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Personality and Military Service as Predictors of Separation and Divorce in Americans

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2019

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MS, Walden University, 2019

MA, American Military University, 2010

Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

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Abstract

Divorce is a persistent problem resulting in mental anguish in the divorcing parties as well as children who may be involved. The purpose of this quantitative, non-experimental correlational study was to determine whether personality traits and military service predict the tendency of married individuals to separate or divorce. The framework for this study was Erikson's 8 stages of psychosocial development. The research questions addressed whether personality traits (as measured by the HEXACO-60), service in the military, gender, age, and number of children predict the tendency to separate or divorce in 89 participants. Findings from multiple regression analysis indicated that scores of the HEXACO-60 dimensions were not statistically different from each other, suggesting the need for further investigation into the nature of the measurement of the constructs or the relationship with an overall personality as measured by the HEXACO-60. Non-significant pairs may indicate low discrimination between the constructs being measured. Results also indicated that the correlation between HEXACO-60 personality score and the tendency to separate or divorce was inconclusive. However, results suggested that longevity in service and bringing children into a marriage may predict the tendency to separate or divorce. Findings may be used to assist social services professionals in mitigating the problems caused by separation and divorce.

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Dedication

As a U.S. Navy veteran, I want to dedicate this study to all the service members past, present, and future.

Acknowledgments

I would like to acknowledge my family for being understanding and supportive of my great endeavor. I would like to acknowledge my committee members, Dr. Stephen Rice and Dr. Kathryn Dardeck, for their patience throughout this process. Lastly, I would like to acknowledge my mentor, Dr. Miles Hamby, for always lending a listening ear.

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Chapter 1: Introduction to the Study

This was a quantitative, non-experimental correlational study using a multiple regression procedure to determine whether personality traits and military service predict the tendency of married individuals to separate or divorce. Understanding the connection, if any, between personality and military service and separation and divorce may assist social services professionals in mitigating problems caused by separation and divorce. This chapter includes the background, problem statement, purpose of the study, research questions and hypotheses, theoretical framework, nature of the study, definitions, assumptions, scope and delimitations, limitations, significance, and summary.

Background

According to Tejada-Vera and Sutton (2009), divorce is occurring roughly half as frequently as marriages. Tejada-Vera and Sutton explained the statistics in the National Vital Statistics Reports. For every 1,000 people in the total population, there were 7.3% married and 3.6% divorced in 2007, 7.1% married and 3.5% divorced in 2008, and 5.8% married and 3.4% divorced in 2009 (Tejada-Vera & Sutton, 2009). In 2007 and 2008, only half of the people who had married were divorced. In 2009, those who were divorced were well over half the number of those who were married. In 2006, for every 1,000 people in the total population, 7.3% were married and 3.7% were divorced. Stanley, Allen, Markman, Rhoades, and Prentice (2010) suggested that a gap in the literature exists regarding the manner in which personality traits may be related to divorce. Furthermore, more study is needed regarding how personality traits as measured by the HEXACO-60 (Honesty-Humility, Emotionality, Extraversion, Agreeableness

versus Anger, Conscientiousness , and Openness to Experience) could be associated with an individual's service in the U.S. military (Karney & Crown, 2007). There is a gap in the literature regarding the connection, if any, between personality and separation and divorce and military service and separation and divorce.

Problem Statement

Divorce is a persistent problem resulting in mental anguish in the divorcing parties as well as children who might be involved (Putnam, 2011). Given the multitude of divorces occurring, society is coping with an increase in emotional instability due to the trauma caused by divorce, as well as the financial hardships that can be caused to one or both parties in a divorce (Putnam, 2011). Recent data have shown that 43% of all marriages, including those affiliated with the military, among people ages of 15 to 46 end in divorce (Aughinbaugh, Robles, & Sun, 2013). Marriages in which one partner is actively serving in a branch of the U.S. military often result in divorce in part due to travel, unpredictable work hours, and stressful assignments (Wang et al., 2015). Divorce inflicts pain on the entire family as partners separate, finances are divided, and child custody is determined (Lundquist & Xu, 2014). Divorce may also lead to more challenging deployments for those serving in the military. Determining whether personalities are a factor in separation and divorce may provide insight into reducing the number of divorces. The results of this study may help military counselors, chaplains, commanders, and civilian counseling professionals working with marital issues by identifying indicators of risk of separation and divorce. The results may provide married

couples with awareness of the risk factors for separation and divorce, and how they may take preventive action.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this quantitative, non-experimental correlational study was to determine whether personality features (as measured by the HEXACO-60 measures of Honesty-Humility, Emotionality, Extraversion, Agreeableness versus Anger, Conscientiousness, and Openness to Experience, military service, gender, age, and number of children (independent variables) predict the tendency to separate or divorce (dependent variables).

Research Questions and Hypotheses

This quantitative study was conducted to answer the following question: Do personality traits (as measured by the HEXACO-60), service in the military, gender, age, and number of children predict the tendency to separate or divorce? The dependent variables were the tendency to separate or divorce as measured by the longevity of the marriage from beginning to separation and from separation to actual divorce. Two primary independent variables were the six personality traits as measured by the HEXACO-60 inventory (Ashton & Lee (2009) and the length and currency of military service. Because there were 10 predictors in this study, the 10 sub-questions and hypotheses were as follows:

RQ1: Does military service (IV1) predict tendency to separate (DV1) and tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion,

agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, and number of children?

H_a1: Military service (IV1) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, and number of children.

H_o1: Military service (IV1) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) when controlling for humility, emotionality, and extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, and openness to experience, gender, age, and number of children.

RQ2: Does humility (IV2) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service?

H_a2: Humility (IV2) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

H_o2: Humility (IV2) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

RQ3: Does emotionality (IV3) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service?

H_a3: Emotionality (IV3) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

H_o3: Emotionality (IV3) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

RQ4: Does extraversion (IV4) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service?

H_a4: Extraversion (IV4) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

H_o4: Extraversion (IV4) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, agreeableness versus

anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

RQ5: Does agreeableness versus anger (IV5) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service?

H_a5: Agreeableness versus anger (IV1) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

H_o5: Agreeableness versus anger (IV1) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

RQ6: Does conscientiousness (IV6) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service?

H_a6: Conscientiousness (IV6) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

H_o6: Conscientiousness (IV6) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

RQ7: Does openness to experience (IV7) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, gender, age, number of children, and military service?

H_a7: Openness to experience (IV7) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

H_o7: Openness to experience (IV7) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

RQ8: Does gender (IV8) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, age, number of children, and military service?

H_a8: Gender (IV8) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus

anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, age, number of children, and military service.

H_o8: Gender (IV8) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, age, number of children, and military service.

RQ9: Does age (IV9) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, number of children, and military service?

H_a9: Age (IV9) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, number of children, and military service.

H_o9: Age (IV9) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

RQ10: Does the number of children (IV10) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, and military service?

H_a10: Number of children (IV10) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, and military service.

H_o10: Number of children (IV10) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, and military service.

Research Framework

The framework for this study was the eight stages of psychosocial development developed by Erikson (1950) and grounded on the supposition that an individual's personality development is a key aspect in the possibility that an individual may have an increased risk of getting divorced. Erikson's eight stages of psychosocial development begins at infancy and continues in late adulthood. Erikson's eight stages of psychosocial development can help a person understand how fundamental psychosocial occurrences throughout an individual's life paves the way for the development of an individual's personality traits (Erikson, 1950). This relates to the personality traits that may or may not be associated with the likeliness that an individual will get divorced.

Nature of the Study

This was a quantitative, non-experimental correlational study including a multiple regression analysis procedure to answer the following question: Do personality traits (as measured by the HEXACO-60) and service in the military predict the tendency to

separate or divorce? The choice of a quantitative, non-experimental correlational design was consistent with other studies conducted to advance knowledge in the area of the relationship between personality and occupation (e.g., military service) and marital relationships. Because of the differences between characteristics and nuances of separation and divorce, tendency to separate and tendency to divorce were considered as two distinct dependent variables: the tendency to separate (DV1) was measured by the longevity of the marriage from beginning to separation, and the tendency to divorce (DV2) was measured by the longevity of the marriage from beginning to divorce. There were ten independent variables: Honesty-Humility (H), Emotionality (E), Extraversion (X), Agreeableness versus Anger (A), Conscientiousness (C), Openness to Experience (O), length of military service, gender, age, and number of children.

The target population included individuals who had served in the military and had been married, separated, or divorced. Data were also collected from a comparison group consisting of individuals who had been married, separated, or divorced but had not served in the military. Participants completed a survey delivered online hosted by SurveyMonkey that included data for the two primary independent variables (HEXACO-60 personality trait scores and military service), the dependent variable (tendency to separate and divorce), and demographics of the respondent (see Appendix B) including longevity of military service of both spouses and an indication of neither spouse having served in the military. Respondents' demographic data included gender, number of children, and age. Dependent variable data included longevity of the respondents' marriage (time from beginning of the marriage to separation and divorce). Variables were

included in a multiple linear regression to test for the statistical significance of their

predictive ability regarding the dependent variables. The significance alpha level of $p =$

.05 was chosen because this level is typically used for social science research. A

significance level greater than $p = .05$ indicated that the independent variable had no

statistically significant predictive relationship with the dependent variable.

Definitions

For the purposes of this study, the following terms are defined in alphabetical

order:

Divorce: Legally unjoining two individuals from matrimony (Leopold & Kalmijn,

2016).

Marriage: An agreement that legally joins two individuals (Rosenfeld, 2014).

Mental health: An individual's state of mental well-being or lack thereof

(Manwell et al., 2015).

Military service: An individual who has served the United States in the armed

forces.

Personality: A person's individual and unique configuration in which one thinks,

feels, and behaves (Mitsopoulou & Giovazolias, 2015).

Separation: Married individuals who each have their own households in which

they are living apart from one another (Pearce Plauche, Marks, & Hawkins, 2016).

Assumptions

I assumed the data collected met key assumptions of a linear regression:

- The relationship between the IVs and the DVs is linear; if the relationship is nonlinear, a non-linear correction, such as a log-linear procedure, can be applied.

- The data are normally distributed and homoscedastic (i.e., residuals are equal across the regression line);

- The variables are not collinear; if multicollinearity is found in the data, variables can be rotated and removed to ensure independence.

- The variables are not auto-correlated (i.e. correlation between the values of the same variables is based on related objects); if autocorrelation is found, the variables can be manipulated using specific procedures to identify the problematic variables and stabilize the regression.

Tests for these assumptions were made during the data analysis procedure for a multivariate, linear regression, and remedies were applied as stated above. I also assumed that the responses on the survey were truthful and accurate.

Scope and Delimitations

The scope of this study was bounded by the population of those who had served in the military and those who had not served in the military. Due to time and money constraints, this study was delimited for recruitment purposes to individuals who have a Facebook account and belong to one of the selected groups who received a participation invitation and who also had access to the internet to complete the data collection survey. Interpretation of the statistical results was limited by variables chosen in the regression analysis. Also, due to time and resource constraints, the convenience sample of married

and formerly married persons was equitably divided into groups who were or had a spouse serving in the military and those who did not serve or did not have a spouse who served in the military. Additional demographic variables were limited to gender, age, and number of children.

Limitations

A limitation of this study was that the population was limited to U.S. citizens but was not bounded by ethnic identity, age, or gender. Furthermore, the sample was limited to respondents who use social media and who chose to respond. A further limitation of this study was that I could not account for all of the possible variables that might have played a role in a divorce. The nature of self-reporting means it was possible that a participant might not have answered truthfully or that answers were inaccurate because of failure to understand the questions.

The sample was limited by the nature of a convenience sample in that the sample contained only those who were given the opportunity to participate. I was also under a constraint to finish in short period of time, and therefore data included in the data set were from those who responded within that period. Analysis of the data and subsequent interpretation of the answer to the research question were also limited to the regression statistical procedure used, which indicated the predictive value of the variables but did not suggest causality or anything else about the relationship between the variables. These limitations and delimitations posed some restrictions on the generalizability of the results to the general population, but these restrictions were mitigated to some extent through interpretation of the statistical tests.

Significance

The results of this study may help military counselors, chaplains, commanders, and civilian counseling professionals working with marital issues by identifying indicators of risk of separation and eventual divorce. The results may provide married couples with added awareness of the risk factors for separation and divorce, which couples could use to take action to respond to the risk. The main stakeholders in a divorce are the divorcing parties as well as any children who might be involved. Putnam (2011) explained the mental anguish that divorcing parties and children experience in response to a divorce. Identifying indicators of risk may increase the likelihood of preventing this situation from occurring. Putnam (2011) described the mental health issues that result from divorce; identifying risk factors for divorce may contribute to positive social change by reducing the likelihood of these mental health issues occurring.

