results found were significant.

The article discussed the beliefs first, that love and hate are two important human affects, but no psychologists have wanted to find the correlation between the two until now. The article discusses how “Love and hate are related to each other in a complex manner… there has been little research on the psychological mechanisms that could explain the interrelations between love and hate.” The rest of their descriptions discussed how the researchers planned to go about their research. It is explained that they focused on similarities in the ideologies of both – specifically, the commonalities in behaviors of both emotions when being felt. In their study, they manipulated the levels of similarity and levels of excellence to induce different levels of love on their subjects. They explored the idea that participants felt stronger feelings of love towards a target who was more similar to themselves than not. They asked two simple questions in their attempts to find the answers: would there be greater feelings of love between two people who were more similar to one another, and, under these conditions, does a person’s love generate a corresponding hatred when negative events then occur?

They implemented a paradigm and went through the statistics of the study; sixty volunteers from a number of different colleges, being placed under three different manipulated situations based upon where the participants were in their own romantic lives. Target A was defined as a person of equal excellence and high similarity levels, target B was an equal level of excellence and low similarity levels, and target C was that of a low level of excellence and high similarity levels. Degrees of love were found through a questionnaire each of the participants took, and then the targets were manipulated in ways that induced either feelings of love towards the participants or feelings of hatred. The analysis, although hard to understand through the numbers and statistics, showed that the relationship between love and hate seemed even more complex than they expected, but the evidence showed that feelings of love were presented through similarity. Furthermore, when a negative event occurred, the participants who had felt a strong love previously, felt an even stronger hate in the midst of that negative event brought on by the target. They concluded their study by stating that love and hate are indeed related, and that “the deeper the love, the deeper the hate,” is indeed accurate.

What astonished me most about this particular study is how many factors were involved that came out to be conclusive in some way. What with the diverse number of participants as well as the three different targets, and each participant reacting in a different way, it still was enough to show that the feelings of love and hate have deep corresponding connections within relationships.

While I thought that the summary of the research was extraordinary, it was still difficult to understand. Perhaps that is the number of factors beginning to bog down all of the research, but there were a great many details that were hard to follow within the article. This being said, while it can be considered conclusive, the study also showed that there were some anomalies, but the article did not want to dive deeper into those anomalies to explain the differences in reactions. A great many paragraphs were used to describe the statistical process of the research, the equations hard to follow for anyone who is not a mathematician. It would have been nice also to know what the events were that occurred within the study in order to gain the results that they did.

In general, the article was interesting and most definitely worth the read when you are creating an entire project based upon the idea that love and hate are two perpendicular emotions within a human being’s chemistry. While sometimes hard to follow and bogged down by statistical data, it provided evidence that correlates to the things that I believe in within my project. The ideas of love and hate being even more complexly designed to harmonize with one another were most definitely uplifting to read, even though it did not provide answers. That being said, I don’t think that answers can be conclusive when it comes to human beings. In their description of findings, the authors write, “Although we study the nature of love and hate from a rational point of view and from an emotional perspective to explain the precursors of these two basic emotions, humans are emotional beings.” We cannot scientifically provide evidence that each and every person responds to emotions the exact same way, but that is the beauty of the uniqueness of human nature in its entirety.

Article: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2017.01940/full#h3>