

# Analyzing the Phenomenon of Divorce from the Perspective of Expert Family Therapists: A Grounded Theory Sample




Mansoreh. Eslami<sup>1</sup>, Hassan. Khoshakhlagh<sup>2\*</sup>, Sedigheh. Rezaei Dehnavi<sup>3</sup>, Mohammad. Zare Neyestanak<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ph.D student, Department of Psychology, Naein Branch, Islamic Azad University, Naein, Iran

<sup>2</sup> Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Naein Branch, Islamic Azad University, Naein, Iran

<sup>3</sup> Associate professor, Department of Psychology, Payame Noor university, Tehran, Iran

\* Corresponding author email address: Hassan.khoshakhlagh@iau.ac.ir

E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Monika Szczygieł  Department of Psychology, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland monika.szczygieł@uj.edu.pl	<b>Reviewer 1:</b> Manijeh Haghighinasab  Assistant Professor, Department of Management, Alzahra University, Tehran, Iran Email: haghighinasab@srbiau.ac.ir <b>Reviewer 2:</b> Mehrdad Bayat  Assistant Professor, Department of Management, Payam Noor University, Tehran, Iran. Email: bayatmehrdad60@pnu.ac.ir

## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The sentence, “These harms can create the groundwork for marital conflict...” could benefit from citing a recent meta-analysis on marital distress in the Iranian context to substantiate the claim.

The category “Individualism Over Couplehood” includes overlapping codes such as “prioritizing personal development” and “viewing family as a tool for success.” Consider collapsing or conceptually differentiating these for analytical clarity.

The quote beginning “The shift in values plays a major role...” is powerful but lacks demographic detail. Which participant said this (e.g., university faculty, welfare worker)? Contextualizing can enhance interpretive depth.

“Insecure attachment” is listed as a code, but the grounded theory presentation does not clarify whether participants themselves used this clinical term or whether it was inferred. Please indicate the coding logic used here.

The description “living in a glass house” is metaphorically rich, but may not be universally understood. Please elaborate or provide a direct quote that contextualizes this metaphor.

The analysis would benefit from integrating attachment theory or emotion-focused therapy literature to interpret the mechanisms behind intimacy breakdown.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

### 1.2. *Reviewer 2*

Reviewer:

“In a dysfunctional family system...” — This entire paragraph mixes concepts from Bowenian theory and structural theory without citing Minuchin or Bowen. Please clarify the theoretical source and add appropriate citations.

You mention “Systemic theories focus on ineffective communication...” but do not cite any foundational systemic therapy literature. A citation such as Nichols (2020) or Goldenberg & Goldenberg would strengthen this section.

The justification for the city-specific study on Isfahan needs more empirical support. Consider citing regional divorce statistics or family therapy utilization rates to reinforce the relevance.

You write, “Research suggests that the mediating mechanism here is a shift toward hedonism...” and cite several studies. Please clarify if this is an interpretation from your data or a synthesis of prior findings. Right now, the logic is ambiguous.

The phrase “cognitive, behavioral, or emotional errors in initial partner selection” implies normative judgment. Consider rephrasing this to reflect the participants’ views rather than the authors’ interpretation.

Response: Revised and uploaded the manuscript.

## 2. **Revised**

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.