Summary

This was a quantitative, non-experimental correlational study including a multiple regression procedure to determine whether personality traits and military service predict the tendency of married individuals to separate or divorce. The two dependent variables were the tendency to separate and tendency to divorce. Ten independent variables were the six HEXACO-60 personality traits, military service, gender, age, and number of children. A purposive convenience sample was used to collect data from a survey. The primary data analysis procedure was a multiple linear regression. In Chapter 2, I present a detailed review of the literature related to the variables and research problem.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

With the multitude of divorces occurring, society is coping with an increase in emotional instability due to the trauma caused by divorce as well as the financial hardships that can be experienced by one or both parties in a divorce (Putnam, 2011). In Chapter 2, I review articles pertaining to divorce, military divorce, and the HEXACO-60, including Kennedy and Ruggles (2014) on the statistics regarding tendencies of divorce in the United States; Amato (2014) on the divorce rate as it pertains to mental health; Chun, Jang, Choi, Shin, and Park (2016) on the lasting results of the age of children during parental divorce in correlation to depression; and Kalmijn (2013) on the manner in which parental divorce affects children and the relationship they have with their parents. I also review Amato and Anthony (2014) on outcomes with children following their parents' divorce; Lundquist and Xu (2014) on the different aspects of marriage in the military; Willoughby, Hall, and Luczak (2013) on a conceptual framework to encapsulate aspects of both marriage and divorce; Thielmann, Hilbig, Zettler, and Moshagen (2016) on the HEXACO-60 personality assessment; Hatemi, McDermott, and Eaves (2015) on the aspects that surround individuals, which increase the likelihood that they will experience divorce in their life; and Sbarra (2015) on the high risk associated with the stress of going through as well as in dealing with a situation involving divorce. This chapter presents a description of the strategy for reviewing the literature, a detailed discussion of the theoretical foundation of the study, and a review of the literature related to key variables and concepts of the study.

Literature Search Strategy

The primary library databases reviewed for their relevance to this study were EBSCO, Proquest, and Google Scholar. Key search terms used included *divorce*, *military divorce*, and *HEXACO-60*. The literature presented spanned the last 30 years with most of the studies being published in the last 10 years. The literature older than 10 years that was cited is still relevant in that it was not used to support any hypothesis or theory but only used for background and context of the study. Most of the topics referenced in the older studies have been cited in current studies with the same intent, thereby making them equally relevant and current. Reviewed literature includes published data from government and official sources, presentations of statistical and qualitative research studies, and published articles summarizing research findings and reviews and presentations of the seminal literature on the topic.

Theoretical Foundation

The theoretical foundation for this study was Erikson's (1950) eight stages of psychosocial development, which was grounded on the supposition that an individual's personality development is a key aspect in the possibility that an individual may have an increased risk of getting divorced.

Erikson's Eight Stages of Psychosocial Development

Erikson's (1950) eight stages of psychosocial development begins at infancy and continues in late adulthood. Erikson's eight stages of psychosocial development can be used to understand how fundamental psychosocial occurrences throughout an individual's life pave the way for the development of the individual's personality traits.

This relates to the personality traits that may or may not be associated with the likelihood that an individual will get divorced.

Stages 1–5. The first five stages of Erikson's (1950) theory occur in pre-adulthood: (a) trust versus distrust occurs during infancy; (b) autonomy versus shame and doubt occurs from age 18 months to 3½ years; (c) initiative versus guilt occurs from 3 years to 6 years; (d) industry versus inferiority occurs for the rest of childhood; and (5) identity versus identity confusion occurs during adolescence.

Stages 6–8. The final three stages of personality development occur during adulthood and are the most applicable to this study of the effect of personality on marriage and divorce. They are (a) intimacy versus isolation, (b) generativity versus stagnation, and (c) integrity versus despair (Erikson, 1950). During Stage 6 (intimacy versus isolation), individuals leave youth and develop their sociability with the other sex as an adult, often leading to marriage (Erikson, 1950). However, before these aspects of sociability can occur in a healthy manner, an individual must have ascertained a genuine intimacy with oneself himself or herself and with the other sex (Erikson, 1950). An individual who is unsure of his or her identify will shy away from intimacy (Erikson, 1950).

In Stage 7 (generativity versus stagnation), an individual develops an underlying desire to have children, referred to by Erikson (1950) as generativity. Erikson suggested that when individuals do not acquire generativity, that they are instead self-indulgent, as if they themselves are their own child. In situations in which an individuals have conceived a child, this does not mean that they have achieved generativity (Erikson,

1950). The inability to develop at this stage is a result of things that occur during early childhood, including an extreme amount of self-love and an absence of faith in a higher being (Erikson, 1950). An individual who does not develop generativity has the potential to be self-serving and selfish, which is generally not found to be a good trait for a marital partner.

Stage 8 (integrity versus despair) refers to several different aspects of an individual developing a sense of new understanding (Erikson, 1950). Individuals who have developed this stage will consciously accept their life as one that was developed as a result of their own individual responsibility (Erikson, 1950). Individuals will develop a new sense of love and understanding for their parents as they assume responsibility for their own life, rather than placing blame on some aspect of their upbringing (Erikson, 1950). During this stage, individuals will protect their life against all economic and tangible threats (Erikson, 1950).

Link to Personality

Each of the three adult stages of personality development play an integral role in an individual's personality development as an adult. For example, an individual who determines that a partner might be posing a threat to himself or herself in some way might at this point be more susceptible to getting divorced. According to Erikson (1950), an individual who does not attain each of the psychological aspects of the personality development process might be more susceptible to divorce. Because it was not feasible in this study to delve into an individual's past to see how he or she developed, each

participant's personality in the current state served as a proxy for estimating stage development.

Literature Review

Extent of the Problem

Separation and divorce vexes U.S. society by causing mental anguish in the involved parties and any children who might be involved (Putnam, 2011). Statistics from the National Center for Health Statistics (2017) have shown that one divorce occurs for approximately every two marriages. Recent data have shown that 43% of marriages occurring between the ages of 15 to 46 end in divorce (Aughinbaugh et al., 2013).

Individuals associated with the military are offered incentives to be married (Chester, 2017). Service members who are married are awarded extra benefits that service members who are not married do not receive (Chester, 2017). Married service members in the military receive extra pay for being married, and additional pay when deployed away from their spouse (Chester, 2017). Further, a number of benefits are awarded to a service member's spouse that would not be given to their significant other (Chester, 2017). This is significant because it encourages individuals who might not get married to get married. These individuals then face the normal relationship obstacles of marriage as well as the obstacles that are apparent due to military service. Karney, Loughran, and Pollard (2012) found that the factors that incentivize service members to get married in conjunction with the obstacles that weigh against a service member's marriage create an evening out. When people in the military are compared to the U.S. civilian population, the divorce rate is similar (Karney et al., 2012).

Separation and Divorce

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/ National Center for Health Statistics reported that the marriage rate from 2014 and 2015 was 6.9%, from 2009 to 2013 it was 6.8%, and in 2008 it was 7.1% (National Center for Health Statistics, 2017). The marriage rate was 7.3% in 2007, 7.5% in 2006, and 7.5% in 2005 (National Center for Health Statistics, 2017). The marriage rate was 8.2% in 2000 and 2001, 8% in 2002, and 7.7% in 2003 (National Center for Health Statistics, 2017). The divorce rates were 4% in 2000 and 2001 and 3.9% in 2002 (National Center for Health Statistics, 2017). The divorce rates for other years were 3.7% in 2004, 3.6% in 2005, and 3.7% in 2006 (National Center for Health Statistics, 2017). A rate comparison indicated that the divorce rate was approximately half the marriage rate for the same time period.

Divorce is occurring roughly half as frequently as marriages. According to the National Vital Statistics Reports, per 1000 people out of the total population, there were 7.3% married and 3.6% divorced in 2007, 7.1% married and 3.5% divorced in 2008, and 5.8% married and 3.4% divorced (Tajada-Vera & Sutton, 2010). There was a little than half of the people who got divorced as got married in 2007 and 2008. There was well over half the amount of people who got divorced as that got married in 2009. In 2006, per 1000 people out of the total population, 7.3% were married and 3.7% were divorced (Tejada-Vera & Sutton, 2009). This statistic also shows that a little more than half of the number of people who got divorced also got married during this time.

The marriage and divorce statistics continuing with 2007 show the divorce rate has maintained the mark of approximately half the marriage rate. In 2007 the marriage

rate was 7.3%, 7.1% in 2008, from 2009 to 2013 the marriage rate was 6.8% and from

2014 to 2015, the marriage rate was 6.9% (National Center for Health Statistics, 2017).

The divorce rate in 2007 was 3.6%, 3.5% from 2008 to 2009, 3.6% from 2010 to 2011,

and 3.4% in 2012. In 2013 the divorce rate was 3.3%, 3.2% in 2014, and 3.1% in 2015

(National Center for Health Statistics, 2017).

Strow and Strow (2006) explain that in the United States, women have a 90

percent chance of being married at some time during their life. However, within the first

10 years of first marriages one-third end in divorce (Strow & Strow, 2006). After 15

years of marriage almost half of marriages end in divorce (Strow & Strow, 2006). After

20 years almost half of marriages end in divorce (Strow & Strow, 2006). In the colonial

time, England forbid divorces to the point where the King expressly voiced his contest

against them in 1773 (Strow & Strow, 2006). Upon America's independence from

England, the occurrence of divorce became much more prevalent with the power

regarding divorces being given to the state courts (Strow & Strow, 2006).

Negative Effects of Separation and Divorce

There are times in which divorce is necessary and, in some cases, the price is

more than monetary. There are financial, psychological, and emotional effects felt by the

individuals who are going through the divorce. When children are involved, that too is

another detriment that must be given consideration. Marriages where one partner is

actively serving in a branch of the US military often result in divorce in part due to travel,

unpredictable work hours and stressful assignments (Wang et al., 2015). It inflicts pain on

the entire family as partners separate, finances are divided, and child custody is

determined (Lundquist & Xu, 2014).

According to Putnum (2011), with the multitude of divorces occurring, society is

ultimately assisting in an increase in mental health issues within society as a whole. The

family unit is a crucial element in children developing the socialization skills that they

will exhibit in society (Amato & Keith, 1991). Divorces not only affect the spouses who

are dissolving their marriage, but also any children who might have been in the family as

well. It has been found that this has caused repercussions for the situation and manner in

which children are or are not reared and socialized (Amato, 2000). Approximately 38%

of white children and 75% of black children will undergo the effects of divorce before the

age of 16 (Amato & Keith, 1991). Many children will experience some point of being in

a household with a single parent, most often time, the mother (Amato, 2000). It is pointed

out by Amato (2000) that the traditional two-parent family is an essential foundation in

society. Amato (2000) explains that this is due to the environment that this sort of living

arrangement provides for children. This sort of living compositions is found to help

develop stability and security and in return helps develop the foundation for children to

become productive members of society as they are age (Amato, 2000).

Furthermore, the manner in which children are nurtured within the family unit,

will also affect their growth and development of nurturing abilities as they become adults

(Amato, 2000). It has been advocated that the ideal situation for a child to be reared in, is

that traditional family, consisting of two parents who live under the same roof (Amato,

2000). Amato and Keith (1991) explain that when living with only parent a child's

socialization skills are negatively affected due to the necessity of needing the developmental skills delivered by two parents.

It is believed that the influx of single-parent households is a contributing factor in many societal issues (Amato & Keith, 1991). There are concerns that those individuals who are brought up in single-parents households are more susceptible to having issues with poor performance in school, involvement in crime and substance abuse, as well as suffering from poverty (Amato, 2000).

However, divorce can assist in removing the unstable or hostile environment from the home setting and put everyone involved in a stressful situation, for a while, with the situation eventually ironing out, and ultimately, ideally creating a more stable situation for all involved (Amato, 2000).

In the United States, there are over a million children whose parents get divorced (Amato & Keith, 1991). According to Amato (2000), the increase in marital dissolution has had major implications for the settings in which children are nurtured and socialized. Amato (2000) further explains that scientists and psychologist express the notion that there are many repercussions that children that experience a divorce. Children's performance in school is a factor that is affected as well as their behavior in and out of the home (Amato, 2000). Confidence in themselves, their ability to achieve the capability to achieve positive social interactions can be inhibited are also factors that these children are faced with (Amato, 2000). Amato (2000) also explain that these situations play a negative factor in the way in which a child is able to acclimate psychologically. Ultimately it is found that children who are products of a couple who divorce have a

much inferior overall sense of security, in comparison to children from families in which divorce doesn't occur (Amato, 2000).

Positive Effects of Divorce

Many people who get divorced are found to remarry, and then once again get divorced (Putnam, 2011). The people who experience multiple marriages and divorces are found to have an issue with the ability to develop a significantly profound relationship (Putnam, 2011). Successive relationships are often experienced by individuals who have a term Putnam (2011) coined as 'broken picker.' Putnam (2011) explains that people suffering from 'broker pickers' are mentally and emotionally balanced, but have difficulty in finding partners who are suitable to themselves. Therefore, it could be possible that an individual's personality development plays a role in a person having a 'broken picker' (Putnam, 2011).

Studies Related to Erikson's Eight Stages of Psychosocial Development

Erikson's Eight Stages theory has been recurrently cited as the framework for analysis of psychosocial development (Leidy & Darling-Fisher, 1995). This recurrence is explained further in more detail. The validity of the components included in Erikson's theory were investigated and found to be reliable and valid as well (Ochse & Plug, 1986). Ultimately, Erikson's Eight Stages of Psychosocial development was chosen because it was the best fit for the study being conducted, when considering the other personality development theories which were evaluated (Erikson, 1950). Each of the other considered theories was analyzed in the other studies portion of this chapter. While they were all found to be valid and reliable, Erikson's theory was found to apply the

fundamental concepts of each of the theories making it a more efficient means of inquiry (Erikson, 1950).

Other studies using Erikson's Theory of Personality Development as the framework were reviewed. No studies were directly related to Erikson's theory and divorce, thus allowing this study to help fill that gap. Specific studies have been selected as a means of outlining the application of Erikson's theory as a framework for the manner in which personality development affects different facets of an individual's life.

Beyers and Seiffge-Krenke. Beyers and Seiffge-Krenke (2010) explain that Erikson's Theory of Personality Development consists of adequately achieving all 8 stages of development. It is also necessary that before moving on to the next stage of the development process, that an individual must adequately develop one stage before moving to the next (Beyers & Seiffge-Krenke, 2010). This study looked heavily at stages five and six of Erikson's theory (Beyers & Seiffge-Krenke, 2010). They explain during stage five an individual works to discover their individual uniqueness (Beyer & Seiffge-Krekne, 2010). The positive outcomes associated with achieving this stage include an awareness of self (Beyers & Seiffge-Krenke, 2010). The negative outcomes associated with not achieving this stage include an inability to appropriately identify roles in life (Beyers & Seiffge-Krenke, 2010). Thus, it was found that when adolescents don't achieve stage five, they also are found to have an extreme difficulty in the development of long-term romantic relationships (Beyers & Seiffge-Krenke, 2010).

Beyers and Seiffge-Kreneke (2010) also express the outcomes associates with stage six of Erikson's Theory of Personality Development in which the adolescent has

not turned into an adult. During this stage, if one has successfully achieved stage five, then at this point successfully achieving stage six will result in the progression of intimate friends and relationships (Beyers & Seiffge-Krenke, 2010). If stage six is not adequately achieved then an individual can endure an anxiety of relationships and solitude (Beyers & Seiffge-Krenke, 2010). Therefore, upon the successful achievement of stage five and six, an individual develops into an adulthood who has an established aspiration for intimacy, the capability to achieve and maintain intimacy as well as a concrete sense of themselves (Beyers & Seiffge-Krenke, 2010).

Beyers and Seiffge-Krenke (2011) advocated that Erikson's theory is emphasized with the idea of ordered assimilation. The study conducted by Beyers and Seiffge-Krenke (2011) was conducted over a 10-year time frame and found that as held by Erikson's theory, the development of identify occurs before that of intimacy. However, intimacy did follow once an adequate image of self was ascertained and would continue for the duration of an individual's life time. It was found that Erikson's theory suggesting that the evolving classification that is experienced by adolescents, is the same that continues on through adulthood (Beyers & Seiffge-Krenke, 2011).

Beyers and Seiffge-Krenke (2010) conducted a study testing Erikson's theory. Erikson's theory claims that in order to achieve intimacy in a romantic relationship, a healthy perspective of self-identity must be achieved during adolescence (Erikson, 1950). This study examined if the successful attainment of intimacy in adulthood can be predetermined by the process of developing ego through middle adolescence (Beyers & Seiffge-Krenke, 2010). The data from 93 adolescents was examined from surveys given

at adolescence and then interviewed again when they were 25 years old. The study

conducted by Beyers and Seiffge-Krenke (2011) found that Erikson's theory regarding

the necessity of accomplishing an efficient means of identify was indeed essential for

intimacy in later life. The study conducted by Beyers and Seiffge-Krenke (2010) explains

the necessity in achieving all eight developmental stages of Erikson's Theory of

Personality Development. A gap in the literature exists regarding the manner in which

personality traits may be related to divorce (Stanley, Allen, Markman, Rhoades, &

Prentice, 2010). The study by Beyers and Seiffge-Krenke (2010) reinforces the

theoretical framework being used in this study. Due to the significance of adequately

attaining each of these stages, an individual who does not adequately attain each of the

psychological aspects of the personality development process might be more susceptible

to become divorced at some point in their life (Erikson, 1950). Thus in turn relate to the

personality traits that may or may not be associated with the likeliness that an individual

will get divorced.

Christiansen and Palkovitz. Christiansen and Palkovitz (1998) looked in the

aspects of Erikson's (1950) ideal of generativity in which they are related to paternal

relationships. The study looks at the manner in which fathers involve themselves in the

child caring process beyond actual physical responsibilities related to caring for children

(Christiansen & Palkovitz, 1998). This study examines the means in which relationships

of a nurturing nature are developed (Christiansen & Palkovitz, 1998). The process of

being a parent in itself grants the opportunity to cultivate self-sacrificial behaviors in

addition to developing the initial ability to be nurturing, or to develop a deeper means of

being nurturing (Christiansen & Palkovitz, 1998). Christiansen and Palkovitz (1998) applied Erikson's idea of generativity in application to this process.

Erikson (1950) explains that establishing a consciousness of generativity plays an imperative role in the growth of an adolescent into an adult. When an individual doesn't develop generativity they maintain an attitude and demeanor that is selfish and self-serving, rather than selfless (Christiasen & Palkovitz, 1998). Failing to develop generativity can add to the negative effects of separation and divorce by creating a severe detriment to rearing children, as individuals who have not adequately developed this stage struggle to have the means necessary to provide nurturing relationships (Christiasen & Palkovitz, 1998).

Generativity is the stage of personality development in which an individual develops a need to have children (Erikson, 1950). In his theory, Erikson explains that it is necessary for an individual to achieve generativity in order to not be self-indulgent (Erikson, 1950). Christiansen and Palkovitz (1998) conducted a study where they looked at the way that generativity affected paternal individuality, intimacy, and participation in caring for children. The study found that achieving the stages that occurred before generativity were significant in an individual's development of the stage of generativity (Christiansen & Palkovitz, 1998). Therefore, this study further supported that, as Erikson's theory advocates, it is necessary for and individual to achieve identify, as that it is necessary for achieving generativity (Christiansen & Palkovitz, 1998; Erikson, 1950). Generativity is necessary to achieve in order to develop healthy paternal relationships (Christiansen & Palkovitz, 1998; Erikson, 1950).

Christiansen and Palkovitz's (1998) study examined the aspects of Erikson's (1950) ideal of generativity. During this stage an individual develops a need to have children (Erikson, 1950). This study via Erikson's (1950) also advocated, it is necessary for and individual to achieve identify, as that it is necessary for achieving generativity (Christiansen & Palkovitz, 1998; Erikson, 1950). A gap in the literature exists regarding the manner in which personality traits may be related to divorce (Stanley, Allen, Markman, Rhoades, & Prentice, 2010). Individuals who are unable to develop this stage are a result of things that occur during early childhood including: flawed recognitions with parents or caregivers, an extreme amount of self-love, and an absence of faith in a higher being (Erikson, 1950). Thus, an individual who does not develop generativity has the potential to be self-serving and selfish, characteristics generally not found to be good traits for a marital partner or military service which depends greatly on teamwork. Lack of generativity can develop personality traits that may or may not be associated with the likeliness that an individual will separate or divorce.

Other Theories of Personality Development

Personality has been studied a great deal for its connection and influence in many areas. Following are specific theories and studies that have been demonstrated to be linked to marital relationships.

Five-factor model. McCrae & Costa (1999) Five Factor Model of personality development defines personality by five factors: Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness, Agreeableness, and Conscientiousness (McCrae & Costa, 1999). They do not consider their model to necessarily be a theory as such, due to their belief that a theory is more

coherent (McCrae & Costa, 1999). It is advocated in this theory, that the development of one's personality is consistent upon traits (McCrae & Costa, 1999). They explain that their model is based on the concept of trait perspective, which is dependent upon assumptions (McCrae & Acosta, 1999). These assumptions are classified as being knowability, rationality, variability, and proactivity, which McCrae & Acosta (1999) hold to be the foundation of all personality development theory. This model is based upon the idea that one's personality is developed based upon conceptual psychological possibilities as well as a tangible indicators in an individual's personality system (McCrae & Acosta, 1999).

Hans Eysenck. Hans Eysenck's advocated a theory of personality that was based upon aspects that are ultimately out of an individual's control (Eysenck, 1993). Specifically, Eysenck's explained personality development as something that is predetermined by an individual's genetics (Eysenck, 1993). Eysenck's theory of personality development examined individual's temperaments in regards to neuroticism and extraversion-introversion (Eysenck, 1993). Eysenck (1993) looked to an individual's nervous system to examine the level of neuroticism. With regards to an individual's level of extraversion-introversion, Eysenck (1993) looked at aspects of physiological ideals to explain personality development. Thus, holding that an individual's personality development is not a matter of something that they can 'develop' per se, but rather, something to which they are genetically predisposed.

Other studies. Specht, Bleidorn, Denissen, Hennecke, Hutteman, Kandler, Luhmann, Ulrich and Zimmermann (2014) explain that an individual's personality does

not stagnate, but rather that it continues to change over the entire duration of a person's

life. The manner in which an individual's personality was initially developed does affect

the way in which a person's personality continues to evolve throughout their life (Specht,

et al., 2014). Personality development research has been centered on the ideal that there is

a methodical manner in which personality characteristics vary from person to person

(Specht, et al., 2014). The characteristics that might vary amongst individuals include

their matter of thinking, emotional states, as well as the way in which they act (Specht, et

al. 2014).

Amato & Anthony (2014) studied the divorce rate as it pertains to mental health.

The study correlated aspects of divorce and mental health with respect to the divorcees as

well as children involved in divorce situations. Specifically, this study outlines mental

and physical issues that are experienced by individuals who have gone through divorce,

as well as mental and physical issues reported by children who have gone through a

parental divorce.

Chun, et al, (2016) conducted a study that investigated the lasting results of the

age of children during parental divorce in correlation to depression. This study used the

11 items of Center for Epidemiologic Scale for Depression (CES-D-11) to measure the

symptoms of depression. This study also delved into marriage satisfaction of those adults

who went through a parental divorce during their adolescence. This study expresses the

relationship between the long-term effects of parental divorce and depression in children

later in life, as well as satisfaction in their marriage later in life.

Kalmijn (2013) explained the manner in which parental divorce affects children and the relationship they have with their parents. This study looked at comparisons of the relationships of children with mothers versus fathers, within the same family following a divorce. Kalmijn expressed the aspects of the deterioration of the parent-child relationship as it related to divorce. Ultimately this study gives an interpretation of the effect of divorce on parent-child relationships.

Amato and Anthony (2014) explained outcomes with children following their parents' divorces. They examined the effects of parental divorce on children using the Child Fixed Effects Model (Amato & Anthony, 2014). They found evidence regarding underlying effects of divorce on children.

Hatemi, McDermott, and Eaves (2015) explain different aspects that surround individuals which increase the likelihood that they will experience divorce in their life. They suggested that an individual's outlook about the idea of divorce has an inherent prospect of playing a role in the notion that an individual will experience divorce themselves. Furthermore, this study explains the manner in which environmental factors and genetic influence can all play roles in the likelihood of an individual's probability of divorce.

Sbarra (2015) examines the high risk that is associated with the stress of going through as well as in dealing with a situation involving divorce. Sbarra explains that there is a 23% increased mortality rate in individuals who have went through a divorce. The study by Sbarra points out the different health issues that are associated with divorce. This study helps in pointing out the extreme toll that divorce has on society.

Marriage and Military Service

It has been found that most often people who choose to join the military do so at a point in their life where they have not yet gotten married, had children, or started a career (Elder, Gimbel, & Ivie, 1991). Life is collectively made up of different events of change over the course of an individual's life (Elder, Gimbel, & Ivie, 1991). While this progression naturally occurs in standard 'normal' life, this is also the case for individuals affiliated with the military (Elder, Gimbel, & Ivie, 1991). There is a progression that occurs as a service member's life develops. Just as civilian life, often times, they will get married, have children and develop their military service as either short-term job, or even a lifelong career (Elder, Gimbel, & Ivie, 1991). Over this duration the service member will face challenges associated with the fact that they are in the military (Elder, Gimbel, & Ivie, 1991).

A vast majority of individuals in the military at some point or another will be sent to a hostile environment, which could potentially cost them their life (Elder, Gimbel, & Ivie, 1991). For the most part, all aspects of service members' lives are dictated for them (Elder, Gimbel, & Ivie, 1991). This idea falls true of where they will live and when they will go there (Elder, Gimbel, & Ivie, 1991). The constant fear of the unknown can cause anxiety for the service members themselves, as well as their family members (Elder, Gimbel, & Ivie, 1991). This aspect can prove to be extremely trying on relationships and family ties (Elder, Gimbel, & Ivie, 1991).

All jobs provide some sort of stress to a family and a marriage, and the military is most certainly not an exception to that rule. The military lifestyle is extremely demanding

on the military members themselves as well as their family (Burrell, Adams, Durand, & Castro, 2006). Many of the everyday aspects of the lifestyle creates stress on a family and marriage. There are specific factors that are part of the military lifestyle that are unavoidable that can prove to be extremely trying on a family and marriage (Burrell, Adams, Durand, & Castro, 2006).

Being in the military continually delivers the risk that the service member could be injured or killed while on duty (Burrell, Adams, Durand, & Castro, 2006). This has the potential to create a large amount of mental anguish and stress on the military member and their family for fearing for their safety (Burrell, Adams, Durand, & Castro, 2006). This incessant worry puts stress on the entire family dynamic, including a marriage if the service member is married (Burrell, Adams, Durand, & Castro, 2006).

The military does not allow a service member to simply select where he or she wants to live and how long they want to stay there (Burrell, Adams, Durand, & Castro, 2006). A service member is given specific orders stating that he or she will be stationed where the military decides (Burrell, Adams, Durand, & Castro, 2006). Knowing that the family will only remain in a location for a considerably small duration (3 or 4 years) can prove to be unsettling for many families (Burrell, Adams, Durand, & Castro, 2006). The constant moving prevents families from being able to really plant firm roots anywhere, which can lead to family and marital stress.

While some bases are located in the United States, there are many that are located in foreign countries (Burrell, Adams, Durand, & Castro, 2006). If the service member's family is allowed to move to an overseas location, the service member and their family

will have the struggle of adjusting to another country's culture and language (Burrell, Adams, Durand, & Castro, 2006). This can prove to be psychologically challenging to the family member as well as the service member (Burrell, Adams, Durand, & Castro, 2006). This is another situation that can cause stress to a family and marriage.

Not all military assignments allow families to be stationed with the service member, thus creating periods of separation (Burrell, Adams, Durand, & Castro, 2006). The distance can prove challenging to maintain relationships as that the separation does not allow for the traditional relationship where a family can have physical contact (Burrell, Adams, Durand, & Castro, 2006). Furthermore, when children are involved in a period of separation, the service member might miss important events in the child's life, as well as possibly creating the stress the child's physical caretaker to tend to the children on their own (Burrell, Adams, Durand, & Castro, 2006). This also is a situation where stress is put on the family as well as a marriage.

Lundquist and Xu (2014) explained the different aspects of marriage in the military. This study looked at marriage in the military in general, rather than a specific branch of service. This study looks at the different structures of military marriages and divorces. Furthermore, this will assist in allowing me to see the full spectrum of military marriages in correlation to the divorce rates. It inflicts pain on the entire family as partners separate, finances are divided, and child custody is determined (Lundquist & Xu, 2014). It may also lead to more challenging deployments for those serving in the military. Marriages where one partner is actively serving in a branch of the US military often result in divorce in part due to travel, unpredictable work hours and stressful assignments

(Wang et al., 2015). It inflicts pain on the entire family as partners separate, finances are divided, and child custody is determined (Lundquist & Xu, 2014).

HEXACO-60 Personality Trait Inventory

The HEXACO-60 model is a personality inventory developed by Ashton & Lee (2009) that evaluates six personality factors (Ashton & Lee, 2009). These factors are as follows: Honesty-Humility (H), Emotionality (E), Extraversion (X), Agreeableness versus Anger (A), Conscientiousness (C), and Openness to Experience (O) (Ashton & Lee, 2009). The structure of the inventory was uncovered through the analysis of personality configurations which are based upon self or peer ratings (Ashton & Lee, 2009). This same method of evaluation was the means in which the structure of the Big Five personality inventory was developed as well (Ashton & Lee, 2009). The Big Five is a much more of a known personality inventory.

The HEXACO-60 was developed in a way that followed the same framework that was used in the development of the Big Five survey with regard to the personality factors used in the surveys, thus helping to show the legitimacy in its creation and application (Lee & Ashton, n.d.).

Personality researchers in the late 20th century almost came to complete agreement that the organizational framework of the Big Five was optimal for assessing the qualities of an individual's personality (Ashton, Lee, & DeVries, 2014). It has been found that the identical unprejudiced strategy of research that discovered the five-dimensional model, also obtained a replicable series of six dimensional of personality characteristics (Ashton, Lee, & DeVries, 2014). This is significant because the area that

is covered by the six-dimensions, has been found to obtain some important disparities in personality which are not embodied within the five dimension models (Ashton, Lee, & DeVries, 2014).

This concept has been recognized to create a better theoretical understanding of the differences in personalities (Ashton, Lee, & DeVries, 2014). The specific personality factors of the HEXACO-60 were developed by means of the study of personality lexicons across seven languages (Lee & Ashton, 2008). There were only 5 dimensions found within the English language, however upon study into Dutch, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Korean, and Polish, six personality lexicons were found (Lee & Ashton, 2008). The findings of these lexicons were implemented as the six different dimensions of the HEXACO-60 (Lee & Ashton, 2008).

Extraversion, conscientiousness, and openness to experience are factors that are found in both the Big Five as well as the HEXACO-60 (Thielmann, Hilbig Zettler, & Moshagen, 2016). However, the last three factors of the HEXACO-60 differ from the context of the Big Five (Thielmann, Hilbig Zettler, & Moshagen, 2016). HEXACO-60 contains the factor of emotionality and agreeableness, while the Big Five contains neuroticism (Thielmann, Hilbig Zettler, & Moshagen, 2016). Lastly, the HEXACO-60 added in a six-dimension, honesty-humility (Thielmann, Hilbig Zettler, & Moshagen, 2016).

The HEXACO-60 is a shortened revised, 60-item personality inventory (Ashton & Lee, 2009). This inventory was developed from the HEXACO-PI-R, which is a 100-item personality inventory. Lee and Ashton (n.d.) estimate the 100-item inventory should

take a respondent approximately 20 minutes to complete, whereas they explain that the 60-item inventory only takes about 12 minutes. When creating the HEXACO-60 survey, Lee & Ashton (n.d.) chose to include 10 items from each of the six scales from the HEXACO-PI-R. They also decided that at a minimum, 2 items from each of the four narrow traits of each scale would be used in the survey (Lee & Ashton, n.d.). This was used as a means of attempting to get the most accurate results by means of self-reporting from any type of participant (Lee & Ashton, n.d.). The HEXACO-60 was used to collect data in the research that was conducted.

Thalmayer, Saucier, and Eigenhuis (2011) examined the validity of the HEXACO-60 inventory. Different inventories were used to measure the same aspects to see if the same results were concluded from all different inventories (Thalmayer et al., 2011). The Big Five Inventory was compared to the HEXACO-60 Inventory and found to have a greater predictive ability (Thalmayer et al., 2011). The HEXACO-60 was found to have had more lexical research conducted and been tested in a larger array of languages and areas, thus being found as a greater source of validity in comparison with the Big Five Inventory (Thalmayer et al., 2011). Thielmann, Hilbig, Zettler, and Moshagen (2016) conducted a study of the HEXACO-60 personality assessment and explains details of the HEXACO-60 as well as its validity and reliability.

Summary

Divorce is a significant problem in America chiefly because of the effects faced by the adults and children going through it (Shafer, Jensen, & Holmes, 2017). Measures of military service and personality using the HEXACO-60 will be tested for their effects

on the tendency of couples to separate or divorce. The framework of this research is based on Erikson's (1950) theory of personality development that expresses the idea that there are many different aspects that contribute to an individual's development of personality, which are expressed by eight different stages. Other theories of personality include McCrae and Costa's (1999) Five-Factor Model of Personality and Hans Eysenck (1993). The military lifestyle has an effect on marital relationships. All jobs provide some sort of stress to a family and a marriage, and the military is most certainly not an exception to that rule. The military lifestyle is extremely demanding on the military member themselves as well as their family (Burrell, Adams, Durand, & Castro, 2006). The HEXACO-60 Personality Trait Inventory developed by Ashton & Lee (2009) evaluates six personality factors (Ashton & Lee, 2009). These factors are as follows: Honesty-Humility (H), Emotionality (E), Extraversion (X), Agreeableness versus Anger (A), Conscientiousness (C), and Openness to Experience (O) (Ashton & Lee, 2009).

Chapter 3: Research Method

This chapter presents the research design and rationale for why the chosen design was the most appropriate for this study. I also describe the target population, study sample, and sampling procedures, including effect size, alpha level, and power level. The chapter also includes the statistical analysis procedure, threats to validity, and ethical issues.

Research Design and Rationale

This was a quantitative, non-experimental correlational study including a multiple regression analysis procedure to answer the following question: Do personality traits (as measured by the HEXACO-60) and service in the military predict the tendency to separate or divorce?

Rationale for a Quantitative Study

The choice of a quantitative, non-experimental correlational design was consistent with other designs used to advance knowledge in the area of the relationship between personality and occupation (e.g., military service) and marital relationships. Schilling (2018) used a chi-square analysis of 15 survey questions to determine the effects of birth order on interpersonal relationships. Russell, Baker, and McNulty (2013) used a correlation procedure to correlate the Big Five personality scores of participants to their responses on a questionnaire about marital and dating relationships. Adler (2013) used a multiple regression analysis to correlate and predict wages in several types of occupations from marital and relationship status. Greenstein (1985) used correlation analysis of combined General Social Surveys to predict the propensity to divorce for selected

occupations based on gender, prestige, age, age at first marriage, income, education, and number of children.

Babbie (1983) stated that quantitative research is "the numerical representation and manipulation of observations for the purpose of describing and explaining the phenomena that those observations reflect" (p. 537). Using a quantitative design allows researchers to obtain numerical data from which usable statistics can be developed through statistical analysis (Groeneveld, Tummers, Bronkhorst, Ashikali, & Van Thiel, 2015).

This quantitative design was constrained by time in that there was a deadline imposed from without for completion of the study, which impeded the ability to collect a statistically random sample. However, once the data (i.e., responses to survey questions) were collected, they were not perishable and could be analyzed in multiple forms without affecting the data for other uses. Further, no variable was manipulated, making this a nonexperimental study.

Variables

Because of the differences between separation and divorce, tendency to separate and tendency to divorce were considered as two distinct dependent variables: the tendency to separate (DV1) was measured by the longevity of the marriage from beginning to separation, and the tendency to divorce (DV2) was measured by the longevity of the marriage from beginning to divorce. There were 10 independent variables: IV1 was length of military service, IV2 was Honesty-Humility (H), IV3 was Emotionality (E), IV4 was Extraversion (X), IV5 was Agreeableness versus Anger (A),

IV6 was Conscientiousness (C), IV7 was Openness to Experience (O), IV8 was gender, IV9 was age, and IV10 was number of children.

Methodology

Population and Sampling

The target population for the study was individuals who were currently serving or had served in the military who were married or divorced, and individuals who were married, separated, or divorced who did not serve in the military or did not have a spouse who had served in the military. Purposive sampling was used to obtain study participants. This sampling approach is used to choose participants for a study based on the study's purpose and research questions (Teddlie & Yu, 2007). Purposive sampling also includes specific characteristics to choose study participants (Teddlie & Yu, 2007). In purposive sampling, only certain individuals with specific characteristics can provide the information sought in the study. As a result, choosing participants cannot be done through random or probability sampling (Teddlie & Yu, 2007). Specific inclusion criteria were (a) at least 18 years old and either (b) married, separated, or divorced individuals who have served in the military, or married, separated, or divorced individuals who have not served in the military but have or had a spouse who served in the military, or (3) married, separated, or divorced individuals who did not serve in the military and whose spouse did not serve in the military.

A minimum sample size of 118 participants was determined from an a priori statistical power analysis for a multiple regression based on Cohen's (1992) criteria for a multiple regression of a statistical power of .80 (i.e., the percentage of accurately

rejecting the null hypothesis over a given number of samples), a medium effect size (f2, i.e., the degree to which H_o is false as indicated by the difference between H_o and H_a) of 0.15 for up to 10 predictors (six independent variables from the HEXACO-60, military service, gender, years marriage, age), and an alpha level of 0.05.

Recruitment, Participation, and Data Collection Procedures

Participants were recruited from Facebook groups (13 military affiliated and 13 nonmilitary affiliated). U.S. military-affiliated Facebook groups included U.S. Military, Men and Women of the United States Military, United Military Care, United States Military Families and Friends United, United States Military, Military Love, Midwest Military, Military Families United, United States Army Veteran, Military Vets, Military Zone, Military Spouse, Military World, and National Military Family Association. Facebook groups not affiliated with the military included Research Participation – Dissertation, Thesis, PhD, Survey Sharing, Dissertation Survey, Exchange – Share Your Research Study, Find Participants, Psychology Participants & Researchers, Participant Research, Psychological Research Participation, Research Participation and The Times Research Group Participants, Research Scholars, Psychology Research Participants – Dissertation, Thesis, Survey, Subjects, Dissertation Research: Questionnaire and Focus group, and Organizational Psychology Research Public Group. Permission was obtained from the group moderator to post a recruitment announcement.

The study invitation provided the link to the HEXACO-60 assessment, which was administered via SurveyMonkey, an online survey and data collection service. When interested individuals clicked the link, they first saw an informed consent statement

explaining that their participation would be anonymous and voluntary if they continued

with the survey. Participants were also informed that the only compensation they would

receive would be the results of their personality inventory. The study risks and benefits

were also detailed. The survey was an integration of the HEXACO-60 personality trait

inventory, questions to measure the tendency to separate or divorce (time from beginning

of marriage to separation and divorce), and a demographic survey to gather demographic

information including age, gender, number of children, military service including number

of years in the service prior to separation or divorce, and whether the respondent and

respondent's spouse were in the military. Prior to starting the assessment, participants

were informed that their participation would take approximately 30 minutes. Because of

the anonymous nature of this study, it was not be possible to send the results directly to

study participants. No follow-up procedures were necessary for this survey.

Instrumentation and Operationalization of Constructs

Personality traits were measured using the HEXACO-60 inventory. The

HEXACO-60 was developed by Ashton in 2009 (Ashton & Lee, 2009). The instrument is

composed of 60 statements to which the respondent indicates strength of agreement on a

5-point Likert scale (1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree) to indicate how well the

respondent thinks the statement describes him or her. The six major traits of an

individual's personality are Honesty-Humility (H), Emotionality (I), Extraversion (X),

Agreeableness versus Anger (A), Conscientiousness (C), and Openness to Experience

(Ashton & Lee, 2009). Each trait is further subdivided into related facets. Some of the

statements are expressed in the reverse context (e.g., Q6 "I wouldn't use flattery to get a

raise or promotion at work" and Q30 "If I want something from someone, I will laugh at that person's worst jokes") and the score is reversed (see Appendix B). As indicated by the HEXACO-60 form, the facet scales of the 60-item version of the HEXACO-PI-R are "very short and are not intended to have high levels of internal consistency reliability", but are "recommended for use as predictors of conceptually related criterion variables and as indicators of the HEXACO-60 personality factors" (Ashton & Lee, 2009, p.1-2). A detailed discussion of the instrument, its validity, and its relation to other measures of personality is presented in Chapter 2. Permission to use the HEXACO-60 was obtained from the study developer (see Appendix A).

Data Analysis

Responses from the survey tool, SurveyMonkey™ were collected onto Excel an organized for entry into SPSS for statistical analysis. The primary statistical procedure was a multiple linear regression. Descriptive statistics of the demographic variables were obtained to describe the overall sample including means, maximum and minimum, and proportions. All records were included in each procedure and records with missing data were automatically removed by SPSS during the procedure, thus, the degrees of freedom may vary from test to test. Key (primary) test statistics for the multiple regression were the multiple correlation coefficient (R, indicating the strength of association of the independent variables to predicting the dependent variable), coefficient of determination (R-square, the percentage of variation in the dependent variable explained by the independent variables), and the respective effect coefficients (slopes) (B, actual degree of prediction of the dependent variable by the respective independent variable). The

decision rule (alpha-level, i.e., the point of statistical significance at which the null hypothesis was be rejected) is $p = .05$. However, results slightly above .05 statistical significance were sufficiently interesting in other respects as to interpret.

Research Questions and Hypotheses

RQ1: Does military service (IV1) predict tendency to separate (DV1) and tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, and number of children?

H_a1: Military service (IV1) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, and number of children.

H_o1: Military service (IV1) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) when controlling for humility, emotionality, and extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, and openness to experience, gender, age, and number of children.

RQ2: Does humility (IV2) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service?

H_a2: Humility (IV2) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger,

conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

H_o2: Humility (IV2) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

RQ3: Does emotionality (IV3) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service?

H_a3: Emotionality (IV3) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

H_o3: Emotionality (IV3) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

RQ4: Does extraversion (IV4) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service?

*H*_a4: Extraversion (IV4) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

*H*_o4: Extraversion (IV4) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

RQ5: Does agreeableness versus anger (IV5) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service?

*H*_a5: Agreeableness versus anger (IV1) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

*H*_o5: Agreeableness versus anger (IV1) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

RQ6: Does conscientiousness (IV6) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion,

agreeableness versus anger, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service?

H_a6: Conscientiousness (IV6) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

H_o6: Conscientiousness (IV6) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

RQ7: Does openness to experience (IV7) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, gender, age, number of children, and military service?

H_a7: Openness to experience (IV7) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

H_o7: Openness to experience (IV7) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

RQ8: Does gender (IV8) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, age, number of children, and military service?

H_a8: Gender (IV8) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, age, number of children, and military service.

H_o8: Gender (IV8) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, age, number of children, and military service.

RQ9: Does age (IV9) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, number of children, and military service?

H_a9: Age (IV9) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, number of children, and military service.

H_o9: Age (IV9) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness

versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

RQ10: Does the number of children (IV10) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, and military service?

H_a10: Number of children (IV10) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, and military service.

H_o10: Number of children (IV10) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, and military service.

Threats to Validity

Validity indicates the accuracy in which the answers to the study were given as well as the strength behind the findings of the study (Sullivan, 2011). The HEXACO-60 instrument has been demonstrated to be valid and reliable (see detailed discussion in Chapter Two – Literature Review). Ohlund and Yu, C (2018), citing Cook and Campbell (1979) as seminal works in the field of experimental design, categorize threats to validity as internal and external. They state that internal validity refers to "whether an experimental treatment or condition makes a difference or not, and whether there is

sufficient evidence to support the claim." (Ohlund and Yu, 2018, p. 1). They further

identify and define eight types of threats to internal validity: history, maturation, testing,

instrumentation, experimental mortality (loss of subjects), selection-maturation

interaction, statistical regression, and subject selection. A review of these definitions in

the context of this non-experimental study suggests that only the threats of statistical

regression and subject selection apply. Statistical regression threatens validity by the

regression's tendency to minimize the effects of extreme scores in the sample (Hamby,

2019). This threat can be mitigated by testing for normality of the distribution and

through the procedure of "regression bootstrapping" which measures the robustness of

the statistical significance of the regression statistic through multiple sampling of the

study sample, i.e., constructing smaller samples from the study sample.

The other threat relevant to this study was subject selection, or bias that may

result in selection of the participants. As completion of this study was constrained by a

deadline, a convenience sample must be used and, therefore, opens the possibility of a

less-than representative sample of the population being taken. This threat can be

mitigated to some extent by a review of the statistical power of the regression. The higher

the statistical power indicates the more likely the result of the procedure would be

repeated with more iterations and interpreted as to the strength of the validity of the

result.

Ohlund and Yu, C (2018) state that external validity refers to the "generalizability

of the treatment/condition outcomes." (Ohlund and Yu, 2018, p. 1) They identify four

types of threats to external validity: reactive/interactive effect of pre- and post-testing,

interaction effects of selection biases and the experimental variable, reactive effects of experimental arrangements, and multiple treatment interference. According to their respective definitions, and as this study is non-experimental, none of these threats are anticipated.

Ethical Considerations

To protect participants' privacy, they did not self-identify at any point during their participation. The administrative account on SurveyMonkey® where the data was collected and stored is password protected. Prior to completing the assessment, participants electronically gave consent via an online informed consent form. The informed consent form included the invitation to participate in the study and a brief explanation of why the study is being conducted. The form provided details on the procedures for study participation. Potential participants were required to check a box to indicate their agreement to participate in the study. The form explained the voluntary nature of the study and that their participation is completely voluntary.

Participants were notified of any risk or benefits of participating in the study and be advised that they would not be receive any compensation for their participation other than to receive the results of their personality assessment if they so desire. They were informed that the study is being conducted privately and that all data collected will be retained for 5 years, as required by Walden University, and then destroyed. Lastly, information was provided on how they can contact me with any concerns or questions. The final portion of the consent form was simply a check box in which the participant

acknowledges the receipt of the informed consent form and agrees to participate in the study.

Summary

This was a quantitative, non-experimental correlational study using a multiple regression analysis procedure to answer the question do personality traits (as measured by the HEXACO-60 and service in the military predict the tendency to separate or divorce. The choice of a quantitative, non-experimental correlational design is consistent with other designs used to advance knowledge in the area of the relationship between personality and occupation (e.g., military service) and marital relationships. Purposive sampling was used to obtain study participants, with the target population for the proposed study being individuals who are currently serving or have served in the military who are married or divorced and individuals who are married, separated, or divorced who did or do not have a spouse who has served in the military. Participants were recruited from specific Facebook groups (13 military affiliated and 13 non-military-affiliated). Personality traits were measured by the HEXACO-60 inventory. The survey was an integration of the HEXACO-60 personality trait inventory, questions to collect data to measure the dependent variable 'tendency to separate or divorce' (specifically, time from beginning of marriage to separation and divorce), and a demographic survey to gather basic demographic information to include age, gender, number of children and data for military service to include number of years in the service prior to separation or divorce, and whether or not the respondent and respondent's spouse were in the military. Responses from the survey tool, SurveyMonkey™ was collected onto Excel™ an

organized for entry into SPSS for statistical analysis. To protect participants' privacy, they did not self-identify at any point during their participation.

The primary statistical procedure was a multiple linear regression. Descriptive statistics of the demographic variables were obtained to describe the overall sample including means, maximum and minimum, and proportions. The study consisted of 10 sets of research questions and hypotheses which were specified above. SPSS® and the PROCESS macro for SPSS® was used for data analysis. The only anticipated threats to the validity of the results are the tendency of the regression to minimize the effects of extreme scores and potential bias that may result in selection of the participants, but can be mitigated with bootstrapping and review of statistical power. The results of this analysis are presented in Chapter 4.

Chapter 4: Results

This chapter presents a summary of the demographics of the sample of subjects, the results of the statistical analysis of the data, tests of statistical hypotheses, and interpretation of the statistical results with respect to the research question. The purpose of this quantitative, non-experimental correlational study was to determine whether an individual's personality features (as measured by the HEXACO-60 measures of Honesty/Humility, Emotionality I, Extraversion, Agreeableness versus Anger, Conscientiousness, and Openness to Experience), military service, gender, age, and number of children (independent variables) predict the tendency to separate or divorce (dependent variables). The following research questions and hypotheses were used to guide the study:

RQ1: Does military service (IV1) predict tendency to separate (DV1) and tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, and number of children?

H_a1: Military service (IV1) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, and number of children.

H_o1: Military service (IV1) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) when controlling for humility, emotionality, and extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, and openness to experience, gender, age, and number of children.

RQ2: Does humility (IV2) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service?

H_a2: Humility (IV2) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

H_o2: Humility (IV2) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

RQ3: Does emotionality (IV3) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service?

H_a3: Emotionality (IV3) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

H_o3: Emotionality (IV3) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, extraversion, agreeableness versus

anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

RQ4: Does extraversion (IV4) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service?

H_a4: Extraversion (IV4) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

H_o4: Extraversion (IV4) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

RQ5: Does agreeableness versus anger (IV5) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service?

H_a5: Agreeableness versus anger (IV1) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

H_o5: Agreeableness versus anger (IV1) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

RQ6: Does conscientiousness (IV6) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service?

H_a6: Conscientiousness (IV6) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

H_o6: Conscientiousness (IV6) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

RQ7: Does openness to experience (IV7) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, gender, age, number of children, and military service?

H_a7: Openness to experience (IV7) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion,

agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

H_o7: Openness to experience (IV7) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

RQ8: Does gender (IV8) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, age, number of children, and military service?

H_a8: Gender (IV8) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, age, number of children, and military service.

H_o8: Gender (IV8) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, age, number of children, and military service.

RQ9: Does age (IV9) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, number of children, and military service?

H_a9: Age (IV9) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, number of children, and military service.

H_o9: Age (IV9) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, number of children, and military service.

RQ10: Does the number of children (IV10) predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, and military service?

H_a10: Number of children (IV10) predicts tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, and military service.

H_o10: Number of children (IV10) does not predict tendency to separate (DV1) or tendency to divorce (DV2) when controlling for humility, emotionality, extraversion, agreeableness versus anger, conscientiousness, openness to experience, gender, age, and military service.

This chapter presents a summary of the data collection, a summary of the demographics of the sample for the study, and the results of the statistical tests of the 10 hypotheses.

Data Collection

Time frame for data collection was three weeks from approval to collect data until closing of the collection period. There were only two discrepancies in data collection – two respondents to the survey, although completing the survey, checked "I do not wish to be included I the study" and thus their responses were eliminated. Baseline descriptive and demographics of the sample are presented and discussed in Table 1 Summary Description of the Sample. Sample size was 89. The target population for the proposed study was individuals who are currently serving or have served in the military who are married or divorced and individuals who are married, separated, or divorced who did or do not have a spouse who has served in the military. Purposive sampling was used to obtain study participants. Specific inclusion criteria were (1) all participants must be at least 18 years old and must be or have been married (2) married, separated, or divorced individuals who have served in the military, or married, separated, or divorced individuals who have not served in the military but have or had a spouse who served in the military, and (3) married, separated, or divorced individuals who did not serve in the military and whose spouse also did not serve in the military. A needed sample size of 118 participants was determined from an apriori statistical power analysis for a multiple regression based on Cohen's (1992) criteria for a multiple regression of a statistical power of .80 (i.e., the percentage of accurately rejecting the null hypothesis over a given

number of samples), a medium effect size (f2, i.e., the degree to which Ho is false as indicated by the difference between Ho and H1) of 0.15 for up to ten predictors (independent variables HEXACO-60 (6), military service, gender, years marriage, age), and an alpha level of 0.05. Although the actual sample size was 89, certain statistical tests demonstrated statistical significance. Results are discussed in the sections following.

Summary Description of the Sample

Table 1 depicts counts and proportions (rounded) of the responses for the respective demographic questions on the survey. Sample size was 89 total respondents with various n-sizes for the various tests owing to come missing responses from some of the respondents.

Table 1

Summary Description of the Sample (Sample Size 89)

Q2 AGE, *n = 89* Average – 38.5 Max – 71 Min – 21									
Q3 GENDER, *n= 89* Male – 49/55% Female – 40/45%									
Q4 ETHNIC IDENTITY, *n = 89**									
Black/ Afr-Am	White	Hispanic	Asian	Native American	Middle Eastern	Indian Subcontinent	North African	African	Other
2/<3%	70/79%	12*/13%	2*/<3%	0	1/<2%	1/<2%	0	0	2/<3%
*one respondent identified as Hispanic and Asian									

Q5 TYPE OF SERVICE, *n = 88*							
Army	Air Force	Navy	Marines	Coast Guard	Police	Fire/EMT	No Uniformed Served
7/8%	2/<3%	25/28%	8/9%	0	0	4/5%	42/48%

Q9 CURRENT MARITAL STATUS, *n = 89*		
Married, living together 19/21%	Separated/Divorced 60/67%	Never Married 10/11%

MILITARY SERVICE & MARRIAGE			
Q11 Of those separated or divorced, *n = 60*		Q7 Of those who served, *n=46*	
Yes, in military when sep/divorce 15/25%	No, not in military when sep/divorce 19'32%	Combat 23/50%	No Combat 23/50%

Q13 CHILDREN, *n = 79 (those who were married)*		
Married a partner with children 18/20%	Brought children into a marriage 40/45%	Had no children while married 21/26%

HEXACO-60 SCORE AVERAGES (Scale 1 – 5, high score indicates higher presence of the characteristic)					
Honesty/Humility	Emotionality	Extraversion	Agreeableness	Conscientiousness	Openness
3.41	2.87	3.47	3.08	3.59	3.39

Age. Average age was 38.5 years, arranging from 21 to 71.

Gender. *Gender* was relatively evenly mixed with Males representing 54% (n=49)

and females 45% (n=*4*0).

Ethnic identity. The largest proportion of respondents were White (79 %, n=70) with 13.4% (12) Hispanic and the remaining approximate 8% (n=7) African-American, Asia, Middle-Eastern, and Indian Sub-continent. There were no Native Americans, North Africans, or Africans.

Service. Fifty-two percent (46) of respondents indicated having *served in a uniformed service* and 48% (42) not having served. The vast majority of those who served were Navy (54%). There were no Coast Guard or Police respondents.

Marital Status. Of the 89 respondents, 21% (19) were married and living together, 67% (60) were separated or divorced, and 11% (10) had never been married.

Children. Twenty percent (18) of the 89 respondents married a partner with children, 45% (40) brought children into a marriage, 26% (21) had no children while married.

HEXACO-60 Scores. The Score averages for the six HEXACO-60 dimensions ranged between 2.87 (Emotionality) to 3.59 (Openness) on a 5-point scale.

Evaluation of Statistical Assumptions

Following is a presentation of the results of tests for eight key assumptions of regression in the study HEXACO-60 Personality and military service as Predictors of Separation and Divorce in Americans. Ten variables were tested in a multiple linear forward stepwise regression for their significance as predictors of Q14 Years between Marriage and Separation: Q2 Age, Q3 Gender, Q8 Years of service, Q12 Children while married, Q13 Children brought into the marriage Honesty/Humility, Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, and Openness.

Assumption 1: The Data Should Have Been Measured Without Error

Data collection is presumed to be accurate as they were collected from an online survey with standard responses for most questions thus reducing arbitrariness in interpretation of the response for the analysis. Except for the HEXACO60, no test of reliability was performed as the survey questions were unique questions about demographics (i.e., there were no multiples of questions intended to measure a certain construct). The HEXACO60 had been previously validated through extensive testing by the authors Ashton and Lee (refer to Chapter Two – Literature Review for a detailed discussion of its validity).

Assumption 2: Linearity

The relationship between the IVs and the DVS should be linear, indicated by a visual inspection of a plot of observed vs predicted values symmetrically distributed around a diagonal line or symmetrically around a plot of residuals vs predicted values (around horizontal line). A test for linearity of categorical variables (i.e., either 'is' or 'is not') is irrelevant as linearity requires a continuous variable. Therefore, the following categorical variables used in the regressions were not tested for linearity: Q3 Gender, Q5 Type of service, Q4 Ethnic identity category, Q9 Marital status, Q13A Brought children into the marriage, Q13B Married a partner with children, Continuous variables used in the regressions and tested for linearity were: Q2 Age, Q8 Years of service on active uniformed duty, Q12 How many children have you had while married, Q14 Years between married and separated, Q15 Years between married and divorced, and Q16 Do you feel service life contributed to your separation or divorce. Linearity was assessed

from a visual inspection of the probability plots (P-P) of the expected (Y-axis) and observed (X-axis) residuals. Although there is some bowing and S-curving, it is not deemed sufficiently large, considering the relative sample size (less than 30), to consider the data as not linear.
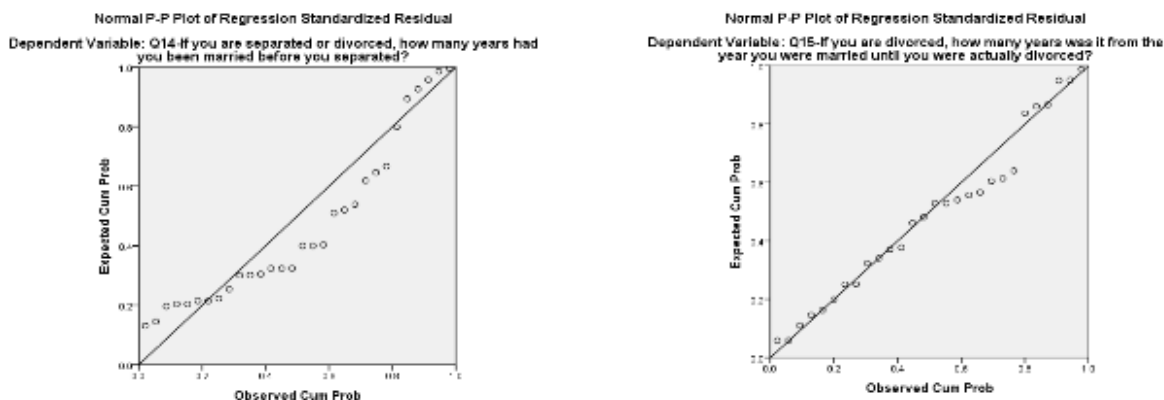
Figure 1. Scatterplots of Regression Assumption 2: Linearity.

Assumption 3: Normality of the Data

The data should be normally distributed, indicated by a skewness statistic for each variable to be between -3 and +3. The continuous variables (Q2 Age, Q8 Years of service on active uniformed duty, Q12 How many children have you had while married, Q14 Years between married and separated, Q15 Years between married and divorced, and Q16 Do you feel service life contributed to your separation or divorce) were tested for normality of their distributions with the skewness statistic criterion. All variables were well between the rule of thumb for normality of -3 to +3 as depicted in Table 2 -- *Variable Skewness.*

Table 2

Variable Skewness (Test of Assumption of Normality)

| | N | Mean | Skewness | |
			Statistic	Std. Error
Q2 Age	89	38.48	1.470	.255
Q3-Gender	89	.45	.207	.255
Q8-Years on Active Duty	89	5.54	1.393	.255
Q12-How many children have you had while married?	89	1.53	.720	.255
Q13-Did you bring children into the marriage?	89	1.10	-.202	.255
Q14-If you are separated or divorced, how many years had you been married before you separated?	30	6.533	.893	.427
Q15-If you are divorced, how many years was it from the year you were married until you were actually divorced?	28	6.921	.940	.441
Q16-Do you feel your service life contributed to your separation or divorce?	37	2.32	.686	.388
Honesty/Humility	89	3.41	-.562	.255
Emotionality	89	2.87	.352	.255
Extraversion	89	3.47	-.436	.255
Agreeableness	89	3.08	-.339	.255
Conscientiousness	89	3.59	-.175	.255
Openness	89	3.39	-.273	.255

Assumption 4: Normality of the Residuals

The residuals should be normally distributed across the regression line indicated by a visual inspection of the normal probability plot, i.e., points on the plot should fall close to the diagonal reference line. A bow-shaped pattern of deviations from the diagonal indicates that the residuals have excessive skewness. The continuous variables (Q2 Age, Q8 Years of service on active uniformed duty, Q12 How many children have you had while married, Q14 Years between married and separated, Q15 Years between married and divorced, and Q16 Do you feel service life contributed to your separation or divorce) were tested for normality of their residuals from a visual inspection of the normal probability plots (P-P) as in the test for normality of the raw data. Likewise, although there is some bowing and S-curving in the plot, it is not deemed sufficiently

large, considering the relative sample size (less than 30), to consider the data as not linear.
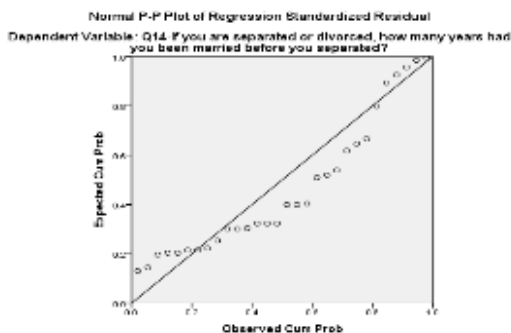
P-P plot for Q15 If you were separated or divorced, how many years had you been married before you were divorced is not shown as no variables ente4red were statistically significant

Figure 2. Scatterplots, Assumption 4: Normality of the residuals.

Assumption 5: Homoscedasticity

The variances of the residuals should be equal across the regression line, indicated by a scatter-plot of residuals versus predicted values with little evidence of residuals that grow larger either as a function of time (for time series regression) or as a function of the predicted value (for ordinary least squares regression). The continuous variables (Q2 Age, Q8 Years of service on active uniformed duty, Q12 How many children have you had while married, Q14 Years between married and separated, Q15 Years between married and divorced, and Q16 Do you feel service life contributed to your separation or divorce) were tested for homoscedasticity with a visual inspection of the scatterplots of the standardized predicted value against the standardized residual. Data points were relatively evenly/symmetrically distributed around the horizontal line at "0" standardized predicted value indicating no trend of values growing larger as a function of predicted value.

Scatterplot
Dependent Variable: Q14-If you are separated or divorced, how many years had you been married before you separated?
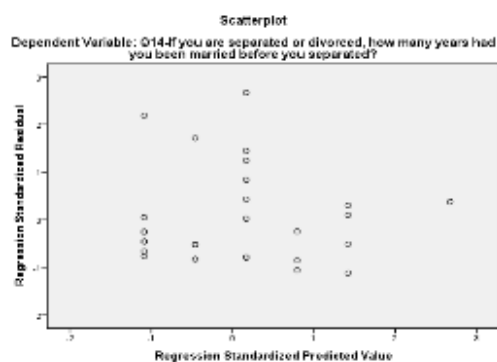
P-P plot for Q15 If you were separated or divorced, how many years had you been married before you were divorced is not shown as no variables ente4red were statistically significant

Figure 3. Scatterplot, Assumption 5: Homoscedasticity.

Assumption 6: Independence of Residuals

The residuals should be independent of one another (especially in time series plot (i.e., residuals vs. row number), indicated by a scatter-plot of standardized residuals (y-axis) on standardized predicted showing a relative square of data points around the "0" intersection of the axes within -3 and +3. The continuous variables (Q2 Age, Q8 Years of service on active uniformed duty, Q12 How many children have you had while married, Q14 Years between married and separated, Q15 Years between married and divorced, and Q16 Do you feel service life contributed to your separation or divorce) were tested for independence of residuals with a visual inspection of the scatterplots of the standardized residual against the standardized predicted value and were relatively evenly/symmetrically distributed around the intersection of the horizontal and vertical lines at "0" with no "clumps" in any quadrant, thus indicating independence of the residua*ls.* The Durbin-Watson test, although between 1 and 2 indicating independence and no auto-correlation, was irrelevant because it is dependent upon the order of the records and is thus more suited to time series than OLS.

Assumption 7: There Should Be No Auto-Correlation between the Residuals

   Durbin-Watson test of auto-correlation for the regressions on Q14 returned a

value of 1.871, well within the rule-of-thumb of between 1 and 4 to demonstrate no auto-

correlation effects. (2 = no auto-correlation; values less than 2 show positive correlation;

values greater than 2 show inverse correlation) Q15 was not significant (see Table 3 –

Test of Independence of Residuals).

Table 3

Test of Independence of Residuals

DV	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
Q14	.399	.159	.129	4.9149	1.871
Q15	No statistically significant predictors				

DV Q14-If you are separated or divorced, how many years had you been married before you separated?; Predictor: Q12-How many children have you had while married?

DV Q15 Years between marriage and divorce; Predictors: Q12-How many children have you had while married?, Q3-Gender

Assumption 8: Noncollinearity

   The variables should not be collinear with each other, identified by a Pearson's *r*

for each IV against each of the other IVs to be less than .70. Pearson's *r* was obtained for

all variables. Only one pair of variables (Q3 gender-Emotionality, r = .73) exceeded the

rule-of-thumb for maximum for non-collinearity of .70. The regression results

demonstrated the effect of this collinearity by showing that being "female" had generally

the same effect of extending the years between marriage and separation and divorce as

high score in Emotionality.

Table 4

Correlations of Variables in the Regressions (Test of Assumption of Collinearity)

	Q2 Age	Q3-Gender	Q8-Years Active Duty	Q12 - children while married?	Q13-Brought children into marriage?	Honesty/Humility	Emotionality	Extraversion	Agreeableness	Conscientiousness	Openness
Q2 Age	1.	-.030	.270	.130	.140	.339	-.085	.164	.076	-.051	.247
Q3 Gender	-.030	1	-.263	-.295	-.195	-.183	**.730**	-.252	-.137	.125	.190
Q8 Years	.270*	-.263*	1	.334	.035	.068	-.418	.251	.113	.061	.064
Q12	.130	-.295*	.334	1	.481	.155	-.463	.080	.093	-.010	-.148
Q13	.140	-.195	.035	.481*	1	.082	-.392	-.119	-.046	-.099	.035
Honesty/ Humility	.339*	-.183	.068	.155	.082	1	-.192	.288	.442	.222	.351
Emotionality	-.085	**.730***	-.418*	-.463*	-.392*	-.192*	1	-.409	-.224	-.201	.039
Extraversion	.164	-.252*	.251*	.080	-.119	.288*	-.409*	1	.659	.641	.329
Agreeableness	.076	-.137	.113	.093	-.046	.442*	-.224	.659*	1	.652	.544
Conscientious-ness	-.051	.125	.061	-.010	-.099	.222	-.201	.641*	.652*	1	.390
Openness	.247*	.190	.064	-.148	.035	.351*	.039	.329*	.544*	.390*	1

*Significant at the alpha = .10 level at least

Results

A multiple linear regression was used to test the primary hypotheses. The sample size for the DVs measuring the length of time from marriage to separation and divorce (Q14 and Q15) were relatively small (df2 = 29 and 27, respectively, i.e., n = 30 and 28, respectively, minus 1 and 1 significant predictors (i.e., Q12) in the regression, respectively), limiting the statistical power of the regression and suggesting that a larger sample size would have revealed more statistically significant variables than just Q12.

Primary Hypotheses – HEXACO Effect on Separation and Marriage

The primary DVs were Q14 "Years from marriage to separation" and Q15 "Years from marriage to divorce". The ten primary IVs were Age (Q2), Gender (Q3), Years on active duty (Q9), Q12 How many children have you had while married (also tested was Q13-Did you bring children into the marriage?) and the six HEXACO-60 dimension scores Honesty, Emotionality, Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, and Openness to Experience. All IVs were entered into a regression for each of the two DVs using a forward stepwise procedure, that is, the procedure entered each variable one at a time, automatically eliminating any variable returning a significance > .05.

Table 5 – *Regression Model Summary, DVs = Q14 – How many years had you been married before you separated? Q15- How many years had you been married before you divorced?* Depicts the results of the multiple regression. Of the ten/eleven IVs tested, the only variable returning significance for Q14 was Q12 "How many children have you had while married?" (sig. F Change = .029). The correlation R was moderately strong (R = .399). The R-square (.159) indicated that 15.9 percent of the variation in Q14 was explained by the number of children the respondents had while married.

Table 5

Regression Model Summary, DVs = Q14: How Many Years Had You Been Married Before You Separated? Q15: How Many Years Had You Been Married Before You Divorced?

DV	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Change Statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
Q14	.399a	.159	.129	4.9149	.159	5.302	1	28	.029
Q15	No predictors/variables entered were statistically significant								

a. Predictors: (Constant), Q12-How many children have you had while married?

Of the ten/eleven IVs tested, none were statistically significance predictors of Q15 How many years between marriage and divorce.

Table 6 – *Effect Coefficients, DVs Q14 and Q15* depicts the effect coefficients for the statistically significant variables in the regression. For DV Q14, the coefficient (B = 1.317) indicates that for each child the respondents had while in the marriage, the number of years between marriage and separation increased by 1.317 years. Likewise, for DV Q15, the coefficient (B = 1.878) indicates that for each child the respondents had while in the marriage, the number of years between marriage and divorced increased by 1.878 years. Furthermore, if the respondent was female (coded 1), then the years between marriage and divorce increased by 4.854 years. For DV Q15, no IVs were statistically significant.

Table 6

Effect Coefficients, DVs Q14 and Q15

DV	Significant Variables	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	Collinearity Statistics	
		B	Std. Error	Beta			Tolerance	VIF
Q14	(Constant)	4.251	1.337		3.179	.004		
	Q12 How many children have you had while married?	1.317	.572	.399	2.303	.029	1.000	1.000
Q15	No predictors/variables entered were statistically significant							

Table 7 – *Variables Excluded from the Regressions* depicts the other nine

variables that were excluded from the regression for lack of statistical significance (i.e.,

Sig. > .05).

Table 7

Variables Excluded From the Regressions

Variables Excluded	Sig. DV Q14	Sig. DV Q15
Q2 Age	.397	.997
Q3 Gender	.113	.365
Q8 Years on active service	.449	.487
Q13 Brought children into the marriage (Y/N)	.855	.784
Honesty/Humility	.562	.106
Emotionality	**.076**	.833
Extraversion	.313	.673
Agreeableness	.784	.903
Conscientiousness	.818	.527
Openness	.825	.833

Note that Emotionality for DV Q14 (Sig. = .076) was significant at the alpha = .10 level

indicating that a larger sample size might demonstrate significance at the .05 level. A test

of collinearity was run between variables Q12 How many children have you had while

married, Q3 Gender, and HEXACO-60 Emotionality to see if any were collinear, that is,

if the amount each varied tended to be exactly as any of the others varied. The test

showed that Q12 was not collinear with Gender or Emotionality but that Gender was

mildly collinear with Emotionality, suggesting that being a female and having a high

score in Emotionality tended to be synonymous.

Ethnic Identity and Service

Ethnic identity and type of service were run as IVs on specific DVs as separate regressions due to the large number of unique categories required to break the variables into dummy variables for entry into a regression.

Ethnic Identity was run separately as an IV in a multiple linear regression on DV Q14 and Q15 and as an IV in a binary logistic regression on DV Q9 with no statistical significance for any of the ethnic identity categories (refer to Table 1 – Summary Description of the Sample, Q4 Ethnic Identity) suggesting that ethnic identity is not a statistically significant predictor of the tendency to separate or divorce.

Type of service was run as an IV on DV Q14 How many years had you been married before you separated? Q14- How many years had you been married before you *separated*, Q15 How many years had you been married before you *divorced*, Q9 Separate/Divorced vs Still Married, and Q16 Do you feel your service life contributed to your separation or divorce? Also, HEXACO-60 dimensions were run as IVs/predictors on Service in a uniformed service (Yes/No) as the DV.

Type of service was run separately as an IV in a multiple linear regression on DV Q14 and Q15 with no statistical significance for any of the service categories (refer to Table 1 – Summary Description of the Sample, Q5 Type of Service) suggesting that the type is not a statistically significant predictor of the tendency to separate or divorce.

Testing the effect type of service had on predicting whether service life contributed to separation or divorce (Q16) was not possible as the survey could not discriminate between services for all those who responded to Q16. That is, some

respondents indicated they had not served yet responded to Q16, suggesting that although

they had not served, they were separated/divorced from a spouse who had served.

However, a summary of the responses was possible. Table 8 – *Descriptive Statistics Q16-*

Do you feel your service life contributed to your separation or divorce depicts a mean of

2.32 (on a 5-point scale, 1=Not at all to 5-Most significantly) suggesting that, overall,

respondents felt service life (either themselves being in the service or being married to a

service member) had a moderate contribution to their separation or divorce.

Table 8

Descriptive Statistics Q16: Do You Feel Your Service Life Contributed to Your Separation or Divorce?

N	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	Std. Error	Std. Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis
37	2.32	5	1	.285	1.733	.686	-1.412

HEXACO-60 Differences

The average scores for the six HEXACO-60 dimensions were tested in an

ANOVA to identify statistically significant differences between them. Table 9 – *ANOVA,*

Differences between HEXACO-60 Dimension Average Scores depicts there was at least

one statistically significant pair (Sig. = .000, i.e., less than .005)

Table 9

ANOVA, Differences Between HEXACO-60 Dimension Average Scores

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	32.082	5	6.416	13.535	.000
Within Groups	250.307	528	.474		
Total	282.388	533			

Seven pairs of dimensions were significantly different (H-E, H-A, E-X, E-C, E-O, X-A, A-C) corroborating that the HEXACO-60 is measuring different dimensions as it was designed to do. Table 10 – *Bonferroni Test of Paired Differences* depicts the specific HEXACO-60 pairs of dimensions that were statistically significantly different (Sig. < .05) as well as those that were not (Sig. > .05). The result of the non-significant pairs was more interesting than the pairs found to be significant in that one would expect average scores to be different as they are intended to measure different constructs. Thus, the pairs that are not statistically different suggest the question as to why they seem to be the same.

Table 10

Bonferroni Test of Paired Differences

HEXACO-60 (I)	HEXACO-60 (J)	Mean Difference (I-J)	Std. Error	Sig.
Honesty/Humility	Emotionality	.53346	.10293	.000
Honesty/Humility	Agreeableness	.32921	.10321	.019
Emotionality	Extraversion	-.59154	.10322	.000
Emotionality	Conscientiousness	-.71323	.10293	.000
Emotionality	Openness	-.50762	.10293	.000
eXtraversion	Emotionality	.59154	.10322	.000
eXraversion	Agreeableness	.38730	.10351	.003
Agreeableness	Conscientiousness	-.50899	.10321	.000
Agreeableness	Openness	-.30337	.10321	.040
Honesty/Humility	Conscientiousness	-.17978	.10321	.505
Honesty/Humility	Openness	.02584	.10321	1.000
Honesty/Humility	Extraversion	-.05808	.10351	.993
Emotionality	Agreeableness	-.20424	.10293	.353
eXtraversion	Honesty/Humility	.05808	.10351	.993
eXtraversion	Conscientiousness	-.12169	.10351	.848
eXtraversion	Openness	.08392	.10351	.966
Agreeableness	Emotionality	.20424	.10293	.353
Conscientiousness	Openness	.20562	.10321	.348

Results Summary

Table 11 – *Results Summary* depicts a summary of the results of the tests of the 10 primary statistical hypotheses and follow-on hypotheses. In summary, none of the HEXACO-60 dimensions were statistically significant predictors of tendency to separate or divorce as measured by the years between marriage and separation, marriage and divorce, and separated/divorced vs. still married. The only dimension worth mentioning was Emotionality which was significant at .10 level for years between marriage and separation.

Table 11

Results Summary

HYPOTHESIS	CONCLUSION	REMARKS
Ha1a,b: Bservice ≠ 0	Years on active service statistically significant predictive effect on Separation or Divorce	Each year on active service resulted in 1.081 times more likely to be separated or divorced
Ha2a,b: Bhumility ≠ 0	No statistically significant predictive effect on Separation or Divorce	
Ha3a,b: Bemotinality ≠ 0	No statistically significant predictive effect on Separation or Divorce	
Ha4a,b: Bextroversion ≠ 0	No statistically significant predictive effect on Separation or Divorce	
Ha5a,b: Bagreeableness ≠ 0	No statistically significant predictive effect on Separation or Divorce	
Ha6a,b: Bconscientiousness ≠ 0	No statistically significant effect on Separation or Divorce	
Ha7a,b: Bopenness ≠ 0	No statistically significant predictive effect on Separation or Divorce	
Ha8a,b: Bgender ≠ 0	Not statistically significant predictor of Separation or divorce	
Ha9a,b: Bage ≠ 0	No statistically significant predictive effect on Separation or Divorce	
Ha10a,b: Bchildren ≠ 0	Statistically significant predictive effect on Separation, but no Divorce	Only "children while married" had effect on Separation; bringing children into a marriage had no effect
Ethnic Identity	No statistically significant predictive effect on Separation or Divorce	
Perception of service life contributing to separation/divorce	Mean score 2.32 (1=Not all to 5=Most significantly; no statistically significant correlation with actual separation or divorce	Type of Service could not be tested for any effect on perception of service life contribution to separation or divorce due to inability of survey to discriminate between

		respondents' own service and that of their spouses'
HEXACO-60 and Having Served	Only Emotionality was significant predictor of uniformed service	Each point of 5-point Emotionality scale indicated .272 times more likely to have served
HEXACO-60 Score Differences	ANOVA found a mix of significant differences between the average scores of several pairs of dimensions	Not significant pairs may indicate low discrimination between the constructs being measured

None of the six HEXACO-60 personality dimensions were statistically significant predictors of the number of years between marriage and separation or divorce.

The number of years on active uniformed service was a statistically significant predictor of separation and divorce. For each year on active service, a respondent was 1.081 times more likely to be separated or divorced.

Age was not a statistically significant predictor of separation or divorce.

The number of children one brought into a marriage into a marriage was not a statistically significant predictor of separation or divorce. However, having children in the marriage was a statistically significant predictor for years between marriage and separation between marriage and divorce with the effect that having children while in a marriage increased years between marriage and separation by 1.317 years but no effect on divorce.

Gender was not a statistically significant predictor of separation (Q14) or divorce (Q15). Gender and Emotionality appear to be collinear, one being a surrogate for the other. That is, being "female" had generally the same effect of extending the years between marriage and separation and divorce as high score in Emotionality.

Only Emotionality of the six HEXACO-60 dimensions was a significant predictor of having served in a uniformed service with each point increase of the 5-point Emotionality scale indicating a respondent was .272 times more likely to have served

For scores of HEXACO-60 dimensions that were not statistically different from each other suggest further investigation into the nature of the measurement of the constructs or the relationship with an overall "personality" as measured by the HEXACO-60. Not significant pairs may indicate low discrimination between the constructs being measured.

Conclusions and discussion of the results and their implications to social change are presented in Chapter Five – Summary and Conclusions.

Chapter 5: Discussion, Conclusions, and Recommendations

The purpose of this quantitative, non-experimental correlational study was to determine whether an individual's personality features (as measured by the HEXACO-60 measures of Honesty-Humility, Emotionality, Extraversion, Agreeableness versus Anger, Conscientiousness, and Openness to Experience), military service, gender, age, and number of children (independent variables) predict the tendency to separate or divorce (dependent variables). Determining whether personalities are a factor in separation and divorce may provide insight into lowering the number of divorces. The results of this study may help military counselors, chaplains, commanders, and civilian counseling professionals working with marital issues by identifying indicators of risk of separation and divorce. The results may provide married couples with an added awareness of the risk factors for separation and divorce, which may help them take preventive action.

A multiple linear regression was used to test the statistical hypotheses. The target population included individuals who had served in the military and had been married, separated, or divorced. Data were also collected from a comparison group consisting of individuals who had been married, separated, or divorced but did not serve in the military or did not have a marriage partner who served in the military. The dependent variables were tendency to separate and tendency to divorce. Independent variables included scores on the HEXACO-60 and demographics of the respondent including longevity of military service of both spouses or an indication of neither spouse having served in the military, gender, number of children, and age.

Results indicated that the number of years of active uniformed service was a statistically significant predictor of separation and divorce. For each year of active service, a respondent was 1.081 times more likely to be separated or divorced. Age was not a statistically significant predictor of separation or divorce. The number of children one brought into a marriage was not a statistically significant predictor of separation or divorce. However, having children in the marriage was a statistically significant predictor for years between marriage and separation between marriage and divorce with the effect that having children while in a marriage increased years between marriage and separation by 1.317 years. Gender was not a statistically significant predictor of separation or divorce. Gender and Emotionality appear to be collinear, one being a surrogate for the other. That is, being female had the same effect of extending the years between marriage and separation and divorce as high score in Emotionality. Of the six HEXACO-60 dimensions, only Emotionality was a significant predictor of having served in a uniformed service with each point increase of the 5-point Emotionality scale indicating a respondent was .272 times more likely to have served. None of the six HEXACO-60 personality dimensions was a significant predictor of the number of years between marriage and separation or divorce.

Interpretation of the Findings

The results regarding the correlation between HEXACO-60 and an individual's personality traits were inconclusive in predicting the tendency to separate or divorce. A test of reliability of the HEXACO-60 survey for the sample in this study returned a Cronbach's alpha below the traditionally accepted .70 for some of the six dimensions,

indicating that for those dimensions the several questions intending to measure that respective dimension were not reliable. As a result, the HEXACO-60 score averages for those dimensions that were not reliable may have affected their statistical significance in the regression model so as to be eliminated in the stepwise procedure, thereby affecting the overall interactive effects of the six dimensions. This suggests that other personality measures might be better suited to being used in measuring effects on separation and divorce.

The HEXACO-60 parallels McCrae and Costa's (1999) five-factor model of personality development which defines personality by five factors: neuroticism, extraversion, openness, agreeableness, and conscientiousness. Four out of the five dimensions (extraversion, openness, agreeableness, and conscientiousness) correspond to the same names of dimensions in the HEXACO-60, but the questions used to measure each of those dimensions are different. Although the names of the dimensions are the same, the constructs would likely be different as well as their definitions.

The theoretical framework for this study was the eight stages of psychosocial development developed by Erikson (1950) and was grounded on the supposition that an individual's personality development is a key aspect in the possibility that an individual may have an increased risk of getting divorced. Erikson's eight stages of psychosocial development begin at infancy and continue in late adulthood (Erikson, 1950). The first five stages occur in pre-adulthood: (a) trust versus distrust, (b) autonomy versus shame and doubt, (c) initiative versus guilt, (d) industry versus inferiority, and (e) identity versus identity confusion (Erikson, 1950). The focus of the current study was on the last three

stages that occur in adulthood as being more apropos to the effect of personality on marriage and divorce: (a) intimacy versus isolation, (b) generativity versus stagnation, and (c) integrity versus despair.

In Stage 6 (intimacy), an individual who is unsure of his or her identity will shy away from intimacy (Erikson, 1950). The closest parallel to a measure of comfort with intimacy in the HEXACO-60 is Emotionality and Openness. The results of this study showed no significant predictive relationship between Openness or Emotionality and the years between marriage and separation or divorce.

In Stage 7 (generativity), an individual develops an underlying desire to have children. This suggests that an adult who does not develop generativity has the potential to be self-serving and selfish, which is generally not found to be a good trait for a marital partner and for rearing children. There was no significant predictive relationship between the HEXACO-60 personality dimensions and generativity. The number of children brought into a marriage was not a statistically significant predictor of separation or divorce; however, having children in the marriage was significantly associated with increased number of years between marriage and separation. The result appears to support Erikson's Stage 7 concept that generativity tends to improve longevity in a marriage.

In Stage 8 (integrity versus despair), an individual develops conscious acceptance of life as a result of personal responsibility (Erikson, 1950). The closest parallel to a measure of integrity versus despair in the HEXACO-60 is Humility and

Conscientiousness. The results of this study showed that Humility and Conscientiousness were not significant predictors of years from marriage to separation or divorce.

Erikson (1950) differentiated between the different stages of development based on age, explaining that it is necessary for an individual to achieve satisfactory development of each stage at a certain age to develop a positive personality structure. During Stage 6 (intimacy versus isolation), individuals leave youth and develop sociability with the other sex as an adult, often leading to marriage (Erikson, 1950). The current study's result that age was not a statistically significant predictor of separation or divorce suggests that individuals who did get married had achieved Stage 6 of psychosocial development.

Gender was not a statistically significant predictor of separation or divorce. However, findings indicated that women were significantly more emotional than men; that is, being female had the same effect of extending the years between marriage and separation and divorce as did a high score in Emotionality. Erickson's eight stages of development do not address gender differences; therefore, there is no stage to compare. However, this result suggests a challenge to Erickson's model that gender may have a significant effect in how people progress through the eight stages of psychosocial development.

Overall, the results of this study suggest that the constructs being measured by the HEXACO-60 personality measure do not appear to be congruent with the Erikson's eight stages of psychosocial development. Scores of HEXACO-60 dimensions that were not statistically different from each other suggest further investigation into the nature of the

measurement of the constructs or the relationship with an overall personality as measured by the HEXACO-60. Non-significant pairs may indicate low discrimination between the constructs being measured. Although the current study did not indicate conclusive results with HEXACO-60 as a measure of personality, it is possible a different measure, such as the Big Five Personality Survey or Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, may show more conclusive association between personality and separation and divorce as well as parallels to Erikson's eight stages.

Limitations of the Study

One limitation of this study was the population was limited to U.S. citizens but was not bounded by ethnicity, age, or gender. Other limitations and delimitations posed further restriction on the ability to generalize the results to the general population. Because the sample was drawn from social media, findings were limited by respondents who use social media. A further limitation of this study was that I could not account for all of the possible variables that might have played a role in a divorce that are not accounted for via the demographic factors surveyed and the questions addressing personality in the HEXACO-60. The nature of self-reporting also means that it is possible that a participant might not have answered truthfully or that responses were unintentionally inaccurate because of failure to understand the questions.

The findings were also limited by the nature of a convenience sample in that the sample contained only those who were given the opportunity to participate. I was under pressure to finish the study in a short period of time, and therefore data included in the sample were from those who responded within that period. Analysis and interpretation of

the data were also limited to the regression statistical procedure being used; that is, findings indicated only the predictive value of the variables and did not suggest causality or anything else about the relationship between the variables.

A review of the definitions in the context of this non-experimental study suggests that only the threats of statistical regression and subject selection apply. Statistical regression threatens validity by the regression's tendency to minimize the effects of extreme scores in the sample (Hamby, 2019). In a future study, this threat could be mitigated by testing for normality of the distribution and through the procedure of regression bootstrapping, which is used to measure the robustness of the statistical significance of the regression statistic through multiple sampling of the study sample (i.e., constructing smaller samples from the study sample). The other threat to this study was subject selection, or bias in the selection of the participants. Because completion of this study was constrained by a deadline, a convenience sample had to be used, which may have resulted in a non-representative sample of the population being taken.

Recommendations

This study should be repeated with different personality inventories. The HEXACO-60 model is a personality inventory developed by Ashton and Lee that evaluates six personality factors -- Honesty-Humility (H), Emotionality I, Extraversion (X), Agreeableness versus Anger (A), Conscientiousness I, and Openness to Experience (O) (Ashton & Lee, 2009). The current study found that none of the HEXACO-60 dimensions were statistically significant predictors of tendency to separate or divorce as measured by the years between marriage and separation, marriage and divorce, and

separated/divorced vs. still married. It is possible that in using other personality inventories where different facets of personality are measured, perhaps some statistical significance could have the potential to be found.

Implications

This study sought to help military counselors, chaplains, and commanders, and civilian counseling professionals in working with marital issues by identifying indicators of risk of separation and eventual divorce. However the main stakeholders in a divorce are the divorcing parties as well as any children who might be involved. Even though the results were inconclusive, some factors were identified that could help all stakeholders prevent separation and/or divorce. The number of years on active uniformed service number of years on active uniformed service showed that the longer one is in service, the likelihood of separating or divorcing increases slightly. Having children in the marriage appears to be a factor in reducing the likelihood of separation or divorce. Gender appeared not to be a factor and therefore it is reasonable to deemphasize the gender of a client in marriage counseling as being a factor.

Conclusion

The statistical results of this study suggest that the correlation between one's HEXACO-60 personality scores and one's tendency to separate or divorce is inconclusive. However, the study results suggest that longevity in service and bringing children into a marriage have a significant effect. The congruency between Erikson's eight stages of psychosocial development and personality, specifically HEXACO-60, appears to be weak, and, although Erikson's eight stages appear to have some validity

and offer some insight into how a person develops his or her personality, it does not sufficiently define exactly what personalities tend to develop. The inconclusive link between HEXACO-60 personality and separation and divorce does not suggest that personality has no effect on the state of marriage but only that further study into how personality is measured is needed.

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Appendix A: Permission to use HEXACO-60

Michael Ashton < >
Fri 5/13/2016 3:23 PM
Important
To:'Jamie Buehler' < >;

Hello Jamie,

Yes, you have our permission to use the HEXACO-60 in your dissertation.

Please see our website at hexaco.org for more information. There are no special requirements for administering the inventory in academic research settings.

If you're administering the inventory online, please use a password-protected site for your participants.

Best regards,
Mike Ashton

****
From: Jamie Buehler [mailto:]
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2016 8:31 PM
To: Michael Ashton;
Subject: dissertation question

To whom it may concern:
I would like to utilize your HEXACO-60 as part of my dissertation study. I was wondering if you could tell me if I have your permission to do that. I also would like to know what sort of requirements one must have to administer your assessment. I am going to give it to my participants via the internet in English. Thank you very much for you time.

Best Regards,
Jamie Buehler
M.P.A.
Future Forensic Psychology PhD

Appendix B: Personality and Marriage Survey

1. Consent to take the survey. YES   NO
2. What is your current age? _____ years   3. What is your gender? *(Circle only one)*   FEMALE   MALE OTHER
4. Please indicate your ethnic identity. BLACK/AFRICNA MAERICAN   WHITE/ANGLO (not Hispanic) HISPANIC ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER NATIVE AMERICAN/ALASKAN MIDDLE EASTERN   INDAIN SUB-CONTINENT   NORTH AFRICAN   AFRICAN   OTHER (please specify) _____
5. Have you ever served in any of the following uniformed services? (check all that apply) ARMY   NAVY   AIR FORCE   MARINES   COAST GUARD   POLICE   FIRE/EMT Have not served in any uniformed service   OTHER (please specify)
6. If you served, what year did you first enter service?
7. Did you serve in combat?   YES   NO
8. About how many years did you serve on active duty in any of the services?
9. What is your current marital status?   MARRIED, LIVING TOGETHER   MARRIDE, BUT SEPARATED   DIVORCED NEVER MARRIED
10. If you have been or are now married, at what age did you first get married?
11. If you are separated or divorced, were you in military/uniformed service when you separated or divorced (check only that which applies)   YES NO STILL MARRIED   NEVER MARRIED
12. How many children did you have during the marriage?   0   1   2   3   4   5   MORE THAN 5
13. Regarding children, please chick all that apply.   BROUGHT CHILDREN INTO THE MARRIAGE   MARRIED A PARTNER WITH CHILDREN   HAD NO CHILDREN WHILE MARRIED
14. If you are separated or divorced, how many years was it from the year you were married until you were actually separated?
15. If you are separated or divorced, how many years was it from the year you were married until you were actually divorced?
16. Do you feel your service life contributed to your separation or divorce?   (NO-Not at all) 1   2   3   4   5 (YES-most significantly)   N/A-never married, separated or divorced